



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
ישראליות השותפת

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1

Hundreds of students and faculty members participated in "America Day" at the University, organized by the Division for External Relations and Resource Development, in cooperation with the Student Union. The day included various booths, lectures and panel discussions with University experts and Embassy representatives. "The event was very successful and it reflects our very close and longstanding ties with the U.S. Embassy," said the Vice President for External Relations and Resource Development, Amos Gaver, who was responsible for the cooperative activity.



2

The crowning moment of "America Day" was the special visit to the University of Haifa of H.E. Ambassador Daniel Shapiro, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel. The Ambassador met with the University President, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, and then presented a lecture about the partnership between Israel and the U.S. in matters of security, efforts to prevent Iran's nuclear development, and America's commitment to helping Israel remain a safe, strong and democratic state. [View on the Academic Channel](#)



3

"I see the United States remaining very much the leader of the International Community – economically, diplomatically, politically, and militarily," says U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro in a special interview with Prof. Benny Miller of the University of Haifa, discussing various elements of America's influence on world politics, economics, security and diplomacy. [View on the Academic Channel](#)

**4**

"Academia must take a more active role in denouncing acts of extremism and racism in the country," said Knesset Member Orit Zuaretz, Head of the Knesset lobby to promote Jewish-Arab relations. She said this in a Knesset discussion last Tuesday on the topic of "Politics, Academia and the Media: Radicalizing the Social Dialogue," initiated by Prof. Itzhak Weismann, Head of the Jewish-Arab Center who even interviewed on Israeli Television *Channel One* on the topic. The Knesset discussion was in cooperation with the Citizens' Accord Forum between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

**5**

Dr. Oren Gazal-Ayal of the Faculty of Law has been appointed member and Coordinator of the Public Commission for the Examination of Punishment Policy – a committee that was established by a governmental decision and whose main goal is to globally examine the policy of treating sentenced offenders, punishing and rehabilitating them in an effort to reduce crime in accordance with the principles of law, while taking into account economic considerations.

**6**

Dr. Ithamar Theodor from the Department of Asian Studies has a new book out, [Exploring the Bhagavad Gita](#), which has won the Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award for 2011 of the American Academic Libraries Union, an organization which includes about 35,000 academic libraries in the United States. The book endeavors to give a modern interpretation to the Bhagavad Gita ("Song of God"), which is one of the most well-known Hindu religious texts. Congratulations.

**7**

Congratulations go out to Prof. (Emeritus) Jacob O. Maos from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies who won the 2011 Israeli Geographical Society Award. Prof. Maos won the award for his challenging and longstanding contribution to the development and advancement of the field of geography in Israel. Prof. Maos is currently the editor of *Horizons in Geography*, the only (critically acclaimed) journal in the field in Hebrew, that has been continuously published since 1975 by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

**8**

The University's National Security Studies Center, headed by Dr. Dan Schueftan, hosted former Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi in a discussion about the strategic issues faced by Israel and the countries in the region.



9

Afraid to fly? Prof. Marilyn Safir and Dr. Helene Wallach from the Department of Psychology suggest a proven and effective treatment method for coping with the phobia through virtual reality technology.

**10**

A study undertaken by a research team from the School of Public Health found that some 90% of all the fire-fighters and police-officers that participated in putting out the devastating Carmel Forest fire last year complained about at least one health issue that was caused by their activity in the field. This is a multiannual study whose preliminary findings were widely published in media such as in *Walla*, *NRG*, *Galey Tzahal*, *Israel Today*, *The Jerusalem Post*, etc.

**11**

53% of the world's Arab citizens do not think that peace between Israel and the Palestinians is at all possible and 54% believe that the conflict between the two groups will escalate. However, 59% believe that when peace does come, it will be non-violent. These are findings from a survey that was presented in a conference of the Jewish-Arab Center to mark the anniversary of the eruption of the revolutions against governments in Arab countries. It was also published in *Ma'ariv*.

**12**

Employees working under a hurtful manager will prefer to avoid a direct conversation with him, despite the fact that such a conversation is the best way for them to feel better, is a finding from a new study undertaken by Dr. Dana Yagil, Prof. Hasida Ben-Zur, and research student Inbal Tamir. "A hurtful way of managing affairs can put the employee under great emotional stress, but the avoidance tactic, preferred by most of the employees, does not lead to the best results," said Dr. Yagil. The study received a lot of international press coverage, including [NBC](#) and [YAHOO](#).

**13**

The Marker discusses a new tender published by the Council for Higher Education for an Israel Center for Mediterranean Research. The University is at the head of one of the groups competing for the tender, along with the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Bar-Ilan University, with the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Center which is affiliated with the Ministry of National Infrastructures. The group is headed by Prof. Zvi Ben-Avraham who is also the Head of the University's Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences. The University's President, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, discussed the inter-organizational cooperation and said, "This is a rare step which reflects the fact that the

**14**

Dr. Soli Shahvar, Head of the Ezri Center for Iran & Gulf Studies and from the Department of Middle Eastern History, interviewed for "*The Radio of Tomorrow*", the main radio station outside of Iran that transmits in Persian and deals mainly with Iranian issues. The topic was the assassination of the Iranian scientist, Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, a deputy director of the nuclear facility in Natanz. "Although Israel definitely has good reason to want to damage the Iranian nuclear and missile programs, this is also of interest to other countries like the United States and a number of European countries, and even to certain Iranian factors such as the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization," he said. Dr. Shahvar also interviewed for the *BBC* in Persian on the possibility of an oil embargo of Iran and said that the sanctions cannot be effective in



university presidents are aware of the significance of the matter to the future of the State." Later on last week, the senior *Yedioth Aharonot* financial analyst, Sever Plotzker, wrote that it is only natural that the University of Haifa is currently the academic anchor for marine research.

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The University's Rector, Prof. David Faraggi, interviewed for [The Jewish Week](#), one of the leading Jewish newspapers in the United States, on the University's new international focus: "I am very encouraged that now more and more faculty are joining in and introducing programs in English."



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Prof. Fania Oz-Salzberger of the Faculty of Law interviewed for the *Channel Two* program *Hotzeh Israel* on her field of expertise: The history of ideas and the relevance of philosophical ideas to political affairs in Israel in 2012.



17

Dr. Lotem Perry-Hazan of the Department of Leadership and Policy in Education in the Faculty of Education interviewed for the *Reshet Bet* radio program *Seder Yom* about the study she co-authored with Prof. Shulamit Almog of the Faculty of Law. The study demonstrated how education in Haredi schools for girls preserves and advances barriers which prevent the women in this sector from developing a perception of their rights. An article on this topic was also published in the *Calcalist* paper. As opposed to other places, where girls fall behind boys due to lack of access to schools, here we have a unique situation: education that supposedly opens doors, but in fact it preserves norms within which the women are marginalized," said Dr. Perry-Hazan.



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Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Head of the Center for the Study of Child Development, interviewed for the *Channel One* program *"This Evening"* in light of the Minister of Justice's announcement of his decision to adopt recommendations of the commission assigned to examine the legal aspects of parental responsibility in divorce ("Shnit Commission"). The commission recommended, among other things, to cancel the "Custody of Young Children" which automatically grants custody to the mother where there is disagreement between the parents. Prof. Sagi-Schwartz was one of the committee members, along with Dr. Tirtsa Joels of the Department of Psychology who is also a member of the Center for the Study of Child Development.



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This week, the program "A Matter of Consent" in "The Voice of Music" radio featured Yuval Shaked, the Head of the University's Department of Music, who spoke about the musical activities in the department.



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Have you heard about "childism," discrimination towards children? Prof. Shulamit Almog of the Faculty of Law, in her article in *HaGalleria* of *Ha'aretz*, explains the term in relation to Israeli culture: "There might be children that the State does not take an interest in their education and maybe does not provide them with certain skills and tools and thus abandons them, for example, in the Haredi community. But they [the Haredi] will refuse to define the State's choice of non-interference as discrimination. They want the discrimination. It is a difficult issue that a term such as childism could miss."



21

Prof. Amatzia Baram, Head of the Center for Iraq Studies and from the Department of Middle Eastern History, interviewed for the *Channel One* show *MeHayom LeMachar* regarding the collapse of Iraq following the pullout of the U.S. troops and the rampage of terror in the country.



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Prof. Daniel Gutwein of the Department of History of the Jewish People interviewed for the *Channel One* show *MeHayom LeMachar* and gave a commentary on the social protest that is trying to reawaken. He thinks that a winter protest will be more difficult than the summer protest. Prof. Gutwein also wrote an article for *Ha'aretz* in which he tries to identify Yair Lapid's social outlook according to his books and columns.



23

In an article to the *Calcalist* regarding pensions, Prof. Arie Melnik of the Department of Economics claims that there is no real competition in the pension funds market, thus the companies exploit their power against those saving their money. "Since the chances of additional companies entering the market are slim, the regulator must intervene," he said.



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Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot, Head of the School of Political Sciences, interviewed for the *Reshet Bet* show *Ha'arachat Matzav* on the reasons for telling lies and half-truths in the political and public service arenas.

