



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



# At a Glance

THE PAST WEEK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



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**1**

It is with deep sorrow and great love that the University parted from Prof. Ilan Gur-Ze'ev of the Faculty of Education z"l who passed away after terminal illness. Prof. Gur-Ze'ev z"l succeeded, in his unique and brave way, to say goodbye to his University colleagues in a touching and inspirational encounter, just one day before his passing. In his opening remarks, Prof. Gur-Ze'ev said: "First of all, thank-you to all my acquaintances, my colleagues, my friends for coming to say goodbye. It was important to me – I would almost say most important – to come together, and it is no less important to say goodbye and, most importantly, to say goodbye the right way." May his memory be blessed.

**2**

Vice President and Dean of Research, Prof. Michal Yerushalmy, hosted a delegation headed by Prof. Peter Gruss, President of the Max Planck research institutes. The members of the delegation met with the University's President, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, and Rector, Prof. David Faraggi. They then met, along with Prof. Yerushalmy, with researchers from the University's various fields in order to advance existing partnerships and create new ones between the University's researchers and those from the Max Planck research institutes.

**3**

The External Affairs and Resource Development Division hosted Dr. Younes Nazarian, a dear friend and benefactor of the University, whose recent magnificent gift is the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library at the University of Haifa. Dr. Nazarian toured the library site and was given a progress report on the library project. While here, he also met with faculty members to hear updates on various research studies and new areas of interest at the University. "We are happy to host Dr. Nazarian. We believe that our continued partnership will further benefit the development of the University," said the Vice President for External Affairs and Resource Development, Mr. Amos Gaver.

**4**

The winter storms of the past weekend decorated the campus with a white carpet of glittering hail. These photos were taken by Nir Ben-Simchon of the Division of Building and Maintenance. <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5692>



**5**

Prof. Yitzhak Samuel, of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, was appointed by the Minister of Education to be a member of the Council of Higher Education's international committee to evaluate the study of anthropology and sociology in Israeli universities and colleges. The committee is composed of six members – four from abroad and two from Israel. The committee, which has begun its work and will finish in May 2012, also visited and evaluated the University.

**6**

Prof. Rossem Khamaisi of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies was selected to receive the 2012 Merit Award in Planning of the Israeli Association for Environmental Planning. The Association represents those who deal with urban, regional and environmental planning in Israel. Its aim is to represent those involved in the profession in Israel, advance and acknowledge the profession, as well as contribute to the broadening and dissemination of the professional knowledge in the field. Congratulations!

**7**

The Hecht Museum Auditorium was filled with researchers, students, and the public at large who all came to hear about the "Arab Spring" in a seminar sponsored by the National Security Studies Center. Those trying to shed light on the revolutions were Dean of Tel Aviv University's Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Eyal Zisser, Head of the University's National Security Studies program, Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor, and the Head of the Center, Dr. Dan Schueftan, the latter two from the School of Political Sciences. So are we talking here about a "Spring" or a "Winter"?

**8**

Researchers from the USA, Germany and Israel gathered at the University for an international conference on "Global Memory of the Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of European Jews in a Global Context," which was organized by the University's Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary Germany History and Society. Among other topics, the participants heard lectures relating to how memory of the Holocaust around the world is influenced by various elements of political manipulation.



**9**

Dozens of researchers participated in the "Laughter and Communication" conference at the beginning of the week, which was organized by the Department of Communication in cooperation with the Haifa Wizo Academic Center. The conference dealt with the different ways in which humor has been utilized in the media over the last few centuries and up to the present in different areas related to history and culture.

**10**

The Ministry of Environmental Protection established the Israel Climate Change Knowledge Center, where the University of Haifa is leading the research activity. Prof. Ofira Ayalon from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management warns in a recent article to *NRG* that despite the importance of the subject, the Center's future is not yet clear: "As of today, the Center's future is not clear. Currently, all of the activity is being led by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, at a time when other government offices should understand that the environmental issues that are being discussed at the Center are relevant to them as well."

**11**

The study of Prof. Yariv Tsfati of the Department of Communication and Dr. Israel Waismel-Manor of the School of Political Sciences, which found that more attractive politicians receive more "face time" on screen, has received much US coverage, including the prestigious [NEW YORK TIMES](#).

**12**

Last week, the Israeli media gave a lot of coverage to a study by Prof. Gabriel Weimann of the Department of Communication, which surveyed the activities of terror organizations in social networks. This week, it was the turn of foreign media, including the central news agency [UPI](#), [YAHOO](#), [NEWSWISE](#), etc.

**13**

In light of the great coverage of the study, Prof. Weimann also interviewed for *The Marker* on the future directions of online terror warfare. He said, "The problem is that the Saudi hackers could be more than hackers with simple abilities, but rather hackers that will be enlisted by terror organizations whose goals will not be credit cards, but rather, for example, the Israel electrical system that is entirely supervised by computers. This is a frightening and dangerous terrorist threat."

**14**

Prof. Eliezer Somer, clinical psychologist at the School of Social Work, appeared as an expert on Amnon Levi's program on *Channel 10* which documented a woman suffering from dissociative identity disorder. He then later interviewed on the subject on the *Channel 10* show *London and Kirschenbaum*.





15

*The Marker* featured an article about the ban in Israel of selling incandescent ("yellow") light bulbs. The article cited the studies of Prof. Abraham Haim, Head of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, who found in multiple studies a connection between exposure to "white" light and cancer. The article was also featured on the *Walla* website.



16

Dr. Doron Navot of the School of Political Sciences wrote an opinion piece for *Channel 2 News* in which he discussed the decision to indict former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the possible ramifications of such a decision on the struggle against government corruption. "Nothing is pleasing regarding the bleak picture of the indictment – the fact that the prosecution passed the Buzaglo [Joe Schmo] Test is the bare minimum that is required in the country, and not some badge of excellence," he said.



17

Dr. Uri Shanas of the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology continues to lead the struggle against the mining in the Samra dunes. In an article to the *Haaretz* newspaper he said, "We will continue to come here even if it lasts for several straight weeks."



18

The biggest information leakers are the consumers themselves, warns Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. Niva Elkin-Koren in a *Globes* article. "People have become transparent, and the information is not erasable. We find it difficult to assess the future damage to us," she said.



19

Prof. Avraham Ben-Zvi of the School of Political Sciences interviewed for the *Galey Tzahal* show *Osim Tzohoraim* and discussed Michelle Obama's new book: "I think that Michelle Obama clearly belongs to the strong and involved model of White House women." Prof. Ben-Zvi also interviewed for the *Channel 10* show *London and Kirschenbaum* about the Republican primaries.

