As the 37th Meeting of the Board of Governors approaches we dedicate this newsletter to our devoted contributors and friends. Despite the financial crisis worldwide, these partners continue to stand by our side, committed as we are to the advancement of higher education and to the University of Haifa. Their view is to the future: the future of our society.

A few highlights of this year’s Board of Governors meeting will include:

- An honorary doctorate ceremony honoring five individuals highly dedicated to social welfare, education and to the city of Haifa
- Scholarship and fellowship award ceremonies
- Opening of the “Twinning” concept by Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mr. Leon H. Charney: Encouraging teamwork between members of the Board of Governors and Faculty members of the University of Haifa
- Inauguration and dedication of the Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities, by Mrs. Lily Safra and with a keynote address by Dr. Kenneth R. Pugh of Yale University
- An exhibition of applied research projects, in partnership with the Carmel-Haifa University Economic Corp. Ltd
- Inauguration and dedication of the Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Marine Geosciences, by Mr. Ernest Strauss
- An evening to honor academic excellence: Higher Education as an Engine of Economic Growth, with a keynote address by Finance Minister Dr. Yuval Steinitz
- Lecture by Mrs. Tzipi Livni, MK, Head of Opposition
- Presidential Scholarships ceremony: a new campaign for outstanding doctoral students

We look forward to hosting and honoring many of our supporters at the 37th Meeting of the Board of Governors and sincerely hope that the meeting will secure and increase commitment to the academic and research excellence and growth of the University.

Prof. Aaron Ben Ze’ev, President

Port Campus inauguration

The University of Haifa ceremonially inaugurated its Port Campus branch in the presence of President of the University, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze’ev, Rector of the University, Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi and Mayor of Haifa, Yona Yahav. “The Port Campus project brings the growth and success of the University into focus. Haifa’s downtown will become a bustling area proudly home to faculties of the University of Haifa, the Technion and a number of colleges,” Prof. Ben-Ze’ev said.

The Port Campus branch is only a few minutes’ walk away from the train station, enabling the University to extend its activities in the Port building, equipped with new classrooms and up-to-date computer rooms that provide communication with the library, departments, administration and other students. The street adjacent to the campus will be closed to traffic and will serve as a plaza surrounded by cafes and restaurants.

“Haifa has the largest number of students in the country, and one of the goals for which the Port Campus has been established is to connect the students with the city of Haifa. I am very happy with the partnership between the University of Haifa and the Haifa Municipality; with joint efforts it will lead to prosperity and advancement of education in the city of Haifa,” Prof. Ben-Ze’ev stated. Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi, Rector of the University, added that the Port Campus branch will be a focal point for outstanding higher education in the region.

“This is a historic day, as we realize part of our vision to turn Haifa into the central student city of Israel,” said Haifa’s Mayor, Yona Yahav. According to Mr. Yahav, the establishment of the Port Campus is the first such project in the world where municipal rejuvenation is based on higher education. “Our partnership in this project is for the coming 25 years, at least. I am confident that the success of the campus will lead to further projects, and we will make every effort for the Port Campus and the Haifa University branch to succeed and thrive,” concluded Vice President for Administration, Mr. Baruch Marzan, who managed the establishment of the campus on behalf of the University of Haifa.

The Port Campus branch currently provides courses from the School of Creative Arts Therapies, the Center for Tourism, Pilgrimage and Recreation Research, the Division of Continuing Education & Extension Studies, the Pre-academic Unit, and the Graduate School of Management.

Mayor of Haifa, Mr. Yona Yahav (left) and President of the University Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze’ev inaugurate the Port Campus branch.

Left to right: Vice President for Administration, Mr. Baruch Marzan, President of the University, Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze’ev, Mayor of Haifa, Mr. Yona Yahav, Rector of the University, Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi
Olympics and academics

A cocktail was held at the home of Sir Maurice and Lady Hatter of London honoring Lord Sebastian Coe, former Olympic champion and currently Chair of the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, and Mr. Alex Gilady, a senior member of the International Olympic Committee. Prominent guests included Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Fraenkel, President of the University of Haifa Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze’ev, Vice President for External Relations of the University Mr. Amos Gaver, Friends of the University of Haifa and other prominent guests.

Lady Hatter welcomed the guests and introduced Lord Coe, who spoke of the Olympic Movement’s commitment to world peace and its role in bridging national, political, and religious differences. “London 2012 will ensure a well organized and secure Games for athletes, officials and spectators alike, and we will constantly restate our message about the strength and unity that the Olympics and Paralympics gain through our diversity,” Lord Coe assured those present as he recognized the concerns still hovering almost forty years after the terrible events at the Munich games in 1972, and appreciating the great Jewish and Israeli contribution to the Games.

Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze’ev addressed the similar role of bridging social and cultural differences at the University of Haifa, where students and faculty of different religions and cultures work together toward academic excellence and social responsibility. “Just as sports, and the Olympic Games in particular, can facilitate social change and bridge religions and culture, the University of Haifa proudly does the same as a microcosm of Israeli society dedicated to academic excellence in Israel.”

The event raised awareness of the University of Haifa and hopefully contributed to fostering relations with future partners in the University’s development.

Earlier in the day, the group took a fascinating bus tour of the new London 2012 Olympic Park.

Chairman of the Board of Governors meets Bill Clinton

Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Leon H. Charney and Bill Clinton discussed the Middle East at a Fundraising event in New York.

Commitment to Community Mental Health Studies

Mr. Alfred Tauber of Boston, Massachusetts, a prominent donor to the University of Haifa who grants scholarships to advanced degree students of the University’s Department of Community Mental Health, visited the campus and met with Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze’ev, President of the University, and with the 11 recipients of the scholarships that he granted. These students carry out their practical work at the hospitals in the Haifa region. Mr. Tauber, accompanied by his assistant Ms. Sylvia Tessler-Lozowick, spoke of his esteem for Prof. David Roe, head of the University of Haifa’s Department of Community Mental Health in the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Studies. He expressed his eagerness to continue pursuing the project that he has been supporting and showed interest in additional projects at the University. The University of Haifa looks forward to building a long-lasting relationship with Mr. Tauber.
Benefactor of University lights torch at Israel’s 61st Independence Day ceremony

Philanthropist Younes Nazarian, a prominent contributor to the University of Haifa, was honored with lighting a torch at Israel’s 61st Independence Day ceremony on Mount Herzl “in honor of all those who generously and lovingly offer what they have to help solve social problems.”

Indeed, Mr. Nazarian is passionately dedicated to social welfare and to academic excellence. The Ima Foundation, established by the Younes and Soraya Nazarian family, donated 121 scholarships to University of Haifa students this year and 119 last year, in memory of each of the Israeli soldiers killed during the Second Lebanon War. Mr. Nazarian is one of the founders of the Fund of Tel Aviv, and works to promote education within Israel. He has also made great efforts to decrease social and economical disparities between various sections of the Israeli population, as well as other social welfares, such as cultural institutions and libraries both in the United States and Israel. Mr. Nazarian was honored with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 2007 by the University of Haifa.

Brenner-Meridor Scholarship ceremony

This year’s Brenner-Meridor Scholarships were awarded at a moving ceremony at the University of Haifa. The recipients were 21 B.A. and 11 M.A. students studying in the fields of education, psychology, physiotherapy, law, social work, occupational therapy and others. Prof. David Oppenheim, Head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Haifa, gave a stimulating and insightful keynote presentation on the importance of the emotional bond between autistic children and their parents.

The Brenner-Meridor Scholarship fund was founded in 1978 by the families of business partners Mila Brenner and Ya’akov Meridor. Each year the fund awards scholarships to B.A. and M.A. students at the University of Haifa in memory of the fallen soldiers of the Yom Kippur War. Bereaved families of the Yom Kippur War are invited to participate in the ceremonies, and, of course, many were present at this year’s ceremony, too.

Students eligible for the Brenner-Meridor scholarships must dedicate time to directing activities for groups of 10-12 children in “Gan Hayeled” in Haifa. The children who participate in these student activities range from kindergarten age to teens. The older children are guided in life skills to enable them to become productive and successful adults.

Left to right: Mrs. Michal Brenner, Dean of Students Prof. Yoav Lavee, and scholarship recipient Ms. Ronit Barkov
Honorary Doctorates at the 37th Meeting of the Board of Governors

At this year’s meeting of the Board of Governors, each of the five recipients of the degree of doctor of philosophy, honoris causa, has a special relationship with and love for the city of Haifa.

Mrs. Lily Safra is strongly committed to the support of education, science, medicine, religion, culture, and welfare projects, and has enabled significant advancements at the University of Haifa. Mrs. Safra is chair of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, which has generously contributed to the establishment of the University’s Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities and the Edmond J. Safra Unit for the Advancement of Learning Disability Research in the Arabic Language. Mr. Amos Gaver, Vice President for External Relations, visited the Safra Foundation in Switzerland earlier this year and trusts that the University’s ties with the Foundation will continue to develop. The University looks forward to honoring Mrs. Safra as guest at the inauguration and dedication of the Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities on the first day of the Meeting of the Board of Governors. We hope that Mrs. Safra will continue her generous commitment to the University of Haifa and enjoy seeing the fruits of her dedication for many years to come.

Prof. Onno J. Boxma is a leading expert in the field of applied probability and stochastic operations, particularly of queueing theory and its application to the performance analysis of computer, communication and production systems. He is Professor of Stochastic Operations Research at Eindhoven University of Technology and has carried out extensive research in cooperation with scientists from Haifa and all over Israel.

Mr. Sami Michael is a 1971 graduate of the University of Haifa with a degree in Psychology and Arabic Literature. His award-winning works of literature deal with the various facets of Israeli society and the powerful and realist writing excels in respect for the freedom of mankind. His widely translated works have been adapted for film, television and theater. A special route in Haifa has been dedicated in his honor: “Sami Michael Way – Man is the Crown of Creation.” Mr. Michael is President of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

Mr. Harry Sessler has been a very active supporter of the University of Haifa for many years, while also dedicating time and energy to other public activity. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the University, and Vice Chairman of the board of the University’s Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum. Mr. Sessler is also a member of the board of the University’s Herzl Institute for Research and Studies of Zionism and the Reuben Hecht Chair for the Study of Zionism and History, and was formerly a member of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Ernst Fraenkel, OBE, is a member of the University of Haifa’s Board of Governors and an active member of the British Friends of the University of Haifa. Under his management, London’s Wiener Library became recognized around the world as a leading Holocaust research archive. In 1988, he founded the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History, an award given annually for original research. Mr. Fraenkel was a 1996 recipient of the University of Haifa’s Carmel Award of Merit. We look forward to sharing our commitment to the University’s distinction with Mr. Fraenkel for many years to come.