



At a Glance

Latest News from the University of Haifa

**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

20 April 2017
Issue No. 24 for 2016-17 Academic Year



1

A historic agreement to build a 'Tower of Discovery' has just been signed between the University and the Rambam Healthcare Campus which aims to spearhead medical discoveries by uniting academic research and practical medicine. The Tower was launched in the presence of Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon – himself a University graduate – and Minister of Health Yaakov Litzman, as well as national press and dignitaries. Said President Prof. Robin of the move 'We will create one of the most powerful centers for biotechnology, for health sciences, that I think exist in the world....I invite you to join us in our fundraising campaign as we move forward in building this wonderful tower'. This unique collaboration is backed by the Israeli government and expects to be an engine for economic and scientific growth for the north and for Israel.

[Click here to see video.](#)



2

University Rector Prof. Gustavo Mesch extended the University's impressive cooperation with China when he signed another agreement to expand the research relationship with the East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai. During his trip he also visited the joint University-ECNU Shanghai-Haifa International Research Center which has just been built in Shanghai. Later, together with Dr. Dan Tchernov, Head of the Department of Marine Biology, he visited China Ocean University, one of China's leading universities in the field of marine research, and signed a cooperation agreement.



3

Dozens of University graduates attended a University Alumni Association event organized by the Israeli Friends Association on housing - a hot topic for Israelis because of rising costs. The participants heard from University graduate and CEO of Feller Wealth Advisory Services, Kobi Feller, who talked on several aspects of the issue. He was joined by Assaf Engel, CEO of Academic House, an Israeli housing website for students and young people, who gave some tips on saving money in housing. The University's Alumni Association is rapidly growing, providing a range of activities, benefits and networking opportunities relevant to our graduates. Its work has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation of the USA.



4

Prof. Niva Elkin-Koren, founding Director of the [Haifa Center for Law & Technology](#) presented a fascinating lecture on “Can Democracy Survive the Digital Age?” at the Israel – American Council in Boston USA. Prof. Elkin-Koren shared the challenges of cyber security which may upset the checks and balances for civil liberties. Tackling these is a priority for legal systems around the world, and there is an urgent need for innovative technological and legal solutions to balance competing public interests. Prof. Elkin-Koren is also an Associate Fellow at the Berkman Klein Centre for Internet at Harvard. The lecture was co-sponsored by the New England Israel Business Council.



5

The University is delighted to welcome a new member to the senior administration team. Mr. Michael Wainer, who was appointed as the Chief Financial Officer and Business Development, already worked for the University several years ago managing University finances. He then went on to fulfil a number senior posts in the commercial sector and he brings the benefit of this experience to his current role. He succeeds Mr. Joshua (Shuki) Shai, who was in the role for the last eight years, whom the University join President Prof. Robin in thanking for his contribution. We wish Mr. Wainer every success for the future.



6

Improving global food production with science was at the heart of a recent international conference hosted by the Institute of Evolution, directed by Prof. Tzion Fahima. The WHEALBI (Wheat and Barley legacy for Breeding Improvement) conference, supported by the EU, brought together 18 leading research groups from Universities in Europe and Israel to discuss research to provide knowledge for future generations to support major food crop agriculture. Prof. Fahima, with colleagues Prof. Avraham Korol and Dr. Tamar Krugman of the University's Wild Cereal Gene Bank, are genetically studying the ancient cereal grains native to Israel and the Middle East, to help improve wheat production for the future. Thanks to generous international support from friends including the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation this important research is forging ahead.



7

The Department of Asian Studies stimulated a lively discussion with students and faculty on the Japanese economy after a recent lecture by Ms. Rie Matsumoto, Commercial Attache of the Japanese Embassy. The event was held as part of the Department's Japan Forum and Asia Business Forum. Ms. Matsumoto explored the economic relationship between Israel and Japan, which has changed significantly in recent years emphasizing technological cooperation. The audience also discussed the differences between Japanese and Israeli business culture and shared their experiences and advice.



Prof. Amos Megged of the Department of General History and incumbent of the Helen Lewin Chair of Latin American Studies has taken part in a prestigious international project in Paris to uncover the mysteries of Aztec culture and history. In the National Library of France Prof. Megged and his collaborators have been using sophisticated imaging techniques to look at the 15th century Codex Xolotl, an Aztec manuscript thought by some to be a unique Aztec record. The document's pages record a broad range of areas, from history to moral instruction. The researchers aim to publish new interpretations of the Codex using the new methods.

