

# FOCUS



UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

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AUTUMN 2005

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## The University Becomes a Little Like Annapolis (and West Point)

**"T**he University of Haifa has launched Israel's closest approximation to Annapolis, the U.S. Navy Academy. "I am happy to announce we now have a naval academy in Israel," said Rear Admiral David Ben-Baashat, who commands the Israeli Navy. He was speaking at a ceremony at the Haifa Navy Base inaugurating the University's new program for Navy officers that will lead to a B.A. degree in interdisciplinary studies. The formal announcement was one of the events of the University's 33rd Board of Governors Meeting.

Dr. Onn Winckler, a historian who is academic adviser to the special academic program and Chair of the Dept. of Interdisciplinary Studies, said he hoped it would make the midshipmen not only better officers, but also better people. The program of studies actually began in April with its first class of aspiring officers.

Ben-Baashat noted that other universities had vied for the program, but in the end "we preferred to do it with Haifa [University]."

University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev expressed the hope to develop the first program of its kind in Israel into a regular Naval Academy. The program includes courses in political science, economics and administration, transportation and shipping, as well as such courses as Terror and Counter-terrorism and an Introduction to National Security.

The University already offers a unique Master's degree program for Army officers. The University works closely with the Israel Defense Forces' National Defense College, where the officers receive their advanced military training. Ben-Ze'ev cited the long history of cooperation with the security services on research and aspects of the curriculum for military-academic programs.

Reinforcing the Annapolis-West Point atmosphere surrounding the University is the fact that both the Navy's commander, Ben-Baashat, and the past Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Moshe (Bogie) Ya'alon have degrees from the institution. Several days after this ceremony, Ben-Bashaat also gained another degree from the University, this one an MBA.

Commander Chen Tal, who commands the Haifa Navy Base, welcomed the University governors, who were given a tour of an



advanced missile boat. Under the rubric, Israel is a maritime state, the Israeli Navy's objectives and missions were outlined by Navy Capt. Yoni Vart, a submarine flotilla commander, who also has a B.A. from the University.

At the helm. Board of Governors Chairman Prof. Manfred Lahnstein (2nd from l.) and University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev (r.) flank University Governor Dory Tuvim of Canada at the wheel of a missile boat. The governors had a special tour of one of the Israeli Navy's advanced fighting vessels.

## Synagogue/Church Controversy and a Digestive Amulet Mark University's Dig at Hippos-Sussita



A section of the decorative gate uncovered at Sussita.

**T**he sixth season of the archeological excavation at Hippos-Sussita in northern Israel produced several surprises for the University's archeologists. One was a lintel—did it belong to a synagogue or a church?

The find of a lintel bearing Jewish symbols that typified synagogues led to the initial conclusion that the public building being uncovered in the south-western residential quarter of Sussita was a synagogue. Jewish sources had indicated its very existence in this predominantly Greek city.

The archeologists were quick to discover, however, that it was actually a church. Prof. Arthur Segal, who heads the University's Zinman Institute of Archeology and who leads the Sussita Project, offered two possible explanations.

One is that the structure could have served first as a synagogue and later been turned into a church. Second, the synagogue could have existed in close proximity to the church. Following the destruction of the former, the lintel was reused in the church.

The sixth season of excavations at Sussita have come

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## Supported Academic Learning Aids Students with Problems

**A**re college-age youth suffering from mental and personality disorders, like manic-depression, schizophrenia, or obsessive compulsive disorder, doomed never to have a higher education?

Prof. Yehezkel Taler, director of the University's Center for Rehabilitation Research and Human Development, recognized that many such youngsters have the cognitive ability to gain a degree, even a graduate degree. Together with some others, he raised the idea of conducting a special project to work with students suffering

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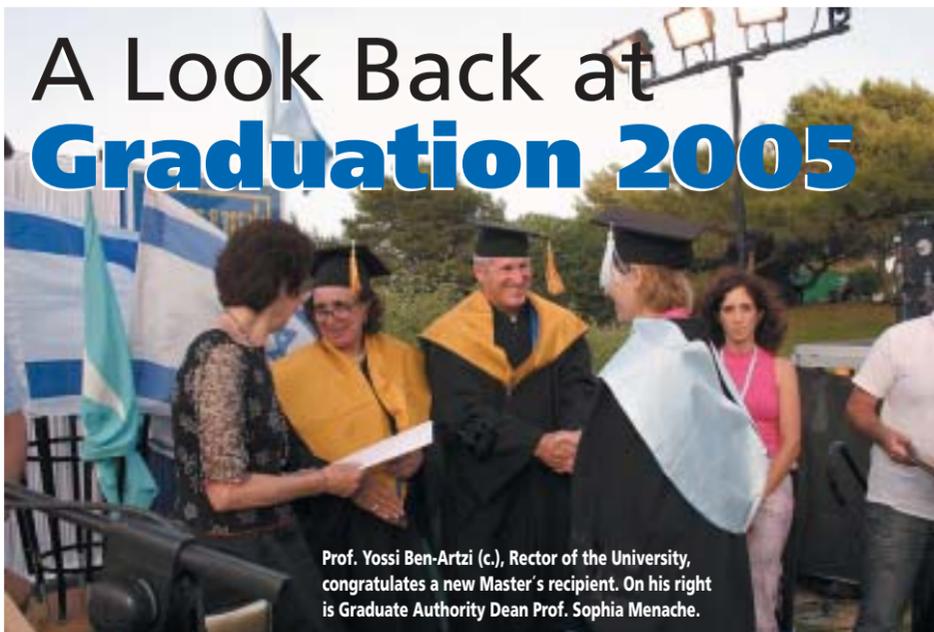
"No one knows if we will find ourselves back in the same situation tomorrow. Anti-semitism on campuses still exists. We need to fight such acts."

With these words, Chairman of the Board Prof. Manfred Lahnstein echoed the University Management's determined stand against the boycott imposed by the British Association of University Teachers against the University of Haifa in particular and against universities in Israel and elsewhere in general. He was introducing the unequivocal resolution on the subject to the concluding plenary session of the 33rd Board of Governors Meeting at the end of May.

At the same time, he was serving notice to the governors that the struggle was far from over even if the AUT had rescinded the act on the eve of the start of the Meeting. It was a shadow that followed this year's annual meeting, which was otherwise characterized by a broad academic cachet and a display of the University's commitment to its societal mission.

This issue of *Focus*, beginning on page four, presents some highlights of the 33rd Meeting of the Board.

## A Look Back at Graduation 2005



Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi (c.), Rector of the University, congratulates a new Master's recipient. On his right is Graduate Authority Dean Prof. Sophia Menache.

**F**ive Faculties graduated a total of 2,363 undergraduates this past summer. (The missing Faculty was Law, which because of its 3 1/2-year program has its own, mid-year ceremony.) Slightly more than 10% of this number—254 students—graduated with honors. A further 83 graduates received their B.A. degree with high honors. The University also awarded 347 teaching diplomas, 17 diplomas in librarianship and

information sciences, and 14 diplomas in museology.

A total of 1,308 students earned a Master's degree this year. This was 4% more than the previous year, reflecting a continuing trend in the build-up of the University's graduate division. Two well-known names earned an advanced degree from the University at the late June ceremony. One was Yuval Diskin, who heads Israel's General Security Services, or Shin Bet, Israel's equivalent to the FBI. He was

graduated with honors from the School of Political Science's National Security Studies program. The other was Rear Adm. David Ben-Baashat, commander of Israel's Navy, who received an MBA from the School of Business Administration.

Of the M.A. recipients, 115 received their degree with honors, and 16 more with high honors.

The University's Ph.D. conferment ceremony is normally conducted close to the Passover holiday, in late March or early April.

## Sweating Before an Audience Working to Control a Phobia

**A** beginning advertising executive starts to sweat profusely when she starts her presentation in front of her boss and the staff. A graduate student stammers and is barely audible when delivering a seminar paper. His thoughts of an academic career, like his speech, slip away.

Fear of an audience. Suddenly the words aren't there. They are replaced by fear—a phobia that leads to paralysis.

Prof. Marilyn Safir of the Dept. of Psychologist is experimenting with virtual reality and with people's imaginations to lessen this fear. She is working with two colleagues, a clinical psychologist and a psychiatrist, through the

University's Center for the Study of Psychological Stress on a series of therapeutic treatments.

The therapies are based on cognitive-behavioral techniques that have been tested around the world, but never before used to compare CBT techniques to combat speech anxiety. Safir's colleagues have voluntary appointments with the University's Laboratory for CBT and Family Therapy, which she co-directs.

One of the experimental treatments involves donning a virtual reality helmet that gives the patient the simulated feeling of facing an audience. The patient enters into this experience gradually, learning to control his

or her thoughts and to develop skills at overcoming the fear.

Another treatment employs the patient's imagination to determine what situations bother the person. A hierarchy of such situations is formed. The therapist advances from one to the next only after the patient, imagining the particular setting, feels no anxiety from it.

According to Safir, these treatments are much more effective than other psychological and medicinal treatments for alleviating fear. "Drug treatments," she said, may lessen fear, but they do not help to develop coping skills." Both the virtual reality and the imagination technique, she

Prof. Marilyn Safir deals with an audience-phobe patient who has donned a virtual reality visor.

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## Prof. Eli Salzberger



## Elected Next Dean of Law Faculty

**A**ssoc. Prof. Eli M. Salzberger, 45, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law since 2002, has been elected the Faculty's new Dean. He takes up the position on October 1, 2005.

A specialist in the area of law and economics, he was the president of the Israeli Law and Economics Association, a member of the steering committee of the European Association of Law and Economics, and the Faculty's representative on the European Union's Erasmus Program in Law and Economics. The incoming Dean is founder and a co-director of the University's Center for the Study of Crime, Law, and Society. He served as co-editor of the Law Faculty's much acclaimed Hebrew-language journal *Mishpat Umimshal* (Law and Government) for four years.

A native Jerusalemite, Salzberger received his degree in law from the Hebrew University, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Law Review*. Concomitantly, he obtained a B.A. in economics. His doctoral thesis was submitted to the University of Oxford, where he was awarded a Senior Scholarship at Lincoln College. His dissertation focused on an economic analysis of the doctrine of the separation of powers. He joined the University of Haifa in 1993.

Salzberger's research and teaching areas include legal theory and philosophy, legal ethics, and the Israeli Supreme Court. He is a specialist in law and economics, and has gained an international reputation in the new area of law and cyberspace. The author of numerous published professional articles, he is co-author of two books with his Law Faculty colleague, Assoc. Prof. Niva Elkin-Koren: *Law, Economics, and Cyberspace* (published by Edward Elgar) and *Economic Analysis of Intellectual Property* (forthcoming, Kluwer).

Salzberger received numerous fellowships and prizes, notably the Rothschild, Fulbright, and British Council Fellowships, and Minerva, Israel Science Foundation, and German-Israeli Foundation research grants.

The incoming Dean is married to Dr. Fania Oz-Salzberger, a Senior Lecturer in Intellectual History at the University, and the couple has twin sons aged 10.

## Intelligence Corps Wisely Chooses the University

**T**he University of Haifa won a nationwide tender to educate elite members of the Israel Defense Force's Intelligence Corps. The program, which leads to a B.A. degree, is the first of its kind in Israel.

Called the *Havatzlot* (Lilies) program, the special three-year course of study joins the B.A. program for Israeli Navy officers officially launched here during the Board of Governors Meeting (see story p. 1) and its veteran M.A. program for senior IDF officers.

"The University of Haifa has a long history of cooperation with the security forces," said University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev in formally announcing the program. "It is reflected in special curricula, in absorbing students, and in research institutes that have been set up in this discipline.

"Our University attributes great importance to this cooperation and is proud to integrate this prestigious program."

The *Havatzlot* program, the Intelligence Corps' flagship program, is one of the most prestigious that the IDF offers. Its purpose is to train a very high quality group of intelligence research officers who will constitute the spearhead of this corps.

The program will involve a double major, one being Middle East History, in the course of which students will receive broad basic knowledge of Middle East subjects, Arabic, political science, and international relations. The students' second major will be a choice of economics, computer sciences, mathematics, or philosophy. They will also receive some military and intelligence courses.

The academic studies parallel the three years of compulsory service incumbent on all post-high school inductees into the IDF. They will undergo basic training and some other military training during the summer semester breaks. During their studies, the soldiers will live in the University dorms on campus. After gaining a degree and their officer rank, the soldiers will serve a further six years as research officers.

The first class of the *Havatzlot* program, which begins this summer, has 25 soldier students, men and women. They were selected from a pool of some 4,000 applicants. *Havatzlot* will be conducted in cooperation with Intelligence Corps officers, and a senior academic advisor, Prof. Joseph Nevo of the Dept. of Middle East History, will supervise the program academically.

# Michael Wainer— University's First Vice President for Finance and Business Development



The University has installed Michael Wainer, a former corporate vice president for finance (CFO) of Rafael Ltd., as vice president for finance and business development. He is the first to hold this position at the University.

Wainer served at Rafael for 16 years before joining the University. He rose through a series of management positions, having served, among others, as a financial manager of the production plant in the missiles division and as the deputy division manager for finance and control.

As CFO of Rafael for the last seven years, Wainer played a leading role in attaining the goal of changing Rafael's status from an instrumentality of the Israeli Ministry of Defense known as the Israel Armaments Authority to a government company. In addition to managing the company's finance and control aspects, he also served as a director of Rafael's subsidiaries in the defense business and its commercial spin-offs. During his tenure there, the company's annual sales increased by 60% to \$800 million.

Prior to Rafael, he held financial positions at Rokar International (a BAE company) and at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

A graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he earned a B.A. in economics and an M.A. in business management. Wainer, 49, is married and has three children.

"After a successful period in the defense industry, I hope to contribute from my experience to achieve the University's goals as a leading university," he stated. "As the V.P. for finance and business development and as a director of Carmel [the University's economic affiliate], I look forward to increasing our financial strength and to continued advancement of our academic development."

## Prof. Asher Koriat Is 1st Recipient of Prestigious German Award



Prof. Asher Koriat of the Dept. of Psychology and head of its renowned Institute for Information Processing and Decision-Making, is the first recipient of the Oswald Kulpe Award for the Experimental Study of Higher Mental Processes, given by Germany's University of Wurzburg.

To be presented biannually in a special ceremony at the German institution, the award is named for the founder of Wurzburg's School of Psychology. The ceremony will take place on November 4th. The award itself, in recognition of outstanding research achievements in the field, carries with it a cash prize of Euro 4,000.

Koriat, an Israel Prize Laureate and member of the select Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, also heads the University's Max Wertheimer Minerva Center for Cognitive Processing.

## A 'Deserved and Fitting Tribute' for Prof. (Emeritus) Alexander Z. Guiora

Members of the Board of Directors of *Language Learning - Journal of Research in Language Studies* (USA) and of *The Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics* (Nijmegen, Holland) recently considered the title for the Roundtable Series to be initiated in Nijmegen this year. They were unanimous in their recommendation that, in honor of his lifetime contribution to the Language Sciences, the series be henceforth known as: *The A. Guiora Annual Roundtable Conference in the Cognitive Neuroscience of Language*. Giora is now professor emeritus in the Dept. of Psychology.

The June issue of *Language Learning* also contained this dedication:

"The Board of Directors of *Language Learning* dedicate this issue of the journal to Alexander Z. Guiora on the occasion of his 80th birthday to honor his 28 years of service to *Language Learning*, first as editor and then as general editor and executive director."

As a colleague and former student of Guiora's put it, "It is a deserved and fitting tribute."

## Capturing Maccabia Gold

Stephen Breitstein, diving supervisor and operations director of the Recanati Institute of Maritime Studies' Maritime Workshop, is more likely to find gold coins and medals in the deep during archeological excavations. This summer, though, he showed his prowess out of the water, as well, and found gold. Participating in the 17th Maccabia this summer, the squash team for which he belted the little ball off the wall, captured the team gold medal in this sport.

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## Sweating Before an Audience Working to Control a Phobia

continued, are meant to treat this fear for the long-run, not just for the moment.

The psychologist is also trying to determine which of the two is better and for whom.

The aim, she explained, is not to reduce anxiety to zero, but to a level that the person can do something with it. A certain amount of anxiety, she pointed out, actually pushes people to act. It cannot, though, take over and cause people to overlook their own competence.

"It is difficult," Safir acknowledges, "but not the end of the world to suffer from some anxiety. For that reason, it is important to examine the thoughts producing anxiety." She said that it is the person's interpretation of a situation, not the situation itself, that brings on the fear.

At present, there is no charge for the 12 treatments, since the techniques are still in the experimental stage. So, if you are between the ages of 20 and 35 and you fall apart just thinking about having to face an audience, you might want to get in touch with Marilyn Safir or the Center for the Study of Psychological Stress at the University.

# Golumbic Elected Israel's 1st European Fellow

Prof. Martin Golumbic, founding Director of the University's Caesarea Edmond Benjamin de Rothschild Foundation Institute for Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science, has been named a Fellow of the European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence (ECCAI), the umbrella organization of all European AI societies. Golumbic is the first Israeli researcher to be so honored. The awarding of ECCAI Fellow to Golumbic took place during the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) in Edinburgh, Scotland, on August 1st.

The prestigious academy of European AI Fellows currently numbers approximately 80 international scholars who have made substantial scientific contributions in the field of artificial intelligence, an interdisciplinary field spanning computer science and cognition.

Prof. Oliviero Stock (Trento, Italy), past president of ECCAI who has a close connection with the Caesarea Rothschild Institute, wrote about Golumbic's accomplishments, "Prof. Martin Golumbic has contributed to the development of fundamental research in Artificial Intelligence like few others. I would like to cite his important complexity work on temporal reasoning, graph algorithms, and tolerance graphs. Having him among the ECCAI Fellows will add to the prestige of our organization."

Golumbic came to Israel after holding positions at New York University and Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. He was a research scientist at the IBM Haifa Laboratories for ten years. He joined the University in October 2000 in order to set up its Institute for Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science, established by a grant from the Caesarea Edmond Benjamin de Rothschild Foundation.

Golumbic is the founding editor-in-chief of the highly respected journal, *Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence*. He served as chairman of the Israeli Association for Artificial Intelligence (IAAI) from 1991-1996 and established the Biennial Israeli Symposium on Foundations of Artificial Intelligence (BISFAI), which he has chaired for the past fifteen years. The computer scientist is also the founder and chair of the International Symposia on AI and Mathematics, held every two years in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



Prof. Martin Golumbic introduces a topic at a seminar for the University Governors.

# Academic Seminars for the Governors



Vice-President Prof. Ada Spitzer (top l.-corner of table) joined a seminar on "Jewish-Arab Relations on Campus."

This year, the University's Governors found themselves going back to class. In fact, they had electives to choose from—four parallel discussion groups dealing with "hot" topics of the day. Or what is known in modern Hebrew as *actualia*.

One "seminar" they could choose from was "Innovative Technologies." Led by Prof. Martin Golumbic, director of the Caesarea Rothschild Institute for the Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science, this seminar offered briefings by different faculty members on virtual reality technology in rehabilitation, innovative technologies for human development, and what a smart computer would be like.

"Selected Issues in National Security" was another topic of discussion, this one presented by the National Security Study Center's Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor and Dr. Dan Schueftan. Topics included the strategic implications of disengagement, the Fence as a strategic move in Palestinian-Israeli relations, and Arab radicalism and its strategic ramifications.

A third elective was "Advancing Higher Education among Women from Minority Groups." Dr. Faisal Azaiza, Head of The Jewish-Arab Center, surveyed the University's efforts in the field of affirmative action for women, particularly among Arab women. Several Arab women graduate students participated in this particular session.

"Jewish-Arab Relations on Campus and Beyond" was the fourth discussion group that Governors could choose. Prof. Ramzi Suleiman, chairman of the Dept. of Psychology, and Prof. Ron Robin, Dean of Students, led a lively discussion on internal relations between Jews and Arabs on campus, which was presented as a microcosm of Israeli society. The speakers also related to the potential of the campus to develop new models of peace and conflict resolution.

The Governors' attitudes about being forced back to the classroom may be summed up in the consensus: "There wasn't enough time to finish the discussion."

# Social Responsibility Reflected in a Wide Pool

"Not to harm is not enough, there is a need also to help. These are complementary requirements."

The speaker was Prof. Gesine Schwan, president of the European University of Viadrina, Frankfurt a. Oder. Her opening talk—and questions—on the role of a society and the role of a university set the tone for the seminar, "Multiple Reflections of Social Responsibility." This particular morning session of the 33rd Board of Governors Meeting gave the governors serious food for contemplation as they sought the role of the University of Haifa in the myriad reflections generated by the array of seminar speakers.

Criticizing the market orientation of public discourse about universities, which she says causes scholars to be afraid to speak out in public, she urged them to contribute to truth. Even while they are trying to be competent, she said, "Universities should be an institutional authority in society, in the sense that they are trusted." She is fearful that problems that are "out of the purview of social responsibility" today will not be able to be faced twenty years from now.

In her opinion, the sign of a free society is to allow people to have alternatives. "The first step of a university is to battle against not having them."

Touching on a theme that she later expanded after the Board of Governors Meeting, Schwan pointed to the importance of a university's location. The institution she heads is located in Germany, but close to Poland.

"It services the two borders," she would elaborate to those who came to celebrate the fifth



Prof. Gesine Schwan, president of Viadrina European University, delivers her views of social responsibility. Awaiting their turn are (r.-l.) Ahuva Yanai of Matan, Ilan Tirosh of Yuvalim Fund, Dr. Danny Statman of the Dept. of Philosophy, and Dr. Irit Kenan, special adviser to the University's president on the subject.

anniversary of the University's Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society.

Ilan Tirosh heads a capital fund, Yuvalim, whose objective is to reduce gaps in Israeli society and to advance equality of opportunity, alongside excellence. He sees the community, the university, and business as a triangle and "a kind of eco system."

How involved should a company become? he asked. "A symbiotic relationship can be created between business and the community," he answered, adding that "social responsibility was not a privilege, but an obligation." He described his three-track program, which focuses on junior high school-age children. One part was to boost academic achievement, another to make these pupils aware of their commitment to society. The third track was to create a caring family,

but one that demanded a lot, as well.

Tirosh said he wanted to be able to "leverage business leadership and inspire students." The ultimate intention was to instill a "life-cycle reaction, not a one-time act" of social responsibility.

Viewing society from another part of the fence, if not the other side, from Schwan, Ahuva Yanai asked how an organization could be socially responsible and answered it differently: "Do good, but also no harm." She is managing director of Matan, a non-profit organization set up by billionaire Sheri Arison that, she said, follows the value of the United Way. "There is no one agenda, no one thing is most important or needs improving the most."

She complained, "Even in the high-tech world [known for its supposed liberalism], everyone asks why we should do it. It's a

sake of society." Statman warns that "there is no guaranteed harmony between doing good and doing well. It involves a leap of faith to take the moral path."

The University of Haifa's commitment to social responsibility is manifested, among others, in the appointment of a special adviser to the president on this subject.

The adviser, Dr. Irit Kenan, believes that excellence, toward which the University strives, is the "leverage making it possible to experience social responsibility." The university, she remarked, is the last chance to influence youth, so the goal is to further develop student support for socially responsible activities.

The very fact that this institution is a pluralistic university, she continued, "commits us and presents challenges" in the realms of multiculturalism and equality. She revealed that the Dept. of Multi-disciplinary Studies is developing a "social responsibility cluster" of courses so that students "will understand what we are talking about." To create further awareness, she is planning an annual conference on the theme.

Still another project under development is one to identify underachievers in both the Hebrew and the Arabic-speaking communities. The latter target, she noted, is entirely new.

The commitment to society, she stressed, was a policy of this University, internally and externally. It was to be reflected in teaching and research, as well as community service. As Kenan sees it, "there is no tension between critical and being socially responsible."



David Recanati recalled his family's continuous support of the University over the past 32 years as he dedicated the newest lab of the Leon Recanati Institute of Maritime Studies in honor of his mother. These labs, he noted, had been on the Institute's "wish list" for a long time. "I am glad I am able to fulfill the needs and wishes of this Institute," he said. "They will enable improvement of the quality of work produced by this Institute." The laboratories will enable preservation of marine mammals and better investigation of underwater finds, according to the Institute's Head, Assoc. Prof. Ehud Spanier.

The dedication ceremony took place as one of the events of the 33rd Board of Governors Meeting.

# University Honors Five with Honorary Doctorate



The University newest honorary doctorate recipients (r.-l.): Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher (Israel), Baroness Prof. Susan Greenfield (England), Prof. Shelemayahu Zacks (U.S.A.), Prof. Elizabeth F. Loftus (U.S.A.), and Mrs. Myra H. Kraft (U.S.A.).

Hebrew Language and one of the foremost authorities in Hebrew and Jewish languages in the Diaspora in various periods of history. An Israel Prize Laureate, he holds the Chaim Nachman Bialik Chair in Research of the Hebrew Language at the Hebrew University and heads the Eliezer Ben-Yehuda Center for the Study of the History of Hebrew Language. He is a member of the central committee of the World Union for Jewish Studies. Bar-Asher called the occasion a "closing of a circle," since he had first come to Haifa on Youth Aliya 53 years ago and later had taught at the institution that went on to develop into the University. He described the city and the University as a "meeting point of cultures" and referred to the Talmud's discussion of accents in Haifa and nearby Tivon as reflecting this diversity long ago.

Baroness Prof. Susan Greenfield has focused much of her prodigious studies in pharmacology and in understanding the brain on deciphering the causes of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. She founded and heads several companies developing pharmaceutical and non-invasive approaches to these and other motor neuron diseases. In 2003, the *Daily Mail* placed her in a list of the 100 most influential women in Britain. She has been ranked as one of the 50 most inspirational women in the world, and was once named Woman of the Year. Earlier this year, Baroness Greenfield was appointed Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University. She has also been vocal in fighting attempts to boycott Israeli academics and institutions, including the most recent against the University of Haifa. Her first image of Haifa, Greenfield said, came on her first trip here 35 years ago. Now, in response to boycott attempts, she wanted to show how good Israel academia was and that it was committed to peace. "I am proud to be part of this University, to make a contribution to it," she told the audience.

Mrs. Myra H. Kraft founded and is president of the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, just one of her myriad philanthropic projects. She is currently co-chairing the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston 2005 Campaign. Although much of her charitable activity for both Jewish and non-Jewish causes, especially children and youth, is conducted in the Boston area, she was the sole National Chair of the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in 2000. She and her husband Robert Kraft own the American football Super Bowl champions, New England Patriots. Kraft noted that she and the University's new Management shared a common vision. It was, she explained, "synonymous with social justice and diversity."

Prof. Elizabeth F. Loftus was recently rated 58 in a list of the most eminent 20th century psychologists. She was the highest ranking woman in the list. Loftus specializes in memory, and her studies on false recollection and repressed memories have led American courts to think twice about remembered eye-witness accounts. She now holds the rank of Distinguished Professor at the University of California at Irvine, with appointments in both its Law School and Dept. of Psychology. Loftus, whose practical activities emanating from her academic work has often been controversial, said she had "learned to accept the hassles that come when results matter." Adding that "science is never dispassionate," she told of the threats made by those with vested interests in theories and scientists whose political sensibilities were threatened.

Prof. Shelemayahu Zacks is considered one of the world's foremost statisticians and mathematicians, particularly in the field of probability. Director of the Center for Statistics Quality Control Design at the State University of New York at Binghamton, he has found solutions for problems in the areas of engineering, operations research, biology, physics, and health. In the military area, his work provided the logistics of the Polaris nuclear submarine. Zacks, who thanked his wife for helping him to arrive at his status, said he has sought to generalize statistical theories to general problems. Commenting that a good statistician should help solve scientific problems, he was of the opinion that "the best theories emanate from concrete problems."



Making history. Maestro Ahmed El-Saedi of Egypt conducts the New Haifa Symphony Orchestra at the Hecht Museum Auditorium.

## First Egyptian to Conduct in Israel Adds Highlight to Ceremony

The University toward the end of May conferred its highest award, the honorary doctorate, on five leading personalities in the fields of philanthropy, medicine, psychology, statistics, and the Hebrew language.

The conferment event, a formal academic ceremony, was followed by a concert performed by the New Haifa Symphony Orchestra under the baton of a guest conductor, the Egyptian maestro, **Ahmed El-Saedi**. History was being made when following the academic ceremony, he conducted two movements from Beethoven's 7th Symphony. It was the first time that an Egyptian conductor performed in Israel.

The evening's festivities concluded the first of three full days of activity for the University's Governors, who had assembled from Israel and abroad for the 33rd Meeting of the Board of Governors.

The conferees (in alphabetical order) were Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher of Israel, a linguist; Baroness Prof. Susan Greenfield of England, a pharmacologist; Mrs. Myra Hiatt Kraft of the USA, a philanthropist; Prof. Elizabeth F. Loftus of the USA, a psychologist; and Prof. Shelemayahu Zacks of the USA, a statistician. The venue was the University's Hecht Museum Auditorium.

Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher is president of Israel's Academy of the



David Recanati (3rd from r.) dedicated a maritime lab in his mother's honor. Sharing the moment are (from l.) University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, Mr. Recanati, Institute Head Prof. Ehud Spanier, and Vice President Prof. Ada Spitzer.

## 33rd Board of Governors Opened with Song and Story

The songs were in Ladino, English, Arabic, and Yiddish, captivating the audience. And characterizing them, too.

The occasion was the festive Opening Ceremony of the 33rd Board of Governors Meeting. But the evening was also in celebration of another milestone: the 50th anniversary of the Dov Noy Israel Folktale Archives, which are ensconced in the University of Haifa.

The multilingual event of songs and stories, "And the songs flowed with the stream," originated in this rich collection of folktales, 23,000 in number and growing. "The largest reservoir of Jewish imagination"—that is how the Head of the IFA, Assoc. Prof. Chaya Bar-Itzhak of the Dept. of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, describes it.

The singer-narrator was Etty Ben-Zaken, who told the members of the Board and other guests who came to enjoy the evening that when she came upon the IFA, "it felt like entering a cave of treasures."

Her opening narrative from this treasure trove involved a story from Ethiopia. That was followed by a song in Ladino, then a story from Egypt. A 2nd-year undergraduate student sang a song in Arabic, and Ben-Zaken followed that up with a song from Morocco. Stories and songs in different languages reflected the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe. She summed up the evening by referring to a medley with, among others, a Yiddish wedding song and a Ladino children's song as "the Israeli melting pot."

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# Awarding of Fellowships— A Board of Governors Tradition

The annual Board of Governors Meeting is the traditional time for presenting some of the University's foremost awards to young scholars and scholars-in-the-making. The 33rd Meeting of the Board was no exception. Following is a rundown of the fellowships awarded this year to graduate students and young researchers.



Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein (c.), chair of the German Friends of the University, extends good wishes to a Werner Otto Fellowship recipient as the other awardees and Dr. Olaf Schultz-Gardyan (r.), vice chair of the Association, look on.

## Werner Otto Fellowships

The Werner Otto Fellowships for Arab Women Graduate Students, sponsored by the German Friends of the University, were awarded this year to 14 students, two of them doctoral candidates. Accepting the prizes in the name of her sister students, Lana Khalily, who is studying educational counseling, said that the recipients constitute a kind of bridge between the past and the future in regard to attitudes toward education in general and graduate studies in particular, and implications for the future advancement of the Arab community. Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein, who heads the German Friends Association, emphasized that these young women were building that bridge.

These grants, she noted, are given to students who combine excellence in studies with a deep sense of commitment to the society through their volunteer work.

Of the two doctoral candidates, one is studying in the Dept. of Hebrew and Comparative Literature and the other in the Dept. of Education. The M.A. students study in a range of disciplines: Mathematics Education, Physical Education, Educational Counseling,

Learning Disabilities, Arabic Language and Literature, Education (Social Aspects), Microbiology, Public Health, Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, Political Science, and Clinical-Educational Psychology.

## Hatter Fellowships

The Maurice Hatter Fellowships in Maritime Studies went to six Master's students, two doctoral candidates, and a post-doctorate researcher.

The Lady Irene Hatter grants went to an M.A. student, a Ph.D. candidate, and a Fulbright Fellow.

## Recanati Fellowships

The Jacob Recanati Research Fellowships in Maritime Studies were awarded to five Master's degree students and a doctoral candidate.

Research being undertaken by winners of the different maritime fellowships covers a range of themes, from the historical past to subjects having present-day application. Among them: a medieval shipload of building elements in the Hospitaller compound in Acre, an evaluation of alleged reduced narcosis of Nitrox mixtures, archeological finds from

Phoenician ports in 9-7 BCE and their historical significance, construction of a model to forecast dispersal patterns of marine mammals in the Mediterranean, and seine fishing and its relationship with the present dolphin population on Israel's Mediterranean continental shelf.

## Lord Jacobs Fellowship in Honor of Yael Metser

Former University vice president Yael Metser had the honor to choose two recipients of the fellowships donated by the past chairman of the Board of Governors in her honor. The fellowships were awarded to two outstanding graduate students, one in the Dept. of History and the other in the School of Social Work.

## Thilde and Ernst Fraenkel Fellowships

The Thilde and Ernst Fraenkel Fellowships for Exceptional Graduate Students were awarded to 8 graduate students, 1 studying Archeology, 1 Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, 5 Public Health, and 1 Maritime Civilizations.

## Dusty Miller Fellowship

This year's recipient of the Dusty and Ettie Miller Fellowship for Outstanding Young Researchers is Dr. Sharon Gil, a clinical social worker and Lecturer, with appointments in the School of Social Work and the Dept. of Nursing. Gil, who received his B.A. and M.A. degrees (both with honors) from the University's Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Studies and went on to study in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the Technion for his Ph.D., has focused his research on three mental health areas. The areas are post-traumatic stress disorder, combining psychologically and physiologically oriented approaches; the impact of medical conditions, particularly cancer, on mental health; and suicide and well-being among minority groups, in particular gay youths and Arab students.

The 33-year-old researcher is presently investigating the relationship between the coping process, counter-factual thinking, and psychological distress among Israeli victims of terrorist attacks. He told the governors that he plans in the next few years to deepen his exploration of the subjects of physiological markers and personality traits of suicidal patients and the relationship between these traits and PTSD. He will also continue to evaluate and develop therapeutic approaches for those suffering from anxiety disorders.

Concurrent with his teaching and research activities, he has held clinical positions with the Psychiatric Clinic at Haifa's Rambam Medical Center and the Mental Health Clinic in Nahariya. The author already of more than a dozen refereed published articles, including the highly prestigious *American Journal of Psychiatry*, Gil has also been an active participant in international conferences held in his field in Europe and the United States.

## Goldstein Scholarships for Undergraduates

The Susan Goldstein Fund Scholarships went to two very promising students about to begin their studies at the University, both in the field of economics, one with a concentration in accounting and the second with a dual major in statistics.

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## Synagogue/Church Controversy and a Digestive Amulet



"Gold digestive" amulet from the Hippos dig.

to an end, and so Segal hopes the riddle will be solved in the seventh season in the summer of 2006.

The "digestive" came that was found hidden in one of the recently exposed rooms built along the southern wall of the North-East Church is actually an amulet. This good luck charm assures its wearer that he or she will have no stomach problems

and easy digestion of food. The medallion, made of hematite (a semi-precious black stone) set in a gold frame, is beautifully executed, according to Segal. It has a Greek word engraved in its center - "Digest!"

As in previous seasons, two foreign teams joined the University in this season's dig. One team was from Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota,

and the other from the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

Excavation work concentrated in the city center, mainly around the Forum. This summer, for the first time, the work expanded to the south-west segment of Hippos-Sussita, which was the city's main residential quarter.

This season, the archaeologists began to uncover a colonnaded street. Luckily enough, they

managed after just a few days work to expose the two lower sections of a decorative gate. The likes of these, Segal exclaimed, have never before been exposed in any Roman city in Israel. The decorative gate signified the passageway from the more than four-meter-wide colonnaded street to the Forum.

Another find, this one from the north-west church area, is the fragment of a frieze in the Doric style of architecture, dating to the Hellenistic Era (2nd century BCE). It is one of the earliest architectural fragments of this kind ever unearthed in Israel. Segal surmised it must have belonged to the Hellenistic temple that stood in the very place where, hundreds of years later, a Byzantine church was erected.

The archeologist says that the Hellenistic temple rose to a height of 16 meters, a calculation based on the dimensions of an architectural fragment found reused in the walls of the Byzantine church. A smaller Roman temple, dating to the late 1st century BCE or beginning of the 1st century CE, was built over the remains of the Hellenistic one. A complete wine-press, located in a bloc of rooms, was also found just north of the north-west Church itself.

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## Supported Academic Learning

from such disorders. The result is a 3-year pilot program called "Supported Academic Education," sponsored by the Ministry of Health, the National Security Institute, and Reut, a non-profit organization for mental health rehabilitation, being carried out at the Haifa University and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Of the two, the project here on Mt. Carmel is conducted on-campus. Responsible for the day-to-day operation of Haifa's Supported Education program is Liora Cassif-Weissberg, a highly experienced social worker who earned both her B.A. (Psychology and B.A. Honors Program) and her M.A. (social work) here. Having worked extensively with new immigrant students and with people with mental disorders, she proved to be the right choice for a project that had no precedent in Israel, although such programs are well established in the United States.

"There are no simple solutions," Liora told *Focus*. "I am continuously covering new ground and introducing something new based on an evolving learning process. I

myself know so much more now than when I started."

The pilot project is now in its second year, and 15 University of Haifa students, both undergraduate and graduate students, one of whom is studying toward a Ph.D. degree, participated this past year. Two students had become ill while serving in the Israel Defense Force that recognized their disability. All participants had to be vetted by the Ministry of Health and were required to be in therapy with a psychiatrist or psychologist while in the program. Most take medication to alleviate extreme physical manifestations of their illness.

The project's objective, according to Cassif-Weissberg, is to overcome severe difficulties in three main learning areas that these students encounter, regardless of the particular mental illness. The hope is that with the appropriate support, they can complete their studies, earn a degree, and become productive members of society.

The first learning area is learning strategy: How to learn effectively, concentrate, summarize the material, manage

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## 33rd Board of Governors Opened with Song and Story



Songstress Etty Ben-Zaken (2nd from r.) joins students in a medley of original songs and tales adapted from the University's Dov Noy Israel Folktale Archives.

Etty Ben-Zaken adapted the IFA tales for her performance.

Original musical arrangements for her songs were the work of two members of the University's Dept. of Music, Prof. Oded Zehavi and Dr. Eitan Steinberg.

Bar-Itzhak revealed that some 400 stories a year were being added to the collection at the University. Her students are involved in two large-scale projects recording tales in Beersheva in the south and Shlomi on the Lebanese border in the north.

Another project will ensure that all these folktales are available for many generations to come—the entire archive is being digitized. She would like to publish a yearly anthology from the collection, which includes stories from all of Israel's communities, Druze, Muslim, Christian, Circassian, as well as Jewish, Ashkenazic and Sephardic.

The tales and songs gladdening the hearts and souls of the audience that packed the Hecht Museum Auditorium for

the festive Board of Governors opening gave impetus to University President Aaron Ben-Ze'ev's message earlier in the evening. Speaking about both Israel and the University, he emphasized the mutual, self-fulfilling expectations of hope and optimism that he felt should and could permeate the general society, as well as this particular academic society. A window of opportunity had now opened in Israel, he stated.

## Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka Doctors Studied Public Health Here

The University of Haifa's School of Public Health in August hosted a group of ten physicians and nurses from Sri Lanka in a special course devoted to "Post-Tsunami Medicine and Society." The Southeast Asian island country had been hard hit by the devastating tidal wave toward the end of last December.

The purpose of the course, explained the School's Dr. Ehud Miron, was to "equip these doctors and nurses with management tools and a systems view of public health. When these medical personnel return to Sri Lanka, these tools will aid them to make the medical system there more efficient and help them improve the existing [medical] infrastructure." Miron, who teaches information systems in health, was one of the initiators and organizers of the special visit to Israel.

The group, which stayed on the University's Mt. Carmel campus, studied topics in health management, public health, health promotion, epidemiology, and other related subjects. The project was financed by the National Council for Voluntarism and organized by the Israel Medical Association.

The Sri Lankan doctors and nurses also toured the Haifa district health bureau, a mother-and-child well-baby clinic, a child-development clinic sponsored by one of Israel's health funds, and the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa. Alongside the educational program, the University conducted trips to the Galilee, the Jordan Valley, Haifa's Bahai Gardens, and The University's own Hecht Museum of archeology.

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## Supported Academic Learning



Liora Cassif-Weissberg (l.), who runs the Supported Academic Learning program, instructs one of her mentors, Argentine-born Maya Starcenbaum, a 1st-year clinical psychology M.A. student who has been with the project since its inception.

time, cope with pressure, write exams, etc.

The second area to which Liora and her team pay much attention is emotional and social support, as this particular program provides the only organized support environment to most participants, without which they are quite lost.

The third challenge is practical help in dealing with the administration and bureaucracy. Most program participants need

pragmatic help in communicating with their lecturers, with the faculty, with the Dean's office, and many require guidance on how to present their problem to the administrative staff.

Each participant is assigned a mentor, who works with the participant on these difficulties for four hours a week throughout the year, Liora explained. The mentors, usually social work or psychology students, first receive training in how to deal with their

challenging task. Liora oversees the mentors' work, but also maintains direct contact with the students themselves, as well as with their psychiatrists, especially if there has been any radical change in a participant's behavior.

Each participating student has an individual support plan built specially in accordance with his or her personal needs. If required, a participant can also receive tutorial help provided by the Dean of Students Office, which,

according to Liora, cooperates whole-heartedly with the plan and provides much practical support.

An important aspect to point out is that most rehabilitation frameworks confine their efforts to simple work tasks, which do not suit several people with mental difficulties, who with the right support, can succeed in university studies, graduate, and find work suitable to their capabilities.

As project director in Haifa,

Liora also communicates with her colleague who runs a similar project in Jerusalem, and with a steering committee that oversees the plan. The members of this committee are specialists of the Health Ministry, the National Security Institute, Reut organization, and Prof. Taler. Liora adds that the Brookdale Institute, a key Israeli center for applied research on human services, is currently conducting a study of the program as a whole.

Does she feel the project is helping these students?

"I am positive that it is helping," she exclaims without any hesitation. "Even those who had to be hospitalized for a time," she said, "have returned to their studies. Most of the participants have become more committed to their studies and more effective. They invest a lot in their progress, and I believe that this will continue even after they graduate."

Cassif-Weissberg mentions that the word is being spread around, and it is likely that additional Israeli universities will offer this plan as well, another sign that Taler's initiative is bearing fruit. She is sure that there are many more than 15 students at the University who suffer from mental and personality disorders.

The problem, she says, is how

to find them. Although several participants walked in after reading an announcement about the project, which is free of charge, most students, she said, won't admit to such personality or mental problems. "I'd like to encourage additional students to approach me directly, by email ([lioracw@hotmail.com](mailto:lioracw@hotmail.com)) or by phone (050-6819 209), and I promise to handle each case with the utmost discretion.

"Such disorders are still viewed as a stigma", she noted, "but it should be seen as a challenge, not a shame." She would like the project to develop into a regular service at the University, just as treating learning disabilities has. "Certain students with such disorders succeed at university without our help as well; however, I believe that they could do even better by working with us."

Reflecting on her two years with the project, this young mother, Liora Cassif-Weissberg, remarks that "even many mental health professionals are not aware of the special difficulties of some students, and of the effort required to integrate them into the community, while drawing the maximum on their potential. What we are doing here at the University with this project is another step forward."

## University's Summer Ulpan Drew Students from 27 Countries

The University's well-known ulpan - intensive Hebrew-language study program - was bursting at the seams this summer. A record-breaking total of 250 students hailing from 27 different countries around the world gnashed their teeth on the language during July and August.

The students in the intensive ulpan could attend one or two month sessions, and all together more than 400 students enrolled in this challenging program.

Head of the Department of Overseas Studies, Prof. Hanan Alexander, professed himself delighted "to see so many people, from all corners of the earth, who want to come and study Hebrew at the University of Haifa.

"This year," he continued, "we again increased the number of students [in the ulpan] from previous years." Most of the ulpan students arrived at the Mt. Carmel campus early, before the end of the University's regular academic year, and began residing in the student dorms. This enabled them to get to know Israeli students who shared the same dormitories.

Among the far-flung countries represented at the ulpan this summer were Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Brazil, and South Africa, in addition to the students from the United States, Canada, and Europe.

## University Responds to Tulane Students' Needs

The University announced in early September that it would accept Tulane University students closed out of their classes by the devastating hurricane that flooded New Orleans, where Tulane is located. The students would study in the highly reputed Overseas Students Program. The University also offered supplementary scholarships for the tuition fees not covered by the Jewish Agency

and other institutions for these students. On or off-campus accommodations would be provided. The Overseas Program began September 18.

"The University will open its gates to any of these students who wants to study in Haifa," said Prof. Hanan Alexander, director of the Overseas Students Program, after receiving the enthusiastic go-ahead from University of Haifa President

Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev.

Leon Charney, who is Deputy Chairman of the University of Haifa's Board of Governors, donated \$50,000 to ensure that Tulane students who wanted to study here would be able to attend.

The Program's website (<http://overseas.haifa.ac.il/>) published an announcement of the University's intention to accept the late registration of

Tulane and other students affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The University of Haifa's Overseas Students Program is conducted in English and includes a Hebrew-language ulpan. Students can take courses in other parts of the University, as well. The Program also offers a degree program in English literature and a special honors program in psychology, in addition to its other courses of study. Lecturers from the University itself teach all the courses. Most U.S. universities give academic credit for the one or two semester course load.

## Prof. Solomon Wasser's Work on Mushrooms Is Used to Battle Leukemia

MyCure, a Kariat Shemona-based start-up, is on its way to developing an anti-cancer drug that will battle a form of leukemia known as CML.

The drug is the result of research initiated by Dr. Jamal Mahajna of the Upper Galilee Knowledge Center (Migal Ltd.), based on work on medicinal mushrooms conducted by Prof. Solomon Wasser of the University's Institute of Evolution.

The anti-cancer agent resulting

from this particular research breakthrough is protected by a patent filed in the United States and held jointly by Carmel-Haifa University Economic Corp. and Migal.

The two researchers located two mushrooms that contain active material with a potential to combat CML, chronic myeloid leukemia, with more endurance than the present drug on the market. The disease is relatively rare but still accounts for some

20% of adults diagnosed with leukemia.

MyCure was set up within the Meytav technological incubator, considered one of Israel's leading incubators in the field of the life sciences. The company is now defining the chemical structure of the two mushroom's active molecules. At a later stage, it will work on improving their other biological qualities.

MyCure has signed an

exclusive licensing agreement with the Migal and Carmel for use of the patent to develop and market drugs that will overcome CML.

The University's Wasser is one of the world's leading experts in studying the medicinal and other traits of the lowly mushroom. He holds other patents resulting from his work with fungi, and heads the Institute of Evolution's Biodiversity and Evolution of Cryptogamic Plants and Fungi Center.

## The University of Haifa Seeks Your Support

You can aid the University to fulfill its commitment to social responsibility and to excellence in teaching and research. Funding scholarships is one way. When you fund a scholarship, it's like adopting a student. It means giving that student a chance.

Donating toward the Master Plan is another way. Modern classrooms, labs, libraries, and buildings provide the physical infrastructure for fostering the best education.

Your gift or pledge in any amount is appreciated.

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## Social Work Graduate Runs Special Program for Ethiopian Immigrants

As part of its outreach to the community at large and a reflection of the University's acting on its commitment to social responsibility, the Hecht Museum hosts groups like the one in the picture below from Project Gamla. The Museum conducts an educational program for the young visitors beyond just looking at finds.

The Gamla Project attempts to provide cultural enrichment to Ethiopian immigrant children from kindergarten age through high school seniors. Volunteers work with the children and establish contact with their parents. The program, sponsored by the Haifa municipality and the JDC, is coordinated by Ms. Yael Romm, a 28-year-old graduate of the University's School of Social Work. Romm recruits volunteers, prepares them to work with the young new immigrants, and organizes various activities for the pupils and their families.

Challenging work for the Haifa native, whose background is completely different from that of her charges.

Below, the children act out tales from the Bible after viewing relevant exhibits.



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