



**Division for External Relations  
and Resource Development**

**26 November 2015**

**Issue No. 5 for Academic Year 2015-16**



**1**

The 8th class of the prestigious IDF "Havatzalot" Program recently graduated. This program is an elite program of the Intelligence Corps which aims to train highly skilled intelligence officers. As part of the Program these gifted young men and women study toward a BA at the University. The commander of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, Major General Hertzi Halevi, attended the graduation ceremony and stated that "if we are to face these challenging times we need high quality intelligence personnel. A good academic background and the ability to look at problems from different angles for the purpose of analyzing complex issues are vital for our success. The "Havatazalot" Program provides these abilities to its people and thus the Intelligence Corps benefits from this and, in turn, the State of Israel".



**2**

Prof. Leon Blaustein, Dr. Shay Levy, Dr. Gyongyver Kadas and Bracha Schindler from the Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Center at the University recently visited the Knesset where a green roof will be established for research and education purposes. The visit was led by Dr. Shmuel Chen, Head of Environment within the framework of the Green Knesset Project. Also participating in the visit were the Board of Trustees of the Beracha Foundation headed by Dr. Tali Yariv Mahsal, the CEO of the Foundation. The Knesset Green Roof (1000 m<sup>2</sup>) will house a combination of solar panels and plants to test the hypothesis that this combination will create cooler temperatures and that will make for more efficient electricity production. The solar panels will provide shade for the plants and animals. The Knesset Director General, Ronen Plot, who hosted the visit stated that this is an important project for environmental awareness as over a quarter million visitors visit the Knesset each year.



3

Dr. Alon Schab from the Department of Music was recently invited to an event held at the Bavarian State Library in honor of the addition of a rare musical manuscript to its collection. Dr. Schab and his research partner Dr. David Rees found this manuscript between old books belonging to the Munich Jewish community. They studied the manuscript which has a golden emblem of the year 1832 on its cover and contains dozens of musical pieces which were sang in the synagogue in Vienna and Munich. Most of the pieces were collected by Salomon Sulzer, an Austrian hazzan and composer who was one of the most important Jewish music composers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. For more details please see: [Manuscript](#)



4

Prof. Oren Gzal-Ayal, the Director of the Center for the Study of Crime, Law and Society and the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law, who just completed his term as the coordinator of the governmental committee examining government criminal sentencing policies recently chaired a special conference on this issue held by the Faculty of Law. The conference included a panel with the Head of the Committee, retired Supreme Court Justice Dalia Dorner and other members of the committee. For further reading: [Haaretz.com](#)



5

Congratulations go to Dr. Avi Mendelson, Head of the Human Memory Laboratory at the *Sagol Department of Neurobiology*, who was named as one of the 40 young promising researchers under the age of 40 by *The Marker Magazine*. "Medelson's research examines the memories of accumulated experiences over time which are characterized by rich content and sensory information, dynamic changes over time and diverse emotional responses. Through those, he tries to understand the neural mechanisms underlying the memory process" the Magazine stated.



6

*The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences*, led by Dr. Revital Bookman and the *Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR)*, led by Prof. Barak Herut recently coordinated the *Batsheva de Rothschild Seminar* titled *Environmental Science and Policy - Challenges in the South Eastern Mediterranean*. This international conference is supported by the National Academy of Sciences and the Israeli Center for Mediterranean Sea Research in an attempt to bring together leading experts from Israel and abroad to discuss the Mediterranean Sea Environment. The effects of chemical pollution, desalination plants, industrial development and climatic change were amongst the topics discussed. This year the attendees included a wide variety of governmental office representatives, industry representatives and environmentalists.



7

Ori Lahav, the co-founder and GM of *Outbrain*, recently gave a lecture to University of Haifa students in the framework of the University Entrepreneurship Program (under establishment). This program is a joint program for Arab and Jewish students and its purpose is to encourage and create business, social and technological ventures. The Head of this Program is Dr. Ron Bekkerman from the Department Information and Knowledge Management. *Outbrain* is a content discovery platform whose content marketing module offers to help Internet publishers increase web traffic by presenting them with relevant website links. It provides recommendations for several media types, including online, news, video, and mobile.



מרכז היזמות הסטארט-אפ  
האוניברסיטת חיפה

8

The BBC Farsi Channel produced a piece on the *Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies*. The piece features the University of Haifa and the Farsi language website which the Center operates and reaches millions of people in Iran and Farsi speakers in general in countries such as Afghanistan and Tajikistan. To those of you who speak Farsi please see link to the piece on the BBC: [bbc.com/persian](http://bbc.com/persian)

מרכז עזרי לימודי איראן והמפרץ הפרסי



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