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Summary of the University's 40th Board of Governors Meeting

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The University of Haifa celebrated its 40th Meeting of the Board of Governors under the theme of "*The Israeli Mosaic*" with numerous events, meetings, decisions, and awards ceremonies. *At a Glance* is happy to return following an absence of several weeks in order to summarize the main events of the 40th Board of Governors session.



2

The events of the Board of Governors Meeting commenced on Saturday night, June 2nd, in the emotional event *40 Years of Leadership* in which generations of University leadership took part. Presidents, rectors, Chairmen of the Executive Committee and University staff who accompanied the University throughout its 40 years of growth, arrived to once more sign the Declaration of the Establishment of the University. "We, the University leadership throughout the ages, wish to thank the thousands of the University's academic and administrative staff who made it possible for this vision to become a reality and who have been and are still an inseparable part of this vision," was written in the text appended to the resigning of the original text.



3

"A few minutes ago you put your trust in me and ratified my appointment as the next President of the University of Haifa. I thank you for your trust. It is not something I take for granted. And I am now obligated to prove to those who have entrusted me with the position that they have not been mistaken," said Amos Shapira moments after his appointment as the next President of the University of Haifa was ratified by the University's Board of Governors. <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5867>. For Amos Shapira's full speech: <http://actveng.haifa.ac.il/PDF/english/President-elect-speech-PDF.pdf>

**4**

A festive and exciting opening ceremony for the University's 40th Meeting of the Board of Governors which celebrated "The Israeli Mosaic". The hundreds of guests in the audience watched as nine honorary doctorates were conferred and as the University launched its Friends & Alumni Association. Leading members of Israel's judiciary system, business leaders, ambassadors, Knesset members, "Or Yarok" volunteers, and members of the University community attended to celebrate with the University. <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5844>

**5**

Following over five years of construction, work was finally completed at the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library. The official dedication ceremony took place in the presence of the Nazarian family during the 40th Meeting of the Board of Governors. The new Library wing encompasses approximately 4,500 square meters and the entire project, along with the renovation of the older Library structure, is estimated to cost approximately 72 million NIS. The University's Library holds about 2.3 million items and is the largest academic library in Israel. However, with time, the structure designed about 30 years ago over an area of about 11 thousand square meters became too crowded for the enormous variety of books, manuscripts, media files, etc. Now there will be plenty of room for all.

**6**

A unique and interactive exhibition opened during the course of the Board of Governors Meeting – the 40th Anniversary Exhibition: "Forty" which honors the University's 40 years. The exhibition was curated by Sharon Poliakine, Head of the Department of Fine Arts and University Curator, along with Dr. Emma Maayan-Fanar of the Department of Art History. Aside from the photos from the University's past, the exhibition includes hundreds of postcards with photos from the past that the visitors can sift through and take with them. "Above all else, the exhibition expresses the amazing growth of the University. We are celebrating a University milestone as one does among family and friends. Not as outside observers, but by looking back together on its birth and what it had achieved by its tenth birthday, how it looked at twenty-five, and what it looks like today," said Baruch Marzan, the University's Vice President and Director General, in the opening ceremony.



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The prestigious Bahat Prize, the highest award in the country for outstanding non-fiction works of the university press, was also conferred within the framework of the Board of Governors Meeting. <http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=5591#more-5591>

**8**

This year, as was the case last year, the second evening of the Board of Governors Meeting honored "Groundbreaking Science": At a special event in the presence of the Minister of Finance, Dr. Yuval Steinitz, the University proudly dedicated the Sagol Department of Neurobiology & Ethology, headed by Prof. Kobi Rosenblum, and inaugurated the Emili Sagol Creative Arts Therapies Research Center, headed by Prof. Rachel Lev-Wiesel, in the presence of Mrs. Tova and Dr. Sami Sagol, 2011 *Honoris Causa*, who donated generously to both units. During the course of the event Dr. Steinitz spoke, and researchers from the Sagol Department of Neurobiology & Ethology summarized their novel and groundbreaking brain research. The climax of the evening was the personal story of a young lady who had undergone sexual abuse by a family member as a child, and who had overcome the trauma via art therapy with Prof. Lev-Wiesel. Mrs. Tova Sagol, who was moved to tears, walked onstage and said: "Until now we talked about the researchers, and that our donation will assist in their research efforts. Now we heard the other side, which is perhaps even more important, and towards which we are proud to give."

**9**

In the 40th Board of Governors Meeting Plenary Session, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Faculty of Law, a special panel took place with guest of honor Supreme Court President (Ret.) Justice Dorit Beinich, who was also awarded the Yakir HaCarmel Award from University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev and Rector Prof. David Faraggi. Law Faculty members Prof. Gad Barzilai, Prof. Shulamit Almog, and Prof. Eli Salzberger questioned the retired President about the burning legal-public issues in Israel to which she responded: "I believe in the silent majority that will not allow for the breakdown of our democratic regime. I do not think that a real attempt to undermine the status of the Supreme Court will succeed here."

**10**

The Eshkol Tower has been named as such for about 30 years now, and during the course of the Board of Governors Meeting, a touching ceremony took place on the fourth (entrance) floor of the Tower, the unveiling ceremony of the Levi Eshkol sculpture, Israel's third Prime Minister. Participants included members of the Eshkol family such as his daughter Prof. Ofra Nevo from the Department of Psychology, his son-in-law and the University's first president Eliezer Rafaeli, as well as additional family members. "The special connection between Eshkol and the University of Haifa was given proper expression when the University's central building, symbol of the University in which we are currently standing in its shadow, was named after him. As befits the third Prime Minister, it dominates the entire HaCarmel,



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The University is in the media: The events of the Board of Governors Meeting received wide coverage in the local and world media. *Yedioth Aharonot* devoted its back cover to the University on the day following the festive opening event. Channels Two and One News aired reports about the ceremony, and Channel One even aired live coverage from the International Convention Center. The financial papers covered, almost on a daily basis, the list of distinguished individuals who arrived to the events, while the internet sites continuously covered the various activities. The Spanish and Italian media also reported to their communities about the opening ceremony, in which the Spanish Minister of Justice and the President of the Province of Trento in Italy each received honorary doctorate degrees.



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and is seen from afar from every area in Haifa and has become a sort of terrestrial lighthouse and a pronounced landmark in the landscape of Northern Israel. Placing his statue at the foot of the building bearing his name is our modest way of celebrating Eshkol and his work, thanking him for his contribution to the State of Israel and the University of Haifa, and commemorating his memory for generations to come. May the State of Israel know more inspirational leaders and public figures as Eshkol, people with the central goal of action and not public relations," said University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev.

The 40th session of the Board of Governors Meeting featured many other events, including: a lecture by Prof. Manfred Lahnstein, Vice Chairman and Acting Chair of the Board of Governors Meeting, within the framework of the Bucerius Institute for Research of German Contemporary History and Society, on the subject of "Israel-Germany – Evolving Basis of a Special Relationship"; a festive luncheon commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies; "Honoring our Students" scholarships and awards ceremony; and an academic panel on "Can Mental Illness be Prevented? Early Detection and Intervention in Mental Health" sponsored by "Bridge over Troubled Water", the Center for the Study and Advancement of Youth Mental Health, Department of Psychology, and with honorary guest and keynote speaker Prof. Patrick D. McGorry, Honorary Doctorate Degree recipient.



University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev and Vice President for External Relations and Resource Development Amos Gaver, who is in charge of the Meeting of the Board of Governors, would like to thank everyone from the various units and departments that helped make the Meeting a success. "Due to the teamwork of all the University's relevant bodies and units the 40th session of the Board of Governors Meeting was a great success. I would like to thank the staff of the Division of External Relations and Resource Development, headed by the Executive Director Rachel Kaverman, who worked for a long time on each and every event; the administrative staff headed by Vice President and University Director General Baruch Marzan that assisted with the logistics; the academic staff headed by Rector Prof. David Faraggi who helped make every single event unique; the staff at the Research Authority headed by Vice President and Dean of Research Prof. Michal Yerushalmy that knew how to shine a spotlight on the many research activities taking place at the University; and the finance staff headed by CFO and Head of Business Development Shuki Shai who knew when to be cautious and when to be generous. As always, without the devoted assistance of the administrative and academic staff, the events would never have been executed," from the words of Amos Gaver to the University of Haifa Community.

