



At a Glance

Latest News from the University of Haifa

**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

We are proud to announce that the Fall 2016 issue of the University's English Language magazine [New Heights](#) is out! *New Heights* is an initiative of the Division of External Relations and Resources Development to provide a snapshot for our friends abroad on the most important and exciting projects and students activities at the University. This edition has in-depth interviews with incoming President Prof. Ron Robin and Rector Prof. Gustavo Mesch. In research, a story on the Zinman Institute of Archeology's features leading discoveries at the Hippos-Sussita site, while in the oceans the magazine looks at Israel's first underwater ROV, due to arrive at the Helmsley Mediterranean Sea Research Center (generously supported by the Helmsley Charitable Trust from the US). Arab student artist, Shada Zuabi talks about her innovative work on Israeli identity at the School of the Arts, while we see Robotics students at Prof. Dan Feldman's Big Data Lab and their fascinating work on drones. The Department of External Relations and Resource Development is planning to issue a corresponding e-magazine, as well as several issues a year.



2

Would you like to know more about the new President Prof. Ron Robin? An [informal video portrait](#), one of a series at the University, might give you a better idea. Prof. Robin talks about his favourite book and film, his most memorable moment, what he missed most while he was out of Israel for 10 years – and a little about how he sees the University in the future.



3

A decade after [the Raveh Ravid Fund](#) for Promoting Excellence, Leadership and Social Responsibility was first established, 110 scholarship alumni and current student recipients gathered in the Yitzhak Rabin Center in Tel Aviv for a conference to celebrate the program. The Raveh Ravid Fund was co-founded by Mr. Itzhak Ravid, Mr. Abir Raveh, Ms. Nitza Ginossar and Mr. Yair Goldfinger. Thanks to their support, over the years the Fund has sponsored outstanding students from Israel's peripheries who have benefitted from an initiative designed to help cultivate social awareness and leadership skills in the next generation. Like their alumni predecessors, student participants came from a variety of faculties and departments. Representatives of the Raveh Ravid Foundation joined the alumni for the event, as well as University President Prof. Ron Rubin, Head of the Unit for Social Involvement, Ms. Iris Fessler and her team.



4

Ms. Lian Najami, graduate of the University of Haifa and former participant of the Jewish-Arab Community Leadership Program spoke in an event organized by the American Society of the University of Haifa in Boston. Lian talked about her experiences of the program, which is supported by the German Friends Association, led by its President and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein. Lian talked about her realistic vision of Israel as a democracy. The Community Leadership Program brings together Jewish and Arab students in community and leadership activities, often changing their perspectives of the 'other side' in Israel's multi-ethnic population, as they get to know each other as friends. Lian is also a spokesperson for Israel, speaking on its behalf at US campuses, and she is now an intern at the US congress.



5

A group of German representatives of the Staatspolitische Gesellschaft e.V. (Political Institutions Society) from Hamburg, were also impressed by the Jewish Arab Community Leadership program when they met with Bat-El Ashkenazy and Shaheen Weaam, the two students who are the coordinators of the program this year. The group was on a fact-finding mission to Israel. They listened with interest to Prof. Rassem Khamaisi, Head of the Jewish-Arab Center, speak about multi-cultural relations in Israel and at the University, while Dr. Amalia Sa'ar, Head of the Center for Research on Peace Education focused on her Center and the realities of coexistence in the University and in Israel. The group said they enjoyed the visit and were glad to have the opportunity to learn more about students' real life experiences especially.



6

The [First International Music Education Conference of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra](#) has invited Prof. Taiseer Elias of the Department of Music, who is also the Musical Director and conductor of the Arab-Jewish orchestra, and Prof. Oz Almog of the Department of Israel Studies to be keynote speakers at the conference next spring. The event is being organized in cooperation with Keynote, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's program for Music Education and Community Outreach. The conference will be attended by top researchers, musicologists and ethnomusicology as well as leading educators from Israel and abroad.



7

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library has just completed a wide-ranging project of digitization and accessibility implementation for the [Al Karmil](#) journal of Arabic Language and literature produced by the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the University. The process has enabled electronic access to all editions of the journal. It has been the culmination of collaboration between the Al Karmil network, Dr. Ali Hussein of the Department of Arabic Language and the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library. Al Karmil is an academic journal published annually with an international network of contributors composed of senior scholars in the field of Arabic language and literature. Since 2004-2005, it has been a bilingual journal which publishes articles in Arabic and European languages (English and French). Articles can be viewed at the University's [website](#), in the [Digital Media Center](#) and the library database search system.



With the problem of sex trafficking growing around the world, Prof. Shulamit Almog of the Faculty of Law has been considering how laws can tackle the problem. In her blog for the online US paper [‘The Huffington Post’](#) Prof. Almog also discusses national laws on prostitution. Surprisingly, prostitution is legal in Israel under certain constraints. Prof. Almog examines the issue following a recent opinion poll which shows that Israelis would like it to be criminalized. The question remains though whether it should be client or prostitute, or both, that is charged.



Could we use owls to control pests in future? Perhaps, according to a new study by Dr. Motti Charter of the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology and Prof. Ido Izhaki, of the Department of Biology (Oranim). The [Jerusalem Post](#) features their investigation into whether owls could be biological control agents. Together with Prof. Ran Nathan of the Hebrew University and the Jewish National Fund, the researchers are studying the owls to see whether the idea is feasible. The next stage of the study plans to track the hunting and feeding habits of owls on farmland.

