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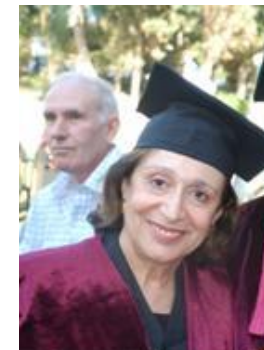
1

Our congratulations go out to Prof. Alexander Goldenshluger of the University's Department of Statistics, specializing in nonparametric inference, time-based series and statistical signal processing, who was chosen as a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Studies. This Institute, established in 1935, is an international professional and research guild which aims at developing, distributing, and applying statistics and probability.



2

During her visit to the Vatican, Prof. Sofia Menashe of the Department of General History was awarded a Silver Medal by the Supervisor of the Vatican Church. The visit was held within the framework of activities in the MA Program in Humanitarian Studies which she directs and in which all the universities in Israel participate, including Al-Quds University, and which is sponsored by both UNESCO and Rome's La Sapienza University.



3

Hundreds of researchers and guests came to celebrate a decade of the Posen Forum for Jewish European and Israeli Political Thought in a fascinating discussion on the book "Jews and Words", authored by the Head of the Posen Forum, Prof. Fania Oz-Salzberger of the Faculty of Law, and her father, world-renowned author Amos Oz. The event was also attended by Mr. Felix Posen, founder of the Foundation, and his son Daniel, the Foundation's manager.



4

The Graduate School of Creative Arts Therapies just held a conference that was the first of its kind as it dealt with Arab and Palestinian art with a focus on music, theater and the plastic arts. The conference included discussion groups, lectures, concerts and plays. Throughout the conference, the meaning behind works of Arab-Palestinian art in consideration of its marginal place in the landscape of cultural creativity in Israel was examined, and a discussion evolved regarding issues tied to the craft of creation, its uniqueness, means of exposure, and the link between the audience, the creators and the establishment. Prof. Sharon Poliakine, Head of the Fine Arts Department, and Dr. Dorit Yerushalmy of the Theater Department, were interviewed about the conference on radio's Reshet Bet.



5

How do you say "everyone to the bus" in Chinese? A new program in the University's Tourism School will train Chinese living in Israel as guides, this in light of the rise in the number of tourists coming to Israel from China. The program was inaugurated in a festive ceremony in the presence of Minister of Tourism Uzi Landau.



6

A new study by Prof. (Emeritus) Eviatar Nevo and Dr. Tamar Kis-Papo of the Institute of Evolution is attempting to ascertain the characteristics that allow a certain type of fungus to grow in the Dead Sea. The researchers, whose study is gaining interest around the world, believe that the moment they find the cause of the thriving fungus in such salty water, it would be possible to start developing agriculture based on water that is not sweet. The research findings were published, among others, in The Times of Israel, Science Daily and Space Daily.



7

Pouring salt on the wound of depression. A new study conducted by Prof. (Emeritus) Micah Leshem from the Department of Psychology and Mr. Pavel Goldstein from the Department of Statistics has found that the main component in salt, sodium, might help in the struggle with depression. Prof. Leshem interviewed on the topic in the Channel 10 program "Orly and Guy," in Haaretz and a few other local media.



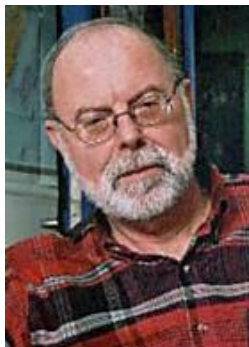
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University researchers interviewed for the international press in response to the verdict on former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert: Prof. Gad Barzilai, Dean of the Faculty of Law, interviewed for [The New York Times](#); Dr. Doron Navot from the School of Political Sciences granted an interview to the [Washington Post](#); and Prof. Emanuel Gross from the Faculty of Law interviewed at a local [NBC](#) station in southern NJ.



9

"These attackers certainly could not imagine that they could overcome the system. They went in with the idea that they were going to lose, given the balance of power. And this is an indication that these people feel they have no choice. They're people who have been backed into a corner, and they have nothing to lose." This is how Prof. Yitzhak Shichor from the Department of Asian Studies described the rationale behind the terrorists who attacked the Xinjiang province of China in an article for the respected British paper [The Guardian](#).



10

Prof. Oz Almog from the Department of Land of Israel Studies interviewed for a news program on Channel 2 where he explained why using private investigators in the race for the country's presidency to scrutinize the various candidates is no legitimate matter. According to Prof. Almog, this is an institute that is supposed to represent the country, and the method that has been in effect to choose the President until now has been invalid.



11

"When the former Head of Israeli Intelligence, Amos Yadlin, determines unequivocally that bombing the reactor in Iraq was strategically justified, in contrast to the opinion of most of the world's experts, he is misleading. Whoever believes this might just consider a similar move against Iran," says Prof. Uri Bar Joseph of the School of Political Sciences in an op-ed piece he wrote for Ynet in response to Yadlin's interview in Yediot Aharonot.



12

"The scarcity of water, global warming and the rise of sea levels, even if these were to take place on a different timetable than expected, will bring about migrations from all the areas hit with these problems to any place that it is possible to escape to, including immigrants from Africa to Israel," said Prof. Arnon Soffer, Head of the Chaikin Chair in Geostrategy, for an article in the Masa Aher journal on the ramifications of climatic changes on migration patterns.



13

A good person to meet is Prof. Niva Elkin-Koren of the Faculty of Law, according to the [Haaretz](#) paper's Independence Day issue. Prof. Elkin-Koren is one of 66 Israeli women the paper lists as being worthy of knowing due to her specialization in copyright law in the age of the Internet: "She is currently one of the most—if not the most – cited copyright scholars in the world outside of the United States."



14

"Iraq, which has just held a meaningless election, is in the process of joining the list of 'failed states' in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), joining Libya, Lebanon and Syria in that category. A failed state is one where the central government controls only certain areas, including the capital city and environs, the rest being dominated by terrorist groups, separatist movements or semi-independent regional governments." This is a quote by Prof. Norman Bailey of the School of Political Sciences in an op-ed piece published in [Globes](#).



15

Dr. Soli Shahvar, Director of the Ezri Center for Iran and Gulf Studies, gave an interview in Persian for the "Voice of America" regarding the visit of the United States National Security Advisor, Ms. Susan Rice, in Israel. Dr. Shahvar claims that if it turns out that the Iranians are fulfilling the demands of the nuclear program, then theoretically speaking, the position of Prime Minister Netanyahu against Iran will be weakened. Conversely, the bitter rivalry of factions within Iran will cause the conservative factions to release anti-Israeli statements that will actually help Netanyahu in strengthening his claims.

