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1

Hundreds of reporters, photojournalists and other media professionals attended the Haifa Media Conference recently held at the University of Haifa. The conference was organized by the Haifa Press Association in conjunction with the University of Haifa and the Israeli Press Association. The conference included panels about the media coverage in the periphery, local press, journalist rights, coverage of the Arab, Russian and Ultra Orthodox sectors and more. The event generated a great deal of interest and was covered by many media outlets. "We have a great deal in common. The first being the wish to promote our values and the society in which we live in. Regarding these issues you will find that academic faculty members, especially in this University, share the same feelings you do" Stated Amos Shapira the President of the University during his opening address.



2

Prof. Eran Vigoda Gadot from the School of Political Science published his findings from the 2013 index for public sector performance dealing with media professionals in conjunction with the conference. From the data it becomes evident that the public trust in reporters from Galei Tzahal, the Israel Broadcast Authority, the Second Channel and Channel 10 is relatively high, but public trust in reporters is generally low and places the reporters in a ranking of 21 out of 32 public sector positions tested.



3

Congratulations to the Faculty of Law which celebrated its 21st anniversary. This special occasion was marked in a festive event where the Faculty Alumni Association was launched. 400 alumni from 22 classes attended this event which included a cocktail reception and a performance by the comedian Orna Banai. The event was covered by various media outlets.



4

Dr. Younes and Mrs. Soraya Nazarian recently visited the University to see for themselves the wonderful activities carried out and initiated by the staff of the *Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library*. Both Dr. and Mrs. Nazarian admired the Azaria Alon exhibit at the library. Dr. Nazarian was very moved by the various activities and developments and commented that "it is like watching a child grow".



5

This year marks the 16th year the University of Haifa holds a special ceremony to bestow scholarships named after University alumnus Captain Uri Michael Akavya who was killed in the line of duty during the Yom Kippur War. The 16 scholarships are granted to excellent undergraduate students studying at the Department of Computer Science, 7 of which are given to high school students participating in the Etgar Program. The Head of the Computer Science Department Prof. Shuly Winter stated that these scholarships are a representation of Captain Akavya's excellence in his studies and in his army service.



6

150 students from across the country attended a special Model UN conference recently held at the University. During the event panels were held on various important global issues where the students represented various countries. Amongst the issues discussed: the Syrian civil war, the Arms Race, the African Refugee Crisis and the Countries Affected, Military Recruitment of Child Refugees and more. The end of the conference was marked with the awarding of merit awards to two students who excelled in committee deliberations. Both students are students at the University of Haifa: Or Brokman from the Department of Computer Science and Doron Pessu from the Faculty of Law.



7

Prof. Shulamit Almog from the Faculty of Law published a new book titled *A Call to Honor: Selected Readings on Human Dignity*. The book discusses the ability of literary works to transform readers into a state of consciousness producing a certain level of understanding for the other person's perspective. This directly relates to a deep understanding of someone else's right to respect as it allows for the ability to imagine the other person and empathize with them. In her book, Prof. Almog brings forth such texts which can evoke this state of consciousness.



8

Congratulations to Dr. Meytal Segal-Reich from the Faculty of Law on winning the 2014 research prize of the Israel Gerontological Society for her research titled "Rules of Professional Responsibility and Ethics in Legal Representation of Older Clients: the Necessity in a Unifying Framework". Dr. Segal – Reich will receive the scholarship at a ceremony to be held at the end of January.



9

Prof. Doron Kliger, the Head of the Department of Economics, gave a lecture in the framework of a seminar given by the Open University, trying to tackle the question of whether the research of the 2013 Nobel Prize Laureates in Economics was deserving of the Prize. In his lecture, Prof. Kliger explained the impact of the laureate's research on the global economy and humanity.



10

Playing for One God. The Jewish Arab Center welcomed the "Earth People" ensemble which comprises Jewish and Arab young people from Akko, Haifa, the Kfar Hayarok school, Turkey and Germany in a "Music for One God" performance, as part of a tour in Israel and abroad. The young artists performed musical works, video and theater pieces that encourage democracy and human rights, with the aim of condemning xenophobia and anti-semitism.



11

Here comes the bride... Young couple, Yuli and Moshe chose our campus as the backdrop for their wedding photos because of the close and ongoing ties the bride's family has with the University. Her mother, Noga, has already studied for two degrees at the University and is currently in the middle of a PhD at the Department of the Land of Israel Studies; her father, Itamar, completed his doctorate at the Faculty of Law; her brother Nimrod, is a second year student at the Department of Economics; and the bride herself has now finished her second degree at the Department of Environmental Geography. Congratulations to the happy couple!



12

Are you sick of flies? Dr. Chiel Elad from the Department of Environmental Biology at Oranim has found a creative solution to cope with them. He is increasing the size of parasitic wasps from 3 to 5mm. These wasps attack the pupal stage of flies that constitute an environmental or sanitary hazard, or damage domestic/agricultural animals, or humans.



13

Is coffee good for your plants? Researchers at the Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Research Center, in collaboration with the Students Union and the Green Campus Project, have begun to use the waste from coffee machines in order to fertilize research flowerbeds. The purpose of the research is to examine not only whether coffee is a viable base for promoting the growth of plants, but whether it actually improves this. "This is a wonderful way of turning waste into a resource...If we can demonstrate that it improves plant growth it could be a wonderful solution for us and the environment", said Dr. Shay Levy, manager of the Center. The experiment has been reported on Israel TV's *Channel 2*, and various other media.



15

Facebook is celebrating its 10th birthday. In an article published on the development of the social network in the *Yedionot Ahronot* newspaper, Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli, head of the Center for Internet Research, and member of the Center of Excellence for Research on Learning in the Age of Information (LINKS) said that "Facebook fulfils an eternal need: the need to associate with communities, the personal need to create groups - which are now becoming less bound to a specific location. So there is no point in asking whether it is good or bad. Is gravity good or bad? It's nature. Our need to create communities is a fact. If facebook closes tomorrow, this need will not disappear."



14

"The release of murderous terrorists with blood on their hands, without an agreement, in order to keep the coalition which will allow the building of settlements, is in my opinion a pointless move" So said major General (res.) Eli Marom (Cheney), former Commander of the Israeli Navy, at the [National Security Studies Center conference](#). The reserve general came to speak about the role of the navy in Israel's defense. He made these comments at a ceremony to present a scholarship in the name of Nir Regev, who was killed by a bomb at the "Maxim" restaurant.



16

Prof. Eli Somer, of the School of Social Work, has had his research cited in the [Jerusalem Post](#). Prof. Somer found that emotional stress is relieved in materialistic people by going shopping, as a coping mechanism.



17

Data from the "Index of Arab-Jewish relations in Israel" by Prof. Sammy Smooha formed the basis of his piece in a series of articles in the Israeli newspaper *Maariv* on "The relationship between the state of Israel and Israeli Arabs. "The Arab public is angry and frustrated, but has the impression that the use of terror is not justified any more" said Prof. Smooha. The index was used on the website of the newspaper *The Marker* as the basis of an article on Jewish Arab relations, in the light of Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's proposal to turn route 6 into the border of a Palestinian state, under the framework of the current negotiations.



18

The interpretation proposed by Prof. Gershon Galil from the Department of Biblical Studies on the earliest Hebrew inscription (see Issue 4) continues to create interest. The opinion has now been published in *Haaretz* and also in the international media such as the UK newspaper the [Daily Mail](#), the English language [Times of Israel](#), and [The Blaze](#).



19

Prof. Rachel Lev-Wiesel, Head of the Graduate School of Creative Arts Therapies, was interviewed by *Channel 10*, where she spoke about the state of young people in Israel. Prof. Lev-Wiesel presented some data from a report she published, together with Prof. Zvi Eisikovits, from the School of Social Work, according to which almost every second child in Israel is suffering some sort of harm whether sexual, physical, emotional, neglect or exposure to domestic violence.



20

It has been a busy time for Prof. Ofira Ayalon, Head of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Prof. Ayalon was interviewed on Israel TV's *Channel 10* on the subject of the radical climate changes experienced in North America recently. She also wrote an article in *Ynet* expressing the frustration of many scientists "Why have scientists if we don't listen to them?"



21

Following the earthquake in Turkey recently, Dr. Beverly Goodman of the Leon Charney School of Marine Sciences published an article in *Ynet* on Israel's readiness to cope with a Tsunami wave strike. Dr. Goodman explains that in the last 3,500 years at least five Tsunamis occurred in Israel - so such a scenario is not impossible. "There is a high probability that this sort of disaster could happen here too. Is Israel ready to cope with tens of thousands dead, cities flooded with water and damage costing horrendous amounts? At the moment it seems not," said a concerned Dr. Goodman.



22

Following the murder of the youth Eden Attias, *Ynet* has published an article on the ability of the prosecution to prove intent when the accused was under the influence of alcohol. Prof. Emanuel Gross of the Faculty of Law said in the article that "without regard to the incident itself, in terms of the law, if a person performs an unplanned act after getting drunk, it cannot be treated as the crime of murder. According to the law, crimes of intention cannot be charged when drunkenness is present."



23

In an article on the balance of power in the world in 2014 on the *Mako* Israeli TV channel website, Dr. Yoram Evron from the Department of Asian Studies explained China's expected moves in the international arena in the coming year. "In recent months China has defined its field of air defense in the region as covering two specific islands in which it has an interest. In doing so it also challenged the US and Japan" wrote Dr. Evron.



24

Dr. Sara Bender of the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research has responded to Prof. Moshe Arens' claim of [historical bias glorifying the Jewish Fighters' Organization](#) (ZOB) compared to Beitar (ZZW) in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. In an article published in *Haaretz* she wrote "Do not ignore the fact that even before the destruction of the ghetto ZOB and ZZW (which included the Betar) failed to rise above their political differences for the common struggle, and so divided up the combat zones between them for the expected uprising. There has been historiographic exclusion here, or suppression of information."



25

Dr. Guy Podoler, from the Department of Asian Studies, was interviewed on Israel radio about the execution of the uncle of Kim Jong Un, the leader of North Korea. He tried to explain what we know about the strange behavior of the North Korean premier.



26

Prof. Oz Almog, from the Department of Land of Israel Studies spoke recently about Israel's Bank Hapoalim *Small Business Day* on Israel Radio. Prof. Almog described the contribution of small businesses from a slightly different point of view "The environment is more aesthetic when it is eclectic and diverse. The problem is that the big chains make everything uniform – they create homogeneity of appearance. When you enter a big city you see the same chains: McDonalds, Office Depot. It's like uniform project housing. So when there are small businesses it's nicer – there's a variety and uniqueness of form".



27

Prof. Amazia Baram, head of The Center for Iraq Studies, was interviewed for Israel Radio on the subject of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. "Nuri Al-Maliki has taken full control of the Shiite areas in the south and this control is still with Baghdad at the moment. However, he is losing control of the Sunni areas little by little, while he has never had control of the Kurdish regions," he explained on the program.



28

Ami Ayalon, Chairman of the Executive Committee, was interviewed on Israel Radio on John Kerry's remarks in Israel on the expected settlement between Israel and the Palestinians. "When Obama was in Israel he put the subject of Iran *and* the subject of the Palestinians on the table. He connects the issues: to deal with Iran we need to progress the peace process with the Palestinians which will allow us, and America, to recruit the support of countries in this region" he said.



Prof. Michal Shamai from the School of Social Work was interviewed for Israeli Army Radio's lunchtime program on her research into the effect of life on the frontline of war on couples' relationships. "Life on the frontline impacts both positively and negatively. The negative effects are manifested in an inability to spend leisure time together, the quality of their sex life, and disagreement on issues regarding child rearing. In spite of this, the positive influences are demonstrated by mutual trust, openness and increased communication between partners".



Prof. Arnon Soffer, Incumbent of the Chaiklin Chair of Geostrategy, spoke on Israel Radio on the issue of asylum seekers. In his opinion "They won't be accepted here easily. We are talking about two cultures which are poles apart. These problems are not solved elsewhere either. We must and should remove those we can."

