



**Division for External Relations
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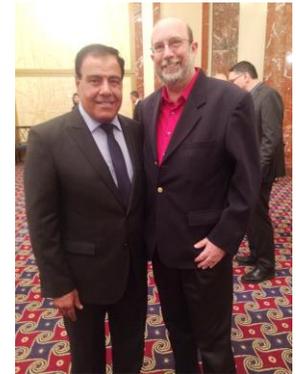
1

This Independence Day, Prof. Eviatar (Eibi) Nevo received the 2016 Israel Prize in Life Sciences. The Prize Committee noted that Prof. Nevo is one of the fathers of modern evolutionary biology, broadening and widening our knowledge of biological species and their adaptation to changing environments. The festive ceremony was held in Jerusalem on Independence Day in the presence of the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Reuven Rivlin and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel, Miriam Naor.



2

The Canadian *Daughters for Life Foundation* held its moving awards ceremony last week at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem with the sponsorship of the Canadian Embassy in Israel. The event was held in the presence of the Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, and together with Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish who founded the Foundation in the memory of his daughters who were killed during Operation Cast Lead, they presented the Award to 28 female students. 7 students from the University of Haifa were presented the Award: from the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Natural Sciences. During the ceremony, Dr. Abuelaish announced a new initiative to support female students studying in the international Master's Program in Global Health Leadership and Administration. The University Vice President for Development and External Relations, Yariv Sultan, also spoke during the ceremony.



3

It has become a blessed tradition that every Independence Day the University of Haifa lights up the Eshkol Tower. A wonderful tribute to the State of Israel and the people of Haifa and its environs: [Independence Day Clip](#)



4

140 new PhD graduates proudly received their degrees in a moving ceremony held in conjunction with the Municipality of Haifa. This ceremony has become a wonderful yearly tradition as the graduates march in their academic regalia on the streets of Haifa, led by the Mayor of Haifa, the President and the Rector of the University. [Ceremonial March Clip](#)



5

Congratulations go out to Dr. Michael Eisenberg, from the Zinman Institute of Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology who has been elected to be a corresponding member of the German Institute of Archaeology in Berlin (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, DAI), which serves as the umbrella organization for German archaeological research throughout the world. Dr. Eisenberg is the head of an international excavation of the ancient city of Hippos-Sussita, located in the Sussita National Park, east of the Sea of Galilee. In recent years, Dr. Eisenberg has taken an active role in the many archeological discoveries made in this region, including the only known example of a bronze mask representing the Hellenistic god Pan (which has been ranked internationally as one of the ten most unique archaeological discoveries of 2015); the skeleton of a woman with a gold pendant in the form of a dove; an image of the resident of Roman Hippos carved on a tombstone; and unique building complexes from the Roman period. The DAI is one of the three largest archaeological research bodies in the world.



6

A new psychological disorder has been identified in a series of recently published studies – Maladaptive Daydreaming (MD). Researchers from the University of Haifa, Fordham University in New York City and University of Lausanne, Switzerland, have found that people with the disorder spend an average of 60% of their waking time in an imaginary world, which they themselves have created, realizing that it is a fantasy, and without losing contact with the real world. “Daydreaming usually starts as a small fantasy that makes people feel good, but over time the process becomes addictive until it takes over their lives. At this stage the disorder is accompanied by feelings of shame and a sense of lack of fulfillment, but because till now the disorder has been unknown, when they come to receive treatment, therapists usually dismissed their complaints,” explains Professor Eli Somer of the University of Haifa, one of the researchers and the first to identify the disorder. Please press the link to an article on this at the [Jerusalem Post](#)



7

A record number of over 400 scientists, industry people and government officials from Israel and abroad came to the 18th Israeli Bioinformatics Symposium held at the University of Haifa. The Symposium was hosted on campus by the Institute of Evolution and the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology. The event was also sponsored by the *Tauber Bioinformatics Research Center*. For the first time, this event also included a job fair for professionals in the field.

**8**

The opening event of the 2016 Europe Day Celebrations on campus was the international conference titled "The Sykes-Picot Agreement: Centenary Reflections and Contemporary Relevance" which attracted many researchers from Israel and abroad. The conference was the initiative of the University School of Political Science and the University of Haifa Center for German and European Studies. The first day of the two-day conference dealt with the Historical Foundation of the Sykes Picot and Endurance of the Post World War, and the second day dealt with the System of The Post First World War – Is it collapsing?

**9**

University Presidents recently sat down with Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein in the framework of the Education and Democracy Day at the Knesset. The Presidents warned of the erosion of tolerance in Israeli society. President Shapira said he would change the day's name to "education against racism." For the full story please see the following link: [Jerusalem Post](#)

**10**

Plastic is considered one of the greatest threats to the marine environment because over time it deteriorates into tiny "microplastic" particles that cannot be treated. Doctoral student Noam Van der Hal, examined the potential toxicity of these particles and his research shows that they are absorbed into the bodies of marine animals and could harm them. Van der Hal, whose dissertation is advised by Dr. Dror Angel of the University, collected the microplastic in special nets at 17 sampling points along the beaches. He also took soil samples at a depth of 10 meters at eight different sites to determine the concentration of the particles and other contaminants that might adhere to the plastic. For more information please see [Haaretz](#)

