



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

While the University continues to mourn the passing of Leon Charney z"l, the School of Marine Sciences he helped establish is continuing to ensure his vision – and that of other generous friends like him - lives on. The School recently held a ceremony to inaugurate the Gerald Ronson Foundation Laboratories for Marine Sciences Research. The state of the art laboratories complex was supported by Gerald Ronson CBE and a group of other longtime Friends of the University in the UK. Dr. Uri Schattner from the Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Marine Geosciences directs a new Seismic Data Interpretation laboratory; there is a new Cnidarians Developmental Biology and Molecular Ecology laboratory (Cnidarians are aquatic creatures which include hydroids, jellyfish and coral), headed by Dr. Tamar Lotan; and also a Laboratory for Applied Geophysics under the direction of Dr. Michael Lazar.



2

Dr. Dan Schueftan, Director of the National Security Studies Center and senior lecturer at the School of Political Sciences shared his insight about the security of Israel with enthusiastic audiences at recent American Society of the University of Haifa in the US. He spoke at a Detroit lunch co-sponsored by the Michigan-Israel Business Bridge, and at Chicago events co-sponsored by the Union League Club of Chicago and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Dr. Schueftan, covered a broad range of timely topics, from ISIS and Syria to the Iran Agreement and U.S.-Israeli relations. He spoke to over 250 attendees in total, and cast the whole situation in new light for many: that Israel's key assets in its fight for national security are not just military or economic might, but also the resilience and fortitude of the Israeli people, and their determination to maintain democratic ideals and ethical standards.



3

Our warmest congratulations to Dr. Tali Mass, head of the Coral Biomineralization and Physiology laboratory at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, on winning the prestigious United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation | Prof. E.D. Bergmann Memorial Award. The award is a grant for Dr. Mass' research together with her US collaborator, Dr. Diane Adams, a researcher at the [Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University in the USA](#). The study deals with understanding how corals make their very first skeletons in different climates from temperate to tropical waters.



4

Mohammad Darawshe, a Topol Peace Fellow and Master's candidate in Peace and Conflict Resolution, spoke with more than 30 friends and supporters in Massachusetts, USA recently. Mohammad, a Director at Givat Haviva, the Center for Shared Society in Israel, challenged attendees to think about the tensions that exist in Israel as it grapples with its own identity issues as a Jewish and democratic state. Mohammad inspired the guests with his efforts to create a shared society for Israeli Jews and Arabs and provided proof of the power of education as a most important equalizer and force for economic security. He also met with Sid Topol from Boston, who established the Fellowship Program Mohammad participates in. They discussed the need for peaceful non-violent responses to entrenched conflicts.



5

Dr. Michael Lazar's, from the Department of Marine Geosciences, who took part recently in a meeting in Crete of scientists from the 17 nations who are members of the European Union backed [FLOWS](#) program. The program aims to merge the expertise of a large number of research groups to support the development of multidisciplinary knowledge on how (bio) geochemistry (in the sea) relates to seismic activity. Crete was hit by a powerful earthquake many centuries ago (estimated at a magnitude of 8.5 on the Richter scale), which caused a tsunami in the Eastern Mediterranean. Among other things, scientists are geologically mapping the seabed, given there is comparatively little known about it.



6

In early March, a delegation from the University participated for the first time at the [JCM](#) (International Conference for Dialogue between Jews, Christians and Muslims) in Germany. The event is an inter-faith conference designed to promote dialogue, understanding and solidarity among members of the three Abrahamic faiths - Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Participants include religious leaders, academics and students who gather for an intensive week of lectures, group discussion and generally exchange ideas and take part in (or observe) prayers and ceremonies of all religions. The delegation was headed by Dr. Moshe Lavee of the Department of Jewish History, who delivered the guest lecture on Judaism, as well as four graduate students from the Faculty of Humanities.



The research of Prof. Abraham Haim, of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, and also Chairperson of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, which revealed that exposure to artificial lighting at night may lead to obesity regardless of the amount of food consumed or physical activity, is hitting the headlines again in the international media. Articles have appeared recently in the [Huffington Post](#) , [Yahoo!](#) ,[Reuters](#) and [Fox News](#).

