



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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1

Marvin A. Sadowski, a treasured friend and supporter of the University of Haifa, and consummate volunteer, received the University of Haifa's first Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many years of friendship and support of the University and Canadian Friends and his outstanding volunteerism in the Toronto community. Marvin has been a board member of our Canadian Friends organization for more than 20 years and served as Vice President from 1993 to 2001. The award was presented recently at the Annual Tribute Dinner in Toronto. [Continue Reading...](#)

**2**

The winners of this year's prestigious Bahat Prize, awarded by the University of Haifa Press for reference works, are Prof. Chaim Gans, Prof. Alex Tsafiriri and Dr. Udi Bonstein. Their manuscripts will be co-published by the University of Haifa Press and Yedioth Books. The Bahat Prize is the biggest to be awarded in Israel for a reference work, at a total of 140,000 NIS: 100,000 NIS for a senior scholar and 40,000 NIS for a young scholar. [Continue Reading...](#)

**3**

Many researchers and practitioners came to the conference "The Brotherhoods of Loss: The Continuing Impact of Bereavement for Brothers, Sisters and "Brothers-in-Arms" organized by Prof. Shimshon Rubin, Head of the International Center for the Study of Loss, Bereavement and Human Resilience and Prof. Rivka Yahav, Head of the Interdisciplinary Clinical Center. The conference discussed the special experiences for bereaved siblings and brothers in arms who have lost a friend, as well as the similarities between these two groups.

**4**

"Up till today we have made many steps to receive members of the Druze community at the University of Haifa, but there is still much to do. It is important that we will think together how to promote higher education among the Druze community in Israel," said President of the University, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev at the founding event of the Druze Friends Society at the Jewish-Arab Center.

**5**

The Senate of the University appointed Prof. Perla Werner from the Department of Gerontology, as Vice Rector. "I wish Prof. Werner success and satisfaction in her role and am confident that working together will continue to lead to new developments and further strengthen the University's academic standing", wished Rector of the University, Prof. David Faraggi.

**6**

As proclaimed by Prof. David Faraggi, Rector of the University, the international activities of the University continue unabatedly. In the last weeks three delegations from different universities arrived at the University for exchange visits: one delegation from the Wadi University College of Technology; another delegation from Brenda College that belongs to the prestigious Columbia University; as well as the President of the University of Rhode Island.



7

Warm congratulations go out to Prof. Mechal Sobel from the Department of History who was selected as the 2011 Honorary Member of the American Historical Association (AHA). With this decision, Prof. Sobel joins an exclusive club that includes the most important historians of the last century.



8

Prof. Moti Mironi of the Law Faculty was chosen to be one of two mediators in the negotiations between the Ministry of Finance and the resident physicians. We wish him lots of luck, for all our sakes.



9

Prof. Yael Latzer from the School of Social Work and the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Studies, an expert on eating disorders, gave a lecture on "The Impact of the Media on the Development of Eating Disorders." This time the audience included members of the Israeli Knesset.



10

Prof. Mark Gelkopf from the School of Public Health was interviewed by the popular magazine *Psyche & Brain* (the European equivalent of *Scientific American*) on the ability of humor to support the therapy of patients with brain damage.



11

What makes life worth living? A unique conference of the Faculty of Education, organized by the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Ofra Mayseless and Pninit Russo-Netzer, tried to answer this question. The conference was attended by hundreds of researchers, therapists and anyone interested in the subject and included presentations on new research in the field and experiential workshops, in addition to academic lectures.



12

Hundreds of researchers, therapists and other professionals attended the launch of a national project by the University and the Ministry of Health "The National Outcome Rehabilitation Monitoring Implementation and Research Project". The project was initiated by the Research Authority and will be academically supervised by Professor David Roe and Professor Marc Gelkopf, from the Department of Community Mental Health, both researchers from the Center for Training and Research of Policy and Services of the Mental Health Community at the University. The researchers will track people with serious mental illness who live in and are treated in the community with the aim of improving their quality of life. The project is being conducted with funding of the Ministry of Health, and thanks to a generous donation of The Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation. A representative of the foundation remarked at the event: "This is an innovative project, of great importance that will be valuable to everyone: patients, practitioners and policy makers."



13

Seventeen students from around the world and eight Israelis began their studies in the international graduate program "Peace and Conflict Management Studies" with a festive opening ceremony. The one-year program combines intensive English language classes with a deep understanding of the theories and their applications in real time from a local and international perspective.

**14**

A Gala dinner was held in honor of the publication of the new book by Prof. (Emeritus) Jacob Barnai from the Departments of Jewish History and Land of Israel Studies: *Shmuel Ettinger: Historian, Teacher and Public Figure*. The event took place at the Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History and Professor Barnai spoke on the work of the biographer.

**15**

Congratulations to Dr. Yonathan Crispel from the University Health Clinic team who won a prize of the President of the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology for his research in the field, carried out at Rambam Hospital, together with the Director of the division of Pediatric Endocrinology, Prof. Ze'ev Hochberg.

**16**

"A Green Evening" with special fragrances was held last week at the dormitories of the University, when the company "Lavender" gave workshops for students on natural cosmetics. Over 50 students from various departments who wanted to learn about skin products without chemicals participated in the workshop. Some of them are registered as activists of the Green Campus Project which this year is offering a wide range of green volunteering projects for four credits. "Green Campus" Coordinator, Rakefet Kruchmel, welcomed all participants and spoke briefly about Green Campus activities on the University.

**17**

Israel is facing many changes in its strategic environment, most prominent of which is the change of regime in the Arab states ("Arab Spring"). One program "Regional Conflicts - Between War and Peace" included Professor Miller from the School of Political Sciences who hosted former Navy commander and former Shin Bet Chief Maj. Gen. (res.) Ami Ayalon, Chairman of the University's Executive Committee. Prof. Miller and Mr. Ayalon discussed the possible effects of the changes locally and internationally.

**18**

While "Nautilus" explores the Mediterranean seabed, the control room that opened at the University and observed the ship's activities, bustled with activity. More than 30 groups of high school students, and hundreds of individuals, visited the control room, where they followed the ship's activities, were introduced to the importance of research on the sea, visited the laboratories of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and enjoyed a tour at the Hecht Museum with a focus on marine archeology.



19

Ashkenazi and secular Jews have more trust in the legal system than Sephardic and religious Jews. This is one of the findings of the annual survey by Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot, Head of the School of Political Sciences at the University, which examined public attitudes toward the justice system and was published in *Yedioth Ahronot* newspaper. "A possible explanation for the significant increase is precisely the fact that the system has been attacked significantly in recent years, mainly by the political system, creating a negative attitude towards the legal system among people who feel that these attacks have a devastating potential," he explained.



20

Prof. Gad Barzilai of the Faculty of Law interviewed for an article in the *Ha'aretz* newspaper about the criticism that many legal professionals have about the promotion of the law limiting donations from foreign countries to associations in Israel: "This is a harmful attempt against groups on the left, but in actuality the law will harm voluntary bodies, some of which are working for the welfare of populations who did not vote for the left." Prof. Barzilai also interviewed on the same subject with *Hakol Diburim* of Reshet Bet radio.



21

Prof. Yechiam Weitz of the Department of General History wrote an opinion piece for *YNET* in response to the recent multiple proposals for a new law in the area of the Knesset-legal system relationship. "The 'Grunis Law' and the law to change the composition of the committee for choosing judges are witness to the trend to turn us from a country that aspires to become a proper western democracy to a 'popular democracy' like in Albania of the past century," he said.



22

A great many of Ultraorthodox and elderly people broke out of the circle of poverty following the decision of many Haredim to start working and the rise of pension for the elderly. And yet, the number of poor families in Israel is still on the increase. Dr. Israel (Issy) Doron from the Department of Gerontology, School of Social Work and Chairman of the Israel Gerontological Society was interviewed for an article on the subject in *Yedioth Ahronoth* newspaper. He explained that new allowances led to a decline in poverty among the elderly, but in practice, many of them who still live near the poverty line or slightly above, received no additional help.



23

Itai Roffman, a doctoral student from the University-wide Committee for Research Students, interviewed for the program 3 *O'clock with Anat Dolev* for Reshet Bet radio in anticipation of the seminar about Judaism from an evolutionary perspective. He spoke about human characteristics in chimps.



24

The theater of the absurd: In the wake of the *Habima* theater's move to its new location, people are telling *Israel Hayom* about many problems, including a controversial repertoire and a decrease in the number of subscriptions and productions. Dr. Dorit Yerushalmi, Head of the Department of Theater, says: "Both the Cameri and the Habima are theaters for Tel Aviv alone. They are behind the fortified walls of the country of Tel Aviv, and therefore which does more doesn't really matter, but rather who can manage to see beyond the country of Tel Aviv, and look beyond Tel Aviv's myth of normalcy and to show a variety of multiculturalism upon its stage."



Do our schools need to teach skills or to provide an education? Prof. Gabi Salomon of the Department of Leadership and Policy in Education interviewed for *Ma'ariv* newspaper on the subject: "This entire movement of the skills of the 21st century is a step backwards from all that is disciplinary... The school is not a place for professional training, that's not its function."

