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1

The University has received a generous gift of \$500,000 from Dr. Paul and Mrs. Herta Amir designated towards the absorption of a returning Israeli scientists living abroad. Dr. and Mrs. Amir are committed to the Israeli government's campaign to bring Israeli-born scientists, now working abroad, back to Israel to strengthen the nation's scientific and research capabilities. "Herta and I are delighted to be able to help bring prominent researchers back to Israel," said Dr. Amir. "We are confident these researchers will have important and far-reaching benefits for the University of Haifa and people throughout Israel and around the world." Dr. and Mrs. Amir, long-standing members of the Board of Governors of the University of Haifa, have been major benefactors of the University. They have previously contributed resources for the purpose of promoting promising researchers by funding scholarships for doctoral students, thus advancing the academic excellence of the University of Haifa. They underwrote the construction of the Herta and Paul Amir Social Sciences Building and contributed towards the completion of the Arts Center. "Thanks to generous supporters like Herta and Paul Amir," said President Amos Shapira, "we are reversing the 'brain drain' of Israel's outstanding academics and bringing talented researchers, back to Israel. The University, and, indeed, the entire Israeli society, will benefit from the return of exceptional and talented scientists."



2

Chairman of the Executive Committee Ami Ayalon, took part in certain recent events in Los Angeles organized by the Friends Association of the University of Haifa in the US. In a joint event organized with the Rand Corporation, close links were forged with Senior Executives at Rand which resulted in collaborative research between the University and the Israel Democracy Institute. In a dinner hosted at the residence of Dr. Sharon Nazirian, Mr Ayalon presented the University's academic achievements to an assembled group of Los Angeles Jewish community leaders. The leaders expressed a great interest in the University's work.



**3**

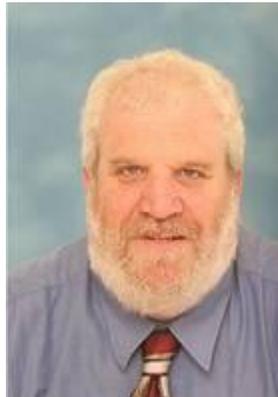
The Israeli Friends of the University of Haifa recently held an event launching the second year of the Women's Career Mentoring Program. The event was held in collaboration with the University Alumni Association and Hana Shrodik, a member of the Haifa Women's Forum which advises the Mayor. This year there are 13 students taking part assisted by 13 mentors who have senior roles which span the economic, social and community sectors. Mentors include Israela Stier-Einstien, President of the Stier Exhibitions and Trade Fairs Group, Eti Navon, Deputy CEO of Dominos Pizza Israel, Varda Karpati, Haifa Manager of the Rachip, and Yael Mittelman CEO of the Hi Center Start-up Accelerator.

**5**

A 'Lightweight Cryptography Day' was held at the Ceasaria Rothschild Institute at the University of Haifa. With the entry of new computing components into daily life like smartcards and RFID (radio) chips, there is an increasing need for computing environments to improve data security. Participants discussed the challenges that lightweight cryptography faces, while the symposium acted as a meeting point for international and local experts from academia, industry, and standardization bodies. [Program link is here.](#)

**7**

Congratulations to Prof. Shiezaf Rafaeli, head of the Center for Internet Research, on his appointment as a board member of Wikimedia, the global movement whose mission is to 'bring free educational content to the world'. Wikimedia is the body that oversees the wiki branded sites such as Wikipedia - the free multilingual content encyclopedia which relies on knowledge of internet users globally for its content.

**4**

A festive evening marking the 40th anniversary of the Cambridge University Genizah Research Unit was recently held in collaboration of the head of the Unit. Dr Ben Outhwaite, and founder Prof. Stefan Rief. The evening was held as part of an ISDCL conference where 30 researchers from 11 different countries discussed the issue of [Emotions In Prayer During the Second Temple Period](#). The researchers congratulated the Haifa Interdisciplinary Research Center, which has contributed diligently to the research.

**6**

The Faculty of Law recently held an evening of presentations to local residents in two bars in the city of Haifa. During the evening, entitled 'Opening Statement', lecturers explained their fields of research to the general public through interesting topics related to everyday life. Amongst those who spoke were Dr. Yehuda Adar, Prof. Shulamit Almog, Dr. Noya Rimalt and Dr. Haran Reichman. According to participants, it was a unique experience to encounter the formal academic world.

**8**

Representatives of Arab and Jewish student groups who have for several years ascended the summits of different mountains with the [Breaking the Ice](#) program met recently at a special conference honoring the different organizations that had established the project. Those being awarded the special honors on behalf of their organizations were: Francois Feihl, representing Swiss organization Coexistences, Asaf Ron, Executive Director of the Haifa Jewish Arab Center 'Beit HaGefen' and Ulfat Haider, leader of the project at Beit HaGefen. During the event each representative of the student participants presented their impressions of their experiences on the journeys they had undertaken.



9

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, as part of a drive to encourage visits by individuals with special needs, welcomed a group from *Shekulo Tov*, the Israeli non-profit that seeks to help those with special mental needs integrate into the community. About 30 members of the group, with four helpers, spent a number of hours touring the library and meeting librarians one-on-one who showed them how a library works. The aim is also to use the visit as a basis for future discussion activities with the group.



10

The environmental effects of urbanization are not only typical to the modern industrial age but can already be found 4000 years ago. This is the finding of a new international study involving University of Haifa researchers which was published in the prestigious *Nature Scientific Report* and examined the urban development surrounding the city of Acre. "The perception of the "golden age" where our ancestors lived in harmony with nature, and urban development only happened so long as the ecosystem was able to respond is not true in our case. Our research shows that the over utilization of the environment already took place 4000 years ago even if the technology was different." Stated Prof. Michal Artzi and Dr. Dov Zviely from the *Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies*.



11

The research of Dr. Lital Keinan Boker from the School of Public Health which finds that breast fed children have a greater immunity to lymphoma and leukemia has generated much media interest this past week. The research, published in conjunction with the Ministry of Health on the occasion of the International Cancer awareness Day has received many media mentions.



12

The research of Prof. Micah Leshem from the Department of Psychology and his associates Dr. Inna Gaisler Salomon and Hiba Zaidan which found genetic changes in rat embryos whose mother was exposed to Stress prior to conception was widely published in leading British publications such as the [TELEGRAPH](#), [MAILONLINE](#), and even garnered attention in Indonesia.



13

The 2011 research conducted by Prof. Yael Latzer, Prof. Ruth Katz and Zohar Spivak of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences at the University of Haifa set out to examine the effects of two factors on the development of eating disorders in young girls: exposure to the media and self-empowerment, has received additional international attention through an article published on the subject in [TIME Magazine](#) .



14

Another research receiving international media attention recently is the research of Prof. Abraham Haim, Head of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management. The research deals with the correlation between bedroom lighting and breast cancer in women.



15

The Israeli National Geographic Magazine published an article about the research conducted by Dr. Stella Watts of the Laboratory of the Ecology of Pollination headed by Prof. Amotz Dafni. The Research deals with the pollination process of the Dark-purple Iris (Iris Atropurpurea), a flower which is in danger of extinction. This flower faces an unexpected threat from honey bees as they empty the flower of pollen in one visit. "The pressure from bee keepers asking for the placement of more beehives has resulted in beehives being placed in nature reserves that are meant to protect the flower. If these beehives were removed from the Iris reserves they would be better protected from the honey bees" stated Dr. Watts.



16

Dr. Ido Zerkovitch from the Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies and the Department of Middle Eastern History was interviewed for an in depth article dealing with the internal and external challenges facing Mahmoud Abbas in light of the pressure put on him by John Kerry to jumpstart the peace process. The article was published in the [Times of Israel](#). In the article, Dr. Zerkovitch tries to explain the voices within the Fatah that call for an armed conflict and who see this type of struggle as a strategic tool, as opposed to Abbas who believes that the relative advantage of the Palestinians is in the diplomatic battlefield and political violence will only result in disaster.



17

During the recent [2013 graduation ceremony for police officers](#), dozens of graduates received their degrees as part of the University of Haifa [Eshkol Program](#) for Multidisciplinary Studies for public servants. The event took place in the Hecht auditorium attended by the Rector of the University, Prof. David Faraggi, Police Commissioner Yohanan Danino and other senior officials from the Israeli Police.

