Graduates of the Delta Industries Program for students from the Ethiopian Community marked the end of the second successful year of the program recently. The Israeli Friends Association, whose Director Shira Ben-Or attended, collaborated to organize the event, with Prof. Jenny Korman, Dean of Students and senior staff from the Academic Excellence Unit, and from Delta, in attendance. Tzvika Schwimmer, CEO of Delta Industries Israel which generously supports this project, gave a fascinating insider’s look into his job and career path. The program is a fine example of Industry and Academic cooperation which provides students with scholarships, a support package including various skills development such as public speaking, and career advice in the latter parts of their degrees.

Prof. Manfred Green, Director of the International Master’s in Global Health Leadership & Administration has been honored for his outstanding achievements with a Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association of Public Health Schools in Israel. His career has symbolized his mission to promote public health in both Israel and throughout the world. The selection committee cited his ‘tremendous contribution to the study and teaching of epidemiology in academic institutions, as well as [his] international status as a leading public health physician and epidemiologist”. Prof. Green was a Founding Director of the Israel Center for Disease Control and also set up this groundbreaking international program. Together with co-founder Prof. Richard J. Schuster their vision was to create a program that would educate the next generation of public health leaders, for the benefit of Israel – and world – populations.
The unique *Ma’agan Mikhael II* — the replica of an ancient ship excavated by the [Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies](http://www.lmis.org.il) — is sailing along the coast of Israel on a nautical voyage that is turning back the sands of time. The replica was the brainchild of Prof. Yaacov Kahanov z”l and Dr. Deborah Cvikel to allow researchers to study the mysteries of ancient navigation and trade. Many supporters from around the world enabled this beautiful idea to become a reality and the ship was launched earlier in the year as a tribute to its creator. The original of the boat is thought to be 2,400 years old, and is now housed in the University’s Hecht Museum. Students and volunteers built the ship, together with Prof. Kahanov and Dr. Cvikel, learning ancient ship-building methods. Now, researchers are learning the often tricky art of sailing an ancient ship without modern aids.

The University of Haifa is spearheading the boom in Chinese students enrolling at Israeli Universities. A recent article in the Jerusalem Post highlights the 200 Chinese students now signed up for courses here — a 1000% increase compared to 2013. The numbers reflect the University’s growing ties with Chinese academia, such as joint collaboration with East China Normal University (ECNU). “We have positioned ourselves as a leading international institution. As such, we welcome all the Chinese students to Israel, and intend to continue to deepen the ties and cooperation with the Chinese academy”, said President, Prof. Ron Robin. The increase is mirrored in institutions around Israel, with students at the University of Haifa opting for fields like Marine Sciences and the International Green MBA, as well as more traditional sciences. [Read article here](http://www.jpost.com).

Smileys may be fun, but at work they may be counterproductive. Research by Dr. Arik Cheshin of the University of Haifa’s Department of Human Services, in conjunction with faculty at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev and the University of Amsterdam, have been looking at the impact of putting emoticons into work emails. Although a human smile can work wonders, if you are writing to a stranger in a work environment, smileys on emails “do not really express the emotions of people who send them. There is an interpretation gap between sender and receiver” says Dr. Cheshin. In fact they may make the writer appear less competent. The research has featured in articles throughout the media including [the Jerusalem Post](http://www.jpost.com) and the [San Diego Jewish World](http://www.sdjw.org) website.