



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

A new exhibition was recently launched at the Knesset Building by the Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies - "Stars and Stripes and the Star of David – the contribution of the US Jewish community to Jewish settlement and the State of Israel", was the initiative of Dr. Uriel Simensohn of the Department of Middle Eastern History. A host of dignitaries attended the launch including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, opposition leader Isaac Herzog, Speaker of the Knesset, MK Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, US Ambassador Daniel Shapiro and many others. Of course, Head of the program, Prof. Gur Alroey, Ruderman Foundation Director, and longtime friend of the University, Mrs. Shira Ruderman attended. Mrs. Ruderman, together with her husband Mr. Jay Ruderman, received an honorary doctorate from the University in 2015. Prime Minister Netanyahu commented "I welcome this action and the attempt to enable us, the Israelis, to also become familiar with the American Jewish community." Prof. Alroey added in an Israeli radio interview that "the Zionist success story must be seen as a project of the whole Jewish people, not just Jews who made Aliyah to Israel and settled there."



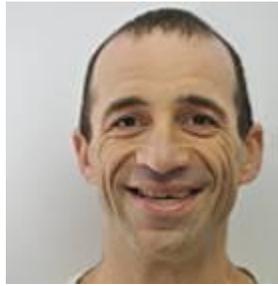
2

Prof. Ofra Mayselless, of the Department of Counseling and Human Development was the featured speaker at a program on "The Search for Meaning in Israeli Society: The Contemporary Spirituality Scene" at the UCLA Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies in Los Angeles. The Nazarian family are longtime friends of the University who have generously supported the *Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library*, among other things. Prof. Mayselless, discussed the interplay between finding meaning in life and personal well-being, and the sociocultural context in which this takes place. She provided an overview of the intense contemporary spirituality scene in Israel that is being fueled by the unique characteristics of Israel, including existential threats and issues of identity.



3

Dr. Sagi Snir from the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, has won the prestigious grant from the [Volkswagen Foundation \(Volkswagen Stiftung\)](#) that is the largest private research funder and one of the major foundations in Germany. This is the first time that this grant has been won by a University of Haifa researcher. Together with his German partner [Prof. Burkhard Morgenstern](#) they were awarded 246,000 Euros for three years to study *A Maximum-Likelihood approach to Alignment-free Phylogeny Reconstruction*.



4

The Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research, in collaboration with the Ghetto Fighters Museum, and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, held an international conference to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials. The conference discussed the legal, political and the cultural aspects of the trials and their implications. It hosted researchers from various relevant fields, including Prof. Deborah Lipstadt, of Emory University, Atlanta, USA. In addition, a documentary film made during the trials was screened at the conference. Sandra Soldberg, daughter of the director, spoke about her father's achievements and the importance of the film.



5

Students from the Jewish-Arab Community Leadership Program and hosts from the *Positive Home Concerts* group, organized an event in the Hadar neighborhood of Haifa recently, putting on musical performances in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The event was originated out of a desire to create a meeting forum in the community to allow mutual enjoyment of multi-cultural event. About 80 people attended the fascinating evening and enjoyed the excellent music. The purpose of Jewish Arab Community Leadership Program, generously supported by the University's German Friends' Association, and run under the auspices of the Dean of Students' office, is to give Jewish and Arab students the opportunity for cultural dialogue and encounter within the campus and the community.



6

Volunteers from the 'Green Campus' initiative, and Canadian volunteers from the International School, gathered with personnel from the *Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Research Center*, directed by Prof. Leon Blaustein, to prepare the experimental plots on the roof of the University's main building for summer. *The Green Roofs Ecology Center* is generously supported by Mr. Peter and Dr. Gyongyver Kadas, who will both be receiving an honorary doctorate from the University next week during the 44th International Board of Governors Meeting. Dr. Shay Levy, the Green Roofs Center Manager commented that "Cooperation between Green Campus student volunteers and volunteers from the International School is a welcome and is an important study activity. Beyond its many research benefits, green roofs may reduce climate change, and therefore it is necessary to increase the number of green roofs in cities".



7

More than 100 guests attended a symposium of the Raveh Ravid Scholarship Program on the subject of "The immigration crisis in Europe: security aspects and implications for Israel." The conference was organized and led by students from the Leadership and Excellence program supported by the Friends of Raveh Ravid Fund, under the auspices of the University' Social Leadership Unit.



8

A new exhibition, "New Technologies – Discover Poland", was launched recently in the honored presence of His Excellency the Polish Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Jacek Chodorowicz, and Mr. Oded Feller, Polish Honorary Consul in Haifa. The exhibition, on display at the entrance to the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, showcases the latest scientific advances in Poland.



9

Prof. Saul Smilansky, Head of the Department of Philosophy, was recently chosen as one of the seven most influential philosophers to have come out of Israel ever, by the website [The Culture Trip](#). Following this, he has been widely quoted in the cult prestigious magazine, [Atlantic Monthly](#), about free will. Prof. Smilansky, the article states, "has been wrestling with this dilemma, and has come to a painful conclusion: 'We cannot afford for people to internalize the truth' about free will".

