Placing The Focus On Our Students

Four Sisters - One University
A Bar-Ilan Family Affair
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The University mourns the passing of its beloved Chancellor Emeritus
Rabbi Prof. Emanuel Rackman

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Dear Friends,

As the magazine was going to press we received the news of the passing of our beloved Chancellor Emeritus Rabbi Prof. Emanuel Rackman. On the facing page is a tribute to this great leader whose loss will surely be felt by everyone in the Bar-Ilan family.

In this issue of BIU Today, we are placing the focus on our wonderful students and the diverse student body which makes up the unique human mosaic of Bar-Ilan University. Pursuing their degrees and certifications at Bar-Ilan from far and wide – native Israelis side-to-side with principals and Jewish school heads (the Lookstein Center); Masters students and course participants honing their Jewish writing skills (the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing); youngsters participating in archaeological digs or studying in various departments – Bar-Ilan's campus and outlying projects are simply bursting with student life.

Diversity comes not only from the overseas students who join the multitude of programs offered – but also within the University, as illustrated in the story of two students – one observant, one not – studying Torah together in the new Reshit program established at our Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies. Jewish identity-building at its finest!

We are continuing on our mission to return bright young Israeli scientists to the Jewish homeland and to Bar-Ilan University in order to reverse the so-called “brain drain” – and in this spirit this issue celebrates the research of three bright new stars, all working to improve mankind through their medical research.

Within these pages you will also find stories about some of our recently established programs, such as the Music Technology BA, as well as brand-new programs, including one that offers an MA in Medical Administration and Public Health, and Israel’s first academically accredited program focusing on interpreting for the deaf and hearing-impaired.

There is no doubt that the budget crisis in higher education is impacting on all universities this year. Like its sister institutions, Bar-Ilan University is certainly feeling the crunch, and we have implemented drastic emergency measures and a massive budget cut which will take its toll on future paths of development. Despite it all, we are determined to ensure all our students the quality education they have come to expect, as well as a nurturing atmosphere which will produce the leaders of tomorrow.

On a sad note, we were all deeply dismayed by the dreadful news this summer of Israel’s two fallen soldiers – Ehud Goldwasser z”l and Eldad Regev z”l. The country’s loss of these promising young men was even more personally devastating in that Eldad was one of ours, a Bar-Ilan student due to begin his law studies here.

May our students’ academic success serve as a memorial to Ehud and Eldad, and may the academic and moral grounding they receive at Bar-Ilan University be the bed-rock of all their future accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Prof. Moshe Kaveh
Our beloved Rabbi Prof. Emanuel Rackman, one of the most prominent and outspoken Jewish leaders of our time, passed away on December 1 in New York. A world-renowned expert in Jewish law, Rabbi Rackman oversaw the tremendous growth and development of Bar-Ilan University as the long-time president, and later chancellor, of the University. Rabbi Rackman was 98 years of age.

President of Bar-Ilan University for more than nine years, Rabbi Rackman served as Chancellor of the University from 1986 to 1999, when he was appointed Chancellor Emeritus. Under his leadership, the University tripled the size of its student body and grew in stature as a prominent international Jewish academic institution.

Born June 24, 1910, Rabbi Rackman was ordained at Yeshiva University. Following an impressive career in the military teaching chaplains of all denominations, he served as Rabbi of the prestigious Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York City and Shaarey Tefila Congregation in Far Rockaway. He also taught Jewish law at the City University of New York, New York Law School and Yeshiva College. He has been President of the Rabbinical Council of America, the New York Board of Rabbis, and the Association of Jewish Chaplains of the Armed Forces of the USA, among numerous other positions. In 1977, he came on aliya to Israel with his beloved wife, Ruth, who passed away in 1997.

Rabbi Rackman served as a role model for a generation of Rabbis entering the American Orthodox Rabbinate. Through his person and teachings, he demonstrated the "Modern Orthodoxy" was, and is, a coherent and convincing ideology, a philosophy not of compromise but of commitment.

Rabbi Rackman advocated tirelessly for women's rights and social justice. In 2001 Bar-Ilan University established The Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Women in recognition of his immeasurable contribution to the Jewish people and his outstanding efforts to improve the status of women. The Center, headed by Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, was established with the goal of improving women's status and bringing an end to gender discrimination in Israeli society. Through legal aid, public advocacy, research and women's empowerment, the Center aims to fulfill the vision of Rabbi Dr. Emanuel Rackman to advance women's rights in Israel and better women's standing within Jewish family law. Just last month the Israeli Knesset voted in favor of an amendment to the Spousal Property Relations Law which will now allow for the division of property prior to divorce. The Rackman Center took a leading role in initiating this revolutionary amendment.

Rabbi Rackman's books Israel's Emerging Constitution, One Man's Judaism, and Modern Halacha for our Time, and his many published essays, are scholarly masterpieces that lay out a clearly defined worldview. The central theme: that there is a creative principle in halacha; that Jewish law must evolve in order to be a more central moral force in rectifying the injustices of the modern world.

Throughout the years, Rabbi Rackman reached out to the halachic decisors of the day – to stretch their understanding, to challenge them to broaden their response to the problems of the suffering and the needy. He was, at once, a brilliant defender of halacha and a conscience to its practitioners to do better for the Jewish People and the world.

Rabbi Rackman's heart and spirit were wholly committed to the unity of the Jewish People, and he unceasingly argued that the survival of Judaism and the Jewish People must necessarily transcend denominational differences. No Orthodox leader in our time was as outspoken a champion of Klal Yisrael as Rabbi Rackman.

In 2000 Bar-Ilan University honored Rabbi Rackman with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and of his inestimable contribution to the development of the University.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, describes Rabbi Rackman as his "mentor, a man whose vision for the Jewish people not only shaped modern orthodoxy, and advanced Bar-Ilan University even further on its path of Jewish value education, but profoundly impacted on the thinking and deeds of our students, faculty and staff. The University and the Jewish world have lost a giant of a man whose greatness was derived not only by his intellect, but his passion and sense of social justice."

The University extends heartfelt condolences to Rabbi Rackman's sons Michael, Joseph, and Bennett, and their families.
Innovative and New Programs

To Your Good Health!

A-choo! “Assuta!”
“Gesunheit!”
“Labriut!” Whether they spoke Aramaic, Yiddish, Spanish or Hebrew, the Jewish people have always put a polite premium on wishing their neighbors the best of health. But beyond good wishes, how does Israel ensure that its citizens get adequate medical care? According to Prof. Yacov Rofé, Head of the Interdisciplinary Department of Social Sciences and Director of Bar-Ilan’s new Masters’ program in Medical Administration and Public Health, success in medicine relies on a multifaceted approach and a group effort.

“In our program we train medical professionals in the many different factors involved in successful health care, ranging from epidemiology and statistics, to psychology and marketing, to the nuts and bolts of organizational management,” says Prof. Rofé. “By giving students a firm grounding in a wide range of disciplines, we make it possible for our graduates to understand the big picture, and become effective leaders within hospitals, health funds, and private medical organizations.”

According to Prof. Rofé, the number of applicants for the new program testifies to its importance. “Even though the program was approved only in July 2008, we had to turn away half of the applicants,” he says, adding that the incoming class of over 100 students represents every branch of the medical community, from technicians to nurses to caregivers to physicians. “Based on the response, we hope to open up a dedicated physicians’ track in the future.”

Prof. Rofé designed the new Masters program together with his departmental colleague and fellow psychologist, Dr. Chaim Lavy. The program’s early success in attracting students is due both to its location – in the center of the country, near a number of leading hospitals – as well as to an impressive faculty roster which includes a number of senior medical professionals. Lecturers in the program include Prof. Yaakov Hart, General Manager of Beit Levinstein, Israel’s largest government-owned rehab hospital; Prof. Zeev Rothstein, General Manager of Tel Hashomer hospital; Prof. Yona Amitai, Chairman of the Israel Association for Pediatrics in the Community, who has been associated both with Hebrew University Medical School and the Ministry of Health; and Prof. Ehud Grossman, an expert in internal medicine who serves as Head of the Hypertension Unit at Tel Hashomer.

“Based on our biomedical research, and high level of training for doctors, Israel is blessed with excellent medical care,” says Prof. Rofé. “The new BIU Masters Program will make the good even better, by bringing medical professionals and patients together in a more efficient and effective way.”
A hush falls over the auditorium as three musicians take to the stage. The first, tuning up his instrument, is a cellist. The second, limbering up his fingers, is a trumpet player. But the third performer - the one firing up his laptop - is he really a musician? And if so, what kind?

"Computer technology has made an enormous impact on music composition and performance," says Dr. Igal Myrtenbaum, who together with fellow musician, composer and Bar-Ilan alumnus Dr. Shai Cohen, teaches in the University’s Electro-Acoustics program, which they founded in 2006. "Just like academic researchers cannot do their work effectively without a mastery of Word, modern musicians need computer technology."

According to Prof. Eitan Avitzur, a noted composer and conductor who in 1990 created Bar-Ilan’s computer music library, and today serves as the program’s Academic Director, educating students for the new technology involves the creation of a uniquely broad-based aesthetic. "On the one hand, technology makes it easy to blur the boundaries between different eras and ethnicities," he says. "On the other hand, the student must understand the historical continuum."

The division offers a range of options, including both degree-granting and certificate programs. Students familiarize themselves with advanced technologies for sound synthesis, composition, recording and performance, alongside traditional studies of theory, instrumentation and music history. This integration, says Dr. Myrtenbaum, can lead to interesting developments.

For instance, "some of our students use computers as a springboard for creation, while others examine how the musical experience relates to mathematics or neuroscience. But the way music touches the heart remains the same - no matter where the sound originates."
Professional translation is essential in a place like Israel, where large sectors of the population must overcome language barriers to avail themselves of basic services. For over thirty years, Bar-Ilan’s Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies, ranked number five in the world, has played a central role in raising the standards of translation and interpreting (oral translation) for language minorities. This year, it is extending its reach further, by establishing Israel’s first academically accredited program focusing on interpreting for the deaf and hearing-impaired.

Students entering the program will choose between professional certification alone or combining this with full-time studies towards a B.A. degree. Besides mastering their ISL skills, students will also learn about deaf culture.

“The deaf community needs interpreters well versed in both Hebrew and Israeli Sign Language (ISL),” says Prof. Miriam Shlesinger, who serves as Academic Director of the program. “However, until now there has been no system for evaluating practitioners’ abilities. We hope to improve interpreters’ professional level, and to empower members of the deaf community to function on an equal footing in society.”

Yael Kakon, a pioneer in the training of Israeli Sign Language interpreters who heads the program’s teaching staff, agrees that translation holds the key to social opportunity. “Israel is moving toward greater accessibility in all areas,” says Kakon, herself a native signer, raised by deaf parents. “By creating this program Bar-Ilan is making sure that interpreting is not just about helping out at the courthouse; it is about ensuring that deaf and hearing-impaired people can take their rightful place in society.”
Bar-Ilan’s relatively new undergraduate biophysics program - generously supported by the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation - is unique among Israeli universities. According to Prof. Elisha Haas, a researcher from the biological sciences who directs the program together with physicist Prof. Benjamin Ehrenberg, the need for education of this type has been building for at least a hundred years.

“Over the past century, technical advances have produced mountains of data that researchers see differently, depending on whether they are physicists, chemists or biologists,” says Prof. Haas, an expert on the self-assembly of molecular structures. “But today’s most exciting discoveries are interdisciplinary. To become part of the conversation, our students need a ‘cross-cultural’ perspective.”

Prof. Ehrenberg, whose own research focuses on the physical properties of biological membranes, agrees. “An integrated outlook speeds the pace of discovery by applying the principles and methods of physics, chemistry, mathematics and computer modeling to the understanding and control of biological systems.”

During the course of their studies, undergraduates are introduced to "hot" topics such as genetic engineering, environmental science and computer-aided drug design. From then on, the sky’s the limit; program participants have gone on to join prestigious graduate programs in the full range of experimental sciences, including biology, chemistry, physics, brain science, nanotechnology and of course, biophysics.

“When a student concentrates on one specific area from the moment he enters university, he is sentenced to ignorance about related fields,” Prof. Haas says. “The biophysics program at Bar-Ilan breaks down barriers, with the goal of educating students who are versed in the main disciplines of science, well trained, and ready to meet the scientific challenges of the future.”
"Actin filaments form the basis of protruding structures that latch on to neighboring cells – sort of like the grappling hooks that allow mountain climbers to shift their weight from one ledge to another. It turns out that – for cells of the immune system – the shape of these structures is substantially different in the presence of cancer."

Next year, some 75,000 Americans will be diagnosed with lymphoma – a cancer of the blood that originates in the body’s immune system. Lymphoma’s rapid spread among the population is mirrored by the ease with which this blood-borne disease metastasizes, or spreads, to organs throughout the body. But if you think that lymphoma’s “talent” for metastasis is simply a matter of being swept along in the circulatory system, think again. Making the “jump” from the blood to body tissues requires that lymphoma cells be equipped with specific molecular structures – structures that have long fascinated Dr. Mira Barda-Saad, a young scientist who recently returned to Israel – and her alma mater, Bar-Ilan University – after five years of research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda.

“To successfully move from one tissue to another, cells rely on something called actin – which is the most abundant protein in the cytoplasm of mammalian cells,” explains Dr. Barda-Saad, a specialist in molecular immunology in the Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences. "Actin filaments form the basis of protruding structures that latch on to neighboring cells – sort of like the grappling hooks that allow mountain climbers to shift their weight from one ledge to another. It turns out that – for cells of the immune system – the shape of these structures is substantially different in the presence of cancer."

The unusual shape of the cancerous cells inspired Dr. Barda-Saad to ask three questions: What regulates actin self-assembly? Does abnormal structure help cancerous cells of the immune system adhere to, and invade new tissues? If so, how can this information be parlayed into cancer therapy for the treatment of lymphoma?

In her search for answers, Dr. Barda-Saad used confocal microscopy – a cutting-edge technique that allows scientists to track protein interactions in living cells. By attaching fluorescent
“tags” of various colors to a number of different proteins, she was able to clarify the process of actin filament formation, and determine which proteins were most significant for the creation of actin-based structures in both normal and cancerous cells. Dr. Barda-Saad focused her attention on a particular protein – called WASp – that is expressed exclusively in immune cells, and, in the case of cancer, causes actin self-assembly to proceed in an abnormal manner.

“The abnormal structure of actin filaments in the cancer cells contributes to their ability to invade other tissues, or in other words, to metastasize,” Dr. Barda-Saad explains. “We have recently identified the degradation process of the WASp protein. This is significant information, because it clarifies a target for the design of chemotherapy drugs that could potentially block WASp activity.”

The significance of Dr. Barda-Saad’s work has not been lost on the scientific community and has led to numerous awards, including a special citation for excellence from the Israeli Knesset in 1988, and a prize for research excellence from NIH in 2004. She recently received another accolade, with her research being named one of the top five studies of 2008 by the Israel Cancer Foundation.

With so much acclaim, Dr. Barda-Saad could easily have extended her stay abroad, but chose to return to her alma mater. “I really enjoyed my work at NIH, but I’m a Zionist,” she says. “I was even lucky enough to have a number of offers from Israeli institutions to choose from. But in the end, I chose Bar-Ilan – because from the very beginning of my training, it’s been my home.”
When it comes to the study of disease, experimentalists depend on models to test their theories. Some models are *in vitro* - a term describing work with cells or tissues that can be manipulated in a test tube. Other models are *in vivo* - a term describing experiments involving living organisms. But in the laboratory of Dr. Shai Rahimipour, a new recruit to the Department of Chemistry who came to Bar-Ilan in 2007 after completing post-doctoral research at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, much of the research is performed in silico – entirely on computer.

“Our work involves the creation of ‘rationally designed’ molecules that can be used as drug agents to fight disease,” says Dr. Rahimipour, who was born in Iran and, after making aliya with his family, completed his bachelor’s degree in Chemistry at BIU. “Using computers, we narrow down the compounds most likely to block harmful biological processes related to Alzheimer’s disease and cancer.”

In cancer research, Dr. Rahimipour has synthesized two different compounds that could potentially be used for the prevention of metastasis - the process by which cancer spreads through the body and invades tissues. “There’s a molecular structure on the surface of a cancer cell that allows it to link up with a specific binding site on blood vessel walls,” Dr. Rahimipour explains. “After the cancer cell ‘docks’ at this binding site, it can escape from the vein, and invade body tissues. The compounds we’ve created block the binding site, essentially slamming the door on cancer metastasis.”

While Dr. Rahimipour is encouraged by his findings, there’s still a long way to go. “Our compounds are very hard to synthesize,” he says. “The next step is to expand this model to create a library of molecular candidates that could be adopted by pharmaceutical companies for the creation of metastasis-fighting drugs.”

In another area of his research, Dr. Rahimipour is working on a compound that may be used for the treatment of
Alzheimer’s disease (AD), a condition that affects some 20 million people. "In Alzheimer’s, an excess of amyloid beta protein leads to the build-up of plaques, causing brain cells to die," he says, adding that there are very few drugs currently approved for the treatment of this disease. “We’ve created a rationally-designed peptide - a molecule that inhibits the process by which plaques are created. When the amyloid beta protein was incubated in the presence of this peptide, the plaque build-up was short-circuited before it could start.”

According to Dr. Rahimipour, one of the exciting things about his plaque-busting peptide is its stability. “This synthesized molecule includes man-made amino-acids that the body cannot recognize or degrade. As a result, they continue to actively block plaque formation in the lab for a long time - and that’s a good sign for eventual pharmaceutical development.”

Dr. Rahimipour is also examining how synthesized molecules might boost the immune system’s response to amyloid build-up. "Cells of the immune system are supposed to clean up amyloid beta protein deposits, but in Alzheimer’s this doesn’t work,” he says. “Our goal is to ‘tag’ the deposits with a synthesized molecule that will draw the immune cells in, focusing their activity and making the clean up more effective.”

Determining the right molecule for the medical job is a difficult task, but it’s made easier by the technical infrastructure available to chemists - and every other type of experimentalist - at Bar-Ilan. "Bar-Ilan University has made a major effort to bring young Israeli scientists working abroad back home," he says. “It has given me the support I need to continue my work, and that’s why I’m here.”
Imagine a wooden ladder, coiled by twisting it in opposite directions from both ends. The result is a double helix, the shape made famous by Watson and Crick in their revolutionary analysis of DNA structure. But inside the watery world of a living cell, that double helix is better described as a rope ladder - one that twists, bends and coils in the liquid environment of the cellular nucleus. According to Dr. Yuval Garini, a young scientist who has recently returned to Israel to join Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), this flexibility makes DNA a powerful tool for gathering hard data about gene expression.

“In our lab, we’ve developed an optics-based biophysical method to study the interaction of a single DNA molecule with proteins. These processes are important because they are at the root of the most basic functions of living cells.”

Garini’s technique – that falls under the field of “single molecule detection” - allows scientists to measure the minute physical changes that occur in DNA when it comes in contact with an individual protein, something that may be useful for screening molecules to be used in drug design, and other biotechnological applications. In Garini’s unique setup, proteins in solution flow past a single DNA molecule that, on one end, is secured to a substrate, and on the other end, moves freely in the water.

The “cherry on top” of this already formidable nanotech achievement is good as gold – a gold nanoparticle that is attached to the free end of the DNA strand. Using the high-tech equivalent of a movie camera, the swaying nanoparticle is “filmed” from above in order to characterize both the DNA strand’s position, and its constantly changing shape.

“Careful examination of the nanoparticle’s position shows that the movement of the DNA in liquid is not random,” says Garini. “When a protein binds to the DNA, the entire strand becomes less flexible, the movement slows, and the circling of the free end of the strand covers a smaller area. This is
one of the most detailed pictures ever achieved of what happens when proteins bind to DNA - which is the first step in every gene-based function.”

Single-molecule detection is only one of the many optical techniques pioneered by Haifa-born Garini, a holder of 13 patents. Prominent among his achievements is the invention of Spectral Karyotyping, or SKY, an imaging method now being used in hundreds of bio-medical laboratories around the world.

“Spectral Karyotyping is a technique that allows scientists to visualize all of the human chromosomes at one time by ‘painting’ each pair of chromosomes in a different fluorescent color,” Garini explains. “Because some diseases are associated with abnormalities in which a piece of one chromosome breaks off and attaches to the end of another, this technique is an important tool for diagnosing genetic disorders, including cancer.”

The science of SKY formed the basis of Applied Spectral Imaging, a company in Migdal HaEmek that Garini helped establish in 1993 - “and is still doing very well,” Garini notes with pride. Drawn more to science than to business, Garini launched an academic career at the prestigious Delft University in the Netherlands, where he was offered a tenured position, but in 2006, returned to Israel to take up a position at Bar-Ilan.

“I was offered excellent support by BINA and the Department of Physics,” he says. “I believe that the investment that the University is currently making in this program will allow me to do good work, and continue to contribute.”
On the following pages we highlight some of Bar-Ilan’s exceptional students and their activities as well as the University’s plans to improve student services.

Four Sisters - One University: A Bar-Ilan Family Affair

For many immigrant students, leaving family behind is one of the most formidable challenges. But for the Weinberg sisters from Toronto that’s hardly an issue – Rivka, Esther, Leah and Chana have each other. They feel quite at home on the Bar-Ilan University campus.

Rivka, the “pioneer”, arrived six years ago, enrolling in Political Studies. She is now completing her MA studies in Communications and is contemplating continuing for a PhD and a career in communications. She is the coordinator of the University’s Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for the Study of Women in Judaism – “a phenomenal job” she says. Previously she worked in the Spokesman’s Office, proof-reading the first edition of BIU Today!

As the eldest of four siblings, she naturally made the decisions first – to spend a year at Midrasha in Jerusalem, to settle in Israel and attend Bar-Ilan University. Her sisters, who speak of their Zionist and Bnei Akiva upbringing, wisely chose to follow suit. Rivka confides that initially she was “petrified” about making the big move, but when she arrived on the Bar-Ilan campus she found a large Anglo community which helped to ease her acclimation. She developed a group of close friends, a family of sorts. Then her real family started coming and it became even easier.

Esther, the second oldest, was convinced to make the move when she visited Rivka at BIU and saw how happy she was. Esther was accepted into the University’s four-year Electrical Engineering program. At her recent graduation, her sisters had no difficulty identifying her - she was the sole female in her class! She is now following in her father’s footsteps, pursuing an MBA - to complement her engineering degree.

Next in line is Leah, who is starting her third and final year in Bar-Ilan’s noted Faculty of Law. She is presently looking for an internship in corporate law. She recalls her early days on campus, contending with Hebrew legalese. “I used to make long lists of the Hebrew words that I didn’t know but now I leave my dictionary at home.” She laughs when recounting how she would ask one student to translate a word and the whole class would suddenly get involved. Leah also works part-time as an English-language assistant in the University’s Public Relations Department.

Chana, the youngest Weinberg sister, is commencing her first year of Optometry studies. “Having three older sisters here helps,” she says. She resides in the same dorm room that her sisters did and has inherited their “huge” refrigerator. Esther and Leah have apartments across the street in Ramat Ilan. Rivka lives in neighboring Givat Shmuel with her husband, Etan – a Bar-Ilan MA candidate in Environmental Biology, whom she met on campus when they both started their BA degrees six years ago.

The four sisters are glad to have each other. Esther, Leah and Chana are regularly invited for Shabbat meals and Rivka takes them on shopping sprees. “We help each
other in different ways,” says Rivka, noting that her toddler daughter Sarena is fortunate to have three doting aunts and babysitters nearby. “We’re all very close. We’re not just sisters but also good friends,” she stresses.

The Weinberg sisters concur that they have had a “very positive experience at BIU” with its “high standard of education” and “its beautiful campus.” Rivka believes that BIU affords “a lot of independence but you always feel protected.” Esther refers to the advantages of having a very strong English speaking community on campus. (Indeed some 180 of Bar-Ilan’s 650 olim students hail from North America. And these include a number of former Torontonians.) “You have your own support system. We are all one family.”

And speaking of family, their mother hopes to follow in their footsteps and make aliyah next year. Who knows? Maybe she too will find a relatively comfortable niche in the Bar-Ilan family.

Let’s Meet in the Middle: Where Can an Ethiopian Bride Find Her Russian Soulmate?

For Dalia Reuven, originally from Ethiopia, and Yigal Kurland, formerly of Russia, marrying the boy/girl next door was simply not in the cards. Each trekked huge distances - Yigal from St. Petersburg, and Dalia from Gondar Provence in Africa - before arriving at middle ground on the Bar-Ilan campus.

After trying to register for an academic course that was already full, Dalia reluctantly accepted an advisor’s alternative suggestion. Later, while waiting by the Professor’s office to ask him questions, up strolled a fellow classmate. The Professor was late, so naturally the two struck up a conversation - and the rest is history.

Yigal is pursuing his MA in Computers and Technology in Education at BIU and Dalia (who is a Peter and Aliki Rzepka scholarship student) has a BA in Educational Counseling. Mr. and Mrs. Kurland live quite cozily together in Tel Aviv.
During the summer digging season, Tell es-Safi, one of the most important archaeological sites in Israel, attracts hundreds of students and volunteers from all over the world who come to “feel” the past and the thrill of uncovering some of the most exciting archaeological finds being discovered this decade.

Located in the peaceful Elah Valley, it is hard to imagine that this idyllic area was the scene of one of the ancient Israelites' fiercest battles – the spot where, according to the Bible, the boy David felled the Philistine champion Goliath. However, here at Tell es-Safi, the site of Biblical Gath, Prof. Aren Maier, of Bar-Ilan’s Martin (Szusz) Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology Department and the Institute of Biblical Archaeology, has unearthed plenty of evidence connected to and illustrating the Biblical narrative, helping participants maintain Jewish continuity through discovering their Jewish roots.

"The excavation site serves as a 'hands-on' field school for students and volunteers," says Prof. Maier. "As well as playing a vital role in the training of students and future archaeologists, this program offers the public a unique opportunity to learn about the Bible and the Biblical world – including the place of the Jewish people and the Land of Israel within them – in the most authentic way possible."

Beneath the black netting which offers the participants protection from the blazing summer sun, there is a vibrant buzz of expectancy – what will the next bucket load of dirt yield?

Tell es-Safi is a veritable Tower of Babel, the quietness of this tranquil setting punctuated by background chatter in German, Spanish, English, Russian and Hebrew. Two student volunteers from Switzerland – one majoring in geology and the other theology – bemoan the fact that while a third member of their group uncovered a large pottery vase within the first 30 minutes of work, days later in their corner nothing of particular interest has yet emerged.

Along with the numerous volunteers from all over the world who are spending one or two weeks at the dig – amateur archaeologists, students, theologians, and even an Israeli 5th...
grader – the majority of the diggers are students from Bar-Ilan University.

The Martin (Szusz) Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology Department, as well as a number of other departments, requires students to spend at least one week at Tell es-Safi as a compulsory element of their studies.

Chen Eliahu is completing his studies in Archaeology at Bar-Ilan this year. "As part of my course, I have participated in 3 one-week diggs. Working at the Tell es-Safi excavation site has made the theory I learned in the classroom come to life. Every day someone uncovers a pot or a shard or a chunk of wall, helping to put together another piece of the puzzle."

Nohar Shachar is finishing her third year at Bar-Ilan studying Political Science and Land of Israel Studies. At first, she was not very enthusiastic about leaving her new husband for a week. "But," she says, "I soon realized that I have been given the opportunity to participate in a unique experience, and to get a real sense of the history of the Land. And I have met people from very different backgrounds and beliefs, who have found a common ground in archaeology."

"אמת מארץ תצמח" (תרל"ו פ' יב)

"Truth will come forth from the Land" (Psalms 85:12)

The connection between Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael is one of the pillars of Jewish tradition, culture and long-term continuity. Archaeological discoveries provide insights into momentous events and historical figures by linking physical evidence to traditional sources. Embedded within the stones and soil of the Land of Israel are remains from the past which have an important story to tell.
Inspiring Jewish School Leaders Abroad

"An incredible learning experience" – that’s how Cecelie Wizenfeld, Director of Admissions and Early Education at the Shalhevet School in Los Angeles sums up the Lookstein Center's 2008 Summer Seminar in Israel. She is one of 18 top North American Jewish Day School leaders to participate in the Tenth Annual Principals’ Program hosted by BIU's Lookstein Center for Jewish Education, in partnership with the Avi Chai Foundation.

Back home in LA after the July seminar, Wizenfeld enthuses about how much she gained "not only from the experts in the field but also from colleagues." She particularly enjoyed the "exchanges, reflections on the lectures and the general networking that naturally occurred. Additionally, learning about history on the grounds on which it took place was so inspiring!" Says Wizenfeld, "I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to participate."

During the ten days of intensive professional training, she and fellow key administrators at Orthodox to Reform and Independent elementary and high schools explored key themes, including:

- School Culture as the Context for Leadership and Change
- Challenges in Day School Leadership
- Action Research, Reflective Leadership and School Change

Following the summer seminar they will be working on year-long in-school action research projects under the guidance of Lookstein mentors and the Director of the Principals' Program, Deborah Court. The group will convene again for a follow-up seminar in February in Florida, at which time they will present the findings of their projects. Wizenfeld’s action research project deals with developing a plan in Shalhevet's Middle School to restructure and upgrade their “Town Halls” – public forums that enable students to acquire leadership skills for future community participation.

Coaxed by her school consultant to join the Lookstein program, Wizenfeld is emphatic about how much she benefited – "not only from the action research plan concept which I am looking forward to sharing with the staff, but from the analysis of dilemmas faced by great Jewish..."
leaders throughout the ages, as it became so much more real as we were in actual sites (e.g. the City of David)."

She singles out some of the intriguing workshops and lectures. The session on Observing and Interpreting School Culture "furthered thought into our individual school mission statements and how our school cultures exemplify those missions." The lecture on the Jewish School Climate addressed the developmental aspects of the whole child as it zoned into the hidden curriculum that "we all, as educators hope to impart onto our students, such as the morals and values that students internalize."

In the Energy of Leadership session, "we learned about ourselves as leaders in how we handled different martial arts moves. I found this to be so visual and revealing of our styles and attitudes," she says.

Wizenfeld maintains that every school administrator "feels comfort in knowing that he/she is not alone in issues that we have to deal with....it is so helpful to talk out ideas and get input from others who speak the same language!"

From her personal testimony it is clear that Cecelie Wizenfeld has been enriched and inspired by the Bar-Ilan University Lookstein program. She is in good company – as one of the more than 200 program alumni who have acquired new ideas and real tools with which to initiate improvement within the context of their unique school culture.

Further information regarding the Summer Seminar may be found at http://www.lookstein.org/principals1.htm
What is the best way to strengthen Jewish identity for interested students with limited background? Jewish educators have been wrestling with this question for millennia - at least since Moses received the Torah on Mt. Sinai.

For many of us, this is primarily an academic question. But for Rabbi Yehuda Altshuler of Bar-Ilan University’s Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies, finding the right answer from the beginning meant the difference between success and failure.

Three years ago, Rabbi Altshuler was tapped to start a radically new and different program at Bar-Ilan. To the surprise of the faculty at the Institute, more and more non-observant students from a variety of disciplines were asking to study Judaism through its original source documents.

Thus the Reshit (Beginning) program, now consisting of 35 students, was born. But before starting, Rabbi Altshuler wanted to know the best way to present this new kind of audience with basic Judaism, focusing on learning the Bible, Talmud, and legal sources that Jews have studied for generations.

Reshit’s formula is both very clever and extremely simple at the same time. The basic idea is: “keep it sweet.” Put into action, this means that the student’s desire to learn, and not the teachers’ methods of teaching, should be at the forefront at all times.

A practical example of this philosophy is the emphasis on studying in pairs, as opposed to just the conventional classroom setting of a lecturer in front of multiple listeners. This method, called learning by hevruta (an Aramaic term based on the root for “companion”) is ancient itself, and is mentioned in the Talmudic sources. Reshit pairs up program members with advanced rabbinical students in the Institute for shared learning at a pace that is comfortable for both participants.

Rabbi Altshuler’s teaching methodology resembles a traditional way of assisting young children with beginning reading skills. In some European communities, it was common for teachers to place a spoonful of honey at the end of a section of a child’s book. When a child finished reading the line, he would dip his finger into the honey and savor the sweetness.

These days, they don’t actually spoon out honey in the Reshit program – think of all the calories – but they do work hard to keep the Torah sweet. And the students keep coming back for more.

BIU Today spoke with two members of a Reshit hevruta: Oren Tova, a Jewish knowledge novice, and Ohad Lazar, an experienced Torah scholar. Asked why he chose to participate in the Reshit program, Oren responds, “I had some familiarity with the ritual aspects of Judaism, but I knew very little about what they meant. I was curious, from a historical and developmental point of
view. When we only see the technical side of things, they can seem strange.

When I had the interview with Rabbi Altshuler, the program seemed right for me."

"I had been studying at the Institute for quite some time, and the idea of doing something different - studying with a student with limited background - seemed intriguing," adds Ohad.

How do the students feel that they have benefited from hearing a different opinion of Torah?

"At Reshit, the most important thing is the knowledge, not necessarily one's background," answers Oren. "I have often found that studying issues in the Talmud that appear irrelevant on the surface actually give new meaning to some of the everyday issues of life. When you learn about the laws of leaving objects in the middle of a public thoroughfare, you find yourself being more careful with your possessions in general!"

"Of course I benefit from getting to see his perspective," says Ohad. "Through learning together, you uncover entirely different sides to the subject you are studying."

"I often feel like I am a kind of ambassador between different groups of people," concludes Oren. "Many young people are trying to find themselves, in India and elsewhere. When they see the connection between the Jewish sources and their own identities, they find themselves getting answers. The BIU Reshit Program is an opportunity where people are motivated to participate on their own."
Learning How to Write Good Fiction

When Amanda Cohen (Amanda Benjamin), author and illustrator of the children’s book, *Two’s Company* (Viking Penguin) heard about Bar-Ilan’s Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing, she was stunned. "It was everything I wanted to do," says the 44-year-old mother of two, who was Senior Picture Book Editor at Harper Collins in London before immigrating to Israel seven years ago. Although she had frequented workshops in her native South Africa and in England, she was eager to enroll in Israel’s first English-language creative writing program. Now starting her second year and her creative thesis (on "Loss and the Phoenix Rising from the Ashes"), Cohen is effusive in her praise. "It is an exceptionally well-run course, and went way beyond my expectations.

In particular she commends the "superb quality of the writing instructors," all published authors – Evan Fallenberg, BIU visiting instructor, Joan Leegant of Harvard University, and Bar-Ilan’s own writer-in-residence, Allen Hoffman. The three intensive workshops "took us from beginner to more advanced stages, and helped us explore and improve both our writing skills and critiquing abilities." She enjoyed being exposed to such different approaches in her chosen genre of fiction. "Within the professional and supportive framework nothing was proscribed, so we were free to be as imaginative, exploratory and daring as we liked."

Cohen maintains that the Bar-Ilan Rudoff Creative Writing program has a very "broad base of appeal" which is suited to students from diverse backgrounds. "For those interested in writing with Jewish or Israeli themes it is perfect; not only is there a wealth of knowledge and experience, but real wisdom. And it was never an issue for those whose work doesn’t encompass these themes – the program’s broadmindedness ensures that." In the Jewish Arts Seminar, she was introduced to exciting and diverse Jewish authors and Jewish writing.

"She sat by her son and he opened his eyes and looked at her. She’d know his eyes anywhere, in a thousand faces, awake or in dreams. She’d seen them more often than her own. She put out a hand to stroke back a lock of hair. But there was no lock, just a closely shaved head, so she laid her hand on his cheek instead. He looked at her his eyes not blinking and she leaned over his frail unfeeling body and rested her cheek on his chest. His heart beat and was still. Beat and was still." From *The Sky is Blue the Grass is Green* by Amanda Cohen

Although from a secular background, Cohen never felt pressured or constrained by the program’s nature. "Actually, I now find myself quite drawn to the idea of exploring Jewish themes."

As to future goals, she would "love to write a collection of short pieces – something that would first and foremost convince me, move me as a reader." In the meantime, she says the program has given her the confidence to start a small creative writing group of her own, to help beginning writers “find their voices.”

The Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing is training a generation of writers to look in a new way at their Jewish creativity. How has the program specifically helped Cohen? "By allowing me to really face my own strengths and weaknesses. It is not enough to write ‘well’, one has to put one’s heart and soul into a piece of writing – and one’s mind. Character, style, subject, voice – all have to work together to make a good piece of fiction."
"The Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing provides an unusual opportunity for study in Israel in English with leading poets and fiction writers, in a context both Jewish and creative which was Shaindy Rudoff’s inspiring vision," says poet and program instructor, Linda Zisquit.

That should encapsulate the uniqueness of the Rudoff Masters Program, which since its 2002 launching has lured dozens of local Anglo Israelis, Diaspora Jews and writers from around the world to spend at least a year in Israel honing creative skills. The Program bears the name of its founding director, the late Dr. Shaindy Rudoff, a gifted New York-trained scholar of American literature who taught at Bar-Ilan for six years before succumbing to cancer at the age of forty. With support engendered by the Rudoff friends and family, the Program has grown dramatically since her untimely passing.

Creative outreach is high on the agenda. Judy Labensohn, Program graduate and Coordinator, has instituted unique monthly literary events in the Stern House, a charming villa in Jerusalem’s picturesque Yemin Moshe neighborhood, which has been deeded to BIU by good friend and benefactor Jerome L. Stern.

In August 2008, Lee Gutkind led a full 3-day intriguing seminar in creative nonfiction. Described by Harper’s Magazine as “the leading figure behind the creative nonfiction movement,” Prof. Gutkind gave advice on student essays, instructed how to craft memoirs, and even how to write book proposals for what is considered to be the most popular genre in the publishing world today.

The Rudoff Program is particularly proud of the web-based literary journal Ilanot that will be launched and edited by former and current students (and linked in February 2009 to the Program’s web site at www.biu.ac.il/H/en/cw).

"Imagination and literature are our calling cards,” says Professor Allen Hoffman, the Program’s Acting Director “and when those cards are crafted and written by our own students, that’s the very best!”
At Bar-Ilan University
It's All About the Students

BIU is making the move toward a more 'student-centered' culture on campus. This can be seen from the special student services implemented by the Rector and Deputy Rector, the Director-General and his deputies, the Dean of Students and his dedicated team, which aim to improve not only the quality of education, but the quality of the student experience at BIU.

BIU is proud to bring you the first of a series of 'highlights' about how this focus is positively impacting on student life.

Israeli Combat Veteran Simon Dicapua Salutes Bar-Ilan University

Israeli army medic Simon Dicapua has served in volatile Gaza and along the tense Syrian border. Currently, however, he is in hot pursuit of another target: a BA degree in Biotechnology from Bar-Ilan University. Now in his third and final year of undergraduate studies, the 27-year-old Lod resident, who also holds a job in airport security, says "it's great to learn at BIU." He is particularly enthusiastic about his lab research, the collegial atmosphere in his department ("there's no competition, everyone helps each other") supportive student services, and the IDF Combat Veteran Scholarship he receives, which "has eased my workload, enabling me to concentrate more fully on my studies."

Simon is an avid fan of the distinctive religious-secular mix on campus. He has gained "deeper insight into the Bible and a new perspective on Judaism" through his enriching Basic Jewish Studies courses – a unique feature of the BIU curriculum. A pioneer in his own right, Simon is the only one among extended family and friends to make the grade and enroll in university. After he completes his BA degree, he is considering MA studies in Biotechnology with a decided focus on treatments for sick animals ("today, the trend is to just put the animal to sleep").

Since "enlisting" at BIU after four years in the Israeli infantry, Simon feels he has broadened his horizons, meeting new people, encountering diverse outlooks while acquiring a firm grounding in virology, genetics, molecular biology and other critical scientific realms.
Bar-Ilan is in the process of building a daycare center on its North Campus, slated for completion during the spring semester, (through the generosity of Gabi Weisfeld of Toronto and David and Susan Gradel of London, to be dedicated at the BIU 2009 Board of Trustees) which will provide quality care for up to seventy-five infants (aged 0-3 years). “Israeli students are older and often married with children when they commence their academic studies,” says BIU Director-General Mr. Haim Glick. “We want to provide young parents with the peace of mind to concentrate on their studies, knowing that their children are being well cared for right here on campus.”

As a young mom and MA student, Hadas Stauber seeks to combine maternal commitment with her passion for Jewish history. At home in Karnei Shomron, she pours over texts and writes papers as one-year-old Chaim Shlomo frolics at her feet. On the BIU campus, combining studies with motherhood is more challenging. “Daycare facilities would help tremendously,” enthuses Hadas, who recently completed her BA and advanced Torah studies at the Jesselson Midrasha for women. “I wouldn’t have to leave my baby at home and could visit and nurse him during breaks.”

Hadas, the BIU leadership has ‘heard you,’ and many others expressing similar needs, and is stepping up to the plate. In our next BIU today, photos of the dedication ceremony will testify to this fact.
Bar-Ilan University is proud to publicize its new and very revolutionary science facility: the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nano-Medicine Triplex (costing $US 50 million of a $150 million research enterprise).

The Nano-Medicine Triplex is composed of three distinct sections, interconnected at multiple levels. This building is an impressive tower of steel, stone and glass located in the center of a cluster of buildings housing the departments that make up BIU’s Faculty of Exact Sciences and Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences.

At the Triplex chemists, physicists, biologists, and engineers will meet each other as they ponder solutions to their research challenges. It’s no secret that some of the best ideas in scientific research come from seemingly unimportant discussions between researchers from vastly different disciplines. It is precisely this kind of creative energy that the Nano-Medicine Triplex seeks to foster and empower.

Containing over forty laboratories employing advanced technological design on a scale unparalleled to date, the Triplex will house the most advanced nano-medicine research and development center in the world.
From its inception, Bar-Ilan University took it upon itself to create a center for the highest level of excellence in training successive generations of Jewish educators, in Israel and abroad. Bar-Ilan has consistently met this challenge, creating Israel's largest School of Education, and the largest in-service teacher training program.

The Jim Joseph Building for Jewish Education and Values, donated by the Jim Joseph Foundation, is in the advanced stages of construction. The stately new building figures prominently in the evolving North Campus skyline. The Jim Joseph Building, covering an area of some 65,000 ft., will provide new and vastly expanded headquarters for the School of Education as well as The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education.

As the primary location for the University’s activities in educational training, the Jim Joseph Building is expected to include the headquarters of the Division of In-Service Programs for teachers, with an enrollment of over 2,000 students.

The Jim Joseph Building for Jewish Education and Values
The GA is the annual meeting of United Jewish Communities of North America that takes place every November in a different location in North America and every five years in Israel. This year’s four-day GA was held at the ICC Jerusalem-International Convention Center, Binyanei Ha’uma, in Jerusalem, November 16-19. The topics discussed included fund-raising, Jewish identity, Jewish education and the special relationship between the North American Jewish community and the State of Israel.

Bar-Ilan University, a key participant at the 2008 GA, constructed an impressive booth which was strategically placed in the exhibition hall. The booth displayed information about the University’s Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), The School of Engineering, The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, and the International MBA program. It was continually manned by BIU faculty and staff, who remained on hand to explain Bar-Ilan’s special message – Jewish identity and education melded with scientific excellence – to the GA participants.

During the course of the GA, distinguished BIU faculty led and took part in various panels and discussions. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, chaired an important panel on “Education in Israel: The Return of Quality Education,” during which he expounded on BIU’s mission to reverse Israel’s academic brain drain by absorbing returning scientists at Bar-Ilan. Prof. Gerald Steinberg, who heads the Dept. of Political Studies, served as a panelist in a discussion on “The New Approach in Israel Public Diplomacy.”

On Tuesday, November 18, BIU hosted a tour of the Bar-Ilan campus for GA participants, during which the University showcased an Academic Fair focusing on its achievements and goals in nanotechnology, engineering, and computer science, followed by lunch on campus. On the final day of GA, BIU organized a presentation of its Computer Science School at Binyanei Ha’uma, featuring an address by Mr. Binyamin Netanyahu, MK.

On these pages some highlights of BIU at the GA.

Shiri Darie, Executive Director, Department of Marketing and Public Relations, BIU, and Judith Haimoff, Associate Vice President, BIU, standing in front of the Bar-Ilan University booth at the GA.
Rabbi Michael Melchior, MK, Prof. Zvi Galil, President Tel Aviv University, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, President BIU and Dov Lautman, Israeli business entrepreneur, sitting at the dais during the panel discussion chaired by Prof. Kaveh.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Ori Shaked (son of BIU honorary doctor Avi Shaked) at the luncheon.

GA guests and BIU faculty and staff in the Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center on campus.

Binyamin Netanyahu, MK, at the luncheon.

Haim Zisovitch, Spokesman and Director of Public Affairs, BIU, Shiri Darie and Prof. Moshe Kaveh in front of the Bar-Ilan booth.

Prof. Harold Basch, Vice President for Research and Development, BIU, Gabi Weisfeld of Canada, and Mark Medin, Executive Vice President and CEO of American Friends of BIU at the Academic Fair.
Throughout the ancient world, the truth was self-evident: all men were not created equal. Kings ruled supreme while the "have-nots" were destined for a life of destitution. "The Torah represents a radical departure, in terms of theology, political structure and economic laws," declares Bar-Ilan lecturer in the Zalman Shamir Department of Bible, Dr. Joshua Berman, who is also an Orthodox rabbi. "The Pentateuch is the first work in history to reject the law of rule in favor of the rule of law."

In his new book, Created Equal: How the Bible Broke with Ancient Political Thought (Oxford Press), Berman illustrates how the Five Books of Moses appropriated and reconstituted ancient norms and institutions to create a novel blueprint for society. Political power is decentralized and distributed - a unique notion for those times. The New York-born scholar, who holds a BA in Religion from Princeton and a PhD in Bible from BIU brings pointed examples to buttress his contention that the Pentateuch is the birthplace of egalitarian thought: the Exodus was a liberating and equalizing event for all Israelites; at Sinai, the L-rd spoke to the masses; the Sabbath is a day of rest for all.

The book - funded by Bar-Ilan’s Dr. Naim Dangoor Interdisciplinary Program of Universal Monotheism and the Shalem Center in Jerusalem - targets a western educated audience, including unaffiliated Jews and Gentiles who are very rational in outlook. Great Britain’s Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks lauds Berman’s book as a "superb, scholarly and paradigm-shifting work on the Hebrew Bible... perhaps the first attempt to create a truly egalitarian society."
FAST FACTS ABOUT BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

Established in 1955 in the name of Rabbi Meir Bar-Ilan, inspirational spiritual leader and prominent in the Mizrahi (Religious Zionist) movement

Louis & Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work rated #1 in the nation by the Council for Higher Education in Israel

Faculty of Law in Israel: #1 on the 2008 Israeli Bar Exam, only law school in the country where students are required to study social justice, six legal aid clinics staffed by BIU law students providing essential services to the public – with over 1,000 cases handled in Academic Year 5768 (2007/2008)

Clinical Psychology program: #1 in Israel

Bio-medical research: #1 in Israel

Advanced Materials research publications – the foundation of nanotechnology: #1 in Israel and #3 in the world according to the Science Citations Index

Public Economics: #1 in Israel and #28 in the world

Faculty of Jewish Studies: largest in the world, and with over 1,800 Judaism-related courses, over 300 faculty, over 3,000 students in BA, MA, and PhD programs, approximately 16,000 students studying Basic Jewish Studies, 14 departments, 21 diverse research institutes and centers, and 28 academic chairs

Largest community of students in Israel – approximately 33,000; largest undergraduate program – over 17,000 Bachelor degree students; largest freshman class; and over 1,300 staff members

Faculty of Social Sciences: Israel's largest, with largest education degree program, and largest in-service teacher training program

Leading national initiative to bring home 100 scientists by absorbing 50 into our faculty

Greatest increase in doctoral students and best ratio of PhD students to senior faculty in the country

Nearly 100,000 alumni – many in key positions in business, government, defense, education, hi-tech, law, academia

More than 20,000 senior learners over the past 30 years enrolled in courses, conducted research, and volunteered; and in just the past five years, over 450 seniors recruited to volunteer in 80 different schools throughout Israel

Prize-winner for most beautiful campus in Israel

Interdisciplinary Programs Unique to Bar-Ilan University

- Hermeneutics (MA, PhD)
- Conflict Management and Negotiation (MA, PhD)
- Science, Technology and Society (MA, PhD)
- Gender Studies (MA, PhD)
- Brain Sciences (MA, PhD)
May 2008

- Conference: The Israeli Society of Biophysics (Department of Physics and the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences)
- Inauguration of the Ilana Feldman Molecular Biotechnology and Biomedical Research Wing (The Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences)
- Memorial service for Yom Hazikaron (Campus Rabbi and the Student Council)
- Conference: "Law and Bible" (Faculty of Law in cooperation with the Shamir Bible Department)
- International Conference: "Leonardo da Vinci: Knowledge and Transgression in Early Modernity" (under the auspices of the Embassy of Italy in Israel and the Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv)
- Conference in honor of Prof. Zvi Bachrach: "Tolerance and Intolerance in Western Cultures in History" (Department of General History and The Chair for Judaism and Society)
- Conference: "Women, Myth and Bible" (The Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for the Study of Women in Judaism)
- Open day for prospective students for academic year 2008-9 (Deputy-Rector’s Office)
- Symposium in Memory of Prof. Shraga Segal z”l: "Frontiers in Cancer Research" (the SAFDIÉ Institute for Cancer, AIDS and Immunology Research in cooperation with Ben-Gurion University and the Israel Immunological Society)
- Conference: "Israel at 60: Its Many Faces" (The Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology)
- Conference: "60 years of Religious Zionism in the State of Israel" (Faculty of Jewish Studies, The Dr. Zohar Warhaftig Institute for Research on Religious Zionism, The Dr. Josef Orgler Institute for Research on Religious Zionism)
- Conference: "The Ethiopian Jews: Identity, Legacy History and Culture" (The Aharon and Rachel Dahan Center for Sephardic Research)
- Conference: "Whither American Zionism?" (Supported by the Argov Center for the Study of the Jewish People and the Dorothy and Harold Greenwald Foundation)

June 2008

- "Who am I – Israeli Song?" Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award upon Yoram Tehar-Lev, marking 60 years of the State of Israel followed by a Festive Concert
- Conference: "The Decline of Citizen Armies in Democratic States: Processes and Implication" (Supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Israel and the Public Affairs Office, American Embassy, Tel Aviv)
- Conference in honor of Professor Emeritus Jacob Shoham: "Medicine - Between Science and Humanism" (Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences)
- International Conference: "Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch: Two Hundred Years since his Birth" followed by a special session in memory of the late Prof. Mordechai Breuer, the founder of "The Rabbi S.R. Hirsch Chair" (The Rabbi S.R. Hirsch Chair for the Research of Torah and Derekh Eretz"
- Conference: "Release of Hostages - Ethical and Legal Aspects" (Faculty of Law)
- Annual Conference: "Road Safety" (Phoenix Program, Faculty of Social Sciences)
- Tenth Annual Principal’s Program (Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora)
- Launching of the Electronic Journal "Studies in Language and Society" (Pub: Israeli Association for the Study of Language and Society (IALS) Editor: Dr. Malka Muchnik, Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages)
- Science Summer Camp: "Window to the Universe" (Unit of Youth Sciences Activities (YSA), Faculty of Exact Sciences)
- Conference: 400 Years for the Maharl of Prague (Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies)
Prof. Zeev Zalevsky, of BIU’s School of Engineering, was chosen to receive the ICO Prize for 2008, an award bestowed by the International Commission for Optics. Prof. Zalevsky will also receive the medal named after Ernst Abbe, the German mathematician and physicist who made some of the most important contributions to the design of lenses for optical microscopy.

Prof. Avraham (Avi) Faust, Director of Bar-Ilan University’s Institute of Archaeology and Associate Professor at the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, is the recipient of the prestigious G. Ernest Wright Award from the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR). Prof. Faust was recognized for his book *Israel’s Ethnogenesis: Settlement, Interaction, Expansion and Resistance*. The prize was awarded to Prof. Faust at a recent ASOR conference in Boston.

Dr. Elisheva Baumgarten, of BIU’s Koschitzky Department of Jewish History and the Gender Studies Program, was selected by the Gender Studies Awards Committee of the Association of Jewish Studies as the first recipient of its Jordan Schnitzer Book Award, for her book *Mothers and Children: Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe*.

David Be’eri, Mordechai (Suli) Eliav and Rabbi Yehuda Maly received the 2008 Guardian of Zion Award from BIU’s Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies. David Be’eri is founder of the Ir David Foundation, Mordechai Eliav is the founder and director of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, and Rabbi Yehuda Maly serves as Executive Vice President of Amutat Elad (El Ir David), which is dedicated to the furthering of Jewish settlement in the Biblical City of David and its environs.
Bar-Ilan University’s 2008 Board of Trustees Meetings melded the Board’s governance responsibilities with exciting cultural and social events highlighting our University’s exceptional achievements.

A two-day plenary session planned to allow for optimal interaction and dialogue provided our Board members with an opportunity to become more informed and involved in helping the University address the critical challenges which lie ahead. During these meetings, we discussed such important issues as student recruitment and absorption of new immigrants, new educational programming and initiatives, scientific and research achievements, and much more – all this on the festive backdrop of dedications and inaugurations of new buildings, facilities, programs and projects.

This year the Board meetings coincided with a truly landmark occasion—Israel’s 60th Anniversary. This tribute to the Jewish State was noted throughout the program, and particularly in the various events which showcased the outstanding achievements of Israel.

Bar-Ilan University bestowed its most prestigious honor – the doctorate *honoris causa*, upon exceptional individuals from Israel and around the world who have achieved noteworthy excellence in science, the arts, Torah and Science, and philanthropy. We were especially proud that the President of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres, was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award at the honorary doctoral convocation.
CONVOCATION CEREMONY -
BIU Honorary Doctoral Laureates

Maurice Kanbar, BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor and sponsor of BIU nanotechnology research, receives gift from Prof. Arie Zaban, head of the Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials Institute.

Avi Shaked, BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor; Prof. Avraham Steinberg, BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor; Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President.

Jemima Jeselsohn; David Jeselsohn, President, European Friends, BIU; Prof. Theodor W. Hänsch; BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor; Prof. Moshe Kaveh.

Jane Stern Lebell, Honorary President American Board of Trustees; Rabbanit Rachel Neriya, BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor; Hadassah Neeman; Prof. Moshe Kaveh.

Morris Kahn; Yair Green, BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor; Shraga Biran; Prof. Moshe Kaveh.

Yaakov Neeman, Chairman of the Executive Committee; Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award; Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Dr. Mordecai D. Katz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

BIU Global Outreach
1. Allan Friedland (center); receiving his honorary doctoral degree, surrounded by honorary doctoral alumna Gabi Weisfeld, Patty Friedland, Conrad Morris and Prof. Moshe Kaveh

2. Prof. Joseph Menis, Rector, delivering his address

3. Processional march of 2008 honorary doctoral recipients Allan Friedland, Prof. Avraham Steinberg, Prof. Theodor W. Hänsch, Prof. Yuan-Tseh Lee, Adv. Yair Green

4. Dr. Shabtai Lubel (standing, second from left) and friends at dinner celebration in Dahan Park following the Honorary Doctoral ceremony

5. Honorary doctors lead Maurice Kanbar and S. Lee Kohrman at the convocation ceremony procession

6. Honorary doctors Aharon Megged and Avi Shaked at the convocation ceremony procession
FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Participating in the plenary sessions - Shale Stiller, representing Aharon Dahan, Honorary Chairman of the Board; Mark Medin, Executive VP, AFBIU; Peter Rzepka, President, AFBIU

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Prof. Harold Basch, VP for Research; Judith Haimoff, Associate VP; Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Dr. Mordecai D. Katz; Yaakov Neeman; Prof. Joseph Menis, Rector; Dr. Shabtai Lubel, Senior Executive VP for Planning and Development; Haim Glick, Director General

Joseph West (Australia); Haim Glick; David Gradel (England); Vera Muravitz, Executive Director UK & Australasia Operations; Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Shlomo Rechtschaffen, Director, UK Friends; Judith Haimoff; Dr. Everard Goodman (England); Dr. Mordecai D. Katz

Award of the Inaugural Ohad Shaked Prize for Brain Research

Prize recipient Prof. Shimon Marom of the Technion; Ohad Shaked; Prof. Moshe Kaveh
Lecture by BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor and Israel Prize recipient, author Aharon Megged

Miron Izakson, poet and lecturer, Berman Department of Literature of the Jewish People; Aharon Megged; Prof. Emeritus Hillel Barzel, Joseph & Norman Berman Department of Literature of the Jewish People

Lecture by BIU 2008 Honorary Doctor and Nobel Prize laureate Prof. Yuan Tseh Lee

Prof. Lee (center) and Prof. Chaim Sukenik, Head of Chemistry Department (2nd from right), with academic faculty members

Tribute Luncheon and Inauguration of the David and Inez Myers Chair and Laboratory in Gene Expression and Infectious Disease

Shale Stiller and Dr. S. Lee Kohrman, President, David and Inez Myers Foundation

"Creative Partnership" Tribute Luncheon in honor of Maurice Kanbar, 2008 BIU Honorary Doctor

Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Dr. Maurice Kanbar; Dr. Mordecai D. Katz
DEDICATION OF THE ENGINEERING COMPLEX

Prof. George Moschytz, Chairman of the School of Engineering; Everard and Mina Goodman, sponsors of the Mina and Everard Goodman Computer Engineering Building

Shmuel Gan-El, Deputy Director General, Construction and Development; Dr. Mordecai D. Katz and Dr. Monique Katz, sponsors of the Mordecai and Monique Katz Information Technology Building

Shale Stiller; Dr. Shabtai Lubel; Prof. Moshe Kaveh at the dedication of the Aharon and Rachel Dahan Electronic Technology Building

Rabbi Shlomo Shefer, Campus Rabbi, and Avner Azulay, Managing Director of the Marc Rich Foundation, affixing mezuzah to the Marc Rich Bio-Engineering Building
ACADEMIC FAIR, in honor of Maurice Kanbar, celebrating our "Creative Partnership"

1. Newly elected Board member Jack Slomovic; Ron Solomon, Executive Director, West Coast Friends, Sharon Frank and Renee Slomovic at one of the exhibits

2. Patty Friedland examining a specimen assisted by a BIU student

3. Haim Glick, Maurice Kanbar and Prof. Moshe Kaveh admiring a robot "dog"

4. Prof. George Moschytz, Chairman of the School of Engineering (center) with BIU engineering students

5. Prof. Aren Maier, of the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology and Shlomo Moussaleff looking at an archaeological exhibit
Mark Medin, Executive VP, AFBIU; Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Maurice Kanbar; Ron Solomon, Executive Director, West Coast Friends, stand at the entrance to the Academic Fair.

Maurice Kanbar with Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Prof. Arie Zaban.

Louise Khakshouri, Chairman, International Board of Governors; Dr. Everard Goodman and Gabi Weisfeld enjoying the displays of the Academic Fair.

Gabi Weisfeld, Chairman of the Canadian Friends (third from right) inquiring BIU students about their research.
Bar-Ilan University hosts many visitors throughout the year from academia, the media and government institutions. Following is a sampling of some key recent visits.

All photo captions are from left to right unless otherwise noted.

BIU Hosts Visitors from Far and Wide

**SHANGHAI NORMAL UNIVERSITY**

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, with Prof. Li Jin, President of Shanghai Normal University

Shanghai Normal University delegation touring the Bar-Ilan campus

**DELEGATION OF THE ISRAEL PRISON SERVICE**

Lieut. Gen. Benny Kaniak, Commissioner of the Israel Prison Service and Haim Glick, BIU Director General

Haim Glick hosts the Israel Prison Service delegation on the Bar-Ilan campus

**MR. MARCEL ADAMS, CANADA, OF THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES**

Prof. Moshe Kaveh with Marcel Adams and Noam Gross, recipient of an Adams Fellowship for Doctoral Students
Prof. Harold Basch (center), VP for Research, welcomes members of the Faculty Fellowship Summer Institute, an international gathering of academics engaging in collaborative research with BIU.

Mrs. Ruth Cohen (right), Project Manager for Academic Visits, takes the FFSI delegation on a tour of the Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh meets with a delegation of representatives from a number of noted Canadian universities interested in cooperative research with Bar-Ilan academics.

Prof. Arie Reich (center), Dean of the Faculty of Law, making a presentation to Justice Rosalie Abella of the Supreme Court of Canada and others from the delegation.

A group of prominent Spanish journalists visited campus and met with BIU’s top-flight faculty in archaeology, nanotechnology, biotechnology and Ladino studies. The visit was initiated by the Israeli Embassy in Spain, in an effort to improve Israel’s image in the Spanish media.
VISITS RELATING TO PROF. MOSHE KAVEH’S VISION OF ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOOL AT BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

PROF. PASCAL GOLDSCHMIDT, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS, DEAN, LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

HEADS OF GALILEE HOSPITALS

1. Dr. Jordan Chill of BIU’s NMR Laboratory (far right) demonstrates lab equipment to the visiting heads of Galilee hospitals

2. Dr. Gil Goobes of the NMR Laboratory (far right) explaining the workings of the lab to Dr. Orna Blondheim, Director Emek Medical Center (center) and other guests

3. Delegation of the Galilee Heads of Hospitals with Bar-Ilan senior management

HEADS OF GALILEE MUNICIPALITIES VISIT BAR-ILAN

Heads of Galilee Municipalities visit Prof. Zvi Malik’s Microscopy Laboratory
DELEGATION FROM ST. PETERSBURG UNIVERSITY, RUSSIA

The delegation from St. Petersburg University participating in a Round Table discussion together with BIU academics on "National, Religious, and Geopolitical Dimensions of the Middle-Eastern Conflict: A View from Israel and Russia".

DR. HELENE MANDROUX, MAYOR OF MONTPELIER, AT THE GONDA (GOLDSCHMIED) BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

Prof. Yoram Louzoun, of BIU’s Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center (a mathematical biologist specializing in neuro-imaging data) explains his research to Prof. Jacques Touchon, Deputy Mayor and Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Montpellier; Mrs. Perla Danan, Associate Mayor, Inter-Cultural Relations; and Dr. Helene Mandroux, Mayor of Montpellier.

MR. PAUL STEIN FRENG, DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
BIU Friends are a vibrant and vital part of Bar-Ilan University. Following are some of the recent activities of our Friends in Israel and abroad.

All photo captions are from left to right unless otherwise noted.

Friends Around the World

USA

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, shows Stanley and Pamela Chais (LA) around campus.

Visiting Miami professors are shown Parkinson's Disease research being done at BIU. Pictured: Dr. Izahar Bar Gad, researcher at BIU's Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center, Prof. Pascal Goldschmidt, Dean, Miller Medical School, Miami U.; Prof. Joseph Rosenblatt, professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology and Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Miller School of Medicine, Miami U. and a member of the Florida Board of Directors of the American Friends of BIU; Prof. Michael C. Lewis; Ruth Cohen, Project Manager for Academic Visits; Sharon Evans, Director of North American Operations; and two Bar-Ilan students.

On July 9th, the Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for the Study of Women in Judaism held a festive end of the year event with the Gender Studies program at which research awards were granted to five graduate students: Ruti Feuchtwanger-Segel; Ronit Libermansh-Vardi; Ayelet Segel; Tehilla Beeri and Yifat Monnikendam.

An intimate gathering was held at the home of Blanca and Ernest Wintner in Beverly Hills to celebrate the new book on Jewish customs written by Prof. Daniel Sperber, President of the Ludwig and Erica Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies and the Milan Roven Professor of Talmudic Studies at Bar-Ilan.

Ron Solomon, Executive Director, West Coast Friends; Blanca Wintner; Prof. Daniel Sperber; Blanca’s son, Hollywood producer Charles Roven, whose recent films include Get Smart and Batman: The Dark Knight.

Dr. Shraga Zim, Director of the Student Counselling Center, meets with Alan Dworkin (Chicago).
Shai Margolin; Sharon Evans; Judith Haimoff, Associate Vice President; Mark Medin, Executive Vice President & CEO of AFBIU; Al Levit, President Jim Joseph Foundation; Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Shmuel Gan-El, Senior Deputy Director General for Construction, Maintenance and Development; Ron Solomon overlooking the construction of the Jim Joseph Building for Jewish Education and Values

Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence students Avraham Hury, Mor Grinberg and Nissan Yissachar, along with Sharon Evans, meet with Lesley Matsa, Program Officer for the Crown Family Foundation of Chicago, Motty Mishan, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President, Dr. Gil Goobes, Crown Returning Scientist, and Gila Slonim, Coordinator, North American Operations

Gary Rosenblatt, Editor and Publisher of *The New York Jewish Week*, is hosted by Mark Medin and Sharon Evans at the Bar-Ilan campus where he interviewed Dr. Amir Mashiach, a recent PhD graduate and lecturer in the Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies

Ilan Lapidot, an executive at Two Rivers Group Holdings (TRGH) with Peter Kash, President of TRGH in NY, supporter of AFBIU, member of the Presidential Founders Society and author of Freedom From Disease, who lectured at BIU about the emergence of biotech and nanotech as the forces driving Israel’s growth and economy

Prof. Harold Basch, VP for Research & Development and Dr. Ron Cape of San Francisco on his recent visit to BIU
On July 29 BIU held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the MEG (Magneto Encephalograph) unit which was purchased and installed through the generosity of the Gonda (Goldschmied) Foundation, based in Los Angeles. It is housed in the University’s Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, the first and only facility of its kind in the State of Israel to be devoted entirely to multidisciplinary studies in brain research.

"This is the greatest investment my grandfather could ever make," said Eli Gonda, of Los Angeles, a grandson of Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied), who represented his family at the ceremony. Gonda was clearly inspired upon seeing the MEG for the first time and undergoing a demonstration with researchers from the Brain Center.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the MEG unit: Chris Huddleston of LA; Eng. Shmuel Gan-El, Eli Gonda, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Prof. Joseph Menis, Rector; Prof. Harold Basch

Shale Stiller, representative of Aharon Dahan and President of the Weinberg Foundation (seated 4th from left), together with Sharon Evans; Mark Medin and Motty Mishan, meets with the numerous students who have received scholarships from Aharon and Rachel (z”l) Dahan

Prof. Arie Zaban (center), Head of BIU’s Institute for Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials, went to Baltimore to brief Aharon Dahan (far right) and Nissim Dahan on the cutting-edge work now taking place at The Aharon and Rachel Dahan Center for Nano-Energy

Gila Slonim; Matt Nissim, representative of the Blackman Foundation; Jackie Nissim of San Francisco and Yona Tillman, Senior Advisor to the President, enjoy refreshments on campus following an in-depth tour of BIU
Members of the Iranian American Jewish Federation of New York (IAJFNY) spent a wonderful morning at BIU, where they met with professors and were introduced to students whom the IAJFNY are sponsoring. “We were struck by the physical beauty of the University, and very moved by the outstanding students we met...We are excited about our partnership with Bar-Ilan University,” said Shahram Yaghoubzadeh, president of IAJFNY, seated far left. Front row fourth from left is Louise Khakshouri, Chairman of the International Board of Governors (IBG) who was instrumental in creating the partnership between the IAJF and BIU.

Matthew Bronfman was the guest speaker at Bar-Ilan’s recent Presidential Breakfast, where he spoke on the global economy and its effect on Israel. This quarterly event was held in the recently renovated Wengrowsky Observation Tower, a central landmark on the Bar-Ilan campus. Matthew is the Chairman of BHB Holdings, one of the controlling shareholders of Israel Discount Bank and Supersol, Israel’s largest supermarket chain. He also serves as a managing director at ACI Capital and controls the IKEA franchise in Israel.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Matthew Bronfman, Sharon Evans, Dan Propper, Chairman and CEO of Osem; Lenny Sackstein, Owner and Managing Director of Carmit Candy Industry, Ltd.

Mark Medin (center) receives a check from the Iranian American Jewish Federation of New York (IAJF) to provide scholarships for Iranian Doctoral and Masters degree candidates. Presenting the check are IAJF leaders Shahram Yaghoubzadeh and Fred Ohebshalom.

Morris Kahn, the founder, principal and chairman of the Aurec Group and Ariella Delaney are hosted at BIU by Prof. Moshe Kaveh.
Gabi Weisfeld (center, second row) becomes acquainted with her scholarship students at a luncheon which she hosted in their honor.

Mrs. Golda Koschitzky (right), seen with daughters-in-law, Mira and Julia, has generously endowed the Department of Jewish History at BIU, in honor of her 100th birthday.

Scholarship student Moshe Goldstein explains his research to Mr. Marcel Adams on a recent visit to Bar-Ilan.

During the recent Board of Trustees meetings Michal Adler, Doctoral Fellow of Excellence, was introduced to her sponsors Patty and Allan Friedland, and to Sharon Evans, Director of North American Operations, and Dov Altman, Executive VP of the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan.
Mr. Haim Ramon, Deputy Prime Minister; Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Mr. Yaakov Neeman, Chairman of the Executive Council BIU; Mr. Muzi Wertheim, Chairman of the Board, Central Bottling Co.

Mrs. Shira Ben-Or; Mr. Eli Sabag, CEO Goshen Security Services; Mr. Ohad Shaked, Shaked Global Group

Rachel and Michel Pollack (center, standing), widow and daughter of founder of the foundation Israel Pollack, with recipients of the Pollack Doctoral Fellowships of Excellence

Mr. Eldad Halachmi, Director Israel Desk, with Mr. Solly Sacks, Director General of World Mizrachi Organization, during Mr. Sacks’ visit to the BIU campus

Prof. Harold Basch, Vice President for Research; Prof. Moshe Kaveh, President BIU; General Ilan Biran, Chairman of the Board, Rafael; Dr. Ami Dovrat, Chief Scientist, Rafael

Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Mr. Rami Mardor, Director IDB Foundation; Mr. David Levy, Project Manager, IDB Group; Mrs. Shira Ben-Or, Coordinator, External Relations Office of Chairman of the Executive Council; Mr. Shimon Netzer, Project Manager, IDB Group

Mr. Rami Mardor, Director IDB Foundation (center), and IDB Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence recipients
Ambassador of Israel to the UK, Ron Prosor, opened up his home to BIU and its British Friends.

David Dangoor; Baroness Susan Greenfield, keynote speaker; and Judy Dangoor

Vera Muravitz, Executive Director UK and Australasia Operations (center), welcomes Susan and David Gradel and Esther and Romi Tager

Mina Goodman, Lady Karen Rix, Suzanne Goodman

Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the UK and Commonwealth; Baroness Susan Greenfield; Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President; and Ron Prosor, Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St. James

Baroness Greenfield addressing the audience at the Ambassador event

Dr. Everard Goodman and Mrs. Ruth Morris
1. Shlomo Rechtschaffen, Executive Director British Friends BIU, greets Mr. and Mrs. Arnon Katz and Baroness Greenfield

2. Chen Altshuler greeted by Rabbi Jeffrey Cohen, trustee of the Pacey Trust

3. Vera Muravitz and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Mosselson

4. Ambassador Ron Prosor and Avram Grant

5. Shlomo Rechtshaffen and Keith Breslauer
Anthony and Emma Beck from South Africa outside the Beck Auditorium at BIU

Dr. Mordechai Kedar of the BESA Center and the Department of Arabic and Vera Muravitz, Executive Director UK and Australasia Operations, welcome the South African Zionist Federation media team to Bar-Ilan. The media team, led by Bev Goldman, was in Israel accompanying a planeload of new olim from South Africa.

The Western Australian Innovation and Business Development Mission, led by Prof. Lyn Beazley, Chief Scientist of Western Australia in conjunction with Gurion Meltzer and Paul Israel of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce, are welcomed to Bar-Ilan by Vera Muravitz.
Prof. Eli Vakil of the Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center, Doris Evan, Mavis and Frank Benjamin join Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, at the unveiling of the plaque for the Jacob Ballas Brain Research Laboratory

Michelle and Victor Sasson of Singapore, enjoying the Ballas dedication

Vera Muravitz welcomes Florrie Khafi, widow of the late Board of Trustees member Savi Khafi, to campus
Dr. Yonat Floersheim (center), sponsor of the prestigious "Ars Judaica" Magazine, attending the conference "The Jewish Presence in Art"

Jehudi Kinar, Director of European Desk, Dr. Edward Stern and Prof. Harold Basch, Vice President for Research and Development at the award ceremony of the Leon and Maria Taubenblatt Prize for Excellence in Medical Research at the Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center

Mr. Anup Khemlani, Prof. Harold Basch, Mr. Vishal Mehta and Mr. Jehudi Kinar

Mr. Steve Grünwald, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, Mr. Yossi Grünwald (Belgium), Mr. Davy Grünwald, Mr. Jehudi Kinar
The Feldman family of Mexico has maintained close ties with BIU for four generations. Some of its most prominent contributions include: Beit Mexico (established by the late Shimshon Feldman) and the Shimshon and Chana Feldman International Conference Center (established by Shimshon Feldman’s sons Leon, Israel and Jaime and their families). Upon the untimely passing of Ilana, Ing. Israel Feldman’s youngest daughter, the family decided to memorialize her by establishing the Ilana Feldman Molecular Biology and Biomedical Research Wing at the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences.

During the moving inauguration ceremony, BIU President Prof. Kaveh expressed his immense appreciation of the Feldman family and reviewed their close relations with the University, especially those of Ing. Israel Feldman, a member of the Board of Trustees, who was awarded an honorary doctorate during the Jubilee celebrations.
American Friends
New York 1 212 906 3900
Midwest 1 248 540 8900
Florida 1 954 987 7887
West Coast 1 310 652 3601

Canadian Friends
Toronto 1 905 660 3563
Montreal 1 514 731 7893

British Friends
London 44 208 201 7666

European Friends
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Zurich 41 41 710 2455
Paris 33 660 964 239

Iberoamerican Friends
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Brazil 55 11 8135 2859
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Spain 34 650 390 532

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Singapore 972 54 660 3433

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