

HAPPENINGS



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR TWO HEBREW UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Taking responsibility for society is the key to success, Moriah Ben Ami, CEO and co-founder of The Sky is the Limit recently told The Jerusalem Post. The Sky is the Limit is a nonprofit youth organization that uses social entrepreneurship to establish communal awareness and leadership among at-risk youth, helping impoverished communities improve themselves from within. The nonprofit was co-founded based on the shared experiences, vision and enthusiasm of two young Hebrew University of Jerusalem students – Moriah Ben Ami and Eldad Postan – only two years ago. Beginning with only a handful of youth and three counselors, they aimed to “transform” at-risk youth into socially involved citizens by developing their sense of self-worth and fostering in them a desire to be held accountable for their own futures and their communities. “Working with youth is the key to instill change. What is unique is that the youth themselves are instilling the change in their communities,” said Ben Ami. “I realized that there was a completely

different life going on here than the life I had led up to this point,” she said. “They were amazing children, and [yet] they didn’t believe that they could break free of this cycle. It was like living in two parallel worlds, and they just didn’t have the tools [to succeed]. I realized that I want to provide these youth with exactly what I received and give them an equal opportunity to succeed in life,” she said. Ben Ami credits her time at the orphanage as a life-changing experience that “opened her eyes” to the inequality among youth from underprivileged backgrounds. She has since enrolled at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where she studies education and international relations. During her first year of studies she met Eldad Postan, a student of philosophy, economics and political science at the university. During his time in the IDF, Postan served as an instructor at the Naval Academy. One of the goals of the course was to impart a sense of capability to young cadets and provide them with tools to realize their potential.

Following his service, Postan began to work with youth at risk and quickly realized that many of their behavioral problems stemmed from a feeling of a lack of competence and control over their lives. “We want to give youth long-lasting tools for life,” said Ben Ami. “These are youth to whom it is not enough to say ‘You are worthy’; they have to feel as though they are equipped with the tools to feel empowered.” The two partners joined forces and established The Sky is the Limit. The nonprofit program selects students, aged 13 to 15 in grades seven through nine, from low socioeconomic backgrounds to participate in the program. The students participate in a three-year “initiation” process, after which they can give back and take part in mentoring and guidance of the younger students joining the program. “For example, last year students in the program created a movie theater where local children in Katamon, whose families were unable to afford summer camps, could spend their evenings,” she explained.

“Another group opened a small coffee shop at their school,” she said. While the program is only in its second year, it has already grown to encompass countless students in the Jerusalem district. Next year, the program is set to expand even further to include a total of 26 groups of children and some 40 counselors. “The Jerusalem Municipality opened a huge door for us and gave us our start,” Ben Ami explained. However, funding a nonprofit is a very difficult and cut-throat venture. Ben Ami and Postan count themselves very lucky that they were able to attract numerous investors and philanthropists, including the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, JVP Media Quarter, Bank Yahav, UBS Swiss Financial Company, the Ariel Foundation and “especially” the Lenny Shapiro Foundation. “Our dream is to become a national youth movement,” said Ben Ami. “We are responsible for our community, and if we don’t rise up and act, nobody will. And this is what we try to teach our youth – that our society is what we make of it.”

FIRST TIME EVER: NASA INCLUDES AN ISRAELI SCIENTIST’S CHALLENGE IN INTERNATIONAL SPACE APPS COMPETITION

Solutions proposed by developers from USA, Italy, Macedonia, Egypt, Tunisia, Slovenia, India, New Zealand

For the first time in the history of NASA’s International Space Apps Challenge, the agency selected a challenge based on the work of an Israeli scientist. NASA, the US federal space agency, sponsored the 4th Space Apps hackathon in April 2015. During the global competition, 12,780 participants developed 947 projects in 133 locations worldwide. The teams attempted to solve the 25 space challenges that NASA released on a special web site created for the competition (<https://2015.spaceappschallenge.org>). Prof. Alon Peled, of the Department of Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, developed a challenge based on his new book, *Traversing Digital Babel – Information, E-Government, and Exchange*, and on his Public Sector Information Exchange research project, one of the leading Hebrew University projects in the field of “Big Data.” The project is supported by a Google Faculty Research Award and received funding from Yissum, the Technology Transfer Company of the Hebrew University. Forty-five software developers from the USA, Italy, Macedonia, Egypt, Tunisia, Slovenia, India, and New Zealand labored to solve Prof. Peled’s challenge, which can be seen at <https://2015.spaceappschallenge.org/challenge/data-treasure-hunting>. The software developers self-organized into sixteen software development teams and worked for 48 hours straight to develop different software solutions to the challenge. See <https://2015>.

[spaceappschallenge.org/project](https://2015.spaceappschallenge.org/project) for more information about these sixteen teams and the software solutions they developed. Prof. Peled explained: “The goal of this challenge was to find a way to transform NASA’s information assets so that they are easier to discover on the Web, so that citizens, entrepreneurs, and experts working in non-space domains can discover and use them. NASA receives the solutions developed during the competition and can then use these solutions to develop better keywords to tag the Big Data information assets that it develops and releases on the Web, for the benefit of all of humanity.” Peled’s new book, *Traversing Digital Babel – Information, E-Government, and Exchange*, is published by MIT Press (see: <http://scholars.huji.ac.il/traversingdigitalbabel>). In it, Peled proposes a groundbreaking approach for enabling information sharing among public sector agencies, whose computer systems are notoriously complex. Peled offers solutions that could save governments billions of dollars, improve services to citizens, and even save lives. These include using selective incentives to “nudge” agencies to exchange information assets, and the establishment of a Public Sector Information Exchange (PSIE), through which agencies would trade information. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is Israel’s leading academic and research institution, producing one-third of all civilian research in Israel. For more information, visit <http://new.huji.ac.il/en>.

ANTHROPOLOGY: ANCIENT SKULL FROM GALILEE CAVE OFFERS CLUES TO THE FIRST MODERN EUROPEANS

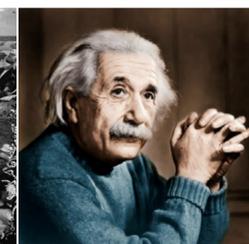


The discovery of a 55,000-year-old partial skull in Northern Israel provides new insights into the migration of modern humans out of Africa. The rare find is reported in the journal *Nature* by an international team of Israeli, North American and European researchers. The skull has a distinctive “bun”-shaped occipital region at the back. In this way its shape resembles modern African and European skulls, but differs from other anatomically modern humans from the Levant. This suggests that the people could be closely related to the first modern humans that later colonized Europe. The specimen also provides evidence that both modern humans and Neanderthals inhabited the southern Levant during the late Pleistocene, close in time to the likely interbreeding event between modern humans and Neanderthals. This finding represents the first fossil evidence from the critical period when genetic and archaeological models predict that African modern humans successfully migrated out of Africa and colonized Eurasia. It also represents the first fossil evidence that during the late Middle Paleolithic, the Levant was occupied not only by Neanderthals but also by modern humans.

CELEBRATING - HU 90 YEARS AND EINSTEIN 100 YEARS "THEORY OF RELATIVITY"

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL FEDERMANN, CHAIRMAN AND MENAHEM BEN-SASSON, PRESIDENT

“We have today laid the foundation-stone of the first Jewish university, which is to be erected on this hill, overlooking the city of Jerusalem.” In 1918, at the laying of the foundation stones for the Hebrew University, its main proponent Chaim Weizmann remembered the “souls of those who have made our history here with us today, inspiring us, urging us onward, to great and ever greater tasks.” This year, on the 90th anniversary of the Hebrew University’s opening, we too think back to Weizmann, Albert Einstein, Martin Buber, Judah Magnes and our other founders as they looked to the past – and then to the future. Through their devoted efforts, they made the future happen. And just as they were inspired by those before them, so too are we inspired by them – “to great and ever greater tasks”. As we celebrate and look ahead, there is much of which we can all be proud: We continue to lead Israeli higher education; our research innovations improve and enhance life and our many graduates have shaped – and continue to shape – all aspects of life and society in Israel and abroad. Likewise our faculty and students remain on the cutting edge – as evidenced by our rich research and development output and the numerous, often-prestigious grants and prizes awarded and articles published in top journals. We are proud of our diverse community of scholars which draws its members from the full spectrum of Israeli society and the global community. Nevertheless, we are inspired “to great and even greater tasks”. We know that we can do even better, and with your partnership, we will continue to ask questions, to innovate, to teach, to share, and to achieve – for a better Israel, and for a better world.

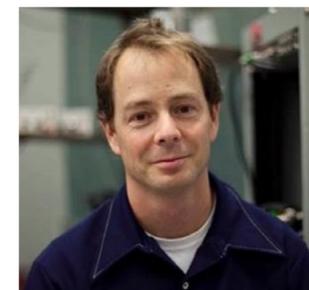


ADELIS BRAIN RESEARCH AWARD TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY’S DR. AMI CITRI

How the brain encodes experiences studied at Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences

Dr. Ami Citri of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences has received the prestigious \$100,000 Adelis Brain Research Award, for his outstanding work in the field of experience-dependent plasticity and its impact on diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders. In a recent interview, Dr. Citri said: “In the Citri Lab we study how addiction is formed in the brain, in the hope of finding therapies to help people get out of this addictive situation. Insights into how the brain encodes experience will help advance the treatment of psychiatric disorders. My lab at the Hebrew University is equipped like no other lab in the world. The faculty at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences comes from a variety of disciplines, from computer scientists

to physicists, and the way this builds together to produce very strong science was one of the major attractions for coming to the Hebrew University.”



Hebrew University’s Dr. Ami Citri has won the Adelis Brain Research Award

A STUDENT’S BABY STARTED CRYING IN CLASS. HOW THE PROFESSOR REACTED LEFT EVERYONE AMAZED

Picked up by media outlets worldwide, story becomes viral sensation

Professor Sydney Engelberg, was giving one of his lectures at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, when a student’s baby interrupted and started to cry. Mr. Engelberg was explaining to his students an organizational behavior when he approached the embarrassed mother and scooped her crying baby. Mr. Engelberg who is a father-of-four

and grandfather-of-five picked up the little kid and comforted him in his arms without skipping a single word of his lecture. The professor permits the mothers who attend his classrooms to bring their children and even breastfeed. He believes that no mother should neglect neither her education nor her children.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Did the Khazars Convert to Judaism?

The view that some or all Khazars, a central Asian people, became Jews during the ninth or tenth century is widely accepted. But following an exhaustive analysis of the evidence, Hebrew University of Jerusalem researcher Prof. Shaul Stampfer has concluded that such a conversion, “while a splendid story,” never took place.

New study challenges brain theory

HU scientists have shown that the way in which the brain organizes its visual sense remains intact even in people who are blind from birth, and that at least the pattern of functional connectivity between the visual area and the topographical representation of space (up/down, left/right, etc.) can develop on its own without any actual visual experience.

Children Doing Synchronized Activities Feel Closer and More Similar

Can clapping and tapping together change how children feel about each other, and even lead them to behave in more socially positive ways? According to new research by HU’s Prof. Ariel Knafo, children mimicking each other’s body language for mere minutes are more likely to share feelings of similarity and closeness.

Not All Neutrophils Are Created Equal, With Implications for Fighting Cancer

New HU research shows that the most common form of white blood cells, called neutrophils, contain many different subtypes, of which some fight the development of cancer and others promote its progression. New therapies that fight cancer by increasing anti-tumour neutrophils while limiting pro-tumour neutrophils could follow.

To receive the full article, please contact your local Australian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

FEDERAL

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

It is pleasing to report that the Australian Friends will be well-represented at this year's Board of Governors event. As of writing, thirty-nine people have registered. This year's meeting has a large Australian component and we will report in depth about the event in our next edition of Happenings. We are moved that Agnes Ginges and her family will be joining us for the tribute to Berel Ginges z"l. In addition, Mr Marc Besen AC will be receiving an Honorary Doctorate, and Shirley Ehrlich will be awarded an Honorary Fellowship. Other ceremonies include the inscriptions on the Founders Wall of the names of Dr Jack Hoffman OAM, Lilian Kessly and the late Senator Sam Herbert Cohen & Justice Judith Jacqueline Cohen.

NEW SOUTH WALES

HONOURS CLUB

The Honours Club continues to attract interesting speakers. Since the beginning of the year we have held four well-attended meetings. Our first meeting was addressed by Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod, with the title of his address being "Jewish and Israeli Identities in Israel".

The March meeting was addressed by Dr Dasia Black-Gutman. Dasia had recently returned from a visit to Bukhara and her address was aptly named "The Silk Road and the Mystery of the Jews of Bukhara".

Our April meeting was fascinating with our guest speaker being Emeritus Professor Clive Kessler. Clive chose the title of "Islam in World History - and in Ours". This was a most informative address and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

For our May meeting, we were fortunate to be able to invite visiting Hebrew University Professor Emeritus Sergio DellaPergola to address us. Sergio is an Italian-born Israeli demographer and statistician and is widely acknowledged as the leading authority in demography and statistics related to the Jewish population of the world.

VICTORIA

The HaSeret Film Club, a joint program between the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University and the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia, began as an initiative early in 2012. The idea was to introduce, screen and discuss films at the Lamm Jewish Library. This year, we have taken a new direction with a slight change of name to broaden the activities to include speakers as well as present films from the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive. The new name is the HaSeret Cultural Club and offers people the opportunity to attend during the week on a Tuesday afternoon once a month. Please see the calendar on our website: www.austfhu.org.au

In May, we had the privilege to host Professor Sergio DellaPergola, the Shlomo Argov Professor Emeritus of Israel-Diaspora Relations at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is acknowledged as the world's leading Jewish demographer. A brunch was generously hosted by Geoff and Helen Klinger at their home. With our patron, Lady Anna Cowen AM and His Excellency, Ambassador Shmuel Ben-Shmuel, guests listened to Prof DellaPergola's personal journal from Italy to Israel and trends of Jews and Arabs in Israel. In the evening, Prof DellaPergola gave a lecture "Counting Jews: Israel and the Diaspora in 2048" at a joint event with the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. We appreciated ACJC's efforts to ensure the night was a success with 200 people in attendance.



L to R: Professor Emeritus Sergio DellaPergola with Dr Rolene Lamm, AustFHU-VIC board member



L-R: Lady Anna Cowen AM, Jack Olenski & His Excellency Ambassador Shmuel Ben-Shmuel at the talk by Professor Emeritus Sergio DellaPergola

QUAY DINNER

In March we again held a very enjoyable dinner at the Quay restaurant which was attended by 95 people.

We thank our host Leon Fink for his hospitality and support. As in the past, all funds raised go towards scholarships at the Hebrew University.

COMMITTEE FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

In addition to the regular meetings, two luncheons with guest speakers were held. Following the March meeting, Irene Selecki addressed those present on "The Legacy of William Cooper", who was the founder of the Australian Aborigines' League and objector to cruel treatment of minorities in Hitler's Nazi Germany.

In May, the Committee enjoyed a talk by Professor Ron Sekel OAM, Orthopaedic Surgeon and Researcher, whose topic was "Glucosamine, Fish Oil and other Snake Oil Salesmen".



Above: Emeritus Professor Sergio DellaPergola with Honours Club members

Left, L to R: Barry Joseph and Ian Groden with Emeritus Professor Clive Kessler

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The past few months have been very busy in WA. The inaugural "Israel Matters" seminar in March was well attended and the talk on "Israeli Innovation at the Hebrew University" aroused much discussion.

Negotiations are in full swing to finalise the scholarships and accommodation for incoming and outgoing exchange students from HU to the UWA. In April WAFHU attended the UWA Student Exchange and Study Abroad fair and engaged in dialogue with local students about the many programs offered by HU.

Later that month WAFHU were invited to present at the ZFA/Masa fair at Carmel School for gap year programs. The year 11 and 12 students showed much interest and asked many questions about what HU programs involved.

HU was proud to be one of the sponsors of the communal Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations this year which drew a big crowd. The Israeli food, music and dancing created a vibrant atmosphere and was enjoyed by all.

In May WAFHU were privileged to hear a lecture delivered by Prof Walter Bloom, Honorary Numismatist at the Western Australian Museum. In his fascinating talk about shipwreck coins, he discussed the reasons for the large number of shipwrecks off the WA coast.

The inaugural WAFHU committee meeting was held at the home of Prof. Peter Winterton and his wife Hilary. Discussion centred around promoting the UWA student exchange program and creative ideas for upcoming functions in 2015.

CONTACT US

• Do you want to know more about the activities of the Friends?

• Interested in upcoming events?

• Going to Israel soon and keen to visit the Hebrew University?

• Interested in study at the University, or do you know someone who is?

• Become our Facebook friend – join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/AUSTFHUpage

Please contact us; we can assist.

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WELCOME TO RIS



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem invites international students from around the world to come to Israel to take advantage of the wide range of superb, first-class study programs offered at its Rothberg International School.

Study Abroad in Israel

Consistently ranked one of the World's Top 100 universities and Top 25 schools outside of the US, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem invites international students to Israel to experience the outstanding, first-class overseas study abroad programs offered at the Rothberg International School.

The Rothberg International School opened its first program in 1955, with 22 American students. Since then, the overseas study program has steadily expanded and the number of courses offered greatly increased. Today the Rothberg International School attracts more than 2000 students annually, from over 80 countries around the globe, who are keen to study in Israel in English.

We, the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, are proud to present the most popular programs that attract dozens of Australian students each year to undertake studies at the Hebrew University. This year we welcome Moran Pitchon, who will be replacing Inna Katsenelson in the role of our Student Liaison Officer.

Here are some of the main programs we invite you to experience:

January 2016 Programs: The Hebrew University Academic Gap Program

(August 27, 2015- Jan 22, 2016 and/or Jan 10, 2016- Jun 22, 2016)

This option is specially designed for first-year students, whether they plan to continue their studies in Israel or return home. Students may enrol for the entire year or for either the autumn or spring semester. A variety of first-year courses are offered in the areas of Israel and Middle Eastern studies, Religion, Brain and Behavioural Sciences and Environmental Studies. All Gap year students participate in the Gap ('Freshman') Seminar. This seminar provides Gap year students with a strong foundation to assist in the transition from high school to university. It provides academic and social support while strengthening the students' skills in academic research and writing. The seminar also affords students the opportunity to interact and form a community with fellow students and the administration. The program includes Ulpan prior to the semester, counselling, social activities and trips. All successful graduates will receive academic transcripts for accreditation purposes. Student with excellent academic standards or appropriate background can also apply to the affiliated programs:

1. ArtJerusalem - an initiative of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rothberg International School (RIS), combines artistic training, university study and first-hand exposure to Israel's challenging social, historical and cultural environment.
2. DanceJerusalem - This unique program, initiated jointly by the Rothberg International School (RIS) and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (JAMD) combines artistic training in dance skills and technique with academic exposure to Israel's challenging social, historical and cultural environment.
3. Jerusalem Sounds - Jerusalem Sounds is a new initiative of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (JAMD) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rothberg International School (RIS). Studies include a full music program consisting of individual instruction, performance in small and large ensembles and classes in Jewish and Israeli music.

Australian Friends of the Hebrew University Flagship Program: Mishpatim: Seminar in Israeli and International Law

(Thursday January 7 -Thursday January 28, 2016)

MISHPATIM- (Hebrew for 'Law') is a unique program for Australian Law students and scholars, revealing the wonder and complexity of Israel's Law system in the democratic Jewish state. The academic aim of this seminar is to introduce the students to the Israeli legal system, while focusing on current issues at the core of the Israeli legal debate. The course will allow students to examine key questions related to the identity of the Israeli State, including Jerusalem, the interaction with the Palestinian population in Israel and in the Occupied Territories, and the status of refugees. The course will include several field trips allowing the students to experience first-hand the workings of the Israeli legal system. The course includes guest lectures by some of Israel's prominent young legal scholars as well as by advocates working to promote democracy and human rights in Israel.

October 2016 One Year Master Degree Programs:

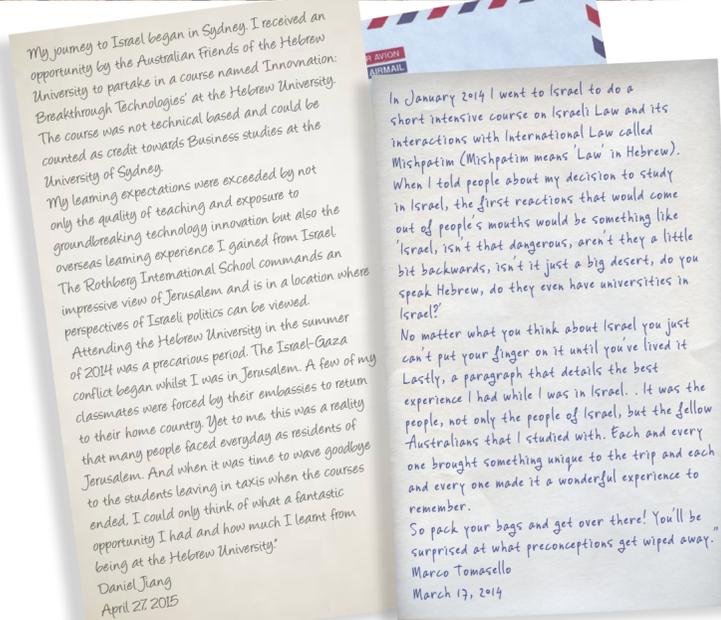
MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation The International one year MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation is designed to train a select group of students with the knowledge and skills for successfully adapting to emerging business trends. This new program, which will be taught in English, is a joint venture of the Jerusalem School of Business Administration and the Rothberg International School. The curriculum includes the development of sustainable business models, financial and data analysis, and current trends in management, entrepreneurship and innovation. Students will acquire tools for creating services and products that are suitable for global markets. Throughout the program, they will participate in a professional internship. Students will benefit from this unique opportunity to study in Israel, a country widely viewed as a hub of innovation, hi-tech firms, and start-ups. In addition, they will gain value beyond the classroom by networking with faculty and exploring the Israeli business hub.

One Year Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem offers an intensive one-year master's degree in Nonprofit Management and Leadership at the Rothberg International School. This program is designed to create a cadre of leaders in the nonprofit world with cutting-edge skills and theoretical and practical knowledge in management, entrepreneurship and leadership. This program provides students with an opportunity to study and share ideas with peers interested in civil society and social change, and to gain expertise that will contribute towards a career in the nonprofit sector. Interested students may also choose to specialise in Jewish community leadership by selecting elective courses from the programs in Jewish studies and Israel studies. Within the framework of the program, students can apply the knowledge they gain in class by getting hands-on experience through an internship and a supervised team project. Project planning and development will take place in a nonprofit organisation in Jerusalem or beyond. Course list sample: Jewish Education, Strategic Planning and Evaluation, Leadership and Social Responsibility, Organisation Theory for Nonprofits, Third Sector and Civil Society in Israel and Internationally, Organisational Change, NGO Finances, Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Leadership Development in Organisations, Community Councils in Jerusalem (Field Trips), Social Business and the Fourth Sector, Marketing, Fund Raising.

One-year M.A. in Human Rights and Transitional Justice

The M.A. Program offers 20-25 academic courses with top legal experts from Israel, Europe and North America, including courses on international humanitarian law, counter-terrorism law, international courts and tribunals, transitional justice, the law of the United Nations, legal aspects of the Middle-East conflict, international criminal law, international human rights law etc. The Program will include two main characteristics: The first, theoretical courses which provide a substantial interdisciplinary understanding in fields such as human rights and transitional justice. The second will include comparative and historic courses, in which the students will



be exposed to relevant cases dealt with by different countries at different time periods. Special emphasis will be given to the Israeli-Arab conflict and its resolution. Academically and practically inclined students with strong backgrounds in human rights, conflict resolution and transitional justice are invited to apply to the Program. We hope to see you become part of our growing family of leading human rights and transitional justice experts around the world!

July 2016 Opportunities: Leon Fink Middle Eastern Studies Summer Short Courses Scholarship

For the fourth year, we are offering an opportunity to gain in depth perspectives on all matters surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Middle East. The successful candidate will receive a scholarship to the Hebrew University that will cover the tuition and housing costs of one of the courses listed below. In addition, the student will receive a stipend of AUD 1,000 towards their living expenses during the course of their studies. The scholarship requires approval of the Australian Friends Academic Committee. Courses offered :The Emergence of the Modern State of Israel, Conflict Resolution from Theory to Practice: Israel as a Case Study, The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Israel and the Post-Arab Spring: An Interactive View of the New Middle East, Narratives and Realities: Inside the Israeli Palestinian Conflict.

Business and Innovation short summer courses Scholarships

Following the success of previous years, we are proud to present the AUSTFHU Business and Innovation Scholarship. If you have completed at least one year of undergraduate studies in Business, NFF Management, Economics or Entrepreneurship, this offer is for you. The Scholarship, to undertake a Summer Program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will be paid to the Hebrew University and will cover the tuition and housing costs of one of the courses listed below. In addition, the student will receive a stipend of AUD 1,000 towards their living expenses during the course of their studies. The scholarship requires approval of the Australian Friends Academic Committee. Courses offered : "Breakthrough Technologies: Shaping the Future" and "Start Ups and Innovation: The Israeli Model".