



Vice President for External Relations
and Resource Development
Division of Marketing & Media



At a Glance

THE PAST WEEK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



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Issue No. 4

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A national project of great scope and importance is starting at the University: The National Outcome Rehabilitation Monitoring Implementation and Research Project which evaluates psychiatric rehabilitation services in Israel. The project, was promoted by the Research Authority and will be directed by Prof. David Roe, Head of the Department of Community Mental Health, and Prof. Marc Gelkopf, department faculty member. Both are researchers at the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research at the University. The goal of the project is to improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from mental illness. The project is being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and thanks to a generous donation by the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation.



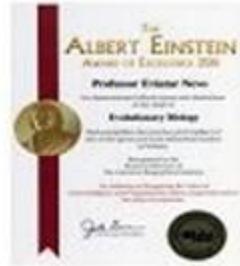
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Approximately 18,000 students commenced their studies at the University of Haifa for the 2011-12 academic year. Some 10,000 students will study for their bachelor's degrees; about 8,000 for master's degrees and over 1,000 for doctoral degrees. "The University of Haifa continues to grow, develop and absorb new faculty members. We give particular attention to our students' individual needs and this year we are registering a considerable rise in the number of students enrolled at the University" noted Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, President of the University.



3

Congratulations to Prof. Eviatar Nevo of The Institute of Evolution who has been selected to receive The Albert Einstein Award of Excellence 2011 of The American Biographical Institute. Prof. Nevo received the prize in the field of evolutionary biology for his great contributions to research of this field.



4

Congratulations to Prof. Arie Shapira from the Department of Music on the occasion of a special concert that took place in his honor in Berlin during which eight of his compositions were performed: Digital Variations for the sampler-player; Piano.com for the piano and computer; Two is Better for the piano and sampler-player; Pro-piano for the piano; Post piano for the piano and soundtrack; Off Piano for the piano and voice; Fugue for the piano; and Fugue for the piano.



5

Hundreds of researchers and professionals arrived at the seminar on the occasion of 25 years of the Natural Resource and Environmental Research Center that dealt with the topic: "The cost of the temperature degree: the cost of adjusting to climactic changes in Israel". This seminar dealt with the economic aspects of policy changes in dealing with climactic changes, and along with the researchers from Israel and abroad and other participants including the Minister of Environmental Protection Gilad Erdan, the Head of the European Union Delegation to the State of Israel Andrew Standley, the chief scientist of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and others. Prof. Ofira Ayalon, Head of the Natural Resource and Environmental Research Center and Head of the program for Energy Management and Policy, interviewed for the radio program "On the Path to Nature" following the seminar: "Climactic changes, the decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, and the adjustment to the climactic changes are all things that will eventually cost money, and we are trying to assess the cost".



6

The Sagi Internet Research Center at the University, along with the National Israeli Academy of Sciences, held a convention on the topic of technology and pedagogy: the policy of teleprocessing in education in Israel and the world, technology in the service of teaching, teaching and learning in a digital environment, etc. The Head of The Sagi Internet Research Center, Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli, was interviewed for the Channel 1 television news show "From Today to Tomorrow" following the convention.



7

The latest newsletter of the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies was just published. If you are interested in reading about climactic changes, the most poisonous fish in the world that has been spotted for the first time in Israel, marine archaeology, and even about the possibility of setting up artificial reefs to assist lobster fishing – R.I.M.S. news has all the information.



8

The Faculty of Law continues to summarize highlights in the area of law during its annual convention. Hundreds of researchers, lawyers and legal experts participated this year in a variety of lectures. Among these, Retired Supreme Court Justice Ayala Procaccia spoke about the need to pass a bill of social rights, and Judge Chaled Kabub of the Financial Court Division spoke about the connection between positions of power and nominations for places on directorates. The proceedings received heavy press coverage in the newspapers "The Marker", "Calcalist", "Globes" and more.



9

"There is no doubt in my mind that with the end of the course and the return of each and every person to his position, the entire society will enjoy quality, professional and valuable officers. I am certain that each and every one of you will play a part in improving the image of the Police and strengthening the public's trust in the Police", said Police Chief Inspector-General Yochanan Danino in a bachelor's degree ceremony for cadets in the officers course bestowed by the University at the Student Building.



10

In 2003, the Buchsweiler family donated to the Library a huge and unique collection of over 12,000 books on the subject of the kibbutz and the socialistic ideal. Since then, the family visits each year for a festive event at the Library. At the visit which took place this year, Dr. Marcos Silber of the Department of Jewish History explained the importance and uniqueness of the collection, "The uniqueness of the collection lies in the fact that it deals with a wide array of relevant subjects and that it has its own inner logic. As we said, each item portrays a world of its own but it is not perfection, as it plays off of other items either directly or indirectly".



11

The visitors to the exhibition of scientific novelties, which took place at Beit Hanassi in Sukkot, could have also enjoyed this year the "Ma'agan Mikhael Ship", which sunk about 2,500 years ago and is on permanent exhibition at the Hecht Museum. Among those visitors who came to hear the ship's amazing story was also the host, the President of Israel himself, Mr. Shimon Peres.



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And a few days earlier, Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin came to speak to the officers who just this year began the officers course and their studies at the University. "The University of Haifa is very important to the Israeli experience. The University represents the joint life in the country and the Israeli experience in a more concrete manner" said Speaker Rivlin.



13

Is the future rosy? Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, President of the University, is optimistic in the opinion column to "Yedioth Aharonot" about the state of higher education and is certain that the system of higher education will continue to bring pride and prosperity to the country, "The Israeli academia has succeeded throughout the years in always being one step ahead, thinking outside the box and planning for new challenges".



14

Exposure to television coverage of terrorism causes women to lose psychological resources much more than men, which leads to negative feelings and moodiness. This has been shown in a new study, conducted at the University of Haifa and soon to be published in Anxiety, Stress & Coping, that examined the differences between men and women in a controlled experiment environment. An earlier study conducted by Prof. Moshe Zeidner of the Department of Counseling and Human Development at the University of Haifa and Prof. Hasida Ben-Zur of the University of Haifa's School of Social Work, has shown that viewing television coverage of terrorism causes viewers to lose psychological resources, such the sense of significance or success, and causes a feeling of being threatened. The current study set out to examine whether there are differences between men and women in the levels of psychological resource loss.



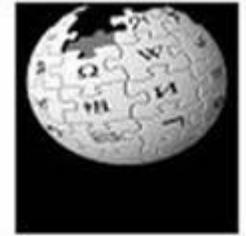
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Prof. Shlomit Paz of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies was interviewed at YNET about climactic changes and the disappearance of the ozone layer above the North Pole. "This is a warning sign", said Prof. Paz.



16

A first of its kind partnership in Israel between academia and Hebrew Wikipedia: Students at the Faculty of Humanities at the University will contribute articles to Hebrew Wikipedia as part of their academic assignments for various courses. "The partnership will benefit both the students, who will receive practical experience in academic writing, and Hebrew Wikipedia – and in this way to all of the web surfers – who will now have articles written at an academic level", said Prof. Guy Bar-Oz of the Department of Archaeology and one of the proponents of the project.



17

There has been a sharp drop in the public's satisfaction from Israel Railways, so it appears from the multiannual index that Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot, Head of the School of Political Sciences, edits with his colleagues. The findings of the study were published by "The Marker", Channel 2 News on the internet, and more.



18

Is Apple losing its charm following the unsuccessful launch of the iPhone 5 – which was actually the iPhone S4? Dr. Yaniv Levyatan of the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies said in a "Globes" article: "The morning after, the concern grows that the charm that characterized Apple has evaporated". And Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli, Head of The Sagi Internet Research Center, said in an article to "Globes" following the death of Apple founder Steve Jobs, "The failures haven't stopped the vision".



19

How did the deal for the return of Gilad Shalit influence relations between Hamas and Fatah? Dr. Ido Zerkovitz of the Department of Middle Eastern History and The Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies wrote about it in a YNET article, that was also quoted on CNN and even translated and appeared in a leading Lebanese newspaper.



20

In a "Globes" article on voting patterns in Israel and the varying factors that cause us to vote for a certain political party, the research of Dr. Israel Waismel-Manor of the School of Political Sciences was cited to have found that elections are a stressful event, behaviorally as well as physically.



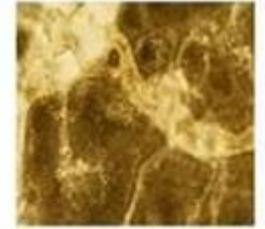
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Dr. Oren Gazal-Ayal of the Faculty of Law explains in a "Globes" article why, in his opinion, the penalties handed down by judges lately for "hit and run" offenders have been too severe. "The judges are always speaking in these judgments about deterrence, but "hit and run" offenses often have little to no deterrence. Proof of this is that a drunk person on the road needs to understand that he can kill himself while driving, and he still continues to act that way", he said.



22

The research of Prof. Guy Bar-Oz of the Department of Archaeology on "desert kites" appeared in USA TODAY in an expanded article on the use researchers make of GOOGLE EARTH.



23

Could joint interests related to energy resources lead to a cooperation between Israel, Turkey and Cyprus? Dr. Brenda Shaffer from the School of Political Sciences was interviewed on the topic for a Cyprian newspaper and claimed that one should not build on such an approach yet, and argued: "The subject is still too hypothetical".



24

Prof. Abraham Haim, Head of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, interviewed for an ABC article regarding the research in which he cooperated and found that "white" bulbs cause a much greater suppression of melatonin than "orange" bulbs. "What is called 'friendly' environmental illumination is unfriendly", he said in the interview.



25

Sea of Death? Not necessarily. An article in the *Yedioth Ahronoth* newspaper about the wonders of the Dead Sea that reached the final competition of "New 7 Wonders of Nature" also mentioned the research of Prof. Eviatar Nevo from the Institute of Evolution who found 77 species of fungi in the Dead Sea.



26

Israel's largest community excavation in Tel- Asur, headed by Dr. Shay Bar from the Zinman Institute and supported by students from the Department for Environmental Studies resumes and as *Haaretz* newspaper reports, continues to grow from year to year. "Given the complexity of the archaeological excavation we usually would not involve students. Last year we were a bit hesitant, but this year we can say that this educational and social project is very successful" said Dr. Bar.



27

Prof. Yoav Gelber from the Department of Land of Israel Studies was interviewed by *Ma'ariv* newspaper on the bill presented by Knesset member Ahmad Tibi to remove from history textbooks terms that relate to the Arab population as "gangs" during the time of the British Mandate and the War of Independence. "During the Mandate Period this term did not have a negative connotation. Tibi's proposal was unnecessary and was meant to irritate Jews" claimed Prof. Gelber.



28

An article in *Ma'ariv* newspaper that reviewed the international study programs in the Israeli academia identified the University of Haifa as the leading institution in the field. "The greatest changes occurred at the University of Haifa: According to the new strategic plan, in five to seven years the University will host 3000 international students, one sixth of the total number of students at the institution" noted the article.



29

According to the annual survey by Prof. Michal Palgi and Eliette Orchan from the Institute for the Research on the Kibbutz, half of the kibbutz members earn 5500 NIS per month. The survey was published in the *Calcalist* magazine, in the *The Marker* magazine and other places.



30

An article in the *Yediot Ahronoth* newspaper outlines the miserable conditions of the elderly population in Israel, more than a quarter million of whom are dependent on social services. Dr. Israel Doron from the Department of Gerontology from the School of Social Works was interviewed for an article: "As long as there is not going to be a fundamental change in social policy towards the elderly population, the situation is not going to change" he said.



31

Is the Antitrust Authority supposed to monitor prices of monopolies? Prof. Michal Gal, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law was interviewed for an article in *The Marker* magazine: "There is a practical problem that reflects the advisability of applying a direct ban on high prices. Today we do not have any tools to determine when a price starts to be unfair. Even the Europeans who have dealt with this issue for more than forty years failed to formulate general guidelines," she stated.



32

What causes us to accumulate more and more property? Why do we raise a family and have children? What good are achievements if we know that everything only lasts temporarily? Dr. Ithamar Theodor from the Department of Asian Studies, a specialist on Hindu Philosophy and contemporary spirituality explains that the fear of death is not universal, but typical of Western civilizations. "In Eastern philosophy, death is not only more friendly, but assumes a stage of life that one needs to prepare for."



The confidence of the Israeli public in police officers is the lowest in the European Union, according to an international research project by Prof. Arye Rattner, Head of the Center for the Study of Crime, Law and Society that was published in *Haaretz* newspaper: "The public perceives the police only as a punching bag and expresses very little trust in it. Together with that, it must be considered problematic for the police that cannot provide a feeling of safety for its citizens and do not respond in a prompt manner to the complaints of citizens" he explained.

