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1

In an article in the *Calcalist* magazine that compared the Departments of Asian Studies that focus on the economy of Far Eastern states, the magazine stated: The Department that leads the teaching and research of modern Asia is the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Haifa. From the article: " The leading department in Israel focuses on practical education."



2

More than 400 participants arrived at the University of Haifa last week for the [2011 IGeLU \(International Group of Ex Libris Users\) conference](#). It was held in Israel for the very first time following the initiative of the University's Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library. IGeLU is an international organization representing some 300 organizations, universities and research facilities from more than 40 countries using the Ex Libris automated solutions for library information systems.



3

On September 22, the University of Haifa is opening its doors to the public for the annual Europe-wide [“Researchers’ Night”](#), an event organized by the European Commission, during which research facilities hold activities for the public at large. In a relaxed, casual atmosphere - no suits, no ties, and preferably over a cup of coffee - the University of Haifa’s researchers will be meeting with the public. The high point of the evening’s events at the University of Haifa will be an experiment held at all of Israel’s research and science facilities at the same time in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the biggest chemistry lesson in history.

**4**

Mr. Yefet Ozery was appointed Executive Director of the American Society of the University of Haifa. Mr. Ozery assumes the office after serving as Director of External Relations at Hebrew University. He has profound experience in the field of resource development in general, and in the United States in particular. Among other things, he served as the Director of Development and Public Relations of the Diaspora Museum and as Director of the North America Desk of the Jerusalem Foundation. "We are confident that Yefet Ozery's abilities, experience and integrity will serve as a stable and professional foundation for the resource development of the University in the United States, which will, of course, promote our University" noted Amos Gaver, Vice President for External Relations and Resource Development.

**5**

[The University of Haifa’s Model UN Society](#) won five awards at “ISRAMUN 2011”, an International Conference that simulates the activity of the United Nations - the most awards won by a single delegation at the conference. The University of Haifa Model UN members received the “Best Delegate” prize in four out of the six committees in which it participated. “Just two months ago we sat down and introduced to our society to the students and already, at our first conference as an established society, we took more than a third of the prizes,” says Sefi Shalam, the Society’s chairman.

**6**

During a visit in Brazil, Prof. Gabriel Weimann from the Department of Communications was hosted by the President of the Brazilian Friends, Mr. Roberto Ruhman. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Rhuman, along with the Director, Elen Leirner and Edu Pollak, Head of the Latin America, Spain and Portugal Desk from the Division for External Relations and Resource Development, Prof. Weimann was able to attend various lectures and meetings with leading Brazilian government officials, academics and community representatives. In this context, he talked about his specialty: Terror on the Internet. [The visit was covered extensively by the Brazilian media.](#)



7

An impressive and exciting event was held in honor of Prof. Majid Al-Haj, Vice President and Dean of Research who will end his term at the end of this month. The event was attended by senior management, faculty members, administrative staff and guests from various academic institutions who had professional or private connections with Prof. Al-Haj. During the evening, Prof. Al-Haj was honored by many respectable congratulants from Israel and abroad who praised his work, as well as long-standing friendships.

**8**

Professor Aaron Ben Ze'ev, President of the University, and Professor Yoav Lavee, Dean of Students were interviewed for *Seven Days*, the magazine of *Yediot Ahranot* newspaper about the phenomenon of secular young people marrying at a young age. "It is not societal pressure – in actuality it comes from within." The young couples who are marrying say to themselves: "We have found the one and only and we must not lose her/him" explained Prof. Ben-Ze'ev, who was also interviewed on the subject on the Channel 10 morning show.

**9**

Dr. Soli Shavhar, Director of the Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies from the Department of Middle Eastern History was interviewed by the BBC in Persian on the attacks on the Israeli embassy in Egypt. Dr. Shavhar spoke about the political reasons that underlie the event and the possible reactions in Israel.

**10**

When the United States get weaker, Israel is in trouble: In an article in *Ma'ariv* newspaper, Prof. Avi Ben-Zvi from the School of Political Science explained the strategic changes in the Middle East that follow from the weakened position of the United States in the international arena. "The deterioration of the relationship between Israel and the two regional moderate powers Turkey and Egypt is closely related to the weakening of the United States and its diminishing influence in the region."

**11**

Dr. Beverly Goodman from the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Science was interviewed for an article in the "Weekend" section of the *Ma'ariv* newspaper on her tsunami research: "I would not be surprised if tsunami waves strike us. I have no doubt that it will happen. The only question is when and how big it will be".

**12**

[The Sign Language Research Laboratory](#) headed by Prof. Wendy Sandler, organized a seminar in cooperation with the Department for German Studies at the University of Gottingen with the subject: The function of face and body in sign language. Scientists from all over the world participated in the conference and discussed the differences between various national sign languages.



13

Dr. Inna Gaisler-Salomon from the Department of Psychology was granted the Bergmann Memorial Award for Young Scientists of the Binational Science Foundation, an Israeli-American foundation that supports joint pioneer studies of Israeli and American scientists. Dr. Gaisler-Salomon received the award for her research on schizophrenia (Glud1 Deficiency in Animal Model of Schizophrenia).



14

In a special supplement of the local newspaper *The City* published in preparation for the upcoming school year, Dr. Ayman Agbaria from the Department of Leadership and Policy in Education was selected one out of 50 people in Israel that have a significant influence on the education sector. Dr. Agbaria was selected for his diverse public involvement and his commitment to equal education in Israel.



15

Dr. Michal Biron Ben-Gera, head of the MBA program in Strategic Management of Human Resources from the Graduate School of Management edited a new book with the title: [*The Global Human Resource Management Case Book*](#). Every chapter of the book offers a story of a different country and describes various challenges faced by managers.



16

The academic work of Prof. (Emeritus) David Guttman from the School of Social Work continues even after his retirement. His book *Ethics in Social Work – a Context of Caring* was recently published in Chinese. In addition, Prof. Guttman published the second volume of his personal trilogy, *Transition* that deals with the story of his immigration to Israel on the "Exodus" and the first decade in the country.



17

Keren Agay-Shay, doctoral student from the School of Public Health was awarded the first prize for a research poster during a conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE 2011). The poster that depicts her study that investigates the connection between the exposure to air pollution and children with heart problems, won the prize over 80 posters by researchers from all over the world. Congratulations!



18

"White" light bulbs that emit light at shorter wavelengths are greater suppressors of the body's production of melatonin than bulbs emitting orange-yellow light, a new international study has revealed. The study investigated the influence of different types of bulbs on "light pollution" and the suppression of melatonin, with the researchers recommending several steps that should be taken to balance the need to save energy and protecting public health. "Just as there are regulations and standards for 'classic' pollutants, there should also be regulations and rules for pollution stemming from artificial light at night," says Prof. Abraham Haim, head of the Center for Interdisciplinary Chronobiological Research at the University of Haifa and the Israeli partner in the research. The study was published in the [*Jerusalem Post*](#) and other [international media](#).



Cannabinoids (marijuana) administration after experiencing a traumatic event blocks the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)-like symptoms in rats, according to a [new study conducted at the University of Haifa](#) and published in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*. "We found that there is a 'window of opportunity' during which administering synthetic marijuana helps deal with symptoms simulating PTSD in rats," said Dr. Irit Akirav of the University of Haifa's Department of Psychology, who led the study.



Can social networks and technological developments lead to direct democracy? Dr. Ori Amitai from the Department of General History was quoted in an article in *The Marker* magazine: "In the beginning there were voices that claimed that protest is non-democratic, as there are elections every four years in which the people can take a stand. That is a non-democratic approach. If, every time that something is not alright, we, as the public, will go out to the streets in masses and say 'This does not suit us', then the politicians will listen to us because we are the ones that chose them".

