



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



At a Glance

THE PAST WEEK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



University of Haifa
Celebrates 40 Years
אוניברסיטת חיפה
חוגגת 40
THE ISRAELI MOSAIC | ישראליה השוחמת

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1

A consortium of universities, headed by strategically-located University of Haifa, has won the tender to establish the Israel Center for Mediterranean Sea Research: <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5934>.



2

President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, related to the EU's standing and to some of the burning issues relating to Syria, Iran and the Middle East in his address at the University of Haifa, upon receiving an honorary doctorate from the University: <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5910>; <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5899>.



3

At a festive, exciting, and thrilling event, the academic and managerial staff of the University celebrated its 40 years. The ceremony was hosted by Prof. Gabriel Bendor of the School of Political Sciences and by Ms. Iris Fessler, Head of the Unit for Social Involvement at the Dean of Students, and ended with a performance by singers Shiri Maimon and Shimon Buskila. All of the different University departments contributed greatly to the success of the evening, and those heading the production were Ms. Sara Tzezana from the Department of Human Resources, Ms. Rachel Kaverman from the Division of External Relations and Resource Development, Chairman of the Academic Staff Prof. Udi Makov, and Chairman of the Administrative Staff Mr. Albert Ben-Simhon.



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2,355 Bachelor's degree graduates as well as a University record high of 2,324 Master's degree graduates joined the growing list of University graduates, after receiving their degrees in the festive ceremonies that took place on the northern lawn. "We are proud of our graduates who have just completed a very important phase in their lives and are before the next phase. We here at the University of Haifa are certain that all of Israeli society will gain from their quality and from their excellence," said Rector David Faraggi.



5

Among the 2,324 Master's degree graduates was also the University's Honorary Doctorate degree recipient, Shaykh Mowafak Tarif, the spiritual leader of the Druze community in Israel, who just added an additional degree to his worthy list: a Master's degree in Law (LLM) in the University's program for Judges.



6

The University's Rector, Prof. David Faraggi, participated in an EMUNI meeting, a consortium of Mediterranean universities of which the University of Haifa is a part, which took place this year at Spain's University of Murcia. Participants discussed cooperative research endeavors, especially as these concern students for advanced degrees. He said: "The University continues to strengthen its international ties and we see the result in the growing number of international students."



7

There was a special guest on campus – Jonathan Lux, co-Chair of the British Friends of the University of Haifa, arrived to the University after a fascinating journey: he crossed Europe to raise funds for a unique international University academic program in Peace and Conflict Management Studies. The more interesting detail is that he did it in an unusual race car, the Ariel Atom, the only race car allowed to also travel by road. Upon arriving at the University, Lux gave a fascinating lecture on international mediation to students of the Peace and Conflict Management Program.



8

What do Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Estonia, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan have in common? Students from these, and many other, countries arrived a little while back to the International School's Hebrew summer ulpan.



9

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library recently inaugurated its "Windows" exhibit which provides a glimpse into the various academic activities on campus. Each window is dedicated to a different area of research, including the History of the People of Israel, Public Health, Managing Human Resources, Archaeology, and Atlantic Studies.

**10**

Nearly 40 years now researchers from the Zinman Institute of Archaeology have been excavating the Mearot River and shedding light on the origins of man in one of the most important prehistoric sites in the world. UNESCO has recently recognized the site's importance and declared it to be a World Heritage Site. The site's many layers, representing about 500,000 years of human development, document cultural changes, climactic changes, the first appearance of Homo Sapiens in our area, up until the beginnings of the shift to agriculture in the Natufian culture who were the first to live in permanent settlements. "It is a great privilege to take part in uncovering the past and the roots of our culture in such an important site," said Prof. Mina Evron from the Zinman Institute and from the Department of Archaeology, who has been digging in the site for over 20 years.

**11**

Hundreds of researchers from all around the world arrived to a conference at the University of Haifa of the Association for Israel Studies. The conference was organized by Head of the History School, Prof. Gur Alroey, and it included no less than 150 lectures in a variety of subjects: research on the British Mandate era, Israeli-Arab relations, Israeli-US relations, the academia's relation to Israel, academic embargo, and many other topics. The first day's plenary session included the speaker Sami Michael, prominent Israeli author who also heads the Association for Civil Rights in Israel: <http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/author-israel-can-claim-the-title-of-the-most-racist-state-in-the-developed-world.premium-1.443908>.

**12**

The second evening's plenary session of the Association for Israel Studies, which dealt with the issue of "The Social Protest – A Year After," was Chaired by Prof. Daniel Gutwein of the Department of History of the Jewish People. The following participated: Prof. Joseph Zaira of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who was one of the heads of the "Advisory Committee" of the social protest, Dr. Avi Simhon, also from the Hebrew University, Head of the Minister of Finance's Advisory Committee and member of the Trajtenberg Committee, and Ms. Stav Shafir, co-founder of the Israeli Social Movement and leader of last year's social protests, who said: "We kept busy and active across the entire country also in the wintertime, and when they see that we cannot be gagged, they now want to shut us up by force." The panel received a lot of local media coverage.



13

Medical clowning is a growing professional discipline, gaining extensive authority and recognition around the world, and in many locations is considered an indispensable part of the medical system. A unique blend of professional training and academic studies with some of the world's leading experts - from Canada, the USA, Russia, Holland and more - will be comprising the "First Advanced Medical Clowning International Summer Seminar" at the University of Haifa: <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5886>.



14

Managers demonstrate their highest levels of professional vitality in their 50s, reveals a new study conducted at the University of Haifa, which examined the functionality of high-tech, engineering, and infrastructure executives: <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5929>.



15

Will Russia change its mind about the Iranian dilemma? According to Dr. Brenda Shaffer of the School of Political Sciences in her interview to [The Times of Israel](#), probably not. "The best scenario for the Russians is actually a situation in which Iran is in a perpetual conflict with the West," she said.



16

Does the use of social networks make us more or less sociable? A new study by Prof. Gustavo Mesch and Prof. Ilan Talmud of the Department of Sociology, along with Prof. Anabel Quan-Haase from the Canadian Western University in London, Ontario, found that students use social networks in order to rekindle ties from their high-school days. According to the study, these are meaningful relationships that include continuous correspondence and not simply a meaningless addition to a long list of friends. The research was published in the [Canadian](#) press.



17

"The summer of 2012 will be a difficult test, not only for the social protest; it will also examine the power of the new vs. the older media," writes Prof. Gabi Weimann of the Department of Communications in an article for *Ha'aretz* about the connection between the protest, its media coverage, and the protesters' social network activities. Prof. Weimann also interviewed for the *Mako* internet site on the "Talkback Law" according to which the responder's identity can be exposed: "Freedom of expression is wonderful but it does have its darker sides, like talk backers who take advantage of their anonymity in order to damage a person's reputation."



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A group of marine scientists are investigating the coral reefs on the Solomon Islands in an effort to discover new data on global warming on earth. Among the participants from the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences are Dr. Beverly Goodman of the Department of Marine Geosciences and Dr. Dan Tchernov, Head of the Department of Marine Biology, who was even quoted on the research in the prestigious [New York Times](#).



19

And still in the United States – [Fox News](#) aired a report about the latest developments in Parkinson's research, mainly a development that will help identify patients very early on by testing their voice. As the participants themselves pointed out, this method was developed by Prof. Shimon Sapir, Head of the Department of Physical Therapy.



20

Where has parental authority gone and do we even need it? Prof. David Oppenheim of the Department of Psychology interviewed for *Ha'aretz* on the subject of parenting and parental authority: "There is total confusion today and a lack of distinction between the different outlooks of people and what the research says. A *Times* article outlined the importance of breastfeeding and attachment theory. There is no link between what people claimed there and principles of attachment theory...this theory created much scientific study. Unfortunately, we now see how the term 'attachment' is being snatched by all sorts of experts as their own. This term determines how one should breastfeed, how one should sleep, and how boundaries should be set."



21

In a *Ma'ariv Nrg* article on the problem of overweight parents, Dr. Zipi Haetzni from the School of Public Health says, "There is no doubt that a child born and raised in a household with two overweight parents is in a higher risk group than a child born and raised by skinny parents – 80 percent risk vs. 10 percent."



22

"The economic press in Israel is by definition capitalist," determines Dr. Roei Davidson of the Department of Communications in a *Globes* article of wide scope. This article was written in response to a study led by Dr. Davidson in which he examined the amount of free economic press in Israel.



23

Every street has a name and nearly every name carries with it political motives. In light of the publication of his book *"The History and Politics of Street Names in Israel"*, Prof. Maoz Azaryahu from the Department of Geography interviewed for *Ha'aretz*. "The most important thing is to show how high politics and high planning affect each other in the day-to-day in the most intimate of ways," said Azaryahu.



24

We have all heard of the "line of poverty"; but what is "the line of wealth"? Prof. Oz Almog from the Department of Land of Israel Studies interviewed in *The Marker* on the topic: "Once Israel became an entrepreneurial society the abundance grew to a great extent, but with this came all the bad qualities that make up materialistic societies: dissatisfaction, frustration, envy, hedonism... and the fact that things not measured by money are pushed aside."



25

Prof. Yoseph Edrey of the Faculty of Law said, in an article to *"The Economist"* on the financial deficit and raising taxes, "Israel is participating in some sort of worldwide tax race, and the academia has been warning for years that this type of competition will lead to the destruction of the welfare state."



26

In an *Ha'aretz* article about the objection of senior officials in the legal profession to the new toll for representation by a public defender, Prof. Emanuel Gross of the Faculty of Law explains: "The whole point of having a public defender is to defend those of little means who cannot afford a legal defense... The right to legal counsel is part of the basic human rights, and charging a fee, however nominal, eats away at and threatens this right."



27

Prof. Yechiam Weitz of the Department of Land of Israel Studies said, in a *Ynet* article on the legacy of Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Z"L, "he is a symbol of a political world that really wanted to serve the public, without any cynicism."



28

A *The Marker* article about Jewish-Arab relations quotes data from the Index of Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel, edited for over 30 years by Prof. Sammy Smooha of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Different contexts reveal that "Although most Israeli Arabs share the dream of viewing Israel as a bi-national state, they understand that this dream is not practical and so they accept the existing situation in which they are a minority in a Jewish and democratic state."



29

Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal of the Faculty of Law interviewed in *Ha'aretz* regarding the intention of the police department to transfer African immigrants arrested under criminal suspicion to the Immigration Authority, where it will be decided whether or not to hold them under administrative arrest as they are illegal immigrants: "When someone commits a criminal offense, there is a procedure in place which determines if s/he committed the offense, and restrictions are set on his/her arrest until his/her guilt or innocence can be determined. The idea behind this is that we don't want to give the State the power to determine guilt and set the punishment, all without benefit of a judge."



30

Terrible or not so bad? In a *Ynet* article about the arrival of jellyfish to our shores, marine ecologist Dr. Dor Edelist of the Department of Maritime Civilizations at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences says not to get nervous about the burning guests: "The jellyfish in Israel aren't dangerous. They're like mosquitoes. It's unpleasant, burns a little, but it's not that bad."



Prof. Shulamit Almog of the Faculty of Law, who investigated the issue of Haredi women in the workplace, along with Dr. Lotem Perry-Hazan of the Faculty of Education, were interviewed in *The Marker* on the subject of recruiting members of the Haredi population and integrating them into the workforce. Regarding the employment of Haredi women, Prof. Almog states: "It's true that many Haredi women are working, but they're not working where they really want to. Furthermore, they have not received their training in a way that allows them to make optimal employment decisions, to allow them to develop a career like with the secular women who studied the same amount of years."



Dr. Doron Navot of the School of Political Sciences interviewed extensively for *The Marker* regarding the verdict in Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's trial. He warns that the attack on the State Attorney in light of the verdict in Olmert's trial will harm the fight against corruption. "None of the watchdogs, other than the State Attorney, have shown the determination necessary to battle corruption," he said.

