Participants at the recent 44th Board of Governors’ Meeting in June had the chance to listen to some key leaders in their field talk about their work – and witness some superb events and introductory videos. To give you a taste of the program, films of all events are now available online. Highlights include lectures by honorary doctorate recipients and Nobel Laureates HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, and Economics Laureate Prof. Daniel Kahneman, films describing programs such as the Access for All project (supported by Honorary Doctorate recipient Mr. Doron Livnat), and much, much more. Click here for the Board Meeting video channel and photos.

Prof. Gabi Weimann, expert on cyber terror from the Department of Communications at the Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences, has won an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Grant to design and prepare an education and research network to fight online terrorism and radicalization of the internet. The OSCE is an organization of 57 member states plus cooperating partners which aims to address a wide range of security-related concerns in different ways (eg politico-economic, security, human aspects). This is the fifth award winning grant Prof. Weimann has received for his work on cyber terror, including previous fellowships with the United States Institute of Peace, Woodrow Wilson Center, the Australian Research Council and the EU. The issue is timely – especially in the light of recent comments made by Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, who criticized Facebook posts for inciting terror attacks in Israel.
Top Chinese students have just begun a new China-Israel academic exchange program at the University in a first of its kind initiative. The summer school, led by the International School and the Faculty of Education, will involve outstanding students from China sponsored by the Israeli Council of Higher Education and the Chinese Scholarship Council. The initiative is taking place throughout Israel where 31 outstanding Chinese undergraduates, selected from applicants at China’s elite universities, will study in Israel. Students from East China Normal University (ECNU), which has especially close ties with the University of Haifa, will be taking part. The Chinese students will study a range of theoretical courses under the supervision of Prof. Lily Orland Barak, Dean of the Faculty of Education, as well as intensive practical specializations in city educational institutions such as schools and kindergartens.

Participants in the Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies have recently returned from a New York Study Tour, led by Director of the Program, Prof. Gur Alroey. The ten day tour introduced students to the different aspects of American Jewry through discussions with Jewish community leaders, academics and social activists, as well as visits to museums and heritage sites of particular interest to American Jewry such as Ellis Island, and various New York synagogues and districts. The trip enabled the Israeli students to experience first-hand the nature and breadth of American Jewry they had studied.

New University research has shown that integrative medicine – alternative and standard treatment working together - could be of real benefit in helping patient with fears of surgery. Anxiety can cause changes in blood pressure, sugar metabolism and more which can affect the healing process after surgery. Postgraduate student Shmuel Attias, under the supervision of Prof. Lital Keinan Boker of the School of Public Health found that combination of alternative treatment such as acupuncture and medication reduce anxiety much more than medication alone. The combined technique has “real potential to alleviate fears of patients and improve the results of the operation. Offering this to patients should be seriously considered”, said Prof. Keinan-Boker in The Jerusalem Post.

A monumental Roman gate discovered by faculty at the Zinman Institute of Archeology is causing a stir in the international media. Last week we mentioned the excavations at Hippos (Sussita) which may have discovered a gateway to the compound of the god Pan – and cast light on bronze mask discovered which is unlike any other found elsewhere. Now, FOX NEWS, the Huffington Post, Daily Mail, and others have featured the story. You can see the site for yourself by taking a look at the online 3D image of the site.