The Department of Occupational Therapy welcomed Prof. Joan Toglia, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Natural Sciences at Mercy College, New York USA. Prof. Toglia, is an international expert in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and led a two day workshop on the topic of Metacognitive strategy intervention: optimizing functional performance and executive function.

The Dean of Students and Head of the Center of Jewish Education, Prof. Hanan Alexander was chosen to take part in a select group of Jewish, Muslim and Christian Professors who met with Pope Francis under the framework of an event organized by the Vatican to discuss inter cultural dialogue in education. Prof. Alexander described the University’s participation in the DARE Erasmus Plus project which aims to provide accessibility in higher education to a variety of different populations.

The 'Study Abroad’ section of the International School opened its summer school recently with a new group of military cadets from the US Naval Academy. The program of studies includes intensive courses in Arabic together with cultural activities and tours of Israel. The Naval Academy has an agreement for the next six years to send two different groups of cadets per year to study at the International School.

The prestigious publication, Science, a journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has published an article on the research of Prof. Wendy Sandler, founding Director of the Sign Language Research Laboratory, on the topic of sign language. The article describes her findings which throw light on the evolution of language and the adaptations young signers make to the sign language they use. See article.
The ceremony to present the Brener Meridor Fund Scholarships was recently held at the University. Members of the Brener and Meridor families attended, including Ms. Michal Brener and Ms. Yochevet Meridor together with Mr. Yariv Sultan, Vice President of Division of Development and External Relations and Prof. Hanan Alexander, Dean of Students. Mr. Danny Meridor gave a presentation about the fund, explaining its activities to commemorate fallen soldiers in the Yom Kippur War. He also noted the significant contribution of the scholarship recipients themselves, who volunteer in the activities run by the Gan HaYeled youth center in Haifa. Dr. Roni Strier, Head of the Center for Poverty Research and the Academic Head of the Flagship Program for combating social exclusion and promoting social solidarity’ also spoke about the principles of the flagship program.

The handwriting performance of children with high-functioning autism differs from that of those without the condition – and education systems should consider the types and formats of the tasks they give children with autism who are integrated into regular schools. This conclusion emerges from a new study overseen and undertaken by Prof. Sara Rosenblum, at the Department of Occupational Therapy. “The typical process of handwriting performance among children with high-functioning autism is unique, but while the education system addresses reading skills, it pays almost no attention to handwriting skills,” explains Prof. Rosenblum. The Jerusalem Post explored these findings in a recent article.
Congratulations to student Maayan Cohen from the Department of Maritime Civilizations at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, on her article 'The Brass Nails of the Akko Tower Wreck (Israel): Archaeometallurgical Analyses' which won the prestigious Buehler Best Technical Paper Award for Excellence. The article, published in the international online journal *Metallography, Microstructure, and Analysis*, was based on her research work on brass nails found in an ancient shipwreck by the Tower of Flies in Acre, and which was funded by the National Science Foundation. The article was written in collaboration with researchers from the universities of Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion and Frankfurt.

In June, the European Network on Gender Violence held a conference at the University of Bilgi in Istanbul. Researchers and academics from several different European countries attended this annual conference and presented findings of their latest research on gender violence in its many forms (sex crimes, assaults, harassment, murder). The interdisciplinary discussions on the issue included legal aspects, psychology, sociology, criminology, and dealt with such topics as diagnosis, prevention, treatment and enforcement. Dr. Hava Dayan, of the School of Criminology presented her socio-legal research on battered women and sexual exploitation in Israel.