



# At a Glance

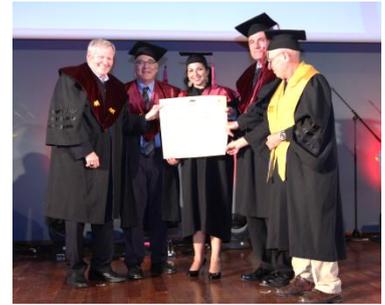
## Latest News from the University of Haifa

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Mrs. Shira Ruderman, University Honorary Doctorate Recipient, longtime friend of the University and the Israel Director of the Ruderman Family Foundation was recently interviewed for the Israeli news website, Ynet about her work. The Foundation supports the [Ruderman Program for Jewish American Studies](#), as well as a wide range of philanthropic programs. Mrs. Ruderman spoke about the achievements of the Foundation "success is always something relative. I am not disregarding the many achievements the Foundation has made, but I am always thinking that we can do better" she said, and added that she is concentrating "on our responsibility to improve the social action which we lead". Mrs. Ruderman spoke about managing her team and her close bond to Israel, which is the land of her birth. The interview (in Hebrew) can be [viewed here](#).



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With the BDS a growing problem in the US, a recent visit from representatives of the [Israel Action Network](#) which campaigns against the BDS movement, was especially relevant. The delegation met with Prof. Wendy Sandler of the Department of English Language and Literature (and Head of the Sign Language Laboratory), Prof. Emeritus Menachem Kellner of the Department of Jewish History and Prof. Eli Avraham of the Department of Communications and head of the [Comper Center for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism](#). They discussed the struggle against the boycott movement and strategic cooperation in this important fight. Amongst the US delegation was Prof. Cary Nelson of the University of Illinois, who is both active in the anti BDS movement and also part of the University's ['International Affiliated Professors'](#) program where foreign academics declare their support by affiliating to the University.



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The University's researchers continue to piece together the details of the lives of our common human ancestors and the beginnings of agriculture as we know it. Last week the media reported on the Institute of Evolution's mapping of the genomes of early agricultural seeds, and also Prof. Dani Nadel of the Zinman Institute of archeology has published joint research in [NATURE](#) on the earliest DNA found in the Middle East. 12,000 years ago, it appears there were three genetic populations living in the area: from Iran, from the Levant (Israel and Jordan) and from Anatolia (Turkey). "We knew that during thousands of years after the beginning of the agricultural revolution there were many migrations in the ancient Near East and Europe, resulting in new genetically 'mixed' populations, but we did not know what was happening right in the cradle of the [agricultural] revolution - where and when it all began". These findings represent another vital piece in the jigsaw.



New research by Dr. Pnina (Pitzy) Ron, of the School of Social Work has been released on the effect of recent Israeli conflicts on the Israeli Arab population. Research at the University immediately after the Lebanon War and Operation Cast Lead found that levels of death anxiety amongst Israeli Arabs was significantly higher than amongst Jewish Israelis. "During the second Lebanon war, and in Operation Cast Lead the Arab population in the North and South of Israel was surprised to discover that it was attacked by its fellow Arabs in neighboring countries and felt utterly helpless. This state, together with the fact that they suffered injury and death caused a significant psychological effect amongst Israeli Arabs" said Dr. Ron. The findings of the research were published in a number of papers, including [the Jerusalem Post](#).

