



**Division for External Relations
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1

An agreement between the EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY (ECNU), the largest University in Shanghai, and the University of Haifa has been signed to establish a laboratory building on the campus of ECNU for the Joint Shanghai-Haifa Research Centre, the first of its kind between Israel and the Chinese Academia. The building will include laboratories in four research areas: Ecology, Big Data, Biomedicine and Neurology. "The establishment of the joint building is a massive step forward in the academic cooperation, and evidence of the great importance ECNU attaches to cooperation with the University of Haifa" said President Amos Shapira. Rector Prof. David Faraggi added, "research cooperation with ECNU is testament to the academic strength of the University of Haifa and this laboratory building will significantly upgrade our joint research."



2

A graduation ceremony was recently held for the 76 graduates at the University's degree program for Israeli police cadets. The police cadet program is in its 9th consecutive year, and the ceremony was attended by Israel's Chief of Police, Commissioner Roni Alsheikh and other senior commanding officers of the police. Rector Prof. David Farraggi and members of the University's [Eshkol Multidisciplinary Studies Department for Public Service Employees](#), also attended. This is the ninth consecutive year that police officers are taught as undergraduates at the University of Haifa. Police Cadet Matan Kalish spoke on behalf of all the cadets, "We really felt the investment made by the University in our studies, and that it sees our success as its own success. In this way, the University of Haifa is taking part in training the next generation of leadership of our police."



3

Mr. Robert Lantos, producer of world-renowned films, and soon to be conferred a Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) at the University's Canadian Friends annual Mount Carmel Dinner in Toronto, recently visited the University. During his extensive career, Mr. Lantos has produced 40 feature films and countless TV dramas. The honor is being awarded in recognition of Mr. Lantos' long-standing support of Israel and its citizens, in particular with regard to the fight against anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and the boycott movement. All proceeds from the event will be dedicated to the 'Ambassadors Online' program, which operates under the framework of The Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism.



4

More than 35 friends, investors and entrepreneurs braved an unexpected snow storm in Boston to attend a special American Society of the University of Haifa program on innovation and creating new high tech companies. Entitled "Ready for Launch", the evening featured presentations by Elka Nir, CEO of Carmel-Haifa University Economic Corporation Ltd., and Professor Edi Barkai, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Also featured was a panel discussion that included University of Haifa graduates Nadav Efraty and Omri Shor, both of whom are founders and CEOs of new high tech companies in the Boston area. The Israel Consulate of New England co-sponsored the event, and Consul General Yehuda Yaakov spoke about his time as a Masters student at the University of Haifa and that Haifa is a city where so many different communities live together. The evening was co-sponsored by Mintz Levin law firm and hosted by American Society National Board Member Ben Sigel.



5

Dr. Dan Schueftan, Director of the National Security Studies Center, met with friends and supporters in Philadelphia, Boston and New York as he completed a ten day swing around the U.S. arranged by the American Society. In addition to one-on-one meetings and small group sessions with key donors and prospects, Dr. Schueftan spoke at private invitation only receptions in Philadelphia, hosted by Renee and Joe Zuritsky, and New York City, hosted by Henry Rosenberg. In Boston, Dr. Schueftan led a lunch discussion arranged by ASUH National Board Member Ben Sigel and then addressed more than 130 at an evening session at Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA. At each event, Dr. Schueftan's informative perspectives on Israel's national security situation and his engaging style fully engaged his audience, many of whom continued in thoughtful discussion with him long after the end of the formal program.



6

Dr. Adi Erlich, from the Department of Archeology and Art History, and researcher in the Zinman Institute of Archeology, was one of the key organizers of a recent event in honor of the resumption of archeological excavations at the ancient Beit She'arim site, and the declaration by UNESCO of the tombs discovered there as a World Heritage site. President Reuven (Ruby) Rivlin attended the event, which was held in collaboration with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and other partners, during which Dr. Erlich delivered a presentation on the title of 'On life - and not on death: the renewed excavations at Beit Shearim' and gave a guided tour of the site. Dr. Erlich's research was generously supported by the Nathan and Lily Silver Foundation in Canada, represented by Mr. Shoel Silver.



7

The Israeli Defense Ministry has recently started putting warning signs on Israeli beaches about the risks of a Tsunami, as part of a National Coastal Authority pilot. Dr. Beverly Goodman-Tchernov, of the Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Marine Geosciences, at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, has been interviewed in the Israeli and foreign press about this issue "You can say with one hundred percent certainty that one day Israel will have a Tsunami. The only question is when" she said. The findings of her 2014 study have been reported in the [Jerusalem Post](#).

**8**

Ramy Aziz, a European journalist of Arab origin, who came to Israel at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to get to know the real Israel, recently visited the University, which left him with powerful – and positive – impressions: "The University of Haifa is considered a model for, and a mirror of Israeli society. Within its corridors Jews, Arabs, Druze and Circassian's study together. It feels like all religions are given equal opportunities, based on equality, without discrimination or segregation." His comments were posted on the [Washington Institute](#) website and the [Jerusalem Post](#), under the headline "the Israel that Arabs don't know."

**9**

Last week, during a trip to Brazil, President Amos Shapira signed a collaboration agreement with the ESPM University in Sao Paulo. ESPM specializes in Advertising and Marketing, and at the same time the President toured facilities at the University, gave a lecture to students and met with faculty. ESPM is already conducting joint research with Prof. Tally Katz-Gerro, a lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, as well as another researcher from the Sorbonne in France. This is in addition to several other collaborations which have already been taking place between researchers at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, and the Oceanographic Institute at the University of Sao Paulo in the last year. This joint research is under the framework of an agreement signed two years ago with FAPESP, The State of Sao Paulo Research Foundation. The agreement was initiated by Prof. Celso Lafer, Honorary Doctorate Recipient at the University of Haifa in 2014 and Chairman of the Brazilian Friends Association.

**10**

On the same trip to South America, Prof. Celso Lafer and his wife Mary generously hosted a reception in honor of President Shapira at their home. The Event was attended by a selection of Brazilian government officials, leaders of Jewish Community institutions and prominent academics. The President's visit was widely reported in the print and digital media in Sao Paulo, including [Blog WebJudaica](#), and [AlefNews](#).

