During the recent BOG event, while concluding the Resource Development Committee, the University held a tribute for Dr. Yossi Chvika, the former Executive Director of the French Friends of the University of Haifa. He held this position for over 20 years. Michael Messinger, Executive Director of the Unit for International Resource Development said that there is no corner on campus where Dr. Chvika’s contribution cannot be seen. He added that he shall miss working with Dr. Chvika.

The British Friends of the University were pleased to host President Amos Shapira in London together with Prof Gabi Weimann, an expert on terror and the media. Prof Weimann spoke about his new book “Terror and Cyberspace: the next Generation” at the Israeli Business Club, a networking organisation for businessmen and women who live in the UK and are representatives of private or public companies. He also briefed journalists and academics at a meeting organised by BICOM, the Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre. “The focus should be not just on responding to the terror threats on the internet and social networks,” said Prof Weimann, “but on pre-empting terrorist abuse of future technological platforms”. President Shapira spoke about new research at the University on law and cyber, naval strategy and national security. Prof Weimann’s book will be launched next month at the Library of Congress in Washington DC and has already received coverage in the Washington Post and The Jewish Chronicle Online.
Last week, the University held the yearly symposium of the Friends of Raveh Ravid Program for Excellence, Leadership and Social Responsibility. The Symposium was titled "The Russian Foreign Policy in the Middle East". Some 120 participants enjoyed a fascinating lecture by Lieutenant Colonel (in Res.) Zvi Magen who was part of the Israeli Intelligence community and served as the Israeli Ambassador to the Ukraine and Russia, and is currently a researcher at the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies (INSS). He spoke about the various economic and environmental aspects of Russia’s Middle East foreign policy. The Representatives of the Raveh-Ravid Fund who have been supporting the University and its students for years now were also present: Itzhak Ravid, Abir Raveh and Nitza Genosar.

The winners of the first Annual Music Competition held at the University of Haifa's Department of Music are the Prefix Duo - Itai Bainer and Uri Jacob. The duo will receive a fellowship to spend the summer at the Avaloch Farm Music Institute and diligently work on their repertoire and prepare it for recording, other competitions and to generally work on their musical identity. This wonderful competition, held in the framework of the ContComp Event, was generously supported by Prof. Alfred Tauber, the Chairman of the University Board of Governors. ContComp included lectures, concerts and panels dealing with contemporary composition. The panel of judges included Prof. Tauber, Anat Fort, Dr. Alon Schab, Prof. Eitan Steinberg and Prof. Yuval Shaked.

University of Haifa students were presented with scholarships from the Mila Brenner and Jacob Meridor Scholarship Fund in a recent ceremony. The Meridor and Brenner Foundation was represented by Michal Brenner and Rachel Kamerman-Meridor and their families. The fund was set up in 1978 by the marine company Brenner and Meridor owned, which assisted the country significantly during the Yom Kippur War. Today it grants scholarships to students who volunteer in the community, in order to perpetuate the memory of the boys who were tragically killed in the Yom Kippur War. At the event, students were also presented with the Rieger Foundation scholarships in memory of Dr. Israel Rieger, a child psychiatrist by profession, who dedicated his life to the community wherever possible - from the U.S. to Ethiopia - and provided for scholarships for students to volunteer at the Gan Hayeled Center for teens and adolescents with special needs.
A new study conducted at the University reveals that children exposed to stress, such as terrorist attacks, need to be treated differently than adults in the same situation. "The brain of children deals with trauma very differently than the brain of adults. This is opposed to the accepted approach that the brain of all ages operates the same. Childhood is a period when the brain and the prefrontal cortex are still developing, so there is no reason that the mechanism of action in adults and young people should be the same." Said Prof. Mouna Maroun, the Head of the Sagol Department of Neurobiology who conducted the research. For further reading: Jerusalem Post.

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