



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

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1

The Faculty of Law celebrated 20 years to its establishment in a festive event hosted by television presenter Meirav Michaeli and with the participation of Minister of Communications Moshe Kachlon, Ret. Supreme Court Justices Dalia Dorner and Dr. Shlomo Levin, President of the Haifa District Court Bilha Gillor, Justice Ron Shapira, and of course generations of researchers from the Faculty. The Faculty's founder, Ret. Supreme Court Justice Yitzhak Zamir, came to see how the Faculty had grown, while Prof. Ariel Bendor, former Dean of the Faculty who recently released a new music disc, was in charge of the musical side. *Globes*, in honor of the event, featured a special article about today's Dean Prof. Niva Elkin-Koren, the founding Dean Prof. Zamir, and the previous Dean Prof. Eli Salzberger.

**2**

Younger still: The University marked 10 years of brain and behavior research in a festive evening at the Aviva and Sammy Ofer Observation Gallery. The heads of the five institutes researching the brain introduced the activities in the following institutes: Prof. Zvia Breznitz – Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities; Prof. Yoram Yovel – Institute for Study of Affective Neuroscience; Prof. Kobi Rosenblum – Center for Gene Manipulation in the Brain; Dr. Mouna Maroun – Psychological Stress Research Center; Dr. Rafi Lamprecht – Interdisciplinary Brain and Behavior Research Center.

**3**

A record number of 140 new PhDs received their degree at a festive University event. "The constant growth in the number of our third degree graduates is a demonstration of our excellence in research. It is always exciting to see new graduates join the University of Haifa community and I wish them all future success," said University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev.

**4**

Hundreds of therapists, professionals and researchers came to the First Annual Israel Psychotherapy Conference that dealt with the issue of "who is a good therapist and what is the right form of therapy?" For the first time, the conference brought together all the certified bodies in the field. At the head of the convention was Chairman of the Israel Association of Psychotherapy and Director of the University's Interdisciplinary Clinical Center, Prof. Rivka Yahav, who said: "One cannot become a doctor or a lawyer without advanced studies; that is also how it should be in psychotherapy."



5

"If at the end of it all, the process you are currently undertaking does not lead to a different perception, we will be at the brink of an abyss. We must not allow reality, as difficult as it may be, to cause us to lose hope. I am optimistic because I believe we have the power to change," said Ami Ayalon, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the University speaking to a crowd of students from the Raveh-Ravid Fund, a program for excellence, leadership and social responsibility, which organized a conference dealing with the schism between secular and religious Jews in Israel. "For 40 years now we have perceived social responsibility as a task of top priority for us, and a central part of the social activity lies in relating to the existing schisms in Israeli society. I think that we did a good job in mediating inequalities and we will continue to do so over the next 40 years," said University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev.

**6**

Researchers from all around the world flocked to the international conference of the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Studies which dealt with the global repercussions of Holocaust and genocide research. Researchers from many fields participated, including sociology, anthropology, political science, psychiatry, and literary researchers, in an effort to provide a wider cultural and social dimension to these phenomena.

**7**

Did last summer's social protest influence the system of education? The educational congress organized by the Faculty of Education, the Unit for Social Involvement at the Dean of Students, and the Students Union tried to answer this question. "Although we are talking about a process of several months, we did everything in our power to remove every bureaucratic block in order to allow the local authorities to set up as many kindergarten classes as possible," said Dalit Stauber, Director-General of the Ministry of Education at the convention.

**8**

Israeli film director Joseph Cedar was the guest of honor at the final meeting of the "At First Thought" program which initially began in an effort to provide a unique learning experience regarding the deeper issues in Jewish culture as a basis for dealing with social and identity dilemmas. Cedar spoke to the students about the various issues that came up in his film "Footnote."



9

Does the tag on your clothing bother you? Would you rather only work in the dark? You could be hypersensitive. Dr. Batya Engel-Yeger and Dr. Einat Gal from the Department of Occupational Therapy organized a conference that dealt with the topic "Sensory Processing Disorders – From Physiology to Participation," where the latest research in the field was shared.



10

Hebrew is a difficult language, or is it actually difficult languages? An international conference on the topic "Language Traditions and Jewish Languages" took place at the University. The conference was organized by Dr. Yehudit Henshke and Prof. Tamar Tzvi of the Department of Hebrew Language and dealt, among other things, with the linguistic and cultural aspects of Yiddish, Jewish Arabic, Jewish Aramaic, Judeo Spanish and even the Jewish languages of India.

אבגדהוזו
טיכלמנסע
פעקרת
בזזקר

11

The Israel Academy of Sciences just published its findings on the topic "What happens when I read? – In linguistics, brain and education studies. On reading in general and Arabic in particular." University researchers Dr. Rafiq Ibrahim, Prof. Zohar Eviatar, and Dr. Anat Prior comprised one-third of the researchers appearing in the report.



12

This year, as was the case previously, students from the School of Public Health delivered lectures to school children and kindergartners in Haifa and the North in an effort to raise the students' awareness of different health issues. Among the topics covered: a healthy lifestyle and nutrition, the importance of physical exercise, safe sex, etc. The great student response has already caused the educational institutions to request that the project be continued next year.



13

The Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities headed by Prof. Zvia Breznitz held a three-week seminar for doctoral and post-doc international students. The seminar dealt with theoretical and research aspects of the neurobiology, neuropsychology and linguistics of learning disabilities. Participants also experimented with diagnostic-therapeutic aspects of the topic. Participants came from universities in Europe, the United States, Gaza and East Jerusalem and the seminar lectures were delivered by all the staff at the Department of Learning Disabilities in the Department of Education.

**14**

Dr. Amos Morris-Reich, Director of the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society and from the Department of Jewish History, is the scientific editor of the book *"How is Society Possible?"* by Georg Simmel, a German-Jewish sociologist and philosopher (1858-1918) who is considered to be one of the original and brilliant thinkers of his generation, and the most "post-modern" amongst the founders of sociology. The book includes numerous writings by Simmel, including articles on the sociological method. For all Hebrew readers, a private letter of Simmel's written in Russian was also translated, in which he discusses the modern Jewish identity, especially as it relates to the idea of Zionism. Dr. Morris-Reich added an extensive foreword to the collection, which places Simmel's work in its various intellectual contexts.

**15**

Warm congratulations go out to Professor Emeritus Miriam Ben-Peretz from the Department of Learning, Instruction, and Teacher Education, who had received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Educational Research Association. The Municipality of Haifa also recently honored Prof. Ben-Peretz when the city's Mayor Yona Yahav bestowed upon her a badge of distinction to mark her retirement from public life in Haifa.

**16**

The Ministry of Education's Prize Committee for Outstanding District in Implementing "a Healthy and Active Lifestyle" visited the Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum in an effort to follow up on the Museum's activities on the topic in cooperation with the Ministry of Education's Haifa District. Among other things, Dr. Einat Ambar-Armon, Head of the Museum's Educational Center, reported about the Museum's activities program titled "A Healthy Lifestyle in Ancient Times" while participants got an explanation of diseases and cures in ancient times from an exhibit dealing with this topic from Ms. Ofra Rimon, the Museum's Director and Curator.



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Dr. Shlomit Paz of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies participated in the event "Spring Reception for Young Leaders in Science and Innovation" at the residence of the British Ambassador to Israel. The purpose of the event, in which the British Ambassador to Israel Mr. Matthew Gould participated as well as the Embassy's Science and Innovation Officer, British Council representatives and researchers from Israeli universities and research centers, was the deepening of the scientific ties between researchers from Israeli and British research institutions.

**18**

Congratulations go out to the Assessment Team at the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library which received the Finkler Prize for Information. The team was established in the Library six years ago in an effort to examine and evaluate the Library's quality of service by its users. In this effort there were, and are still being implemented, various activities including: surveys, testing and focus groups that examine varying aspects of Library services: the physical environment, identifying user needs, examining the collections, examining the computer interfaces to the programs and services provided by the Library from within and afar, etc. The 2012 Information Prize was awarded to Dr. Lynne Porat, Head, Interlibrary Loans and Assessment, in the Teldan Information Systems Convention.

**19**

Dozens of students came to celebrate "Go Outside", the end of the year party that took place at the dorms by the dorms staff and with the cooperation of the Students Union. The students enjoyed music, food and drink stands, a colorful bazaar, and more.

**20**

Hagai Keshet is the first-place winner of the 2012 Composition Competition in memory of Itai Weiner under the auspices of the Department of Music. The piece he composed, according to the words of the great writer and poet Lewis Carroll, was performed in a festive concert that the Department of Music held in the Hecht Arts Center.



21

Shame versus acceptance is the central trend arising from the figures of the 2011 Index of Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel which has been edited for over 30 years by Prof. Sammy Smooha. "Despite the wide gap in opinions, there is agreement between most of the Jews and most of the Arabs about living together in the State of Israel, so there is still an infrastructure of a joint society," noted Prof. Smooha when he presented the index's full findings in a conference on the topic which was held at the Jewish-Arab Center. The findings were published in the local media, and the Center's Head, Prof. Itzhak Weismann, was interviewed on the topic on the Channel Two morning show.



22

Do you also drive like kangaroos? Driving on a road with exposed traffic cameras raises the average driving speed as opposed to driving on a road with hidden traffic cameras where speeds do not generally exceed the allowed speed limit. This is a finding from a new research study conducted by the Institute of Information Processing and Decision Making.



23

Bus drivers who took a week-long course on efficient driving lowered between 5%-7% of their gas consumption, according to findings from a new research project by Prof. Boris Portnov of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, Dr. Shlomo Hareli of the Graduate School of Management, and the student Salim Saadia. "The economic worth of five percent in the overview of Israeli public transportation can reach millions of shekels. The environmental worth is a savings of thousands of liters of gas that are burned and released into the atmosphere, and this all comes down to a relatively minor investment," noted the researchers.



24

Everyone is talking about the social protest – but almost no public or private organization is doing something about it. This is the picture that one gets from a survey by the Center for the Study of Organizations and Human Resource Management that examined the influence of the social protest on public and private organizations and was presented in the Center's annual conference. "If we wanted to know why our product prices, rent and cost of living are relatively high, the relatively small amount of change in organizations from all the sectors shows that they have not internalized anything following the social protest," said Prof. Itzhak Harpaz, the Center's Director and Dean of the Graduate Studies Authority.



25

"There was no other alternative, everyone's prices are all the same, there is a monopoly of three companies that act as a single body," said Michael Golan, CEO of the newest Israeli mobile phone company Golan Telecom, in a lecture to students that took place under the auspices of the Israeli Friends of the University of Haifa and in cooperation with the Students Union.



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A survey in *Globes* shows that what Israeli social network surfers want most is a car; only in second place love can be found, and in third place a dog. Prof. Gustavo Mesch from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology notes precisely what is missing in the survey: "Israel is a country with collective roots, and that's what's missing here. The survey does not discuss the concept of 'giving'."



27

In an *"Israel Today"* article on "The Dark Side of the Network" – a parallel network with "Invitations Only" which has become a focus of activity of persecuted freedom fighters on the one hand, and illegal activity on the other – Prof. Gabi Weimann of the Department of Communication was interviewed and said that the "Dark Network" is no longer only for criminals, but also for terrorists.



28

Will advanced technology replace the journalist? Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli, Director of the Sagy Center for Internet Research of the Graduate School of Management, was interviewed on the topic for *Globes* and said, "The process of news collection is changing form. The news is now based more and more on the ability to reach the basis of figures, which makes the reporter of old, who studied language and comparative literature, outdated – and who is now being replaced by statistics and information systems graduates, SQL programmers who know how to analyze figures. This is still investigative journalism, but of a different kind."



29

What is a "composer-in-residence" of an orchestra? Prof. Oded Zehavi of the Department of Music, who has recently been appointed Composer-in-Residence of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, tries to explain in an article to *Ha'aretz*.



30

Will the elections in Egypt cause a new flare-up? Dr. Liad Porat from the Department of Middle Eastern History said in an article for *"Israel Today,"* that was also published on the Walla site, "Let the official election results be as they may, it is not unlikely to assume that danger of a flare-up exists, especially when the president's authority is not defined in the constitution and parliament may disband."



31

The annual mandatory performance automotive tests have raised the bar in tests of air pollution. Prof. Ofira Ayalon of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management reminds everyone in an article by *NRG* that although a blessed step, it must come with addendums: "Making the air pollution test stricter is a welcome change. But the owners of older cars must get an active alternative: demolition for payment."



32

Dr. Ido Zerkovitz of the Department of Middle Eastern History, who is currently on post-doctoral leave in Germany, interviewed for the Reshet Bet show "*Situation Assessment*" about his new book "*The Fatah Movement: Islam Nationalism and Armed Struggle Politics*", which is based on his doctoral thesis. During the interview, Dr. Zerkovitz explained about the tension between national and Islamic identity in the Palestinian society and insisted on the use of religious motifs in shaping patterns of the struggle between Fatah and Hamas and between the Palestinians and Israel.

