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1

Last week the final event of the "Jewish-Arab Community Leadership" project took place. The project has been supported for many years by the German Friends Association and the Myers Foundation, USA. A selected team of students participated in this important project over the past year, and some of them taught a group of Jewish and Arab children from the Leo Baeck Institute and the Neve Yosef Community Center, and initiated exciting activities with them. "The final event was the highlight of the extensive activities held throughout the year, and aimed to bring Jewish and Arab children, teens and adults closer to each other", said Iris Fessler, Head of the Unit for Social Leadership Dean of Students.



2

Also the "Flagship Project for Combating Social Exclusion" made a special event at the end of the year and presented the many projects that have been carried out by community members of the University together with residents of Haifa. The "Flagship Project", led by Dr. Ronny Strier (who is on sabbatical leave abroad) and Prof. Yoav Lavi, collaborated with the Social Welfare Department the Leo Baeck Institute. For the second time it was chosen the "Best Project" of its kind on behalf the Education Council.



3

The last part of the project "Frankfurt meets Haifa" took place this week. The project has been conducted for several years, with the support of the German Friends Association, headed by Sonja Lahnstein. A delegation of 16 students and University staff members visited the city of Haifa, in order to meet with Jewish, Arab and Druze students. For most of the German students it was the first time to be in Israel. They heard lectures on the city of Haifa, about coexistence; they descended the stairs from Carmel to the downtown city, and visited the House "Gefen" in Wadi Nisnas. "The city of Haifa is giving a good example and hope, showing how co-existence and living together peacefully is possible" said Prof. Adital Ben Ari, Director and initiator of the project.



4

Spotlights on the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library: For the 4th time it celebrated the ["book-week" event](#), and this year for the first time in cooperation with the Student Union. Dozens of members of the administrative and academic staff as well as students have been present. They enjoyed a lecture by Prof. Amoz Dafni about his recently published book, accompanied by music from Michal Golan of the School of Arts and Bar Carthy from the Music Department. The event began with the launch of a new photo exhibition of the students of the Department of Communication - "Leakage Image" presented in the reading room at the south wing of the library. At the end of the event they opened the book market 'Give & Take'. The books have been donated recently by faculty members and students.



5

About half of Israel's citizens are willing to have the state monitoring their online activities, if it would help to boost national security, according to a study conducted at the School of Political Sciences. The research, conducted by Professors Daphna Canetti, Michael Gross and Dr. Dana Vashdi, indicated that 53% of the test persons agreed that the government will monitor their e-mail and their activities in the social networks. Of the 470 participants, 37% agreed that the government will have control over the social networks and 28% approve the blocking of certain websites. "One of the things the public is not sufficiently aware of is the harm that even could cost human lives. There is a serious potential for injuries, for example if someone's succeeds to cut off the electricity at the hospital", said Prof. Canetti to the newspaper ["Ha'aretz"](#). For further reading: [University Web Site](#)



6

Did you know: breastfed babies have a lower risk of developing childhood leukemia, according to Dr. Efrat Amitai, from the School of Public Health, who conducted the study. "Babies who were breastfed for at least 6 months have 19% less chance of developing leukemia, compared with infants not breastfed or breastfed for a shorter period," she said to the [New York Times](#).



7

Prof. Eli Somer from the School of Social Work has been interviewed this morning by the magazine "[The Current of the CBC, Canada's public radio](#)", for a study on maladaptive daydreaming. "Daydreaming can be seen as an enjoyable mental rest. But when daydreaming occurs frequently, it can lead to a real addiction," he said.



8

"The summer starts and symbolizes for most of us watermelon, ice cream and the beach. There is hardly an Israeli who won't visit the beach at least once a year, to swim, surf, paddle, and walk on the beach, dive, and build sand castles or simply to watch the sunset. We all want to enjoy a clean beach with white sand and shells, but this commodity - clean sand - is becoming a rarity. The amount of coastal and marine waste has been growing in recent years, and was recognized in 2012 by the United Nations as a problem that requires immediate attention", wrote Galia Pasternak, a doctoral student from the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and an expert on marine pollution.



9

How the treatment of heart disease has changed in the past decade? "If a patient that suffers from a heart attack is brought into the cath lab within 90 minutes after arriving at the hospital, his chances of survival are very high and he would be spared complications in the healing process. That has been the consensus among experts in cardiology in the last decades. However, a recent study published in the prestigious medical journal "The New England Journal of Medicine" is challenging the consensus. The study found that the average time lapse from the arrival of the patient to the hospital to perform the procedure decreased to 67 minutes since 1983 - but despite the decreased time the mortality rates have not changed, "wrote Dr. Jaffa Shir-Raz, School of Public Health.

