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1

In light of the security situation, the Friends of the University of Haifa abroad expressed great interest in the goings on of the University in particular and of the State of Israel in general. In a special conference call with about 100 participants, initiated by the American Society of the University of Haifa, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Prof. Alfred Tauber, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Ami Ayalon, and University President Amos Shapira updated the participants about the current events. President Shapira discussed turning the Eshkol Tower into the Israeli flag, about the Interdisciplinary Clinical Center's hotline, the activities of "Ambassadors Online," and the students and faculty undertaking to help the reserve soldiers, but mostly he talked about the University continuing in its research routine. Right after the call, the President was interviewed in the local media about the call.



2

During the visit of Prof. Charles and Mr. Amir Milgrom, friends and supporters of the University, the research needs for the coming year of Prof. Edi Barkai, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Prof. Gustavo Mesch, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, were presented. In the spirit of the last few weeks, they also met with Morin Hayo-Hemo, Program Director of the "Ambassadors Online" program, and Aklile Kebede from the Model UN program who works hard to advance pluralistic thought and diplomatic action.



3

Our many congratulations go out to Prof. Michal Yerushalmy, Prof. Roza Leikin and Dr. Varda Talmon from the Faculty of Education for winning research grants from the Trump Foundation, working to jump start improvements in educational achievement in Israel by investing in quality teaching in Israeli schools in the math and sciences.



4

Prof. Brenda Shaffer from the School of Political Sciences, who is currently on sabbatical at Georgetown University in the US, testified before the Senate about the Age of natural gas that we are currently in, on new sources being discovered daily and on the great advantages of natural gas as opposed to other sources of energy.



5

Last week the Israeli Friends of the University of Haifa gathered for their annual meeting during which participants heard a review from President Shapira about the situation, and a fascinating speech from Morin Hayo-Hemo about the "Ambassadors Online" program. The meeting included friends and donors who have accompanied the Friends Association throughout the year, who assist it and strengthen it with their various activities to recruit support for the students and the groundbreaking research programs taking place on campus.



6

Kobi Yanovsky and Nadav Zisblatt from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who were elected recently as deputy heads of the Israeli diplomatic missions in the Shanghai and Chengdu provinces in China respectively, visited the University last week and met with Rachel Kaverman, Acting Vice President and Head of the Division of External Relations and Resource Development; Michael Messinger, Executive Director of International Resource Development; Prof. Edi Barkai, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences; and Tzameret Zohar and Hagit Lu from the International School, in order to advance academic ties on various topics with Chinese universities.



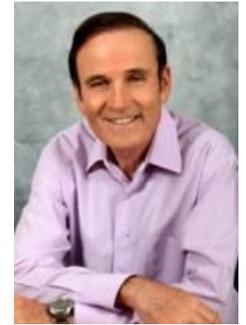
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The terms of 85% of the Jewish-Israeli population to end operation Protective Edge are: cessation of rocket fire and sealing off of all tunnels from Gaza into Israel. This according to a public opinion survey conducted recently by Dr. Yuval Feinstein, a researcher of nationalism and public opinion from the Department of Sociology at the University of Haifa. The survey also found that 91% of the Jewish-Israeli population support or somewhat support ground operations in Gaza, 74% think that the military action in Gaza achieves their objectives, and only 4.2% think that operation Protective Edge was a mistake. Dr. Feinstein was interviewed in various local media.



8

University President Amos Shapira, who in the past served as CEO of El-Al Airlines, was interviewed in the local media about the cessation of flights to Israel: "The Hamas' greatest achievement has to do with perception that all the foreign airlines have disappeared and their pilots are afraid to come here. Unfortunately, we are reminded once more of the importance of Israeli airlines as a strategic asset to the country," he said and added: "Investing in flight infrastructures is like investing in research infrastructures – both are strategic assets to Israel."



9

Is Hamas a media success story? Prof. Eli Avraham, Head of the Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism and Racism and from the Department of Communications, wrote in the paper "Israel Today": "In this current round of fighting Hamas believed once more that emphasizing the victimization will bring about victory in the public opinion and the media. It worked in the past, and horrific images brought with them protests mainly across Europe and the Arab world and to the increase of the political pressure the Arabs put on the Security Council and the UN to declare a cessation of the fighting in terms convenient to Hamas. But it seems as though the Hamas leadership still has not internalized that in light of the 'Arab Spring,' the Middle East is not as it once was, and that part of the countries are themselves in the midst of a struggle for survival against Islamic fundamentalism," he claimed.



10

Good or bad? Morin Hayo-Hemo, Program Director of the "Ambassadors Online" program, discussed on Ynet the reporting battle over social media and the Internet and anti-Israel propaganda: "There are pages and groups going out against Israel that we do not want to see on Facebook so we report them, we could actually use them to show the world why we need a Jewish state, because only through this can the world really know what is the truth." She also interviewed on this topic for Israeli military radio.





University of Haifa | Mount Carmel, Haifa 31905 | tel. 972 4 8240091 | email: doover@univ.haifa.ac.il