

# HEIGHTS

UNIVERSITY  
OF HAIFA MAGAZINE  
SUMMER 2018

## Israel's Multiversity: Creating bridges of knowledge



Celebrating Israel's 70th

Redefining  
Social Sciences  
in a Big Data  
Era

p.12

Preparing  
tomorrow's  
problem  
solvers

p.14

Improving  
the lives of  
children at risk  
worldwide

p.16



*Welcome Governors and Guests  
to the University of Haifa's  
46th Board of Governors Meeting,  
Celebrating Israel at 70.*

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**HEIGHTS MAGAZINE**

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# HEIGHTS

## 46

חבר הנאמנים  
Board of Governors  
مجلس الأمناء

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# HAIFA BAY



## TAKING THE 'MULTIVERSITY' VISION TO THE NEXT LEVEL



Professor Ron Robin,  
University of Haifa  
President

**I**t gives me great pleasure to welcome you all, governors and friends, to the University of Haifa's 46th Board of Governors Meeting. This festive event occurs at an exciting moment for Israel and the University. Not long ago, we celebrated Israel's 70th anniversary and its remarkable achievements. Today, we are poised to open our new, expansive Downtown Campus, which marks the first stage of our five-year strategic plan to transform the University of Haifa into Israel's first "Multiversity". Driven by con-

tinual innovation in education, research, creativity, and entrepreneurship, the Multiversity vision will position the University as a hub for multidisciplinary studies and a catalyst for cutting-edge research, economic development and social mobility in Israel and the North.

The Multiversity model is especially suited to the current academic climate, which promotes

cross-disciplinary teaching and research, easy accessibility, and the increasing need for reskilling. This transformative model also encourages and supports academic mergers and strategic partnerships within Israel, with industry, and abroad.

According to the plan, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the University of Haifa will have expanded its academic activities beyond its Mount Carmel Campus to include academic portals in downtown Haifa and the Western Galilee:

### The Marine Sciences Portal

*(Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute, Kibbutz Sdot Yam, Ashdod and Acre)*

The establishment of new coastal branches of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences has enabled a significant expansion of research activities at the departments of Marine Biology, Dr. Moses Strauss Marine Geosciences, Hatter Marine Technologies and Marine Civilizations. Generous donations by Lady Irene and Sir Maurice Hatter and the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust provided for new laboratories and state-of-the-art marine equipment (ROV & AUV) for deep-sea research. Plans are underway to secure a building on the Haifa coast to serve as the future



home for marine conservation community outreach programs and research laboratories.

### **The Biotechnology & Health Care Portal** (Helmsley Health Discovery Tower)

We are making great strides in the implementation of our landmark agreement with the Rambam Health Care Campus to build the 20-floor Helmsley Health Discovery Tower. The Tower, located adjacent to the hospital, will help propel Israel's budding life sciences industry. The building project will create a historic opportunity for joint research and academic opportunities between three leading institutions: Rambam, the University of Haifa and the Technion Medical School. Six floors of the Tower will house University laboratories in the fields of nursing, neurobiology, personalized medicine and related areas. Construction of the Tower, which we hope will begin as early as August 2018, is being supported by a generous \$18 million grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

### **The Engineering Portal** (Karmiel)

Under a new academic agreement, the highly-regarded engineering school, ORT Braude College in the Western Galilee, will become the University of Haifa's Faculty of Engineering. Its location will afford us a unique opportunity to introduce university-level education to students in the region and will expand the University's contribution to Israel's fast growing high-tech industry. The academic merger is being made possible with the support of the governmental Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC); the Jewish National Fund, and the Karmiel Municipality.

### **The Industrial Design Portal** (Downtown Haifa)

The NB Haifa School of Design, located in downtown Haifa, is set to become the University's new Faculty of Design and Architecture. Plans to integrate the School's academic and professional activities into the University are being supported by the PBC, which is providing interim financing for the project. The project is currently in a holding pattern due to a court ruling on the composition of the School's executive council.

### **The Downtown Campus Portal**

Situated in the heart of Haifa's 'up and coming' port district, the University of Haifa's new Downtown Campus will be a leading academic and research hub for the rapidly growing fields of computer and information sciences, digital health, big data, and artificial intelligence. This portal will consist of several buildings dedicated to expanding the University's STEM offerings. In honor of a generous gift by the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation, one of the four buildings will be named the Dylan Tauber Building.

### **The China Portal**

With the establishment of this portal, the University has expanded its academic and research activities to Shanghai, Beijing and Hangzhou. A major agreement with Hangzhou Wahaha Group and the Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASIA) is establishing three joint Artificial Intelligence Technology Centers in Haifa, Beijing and Hangzhou. A partnership with the East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai led to the establishment of the ECNU-UH Joint Translational Science & Technology Research Institute at the ECNU campus that will serve as a hub for joint research, mainly in the areas of high-tech, statistics, neurosciences and marine sciences.

The multiplicity of portals enables the University to fulfill its commitment to cultivate the next generation of professionals, researchers and academics in a wide range of fields of knowledge and promote upward mobility for ethnic and social minorities and the expansion of professional opportunities for all members of the Start-up Nation.

I look forward to sharing with you this challenging and inspiring vision and value your ongoing partnership, support and thoughtful advice.

Sincerely,



**Prof. Ron Robin**  
President



University of Haifa Tower proudly lit up in celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary.



The new Dylan Tauber Building at the Downtown Campus.

# 2017 - 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## 32 New Faculty Members

### 1 Accelerated Bachelor's Degree

Intensive 2-Year BA Program in selected departments of Social Sciences and Humanities

## 3 New Research Centers

**Center of Excellence for Meaningful Learning: The Wisdom of Knowledge and the Heart**  
*Faculty of Education*

**Center of Excellence for Meaningful Learning: Citizen Science in School – The Breaking of Boundaries Between School and Society**  
*Faculty of Education*

**National Disaster Preparedness Research and Information Center**  
*Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under Extreme Conditions*

## Faculty Honors

**Chaikin Prize in Geostrategy**  
Dr. Ofer Israeli  
*Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences*

**Life Achievement Award, ESPAnet Israel**  
Prof. Roni Strier  
*Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences*

**Life Achievement Award for Promotion of Public Health**  
Prof. Manfred Green  
*School of Public Health*

**Rappaport Prize for Established Israeli Artists**  
Prof. Itzhak Golombek  
*School of the Arts*

**Michael Landau Prize for the Sciences and Research in Linguistics**  
Prof. Wendy Sandler  
*Faculty of Humanities*

## Student Awards

**Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW), second place in Israel**  
Gilad Katz, Ofer Magen and Yuval Sprintz, *Etgar* students  
*Department of Computer Science*

**Menachem Begin Heritage Center Prize for Research**  
Sagit Kerbis, PhD student  
*School of Political Science*

**President's Scholarship Award**  
Elad Uzan, *alumnus*  
*The Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies*

**The Rhodes Scholarship**  
Lian Najami, *alumna*  
*School of Political Science*





## The University of Haifa in Numbers

**2 Campuses**  
Mount Carmel Campus  
Haifa Downtown Campus

**4 Marine Sciences Satellites**  
Israel Oceanographic  
and Limnological  
Research Institute  
Kibbutz Sdot Yam  
Ashdod  
Acre

**7 Faculties** (56 Departments)  
Faculty of Education  
Faculty of Humanities  
Faculty of Law  
Faculty of Management  
Faculty of Natural Sciences  
Herta and Paul Amir Faculty  
of Social Sciences  
Faculty of Social Welfare  
and Health Sciences

**69 Research Institutes  
and Centers of  
Excellence**  
[resau.haifa.ac.il](http://resau.haifa.ac.il)

**8 Schools**  
Leon H. Charney School  
of Marine Sciences  
Graduate School of  
Creative Arts Therapies  
School of the Arts  
School of Criminology  
School of History  
School of Political Science  
School of Public Health  
School of Social Work

**16 International MA  
Programs**  
(taught in English)  
[uhaifa.org](http://uhaifa.org)



# UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA MAKES INTERNATIONAL HEADLINES

## Curbing the Spread of “Fake News” through Education

2017



**T**he University of Haifa’s decision to open a new course on the phenomena of “Fake News” stirred quite a bit of media attention at the start of the 2017–18 academic year. The goal of the course is to build critical thinking skills in processing messages coming from the media. The University is the first public research institution in Israel to open such a course.

According to Dr. Yaniv Levyatan, an expert in psychological warfare, digital marketing, and cyber warfare, “The fake news phenomenon has created a situation in which we can no longer believe anyone or anything, since we have no way of evaluating the credibility of the flood of information we encounter. People fail to appreciate that 50 percent of online traffic are bots (automated software applications) performing various actions in the web, including the production of fake news.” Aimed at curbing the spread of “Fake News”, his new course examines the evolution and social ramifications of the digital environment, ranging from the impact on the family and relations between parents and children, to the more obvious field of the relationship between government and citizens.

“Students who complete the course will be better equipped to analyze and absorb information generated by online social networks and media,” concludes Dr. Levyatan.

## Oldest human fossil outside of Africa found on Mount Carmel

2018

**T**he Discovery of what may be the oldest human fossil outside of Africa was found at the Mount Carmel Caves Excavation Site, led by Prof. Mina Weinstein-Evron, Head of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology.

A joint study by researchers from the University of Haifa and Tel Aviv University are attributing a fossilized human jawbone, discovered in a collapsed cave on the western slope of Mount Carmel in Israel, to being the earliest known remains of Homo sapien outside of Africa.



Oldest human jawbone fossil found in Israel places humans in the Eastern Mediterranean region 50,000 years earlier than previously believed.

Prof. Weinstein-Evron has been excavating the Mount Carmel Caves for nearly two decades, uncovering scores of discarded tools and animal bones spanning the 100,000 years in which the cave was in use. The jawbone is the only remnant of any early human species to be found. “The jawbone, with eight teeth intact, looked so modern that it took us five years including a specimen ‘world tour’ to convince the scientific world – they just couldn’t believe their eyes,” noted Prof. Weinstein-Evron.

The jawbone is dated to be between 177,000 to 94,000 years old. According to Prof. Israel Hershkovitz from Tel Aviv University, the significance of this finding places modern humans in the Eastern Mediterranean region 50,000 years earlier than previously thought, rewriting the early migration story of our species.



## Scientists Decode One of the Last Remaining Untranslated Dead Sea Scrolls

2018

**P**rof. Jonathan Ben-Dov and Dr. Eshbal Ratson of the Department of Biblical Studies and the University of Haifa Dead Sea Scrolls Project, have deciphered and restored one of the last two untranslated Qumran Scrolls out of some 900 ancient Jewish manuscripts unearthed more than 70 years ago. The text reveals insights into the unique 364-day calendar used by the Qumran Sect, a separatist Jewish community from the Second Temple Period exiled to the Judean Desert.

Researchers spent over a year painstakingly re-assembling more than 60 tiny fragments of parchment written in a secret code. The reward for their hard work is the discovery of a unique 364-day calendar used by the members of the sect to mark special days and transitions between the seasons. According to scientists, this calendar was involved in one of the fiercest debates between different Jewish groups during the late Second Temple period.

“The lunar calendar, which Judaism follows to this day, is dependent on human observations and decisions. By contrast, a 364-day calendar is unchanging, special occasions always fall on the same day because this number can be divided into four and seven. It therefore appears that the Qumran calendar embodied the beliefs of the members of this community regarding perfection and holiness,” concludes Prof. Ben-Dov. The Qumran sect, who referred to themselves as the Yahad (“Together”) community, were a fanatical group that lived a hermitic life in caves near the Dead Sea.



Infrared image of reconstructed dead sea scroll



## Genetic Mutation in the LRRK2 Gene Associated with Crohn's Disease

2018



Prof. Gil Atzmon

**A**n international study has identified a gene associated with Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammatory bowel disease. Among the authors of the study is Prof. Gil Atzmon, Head of the Laboratory of Genetics and Epigenetics of Aging at the University of Haifa's Faculty of Natural Sciences.

According to the study, involving some 50 researchers worldwide, people who carry the mutation in the LRRK2 gene are at high risk of developing Crohn's disease. Prof. Atzmon explains that being able to identify carriers of the gene at a young age will enable geneticists to monitor disease activity more closely with the goal of lowering the chance of disease outbreak. Of major significance is that the same mutation has already been identified as a factor increasing the risk of developing Parkinson's disease, a degenerative brain disease. This is the first time researchers have identified any similar or associated mechanisms involved in Crohn's and Parkinson's disease.

According to recent studies, Crohn's develops in three to 14 people out of every 100,000 in any given year. The disease is particularly prevalent in two main age groups: 15 to 30 years and 60 to 80 years. The reasons for the development of the disease remain unclear, but may involve a combination of environmental, genetic and immune factors.

Prof. Atzmon noted that, “The development of a drug that can respond both to the risk of Crohn's and the risk of Parkinson's could be a real breakthrough that will be beneficial for large numbers of people.”

# Following the Music



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Haifa native Elias Julianos is not a typical college student. With two undergraduate degrees in law and music already under his belt, he is currently pursuing a master's degree in music at the University of Haifa's School of the Arts. He is also a fast-rising Arab singer, with more than a dozen hit singles to his name.

Members of the University of Haifa's Arab-Jewish Orchestra with Conductor and Musical Director Prof. Taiseer Elias (far right).



Elias Julianos performing with the University of Haifa's Arab-Jewish Orchestra at the ruins of an ancient church at Shivta National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **What factors have influenced your career path?**

I began singing professionally at a very early age. At home, we listened to Lebanese music, and I grew to love its distinct mix of Western and Eastern melodies and romantic lyrics. When I was 15, I formed a band. We performed mostly at weddings and special events. My parents urged me to choose a practical profession, so I went to study law. Over the years, my passion for singing and music just grew stronger and led me to follow my heart.

### **Why is music so special for you?**

In my experience, music has the power to strike chords of friendship and to build bridges between cultures. I love performing, and feel a great sense

of satisfaction when someone from another culture compliments my music. The broad-based music program at the University of Haifa lets me explore the influence of music on societies and cultures.

### **What attracted you to the Arab-Jewish Orchestra?**

The Arab-Jewish Orchestra inspires cooperation, openness and harmony, and its music appeals to a wide audience. The Orchestra is composed of Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Druze musicians who play instruments representing both East and West, and sing in Arabic, Hebrew, and English. Shortly after joining the orchestra, Prof. Yuval Shaked, Head of the School of the Arts, and the Orchestra's conductor and musical director Prof. Taiseer Elias, asked me to serve as the ensemble's vocal coach. I have especially enjoyed working with the singers on body language, stage presence, and intonation. The Orchestra has given concerts across Israel and worldwide, performing at venues in Europe and Latin America.

### **Plans for the future?**

To complete my master's degree in music, and continue to perform and inspire audiences on principles of tolerance, understanding, and friendship.

## Bridging Cultures Through the Arts

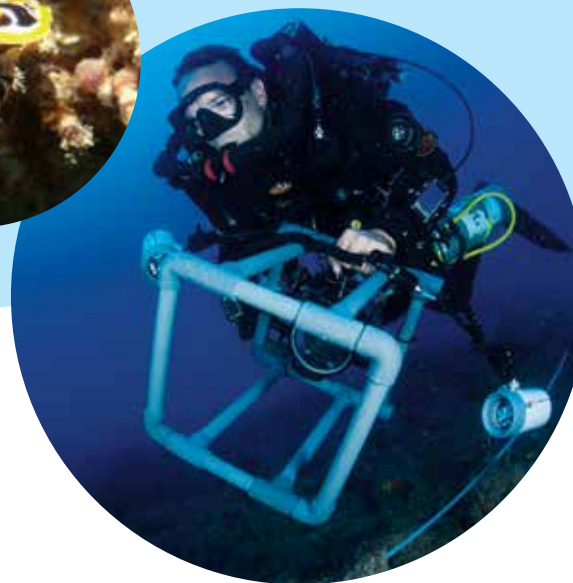
The School of the Arts at the University of Haifa is breaking ground with its vision of integrating artistic disciplines and culture. The School's innovative Department of Music has recently added a new project, 'The Caravan Project,' that brings international exchange students to

Haifa to participate in master classes and workshops on Arab music.

For more information about supporting activities of the Department of Music, please contact the Office of the Vice-President for External Relations and Resource Development.



# The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences Celebrates 10 Years of Excellence



“ ”

I envision the School's research endeavors serving as a catalyst for positive change in the geo-political reality of the Middle East and as a guiding light for global harnessing of the power of the sea.

- Leon H. Charney (1938-2016), Honorary Life Chairman of the Board of Governors

This year marks a special milestone for the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, Israel's only graduate school of marine sciences. Since its founding 10 years ago, the School has played a key role in protecting the country's precious maritime resources, shaping the nation's security and environmental agenda, and spearheading unique research initiatives with the scientific community in Israel and abroad. Over time, the School has significantly expanded its academic offerings to include marine biology, marine geosciences, marine technologies, and the study of ancient maritime civilizations. The School's academic and research excellence was publically recognized when it was chosen by the Israeli government to lead the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel (MERCRI) – a unique consortium of Israel's leading institutes of higher learning and national research centers.



The School's visionary founder and benefactor, Leon H. Charney, Z"L, went to great lengths to open new scientific vistas for marine exploration in Israel.

A great American philanthropist, lawyer, political advisor, media personality, and real estate giant, Leon H. Charney was above all a staunch friend of the State of Israel. For his significant contributions to the University as Chairman of the Board of Directors (2007-2013) and his longstanding support of student scholarships, research and the physical development of the University, he was

named honorary life Chairman of the Board of Governors. Continuing her late husband's legacy, Tzili Charney is supporting new academic initiatives while serving as Vice Chair of the University's Board of Governors. This year, the University of Haifa will bestow upon her an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of her enduring commitment to the University of Haifa and for her longstanding support of the State of Israel.



The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences' incredible growth would not have been possible without the support and generosity of our dedicated friends Lady Irene and Sir Maurice Hatter, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, The J. Isaacs Charitable Trust, Mr. Morris Kahn, Mr. Peter Kadas, The Strauss Foundation, and The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust.



## UNCOVERING THE SECRETS OF THE DEEP BLUE



### Impact of Climate Change & Human Disturbances on Biodiversity

The new Morris Kahn Research Station at Kibbutz Sdot Yam serves as the academic base for marine biodiversity research and monitoring programs operated by the Department of Marine Biology. The Morris Kahn Station is also home to a center for scientific diving, equipped with cutting-edge technologies and field labs. The Station is headed by Prof. Dan Tchernov, who currently serves as the Vice-President for External Relations and Resource Development.

### Educating the Public: Tsunami Warning Signs and Instructions

Research by Dr. Beverly Goodman of the Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Geosciences in collaboration with Brigadier General Bezael Traiber, Head of National Committee for Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, spearheaded a major public awareness campaign placing tsunami warning signs and instructions all along the Israeli coastline. The effort is expected to save thousands of lives in the case of a tsunami event.



### Practical Uses for Jellyfish Secretions

Jellyfish secretions are capable of binding microplastics. A team of scientists led by Dr. Dror Angel from the Department of Maritime Civilizations, are investigating jellyfish as a possible biological filter for industrial purposes. The study is part of an international research group awarded a €6 million grant under the EU's Horizon 2020 Programme.

### Understanding Climate Change

A research expedition to Lake Chad in west-central Africa, aims to gain insight into climate change by studying abrupt climate and hydrological changes in the Sahel and Sahara regions. The team, headed by Dr. Nicolas Waldmann from the Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Marine Geosciences, is using a high-resolution Chirp system to map and analyze mineral deposits along the lake.



### Rare Archeological Find Bearing the Name of Judea

Students of the Department of Maritime Civilizations uncovered a 700-kilogram stone slab with a Roman inscription mentioning the province of Judea. According to Dr. Gil Gambush and Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau, who led the underwater excavation at Tel Dor, "This is a rare and important historical find, since Rome attempted to erase all traces of Judea following the Bar Kokhba revolt."



### Expanding Global Ocean Observatory and Education

The Hatter Department of Marine Technologies and Texas A&M's

Geochemical and Environmental Research Group (GERG) operate a joint offshore observatory in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, collecting real-time oceanographic and biological data from its shallow mooring (at 125 m) and deep mooring (at 1,500 m) systems. Data collected by Texas A&M - University of Haifa Eastern Mediterranean Observatory (THEMO) is made publicly accessible to the international scientific community.

### Instant Underwater Image Enhancement

Dr. Tali Triebetz at the Hatter Department of Marine Technologies is developing advanced computer vision reconstruction algorithms for enhancing underwater visibility in deep-sea exploration. In collaboration with scientists from Tel Aviv University, Prof. Shai Avidan and Dana Berman, her work enables researchers to get a clearer picture of marine life.





# FROM VISION TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN MARINE RESEARCH

EVEN THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN BE ACHIEVED IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT



Prof. Ben-Avraham in a submarine transported to the Dead Sea to explore the geological structure of the seafloor.

Prof. Zvi Ben-Avraham, founding Head of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, has a message for the next generation of marine scientists, “Anything is possible, so follow your dreams. I explored the Dead Sea in a submarine.”

Eleven years ago, former President of the University of Haifa, Prof. Aaron Ben-

Ze’ev, asked him to head a new graduate school in marine sciences. “The School opened with the Department of Maritime Civilizations,” notes Prof. Ben-Avraham. “Shortly afterward, we established a Department of Marine Geosciences. All the while, we invested efforts in recruiting good people. The Department of Marine Biology was inaugurated next, followed by Marine Technologies. Thanks to the generous support of The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, we are now well equipped to advance our deep-sea research agenda.”

An internationally renowned geoscientist and an Israel Prize recipient, Prof. Ben-Avraham also heads the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel, was President of the Israel Geological Society and has served as a scientific advisor to leading Israeli government officials. “We are pleased to announce that follow-

ing successful international and national

2008

Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences opens its doors with its first department, the Department of Maritime Civilizations

2009

Establishment of the Dr. Moses Strauss Department of Geosciences

2010

Inauguration of the Department of Marine Biology

2012

Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences is chosen to lead the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel (MERCİ)

2014

Helmsley Charitable Trust Mediterranean Sea Research Center is launched

2015

Launching of the Texas A&M – University of Haifa Eastern Mediterranean Observatory (THEMO)

2016

Inauguration of the Morris Kahn Marine Research Station in Sdot Yam

Arrival of underwater ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) with the generous support of The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

2017

Automated Underwater Vehicle (AUV) joins the fleet of advanced marine vessels

2018

Hatter Department of Marine Technologies is officially inaugurated

2020

Marine Hub for Science and Education

academic reviews, the School was recognized for its outstanding research agenda and high professional standards. As I hand over the reins to Prof. Ilana Berman-Frank, I feel confident that the future looks bright.”

## A CALLING FROM THE DEEP

Prof. Ilana Berman-Frank is no stranger to the Sea. A seasoned marine biologist with extensive experience exploring the Mediterranean and Red Seas, she is an internationally respected professor of aquatic ecology and biological oceanography. In March 2018, she became the new Director of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences.

“The University of Haifa’s proven commitment to promote and develop an interdisciplinary school bridging together the many aspects of marine sciences was a

major factor in my decision to accept this position,” stated Prof. Berman-Frank. “The School of Marine Sciences is a launching pad for cutting-edge marine research and technological developments, training the next generation of marine scientists, advancing environmental protection, promoting stewardship of Israel’s natural resources, and raising the international visibility of marine research in Israel.”

Sixteen years ago, Prof. Berman-Frank founded the Biological Oceanography and Phytoplankton Ecophysiology Lab at Bar Ilan University. She has served as President

of the Israeli Association of Aquatic Sciences, and is an active member of a number of organizations and committees devoted to marine research and education in Israel and abroad.

“In ten years, I envision the School moving closer to the sea – where it naturally belongs – to serve as a hub linking marine and coastal research to commercial, technological and educational outreach programs.”





# ENGAGING THE EVERYDAY: SOCIAL SCIENCES FOR A BETTER ISRAELI SOCIETY

“““

Our part in the data science revolution is presenting the human and social side of the equation.

- Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot, Dean of the Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social Sciences and founder and former head of the Center for Public Management and Policy (CPMP)

Breakthroughs in new technologies coupled with the digital revolution, have tremendous potential to enrich our lives, provided that we are knowledgeable about how to use these new tools, and better understand their long-lasting effects on people and society. This is where the social sciences fit in. By studying the consequences and applications of technological advancements on human behavior, social scientists of the modern era raise ethical, political, behavioral, economical and other philosophical concerns that help us make informed choices related to policymaking, crime prevention, education, work safety and even finance.

“Our part in the data science revolution is presenting the human and social side of the equation in the management and implementation of big data, and its impact on our environment and quality of life,” explains Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot, Dean of the Herta and Paul Amir Faculty of Social

Sciences. Prof. Vigoda-Gadot became Dean in early 2017, after serving as Head of the School of Political Sciences.

“Since its founding, our Faculty has been committed to the advancement of our understanding of social realities by focusing on excellent research and teaching. We aim to contribute to Israeli society, while extending broader international knowledge and instilling social responsibility in our students,” adds Vigoda-Gadot. “Today, the Faculty is ranked among the best in the country. Our faculty members have international reputations and are highly sought out both by national and foreign agencies for their expertise in a broad range of fields, including cyberterrorism, Jewish-Arab relations, national security, technology and society, and scalable data reduction. We consider it our duty and mission to increase our efforts in creating new social paradigms, as they begin to emerge in our rapidly changing world.”



Credit: Roy Haimoni

## SCHOOLS

- / School of Political Science
- / School of Criminology

## DEPARTMENTS

- / Departments of Anthropology
- / Department of Sociology
- / Department of Statistics
- / Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
- / Department of Economics
- / Department of Computer Science
- / Department of Information Systems
- / Department of Psychology

## PROGRAMS

- / Interdisciplinary Program in Applied Child Development
- / International MA Program in Child Development
- / Peace and Conflict Management Studies





Mrs. Herta Amir

Herta and Paul Amir with honorary doctorate degrees.

The Faculty recently added a new Department of Cognitive Sciences to study the complex information processing of the mind and brain, embracing philosophy, psychology, artificial intelligence, human-machine interactions, neuroscience, linguistics, and anthropology. In the near future, the Faculty has plans to introduce other major initiatives, including the opening of a Big Data Complex downtown, a new BA program in criminology, and an International MPA in Public Administration Management, emphasizing policy-making under tense conditions. "Research at the Big Data Complex will aim to accelerate the translation of massive data volumes to inspire new breakthroughs in technology, science and medicine, and smart decision-making," notes Prof. Gustavo Mesh, Rector of the University of Haifa and former Dean of the Herta and Paul Amir

Faculty of Social Sciences. "At the same time, it will lead the University's data science education program, training Israel's next generation of data scientists and experts."

Thanks to a very generous \$10 million gift from Herta and Paul Amir, two new floors are being added to the Social Sciences Complex. The addition will house innovative laboratories, graduate student workspaces, and

meeting areas. At the dedication ceremony, which took place at the 44th Board of Governors Meeting, Herta Amir said, "For us, the most important thing is to contribute to the wellbeing, the good life and the security in Israel." This simple, sincere statement succinctly summarizes the guiding principles of Herta and Paul Amir, who are also distinguished members of the University's Board of Governors. For their extensive support of higher education, medicine and the arts in Israel and their longstanding support of the University of Haifa, the University has awarded both

"Among the new cutting-edge laboratories under construction are advanced simulation labs, the Market Hall Simulations and Trading Lab studying real-world trading behaviors, and the Experimental and Behavior in Public Administration Management Simulations Lab, enabling new perceptions in the interaction of the public sector with citizens and businesses," adds Vigoda-Gadot. "Gaining new insights in these contemporary issues will help us make more informed choices and better decisions that affect our daily lives and our future."

In addition to developing its research infrastructures and physical space, the Faculty is investing in scholarships through academic leadership training for PhD students and junior faculty development programs. The recently launched 'Idit' Program (Hebrew for outstanding) is a four-year fellowship program for outstanding PhD students. The program is interdisciplinary in its orientations and highly selective of candidates.



### The Idit Program: A beacon for excellence in the social sciences

The prestigious Idit fellowship is designed to build a community of outstanding leaders in the social sciences with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary studies. In addition to a generous scholarship, the four-year program will provide intellectually curious and highly motivated doctoral students with diverse skills and training towards academic careers in Israel and abroad, through a variety of statistical programming, data science and writing workshops, research initiatives, and networking opportunities. The prestigious program opened with seven outstanding doctoral students in the 2017-18 academic year. To grow the community, seven fellowships will be added each year. For information on how to support this unique program, please contact the Office of the Vice President for External Relations and Resource Development.



(l-r) Rector Gustavo Mesch, President Ron Robin and Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot at the Social Sciences Complex.



הפקולטה למדעי החברה  
ע"ש שמואל והרטה עמיר  
The Herta & Paul Amir  
Faculty of Social Sciences



## LAW ON THE GROUND

**Today, legal professionals must be problem solvers and innovators – willing to assume new responsibilities, master new technologies and navigate an increasingly complex legal system. Preparing young lawyers to be “practice-ready” for this dynamic environment requires a broader approach – one that is firmly rooted in research skills and supported by practical experiences and multiple academic perspectives.**

This broad educational approach is on display at the Faculty of Law’s Marine Resources, Law and Policy Legal Clinic. Since the discovery of the major Leviathan natural gas reservoir off the coast of Haifa, the Clinic’s faculty and students have worked tirelessly to institute legislative reforms that would obligate environmental impact assessment and fair and transparent regulations governing oil and gas exploration off the Mediterranean coast. These activities paid off when, for the first time in Israel, the Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources announced the adoption of a competitive process in the allocation of new licenses for gas and oil exploration at sea two years ago. The Clinic facilitates the ongoing cooperation between the Law Faculty, the School of Marine Sciences and the School of Management of the University of Haifa. Thanks to this unique cooperation, the Clinic will become a focal point of multi-dimensional research of law and maritime energy issues. The Legal Clinic for Law and Maritime Resources, under the direction of Dr. Yair Sagi and Adv. Nadia Tzimerman, is Israel’s only legal clinic dedicated to law-and-energy issues.

### **Connecting the dots between theory, practice and society**

As part of the University of Haifa’s innovative ‘Multiversity’ transformation process, the Faculty of Law is providing diverse interdisciplinary programs for undergraduate students, in a range of disciplines from the humanities and social sciences, including economics, psychology, information systems, communications, sociology, social work and Asian studies. The Faculty also offers unique advanced study programs that enable students to combine their bachelor’s degree in law with a master’s degree in international relations, criminology, public administration, education management, philosophy and history.

“As Israel’s youngest Faculty of Law, we were the first to incorporate interdisciplinary studies into our legal studies curriculum to provide students with a broad-based understanding of how the law affects and influences other areas of knowledge,” notes Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal, Dean of the Faculty. “Today we are at the forefront of research and teaching in emerging legal aspects concerning interfaces of law with the Internet, biotechnology, intellectual property and communications, protection of the rule of law in emergencies and times of calm, and topics of gender inequality in Israel.”

The Faculty’s eight legal clinics provide students with hand-on practicum in litigation and negotiations, working with government agencies, and drafting legislation to promote human rights and democratic values on behalf of disadvantaged communities and individuals, especially in the region of northern Israel.





The Leviathan natural gas field is located off the coast of Haifa.

The Faculty founded one of Israel's most advanced Global Law Programs (GLP), through its extensive network of student exchange agreements and research co-operations with several leading law schools in the United States and Europe. "We are also proud to announce the recent election of the Faculty as a major partner and teaching center for the prestigious European Master Programme in Law and Economics (EMLE)," adds Prof. Gazal-Ayal. "Equipped with high-level legal skills, broad interdisciplinary knowledge, and 21st-century insights into a variety of legal and adjacent fields, our graduates are better prepared to face future legal challenges."

### With a reputation for academic excellence, members of the Faculty of Law live in the real world – not in an ivory tower

In addition to scholarship, the majority of our faculty members at the University's Faculty of Law are engaged outside of the classroom as advisors to Knesset members and governmental agencies on policy issues, regulation and legislation. Increasingly, their academic research is influencing legislation that affects the quality of life in Israeli society.

#### **Crime & Punishment: Rehabilitation over Prison Sentences for Minor Offences**

Prof. Gazal-Ayal is the newly appointed Dean of the Faculty. A University of Haifa alumnus (Faculty of Law, 2002), he is now a leading expert in criminal law and procedure. In addition, he serves as a member of



Prof. Gazal-Ayal is the new Dean of the Faculty of Law and the Director of the Center for the Study of Crime, Law and Society.

several advisory committees to the Minister of Justice, the Inspector General of the Israeli Police, and the IDF Military Advocate General.

Prof. Gazal-Ayal recently played an instrumental role in a public commission that examined the legal and social implications of incarcerating criminals for minor, non-felony offences. The task force report recommended rehabilitation over incarceration in a majority of cases. "With more than half of the prisoners in the Israeli prison system serving sentences of one year or less, the Report is likely to lead to significant penal reform in Israel," notes Gazal-Ayal.

#### **Law & Gender: Expanding Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

Prof. Shulamit Almog is a pioneer of the field of law, gender and sexuality in Israel. Her research and advocacy work have spearheaded reforms in prostitution law with a goal to provide greater legal protection for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. The issue is currently under deliberation in the Knesset. In addition to being published extensively in Israel and abroad, she is also involved in drafting sections of Israel's report to the UN on the International Convention on Children's Rights, and participating in the committee reforming Israel's Adoption Law. She was recently appointed to a pan-European task-force for the investigation of prostitution policy in Europe.



Prof. Shulamit Almog is Co-Director of the Center of Law, Gender and Policy

*We invite you to partner with us in supporting the Faculty of Law to ensure that the next generation of Israel's attorneys, judges and legal scholars will be well-prepared to apply the law as a force for promoting the common good and building a more just Israeli society. The Joseph Fattal Undergraduate Law Scholarship Fund has been awarding generous scholarships to outstanding students including an annual Fattal Prize for Excellence in Legal Research to faculty members for the past several years. For more information, regarding opportunities to create a lasting legacy such as these, please contact the Office of the Vice President for External Affairs and Resource Development.*



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# MEET 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS

Devoted to creating a brighter future  
for every child in their countries

### Sahilu Baye, MBA, MA, BA & IDPM

Sahilu Baye is a psychologist, educator and advocate for children's rights in Ethiopia. In 2003, he established the Enrichment Center for the Disadvantaged (ECD) in Addis Ababa, to provide orphaned and children at-risk with basic needs. Since opening its doors 15 years ago, ECD has helped 1,000 children and trained more than 80 preschool teachers, child caregivers and social welfare supporting staff.

#### ***How did your studies at the University of Haifa contribute to your professional growth?***

**S.B.** - The knowledge I gained opened my eyes to new approaches and strategies for protecting the rights and healthy growth of children in developing nations such as mine, especially those who are most vulnerable. For me it was a real game changer. After graduation, I returned home with renewed vigor and skill sets that have enabled me to initiate effective intervention programs to improve the quality of early care and education and reach out to a greater number of Ethiopian children.

#### ***What do you hope to achieve?***

**S.B.** - In Ethiopia, social welfare funding and services are very limited. My goal is to provide safe, stable and nurturing environments for all children, so that they may grow, learn, and thrive. I am also working with stakeholders to shape policies that will provide support for orphaned and vulnerable children, as well as economically disadvantaged women.

Sahilu Baye is a graduate of the first cohort of the International MA Program in Child Development. He recently presented at the "Impact for Good" event in Ethiopia, attended by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin.

### About the Program

The International MA Program in Child Development trains professionals in early childhood education and intervention strategies, preparing them for leadership roles in advancing programs and policies that will improve the lives of at-risk children in developing countries. Founded and directed by Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz, an international expert in early child development, each year it attracts greater numbers of professionals from around the world. Now in its fourth year, the current cohort boasts 21 graduate students from 17 countries.

The International MA Program in Child Development is offered by the Center for the Study of Child Development in conjunction with the International School. In addition to its academic mission, the program nurtures goodwill ambassadors for Israel.

The program has enjoyed generous funding by Vital Capital Fund in Israel, the Open Society Foundations in the UK and the Two Lilies Fund from the USA. Their support provides tuition and living stipends to students from developing countries. For more information about continued funding opportunities, please contact the Office of the Vice-President of Resource Development and External Relations.





Nana Esi Gaisie, pictured here in Tiberius, is a graduate of the first cohort of the International MA Program in Child Development.



Grace Mwangi, second from right, with beneficiaries of Pumwani Maternity Hospital program, is a graduate of the third cohort of the International MA Program in Child Development.

## Dr. Nana Esi Gaisie, MD, GP

Dr. Nana Esi Gaisie began working with children with special needs at a young age. She hoped that as a doctor she would be able to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities and their parents. After completing medical school, she continued to search for answers. Her eureka moment came during her studies at the University of Haifa. Upon returning to Ghana, she set up a clinic for children with special needs at the Effia-Nkwanta Regional Hospital Department of Pediatrics, a major referral facility in Western Ghana. To date, the clinic has provided services to more than 100 children. In addition, she runs group intervention programs for families addressing the emotional, psychological, cognitive and social needs of parents caring for special needs children.

### ***What was the most valuable insight you gained from the program?***

**N.E.G.** - The program introduced me to new approaches including holistic care. Beyond providing medical care, I now aim to provide my patients with opportunities that could enhance their development and maximize their potential so that they will go on to lead better lives. Working with families is a key component of this, helping them develop coping strategies to handle the impact of disability upon the family, and maintain a positive outlook for their child.

### ***What are your future goals?***

**N.E.G.** - In my country there is much to do to improve education and services for children with special needs. I hope to raise funds for the establishment of a child development center at my hospital, and to expand support group programming for families affected by cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, and malnourishment. I also intend to continue to broaden my knowledge and advocacy work to influence public policy and resource allocation in support of early childhood development and disability issues.

## Grace Mwangi, MA, BSW

Grace Mwangi, a family social worker and child advocate, is working with government agencies to transform child protective services for underprivileged children. She is the Country Director of Give a Child a Family in Kenya – an organization providing early intervention programs and one-on-one home visits impacting hundreds of Kenyan mothers and children. Recently, she also became involved with SOS Children's Villages International Kenya and Tanzania chapters, a global federation supporting children and their reintegration back into their communities and families.

### ***Looking back, what was the most meaningful part of your Haifa study experience?***

**G.M.** - It was the best opportunity of my life! The environment was conducive to learning and very friendly. I was able to interact with peers from all corners of the world. I also gained a deeper appreciation for multidisciplinary approaches to research. I am so very grateful for the generous scholarship that made it possible for me to come here.

### ***Can you point to a program you have implemented closest to your heart?***

**G.M.** - Family strengthening programs target disadvantaged families to prevent crises that can lead to neglect, abuse and even child abandonment. I have been operating such a program at the Pumwani Maternity Hospital, Kenya's largest maternity hospital, which reaches over 800 mothers annually. The program, designed to provide mothers with basic counselling, support services and family education, has made a marked impact on the number of cases of child abandonment at the hospital. Last year, I worked closely with four women who planned to give up their children – among them a teen mother. In the end, all four decided to keep their babies. Happy endings like these are the best perks of my job.

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# HIGHEST HONORS

Recognizing outstanding individuals making exceptional contributions to science, medicine, education, justice, culture and the State of Israel.

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## OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

### MK Yuli-Yoel Edelstein – Israel

*In Celebration of Israel's 70th Anniversary we recognize MK Yuli-Yoel Edelstein for his immense contributions to the State of Israel.*

MK Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, a leading Israeli educator and public figure, currently serves as Speaker of the 20th Knesset. MK Edelstein is one of the most prominent Soviet refuseniks who, after making Aliyah, became immersed in Israeli political life. A co-founder of the Yisrael BaAliyah party, he has held key ministerial positions as Minister of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, and Minister of Immigrant Absorption. His longstanding public activities advocating for democratic values, and equality of all citizens, is praiseworthy. MK Edelstein has worked tirelessly to combat anti-Semitism, and strengthen Israel-Diaspora relations and Israel's image in the world. His inspiring personal story serves as a powerful example of perseverance and success.

## HONORARY DOCTORATE

### Dr. Michael Baker – Canada

Dr. Michael Baker will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Haifa at Canada's annual Mount Carmel Dinner in November, 2018. Dr. Baker is a leading Canadian physician, academic and cancer researcher. His research has produced an important body of work that has improved our understanding of human leukaemia and other cancers. He is the Rose Family Chair in Medicine at Toronto's University Health Network (UHN), a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Royal College of Physicians of Canada. Dr. Baker will lead the Canadian fundraising efforts in support of the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower together with Dr. Arnold Aberman, this year's recipient of the Carmel Award of Merit.

## CARMEL AWARD OF MERIT

### Mr. Yonatan Golani – Israel

Mr. Yonatan Golani is an acclaimed Israeli architect, educator and civic leader who has made significant contributions to the field of urban and regional planning, and to the physical development of the country. He is one of the founders of the Israel Planners Association and served as Head of the Planning Authority in the Ministry of Interior, Chief Architect of the Ministry of Building and Construction, Chairman of the Israel Association of United Architects, and as Deputy Mayor of Modi'in, a city that he helped plan and promote. Mr. Golani mentored generations of Israeli planners from Israel's top universities, including the University of Haifa.

### Dr. Arnold Aberman – Canada

Dr. Arnold Aberman is a renowned physician and medical scholar, specializing in critical care medicine. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice Provost of the University of Toronto, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Dr. Aberman is an outspoken advocate for the State of Israel and longstanding friend and supporter of the University, serving as the national President of the Canadian Friends of Haifa University. Dr. Aberman will be leading the Canadian fundraising efforts in support of the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, a joint initiative between the University of Haifa and Rambam Health Care Campus, and cornerstone of the University's Multiversity strategic plan.







**Mrs. Tzili Charney**  
- Israel/ USA

Mrs. Tzili Charney is a curator, producer, and costume designer for major Israeli theaters, including Habima, The Cameri Theater and the Jewish Repertory Theater in New York. She is a dedicated activist and philanthropist with a passion for social justice and peace, giving generously to educational programs focusing on conflict resolution, the promotion of Jewish-Arab relations, and in support of organizations for people with special needs. Tzili and her late husband Leon were the driving force behind the development of marine sciences at the University of Haifa. She is currently involved in establishing The Leon H. Charney Center for New Diplomacy at the University. Tzili is also the Vice Chair of the University's Board of Governors.

**Prof. Irun R. Cohen - Israel**

Prof. Irun Cohen is a Professor Emeritus of Immunology at the Weizmann Institute of Science, and one of Israel's most distinguished immunologists. He has received widespread international recognition for his research on autoimmunity, which has significantly contributed to our understanding of mechanisms governing the human immune system. Prof. Cohen's cutting-edge research has also led to promising drug discovery and the development of advanced diagnosis tools for autoimmune diseases, including diabetes and systematic lupus erythematosus.



**Prof. Nili Cohen - Israel**

Prof. Nili Cohen is the President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and an Israel Prize Laureate in Law for her lifelong, groundbreaking work in the field. She is a Professor Emerita at the Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University and was Rector between the years 1997-2001. Her research focuses on private law, covering issues in contract law, comparative law, restitution, torts, and law and literature. Her work has been published extensively both in Israel and abroad and is frequently cited in court decisions.



**Mr. David Grossman - Israel**

David Grossman is a celebrated Israeli author and playwright, considered among the most exciting, profound and influential voices in Israeli literature. His books have been translated into dozens of languages and published around the world. He has received numerous awards and accolades including the EMET Prize (2007), Man Booker International Prize (2017), Honorary Doctorate from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (2017), Foreign Honorary Membership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2017), and the Israel Prize for literature (2018). Today, Grossman devotes his energies to promoting peace and social justice through his journalistic and public activities in addition to his literary pursuits.

**Prof. Steven Haberman - UK**

Prof. Steven Haberman is one of the most influential researchers in the field of actuarial science, with expertise in mortality and morbidity models, annuities, insurance pricing and pensions. He serves as a professor of actuarial science at Cass Business School, City University London, Chair of the Board of Governors of the London Institute of Banking and Finance, member of Legal and General's Longevity Science Panel and advisor to the Institute for Jewish Policy Research in London. Many of his published works have become required reading in the field.



**Prof. Lee Shulman - USA**

Prof. Lee Shulman is a highly esteemed educational psychologist, educator and reformer, best known for coining the phrase "pedagogical content knowledge". His research and writings have made a profound impact on the study of teaching and teacher education, and the fields of medicine, science and mathematics. He is a Professor Emeritus at Stanford Graduate School of Education, past president of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the American Educational Research Association, and a member of the National Academy of Education, having served as both vice president and president of that organization. In Israel he has served as advisor to the Mandel Foundation, Yad Hanadiv and the Council for Higher Education.



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# Rector's Awards in Recognition of Excellence in Research

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## OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AWARD

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**Prof. Wendy Sandler**  
*Faculty of Humanities*

Wendy Sandler is a professor of linguistics and founding director of the Sign Language Research Lab. Her groundbreaking research on sign languages reveals universal characteristics of all human languages, and how they originate. She is internationally known for her research on the linguistic structure of American and Israeli sign languages, and on an emerging sign language in a Negev Bedouin village.



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## OUTSTANDING YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

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**Dr. Tali Mass**

*Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences*

Dr. Tali Mass's research focuses on studying coral reef ecosystems, and the future impact of global climate change on coral calcification. Dr. Mass established and currently heads the Coral Biomineralization and Physiology Laboratory.

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## LECTURER PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

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**Prof. Yael Latzer**

*Faculty of Social Welfare & Health Sciences*

Prof. Yael Latzer is both nationally and internationally recognized as an expert in the field of eating disorder treatment and research. She heads the Center for Rehabilitation and Human Development, and the unique MA Program for Social Work for ultra-Orthodox students, and teaches at the School of Social Work and the School of Public Health.



**Dr. Guy Podoler**

*Faculty of Humanities*

Dr. Guy Podoler is a Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies and the Chair of the Department of Asian Studies. He specializes in the modern history of Korea and focuses on collective memory and sports politics.



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## 2018 DUSTY AND ETTIE MILLER FELLOWSHIP FOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG SCHOLARS

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**Dr. Yafit Gabay**

*The Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities and The Department of Special Education*

Dr. Yafit Gabay's research aims to better understand the cognitive aspects of learning and its breakdown in neurodevelopmental disorders such as dyslexia. Dr. Gabay currently heads The Learning and Language Research Laboratory at the Faculty of Education.





## MEMORIAL IN HONOR OF JEWISH ARTISTS, VICTIMS OF NAZISM



### "Arrivals, Departures": The Oscar Ghez Collection

*"Arrivals, Departures" is a research and curating project in the framework of the Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies, tracing the lives and work of 18 Jewish artists who perished during the Shoah.*

### Festive Exhibition Opening:

Monday, June 4, 2018  
Hecht Museum

### Special Guest Speakers:

Prof. Claude Ghez  
Hon. Dr. Doron Livnat

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Prof. Alfred Tauber

## Thank you for your support!

In honor of the generosity of our dedicated friends and supporters, the University of Haifa has established a new Donors Garden at the main campus entrance.



*The Donors Garden was built with the generous support of Prof. Alfred Tauber, Co-Founder of the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation and Chairman of the University of Haifa's Board of Governors.*

**Join us for the Festive  
Inauguration Ceremony  
on June 6, 2018.**

