



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

Nine University of Haifa undergraduates joined more than 70 students from 16 countries in late February at the 31st Annual *Norris and Margery Bendetson Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship Conference* hosted by the Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts University in the USA. The theme of this year's 5-day conference was "Europe in Turmoil". The students were selected from participants in the program supported by the Raveh-Ravid Foundation under the auspices of the University of Haifa's Social Leadership Unit. JoAnn Bendetson, daughter-in-law of Norris and Margery and devoted friend of both Tufts and the University of Haifa, generously helped finance the trip to the U.S., as she has done for the past five years. Professor Zach Levey, of the Division of International Relations at the School of Political Science, accompanied the University of Haifa contingent.



2

Mr. Daniel Chvika, Director of the French Friends Association recently spoke at the annual [Limoud](#) conference in Paris on the Boycott of Israel and its Universities. He explained how a boycott affects academic life and described the University's pioneering Ambassadors Online Program, which is run by The Elizabeth and Tony Comper Center for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism and trains students to use social media to counteract negative stereotypes and delegitimization of Israel. The conference is part of the international Limoud movement to promote Jewish life through education and empowerment. The gathering was attended by 400 people, including both members of the community, and Jewish dignitaries such as the Israeli ambassador to France, Ms. Aliza Bin Noun.



3

New research by Zehavit Shabtay Levitats, a doctoral student at the School of Political Science, and directed by head of School Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot, has found that public service workers with high levels of emotional intelligence are extremely motivated to serve the public. The research has been arousing a fair amount of media interest. This week, [the Jerusalem Post](#), featured the findings: "The study supports the emerging recognition that the understanding and managing of emotions play a significant role in the work of public service providers alongside the so-called 'rational' aspects of their work," said Ms. Shabtay Levitats. The findings were also covered in the popular [Science Daily](#) website.



4

Congratulations to Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal, Director of the Center for Crime, Law and Society and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law, who is the 2016 winner of the Fattal Prize for Excellence in Legal Scholarship. The prize committee noted that Prof. Gazal-Ayal was chosen for his 'groundbreaking empirical research in law which had been published in several leading world journals, and for his win of several research grants. He is an alumnus of the [Global Young Academy](#) which mobilizes and connects young academic talent around the world. The Fattal family is also well known to our Israeli friends Association, and generously supports law scholarships in memory of Joseph Fattal.



5

The faculty at the Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies was in demand recently to comment on the Iranian Elections that were held on 26 February 2016. Dr. Soli Sahavar, Director of the Center, was interviewed by the [Jerusalem Post](#), commenting that the elections were "a show of democracy without democracy." he said, "It appears to include almost every element of democracy: an election every four years, a selection of candidates, it looks democratic, but once you take into account the prerogatives of the Assembly of Experts that vets each candidate you realize there is no democracy."



6

An article by Dr. Efrat Amitay, and Dr. Lital Keinan Boker of the School of Public Health, on [Breastfeeding and Childhood Leukemia Incidence](#) has become a hot discussion topic amongst Pediatric professionals. The article, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics, was chosen as one of their 'ten most talked about articles in 2015'. The journal is thought of as one of the world's leading publications in the field of pediatrics.

