



Issue No. 26 for Academic Year 2013-14

June 26, 2014

1

The Internet campaign to return the kidnapped young men is reaching Internet surfers from all over the world. [The campaign](#) was initiated by alumni of Ambassadors Online and it is evoking international attention and harnessing tens of thousands of surfers from all around the world to the battle of world public opinion. Thus far hundreds of thousands of surfers, from the United States to Fiji, have viewed the posts. Dr. David Gurevich, one of the initiators of the Ambassadors Online program, interviewed on the topic on Israeli radio.



2

Congratulations go out to Dr. Limor Lavie, Dr. Karen Banai and Prof. Joseph Attias from the Department of Communication Disorders and Prof. Avi Karni, Head of the Department of Human Biology. Their research study, "Better together: reduced compliance after sequential vs. simultaneous bilateral hearing aid fitting," which points at the best and most efficient way to fit hearing aids to older people, was chosen to be one of the 15 most important articles in the field of hearing aids published in 2013 by the top online journal Audiology, a leading online clinical-professional publication for audiologists and experts around the world in hearing rehabilitation.



3

A group of students from the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences in Germany came to the University of Haifa a couple of weeks ago to an encounter with our University's students within the framework of the "Haifa Meets Frankfurt" project, headed by Prof. Adital Ben Ari from the School of Social Work. The German group's visit is reciprocal as several months ago our students visited Germany. The point of that encounter was to elicit dialogue around topics of national memory and identity, in light of events of the past, so students in the German encounter visited concentration camps. During this past encounter, the students visited the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum.



4

The Department of Community Mental Health hosted Prof. Kim T. Mueser, the Executive Director of Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation and developer of the "Disease Management and Recovery" method, for a series of four unique lectures that drew a large crowd from all across the country and that were each dedicated to a different aspect of his expertise. Prof. David Roe, who initiated the conferences and Prof. Mueser's visit, said that the great public waves created by the visit testify to a rise in the awareness of the importance of the topic of community mental health in Israel.



5

18 students of the sixth graduating class of Etgar – a unique program in which excelling school students study in parallel for a degree in Computer Science – ended their studies in a festive ceremony with the participation of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Gustavo Mesch; the Head of the Department of Computer Science, Dr. ShulyWintner; faculty from the Department, representatives from the Municipality of Haifa and the schools, the students and members of their family. The ceremony sealed four years of hard work integrating high-school studies with academic studies towards a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Students from the related "Hot" program, who receive scholarship support by the University through their kind benefactor, Mr. Patrick Drahi, also attended the event.



6

"The kidnapping of the three young men is one of the most difficult events Israel has known and one which can point towards the banality of evil. Not for nothing that none of the terrorist organizations have taken direct responsibility for the act. There is no heroism in kidnapping youth. This is a detestable war crime," writes Dr. IdoZelkovitz of the Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies and from the Department of Middle Eastern History in an op-ed piece for Ynet dealing with the timing of the kidnapping and its influence on the relations between the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas. Additionally, Dr. Zelkovitz published an article in the popular Turkish newspaper [Daily Sabah](#) about Turkey's regional function and its relations with Hamas and Fatah, as well as the importance of renewing Israeli-Turkish actions.



7

"This event, about which even today not much is known, must make all those whose security of Israel is important to them lose sleep," said Prof. Uri Bar Joseph of the School of Political Science in an op-ed piece for Ha'aretz dealing with Moshe Dayan's wish to use nuclear weapons during the Yom Kippur war. He concludes that within the limits of the secrecy required, a thorough discussion on aspects relating to nuclear capabilities must be carried out.



8

"The call for an academic boycott of Israel is a particularly unhelpful feature of the BDS campaign. For Haifa, this stance would seem especially inappropriate as it is a university located in a shared city and the most pluralistic institution of higher education in Israel. Young people from cities and development towns, kibbutzim and moshavim, new immigrants, Jews, Arabs, and Druze, all come together in an atmosphere of coexistence, tolerance, and mutual respect," so writes TaliSayar, Director of the British Friends of Haifa University in an op-ed piece published in the largest Jewish paper in the UK, [Jewish News](#), and dealing with the issue of the academic boycott on Israel.



9

Dr. Soli Shahvar, Director of the Ezri Center for Iran and Gulf Studies and from the Department of Middle Eastern History, interviewed for the Danish paper KristeligtDagblad about the conquest of the Sunni Islamic forces of the city of Mosul in



10

Prof. AmatziaBaram, Head of the Center for Iraq Studies and from the Department of Middle Eastern History, also interviewed on the topic of the Iraqi conquest to Reshet Bet radio. According to Prof. Baram, "The Sunnis are not interested in extremist organizations



Iraq and on the negative ramifications of the conquest on Iran. Dr. Shahvar claims that the new conditions create a golden opportunity for Iran to save Iraq and its pro-Iran government, but even more so, to prove to the Americans that they are maintaining Western interests in the region. Dr. Shahvar later also interviewed on this topic for Israeli radio.

and are even afraid of them. The organization who has now taken over Mosul, from which one-half a million people escaped for fear of that same extremist organization, wants to unify Syria and Iraq as part of its ability to set a base and become more mobile in the region."

