



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  
THE ISRAELI MOSAIC

אוניברסיטת חיפה  
חוגגת 40  
ישראליות משותפת

March 1, 2012

Issue No. 14

**1**

The budding Friends and Alumni Society of the University of Haifa hosted a delegation of the Association of Yale Alumni on our campus. Yale representatives met with President of the University Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, VP for External Relations and Resource Development Amos Gaver, CEO of Israeli Friends of the University of Haifa Shira Ben-Or, Vice Rector Prof. Perla Werner, and graduates of the University's Ofakim honors program headed by Prof. Mina Evron. The guests revealed some of their experiences as members of an alumni association from one of the world's most prestigious universities. "I hope that following this meeting, we will be able to strengthen the ties between both universities and our alumni associations. I am confident that we can learn something from you," said Prof. Ben-Ze'ev. [Continue Reading »](#)

**2**

President of the University, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, participated in a session of the Knesset's House Committee on Health and Environment that discussed the state of the beaches and the sea in Israel. He said that the University is leading a joint effort of the universities in Israel to establish, in cooperation with the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Center, an academic center for Mediterranean marine research which should put an end to the existing state of deficient treatment bordering on neglect. "The sea is the most important strategic asset of the State of Israel, which will bring about the country's economic independence. Not advancing this important issue is simply criminal neglect. We're talking about strategic issues, even an aspect of regional peace. Marine research is an economic and regional boost to all the nations in the area," he said. His thoughts were publicized in *YNET*, *Globes* and in additional media.

**3**

Exactly four years after they first met on the University of Haifa campus, Nimrod and Eilat returned, and this time to be photographed before their wedding. The two first met in 2008 as dorm residents, students at the beginning of their paths. "The University campus is the home base of our love, it's our home," said Eilat.

**4**

An academic delegation of Australian psychologists participated in a workshop at the Center for the Study of Loss, Bereavement and Emotional Resilience headed by Prof. Simon Shimshon Rubin of the Department of Psychology. Prof. Rubin, who led the workshop, discussed present and future directions of the Center with the Australian guests.



5

The School of Political Sciences presented this week the first issue of the School's online paper, "*Polinews*." The paper will survey the academic and research activities of the School's researchers, as well as central issues in political science.



6

Don't be so quickly impressed with the last rainfalls: "The Water Authority is preparing for a 10%-15% decrease in Israel's natural water supply in the coming decades due to climate change." This was said by Dr. Amir Givati of the Water Authority in a conference summarizing the work of the Steering Committee on the impact of climate change on water which was held at the University in the framework of the Israeli Knowledge Center on Climate Change, led by the University of Haifa.



7

A festive graduation ceremony took place at the Hecht Museum for a group of gifted students from Daliyat El-Karmel and Isfiya who participated in a joint project of the Museum and the Center for the Gifted in Daliyat El-Karmel. Within the framework of the project, the students received instruction in the Museum and the Center throughout the year.



8

And still at the Hecht Museum: A while back, Ofra Rimon, Museum Director and Curator, solved the riddle of Modigliani's *Portrait of Maud Abrantes*. The solution reached the Modigliani Institute in Paris, where Rimon's solution was praised and the staff even offered to send her photos of the artist.



9

The Bucarius Institute for Research of Contemporary Germany History and Society held last week, along with centers and institutes from additional universities, its annual seminar for young researchers of German history. The seminar took place at Beit Maersdorf on Mount Scopus and included presentations by doctoral and post-doc students from the field, followed by a feedback session held by senior researchers in the field.



10

Writing a blog helps adolescents in emotional-social distress deal with hardship and improve their self-esteem. This is a finding from a new research project conducted by Prof. Azy Barak of the Department of Counseling and Human Development and the Department of Learning, Instruction and Teacher Education, along with Dr. Meyran Boniel-Nissim of the Department of Counseling and Human Development. The researchers noted: "It seems as though in today's generation expressing oneself in writing on an internet blog is more effective than private writings intended for the author's eyes alone."



11

45.8% of the residents governed by local authorities expressed no confidence in the head of their local authority, as opposed to 32.6% who expressed a great deal of confidence in their head. This is a finding from the index which is an assessment of the performance of local government in 2011, conducted for the third year by Dr. Itai Beer of the School of Political Sciences along with his colleagues.



12

Dr. Brenda Shaffer of the School of Political Sciences interviewed for the international newspaper *Petroleum Review* regarding the decision that Israel is facing – whether to use up all the newfound gas reserves for self-use or whether to export some of them abroad. "This is one of the most important decisions that the State of Israel must make, and it will influence Israel's energy policy for decades to come," she said. Dr. Shaffer also edited a new book, [\*Beyond the Resource Curse\*](#), that deals with the general positive and negative influences of natural resources on countries.



13

Prof Shulamit Almog of the Faculty of Law was interviewed in light of the proposition of a law to hold clients of sexual services criminally liable, a law that was approved by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation. Prof. Almog, author of the book "*Promiscuous Women*" which deals with the social, cultural and legal aspects of prostitution, was interviewed in many media such as *YNET*, *Israel Today*, *Galey Tzahal*, *Channel One Television*, and others. "From a moral standpoint, this phenomenon must be condemned and prohibited in any society that views itself as committed to human rights," said Prof. Almog.



14

Dr. Motti Golani of the Department of Land of Israel Studies interviewed for *Galey Tzahal's "Security Belt"* regarding the appointment of the new Commander-in-Chief of the Israel Air Force, Major-General Amir Eshel. "There is a saying by the current Chief-of-Staff, that the Air Force Commander-in-Chief is like any other IDF General... he has no special status," he said.



15

Documents from the 1950s and 1960s prove that Israel illegally evacuated thousands of people from their homes. In his interview to *Ha'aretz*, Dr. Alexandre (Sandy) Kedar from the Faculty of Law estimates that these documents will serve as obstacles in the evacuation of tenants from their homes.



16

Dr. Dan Schueftan, head of the National Security Studies Center from the School of Political Sciences, gave an interview at *Globes* about the dilemma of the Druze residents in Ramat HaGolan who won't accept Israeli citizenship in light of the violence in Syria. "The Druze here live in a modern and free country, where they can develop in any area that appeals to them. On the other hand, they are not losing their national honor. In fact, they are prepared for any situation: if the existing reality continues for another fifty years they will continue to live well and preserve their national honor, and if the Golan Heights go back to Syria they can prove that throughout the years they remained loyal Syrian patriots," he said.



17

Prof. Daniel Gutwein of the Department of History of the Jewish People interviewed for the show *"Politics"* on *Channel One Television* about the right of return. "The right of return is one of the fundamental democratic rights. There is no democratic system without the right of return. It's no less important than the right to voice an opinion or the right to own property. It is a right that is anchored within the democratic system."



18

How to deal with a hurtful manager? Dr. Dana Yagil from the Department of Human Resources, who recently published a research study with Prof. Hasida Ben-Zur from the School of Social Work, interviewed for *The Marker* and said: "Although avoidance is the most common strategy, it is not necessarily recommended. Avoidance perpetuates the situation, while communication leaves room for change."



19

For a long time now Prof. Abraham Haim, Head of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, has been warning us of the possible implications of artificial light in general, and "white light" in particular, and their connection to cancer. In light of the Ministry of National Infrastructure's decision to ban the import of regular ("orange") lights, Prof. Haim appeared on *Channel Ten News* to discuss the dangers.



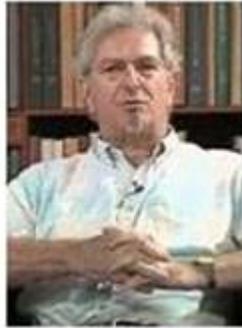
20

The Israeli Oriental Orchestra preserves the knowledge and sounds of traditional instruments from the East Mediterranean that Jews have played since the Babylonian exile. But shortages in the budgets have narrowed its activities to that of a mere amateur group. Prof. Oded Zehavi of the Department of Music interviewed for the column *"This Week"* in *Ha'aretz* and claimed that the problem is that the public merchandising of the band is not clear, as opposed to the Andalusian orchestras that succeed in combining an entertaining aspect in their acts thereby attracting a large audience and increasing their earnings.



21

Prof. Eli Somer of the School of Social Work interviewed for *Yedioth Aharonot* regarding the constant pressure doctors face when they have to make life and death decisions and deal with the death of patients. "The self-esteem of one who defines his/her purpose as being a 'commando soldier' of medicine might find it difficult to ask for help and support in his/her hour of need," he said.



22

Prof. Emanuel Gross of the Faculty of Law interviewed for *Galey Tzaha's "Evening Journal"* about the "Natan Eshel Affair." "This is a significant procedure in the Civil Service Commission. This is the procedure the Government Legal Adviser chose to lead the case with from its inception because he estimated that there was a low probability of gathering admissible evidence for a criminal case," he said.



23

Prof. Onn Winckler of the Department of Middle Eastern History and Assistant to the Rector explains in a *Globes* opinion piece why, for the first time there is a rise in oil prices, despite the slowdown of the world's economy. According to him, the combination of the "Arab Spring" which damaged the manufacturing ability of the Arab oil countries, the sanctions on Iran and the change in Saudi policy in pricing oil have all created a new reality that will badly damage Europe's economy, including Israel.

