



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

A group of Gutwirth and Zucker family members from all over the world recently visited the University. The families are longtime friends of University who support Master's student scholarships through the Gutwirth Foundation and the Francine 'Nicky' Zucker Scholarship Fund. The group met with the scholarship recipients, who thanked them for their support and told them about their studies. The meeting was a lively and sometimes moving exchange. The group also visited the Robotics and Big Data laboratory, headed by Dr. Dan Feldman to learn about his research with quadcopter drones. Pictured is Mrs. Barbara Zucker with two of the scholarship recipients.



2

Warm congratulations to Dr. Amiram Ariel, head of the Department of Human Biology and head of the Laboratory for Molecular Pathways in the Resolution of Inflammation has won a prestigious grant from the [UK Rosetrees Trust](#) which supports biomedical research. His research focuses on understanding the intracellular mechanisms activated in immune cells during inflammation from disease, which allows the body's cells to initiate the healing process and return to normal functioning. Unlocking the secret of "back-to-normal" triggers opens the door to manufacturing biological drugs will harness the natural healing processes for such conditions as autoimmune diseases, obesity, scarring and cancer.



3

Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot, of the School of Political Sciences, was interviewed for an article in [The Washington Post](#). Bloomberg, the world's largest financial information provider, recently conducted an analysis of the Israeli housing market, trying to understand why the Tel Aviv property market is so expensive. The Washington Post picked up the study, reporting how Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon is trying to cut the bureaucracy involved in obtaining planning permission to build new housing. Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot commented that some of Kahlon's structural reforms may take time to pay off, their success will depend in large part on the government's ability to survive, "The big question for him is how long the government can hold up," he said. "The longer it's in place, the better", explained Prof. Vigoda-Gadot.



5

The Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research collaborated for a second year with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Ghetto Fighters Museum on a series of seminars dealing with German-Israeli relations. Last week, the seminar addressed the complex relationship of Israelis living in Berlin. Alongside a lecture by Dr. Roby Nathanson, Director General of the Macro Center for Political Economics in Israel, was a presentation by Yael Reuveny, director of the documentary, [Farewell Herr Schwarz](#), about third generation holocaust survivors.



4

A symposium and tour to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of the book, *The Land of Israel: A Journal of Travels in Palestine* by British priest Rev. Henry Baker Tristram, was held recently. The event was attended by hundreds of guests, including prominent scholars of the Land of Israel, Geography, Archeology, History, Botany and Zoology. In addition, the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library displayed an exhibition to mark Rev. Tristram's contribution, in which his discoveries are displayed - stuffed animals, plants and herbs, pictures and maps of Israel from the period. An interactive map of the journey will be also created of the sites he visited. Members of Rev. Tristram's family came from Britain to attend the event, as well as the Deputy British Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Robert Dickson.



6

The University's Model UN delegation has been arousing interest during their visit to Germany for the Model UN conference. Not only did they excel again, with Saleem Bisharat and Jennifer Bachmann winning the best position papers prize and citation respectively, at the recent meeting in Munster, Germany. During their stay the delegation had the opportunity to speak to two journalists who published articles on the group in the [Westfälische Nachrichten \(WN\)](#) and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ).



7

Dr. Arik Cheshind from the Department of Human Services, together with Ella Glikson, of the Technion, was recently accepted onto the eBay Big Data Lab in Israel after succeeding against competition from other researchers. The Lab allows researchers access to eBay's vast database for to conduct studies. Their study focusses on emotions in the textual descriptions of a particular product, and specific words like 'amazing' or 'wonderful' and their effect on the selling price, and rating of the seller on eBay. "It is known that emotions sell in shops, face to face, the question is what happens online".



8

Congratulations also go to doctoral candidate Roy Shoval, of the Department of Psychology, who, under the supervision of Dr. Baruch Eitam, was also accepted for the same research opportunity at eBay. His research focusses on the question of why eBay buyers' choice. The study launches work in the Motivated Cognition Laboratory (MCL) at the University. "The access to the eBay data is an excellent opportunity to analyse this topic outside the realms of the laboratory – in the real world. The main hypothesis here is the extent to which the feeling buyers have of being able to choose when they are on the site will affect their readiness to pay considerably more money for their purchases" said the researchers.

