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1

Warm congratulations to Prof. Faisal Azaiza, Head of the School Social Work, who has been unanimously elected as Deputy Chairman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) of Council of Higher Education (CHE) in Israel. "I am convinced that in his current role he will continue to contribute to and promote the higher education system" said Education Minister Shay Piron. "Prof. Azaiza has contributed greatly to the advancement of excellent research in the School of Social Work and also to the shaping of the Israeli higher education system during his years at the CHE" said University President Amos Shapira. The appointment was reported in the [Jerusalem Post](#).



2

Dozens of representatives of the University's Friends Associations from around the world came to the campus for an intensive four day workshop where they met with the University's President, Rector and Chairman of the Board of Governors, as well as members of the External Relations and Resource Development Department. They discussed different ways of developing resources and collaborating with institutions abroad. Participants also met with University researchers to hear about their latest projects, and toured new laboratories and research centers on campus. This is the first meeting of this type held, with the aim of strengthening the relationship with Friends Associations and developing the scope of fundraising for the University.



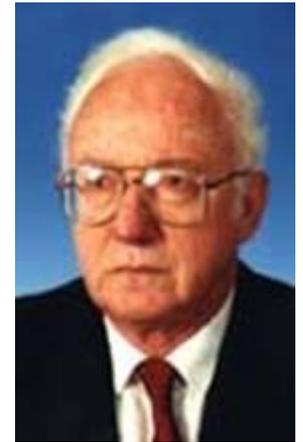
3

What is the critical role of the written word in Jewish heritage? How can secular Jews, over time, remain Jews? What was the importance of learning and books in the survival of the Jewish people? These are all questions explored in a book written by Prof. Fania Oz – Salzburger, of the Faculty of Law, with her father, novelist Amos Oz and recently published in Israel. The book "[Jews and Words](#)", which was published in the US last year, is a scholarly exploration of Jewish continuity, the powerful voices of women and the relationship between written texts and Judaism. [See here for more details](#)



4

Warm congratulations to retired Judge [Prof. Amnon Carmi](#) of the Faculty of Law, and Director of the International Center for Health Law and Ethics, who received the Paul Harris Rotary Award 2013-14 for his contribution to medical ethics. The Paul Harris Award is given to public figures prominent in research, culture and society in the name of the World Rotary Organization's founder, Paul Harris.



5

Congratulations are also in order to the [University Model UN delegation](#) which won four awards at the recent [Model United Nations conference in London](#), including 'Best Small Delegation'. The event is a forum for over 1500 delegates from around the world to debate the most pressing issues on the global agenda. It has a reputation for an exceptional standard of debate. Members of the delegation were also awarded three other prizes: Amjad Iraqi won Best Delegate, Or Brokman, the Distinguished Award, and Julie Gano an Honorable Mention.



6

Random drug testing in schools does not necessarily lead to a decline in drug use among high school students, suggests a new study by [Dr. Sharon Snitzman](#) of the School of Public Health. However, the research did find that the atmosphere in a school, and a positive school climate, might be a strategy to prevent drug use. The study, which was conducted in cooperation with Dr. Daniel Romer of the University of Pennsylvania, on high school students in the United States, found that a perceived positive atmosphere in school was associated with a reduction in initiation into cigarettes and marijuana smoking. The findings were recently featured on Israel Radio and published in the [Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs](#) in the USA, as well as various science blogs there.



7

A study by [Prof. Sara Rosenblum](#), of the Department of Occupational Therapy, has discovered that the way people write might give early clues to whether they have Parkinson's disease. Prof. Rosenblum's theory suggests an innovative – and non-invasive – way of diagnosing Parkinson's disease at an early stage. It has revealed that there may be cognitive differences in writing by patients in the early stages of Parkinson's. The research has been reported internationally, mainly in Germany in [Yahoo! deutschland](#) [Stern.de](#) and [Südtirol News](#) and also the English language [freewebpos.com](#)



8

Following the vandalizing in Japan of over 250 books relating to the "The Diary of Anne Frank" (including 100 copies of the diary itself) [Prof. Rotem Kovner](#) of the Department of Asian Studies has been quoted by a number of media outlets, including the [BBC](#). As an expert on Japanese culture he explained the significance of the holocaust to the Japanese nation. Despite the vandalism, Prof. Kovner commented that the absolute numbers of copies of the diary sold in Japan is second only to the US. To the Japanese "it was a book about a war tragedy and the way youth experienced war" he said.



9

[Prof. Ofira Ayalon](#), Head of the Center for the Study of Natural Resources and Environment, was referred to in an article by the Haaretz newspaper on a recent report on sustainable public transport, which recommends how to change people's travelling habits to use public transport more. Prof. Ayalon talked about the costs and benefits of electric vehicles, "the economic savings made by replacing a petrol driven vehicle with an electric one ranges from 10-92 Euros per car. In France and Denmark the savings reach higher amounts."



10

"In recent years there has been a trend in China towards switching from a state that only receives investment to one which itself invests, with the aim of becoming a dominant player in specific sectors." Commented [Dr. Yoram Evron](#) from the Department of Asian Studies on Israel Radio, regarding the acquisition of Tnuva by Chinese company Bright Foods. He was also quoted by [the Jerusalem Post](#) on the differences between the two firms and whether they might have a conflict of interest.



11

Without a partition deal, Jews will eventually become a minority because of higher Arab population growth, said Prof. Arnon Soffer, Incumbent of the Chaiklin Chair of Geostrategy, at the Department of Geography. This view was cited in a recent article for [Network Fox News](#) about the centrality of the issue of demographic balance to the document of principles which John Kerry is working on. According to Soffer, if Israel gives up most of the West Bank it can assure a Jewish majority at home "for eternity."



12

The disappearance of animals and other creatures living in the Mediterranean basin due to global warming is a cause for great concern, said Tamar Guy Haim, researcher at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences to Israel Radio. "Other species are likely to disappear from the Mediterranean sea if global warming continues" she added. The program also interviewed [Dr. Dror Angel](#) and Galia Pasternak at the Department of Maritime Civilizations.

