The oceans are one of the great undiscovered realms on earth. Dr. Tali Treibitz, of the Hatter Department of Marine Technologies at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences has helped take a step towards unlocking its mysteries. The Benthic Underwater Microscope, developed with a team at the Scripps Research Institute in California, allows scientists to take high quality images of organisms in their natural habitats on the sea bed. Developed to research corals, the microscope can film the tiniest details of the organisms life, like unique films of species of corals competing, featured in the many media reports across the world: New York Times, the Washington Post, IFL Science, The Guardian, PBS. The Hatter Department of Marine Technologies is generously supported by longtime UK Friends Sir Maurice and Lady Irene Hatter. “We are imaging the organism in its natural environment which is very complex and difficult to recreate in the lab,” said Dr. Tali Treibitz for the BBC.

Prof. Michal Gal, who specializes in Competition Law at the Faculty of Law has been elected Chairman of the international Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA). The body is a respected international association of multidisciplinary scholars competition law and policy, whose aim is to share knowledge and opportunities to promote research in the field. This has been a successful year for Prof. Gal, who also won the Concurrences Review 2016 Antitrust Writing Awards for her article ‘The hidden costs of free goods: implications for Antitrust Enforcement’ jointly written with Daniel Rubinfield.
In the current tragic climate of terrorism, Prof. Gabi Weimann of the Department of Communication at the Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences, and expert in cyber terrorism has been commenting on the use of social media for violent purposes. In Bloomberg he commented on the recent lawsuit taken out against Facebook on behalf of US citizens killed and injured in attacks in Israel and the West Bank for allegedly allowing Hamas to use the social network as a platform for planning attacks. “Facebook isn’t the only platform,” said Prof. Weimann, “There are plenty of others. What will you do? Sue them all?” He added that the focus should be to develop faster ways to identify this problem and block messages before they go viral. In the Herald Globe, Prof. Weimann talks about a new type of terrorism "The real threat now comes from the single individual, the 'lone wolf,' living next door, radicalized on the Internet and plotting strikes in the dark”

Also on the theme of terrorism, a recent article published in the Jerusalem Post cites research by Israel Prize Winner and Prof. Sammy Smooha of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology that about 17% of Israeli Arabs are sympathetic to ISIS, with support levels rising to 28% among those who already sympathized with the outlawed Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement. This comes after a series of cases where Israeli Arabs have crossed over the border to join ISIS. Prof. Smooha’s index of Jewish Arab relations is generously supported this year the Neubauer Family Foundation of the US.

Druze photographer and graduate of the University of Haifa’s School of Fine Arts (BA and Master’s with Honors) Amira Zayan has been the focus of an in-depth feature in the Haaretz Culture supplement. Zayan, who won an award from Israel’s Shpilman Institute for Photography in 2009, discusses her work, which highlights the status of women in a traditional society, while maintaining respect for its sensitivities. Her photos feature staged representations of disembodied clothing which reference items like veils. She has recently exhibited in Kibbutz Cabri in the Galilee, close to her home in the Druze village of Yarka.

Prof. Taiseer Elias, Musical Director of Israeli Youth and Music’s Arab-Jewish Orchestra, and lecturer at the Department of Music, is leading the orchestra on a trip to Madrid this week. Prof. Elias is a master of both Eastern and Western music and a highly respected musician in Israel. The orchestra operates from the School of Fine Arts and is made up of 20 young talented musicians, playing a repertoire based on a mixture of East and West. They held a special concert in advance of the trip at Kibbutz Ein Shemer in Northern Israel. Click here to see an introductory film about the Madrid delegation.
Subsea World News, the industry journal of the underwater technology sector, has featured the purchase of a state of the art ROV (underwater remotely operated vehicle) that will be a key research tool at the Helmsley Mediterranean Sea Research Center at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences. The Saab Seaeye Leopard ROV is a first for Israel, and paves the way for continued advances in what is becoming an increasingly important area in Israeli and world scholarship. The purchase has been made possible by the generous support of Helmsley Charitable Trust in the USA.