A wonderfully mixed crowd of 70 people, English and Israeli, attended the Haifa for Children Dinner in London last week. Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz, head of the International Child Development Programme, told the guests about his mission to train childcare professionals from developing countries in Africa and Asia, including teachers, social workers, therapists, doctors and even priests. Dr. Biola Aemreore, a paediatrician from Nigeria and a graduate of the programme, explained how it contributed to her work in a large hospital in Nigeria and created a ripple effect as she is now passing on the knowledge to her colleagues in other hospitals. Among the guests were also Mr. Eytan Stibbe, Israeli entrepreneur, philanthropist and founder of the Vital Capital Fund, and a representative of George Soros’s Open Society Foundation, who supports the program. The atmosphere was uplifted by a moving performance of internationally acclaimed flutist Lisa Friend, featuring tracks from her new album ‘Cinema Affair’. The evening was a celebration of the University of Haifa and Israel’s exceptional and life changing work in global communities where our help and expertise are most needed.

Has the gate to the compound of the god Pan been discovered at Hippos (Sussita)? A monumental Roman gate discovered in the University of Haifa excavations at Hippos may cast light on the bronze mask of Pan – the only object of its kind found anywhere in the world – that was discovered in the same site during last year’s excavation season. “Now that the whole gate has been exposed, we not only have better information for dating the mask, but also a clue to its function. Are we looking at a gate that led to the sanctuary of the god Pan or one of the rustic gods?” wonders Dr. Michael Eisenberg of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, the head of the expedition. These findings were widely publicized in the international press: Archeology.org, LiveScience.com, JerusalemPost to name a few.
Warm congratulations go out to the 2,768 MA students and 2,239 BA students receiving their degrees in the 2015/16 academic year. Thousands of degree recipients participated in the festivities during the award ceremonies held on campus at the end of June.

Dr. Amir Har Gil of the University of Haifa MA Program in Culture and Film Studies received five awards in various film festivals held in Indonesia and Mexico. His film “Jerusalem in Line” has received the Gold Prize and the Platinum Prize and his film “Uri in the Sky” received the Gold Prize and the Director’s Prize. The latter has also won the Bronze Prize at the international film festival recently held in Cordova.

Representatives from the Chinese National Academy of Sciences recently visited the campus as guests of Dr. Dror Angel of the Department of Maritime Civilizations in order to hear about the interesting research conducted at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies. The visit centered on the topic of Marine Agriculture and it comes as a result of a seven-year scientific collaboration. The Chinese delegation also met with the Rector, Prof. David Faraggi and an MOU was signed regarding research collaboration in the field of Marine Agriculture.

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library periodically holds a workshop for research students and academic faculty members in order to keep them up to date on databases such as Web of Sciences and JCR. Last week such a workshop was held with an expert on the subject from Thomson Reuters, which is a company that provides professionals with the intelligence, technology and human expertise they need to find trusted answers.