

Chancellor from Israel Visits with Students

By Kim Dunbar

On Tuesday, October 23rd, Eliezer Rafaeli, the co-Founder, first President, and current Chancellor of the University of Haifa (Israel) spoke to the Cambridge College community as part of the Carl F. Barron Distinguished Lecture Series. Chancellor Rafaeli shared experiences and advice from his long and groundbreaking career in a lecture entitled "A University in the Eye of Storms."

Chancellor Rafaeli, who created a diverse university in the heart of the Middle East, said that a University's main responsibility is to develop leaders. "It is my belief that creating leadership is the first role of a University, even more important than research," said Chancellor Rafaeli. "It can raise more insight and wisdom than that in the laboratories," he added.

Chancellor Rafaeli explained that when he began the University, the first major problem he faced was how to approach a population that was angry, violent and almost hopeless. He sought out the young people who were angry but showed leadership, and those students served as "undercover spies" looking for others like themselves. From there, Chancellor Rafaeli built students and leaders. "That is how you make a leader," he said. "You get them to trust themselves."

Chancellor Rafaeli assured the audience that this is not an easy task, but he has already seen University of Haifa graduates take on a variety of leadership roles in the community. "These people came from broken families and communities and we had to bring back the relationship between the community and the individuals," he said. "We are trying to create a community of neighbors who talk to each other and who can trust each other. This is the role of the University and I believe that we are right," he added.

After his lecture, Chancellor Rafaeli concluded the evening with a question and answer period in which he took the opportunity to commend Cambridge College students on

making the decision to get an education. He also left them with a piece of sound advice: “Real management means being able to make sound decisions based on that education,” he said.