



**Issue No. 28 for Academic Year 2013-14**

**10 July 2014**

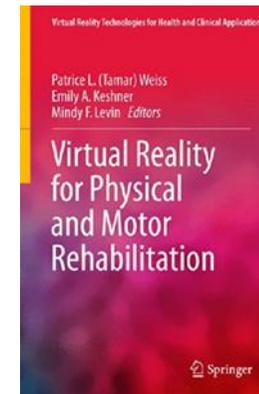
**1**

An event to mark the end of the academic year for the School of Social Work's flagship program, led by Dr Roni Strier, was held recently. University President Amos Shapira, Rector Prof. David Farragi, Prof. Faisal Azaiza, Vice Chairman of Israel's Planning and Budgeting Committee and Head of the School of Social Work, Haifa Municipality's Director of Education and Welfare Pini Wagman attended, as well as various community partners attended, program staff, faculty, students, residents and community activists. The event featured activities from the program and presented diplomas to graduates of the Academy in the Community project. Also, the Rector gave awards to members of academic staff who have made a special contribution to the community in the program.



**2**

Congratulations to Prof. Tamar Weiss of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences for editing a new book "Virtual Reality for Physical and Motor Rehabilitation". Prof. Weiss commented that "While virtual reality has entered a variety of areas such as computer games, archeology and art, it is in health and motor skills - specifically rehabilitation after an accident or illness - that we can benefit much from this technology. The book explores the latest evidence of these uses." The book is expected to be published towards the end of summer 2014".



3

University of Haifa students were presented with scholarships from the Mila Brenner and Jacob Meridor Scholarship fund in a recent ceremony. The fund was set up in 1978 by the marine company Brenner and Meridor owned, which assisted the country significantly during the Yom Kippur War. Today it grants scholarships to students who volunteer in the community, in order to perpetuate the memory of the boys who were tragically killed in the Yom Kippur War. At the event 33 students were also presented with scholarships in memory of Dr. Israel Rieger, a child psychiatrist by profession, who dedicated his life to the community wherever possible - from the U.S. to Ethiopia - and provided for scholarships for students to volunteer at the Gan Hayered Center for teens and adolescents with special needs. "Your request that students receiving these grants contribute to the Gan Ha Yeled Center shows us how much the value of giving and caring in our society is important to you, our dear family" said University President Amos Shapira during the event.



4

The University of Haifa has its own 'Indiana Jones' of the Cairo Geniza. Professor Stefan Reif, University of Haifa Honorary Doctorate recipient in 2014 was interviewed by the Hebrew language news website Ynet to mark his award at the the last Board of Governors' meeting. Professor Reif discussed the importance of the Cairo Genizah - no less than 200,000 Jewish manuscripts, some dating back over a thousand years, which tell the story of the Jews in the Middle East during the Middle Ages. In the interview he talked about how the study of the Geniza has revolutionized our view of Judaism, and the debates amongst Jews which have not changed since that time. He also discussed his desire to allow Israeli students to learn more about the far-reaching implications of the findings of the Cairo Geniza.



5

Professor Ofira Ayalon, of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management has combined two particularly hot topics - technology and the environment. In an article in the Energy magazine of the "Haaretz" newspaper. She claims that Israel is perhaps a small player in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, but it can significantly affect the field through exporting related knowledge and technologies for the adaptation to climate change, such as energy-saving irrigation methods, water sensitive design, green building and solar technologies.



6

Prof. Steven Plaut of the Faculty of Management addressed the representation of Arabs in the civil service, in an article published in the [Jerusalem Post](#). He claims there is no evidence of ethnic discrimination against Arabs. Plaut says he does not mean that discrimination never exists against Arabs in Israel or others, but that the "fact that empirical evidence of discrimination is so hard to discern or observe must itself serve as an important warning indicator about its magnitude or lack thereof."



7

The secrets of the riverbed. Dr. Noam Greenbaum of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies is leading a collaborative study between American and Israeli researchers on the Colorado River in the U.S. They have discovered indications of ancient, devastating floods of the river. The research was published in the leading professional hydrology journal - Water Resources Research and an article about him appeared in the [Los Angeles Times](#).



8

Professor Fania Oz - Salzburger of the Faculty of Law was interviewed by the Spanish newspaper *El Pais* on her book "Jews and Words" which has just been published in Spanish. She discussed Spanish-Jewish memories, the chances of survival of cultures in the Internet age and the relationship between the Israelis and the Palestinians.



9

Prof. Sharon Poliakine, head of the School of the Arts, is exhibiting her work within the framework of the "The Art of Print Today" exhibition at the Hermann Struck Museum in Haifa, and is leading a workshop on the subject. In addition, the University will soon open a print workshop in memory of the late Prof. Helena Markson, a founder of the original Lithography Department at the University and a former University of Haifa Arts Professor, which will be made possible by the generous contribution of her sister, Mrs Irene Saper of the United States.



10

The first Shipping and Ports Conference, held in conjunction with the University's Wydra Shipping and Aviation Research Institute, was attended by a number of dignitaries, including the Director General of the Ministry of Transport, Uzi Yitzhaki, Prof. Emeritus Yehuda Hayuth, head of the Institute and former University President, senior representatives of shipping companies and ports, and various researchers. Dr. Yitzhak Makovsky, from Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences attended delivering a fascinating lecture on "The oil and gas industry: a new growth engine for the Israeli technology industry."

