



Issue No. 13 for Academic Year 2013-14

March 13, 2014

1

The [2014 International Conference On Intelligent User Interfaces](#), recently held in Haifa, was chaired by Dr. Tsvi Kuflik, Head of the Department of Information Systems. The conference brought together 165 researchers in various fields from 27 different countries to discuss the interfaces between man and computer. Dr. Kuflik led the organization of the conference working together with [The Caesarea Rothschild Institute for Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science \(C.R.I.\)](#), which sponsored it. Amongst other sponsors were the six IBM Research Laboratories in Haifa, the professional organization the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and its special interest group on Artificial Intelligence SIGART, the intelligent user interface community SIGCHI, Microsoft, Tel Aviv University and RedWhale Software.



2

We have received a generous donation from our friends in England for a Laboratory for Biology of Subterranean Mammals at the Institute of Evolution headed by Prof. Aaron Avivi. Prof. Avivi, Dr. Imad Shams and Dr. Irena Manov are investigating the biochemical mechanisms and unique molecular pathways of the Israeli Blind Mole Rat which has an exceptional immunity to hypoxia, which is connected to a remarkable resilience against cancer, and the ability of its cells to attack and kill cancer cells in particular types of human cancer.



3

"Performing Arts in Israel" is the name of an exhibition which has just opened at the Spirit of Israel Gallery showing Performing Arts Culture from the sixties to the nineties through the images of Israeli photographer Mula Eshet. Eshet's photographs were scanned and cataloged in a collaboration between the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library and the "People Israel - Guide to Israeli Society" website. The exhibition, which is on display until the end of April, was curated by [Dr. Tamar Almog](#) of the Department of Learning, Instruction and Teacher Education.



4

An article penned by [Prof. Gabriel Weimann](#) of the Department of Communication, appeared in *It's a Medium World*, a web journal published by the [Wilson Center](#), an independent research institute that aims to offer workable solutions to global problems. The article, "[Virtual Packs of Lone Wolves](#)" deals with the need - and ability - to find terrorist networks and follow their highly effective internet recruitment activities while also maintaining the need for individual privacy. According to Weimann, while it is imperative to monitor security and intelligence agencies such as the US National Security Agency who are criticized for 'eavesdropping', we must remember that this sort of tracking is the only way to find and cut off these networks. Prof. Weimann was also interviewed for the [Wilson Center's video journal](#).



5

Women are lagging behind in all aspects of their professional lives, according to a new international study conducted by Prof. Meir Yaish, Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The study, conducted with Prof. Haya Stier of Tel Aviv University, analyzed survey data on the working lives of 8,500 men and 9,000 women in 27 countries. The research found, for instance, that women's jobs offer lower salaries and fewer advancement opportunities, as lower job security and worse job content. Coming out before International Women's Day, the study aroused significant media interest including the prestigious [Huffington Post](#), [Yahoo News India](#), [Press-News](#), [Middle East North Africa Financial Network](#).



6

The newspaper *Ma'ariv* has chosen to include three academics from the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment in its list of top 100 people and organizations that protect our environment. The Judges chose [Prof. Avraham Haim](#), head of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, for his research on the links between artificial light and cancer, and also his tools measuring personal carbon footprints and assessing how they can be reduced. They chose [Prof. Ofira Ayalon](#), head of the Natural Resources and Environmental Research Center (NRERC) for her expertise in environmental research issues, and specifically her research used as a model for environmental behavior and sustainability which has "contributed significantly to advancing environmental policy in Israel." Professor Mordechai Schechter, who founded the Department, was chosen for his extensive contributions promoting the field of Environmental Studies.



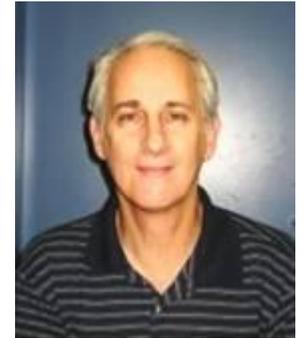
7

[Dr. Noya Rimalt](#) from the Faculty of Law wrote an opinion piece for the *Haaretz* newspaper discussing the topic of gender segregation on *Haredi* or ultra-orthodox campuses in existing academic institutions. "In order not to repeat the mistakes of the past it is important to understand the general term '*Haredi*' in terms of the needs of *Haredis*. The idea that ultraorthodox men and women would only be prepared to gain a higher education under conditions of segregation, is mistaken and misleading. As a culture-religious group, there is a range of diverse views within the Ultra orthodox public. There are those who hold moderate views, conservative factions and also reactionaries."



8

[Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz](#), head of the [Center for the Study of Child Development](#), wrote an opinion piece for Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, referring to an article in the US journal *Psychology, Public Policy and Law* by Texas University's Prof. Richard Warshak, which he co-signed with 109 other international experts. The article claims that after divorce the continuity of the relationship between the child and both parents must be ensured, both at night and during the daytime. "The initiative to jointly sign the article was born partly out of our concern that the reliance on flawed research could lead to wrong decisions by legislators and judges on custody arrangements. This in turn could harm the interests of the child. The article is an attempt to clarify where the science stands on these issues" writes Prof. Schwartz.



9

Dr. [Sarit Barzilai](#) of the Department of Learning, Instruction and Teacher Education, together with students from the 'Introduction to Digital Games and Learning' course she leads has initiated, in collaboration with the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, the "Go look .." project to develop a digital library of games for the course. The library will be available to students following development.

