The memorial ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day took place at the University a couple of weeks ago. The guest of honor, Prof. (Emeritus) Shlomo Breznitz from the Psychology Department, who is also a former Knesset member and Rector of this University, shared with the audience his outlook on episodic memory in a moving speech. Additionally, on display at the entrance to the Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum was a touching exhibit by artist and fellow Holocaust survivor Sara Melzer called: "The Duty to Remember in a Duplicitous Reality."

A special gathering of air force personnel who are also Holocaust survivors, "From Resurrection to the Skies," took place at the University recently under the framework of the annual conference in memory of Dr. Reuben Hecht z"l. During the event, the Hecht Prize was awarded by Dr. Harry Sessler, Chairman of the Hecht Foundation. The main focus of the evening was on a panel with participants that included Arie Oz – who flew back the Israelis who were captured at Entebbe Airport in Uganda in 1976, and Moshe (Simi) Sa'ar and Yitzhak (Ijo) Biran – combat pilots during the Six-Day War. In the panel also participated Dr. Lea Ganor, a research fellow at the Herzl Institute who studies air force personnel who are also Holocaust survivors that served in the Israeli Air Force. Dr. Ganor's study was carried out in cooperation with, and with the contribution of, the Air Force Association.
Recently the "Yad Vashem" site has been featuring a memorial project of the International Institute for Holocaust Research with information about Jewish soldiers who fought in the Red Army during WWII. One of those soldiers was Boris Suris, the father of Dr. Tatyana Drubetskoy, staff member of the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library. During his service, Boris served in army Intelligence and dealt with espionage in enemy Nazi territory. After being badly injured and then recovering he asked to return to battle. Years later, following his death in 1991, a journal that he had written during the war was discovered. Dr. Drubetskoy edited the journal and added commentary; it is now among the Library's collection.

"Before being hospitalized he got dressed on his own..." is the headline of the Cheryl Spencer Department of Nursing conference organized by researchers Dr. Efrat Shadmi and Dr. Anna Zisberg. Hundreds of participants from all the relevant areas of the occupation, including researchers in the nursing professions, medicine, management of health care systems, and the allied health professions, attended the conference where they discussed the aim of hospitalization processes and how to achieve better results for older patients.

And more from the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library – recently, a collection of books about seashells was donated from the collection and estate of Dov Peled z"l, who had the largest collection of shells from the Red Sea in the world. The collection was donated by his daughter, Sigal Ornoy Peled, and it greatly enriches the Library in this particular area.

Congratulations go out to Dr. Shlomo Wagner, Head of the Laboratory for the Neurobiology of Social Behavior at the Sagol Department of Neurobiology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, for winning a grant from the Human Frontier Science Program Organization as part of an international group of four researchers. At the first stage, about 1,200 proposals were submitted from research groups from around the world, out of which 21 proposals were chosen to receive the grant. The aim of the research is to investigate the cycle of the Oxytocin hormone, which is responsible for social behavior, in the brain.

The Jewish journalist Daniel (Damian) Pachter, who broke the story of the murder of Argentinian prosecutor Alberto Nisman and then escaped to Israel, lectured at the University recently as part of an encounter with students from the School of Political Sciences. "I plan to continue vigorously investigating the circumstances of Alberto Nisman's death, I feel as though I am obligated to do so," he said to those present.

According to a new University study conducted by Prof. Daphna Canetti of the School of Political Sciences, cyber terrorism may be virtual, but its effects and implications are very real: exposure to cyber terrorism attacks lead to an increase in stress levels on a physiological level among people exposed to such attacks, as well as an increase in aggressive behavior. Prof. Canetti interviewed in various media including in The Jerusalem Post.
"For three years now a new 'romance' has been developing between Israel and China. About a decade after their close relationship went into crisis due to a demand from the US for Israel to sever its security ties to China, Beijing began working towards renewing the close relationship between the two countries." Thus wrote Dr. Yoram Evron from the Department of Asian Studies to Ynet.

Does salty food necessarily increase thirst? According to a study conducted by Prof. Micah Leshem from the Psychology Department the answer is "no." "According to the perception that consuming salt increased thirst, the same assumption was also made that because of this there is a fear of an increased consumption of sugared beverages. But our research found no support for this assumption," he said in a local radio interview.

Prof. Israel (Issy) Doron, Head of the Department of Gerontology and former President of the Israeli Association of Gerontology, interviewed for the Walla! Internet site and discussed a new program to help ease elder loneliness. "The breakthrough is twofold: not only do the elderly get social caretakers for the first time to help relieve their loneliness but, no less important, we are creating a new profession here which is paving the way to building a bachelor's degree in Israel in Gerontology, a relatively young research area in comparison to Social Work, which is only studied today in a master's degree and only in a few of the academic institutions," he said.

In addition to other publications recently, The Jerusalem Post also reported on the collaboration between the Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Research Center, headed by Prof. Leon Blaustein, and the Knesset. Within these activities, a green research roof will be set up on the Knesset's roof as part of their "Green Knesset" project.