The University of Haifa and Texas A&M University recently announced joint plans to establish a major Mediterranean observatory to study oceanography and the atmosphere. The planned observatory will be called the Texas A&M – University of Haifa Eastern Mediterranean Observatory (THEMO). The observatory will be located at the University of Haifa with its access to critical Mediterranean coastal regions, while drawing on instrumentation and analytical expertise of Texas A&M University faculty and their similar research initiatives in the Gulf of Mexico. While separated geographically by half a world, the Gulf of Mexico and the Mediterranean Sea are viewed as similar bodies of water and thus provide unique opportunities for comparative analysis of their related impacts on the environment, industry and people of their regions. The observatory will receive and transmit data from two moorings in the Levant Basin of the eastern Mediterranean Sea. “This collaboration will promote our marine research at the University of Haifa significantly and it is another step in our vast investment in marine science. Only a few months ago we inaugurated our new labs for research of shallow waters, and now we will be able to deepen our vision into the deep ocean,”}

University of Haifa friends, Tzili and Leon Charney graciously hosted an American Society of the University of Haifa Conversational Dinner at their home in Manhattan last week. Tzili is a Member of the Board of Governors and Leon is Honorary Chairman of the Board. Attendees included friends and supporters including Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Israel Consul General in New York, Steve Forbes, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Magazine, and renowned criminal defense attorney, author and political activist Alan Dershowitz. The lively discussion covered a range of subjects, from the importance of the Mediterranean Sea in the future economic prosperity and security of Israel to diversity and coexistence and how Israel’s image is portrayed in international media. Warren Gleicher, Chairman of the Board of the American Society, and Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz, Head of the International MA in Child Development at the University, also participated in the special evening.
said Prof. David Faraggi, the Rector of the University. This has received widespread media attention both in Israel and abroad: Haaretz in English, Times of Israel, jta.org

Representatives of the Helmsley Charitable Trust recently visited the University of Haifa, specifically the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences. Ms. Breeze McMennamin and Ms. Ariella Saperstein visited the three sites of the Helmsley Charitable Trust Mediterranean Sea Research Center: the IOLR Deep Sea Research Facility at Shikmona in Haifa, the Shallow Water Research Facility at Kibbutz Sdot Yam, and the University of Haifa campus where the School is located. The purpose of the visit was to show the Trust representatives the progress made in the construction of the facilities as well as to discuss the plans for the coming year.

University students taking part in the Model UN Society at the University recently traveled to Hamburg to participate in the international Model UN conference. The delegation received 4 awards: best delegate award, best position paper award, the most distinguished delegate award and an honorable mention. The participation of the students was made possible through the generosity of the University German Friends Association who also hosted the delegation of students during a special conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of German Israeli diplomatic relations. “In Haifa, Arabs and Jews study together on a daily basis. This joint study of Arabs, Jews, Christians, and Druze creates a conflict free environment” stated Mrs. Sonja Kandel-Lahnstein, Chairwoman of the German Friends of the University and the Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors.

University of Haifa excavations at the Kursi site on the shores of the Sea of Galilee have uncovered an inscription in Hebrew letters engraved on a large marble slab, dating back ca. 1,600 years. No similar artifact has ever been found before in Israel, and the finding confirms for the first time that the ancient settlement at the site was Jewish or Judeo-Christian. The excavation is led by Dr. Haim Cohen and Prof. Michal Artzy of the Hatter Laboratory for Coastal and Harbour Archaeology in the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa, in cooperation with the Antiquities Authority and the Nature and Parks Authority’s Kursi Beach site. This has received widespread media attention both in Israel and abroad: Times of Israel, International Business Times, DailyMail, Yahoo among others.

The Mobiguide Project's objective, coordinated at the University by Prof. Mor Peleg from the Department of Information Systems, is to create a scalable, secure, ubiquitously accessible, and user-friendly mobile solution for designing, deploying, and maintaining Patient Guidance Systems based on clinical guidelines and personal health records, that provide personalized evidence-based clinical recommendations, increase the patients' satisfaction and compliance to evidence-based clinical guidelines, and reduce risk to patients and healthcare costs. The Project is an EU initiative and has recently received top marks from the Sadabell Hospital near Barcelona which was one of the hospitals to assimilate this project. For more information about the Project please visit Mobiguide.
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