

# Hadassah Academic College

## From the Inside Out

Spring 2016



### College welcomes new immigrant students

The College has been strengthened by a rise in the enrolment of new immigrant students. Students come from around the world with a noted increase in arrivals from France, the Ukraine, and South America.

Prior to beginning undergraduate or graduate studies, students enroll in an intensive five month pre-academic preparatory program that offers Hebrew language study plus workshops to help these new immigrants acclimate to Israel and campus life.

In response to a strong interest by French Jewish youth to live in Israel, the College introduced a special study track for students holding a BTS technical certificate to acquire the knowledge and skills to qualify as optometrists. The “Opti-Zion” program was initiated in January 2016 with an inaugural class of twenty students in collaboration with the “Netzer Yonatan Association”, “Optical Center Foundation”, and Israel Ministry of Absorption.



Inaugural “OptiZion” class at the College.

### Visit by the Deputy Minister of Education

MK Rabbi Meir Porush, Deputy-Minister of Education and leader of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel party visited the College’s “Campus Strauss” academic program for Haredi students to learn more about the study options and meet with program leaders and students. Over one-half of all Israeli Haredi students who today study within the Council for Higher Education’s Haredi national program today learn at Hadassah Academic College.



r-l: College President Prof. Bertold Fridlender; MK Rabbi Meir Porush; “Campus Strauss” Director Yaakov Yeruslavsky

## New EU research initiative

Hadassah Academic College is collaborating with the Shenkar College of Engineering, Art and Design in a new project to promote innovation and creativity in Israeli industry entitled CLEVER - Creative Leadership & Entrepreneurship - Visionary Education Roadmap.

Hadassah College's participation will be headed by Prof. Moshe Caine, Chair of the Department of Photographic Communication. The consortium's quality assurance will be overseen by HAC Prof. Michael Berman and CIO Moshe Kalige.

Funded by the European Commission's Erasmus Program - "Creative Europe" initiative, the Israeli participants will investigate ways in which creativity and innovation can be promoted within local industry.

Faculty and students will also have an opportunity to learn about new programs and academic modules recently introduced at various European institutes.

The project is expected to open additional career opportunities for department graduates as well as opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation among the College's departments.

## Communication in times of crisis

The Department of Politics and Communication hosted an interdisciplinary seminar in January 2016 on the role and responsibilities of the media in times of crisis and emergency. The event was co-sponsored with Wagner College (NY) and the University of Haifa's Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under Extreme Conditions.

Guests included academicians from Concordia University (Montreal), Kinneret Academic College, Netanya Academic College, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Ariel University, Herzliah Interdisciplinary Center, and the Israel Democracy Institute as well as media professionals, decision-makers, legislators and regulators from Israel and abroad.



## International Conference on Human Migration in Asia Minor

The College sponsored an international conference in December 2015 in collaboration with UNESCO focusing on human migration in Asia Minor. Conference participants were addressed by the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Israel, Mr. Dulat Kuanyshev and visiting Ambassador of Kazakhstan to UNESCO, Mr. Olzhas Suleymenov. The meeting was part of a series of conferences on the subject taking place around the world.



*l-r: Ambassador Olzhas Suleymenov ; Prof. Bertold Fridlender; Ambassador Dulat Kuanyshev; HAC Prof. Kenneth Segal*

## Student UN



In January 2016, 15 HAC students participated in a model UN general assembly together with 200 student participants from Israel and abroad.

Held at Haifa University, the gathering debated subjects including the Syrian refugee crisis, civil war in Yemen, threat of ISIS terrorism, and the illegal drug trade.

The UN Model project is offered as an extracurricular activity by the College's Dean of Students office. Student participants come from all departments of the College and meet weekly to prepare for forthcoming UN sessions.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Happy Purim!”



Students from the College’s various academic departments volunteered to offer Purim holiday activities for special needs children at a number of Jerusalem primary schools. Activities included creative workshops; making costumes; drawing; and sending traditional holiday gifts in special packaging with personal greeting cards to the youngsters’ family members.

Child Eye-care



Faculty and students of the Department of Optometry regularly reach out to various communities in Jerusalem to offer vision screening and prescription eyewear on a volunteer basis. This year's activity has included outreach to Ethiopian-Jewish immigrant children living in an absorption center; primary school children with severe to moderate autism; and Arab residents of the city. Department Chair Prof. Ariela Gordon Shaag adds: "Our hearts filled as we reached parts of the population that really needed attention. We saw cases that we had never been exposed to before, and reached people who never had access to eye services."

Students entertain hospital patients



The College's student volunteer band recently entertained patients at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus. The "Nevi'im" band consists of students from all College departments and is organized by the Dean of Students office. The band intends to bring their entertainment to other city hospitals during the course of the academic year.

Students rejuvenate downtown Jerusalem



The College's "Above and Beyond" program is a volunteer social entrepreneurship project in which students commit to three years of volunteer service during which they initiate new and innovative projects for the betterment of the community. The Program benefits Jerusalem residents by improving their quality of life while encouraging values of volunteerism and leadership among its student participants.

One such activity entitled "For the Community" involves students working together with residents of neglected neighborhoods to repair and improve their surroundings.

One of this year's projects included refurbishment of the long-neglected "Clal" building in downtown Jerusalem whereby 30 students painted and improved the interior to create a community center for nearby residents. The students then worked with residents to upgrade and beautify the adjoining "Davidka" gardens.

Developing products for special needs



The Department of Inclusive Industrial Design is unique in its emphasis on developing new products for populations with special needs. Student Oz Bedermen's final project was accepted to "Grand Challenges", a program sponsored by Prime Minister's Office of the Chief Scientist. Benderman developed a prosthesis individually adapted for children in developing nations. The prosthesis "grows" with the child, thus enabling multi-year use. In addition to assisting those in need, Benderman anticipates that his innovative design will lead to its commercialization.

## Founders commemorated at the Adler Aphasia Center

The College's Adler Aphasia Center recently paid tribute to the late Michael (Mike) Adler of Maywood, New Jersey who founded the Center together with his wife Elaine. Dana Adler, accompanied by representatives of the Northern New Jersey Federation spoke in tribute to her late father-in-law in the presence of family and friends.

The Center also commemorated the late Dr. Meredith Drench (Providence, R.I.) and her father Daniel Drench (Verona, NJ) who were longtime, strong friends of the Center. Barbara Drench (right), who continues her family's support of the Center was present to offer words of tribute.



## Inaugural Reunion

Over 150 alumni of the Department of Communication Disorders recently attended a first ever reunion, reuniting with faculty and fellow speech –language pathologists and audiologists. The gathering also marked the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Department. Participants were encouraged to contribute to an alumni scholarship fund established to mark the occasion. This inaugural event was made possible through the support of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation.

## Students meet US Ambassador

In December 2015, students of Politics and Communication had an opportunity to meet and exchange views with Daniel B. Shapiro, U.S. Ambassador to Israel. Students in the program regularly meet with leading decision-makers as part of their education and training.



Ambassador Daniel Shapiro (center), Mr. Thomas Ganton, US Embassy Public Affairs (left), and College participants

## Shamir Optics hosts students

Shamir Optics, one of the world's largest manufacturers of eyewear lenses hosted students of Optometry to its state-of-the-art production facility at Kibbutz Shamir in northern Israel. Students were exposed to the various complex stages of the lens manufacturing process leading to the manufacture of first rate lenses.



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