

Record student growth

While the general trend in student enrolment at Israel's colleges and universities shows a slight decline, Hadassah Academic College opened the current student year with an unprecedented twenty percent increase in first year students as compared to the previous year.

This dramatic jump in student enrolment is contrary to the national trend and exceeds enrolment at other institutions of higher learning.

Nearly 3,600 students are now enrolled for undergraduate and graduate studies at the College. As in past years, over one-half of all students are the first in their family to attend college.

In a parallel development, the College was again voted for a third year in a row as the number one institution of higher learning at which study in Jerusalem. These results emerged from an independent poll taken among over 10,000 students by the Israel National Students Union.

College President Prof. Bertold Fridlender expressed his satisfaction with the results: "This year, we established a new Department of Behavioral Sciences that opened with fifty students. Yet even without the opening of the new department, we are looking at a significant increase by any measure. Our student focus groups revealed that students are especially attracted by our successful track record in job placement, and the personal assistance offered to each student to ensure that he/she successfully graduates and secures employment in his/her field of study".



New Schools

The College has reorganized its twelve academic departments into two major Schools, reflecting its understanding of developing trends in higher education and to encourage interdisciplinary studies between departments. The Interdisciplinary School for Science, Health, and Society, chaired by Prof. Yosef Frost will focus on the need for well trained personnel for the nation's health and science sectors. The Interdisciplinary School for Society and Community, chaired by Prof. Yoram Eden will address societal changes and trends in Israel and abroad. For further information go to www.hadassah.ac.il

Meeting demand for biotech personnel: An interview with Prof. Alik Honigman

Prof. Alexander (Alik) Honigman is Chair of the College's Department of Biotechnology. Prior to his appointment as Department Chair, he pursued a lifelong career in teaching and research in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Medicine.

How do you interpret the significant rise in the number of students choosing to study biotechnology at the College?

I believe there are a number of factors. A reputation for excellence, strong job demand, and support for each student seem to drive our rising enrolment. Our Department is highly regarded among employers so that our graduates are in demand in both the private and public sectors. Many of our graduates choose to continue on to graduate study and are easily accepted at the very best research universities in the country.

Our faculty and the College staff provide individual assistance to each student to ensure that he/she can successfully cope with their studies and graduate. The College offers scholarship support for students in need.

What are the opportunities available to Department graduates?

Employers are eager to accept our graduates because of the knowledge, practical skills, and experience they acquire in our program. Everyone reads about the "start-up nation", and Israel's bio-tech and bio-med sectors are indeed booming and in need of well educated, well-trained personnel. We regularly invite managers from these sectors, department alumni, and heads of graduate departments from the research universities to come to the campus to speak about their companies and their work. The College's Career Counseling Center provides various opportunities for students to learn about career opportunities. Our graduates can be found working in several different capacities in the industry while others have pursued careers as researchers and scientists.



What is unique about the Department?

Our students benefit from a high level of academic study plus a focus on practical applications. We provide a far greater number of laboratory hours than comparable programs at the major universities – nearly a third of our study program. In their third year of study, students participate in a 200-hour research project in an industry or research laboratory that is both a learning experience and hands-on mastery of lab techniques. The research project plus the intensive lab experience provide an invaluable advantage when our students compete in the job market or apply to graduate schools.

Tell us about your first graduating class of ultra-Orthodox "Haredi" women!

Last year, we graduated our first class of 35 "Haredi" women. These wonderful students have either found jobs in industry or in public institutions. This year, we look forward to graduating a first class of male "Haredi" students, nearly all of whom already have job offers waiting for them! Our faculty enjoys teaching these students as they are highly motivated and eager to pursue careers in the field as productive professionals. We are pleased to play a role in helping those Haredi men and women who wish to pursue careers in biotechnology find jobs with dignity and a future in the biotech and biomed sectors.



College introduces Behavioral Sciences

*Prof. Chaim Waxman,
Department Chair*



Starting this academic year, the College opened the only undergraduate program in Behavioral Sciences offered in Jerusalem. Fifty first-year students enrolled in the new three-year study track.

Graduates are expected to find employment in both the public and private sectors including in human resource firms; educational and caregiving institutions; and political organizations.

The new Department is chaired by Prof. Chaim Waxman, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, Senior Fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and Research Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace. Prof. Waxman specializes in the sociology of religion and ethnicity. He has written more than 100 scholarly articles and is the author and/or editor of more than a dozen books. He immigrated from the U.S. to Israel in 2002.

Challenges before the Israeli economy

The College's Departments of Management and Economics and Accounting recently hosted a national conference on the Israeli economy, focused on the urgent issues of housing, growth, and social gaps.

Attended by faculty and students, the keynote address was delivered by David Brodet, the College's Chairman of the Board, who also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Leumi Group. Prof. Avi Simchon, Head of the National Economics Council addressed the gap between per capita productivity in Israel and other OECD countries. Prof. Yosef Frost, Chair of the Department Management provided a perspective on the health care sector.



*Prof. Bertold Fridlender (left)
and David Brodet (right)*

The presentations were followed by a panel that included Prof. Shlomo Yitzhaki, Chair of the Department of Economics and Accountancy; Gal Hershkovitz, past Budget Director at the Ministry of Finance, and Prof. Reuben Gronau, an Emeritus Professor at the Hebrew University, and a member of the Bank of Israel's Monetary Committee.

Raising awareness of the disabled

The College recently hosted a number of educational seminars geared to understanding the needs of the learning and physically disabled and encourage their integration into higher education and the workforce.

A seminar to understand violence and abuse against the disabled was hosted by the College's Department of Communication Disorders in collaboration with the Haruv Institute, a highly respected training and research center in the field of child abuse and neglect. Open to faculty and students, the presentations addressed how to identify cases of child abuse among people with disabilities.

The departments of Communication Disorders and Optometry hosted a one day seminar for nursery school and kindergarten teachers to understand the relationship between hearing and vision difficulties and learning disabilities. The goal of the seminar was to help professionals to identify children's difficulties so that they may receive effective attention and ensure their future learning ability.

A seminar was also held on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for people with aphasia attended by speech therapists from all over the country. The lectures raised awareness of abuse against people with disabilities and of the challenges to identify these people, understand and address their concerns.



Optometry Chair at UCLA

The Chair of the College's Department of Optometry, Prof. Ariela Gordon-Shaag delivered a seminar at the prestigious Julius Stein Eye Institute at the University of California-LA (UCLA) in early November. She focused on the research of keratoconus, a disorder of the eye which results in progressive thinning of the cornea.

First inaugural reunion – Photographic Communication

Over 200 alumni of the Department of Photographic Communication attended a first-ever reunion toward the opening of the academic year. The department was established as a vocational discipline in 1970 and became an academic department in 2007. Over nearly half a century, hundreds of Department graduates have pursued successful careers as independent photographers and visual communication experts in various fields of photography. The reunion was made possible through the support of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation of Los Angeles.



Promoting innovation in Israel's creative sectors

A delegation of five HAC faculty members led by Prof. Moshe Caine, Chair of the Department of Photographic Communication addressed a meeting of colleagues in Brighton, UK in early September as part of an EU-sponsored project to promote innovation in the creative sectors of the visual and performing arts, fashion, design, architecture, music and film. The project aims to improve this sector's competitiveness, skills sets, and access to funding. The project is also expected to contribute to the development of new teaching modules that will assist students in these fields to pursue rewarding, lifelong careers. Participants include colleagues from the UK, Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, and the Netherlands and Tel Aviv's Shenkar College of Engineering, Art, and Design.

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Virtual learning with Wagner College

This academic year, HAC students of Politics and Communication will be given the opportunity to study together with students of New York's Wagner College by video conference and SKYPE in a course on Public Diplomacy and Crisis Management. In addition to lectures and presentations, the course will provide an opportunity for students from both institutions to create joint projects on subjects such as managing communications and diplomacy in times of crisis, and communications in times of environmental and health emergencies.

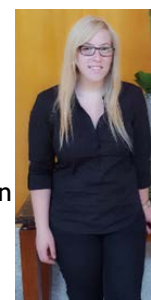
International Student Exchange

Three HAC students from the departments of Inclusive Industrial Design, Management, and Politics and Communication participated in an international summer seminar held at Germany's Fulda University of Applied Science. In addition to academic study, the students had opportunity to interact with participants from around the world.

The College's Departments of Photographic Communication and Computer Science consequently hosted 13 Fulda students and accompanying faculty in a visit to the College in November.

Students from the College's Department of Management who are studying towards a career in Israel's hospitality sector traveled to Greece in September to meet with tourist site managers to understand how such sites operate. The students visited a variety of locations including museums, nature reserves, and archaeological sites as well as met with senior tourist officials.

Ms. Hila Weinstein, a second year student in the Department of Management's Hospitality program was selected by the international Hilton Hotel chain to serve as a student intern at its flagship hotel in Milan. Hila's internship allowed her to learn about all aspects of hotel management.



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