

August 27, 2012

Issue No. 19

1

"I am proud that the University of Haifa has been chosen to lead the Israel Center for Mediterranean Sea Research. And who knows - perhaps through science and scientific collaborations we will bring about peace," said Mr. Leon H. Charney, Chairman of the University's Board of Governors. Charney was speaking at a special panel following a screening of the film "Back Door Channels: The Price of Peace", about the secret discussions between Israel and Egypt that led to the Camp David Accords in which Charney played a key role as secret advisor to US President Carter and to Israel's Minister of Defense: <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5946>.



2

A new and specially designed course at the University of Haifa is offering a transatlantic study opportunity, enabling students on the University of Haifa campus and students at the University of Georgia (UGA) in the United States to learn together in real time, via video conferencing: <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5936>.



3

Another group of National Security College cadets graduated from the University. The festive graduation ceremony included the granting of the Arnon Soffer Award for Excellent Work in the Field of National Security by University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, Minister of Defense Ehud Barak, Chief of Staff Benny Gantz, the commander of IDF colleges and, of course, Prof. Arnon Soffer himself.



4

After two years of debate, the amendment to the Criminal Procedure Law, by which it will be possible to convert certain offenses (mainly minor ones) from a criminal indictment to an administrative fine, was recently adopted. The person who initiated the amendment is Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal of the Faculty of Law. "The prosecutor must decide today whether to close a case unconditionally or to prosecute. But sometimes there also needs to be something in the middle," said Prof. Gazal-Ayal in a *Globes* article. The professor was also interviewed in *The Marker* on the same topic.



5

A delegation of Chinese academics from the Science Foundation in China arrived for a visit at the University where they met with the Rector Prof. David Faraggi, Vice President and Dean of Research Prof. Michal Yerushalmy, and additional faculty members from various research fields. The purpose of the meeting was for the guests to become familiar with the University's centers of research so as to advance research collaborations in the natural sciences.



6

Let's meet our alumni: The University has tens of thousands of alumni who have been integrated throughout the years at all of Israeli society's managerial levels. These days, a Friends and Alumni Association is being established at the University at the initiative of the Vice President for External Relations and Resource Development Amos Gaver, who said: "Since my arrival to the University I understood the great importance of establishing an alumni organization, and I am glad to see that so many of our alumni have reached a place and a status where they are happy to give back to the University." The Association's Director is Dr. Dalia Perl-Olshvang; the organization will operate under the umbrella of the Israeli Friends of the University of Haifa headed by Ms. Shira Ben-Or. In parallel to the Association's local activities, it is also working with the University's alumni who are abroad.



7

A mounting global threat is of terrorists who act as “lone wolves”. Locating and preventing such terrorist activity is more complicated than organizational terror threats. A new study conducted by Prof. Gabriel Weimann of the University of Haifa, reveals that these “lone wolves” are not in fact so isolated and belong to virtual terrorist communities on the Internet: <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5941>.

**8**

The prevalence of Parkinson's Disease and of Essential Tremor is lower in Druze society relative to the general population. This is according to a new study initiated by Dr. Rafiq Ibrahim of the University's Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities and carried out with Prof. Yehudit Aharon-Peretz and Dr. Jamal Hasson of Rambam Medical Center and Dr. Samih Badarna of Carmel Medical Center. The full article appeared in [The Jerusalem Post](#) and in other news media.

**9**

International Academy for Judges: Over the past several weeks, a unique international seminar has been operating in the Faculty of Law. The participants were 20 judges from around the world, including countries such as the United States, Kenya, Ethiopia, Romania, the Philippines, etc. Lecturers included Former Supreme Court President Aharon Barak as well as Former Deputy-President of the Supreme Court Eliezer Rivlin.

**10**

University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev and the Vice President for External Relations and Resource Development Amos Gaver interviewed for the leading Jewish paper in Canada, [The Canadian Jewish News](#), about the University's winning a tender to establish the Israeli National Center for Mediterranean Sea Research. They described the importance of marine research and the challenges facing the tender.

**11**

Was there a hidden agenda behind Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Israel several weeks ago? Dr. Avinoam Idan of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management exposes the connection between Israeli gas, Russian involvement and the Iranian threat in an interview for *The Marker*: "If we were to give the Russians our gas reserves in return for an attack on Iran, we would lose everything."

**12**

Prof. Ofira Ayalon, Head of the Energy Program at the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, recently interviewed for two "Italian" articles at *NRG*: about the Israeli invention that will save the Italians a lot of water, and how to learn from the Italians how not to apply a law that forbids the use of plastic bags.



13

The jellyfish have arrived and maybe they're already on their way home, but as long as they're here, our very own experts from the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences continue to be those who explain them to the press. This time, Dr. Dror Angel from the Department of Maritime Civilizations interviewed for the television news show "A New Evening", the Channel 10 morning show, and *Ma'ariv* regarding the marine invaders.

**14**

The mystery of the sunken ship in the Akko Port, being excavated by Prof. Yaacov Kahanov and Dr. Deborah Cvikel of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences' Department of Maritime Civilizations, continues to draw attention, this time through a *Ma'ariv* article about the renewal of the excavations and about the mystery: Is this the case of a ship that was purposefully sunk to impede Napoleon's invasion?

**15**

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>. Here is an additional link to the considerable [foreign press coverage on the topic](#).

**16**

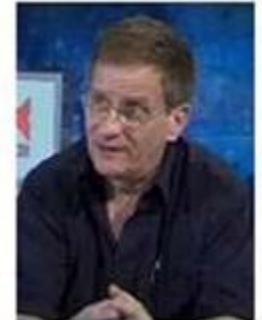
And still on the topic of age and the workplace – Prof. Yitzhak Brick of the Department of Gerontology remarks in a *The Marker* article about people who preferred to continue working past their retirement age, "The age limitation is simply nonsense. There must be a threshold age from which a person receives pension and benefits, but if s/he wants to continue working – let them. This way both the individual and the State benefit."

**17**

And still on the same subject: The Head of the Department of Gerontology, Dr. Israel Doron, commented in a *The Marker* article with Rivi Beller, Director of the VeHadarta organization, on the intention of the Minister of Finance to raise the age of retirement for economic reasons: "A more thorough examination of the data shows that raising the age of retirement is far from a good solution to the problem, since the job market is not prepared to take in the older employees, neither practically – nor no less important, conceptually."

**18**

Prof. Daniel Gutwein of the Department of History of the Jewish People interviewed for the Reshet Bet show "This Morning" and the Galey Tzahal show "Friday-Saturday" on the death of Moshe Silman who set himself on fire in protest over his condition: "His protest was political, not personal."



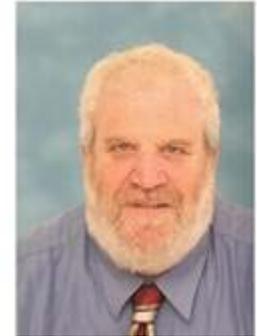
19

Both *Ha'aretz* and *Globes* told their readers about UNESCO's decision to declare the Mearot River, under excavation by University of Haifa investigators for over 40 years, a World Heritage Site.



20

At the beginning of July, when the details of 400 thousand Yahoo surfers were accidentally revealed, we discovered what was already known: the most common password is 123456. "Every decade has an instance in which the public's real passwords are revealed, and every time the researchers are surprised to learn that human beings do not change, despite the fact that the framework within which they live has been revolutionized," said Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli of the Graduate School of Management and Director of the Sagy Center for Internet Research in a *Ma'ariv* article.



21

In an article in *Ha'aretz*, readers were given the opportunity to visit the artist's studio of Mahmood Kaiss from the Department of Fine Arts, located at the lower level of the Dr. Reuben and Edith Hecht School of the Arts Building. "There are tools here which I don't have in my apartment and a lot of free time to develop, think and jot down ideas. This is where I began to create wooden statues," he relates.

