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This week's At a Glance is dedicated to the 43rd Board of Governors held at the University last week. This year's meeting was held over three eventful days where the University of Haifa Governors received an in-depth view of the vast academic and social activities the University is engaged in. One of the highlights of this year's event was the Honorary Doctorate Ceremony where seven deserving individuals received Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa): the famous actress **Orna Porat**; the journalist and writer **Noah Klieger**; **Prof. Carol Padden** on her pioneering and ongoing contribution to the study of sign language; **Prof. Robert Alter** in recognition of his extraordinary achievements in the study of comparative literature in general, and in study and translating of Hebrew literature in particular; **Jay and Shira Ruderman** in recognition of visionary leadership contributing towards the acceptance of those who are 'different' and 'outsiders' in the mainstream, and their generous contribution to establishing the Ruderman Program for American-Jewish Studies at the University of Haifa; and **Felix Posen** in recognition of his great contribution to strengthening Jewish culture through education, instruction, and knowledge, and on his contribution to the University of Haifa in establishing programs for teaching the Jewish tradition, and for establishing the Posen Forum for the Study of Jewish, Israeli and European Political Thought.



During the meeting we showed several short films produced by the University for our Governors and Guests to enjoy. The purpose of these short films is to introduce faculty members and their important work. Please see links for clips about Prof. Gabi Weimann - <http://youtu.be/IGBa-gJNEWM> , Prof. Guy Bar-Oz - <http://youtu.be/kj10LxJbW9g> and Prof. Tami Katzir - <http://youtu.be/qD6S-KCqNt0>.

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The 43rd Meeting opened with a festive event commemorating donors who gave towards student scholarships, and this year the focus was on donors who gave scholarships towards students who served as reservists during Operation Protective Edge last summer. The event was held in Daliyat el Carmel. In this event, a Distinguished Israeli Citizenship Award to dormitory residents for their outstanding activities was awarded.

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The Opening Plenary of this year's Meeting of the Board of Governors was opened with the traditional reports from the Chairman **Prof. Alfred Tauber**, the Chairman of the Executive Committee **Ami Ayalon**, the President Amos Shapira, the Rector **Prof. David Faraggi**, and the outgoing Chairman of the Control Committee, **Dr. Eitan Adres**. The Guest Lecturer for the Plenary Session was **George Deek**, an Arab-Christian born Israeli diplomat and former Deputy Ambassador of Israel in Norway and Nigeria who gave an interesting lecture titled: "Jerusalem and Oslo: it's complicated".

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During the same meeting, the Rector, **Prof. David Faraggi** awarded three prizes: The Dusty and Ettie Miller Fellowship for Outstanding Young Scholars to **Dr. Sigal Zilcha-Mano** from the Department of Psychology; The 2014/5 Rector's Award for Outstanding Lecturer to **Dr. Omer Kimhi** from the Faculty of Law; and the 2014/5 Rector's Award for Outstanding Researcher to **Prof. Guy Bar-Oz**, the Head of the Department of Archaeology and the recipient of a prestigious ERC EU research grant for his fascinating research. This link is a short film about Prof. Bar-Oz and his research: [Prof. Bar-Oz Revealed](#)

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The University invited the participants of this year's BOG Meeting on a tour of the Northern border and received a fascinating view of the challenges facing the Galilee region and the Northern Border from **Prof. Arnon Soffer** Head of the Chaiklin Chair in Geostrategy. The guests also enjoyed visiting the Ma'agan Mikhael Ancient Ship Replica Project in Acre hosted by **Prof. Yaacov Kahanov**, Head of the Restoration Project and saw firsthand the wonderful Community Improvement Projects taking place in Acre with **Dr. Noga Collins-Kreiner**, Head of the Center for Research on Haifa and Northern Israel.

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Some highlights from the President's Report: "the University is continuing to grow and develop. We have absorbed over 100 new researchers, and saw an increase of approximately 1000 students. There is also a 30% increase in fundraising. These are just some of the accomplishments of the past 3 years. He continued and stressed that the University is continuing its growth and basing itself as a leading research institute in many areas of research. Our University has a great deal of importance in promoting scientific discovery in Israel and abroad and strengthening the State of Israel, making it a better place to live for future generations, regardless of their religion, gender and race.

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One of the ceremonies to take place during this meeting was the inauguration of the Hatter Pedestrian Bridge. The bridge is vital for the student population and anyone parking in the outlying parking areas of the University campus, because it provides a safe way to cross the busy road separating the University and these parking areas. The bridge not only provides a safe crossing point but it also serves as an outlook point where anyone can enjoy the gorgeous views of the Carmel. The ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Haifa, **Mr. Yona Yahav** and the student representatives, past and present. The construction of this important bridge was made possible



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A wonderful tradition which has been established at the annual meeting of the Board of Governors is the German Friends Association Festive Reception. This year it was held under the title "Living Together in a Diverse Environment - The University of Haifa as a Role Model for Coexistence". **Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel**, President of Board of the German Friends Association and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, presented the various projects being supported by the German Friends: the Jewish-Arab Community Leadership Program, ZEIT-Stiftung Grant in the Werner Otto Graduate Arab Women Scholarship Program, Classmates for Coexistence Program and the Druze Community, Local Government and the Carmel Biosphere Reserve Project Haifa meets Frankfurt Project. During the event **Prof. Rassem Khamaisi**, Head of the Jewish Arab Center, presented his research titled "Living Together in a Diverse Campus" supported by **Dr. Ingrid Tauber** and the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation, and **Prof. Dr. Michael Goering** moderated a fascinating panel discussion dealing with the subject title of the entire event.



with the generous support of **Sir Maurice and Lady Irene Hatter** from the United Kingdom, the Municipality of Haifa and the University of Haifa.

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Another event during the meeting was the Celebration of the Construction of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences Building which will be home to 10 departments and schools which make up the third largest Faculty at the University. The construction of the 5,300 square meter building is scheduled to be completed in 2018. Special guests during the ceremony were **Prof. Arnon Afek**, the Director General of the Ministry of Health, who stated that he commends the combination of welfare and health studies being housed together and it should serve as an example as to how these two areas should collaborate, and Yossi Silman, the Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, added that he hopes that the profession of welfare and health will be housed under the same Ministry. He stated that "it is the future of the field". "The essence of our activities is to make Israel a better place to live in" stated the Dean of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences **Prof. Shai Linn**.



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During the second day of the meeting the University held a day of discussions titled Israel and the World – Academic Perspectives. The Keynote speaker was: **Prof. Uzi Arad** from the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya and former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister and head of the National Security Council. His fascinating lecture was titled "The Global Strategic Challenge - A Strong Israel in a Perilous World". The discussion day also included discussions dealing with global Israeli relations: Europe and Israel, North American and Israel and the Middle East and Israel.



On this day, the lunch event was dedicated to the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of German-Israel Relations and the 15th Anniversary of the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society. The discussion day concluded with a fascinating lecture on Israel and the World given by **Prof. Manfred Lahnstein**, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ZEIT-Stiftung and former German Federal Minister of Finance and Economics, as well as former Chairman of the University Board of Governors



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The Concluding Plenary Session commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the Department of Communication. The Head of the Department and a graduate of its first class, **Prof. Yariv Tsfati**, remarked on the importance of communications studies in Israel, studies whose graduates have integrated in the media and other important areas. He also spoke about **Prof. Gabi Weimann**, one of the founders of the Department.



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During the Concluding Session the University also awarded the Carmel Award of Merit to **Mr. Chaim Yavin**, who is also known in Israel as "Mr. Television". He received the prestigious Carmel Award of Merit for his groundbreaking and pioneering work that inspired an entire generation of journalists and communication professionals; for his professionalism, creativity and commitment to seeking the truth; for his contributions to developing Israel's communications industry; for unifying Israeli society through documentary series that addressed core issues of Israeli society and identity, and; for being, for many years, the most trusted national figure bringing the local and international news to the Israeli public.



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During the event, a campaign was launched for raising funds for the proposed Faculty of Law Building. The campaign was launched in an event sponsored by the Swiss Friends of the University of Haifa in the presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Law, **Prof. Gad Barzilai**, faculty members, **Adv. Oded Dardikman** a Board member of the Swiss Friends and President **Amos Shapira**.



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This year the University of Haifa awarded a record number of PhDs, 155 to be exact, in a festive ceremony. The new PhDs joined the traditional academic procession led by the University administration and the Mayor of Haifa. The procession took to the streets of Haifa where citizens joined in the celebration.

