



**Division for External Relations  
and Resource Development**

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**1**

It is with profound shock and deep sadness that we learned of the murder of Yaacov Don z"l, a doctoral student at the University of Haifa Faculty of Education and a member of the LINKS research team, a team that researches the future of education in a technological, 21<sup>st</sup> century setting. Yaacov z"l was brutally murdered in the Gush Etzion shooting last week. The University of Haifa Family sends its deepest sympathies to Yaacov's family, to all the families of the victims in this tragedy, and wishes a speedy recovery to all those who were injured. Let them know no more sorrow.



**2**

Admiral (Ret.) Ami Ayalon, Chairman of the University of Haifa Executive Committee, spoke to University of Haifa friends and supporters on the West Coast and in the Midwest last week, providing valuable perspective on the national security issues facing Israel today and the key role the University plays in the northern region. His observations were particularly timely in light of recent terrorist activity around the world, and stimulated vigorous give and take among attendees. In San Francisco Admiral Ayalon addressed more than 90 at the Jewish Community Relations Center in an event jointly sponsored by ASUH, the JCRC, the Israel Consulate and the SF-Haifa Sister City Committee. At a Conversational Dinner in Chicago with 20 regional lay leaders and supporters, Admiral Ayalon also discussed the development and geopolitical implications of the natural gas resources off the coast of Haifa and co-existence and multiculturalism at the University.



3

President Amos Shapira recently visited London. One of the exciting events he attended was a lecture titled "Is there a master plan for the Middle East?" given by Dr. Glen Segell of the University of Haifa's Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies. The lecture was delivered to around 80 participants of an event organized by the Iranian-born siblings Hamid and Farkhondeh Sabi, together with Efrat Sopher, the granddaughter of Meir Ezri z"l, who chaired the event. Mr Hamid Sabi, who was President of the Iranian Friends of Haifa University in pre-revolution Iran, opened the meeting and told about his personal connection with the University and how he took his wife Meira there to a Board of Governors meeting to impress her before they got married.



4

The Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies recently held its formal opening gala which marks the beginning of its third year of activity. Former US Senator Joe Lieberman, who recently spoke at the Knesset on US Israel Relations, was the keynote speaker, and was interviewed by Prof Avraham Ben-Zvi who is an expert in US-Israel relations. Also in attendance were Shira and Jay Ruderman, Honorary Doctorate Recipients in 2014 and benefactors of this important program, Prof. Gur Alroey, the Director of the Program and President Amos Shapira. The event was extremely well attended by Program graduates, staff and guests of the University.



5

The University's Jewish - Arab Center together with the Center for a Shared Society at Givat Haviva held a conference where the *Index of Arab Jewish Relations in Israel* was presented by Prof. Sammy Smooha of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and an Israel Prize recipient. The index is generously supported by the Fohs Foundation and the Alan B. Slifka Foundation. It examines the attitudes of Arab and Jewish citizens toward each other and toward the state. The conference brings together people from the academia, civic societies, private sector, public sector, municipalities and more. The findings of the index were widely publicised in the press including in the [Jerusalem Post](#). Prof. Smooha was also interviewed regarding the issue of outlawing the Israeli Islamist Group: [NYTimes](#), [Daily Mail](#), and [Yahoo News](#)



6

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Haifa, headed by Prof. Amnon Carmi of the Faculty of Law has expanded its operation in India. Prof. Carmi has just returned from India where he participated in a signing ceremony for collaboration with the Indian Medical Association. The collaboration agreement will allow the Indian Medical Association to absorb the Chair's teaching methods. A quarter of a million doctors in India and Indian medical schools will learn about ethical values as directed by the Chair's methods and curricula. The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics has almost 90 units in 60 countries around the world.



7

For the first time, a scientific study has observed bonobos (an analogous race to chimpanzees) making sophisticated use of ancient pre-agricultural tools in a manner similar to that which has hitherto been considered the prerogative of archaic pre-human hominins and other members of the Homo genus. Among other findings, a bonobo was observed for the first time making and using spears in a social setting for the purpose of attack and defense. "I believe that the current study will break down our cultural hang-up as humans concerning the inherent capabilities and potential of bonobos and chimpanzees," says Itai Roffman, PhD Student at the Institute of Evolution at the University of Haifa, who undertook the study (as a recipient of the Adams Fellowship from the Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities). For further reading: [Bonobos](#)



8

Michal Simler, the CEO of IVN (Israel Network Group), 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 of Information and Knowledge Management. IVN is a venture philanthropy network of high-tech entrepreneurs, business executives, venture capitalists, corporations and philanthropists from Israel and the US. IVN's network of members, along with its team of professionals, recruits and leverages its resources, contacts and experience from the business world in the social arena to develop this fourth sector.

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האוניברסיטת חיפה



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