This issue of *At a Glance* is devoted to the 44th Annual Board of Governors' Meeting. During the event, Board Members, faculty and guests from Israel and abroad came together for three days of discussions and events showcasing the University's wide range of academic and community activities.

The highlight was the Honorary Doctorate Conferment Ceremony, held outside against the magnificent backdrop of the surrounding hills. 11 outstanding individuals were recognized for achievements that have left a lasting mark on society. **H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** (Republic of Liberia), 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, for her vision, courage and willingness to march, against every risk and every obstacle, along a path that has led her people to peace and prosperity and her struggle for equal rights for women. **Ms. Herta Amir** (USA), in recognition of her contribution to higher education; **Prof. Bruce Bueno de Mesquita** (USA), in recognition of his excellence in the field of international relations in general and studies on conflict, war and peace in particular; **Prof. Shafi (Shafrira) Goldwasser** (Israel/USA), in recognition of her groundbreaking contribution to the development and promotion of computer science in general, and encryption and data security in particular; **Dr. Gyongyver and Mr. Peter Kadas** (United Kingdom), in recognition of their significant contribution to the advancement of higher education and scientific research in the world; **Prof. Daniel Kahneman** (Israel/USA), 2002 Economics Nobel Prize Laureate, in recognition of his creativity and rare academic courage that allowed him to integrate insights from research in psychology into the field of economics; **Mr. Lee Kohrman** (USA), President of the Myers Foundation, for fostering values of equality and equal opportunities and for his contribution to the Ethiopian community in Israel in general, and the children of the community in particular; **Mr. Doron Livnat** (Israeli), in recognition of his assistance to disadvantaged groups in society; **Prof. Charles Milgrom** (Israel/USA), in recognition of his partnering in the vision of the University of Haifa, which promotes development of novel drugs through groundbreaking theoretical and applied research; and **Prof. David Nirenberg** (USA), in recognition of his analysis of the complexity of relations between Christians, Muslims and Jews in the multicultural society of the Middle Ages.

[Link to photos]
The Board of Governors’ Meeting was launched with a festive evening dedicated to the student scholarships for participants in the University's social and community programs, and also the Flagship Program 'Combating Social Exclusion, Promoting Solidarity'. It was held in the presence of Mr. Barry Shrage, President of Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston, Mr. Doron Livnat, businessman and Honorary Doctorate recipient, Prof. Alfred Tauber, Chairman of the Board, Adm. Ret. Ami Ayalon, Chairman of the Executive Committee and President Amos Shapira who also spoke. The evening comprised some wonderful musical performances, including Israeli singer Ilanit who gave a rendition of the Israeli favourite, Bashanah Habaah (Next Year). Prizes for Distinguished Israeli Citizenship in the Dorms and Excellence in Social Leadership were presented to students who had demonstrated social commitment and achievement. Perhaps most moving was a film outlining the Access for All program which enables those from disadvantaged sectors to have a chance to study at University.

The Carmel Award of Merit, which pays tribute to those with a unique and inspiring contribution to the community, was this year awarded posthumously to Rabbi Dr. Reuven Samuels, z”l, who passed away recently after a long illness aged 82. Rabbi Dr. Samuels was the second director, and founder of the Leo Baeck Education Center, and had been a member of the Executive Committee of the University’s Center for Jewish Education. He was recognized for his educational leadership, and instilling into new generations the values of community service, equality and human dignity in the context of Judaism. The award was received by his wife Annette, and the event included a panel discussion chaired by Prof. Hanan Alexander, head of the Center for Jewish education and Dean of Students, on education, liberalism and Judaism. The CEO of the Leo Baeck Center, Daniel Fessler and Rabbi Na’ama Dafni-Kellen took part.

This year, the University celebrated the award of the prestigious 2016 Israel prize for Life Sciences to its longtime faculty member, and founder of the Institute of Evolutionary Biology, Prof. Eibl Nevo. Prof. Nevo accepted a University shield of appreciation, while the audience were shown a short film about Prof. Nevo and his work. In fact, there have been 12 University of Haifa Israel Prize winners over the years, and participants at the Board Meeting were interested to see a selection of short films introducing them to 6 of the winners and their outstanding achievements. See films about each winner: Prof. Eibl Nevo, Prof. A.B. Yehoshua, Prof. Tuvya Ruebner, Prof. Asher Koriat, Prof. Yaacov Dorchin, Prof. Miriam Ben Peretz, Prof. Sammy Smouha.

In keeping with tradition, the first plenary session opened with Chairman of the Board, Prof. Alfred Tauber, who was reelected as Chairman for another term of Office. Prof will continue to lead with his team of Vice Chairs: Lady Irene Hatter and Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein. All the senior members of the administration, Prof. Tauber, President Amos Shapira, Rector Prof. David Faraggi, Chairman of the Executive Committee Admiral Ret. Ami Ayalon, and Chair of the Control Committee Adv. Fahoum Jayoussi reported on the last year. However, it was a moving occasion, with Mr. Shapira and Prof. Faraggi making their reports for the last time. In addition, the trustees voted to ratify the appointment of Prof. Ron Robin as President Elect.
At the opening plenary, the University paid a moving tribute to its Lifetime Honorary Chairman, Leon H. Charney z’l, who recently passed away. A special tribute film (see link) was screened in the presence of Mrs. Tzili Charney who had flown from the US especially for the occasion, and Mr. Charney’s sister Mrs. Byrna Blumenreich Dryer, in a party of 12 friends and loved ones of Mr. Charney. Both Mrs. Charney and Mrs. Blumenreich Dryer subsequently visited the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences which Mr. Charney founded (see photos).

In his first speech after his ratification as President Elect, Prof. Ron Robin said that the main objective of the University must be the continued recruitment of outstanding researchers. "My predecessors in the role did a wonderful job of recruiting young outstanding academic faculty, and I intend to invest much effort and resources in order to continue to make the University of Haifa a place to which the best researchers will gravitate." Prof. Robin added that, academically, the University's task is not limited to the Northern region alone, but that its mandate is to be a research university of the whole of the State of Israel. But despite this, the University will take an active role in the social fabric of the city of Haifa. "The University should become a major cultural center for the residents of the city of Haifa. In this way we will make our campus more attractive to students from all over Israel."

Academic Prizes of Achievement were presented at the opening plenary of the Board. Dr. Hadas Okon-Singer of the Department of Psychology, won the Dusty and Ettie Miller Fellowship Award for her research on responses to negative stimuli, while the Rector’s Prize for Outstanding Researcher was won by Prof. Kobi Rosenblum who heads the laboratory for Research of Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms, at the Sagol Department of Neurobiology – for his work on memory. The Rector’s prize for outstanding lecturer was won by Prof. Eitan Steinberg of the Department of Music, for his work enabling students to explore music in different ways.

On the second day of the board meeting a very special ceremony took to dedicate the newly named Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences, in the presence of both Mr. and Mrs. Amir, both Honorary Doctorate recipients. Mr. Amos Shapira spoke warmly about the Amirs and their contribution to Israel, while Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Gustavo Mesch also talked about the faculty and its achievements and plans, in the presence of the students and academics of the Faculty. (see photos of the ceremony)
The morning of the third day of the Board Meeting was devoted to an enthralling discussion on the theme of 'Israel, a Jewish and a Democratic state: challenges and opportunities'. The first part focused the Israeli perspective, chaired by Prof. Daniel Statman of the Department of Philosophy, and which included key figures from Israeli politics: MK Ze’ev Binyamin Begin, member of the Likud Party, MK Ayman Odeh, Head of the Joint List to the Knesset and Prof. Yuli Tamir, former Israeli Minister of Education from the Israeli Labor Party.

The second half of the discussion day focused on diaspora perspectives and was chaired by Prof. Daphna Erdinast-Vulcan of the Department of English Language and Literature. Dr. Arnie Aberman, President of the Canadian Friends Association, Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein, President of the German Friends Association and Vice Chair of the Board, Mr. Barry Shrage, President of Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) Boston and Prof. Mark Yudof, Former President of the University of California discussed such issues as the BDS movement abroad and attitudes to Israel amongst Jews abroad. Again, it was a fascinating discussion.

During the third day there was an exhibition of research projects, organized in association with the Research Authority, showcasing some of the groundbreaking research the University’s faculty is carrying out. Academics from the Department of Information Systems, the Institute of Evolution, the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, Zinman Institute of Archaeology of the Internet Research Center, Department of Information and Knowledge Management, the Laboratory and intracellular molecular mechanisms of memory creation at the Sagol Department of Neurobiology, talked about their work on such fields as Big Data, the neural circuitry around social memory, the ARTS protein and Cancer and more.

Later on a Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the Faculty of Law Building was held overlooking the magnificent vista of the Carmel Forest Hills. The assembled guests listened to speeches from the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. Gad Barzilai, and Israeli Supreme Court Justice (Honorary Doctorate Recipient and member of the Board of Governors) Justice Salim Joubran. Mr. Alex Karpov, representing the Swiss Friends’ Association spoke and wished the project well, as did Dr. Eyal Chvika, his counterpart on the Board of the French Friends Association. Both were instrumental in launching the campaign to construct the new building by pledging their support, and unveiled the plaque to mark the site of the new faculty building. See photos.
On Wednesday evening, a reception was held for Board Members to honor the University's outgoing President, Amos Shapira. Together with the Deans, Faculty, Staff and family members, it was a festive and warm occasion, which included speeches by Chairman of the Board Prof. Alfred Tauber, Dean of the Faculty of Law Prof. Gad Barzilai and Mayor of Haifa Mr. Yona Yahav. The subject of the festivities, Mr. Shapira, was all smiles, and reflected on his term in office, saying that, "Whenever I wanted to remind myself to take everything in proportion I remembered the words of the former education Minister Zalman Aran, when he completed his role 'I did much less than you said, but much more than you think.'"