Driving Battery Technology Forward
From Desalination to Electric Cars

The Science of Predicting the Future

ON THE COVER:
Dr. Orit Shefi and Dr. Rachela Popovtzer: Returning Scientists who Perform Life-Saving Research at BIU
Dear Friends,

I have the honor to present to you our newly-designed flagship publication, BIU Today. Despite a year that has affected the economic health of academic institutions throughout the country [and the world], Bar-Ilan University, as you will see in these pages, has continued to nurture a cadre of outstanding academicians and students, whose scientific research and outreach activities resoundingly impact on our society.

From battery technology that is fueling alternative energy systems, to life-saving cancer research, explorations of our Jewish identity – and heritage, legal innovations, scientific methods of predicting future trends, coping with the day-to-day crises of living in Israel, and initiating educational advances – Bar-Ilan is at the cutting edge of academic research combined with practical applications.

We are equally proud of our students. This year marks 25 years since Operation Moses and 18 years since Operation Solomon, the exciting events that brought a new aliyah of Ethiopian Jews to our land. You will read about the heart-warming stories and phenomenal achievements of our Ethiopian graduate students. We’re also proud to share with you the talents of our home-grown English-language acting troupe.

As you leaf through the pages of this edition of BIU Today, you will note that we have hosted a number of prestigious guests throughout the year, culminating in the historic policy speech of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an event that grabbed the attention of the entire world and placed Bar-Ilan University firmly on the map of global recognition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends for their loyal support in these trying times, and to wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Moshe Kaveh
President
Some academics struggle to explain the practical importance of their research to the outside world. Not Doron Aurbach. This veteran member of the Bar-Ilan Faculty of Exact Sciences has an easy-going relationship with industrial innovators worldwide, thanks to his outstanding personal leadership in the field of energy storage and conversion.

“That man I was speaking to a moment ago works for LG,” says Aurbach, referring to the Korean company that is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of consumer electronics. “We’re also collaborating with General Motors in the US, Merck in Germany, and HPL in Switzerland, along with several Israeli companies. The number of industrial firms with which we work is a measure of the significance of what we do.”

A Bar-Ilan alumnus himself, Prof. Aurbach is best known for the primary role he played in the development and first commercial use of the lithium battery — now standard issue in cellphones and computers. Today, his research focuses on magnesium-based batteries that can be recycled thousands of times. These non-toxic batteries demonstrate almost none of the “self-discharge” that causes batteries to weaken over time, and generate roughly twice the amount of energy as their lead-acid counterparts.

According to Prof. Aurbach, battery technologies are essential for meeting energy needs in a world with dwindling natural resources. “Part of our work focuses on creating batteries for electric vehicles, which would reduce our dependence on fossil fuels,” he
says, adding that his group is actively collaborating with ETV Motors, a Herzliya-based company that develops solutions for extended range electric vehicles.

Aurbach’s group is also working on new technologies for storing the non-polluting energy harvested from wind turbines and solar power stations. “The sun and wind are clean, renewable sources of energy, but we can’t rely on them all the time,” he says. “Similarly, the level of energy consumption changes periodically. In alternative energy – as well as in conventional power plants – we need technologies that can hold onto the energy when it is created, so it can be delivered at times of peak consumer demand.”

This area of research – called “load leveling” – is a prime area of activity in Prof. Aurbach’s lab. “A lot of energy is wasted because there is currently no load leveling technology that would allow power station activity to fluctuate in accordance with consumption,” he says. “This is an important practical challenge for the industry.”

In a separate area of his research, Prof. Aurbach is tackling another practical challenge: water desalination. “With Israel’s limited resources, commercial desalination is an absolute necessity,” he says, noting that worldwide, about one-fifth of the world’s population lacks dependable access to clean drinking water. “In our lab, we’re working on improved technologies for electrodialysis – a process in which voltage applied to sea water selectively moves salts through a filter, leaving fresh water behind. This is practical science, based on solving one of the world’s most pressing problems.”

Despite his outstanding record, Prof. Aurbach – who holds 12 patents for energy storage technologies – emphasizes that designing robust solutions for energy and water problems remains a slow and painstaking process. “Our achievements were based on years and years of systematic research,” he says. “This same systematic approach – which involves examining a huge number of variables – is what makes our work so valuable to our industrial partners. We do the science. They make the batteries.”

And with so many industrial leaders turning to Prof. Aurbach’s lab for the energy storage solutions that put the spark in modern technologies, Bar-Ilan University is fast becoming the “go-to” address for all that is green and environmentally friendly.
Examining our Dual ID: The Jewish Calling Card

Who are we as Jews – a nation or a religion? Do we yearn for secular political normalcy – to be a nation like all others – or aspire for spiritual uniqueness as the “Chosen People”? What is the intrinsic Jewish meaning of the Diaspora and of the modern State of Israel?

Such fundamental questions concerning Jewish identity are at the crux of the novel research quest of Prof. Ella Belfer, incumbent of the Chair of Society and Judaism, and head of the Department of General History in the Faculty of Jewish Studies.

“Identity is a complex notion full of contradictions,” says the distinguished BIU professor, who has been exploring and lecturing on the subject for the past 20 years. “What I discovered was a leitmotif which follows the Jewish world along the time continuum. It reflects the inherent tension between the sacred and the secular in defining who we are as Jews.” Tracing the changing religious, cultural and ethnic manifestations of this duality as it developed over the ages, Belfer’s broad-scope historical study has resulted in a book, Split Identity: The Conflict between the Sacred and the Secular in the Jewish World (Ramat Gan: Bar-Ilan University Press 2004). Published in Hebrew, this unique work examines how great Jewish minds from Maimonides to Baruch Spinoza, from Franz Rosenzweig to Rabbi Abraham Isaac haKohen Kook, perceived the duality from three perspectives: the duality of Jewish identity as a nation and a religion; the duality of Jewish existence as a secular-political entity and as a quasi-spiritual Diaspora experience; and the duality of Jewish aspiration for secular-political normalcy and spiritual uniqueness.

In an earlier work, “Malkhut Shamayim and the State of Israel,” Belfer probes the significance of the State of Israel as a Jewish state and the nature of Israel-Diaspora relations. And why is this all so critical? “Because it helps us to define our identity in the 21st century and it also touches acutely on key contemporary issues which are the subject of intense public debate, such as ‘Who is a Jew,’ civil marriage, the territories, and secular-religious relations.”

Why are Jews always the cosmic “other”? Because that is the challenge of dual identity, elucidates Prof. Belfer, who in 2008 organized the International Conference on Tolerance and Toleration in Western Societies at Bar-Ilan. “Always we dance at these two weddings – we are neither here nor there, or we are also here and also there.” The Russian-born academician, who immigrated to Israel as a child, points out that when Jews themselves decided to adopt only one definition – due to either cultural revolution and/or the existential need for adaptation to society – anti-Semitism doesn’t allow it. “When Jews began to define themselves purely as a religion, anti-Semitism defined them as a race. Today, after the Jews set up an independent state of their own and attempt to see themselves purely in terms of national identity, this is de-legitimized by the new anti-Semitism.”

Yet, Prof. Belfer maintains, the majority of Jews accept the notion of dual identity. “There is a definite quest in Israel for normalization and there is a definite quest for holding on to the Jewish tradition of dual definition.”

“Our identity card is to have dual identity and that has been the case throughout history,” asserts Belfer. “We can’t take only half of our dual identity and have a nation without religion because our nation is defined by religion, and by the same token our religion has always been embedded in a particularistic ethnic identity. Poles who aren’t Catholic are still Poles, but there are no Jews who aren’t Jewish,” stresses the esteemed Bar-Ilan professor.
“We can’t take only half of our dual identity and have a nation without religion because our nation is defined by religion...”
How would you manage your financial portfolio if you were privy to information about Israel’s economic situation – years before events unfold? In what way would you prepare yourself for a war – if you were given the estimated date and the place of the next one?

The above questions would seem fitting scenarios for a “back to the future” science fiction film. Yet, the BIU Churgin School of Education’s Prof. David Passig has predicted the answers to such queries and more, in his book *The Future Code*, published in July 2008 by Sifrei Hemed: Yediot Aharonot. On the best-seller list since September, *The Future Code*, which focuses on Israel, has attracted the avid attention of the Israeli media. Prof. Passig has been interviewed extensively and has appeared on enumerable television talk shows.

The field of Futures Studies seeks to understand what is likely to continue, what is likely to change, and what is novel. Part of the discipline thus seeks a systematic and pattern-based understanding of past and present, and to determine the likelihood of future events and trends. Prof. Passig, with a PhD in Future Studies from the University of Minnesota, is a futurist, specializing in future technologies and their impact on economic, social and educational systems. Head of BIU’s Faculty of Social Sciences’ Graduate Program in Communication Technologies, he is in demand around the world as a consultant in his unique field.
The Science of Predicting the Future

At Bar-Ilan’s one-of-a-kind Virtual Reality Laboratory, which Prof. Passig heads, he studies how future technologies impact cognitive skills. At the same time he is working on developing future methodologies – “to find the logic behind systems in order to figure out future trajectories, with the idea being to organize these futures in order to provide a basis for future decision-making,” says Prof. Passig. “The aim is to identify the driving forces behind the system so as to avoid negative trends and enforce positive behaviors,” he adds.

How does Prof. Passig achieve this goal? “Through the building of new models based on Systems’ theories and models,” he answers. “On the basis of these models, we can make predictions about the future and design solutions related to economics and security in Israel. For instance, what drives economic development? We add new perspectives to existing economic models by taking into account the demographics and different age groups of specific populations.”

“On the basis of these models, we can make predictions about the future and design solutions related to economics and security in Israel.”

Prof. Passig’s book lists a variety of trends he predicts. Some have already begun to unfold. “When the book was written and published they were inconceivable,” he says. “However, by the summer of 2009 they are not wild cards anymore, but valid possible trends.” Among them:

- Based on the cycles of wars as evolved in the last couple millennia, Israel will be part of a war by 2020 which will define its history of the 21st century. This war could be a decisive battle with its neighbors.
- The US might be persuaded to cut its strategic ties with Israel in response to the outcry of various local and international groups.
- Zionism of the 20th century has probably exhausted itself. Israel would greatly benefit from developing a collective covenant that will lead it to greater achievements in the 21st century.

Futurists are the agents of long-term planning – thinking ahead. The value of knowing what will happen is self-evident. Yet, regretfully, says Prof. Passig, despite being in possession of the tools for being aware of future events, our political and economic leadership unfortunately do not assume responsibility for planning for the inevitable. This is also a problem in public institutions. Ten years ago Prof. Passig predicted that every university would be deeply involved in nanotechnology. On the basis of this knowledge academic institutions should have been better prepared to accommodate this field and would not now be scrambling to put together facilities. He predicts that the next big “thing” will be robotics – and that now is the time to prepare for this future trend.

“Futures Studies is extremely multidisciplinary – bringing together lots of totally different and unrelated fields,” says Prof. Passig. “This is unique at Bar-Ilan University, where everyone tends to support each other and work together,” he adds. With this in mind he is developing a new multidisciplinary approach to improve communication between all the disciplines. Hopefully, Israeli leaders in government, economics, and education will pay heed to Prof. Passig’s predictions and prepare well for the future!
Before the Industrial Revolution, plants “inhaled” carbon dioxide at the same rate it was released into the atmosphere. Today, however, human activity causes some six billion tons of CO2 to be released every year – far more than can be absorbed by the world’s plant population. Luckily, plants are not the only organisms that play a role in balancing the planet’s CO2 budget. Photosynthetic bacteria also play an important role in carbon fixation – the process by which living organisms convert CO2 in the air into non-polluting, organic materials.

“About half of all carbon fixation is performed by water-dwelling microbes,” says Dr. Rakefet Schwarz, a senior lecturer in Bar-Ilan’s Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences. “Of these, the most significant CO2 consumers are photosynthetic organisms called cyanobacteria. This means that, theoretically, if it became possible to manipulate cyanobacteria, it might also become possible to use them to control atmospheric levels of CO2.”

Cyanobacteria are already a hot topic in environmental circles. Some researchers are exploring the idea of creating cyanobacterial “pools” through which factory emissions could be filtered to lessen their ecological damage. Dr. Schwarz, on the other hand, is most interested in cyanobacterial survival – and how this survival affects both human industrial activity and the environment.

“In our lab, we’re studying the adaptations that allow cyanobacteria to survive, even when nutrients are scarce,” she says. “By characterizing the molecular aspects of these adaptations, we may eventually be able to manipulate them, and make cyanobacteria’s carbon fixation activity more efficient.”

Cyanobacteria can also serve as a source of environmental damage, and this is another subject of Dr. Schwarz’s research.

“In one of our projects, we’re focusing on the connection between marine ecology and industry – specifically, the way that bacterial film build-up can lead to the corrosion of ships’ hulls,” she says. “This process, known as biofouling, increases roughness and, causes drag – something that triggers greater fuel consumption, and of course, creates more pollution.” Dr. Schwarz is examining a compound that inhibits biofilm formation that she says may someday be parleyed into an environmentally-friendly way to fight the biofouling phenomenon.

Aside from her applied work, Dr. Schwarz is looking at the basic question of how proteins within cyanobacteria break down. Her work is shedding light on protein degradation in organisms that, like bacteria, do not have a nucleus.

“Protein degradation is an essential cellular process,” she says, noting that the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to two Israeli scientists and their American colleague who characterized protein degradation as it occurs in nucleated cells. But along with the excitement of characterizing such a fundamental cellular mechanism, Dr. Schwarz is excited about the potential of using this mechanism for applied biotechnology. “At Bar-Ilan, there are many scientific groups working to solve environmental problems,” says Dr. Schwarz, pointing to the University’s nano-technology-based techniques for alternative energy production, its chemistry projects for cleaning industrial waste, and its computer systems for monitoring climate change. “Ours is a life sciences approach. Someday, it may allow us to put cyanobacteria to work – managing pollution of the sea and air.”

Cyanobacteria
Lessons from an Environmental “Survivor”
“Ours is a life sciences approach. Someday it may allow us to put cytobacteria to work – managing pollution of the sea and air.”
For more than 25 years, Prof. Tzvi Langermann has sifted through hundreds of obscure Hebrew and Arab manuscripts, searching for precious gems that illuminate the role of the sciences, philosophy and religious thought in medieval Jewish and Islamic cultures. His intense research at Israel’s National Library in Jerusalem and at other leading libraries throughout the world has engendered a number of scholarly publications, including numerous articles and three books: The Jews and the Sciences in the Middle Ages, The Exact Sciences among the Yemenite Jews (in Hebrew), and Hebrew Medical Astrology.

“I serve up a lot of new stuff to the research table, mostly reports and analyses of texts that have never been studied or examined in depth,” says Bar-Ilan’s resident expert on the history of medieval science. Chairman of the Department of Arabic, Langermann is one of a select coterie of University scholars exploring medieval philosophy and the rich Judaeo-Arabic cultural heritage. He sits on the steering committee of BIU’s Dr. Naim Dangoor Program of Universal Monotheism, which through conferences, publications, studies and outreach, seeks to cultivate real peace in the broad common ground shared by Jews, Christians, Muslims, and other monotheists. Within this framework, Langermann probes how universal concepts concerning the oneness and incorporeality of G-d are not limited to any particular faith.

In recent years, the American-born professor has conducted extensive research on Maimonides. “Most people at Bar-Ilan will tell you that Maimonides was a physician, and maybe they also know that he did work in astronomy and mathematics,” relates Langermann. “But how many have actually read his books on the subjects (all written in Arabic) and tried to fit them precisely into his thought (which he also expressed, in Arabic, in the Guide to the Perplexed and his commentary to the Mishnah)?”

With reading-fluency in Arabic and Hebrew, a yeshiva day school education [at Maimonides in Brookline, Massachusetts], and a PhD from Harvard, Langermann is superbly equipped to pour over original Arabic texts and later-day Hebrew versions, seeking to grasp the material in its historical context, within Judaeo-Arabic culture and Islamic thought. “My research contributes by uncovering a wealth of discourse on science, philosophy, and religious thought in Hebrew and Arabic manuscripts and brings them to the public’s attention.”

Langermann, who is on the editorial board of respected journals [e.g. Jewish Quarterly Review, ALEPH: Historical Studies in Science & Judaism, European Jewish Studies], has also compiled an anthology of writings from the Golden Age of Judaism in Yemen, which embraces philosophical commentaries on the Torah.

Since joining Bar-Ilan’s Department of Arabic in 1997, Langermann has given such courses as The Writings of Maimonides, The Thought of Fakhr al-Din al Razi [an outstanding medieval Islamic theologian], and Greek Wisdom in Islamic Civilization. “The Department offers focused, high-level courses – especially the close reading of Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic texts – which are not found in any other university in the world,” he stresses.

When queried about the significance of his work, he becomes passionate: “Have we forgotten how important it is to get in touch with our heritage, how critical it is to give serious thought to basic issues of human life and values? What better way to do this than by studying the books of the great scholars of the past.” The BIU professor firmly believes that “history, and the history of science and philosophy in particular, are wonderful means for us to set about thinking about our situation and the issues we must face.”
The Dr. Naim Dangoor Program of Universal Monotheism, established by Dr. Naim Dangoor, O.B.E., seeks to cultivate real peace through truth, ethics, and action in the broad common ground shared by Jews, Christians, Muslims, and other monotheists. To this end, the Dr. Naim Dangoor Program of Universal Monotheism conducts a wide range of interdisciplinary activities advancing open inquiry and important ideas:

- **International conferences**, with the participation of professors and clerics representing the monotheist spectrum
- **Publication** of books on key monotheism issues
- **Sponsorship of graduate and post-graduate studies** in monotheism
- **Communal outreach** with the highest academic standards.

The first set of projects organized for Academic Year 5769 (2008-2009) spans all types of activity: two international conferences; seven books on issues in monotheism have been subsidized; a program of post-graduate studies in fields related to monotheism has been set up; and the Dr. Naim Dangoor Program of Universal Monotheism has taken under its aegis Bar-Ilan's adult education program, Eshnav, which reaches out to the general public.
...the Israeli hi-tech sector is widely regarded as a hotbed of cutting-edge technologies and as the growth-engine of the Israeli economy in the nineties and beyond.
Legal Eagle on a ‘Patent’ Mission

Israel is among the world’s leading countries in hi-tech innovation and entrepreneurship. In patents per capita, our country ranks behind only the United States and Japan. Dr. Miriam Bitton, one of BIU’s vaunted returning researchers in the University’s Faculty of Law, claims that our tiny country has achieved this distinction despite the country’s antiquated legal constraints. Imagine what Israeli individuals and companies could accomplish, she argues, without such limitations!

As Dr. Bitton puts it, the Israeli hi-tech sector is widely regarded as a hotbed of cutting-edge technologies and as the growth-engine of the Israeli economy in the nineties and beyond. Israel also has a very impressive scientific potential in the life sciences. However, in sharp contrast to the information technology sector, there are no R&D centers of major multinational pharmaceutical or biotechnology companies in Israel. Some argue that the patent policy concerning pharmaceutical and biotechnology inventions constitutes a major barrier in realizing Israel’s potential in this field, pointing to various features of the Israeli 1967 Patent Act and national drug regulation as major impediments for economic growth. Israeli patent law needs to be updated, concludes Dr. Bitton, in order to provide better opportunities in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical fields as well as to sustain a mature hi-tech industry.

Dr. Bitton is singularly suited to this challenge. A brilliant young intellectual property (IP) legal expert, she has recently returned from the US to Israel and to Bar-Ilan University, where she is a distinguished alumna of its law school (LLB and LLM) magna cum laude. While in the US she wrote her PhD dissertation at the University of Michigan on the “Historical, Economic and International Dimensions of the Database Protection Debate.” She is a recipient of the European commission’s Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant – one of a very few Israeli women to have received such a distinction – in support of her ground-breaking research on Israeli patent law and patent policies. Most recently she was awarded the prestigious Alon Fellowship, The Israeli Council for Higher Education to Outstanding Junior Faculty Members, 2009, to enable her to continue with her research in IP law.

Now that she has returned to Israel – and BIU, her alma mater – Dr. Bitton is eager to update Israel’s legal system by designing patent reforms initiatives that will modernize Israeli patent law – thereby all the more encouraging Israeli initiatives in the hi-tech and biotech fields. She intends to accomplish this by examining the country’s social, environmental and economic realities in order to better understand its legal reasoning.

Dr. Bitton does not limit her interests to her academic specialty. She is also deeply involved in empowering women in Israel. As such, she took an active role in BIU’s recent conference on Women Leadership in the Israeli Academy organized by the ISEF Foundation (the leading organization that advances Israel’s well-being by opening the doors of higher education for capable Israelis from underserved communities) and BIU Faculty of Law’s Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Women.

Considering it “a great privilege to teach students at Bar-Ilan,” Dr. Bitton is deeply appreciative of the way the University has supported her throughout her career. Her concern for encouraging educational opportunities and narrowing economic gaps in disadvantaged sectors is reflecting her deep interest in “giving” to the community. As such, Dr. Bitton is the academic supervisor of the Civil Legal Aid clinic – one of seven mandatory law clinics which she considers to be the “jewel in the crown” of BIU’s Law School. Passionate about her desire to improve society, injustice and the law itself, Miriam Bitton is a fitting symbol of the Bar-Ilan ethos and a perfect example of the importance of the University’s mission to bring its researchers back home.
When they appear together, the words “gun” and “laser” make most people think of science fiction. But in the hands of Dr. Orit Shefi, a recently recruited faculty member at Bar-Ilan’s School of Engineering, a laser-directed “gun” acts as a peaceful tool of science, one that helps her identify genes that influence the development of nerve cells.

“In my lab, we study the structure and function of neurons,” says Dr. Shefi. “With a device called a pneumatic capillary gun – something we developed together with physicists at the University of California San Diego, where I did my post-doc – I use laser light to target a very small area, then shoot specially-designed gold micro- and nano-particles into living tissues. While these particles do not damage the tissue, they do affect gene expression – something that has allowed me to identify genes that influence nerve growth.”

Dr. Shefi works with medicinal leeches – an animal model she chose because of their extreme simplicity. “In leeches, nerve cells are big, accessible and organized in a simple way. I am working on nerve cells that have only one function – to sense pressure or touch,” she says. “This makes it possible – using time-elapsed imaging – to track how changes in gene expression affect the nerve cells as they grow.”

Dr. Shefi has manipulated specific proteins that attract or repel axons – the fibers that extend out from the body of the nerve cell, and transmit messages. By “directing” nerve growth, these proteins constitute a fundamental organizational force in the nervous system. Using her pneumatic capillary gun, Dr. Shefi is manipulating the genes that code for these proteins, in order to better understand their effect on nerve patterns.

While none of her work is clinical in nature, Dr. Shefi is enthusiastic about the potential of her research to open up new avenues for medical treatment. “If a protein is known to control nerve growth, it may someday be possible to apply this knowledge to new post-trauma therapies,” she says. “It might even be used to direct nerve growth within the skin grafts used to treat burn victims.”

As the world’s first researcher to use the pneumatic capillary gun to achieve scientifically significant results, Dr. Shefi is eager both to improve the technology, and to spread the word. “Back in San Diego, I created a video designed to introduce other scientists to the capillary gun,” she says, referring to a video that can still be viewed online at JOVE.com – the Journal of Visualized Experiments. “I think this tool has great potential – for everything from genetic studies, similar to what I do, to targeted drug delivery.”

As one of the founding members of the Engineering School’s Bio-Engineering department, Dr. Shefi is excited about using her experience to bridge the gap between different points of view. “I work at the crossroads between engineering, physics and the life sciences, and that’s one of the reasons that the multi-disciplinary approach of the new Engineering School is right for me,” she says. “As a scientist who works on nerve cells using particles, the close availability of the Gonda Brain Research Center and the Nanotechnology Institute is another advantage. Altogether, Bar-Ilan is an excellent place to be doing this kind of research.”
CT imaging combines special x-ray equipment with sophisticated computers to produce pictures of the body’s internal tissues. When interpreted by a trained radiologist, these fuzzy black-and-white images are an important factor in cancer diagnosis. But what if CT imaging could highlight cancer cells throughout the body, with an unmistakable signal that anyone could read? That’s the diagnostic future envisioned by Dr. Rachela Popovtzer, a newly-recruited scientist at Bar-Ilan’s School of Engineering.

“Every cancer type is characterized by certain molecular markers,” explains Dr. Popovtzer, an expert on electrochemistry and nanotechnology who recently returned to Israel after completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. “In our lab, we synthesize gold nanoparticles that are covered with antigens – special molecules that link to cancer markers like a lock fitting into a key. When administered to the patient by IV, the nanoparticles travel directly to the cancer cells, covering the membrane with gold. This, in turn, creates an unmistakable signal on the CT image – that these cells are cancerous.”

According to Dr. Popovtzer, her technique is not simply an improvement of CT technology. Rather, it represents
an entirely different way to read CT data. “Some 10 billion markers are found on the surface of each cancer cell, and that means that a huge concentration of the gold nanoparticles adhere to the cellular membrane. The scan can therefore be read, not based on a radiologists’ intuition, but on the concentration of gold found in a single pixel of the computerized image.”

Another advantage of Dr. Popovtzer’s technique is its ability to reveal — early on — whether cancer has spread to other tissues. “The best course of treatment is based on the stage of the cancer,” she says. “With this method, it’s possible to identify cancer cells all over the body.”

In another area of her research, Dr. Popovtzer has designed gold nanorods that form the basis of a new method for targeted, light-activated cancer therapy. “Our nano-structures that can be ‘tuned’ so they heat up when exposed to near-infrared light,” she explains. “When this light penetrates the tissue, the heat from the nanorods destroys the cancer cells, while leaving non-cancerous tissue unharmed.”

Dr. Popovtzer’s cancer-related research draws on her extensive experience using cutting-edge nanotechnology to solve biological problems. In her PhD studies, she developed an innovative “lab-on-a-chip” that integrated living organisms — genetically-engineered bacteria — into an electronic device used for identifying toxins in water. “With this device, it takes just a minute to determine whether water is safe to drink because thousands of recombinant bacteria — each one sensitive to a different toxin — are mounted into separate cells. When any of these toxins is present, the chip registers an electrical signal. It’s the equivalent of screening for thousands of chemicals at one time.”

An alumna of Bar-Ilan, where she studied physics and philosophy as an undergraduate before moving to Tel Aviv University for graduate work in biomedical and electrical engineering, Dr. Popovtzer has won numerous Israeli and international prizes for her innovative approaches. She has submitted two patents, and participates in scientific conferences around the world. Still, she’s delighted to be home in Israel, and at Bar-Ilan.

“Bar-Ilan University’s Engineering School is new, and it’s exciting to be part of a community of scientists that’s still in formation,” she says.

And if her past achievements are any indication, Dr. Popovtzer’s scientific potential is as good as gold.
When a society is in conflict, it can be hard to live a normal life. No one knows this better than Dr. Eva Gilboa-Schechtman, a clinical psychologist and experimental researcher who focuses on the rehabilitation of Israeli children and adolescents suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

"Israelis are exposed both to conventional war, and to the ever-present danger of terror attacks," says Gilboa-Schechtman, who, in addition to her research at Bar-Ilan, supervises the Post-Trauma Clinic at Schneider Children’s Hospital. "This situation affects clinical populations differently, making it necessary to match the therapy to specific types of PTSD victims."

Following adolescent survivors of terror attacks – who suffer from difficulty with social interaction, agitation, sleep disorders and flashbacks – Gilboa-Schechtman has determined that the most effective treatment for PTSD involves a combination of behavioral and trauma-reconstruction approaches, rather than dynamic “talk” therapy.

"Cognitive behavioral therapy helps these adolescents overcome their fear of specific situations," says Gilboa-Schechtman, who, in addition to her work with Israelis, has also served as a consultant to psychological teams working in war-torn Chechnya. "Unfortunately, Israel can be seen as a model for PTSD treatment all over the world."

Another way in which Israel’s ongoing security concerns fuel Bar-Ilan research is the area of anti-terror defenses. Prof. Sarit Kraus, a member of the Department of Computer Science who is an internationally-acknowledged authority on artificial intelligence, contributed to the development of ARMOR, a computerized system that makes it harder for would-be...
terrorists to break through a facility’s defensive countermeasures. The system – currently used at Los Angeles International Airport – has resulted in significantly higher success rates for the location and seizure of hidden weapons and narcotics, and the identification of suspicious individuals.

“ARMOR is based on smart randomization of defensive measures,” says Kraus. “By setting up checkpoints and canine patrols in an unpredictable pattern, we can provide sufficient protection for the most vulnerable areas, while preventing terrorists and drug dealers from predicting where the next inspection will take place.”

One of ARMOR’s advantages is its theoretical basis in game theory – an area of science that focuses on how perceived advantage affects human decision-making. “Guards can’t patrol every corner of a facility 100% of the time,” she says. “Our models take the intruder’s thought processes into account – both when he’s weighing the rational options, and even when he’s not.”

One more researcher who believes in rationally weighing the options is Dr. Mordechai Kedar, a research fellow of Bar-Ilan’s Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA) and a lecturer in the Department of Arabic. According to Dr. Kedar, a 25-year veteran of IDF military intelligence, coping with Israel’s security situation requires clarifying that situation’s underlying causes – and facing some uncomfortable truths about life in the Middle East.

“Too often, political leaders view Middle Eastern culture through their own Western values,” says Kedar, whose strategic expertise and fluency in Arabic make him a popular spokesman for Israeli positions in the Arab media. “For example, Westerners tend to believe that the promotion of economic well-being will bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, Middle Eastern societies value tribalism and other traditional issues such as religion over economic prosperity – Arabs will happily forgo economic advancement if it helps them defeat their enemies. Israelis and other Westerners have to wake up to this reality.”

Dr. Kedar’s writings have frequently served as a “wake-up call” for leaders in Israel and abroad. Among his Perspective Papers published by the BESA Center are discussions of Egyptian complicity in Gaza arms smuggling, an analysis of Hizbullah’s growing political influence in Lebanon, and a prescient and highly influential overview of the West’s strategic options for dealing with a nuclear Iran, published in 2007.

“The Middle East may be a puzzle,” Dr. Kedar says, “but by looking carefully at each piece, you create a picture.”

And as these Bar-Ilan researchers know, understanding the big picture is vital for Israelis, who must continue to cope with a conflict that is not going away anytime soon.
Pursuing Graduate Training in the Promised Land

Twenty-five years after “Operation Moses” and 18 years after “Operation Solomon,” BIU Today zeroes in on Ethiopian immigrant students pursuing graduate training in the Promised Land, at Bar-Ilan University.

Ghenet Dasse was ten years old in May 1991, when her family received word to quickly don festive white attire and report to Jewish Agency headquarters in Addis Ababa. It was a time of unrest in Ethiopia, with rebel forces closing in on the capital city and posing a threat to the thousands of Jews awaiting immigration to Israel. Within hours, Ghenet found herself in a sea of white at the local airport, which had been secured by Israeli paratroopers – one of whom was her cousin who had immigrated to Israel in 1984. “It was very exciting and emotionally charged,” recalls Ghenet, who, today, is a BIU Masters student in Educational Counseling. The bold, top-secret “Operation Solomon” airlifted an unprecedented 14,000 Ethiopian Jews — including Ghenet and her family — to the Promised Land within 33 hours, just before rebel forces reached the Addis Ababa airport. “An unbelievable, 2000-year-old dream” is how she recollects that dramatic episode 18 years later.

Ghenet Dasse is one of 36 Ethiopian olim pursuing another unfathomable dream: graduate training at Bar-Ilan University. (An additional 116 Ethiopian immigrants and ten second-generation Ethiopians are enrolled in undergraduate, certificate and pre-academic programs on the BIU campus.)

Ghenet Dasse is of 36 Ethiopian olim pursuing another unfathomable dream: graduate training at Bar-Ilan University. (An additional 116 Ethiopian immigrants and ten second-generation Ethiopians are enrolled in undergraduate, certificate and pre-academic programs on the BIU campus.)

Ghenet, who obtained her BA in Education at BIU, is currently researching “The connection between self-efficacy and the barriers to career planning and choosing a career.” The personable MA candidate, who as a young immigrant successfully overcame the initial cultural shock, compares Russian, Ethiopian and Israeli students, and is learning how to counsel youth for their future careers.

Why Bar-Ilan? “Bar-Ilan uniquely teaches Jewish heritage and values in a broad-minded way,” says Ghenet, who proudly notes that the Ethiopian community made aliyah because of its spiritual yearnings. “I very much enjoyed my Jewish studies courses — to learn about Judaism in an academic setting, to see how it relates to our period.” Ghenet, who is also a tour guide at the Diaspora Museum, believes that as Jews, “it’s important that we be exposed to basic Jewish knowledge, to the holidays and rituals, and that’s something we wouldn’t get elsewhere.”

Ghenet, who was an Israeli Air Force lieutenant, is very appreciative of the Bar-Ilan scholarships she has received both as an undergraduate and an MA student. “I come from a community with minimal resources. These scholarships enable us to spend more time learning.”

Ghenet Dasse hopes to pursue a doctorate, a career in academia, and make a significant contribution to Israeli society, especially in the Ethiopian community, in counseling them toward a sound future. In the meantime, the MA student relates that she is an important link in the chain that connects her family to BIU: “My older sister, a lawyer in a prestigious Tel Aviv firm, studied law on campus and my younger sister has applied for the new academic year.”
Yaniv Gashau Wuvet was 11 when he came to Israel as part of Operation Solomon. “I get so excited just reading about it,” confides the MA candidate in Political Studies, recalling the electrifying atmosphere and the new clothes bought for that milestone event.

Once in Israel, Yaniv – whose father had been murdered back in Ethiopia – completed his IDF service as a Logistics officer, and scouted for a suitable academic venue. “I did my homework before choosing a university, to determine where it was good for Ethiopian immigrants.” His findings pointed him toward BIU. “Bar-Ilan embraces you,” he says, giving high marks to the faculty and administration for their “sensitivity and personal relationship with the students.” He initially attended the Ashkelon Regional College, a branch of BIU, before enrolling in the MA program on Bar-Ilan’s main Ramat Gan campus.

Yaniv recalls the valuable assistance he received from the University’s Student Counselling Center. “During my first two weeks on campus, I was overwhelmed – I didn’t know where to go. They helped me to stand on my feet, to put things in their proper proportion.” Says Yaniv, “the Center is an address for problems and challenges – it’s important that students know that since not every university has such a vital service.”

Yaniv is particularly appreciative of the support forthcoming from Bar-Ilan’s friends from around the globe. “I can personally attest to the generous scholarship assistance from devoted BIU patrons for immigrant students. In the Diaspora, they need to know how critical their help is, especially for the Ethiopian community.”

When he is not in the lecture hall or library, Yaniv is on the job as an employment placement officer in Ashkelon, where he works specifically with the Ethiopian population – often with peers. “I believe that everyone has to take responsibility and action and not just talk about being deprived,” states Yaniv, who hopes to eventually hold public office and improve public services. Director of the Association of Ethiopian Immigrants in Ashkelon, Yaniv is also active in establishing an Ethiopian Heritage Center.

“I believe that everyone has to take responsibility and action and not just talk about being deprived.”
Meirav Elazar is quietly pathblazing a new role model for the Ethiopian community. The 30-year-old mother of baby twins, who immigrated to Israel 25 years ago in “Operation Moses,” is the first PhD candidate in Bar-Ilan’s Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, and one of three Ethiopian doctoral students on campus. The village-born Biotechnology student obtained both her BA and MA degrees at the University, where she also met her husband, Bialin. Currently a lawyer in the Attorney General’s Office, he’s now completing his Masters degree in Criminal Law at BIU.

“There’s a totally different atmosphere here at Bar-Ilan,” says Meirav, who lived in the University dorms during her undergraduate studies. “You feel it. There’s less competition and more mutual assistance.”

Meirav is particularly impressed with Bar-Ilan’s outreach efforts that target the Ethiopian community. “The University provides much help for Ethiopian students, stretching the admissions criteria to accept those with the most promise, and then offering them tutoring and financial assistance to ensure their academic success.” She also fondly recalls the special Shabbat retreats, outings and other activities for Ethiopian immigrants sponsored by the Dean’s Office, where she first encountered her husband when they were second-year students. The couple was married in 2003.

As an undergraduate, Meirav took a rigorous double major – Life Sciences and Computers. Soon after completing her BA, she decided to continue on for her MA in Microbiology. Her thesis, under the supervision of Prof. Yeshayahu Nitzan, focused on the characterization of the gene encoded to the protein. Buoyed by her academic success and interest in laboratory research, she enrolled in PhD studies. She is currently part of Dr. Orit Shaul’s plant genetics research group. When she finishes her degree, she hopes to find employment in microbiology or biotechnology, either in a pharmaceutical company or in industry.

As a mother and doctoral student, Meirav Elazar juggles familial and academic responsibilities. “You have to know how to effectively divide your time between family, PhD studies and the many hours of lab work,” she says, mentioning that there are “nice people in the Faculty that I can turn to if I need help.”

A pioneer in her community, the motivated and high achieving Bar-Ilan PhD candidate believes that she may be able to “give a push to Ethiopian youth and others” to acquire advanced academic education.
Yinihun Pinchas went to "shepherd's school" instead of kindergarten while growing up in Gonder, Ethiopia. At the age of 9, he was already tending to the flocks, returning in summer with his meager income – food for his impoverished household. When he was 11, his family decided to leave the harsh local realities and head toward the Promised Land. By moonlight, they set out on the perilous two-week trek to Sudan. After a grueling year in a refugee camp, and an epidemic which claimed the lives of three siblings, the Pinchas family, along with thousands of other Ethiopian Jews, was brought "on the wings of eagles" to Israel in 1984 as part of "Operation Moses."

Today, twenty-five years after his aliyah, Harel – as Yinihun is now known – is a mainstay on the BIU campus. "Bar-Ilan is my home," enthuses the 37-year-old perpetual student, who has thus far garnered two undergraduate degrees – in Sociology and in Sephardic and Oriental Jewry Studies – as well as an MA in Archaeology. "I learned Sociology in order to understand the culture and society of the other," elucidates Harel. Sephardic and Oriental Jewry studies have enabled him to "learn more about Jews in the region and about life in Islamic countries," he says. Archaeology has given him a clearer picture of "who was in the Land of Israel during the past 2,500 years."

"As a child, I had a dream to learn," says Harel, recalling how he would implore his friends to review their school lessons with him. Once in Israel, he proved to be a diligent student. He was the first Ethiopian immigrant to graduate from the Maalot Hesder Yeshiva. As an IDF Paratrooper, he served in the Second Lebanon War.

At BIU, Harel became the first Ethiopian student to learn Yiddish. After two years of studies, he enjoys Yiddish songs and plays, and engaging Ashkenazic oldtimers in some mama loshen chitchat, with his endearing Vos macht ir (how are you?). "While I don't have a Bubbeh with whom to speak Yiddish, I find the language so rich." His goal is to seek "common ground between European and Ethiopian Jews." He hopes to eventually read all of Sholem Aleichem’s works and to, one day, become a Yiddish lecturer.

With his unquenchable thirst for learning, the former shepherd boy turned exuberant BIU student plans in Fall 2009 to embark upon his PhD studies in the Joseph & Norman Berman Department of Literature of the Jewish People and compare the rich literary legacies in Amharic, Ladino, Yiddish and Hebrew.

"I had mazal here at Bar-Ilan," declares Harel, making special mention of the supportive University administration and his accommodating bosses at the Security Department, where he has been employed since 2001. "I have to say thank you to Bar-Ilan University for all the help and financial assistance they have given me, as well as the flexibility to arrange my work schedule so that I could pursue my academic goals. Without this backing, I wouldn't have been able to do all these degrees," says Harel (Yinihun) Pinchas, stressing that "Bar-Ilan is my education, culture, mentality, and way of life."

“As a child, I had a dream to learn.”
Formal education is a given for all Israeli schoolchildren. But no less important to a youth's development is the "informal education" he or she receives through participation in community centers, youth movements, volunteer organizations and the like. Dr. Zehavit Gross heads BIU's Churgin School of Education's Policy, Administration and Leadership in Informal Education track, focusing on research and in-service training of senior staff. Recently five of her outstanding graduate students were honored at a BIU ceremony granting them the prestigious Bar-Lev Award in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Education (including the Administration of Society and Youth) and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

"This award is an integral part of a research forum I initiated this year," says Dr. Gross. "This forum tackles 'burning issues' concerning education and society and their implementation in the various informal educational systems." Among the issues discussed: ways of enhancing adolescents' political participation and civic involvement, the status of youth movements in Israel and all over the world in a neo-liberal era, how the economic crisis impacts on informal educational enterprises, leisure education, and adolescent addiction to internet, drugs and alcohol.

Dr. Gross claims that informal education is characterized by practice but very little research. The forum was created in order to encourage research and improve and empower practice. Participants in the forum included leading researchers in the field of informal education and senior staff members, inspectors and practitioners from the Ministry of Education, the police (Prison Services), and education departments in museums, representatives of informal education in local municipalities, as well as outstanding graduate students in the field.

Due to its success, the forum will continue to be run next year. "For the first time, here at Bar-Ilan, researchers and practitioners of the field had an opportunity to sit together and share their theories and experience," says Dr. Gross. "I have no doubt that these kinds of discussions make the academic ivory tower more relevant and meaningful to the well being of Israeli society and its diverse needs and communities."
The Bar-Ilan Acting Society (BIAS) began five years ago as the brainchild of several Bar-Ilan students. Unbeknownst to them it was the reincarnation of an organization that had closed several years before they began studying at the University. Since its inception BIAS has put on an English-language play each semester. As a student initiative BIAS has established itself as one of the fun cultural experiences of the University. More important than the shows, however, BIAS fulfills its primary goal as a place where students meet and have a good time. As word of BIAS has spread, so too has its following. What was originally supposed to be theater by students for students now draws an audience of English speakers from across the country.

The most recent play to be staged by BIAS was “The Odd Couple: Female Version” by Neil Simon. It is a play concerning two mismatched roommates, one neat and uptight, and the other more easygoing but slovenly. Based on the same story line as the original “The Odd Couple,” the lead characters are now called Florence Ungar and Olive Madison.

The play was directed by MA student Miriam Weiss and although this was Miriam’s first time directing, she has been active in BIAS since her first year at BIU and has acted in six plays. The producer, English literature student Ilona Diamond, has been involved in three previous BIAS productions (and is an editorial assistant of this magazine!). The roles of Olive Madison and Florence Unger were played by students Chava Forman and Melissa Steiner respectively, both of whom also starred in the 2008 production of “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

Judging by the packed-to-the-rafters audience reaction, “The Odd Couple: Female Version” was an enormous success and a credit to the initiative and hard work of a talented bunch of Bar-Ilan students.

Presenting:

The Bar-Ilan Acting Society!
In May, BIU hosted its first Student Photography Contest and Exhibition “Up Close and Personal”. The subject was the University itself – and visions of how our student photographers perceived the campus and the students and academicians pursuing their day-to-day activities. Here is a selection of the photography exhibits of some of our talented students.

- First Prize: Oriah Amichai
- Second Prize: Yohanan Tsur
- Third Prize: Liad Ramot
- Fourth Prize: Ilan Garibi

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, admiring an exhibit
BIU HostsVisitors from Far and Wide

BIU hosts many esteemed visitors throughout the year from academia, the media and government agencies in Israel and around the globe. Here is a sampling.

1. Meeting with Directors of Minerva Centers
Angelika Lange-Gao, head of the Minerva Foundation, Division of International Relations, Max Planck Society, visits BIU for the first time. Pictured: Angelika Lange-Gao, Prof. Shlomo Havlin, Director of Minerva Center, and Prof. Richard Berkovits, at the Physics Lab, Minerva Center for Physics of Mesoscopics, Fractals and Neural Networks.

2. Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Israel
A delegation from the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Israel came to Bar-Ilan University in order to promote the cooperative relations between BIU and Chinese universities. Pictured: Henia Gal, Administrative Director of the Leslie & Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center (right), greets Madam Zhang Xia-An, the Political Counselor of the Chinese Embassy, and Mr. Li Xinyuan, First Secretary and Education Attaché of the Chinese Embassy during their visit to the Integrative Neurobiology Lab in the Center.

3. Delegation from Southern Federal University, Russia
A delegation from Southern Federal University visited BIU in order to further promote the cooperative relations between the universities. Prof. Vera Labunskaya, Head of the Department of Social Psychology, Prof. Olga Vasilieva, Head of the Dept. of Psychology of Health, and other members of academic staff from Southern Federal University, are pictured on a tour of the campus led by Ruth Cohen, Project Manager for Academic Visits.

Ambassadors’ Forum
Bar-Ilan University hosted a first-of-its-kind “Ambassadors’ Forum” designed to brief the diplomatic corps about critical current events affecting Israel and the world-at-large. The session, which took place in February, focused on the political and international implications of the Israeli elections. Ambassadors and senior diplomats from more than 50 countries participated in the Forum.

4. Dr. Mordechai Kedar, Department of Arabic, Prof. Harold Basch, VP for Research & Development, Judith Haimoff, BIU Associate VP, Mr. Nachman Shai, MK, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, and Prof. Yaakov Neeman, Minister of Justice and former Chairman of the University’s Executive Council.

5. Ambassadors and Senior Diplomats.
Delegation of European Scientific Attachés
For the first time a delegation of Scientific Attachés from the European Union visited Bar-Ilan. The group was treated to a tour of the new Nanotechnology Triplex with Prof. Arie Zaban and Dr. Orit Chassid and met with researchers from the Bar-Ilan Institute for Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), as well as the Leslie & Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center. At the Brain Research Center they visited the MEG Laboratory, which houses a unique imaging technique used to measure the magnetic fields produced by electrical activity in the brain.

1. Tour of the Nanotechnology Triplex with Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of BINA

2. Prof. Moshe Abeles, Head of the Brain Research Center at the MEG Laboratory, greets the delegation

3. Kazakhstani Delegation
The government of Kazakhstan is actively seeking to establish academic cooperation with Israeli universities. As such, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Israel, Galym Orazbakov, together with the Chairman of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, Prof. Kuanisysh Sultanov, met at Bar-Ilan University with Prof. Harold Basch, who provided them with an overview of BIU and its research activities. Pictured: Yerik Yakubaev, Minister-Counselor, Prof. Kuanisysh Sultanov, Prof. Harold Basch, and Galym Orazbakov

4. Association for the Wellbeing of Israel’s Soldiers
Orna Pesach, Executive Director of the Association for the Wellbeing of Israel’s Soldiers, visits Bar-Ilan every year to meet the students and combat soldiers who are recipients of the IMPACT scholarship, whose goal is to assist former combat soldiers with their tuition fees. Pictured: Miriam Vidal, Scholarships Department, Moti Mishan, Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser to the President, Orna Pesach, Prof. Chaim Taitelbaum, Vice Rector, and Pnina Agassi, Head of the Rector’s Office

5. Seminar of the Lookstein Center Principals’ Program
A group of American educators came to visit Bar-Ilan University to attend a Lookstein Center seminar and tour the campus

6. Meeting with Minerva Foundation Directors
Prof. Martin Stratmann, General Manager of the Minerva Foundation and VP Max Planck Society, and Dr. Enno Aufderheide, Managing Director of the Minerva Foundation, met with BIU Minerva directors to exchange views. Pictured: Prof. Harold Basch, Angelika Lange-Gao, Dr. Enno Aufderheide, Prof. Martin Stratmann, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, and Prof. Joseph Menis, BIU Rector
1. Delegation from Wroclaw, Poland
The partner cities of Wroclaw, Poland and Ramat Gan, Israel are both home to major universities. A delegation from Wroclaw met with representatives of Ramat Gan at BIU, with the goal of collaboration and academic exchanges in language and Jewish studies. Pictured: Rafał Dutkiewicz, Mayor of Wroclaw, Prof. Moshe Rosman, Koschitzky Department of Jewish History, and Moti Mishan

2. Shanghai Normal University
Representatives of Shanghai Normal University returned to BIU to continue working on collaborative plans for the universities to work together and start programs of teacher and student exchanges. Pictured: Lu Hongyu, Director of the International Exchange Division, Wu Qiong, Associate Prof. & Attorney-at-Law, Political and Law College, Prof. Shang Hongri, Director of Political and Law College, Prof. Uri Nir, Head of BIU’s Nano-medicine Center, Prof. Lu Jianfei, Vice-President, Mr. You Yang, Assistant to the Director of the International Exchange Division, and Ruth Cohen

3. University of Sydney
Cindy Wilkinson, Director of Academic Administration at the University of Sydney, visited BIU, meeting with several researchers including Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of BINA, Prof. Chaim Sukenik, Dept. of Chemistry and BINA, Dr. Ed Stern, Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, and Prof. George Moschytz, Head of the School of Engineering. Pictured: Vera Muravitz, Executive Director, UK & Australasia Operations, Prof. Harold Basch, Cindy Wilkinson, Judith Haimoff, and Ruth Cohen

Senator Larry Pressler
Senator Larry Pressler visited BIU, where he took a tour of campus and then enlightened some students of the Department of Political Science with a lecture entitled “President Obama’s Foreign Policy: Engagement and its Limits.”

4. Prof. Harold Basch, presents Former U.S. Senator Larry Pressler with a gift of a Scroll of Esther

5. Senator Larry Pressler, Prof. Shmuel Sandler, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Prof. Gerald Steinberg, Chair, Political Studies

Israeli Police Force
The Israeli Police Force sent a delegation to BIU to discuss the curriculum for their studies at the University. During their visit they heard from several Bar-Ilan lecturers on topics such as Terror Organizations, Islam and Judaism, and Israel Punishment Policy.

6. The group hearing a presentation from a Bar-Ilan lecturer
Ambassadors' Forum II
Ambassadors and senior diplomats attended the Forum, the second in a series newly-initiated by Bar-Ilan University. Guest speaker, former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations and BIU Honorary Doctor Dan Gillerman, expressed optimism for reaching an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement in the near future at Bar-Ilan’s Ambassadors’ Forum on “Defense Against Terror, Human Rights and Lawfare.” This important topic drew an audience of ambassadors and diplomats from many countries.

1. Ambassador Jon Allen, of Canada and Ambassador Benedicte Frankinet, of Belgium, enjoying the Forum
2. Ambassador Dan Gillerman expressing his views on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
3. The ambassadors are presented with expert opinions from Bar-Ilan researchers and Ambassador Dan Gillerman from political, moral, legal, and diplomatic perspectives

University of Southern California
The School of Social Work at the University of Southern California (USC) sent a delegation through the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles to the Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work at Bar-Ilan University. The delegation met with Bar-Ilan researchers about topics relating, among others, to issues of army service such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, etc. of soldiers and their families. Following this visit, the two universities established fruitful collaboration of research and an exchange program of doctoral candidates.

4. Prof. Joseph Menis welcomes the USC delegation to BIU
5. Prof. Joseph Menis and Prof. Marilyn Flynn, Dean of USC School of Social Work, discuss future collaboration of the two universities
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Policy Address

On June 14, 2009, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered his major policy address at Bar-Ilan University’s Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies. As the world listened, Prime Minister Netanyahu presented his vision for peace and the State of Israel’s platform on the future of peace negotiations.

1. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivering his landmark speech

2. Prof. Efraim Inbar, Director BESA Center, Alan Grossman, and Natan Sharansky, newly installed Director of the Jewish Agency, meet after the speech

3. Prof. Moshe Kaveh (right) showing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, the “Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel”

4. David Fuhrer, Chairman, Israel Friends of BIU, Benny Landa, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mordecai D. Katz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

5. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and wife, Sara, meet with Jules Trump, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of The Trump Group
Academic Conferences and Events

January 2009
- “Mitzvot that are Dependent on the Land of Israel” (Campus Rabbi and Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies)
- “Education and Politics in Israel” in honor of the release of Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiye’s new book (Dept. of Political Studies)
- “New Windows Horizon: Current Research of Community Work” (Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)

February 2009
- “On Body and Mind in Art and Science” in honor of Prof. Shlomo Yehuda (Dept. of Psychology)
- “Gender Dialogue in Israel” (Dept. of Hebrew and Semitic Studies)
- “The Heritage of Spanish Jewry in Morocco, from the Expulsion to the Present Day” (Aharon and Rachel Dahan Center for Culture, Society, and Education in the Sephardic Heritage)
- BIU Open House (Office of the Vice Rector)

March 2009
- Conference of the Israeli Association for the Hebrew Language (Dept. of Hebrew and Semitic Languages)
- “Live Cell Imaging” (Department of Physics)
- “Opera Pearls” for Purim (Department of Music)
- 12th Biology Olympics for High School Students, Grades 11 & 12 (Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences)
- “HaBen Ish Chai” (The Aharon and Rachel Dahan Center for Culture, Society, and Education in the Sephardic Heritage and the Campus Rabbi)

April 2009
- “World Pharmaceutical Market Development: Challenges for Design Quality of Products, Processes and Specifications” (Dept. of Chemistry)
- Lecture by the Campus Rabbi: Questions on the Laws of Passover (Office of the Campus Rabbi)
- The Third Workshop on Visual Culture Studies (Dept. of Hermeneutics)
- Opening night exhibition on “Tikun Olam” given the existential threat: creative art of children from Sderot and Acre 2006-2008 (Dept. of Psychology)

May 2009
- “Project Information 2000” (Churgin School of Education)
- 8th Concert: “Latin Ambiance” (Dept. of Music)
- Bar Lev Award Ceremony (Churgin School of Education)
- International Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation (Faculty of Law)

June 2009
- “Who am I? an Israeli song: an evening of music in honor of Chaim Ladan Almagor (Dept. of Music)
- 9th Concert: Jewish music and Israeli composers (Dept. of Music)
- “Networks for Peace and Security Aspects Pertaining to Gender” (Program in Gender Studies)
- Biotech Conference (Churgin School of Education)
- Molecular Modeling Seminar – Applications in Life Sciences (Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences)
• Conference of International Association of Family Law – ISFL (Faculty of Law)
• “Hebrew Literature: Voices Echoing” (Joseph & Norman Berman Department of Literature of the Jewish People)
• “School without Borders” – Preparatory Program for Ethiopian Immigrants (Churgin School of Education)
• “Gush Etzion Construction, Destruction and Renewal” (Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)
• BISFAI-Biennial Israeli Symposium on the Foundations of AI (Dept. of Computer Science)
• “Web Platform for Feminist Social Revolution” (Program in Gender Studies)
• “The Challenge of Experience: Theoretical Treatments of Views on Parenting” (Dept. of Psychology)
• “Zionism and the State of Israel” (Koschitzky Dept. of Jewish History)
• 18th Marathon of Ladino Research: “The Spanish-Jewish Family: The Challenge between Past and Present” (Naime & Yehoshua Salti Center for Ladino Studies)
• New book release event: “A Woman, Eve, Adam – Access Between the Development of Jewish Tradition” (Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies and the Midrasha for Women)
• Celebrating the release of Dr. Isaac Gottlieb’s book: “There is Order to the Bible” (Shamir Dept. of Bible)
• “Israeli Corporate Law and Economics ILEA” (Faculty of Law)
• Prize for Religious Education (Churgin School of Education)
• Forum for Middle Eastern Studies (Dept. of Middle Eastern History)

• Conference on Nanotechnology (Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials [BINA])
• Annual Conference of the Phoenix Program for Road Safety
• Nationwide gathering of students on Nanotechnology (Dept. of Chemistry)
• 9th Annual Conference on The Study of Jewish Names (Koschitzky Dept. of Jewish History)

July 2009

August 2009

• Prof. Eli Barkai (Dept. of Physics) won the prestigious 2009 Michael Bruno Award for his research
• Dr. Elieheva Baumgarten (Koschitzky Dept. of Jewish History/Gender Studies Program) won the first Jordan Schnitzer Book Award for her book Mothers and Children: Jewish Family in Medieval Europe (Princeton University Press, 2004)
• Joanne Harbosh, Optometry student at BIU, won a prize from the Council for Higher Education for her contribution to the community

Awards and Distinctions

• Itamar Hasson, 17-year-old BIU student about to complete his B.Sc. with honors in Mathematics, earned a gold medal in the Physics Olympics held in Mexico and a silver medal in the Asian Olympics in Physics, held in Thailand

• Dr. Chava Korzakova (Dept. of Classical Studies) won the Yuri Stern Poetry Prize
• Prof. Sarit Kraus (Dept. of Computer Science/Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center) won a special tribute from the Los Angeles airport police for developing a security system
• Prof. Yehuda Lindell (Dept. of Computer Science) won the EU’s Young Researchers Award
• Prof. Yedidia Stern (Faculty of Law) won the Tzeltner Award Promoting Research in Law and Rhetoric
• Prof. Zeev Zalevsky (School of Engineering) won the 2009 Julodan Prize for Contribution to Medicine for his research in optics

Congratulations to the 20 winners of the new University Prize for Outstanding lecturers!

Dr. Jordan Chill, Dr. Liora Findler, Prof. Shaul Fox, Dr. Yuval Garini, Prof. Doron Ginsberg, Dr. Keren Goldfrad, Dr. Simcha Horowitz, Prof. Shachar Lifshitz, Dr. Yosef Mann, Prof. Gideon Parchomovsky, Dr. Haggai Ben-Artzi, Dr. Moshe Ben-Simon, Mr. Yossi Ben Zion, Dr. Barak Cohen, Dr. Gabi Danon, Dr. Michal Afri, Dr. Danielle Gurevitch, Dr. Meirav Mishali, Dr. Mirjam Rajner, Dr. Noa Vilchinsky
Global Outreach
Friends Around the World

BIU Welcomes New Leadership

Sagi Melamed is BIU's newly appointed CEO for Global Resource Development. Sagi comes to Bar-Ilan University from Tel Hai Academic College, where he served as Vice President for External Relations and Development. In that capacity, he conceived and launched the Triangle Model for Economic Development, integrating academia, scientific research and industry to catalyze regional development at Israel's northern border. He was also instrumental in leading a $100 Million campaign to build Tel Hai's new campus and student dormitories. Sagi is a graduate of Harvard University in Middle Eastern Studies and Mediation and Negotiation.

The following is an interview with the new CEO:

What drew you to Bar-Ilan University?

For me, Bar-Ilan University embodies both the mind and the heart of the Jewish people and the State of Israel– with deep foundations in Jewish values and traditions on the one hand, and the most advanced technology and research on the other. Because the development vision for the University is so compelling on all these levels, I feel honored to lead the global resource development efforts that will ensure that Bar-Ilan remains at the top of Israel’s Academia.

How would you define and personalize your new position at BIU?

The message of our department is innovation, collaboration and appreciation. We are striving to reach new records in development, even in a difficult economic environment. From past experience as a farmer, I learned that even in times of drought, one still has to cultivate the land. But even more than that, I learned that those who work harder and smarter and build for the future will later reap the fruits. Thus, we are laying the foundations for a smarter and more efficient fundraising mechanism.

How do you visualize the future of Global Resource Development at BIU?

An example from medicine illustrates why I am optimistic despite the current economic situation. When there is a shortage of blood, the body directs its limited supply to the most vital organs – the heart and the brain. With its unique combination of scientific excellence and a Jewish neshama, Bar-Ilan is the BRAIN AND HEART of Israel, and one does not neglect one's heart and brain! It is already my pleasure to work with friends, donors and colleagues who are inspired by the accomplishments of Bar-Ilan University. So it is with tremendous energy and commitment that I join the Bar-Ilan family as it pursues its far-reaching vision for the future.

Dr. Merav Galili is BIU's newly appointed Associate Director of Global Resource Development Operations. Dr. Galili has extensive experience in fundraising for social initiatives, most recently at the Jewish Agency, where she established and managed the Resource Development Division of the Aliyah and Absorption Department, and at JDC-Israel, in fundraising from federations, private donors and foundations. Dr. Galili holds a PhD in Educational Psychology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
1. At an American Friends of Bar-Ilan University (AFBIU) outreach event in New York, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, is joined by Daniel Gildin, co-chair of the New York Board of AFBIU.

2. David Dwek, third from left, and his wife, Perah, hosted a New York parlor meeting featuring BIU Dr. Mordechai Kedar, second from left, who spoke about the need for Israel to have a stronger media presence in the Arab world. With them are, from left, Joseph Sokol and Mark Medin, Executive VP & CEO of AFBIU.

3. Jonathan Blinken, co-chairman of the New York Board of AFBIU, greets Bar-Ilan Dr. Aliza Lavie, who spoke to hundreds of New Yorkers about her best-selling Jewish Women’s Prayer Book and the University’s outstanding humanities programs.

4. S. Lee Kohrman, President of the David and Inez Myers Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, meets with Prof. Shulamit Michaeli, one of BIU’s life sciences superstars and founding incumbent of the Chair in Gene Expression and Infectious Diseases that was established by the Foundation.

5. Prof. Shulamit Michaeli shares ideas with Elie Weiss, a new supporter of AFBIU who is following in the footsteps of three-generations of support for BIU from the Sapirstein-Stone-Weiss family of Cleveland. He hosted a breakfast reception featuring Prof. Michaeli.

6. Prof. Uri Nir, Director of Nano-Medicine at BIU, recently spoke at several events in New York City about his groundbreaking work to develop an anti-cancer drug. Patricia Cayne, far right, hosted an event for Dr. Nir. Gail Propp, far left, helped organize this event.
American Friends of Bar-Ilan University
Presidential Reception in Florida

1. Evelyn Katz, an honoree at the Presidential Reception in Florida, is congratulated by Mark Medin

2. Dr. William and Debbie Rand were among those honored at the Presidential Reception at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center in Florida

3. Florida event honorees Judy and Monroe Milstein were presented with the BIU microscope, which is given to donors who make contributions of $100,000 and over to the University

4. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, far right, congratulates Florida event honorees Jules and Stephanie Trump

5. Among the major donors to BIU who were honored in Florida were Shelli and Tom Weisz

6. Plaques were presented to Dor L’Dor Society members who have included BIU in their estate plans. From left, Society member Florence Unger, Mark Medin, Society members Marcia Schantz, Jack and Gilda Burstein, Larry Schantz, Carol and Cliff Weidberg, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, and Jayne Kaplan, AFBIU Florida Regional Director
1. Irene Pipes, center, mother of Daniel Pipes, recipient of Bar-Ilan University’s Guardian of Zion Award 2006, enjoys lunch on campus with, from left, Gila Slonim, Coordinator of North American Operations, Prof. Eytan Gilboa, Director of the International Communication and Public Diplomacy Program, Prof. Efraim Inbar, Director, Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies, and Prof. Shmuel Sandler, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences.

2. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, left, with David Shapell, of Los Angeles, at the Bob Shapell Park.

3. The “Connecticut Learning Group” visits Bar-Ilan University for an afternoon of stimulating study sessions.

4. Judy Weiss, of Cleveland, (far right) and her sister, (center) hear an explanation about the research being conducted on the brain activity of amoebas by PhD candidate Ravit Saada, who is being sponsored by the Weiss family through the BIU Doctoral Fellowships of Excellence Program.

5. Sharon Evans, Director of North American Operations, far left, hosts Gita and David Galbut, of Miami Beach, Florida, together with their daughter Nili, center, then a student in Bar-Ilan’s One Year Program, introducing them to Prof. Uri Nir.

6. Members of ISEF (International Sephardic Education Foundation) Young Leadership Mission spend an enlightening and fulfilling afternoon at Bar-Ilan University, where they met with students in their program.
Guardian of Zion Award Ceremony

1. From left, Elie and Marion Wiesel, Ira Rennert and Prof. Benzion Netanyahu exchange greetings

2. Ingeborg Rennert bestows the Guardian of Zion medallion upon journalist and commentator, Caroline Glick

3. Caroline Glick receives a standing ovation after delivering her passionate and enlightening lecture on "Jerusalem: The Eternal Front Line"

4. The Hon. Irwin Cotler is greeted by MK Nissim Zeev, of the Shas party

5. Audience watches a live broadcast of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s address in the Jack and Gitta Nagel Family Jewish Heritage Center at Bar-Ilan University

6. Prof. Eytan Gilboa answers questions about the Prime Minister’s speech

Live Broadcast of PM Netanyahu’s Bar-Ilan Speech

Bar-Ilan University’s International Communication and Public Diplomacy Program partnered with StandWithUs International to broadcast Prime Minister Netanyahu’s “Bar-Ilan Speech”, and to host the Hon. Irwin Cotler, Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. Following the Prime Minister’s landmark address Cotler addressed the issue of the Iranian threat, which was followed by a political analysis of Netanyahu’s speech by Prof. Eytan Gilboa, Director of the International Communication and Public Diplomacy Program at Bar-Ilan University.
1. Dr. Mordechai Kedar, BIU Arabic and Islamic Studies specialist, was in Toronto and spoke to the UJA Federation Real Estate Cabinet and Community Builders Speakers Series at the Boardroom of Minden Gross. Pictured: Jonathan Gitlin, Shane Spring, co-chairs, Dr. Mordechai Kedar, and Steve Posen, host of the event

2. Dr. Adam Ferziger, Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus Fellow in Jewish Studies, was in Toronto participating in the Torah in Motion Conference. His talk was co-sponsored by the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University. Pictured: Eli Rubinstein, Dr. Ferziger and Michael Lax

3. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, met with Toronto philanthropist Mike Neuberger to discuss his partnership in the Returning Scientist program. Pictured: Mr. Neuberger, Prof. Kaveh and Michael Lax, nephew of Mr. Neuberger

Dedication of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History

4. Mira and Saul Koschitzky, Mrs. Golda Koschitzky, Julie and Henry Koschitzky, Dov Altman, Executive Director Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan, Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Sharon Evans, Director, North American Operations

5. Prof. Moshe Kaveh congratulates Mrs. Golda Koschitzky on her meaningful contribution to Bar-Ilan University
1. Prof. Arie Reich, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Romie Tager, Q.C., Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, Arnon Katz, Chairman British Friends, and Vera Muravitz, Executive Director UK and Australasia Operations at the announcement of the establishment of the Tager Family Jewish Law Program.

2. At the site of the Nano triplex are Dr. Orit Hassid, Prof. Chaim Sukenik, Vera Muravitz, Martin Moshal visiting from London, and Shlomo Rechtshaffen, Executive Director, British Friends.

3. PhD student Ron Adani, Moti Mishan, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President, futurist Prof. David Passig, join Vera Muravitz (third from right) in welcoming Arnon Katz, Mark Shainberg, Gary Milner and Johnny Cohen to campus.

4. Paul Ramsbottom, Director of the London-based Wolfson Foundation (center) is welcomed to campus by VP of Research and Development, Prof. Harold Basch and Associate VP Judith Haimoff.

5. On the dais of the Monotheism in Asia conference, held in March under the auspices of the Dr. Naim Dangoor Program for Universal Monotheism, are the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Binyamin Abrahamov and the Japanese and Korean Ambassadors to Israel.

6. The featured artist at the Monotheism in Asia conference was the Indian dancer Miho Kataoka.
Bar-Ilan mourns the loss of its dear friend Dr. Sami Shamoon.

Dr. Shamoon was the President of the Sephardic Federation and a recipient of a PhD *Honoris Causa* from BIU in 2003.

Dr. Shamoon was a great proponent of higher education and lent his support to several major projects at Bar-Ilan including the Shamoon Doctoral Fellowships of Excellence program. In the seven years since its establishment, the Shamoon Chair in Brain Research, under the able guidance of its incumbent, Prof. Moshe Abeles, has attained significant results and achieved great advances.

In partnership with the British Friends of Bar-Ilan, Dr. Shamoon established Beit HaRav Jakobovits – Sami Shamoon Centre for the Study of Philosophy, Ethics and Jewish Thought. This tribute to the late Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits and the legacy he left will now also serve as a lasting memorial to Sami Shamoon, whose steadfast commitment to the tenets taught in this building was visionary.

He will be sorely missed.

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**Hackmey Event – London**

1. Israeli Ambassador to the UK Ron Prosor (right) and Elan Bombach (left) are welcomed to the gala British Friends event by host, Yossi Hackmey and Shlomo Rechtschaffen, Executive Director British Friends

2. Dr. Everard Goodman, Lady Karen Rix, Dr. Mina Goodman and Sir Bernard Rix at the Hackmey event

3. Yossi Hackmey greets guests Dr. and Mrs. Edward Wojakovski
1. Hands on breathing experiment in the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences during British Day


3. David Gradel and Everard Goodman presenting a token of appreciation to Conrad Morris (center) on his retirement as Chairman of the British Friends

4. Prof. Moshe Kaveh wishes Conrad Morris “Behazlacha”

5. The Honorable British Ambassador to Israel Tom Phillips addresses the guests at the inauguration of the Katz Family Research Grant Incentive Program

6. Dr. Rachela Popovtzer receives the Katz Family Award from Prof. Harold Basch, VP Research and Development, Smadar and Arnon Katz
1. Prof. George Moschytz, Head of the School of Engineering, Dr. h.c. Marc Rich, Avner Azulay, Managing Director of the Rich Foundation, and Jehudi Kinar, Director of the European Desk, visit the Marc Rich Bio-Engineering Building

2. Isak and Ingrid Salti, of Switzerland, visit the Naime and Yehoshua Salti Center for Ladino Studies

3. Article about Bar-Ilan University published in Die Gemeinde, an Austrian Jewish Monthly

4. Latest Edition of Ars Judaica, the Bar-Ilan Journal of Jewish Art, sponsored by Dr. Yonat Floersheim, Zurich

5. Dr. Mira Barda-Saad receives a grant for her research from Prof. Harold Basch, VP for Research and Development, during the Award Ceremony of the Leon and Maria Taubenblatt Prize for Excellence in Medical Research at the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences. Pictured at right: the Taubenblatt Prize
Punta del Este Symposium

On January 7, 2009, the inaugural Bar-Ilan University International Symposium on “Israel, Security, Technology and Education” was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, launching the Latin American activities of the Friends of Bar-Ilan University. Over 1200 people attended the event which was held in the presence of Jose Maria Aznar, former President of Spain and Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President.

1. A filled-to-the-rafters audience pays close attention during the Punta del Este Symposium.

2. Jose Maria Aznar, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Jacob Perry, Chairman, Mizrahi Tefahot Bank Ltd., and Yossef Bar Magen, Executive Director, Iberoamerican Desk, on the dais during the Symposium.

3. On June 17 we opened our offices in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the presence of more than 50 people, including prominent community leaders and personalities. We expect this will be the beginning of intense activity of the Argentine Friends of Bar-Ilan University.

4. Kuky and Sergio Groskopf hosted a dinner at their residence honoring Bar-Ilan University and Jose Maria Aznar. Pictured here: Dorit Kaveh, Kuky Groskopf, Hanna Dreisis, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Hanoch Dreisis, Sergio Groskopf, Jose Maria Aznar, Andres Garfunkel, Gustavo Yankelevich and wife, and Fred Shaul.
5. Prof. Izak Yohai, Chairman, Iberoamerican Desk, greets David Sutton of Argentina, during his visit to the BIU campus

6. Benjamin Perelman and Mr. Burstein, of Peru, meet with BIU’s Latin American students during their visit to campus

7. Prof. Chaim Milikowsky, Head of the Zoltan & Lya Gaspar Chair in Talmud Bavli, David Kalir, his student, Zoltan and Lya Gaspar, the founders of this Chair, and Prof. Izak Yohai, during the scholarship awarding ceremony of the Chair

8. Ing. Nathan Feldman (second from left) and a delegation of Mexican friends visit BIU campus, meeting with Prof. Izak Yohai, his wife Rivka Yohai, and Rabbi Moshe Klein
Business Forum Gala Event at the Residence of the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Israel, H.E. Zhao Jun, presenting the BIU Business Forum Award to Idan Ofer and to Eli Hurvitz

1. Batia Perry, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, Zhao Jun, Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China, and Idan Ofer, Chairman of the Board, Israel Corp.

2. Presentation of the BIU Business Forum Award to Eli Hurvitz. Pictured: Eli Hurvitz, Chairman of the Board, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Morris Kahn, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh

Business Forum Gala Event at the Residence of the Australian Ambassador to Israel, James Larsen, presenting the BIU Business Forum Award to Ofra Strauss and to Jacob Nimrodi

3. Adi Keizman, CEO, ADO Group Ltd., Ofra Strauss, Chairperson of the Board of the Strauss Group, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, and James Larsen, Australian Ambassador to Israel

4. Receiving the BIU Business Forum Award: Ofer Nimrodi, Director and CEO of the Israel Land Development Company Ltd., Yael Nimrodi, Rivka Nimrodi, and Jacob Nimrodi, Honorary President of the Israel Land Development Company Ltd.

5. Isaac Herzog, Minister of Welfare and Social Services

6. BIU honoring Agilent Israel for their generous donation of laboratory equipment to the Bar-Ilan School of Engineering: Prof. George Moschytz, Head, School of Engineering, Itzik Siton, CEO, Agilent Technologies Israel, and Prof. Ephraim Zehavi, Vice Chairman, School of Engineering
Business Forum with Prof. Stanley Fischer, Governor of the Bank of Israel

1. Prof. Yaacov Neeman, Minister of Justice and former Chairman of the BIU Executive Council, Dan Gillerman, former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, Prof. Jacob Frenkel, Vice-Chairman AIG Worldwide, and Prof. Stanley Fischer, Governor of the Bank of Israel

2. Benny Landa, Founder of Landa Laboratories and the Landa Foundation

3. Haim Glick, BIU Director General, Dan Gillerman, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Prof. Stanley Fischer, Rhoda Fischer, Prof. Yaacov Neeman, and Prof. Jacob Frenkel

David Fuhrer, Chairman, Israel Friends of BIU

David Fuhrer, an eighth-generation Israeli and scion of one of the founding families of the city of Tel Aviv, is chairman of the Neopharm Group – one of the largest Israeli marketing groups in the area of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, established in 1941. A highly respected figure in Israeli industry, David Fuhrer served for close to a decade as Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Sector at the Israeli Chamber of Commerce. He is an authority in the area of pharmaceutical regulation and intellectual property. David Fuhrer spearheads proactive and ground-breaking social and communal initiatives. One such venture for the employment of mentally handicapped individuals recently won acclaim from the Israeli Ministry of Welfare and the AKIM prize, which was awarded to him by Shimon Peres, President of Israel. In the sphere of academia, he provides scholarships to deserving students. He also supports research aimed at strengthening the Israel Life Science Industry and promoting the development of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment which will improve quality of life and address medical needs. Mr. Fuhrer, who holds a 2009 Honorary Doctorate from BIU, is delighted to serve as Chairman of the Israel Friends and to channel his energies into promoting Bar-Ilan University.
Highlights from the 2009 Board of Trustees Meetings

The Bar-Ilan University 2009 Board of Trustees Meetings combined academic events, annual honorary doctoral ceremony and all-important meetings and elections. Even before the official start of the Board meetings on Monday, May 11 (Erev L’ag B’omer), those who were in the country had the pleasure, on Thursday, May 7, of attending a shiur and an address by two of our esteemed 2009 honorary doctoral recipients.

Once the meetings got underway, the focal points of the two-day plenary sessions were the reports – finance, investment, and public relations and marketing, all reflecting the current economic world situation and setting forth programs for improving the University in every way. The climax of the sessions was the election of Prof. Moshe Kaveh as University president, marking his fourth term in office.

During the week the University was proud to bestow its honorary doctorate upon ten extraordinary individuals, as well as a BIU Award of Distinction to the Re’im Duo celebrating forty years of Jewish song. Among the cultural events, all enjoyed the inaugural Student Photography Competition showing off our talented students’ top exhibits.

Featured were a riveting academic panel discussion and lectures by some of our distinguished doctoral recipients, as well as a symposium and heart-warming tribute in memory of our beloved Rabbi Prof. Emanuel Rackman.

The poignant Dahan gate-naming ceremony, dedications of the Everard Goodman Auditorium and Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre, the unveiling of a sculpture in honor of Jerome L. Stern created by artist BIU Honorary Doctor Menashe Kadishman, and a festive donor luncheon honoring our dear friends, rounded out the events.

Pre-Board Lectures

1. Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Yeshiva University Chancellor and BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor, giving a shiur on “Gratitude in Halacha” at the Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies

Plenary Session I

1. The Trustees at the Plenary
2. Peter Rzepka, Dr. David Jeselsohn, and Jane Stern Lebell attending to business
3. Ronnie Stern, Chairman, AFBIU PR Committee, giving his presentation

Plenary Session II

4. Lya and Zoltan Gaspar, Board of Trustees member, posing with Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, and Prof. Izak Yohai, Chairman, Iberoamerican Desk and Board of Trustees member
5. Norman Sternthal and Dr. David Jeselsohn taking a break between deliberations
6. Prof. Moshe Kaveh delivering his visionary message after his election as President of Bar-Ilan University for another term
Dedication of the Everard Goodman Auditorium in the Mina and Everard Goodman Computer Engineering Building

1. Prof. George Moschytz, Head of the School of Engineering, presenting a commemorative scroll to Everard Goodman

2. Everard and Mina Goodman and Prof. Moshe Kaveh watching as the Goodman’s daughter, Suzanne, cuts the ribbon at the dedication

3. Suzanne, Mina and Everard Goodman

4. Vera Muravitz, Executive Director UK and Australasia Operations, Mina, Everard and Suzanne Goodman, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh at the entrance of the Auditorium

5. Mina and Everard Goodman stepping into the Auditorium

Presentation of the BIU Award of Distinction upon the Re’im Duo, Celebrating Forty Years of Jewish song

6. Prof. Moshe Kaveh [second from left] and Dina Berniker, Member of the Executive Committee, presenting the Award of Distinction upon the Re’im Duo [flanking Prof. Kaveh]
Traditional Lag B’Omer Bonfire and Barbecue

1. Dr. Mordecai D. Katz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, opens the evening, getting the bonfire started

2. Let the music begin! Joyous shofar-blowing accompanied by rhythmic drum-beating

3. Guests joining in the dancing

4. Dancing a lively hora at the event are David Gradel, Haim Glick, BIU Director General; Arnon Katz, Chairman of the British Friends; Don Lebell; Yona Tilman, Senior Advisor to the President; and Sagi Melamed, CEO of Global Resource and Development

5. Smadar and Arnon Katz enjoying the evening with Conrad, President of the British Friends, and Ruth Morris

6. Beating the drums at the festivities are Jane Stern Lebell, Don Lebell, Nigel Halperin, Adina Appel, and Shlomo Rechtschaffen, Executive Director British Friends
Panel Discussion “The Religious Experience of Social Action” with the participation of the Dr. Naim Dangoor Program for Universal Monotheism

2. Dr. Miriam Goldstein, Faculty of Humanities, and Panel participants, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor, and Father Patrick Desbois, BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor (far right) looking on as Sheikh Abd-Salaam Menasra makes a point during the panel discussion

Lecture by Prof. Ruth Gavison, BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor, on “Democracy, Politics and Governance”

3. Prof. Ruth Gavison and Prof. Arie Reich, Dean of the BIU Law School

Lecture by Nobel laureate Prof. Roger Kornberg, BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor, on “The Molecular Basis of Eukaryotic Transcription”

4. Prof. Shula Michaeli, Head, Graduate Program, Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences and Prof. Uri Nir of the Nano-medicine Center and incoming Dean of the faculty, flanking Prof. Roger Kornberg

Lecture by Nobel laureate Prof. Walter Kohn, BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor, on “Nearsightedness of Electronic Matter”

5. Prof. Richard Berkovits, Chairman, Physics Dept., and Prof. Walter Kohn

Student Photography Competition and Exhibition “BIU – Up Close and Personal”

1. BIU students admiring one of the exhibits (see the winning pictures on p. 26)
**Dinner for Trustees and Honorees**

1. Peter Rzepka, Betsy Melamed, Aliki Rzepka and Sagi Melamed, getting together before the dinner

2. Prof. Moshe Kaveh congratulating stage actress Miriam Zohar, BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor (left) and her proud daughter

3. BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor, Meir Shamir, with his wife Dr. Adina Shamir and Moshe Tari, former Chairman of the Israel Securities Authorities

**Bar-Ilan University 2009 Convocation Ceremony**

4. The Honorary Doctoral candidates marching toward the presidium

5. The Honorary Doctoral candidates seated at the dais
Presentations to Honorary Doctors

1. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Yehoshua (Selim) Salti, Father Patrick Desbois, Peter Rzepka, and Prof. Dan Michman

2. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Prof. Yehuda Skornik, Aryeh (Lova) Eliav, Prof. Shmuel Shulman, and Yehezkel Barenholz

3. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Dr. David Jeselsohn, Prof. Walter Kohn, Prof. Natan Aviezer, and Prof. Meir Wilchek

4. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Prof. Arie Reich, Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, Prof. Ruth Gavison, and Romie Tager, O.C.

5. Dr. David Fuhrer, Shoshana Fuhrer, and Arnon Katz
1. Everard Goodman, Prof. Roger Kornberg, David Gradel and Prof. Haim Breitbart

2. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Dr. Mordecai D. Katz, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Norman Sternthal, Rabbi Prof. Daniel Sperber, President of the Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies

3. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Prof. Miron Izakson, Meir Shamir and Moshe Tari


5. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Conrad Morris, Miriam Zohar, Dina Berniker, and Prof. Zemira Mevarech, Chairman, Churgin School of Education
2009 Board of Trustees May 11-13

Tour of the Gonda Nanotechnology Triplex
1. Trustees and guests don hard hats to tour the Triplex

Naming of the Entry Gates in the Dahan Family Unity Park
2. Dahan family members at the new Rachel Dahan Memorial Gate
3. Guests at the ceremony
4. Regev family members at the new Gate of the Fallen Soldiers in Memory of Eldad Regev
5. Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Zvi Regev, Eldad’s father, share a quiet moment
6. Adi Arad, BIU alumna and admired vocal talent, singing poignantly at the ceremony
Dedication of the Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre

1. Milla Gradel cutting the ribbon

2. Haim Glick, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Milla, Susan and David Gradel, Norman Sternthal, Dov Altman, Executive Director Canadian Friends of BIU, and Vera Muravitz, standing in front of the new Day Care Centre

3. Rabbi Shlomo Shefer, BIU Campus Rabbi and David Gradel affixing a mezzuza to the doorpost of the new structure

4. Norman Sternthal meeting the young son of BIU student Rafi Eyal

5. Celebrating the “future generation” that will be taken care of at the Day Care Centre

6. Dov Altman and Norman Sternthal standing near the dedication plaque naming the new Day Care Centre

7. Gabi Weisfeld, Chairman of the Canadian Friends and co-founder of the Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre
Unveiling of “Ilanot” sculpted in honor of Jerome L. Stern by the artist and BIU Honorary Doctor Menashe Kadishman

1. Don Lebell, Ronnie Stern, Jane Stern Lebell, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Jerome L. Stern, and Ellen Stern, with the commemorative scroll

2. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Menashe Kadishman and Jerome L. Stern posing “through” the unique sculpture

Symposium in Memory of Rabbi Prof. Emanuel Rackman “Modern Orthodoxy at the Crossroads”

3. Prof. Moshe Kaveh addressing the audience while Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari and Jane Stern Lebell look on

4. Prof. Arie Reich, Dean, Faculty of Law, speaking of Rabbi Rackman’s contributions to the Faculty

5. The audience is riveted by the speakers

6. Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats at the podium while symposium participants Prof. Noam Zohar, Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Dr. Yaacov Yadgar and Dr. Tova Hartman look on

1. Prof. Moshe Kaveh adding the missing piece of the puzzle (the BIU logo) while Sharon Evans, Director, North American Operations, looks on

2. BIU student Rabbi Sharon Shalom, mesmerizing the audience with his personal story of triumph over adversity

3. BIU student Rivka Weinberg, explaining how she and her three sisters made aliya from Canada to study at BIU

4. BIU student Ron Adani, a doctoral student at age twenty-one (!), talking about his doctoral work and teaching experiences in computer science

5. Prof. Natan Aviezer presents four generations of physicists, including Prof. Moshe Kaveh, whose degree he supervised

6. Judith Haimoff, BIU Associate VP, showing the audience toys presented in the donors’ names for the Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre
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- Midwest: 1 248 540 8900
- Florida: 1 954 987 7887
- West Coast: 1 310 652 3601

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- Montreal: 1 514 731 7893

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