Bar-Ilan Reaches Out
Special Edition on BIU’s Community-Oriented Programs

On the cover: Making Science Fun for Israel’s Youth
Prof. Moshe Addad: Israel Prize Winner in Criminology
Dear Friends,

This special issue of BIU Today celebrates Bar-Ilan University’s extraordinary accomplishments in reaching out to the community-at-large through its social outreach programs and research. First and foremost we proudly applaud the achievements of Prof. Moshe Addad, whose life-work in criminology merited him this year’s prestigious Israel Prize. His commitment to volunteerism and social action set the tone throughout the magazine.

Featured within are articles about Bar-Ilan’s applied criminology, road safety, religious-secular, and special educational programs, among others. BIU provides one-of-a-kind services to the community through special science programs for underprivileged youth, its psychological services clinic, social involvement unit, optometry clinic, and legal aid clinics. Our scientists are working to enhance lives through ADHD research, developing cochlear implants and algorithms to improve hearing, creating compounds for overturning tumors, finding cures for degenerative diseases, and speeding up computers. The dean-designate of BIU’s new Faculty of Medicine and director of the institute for children and youth in out-of-home care share their visions for improving life. Learn about the University’s special programs for women in law and Halacha seeking justice for women in Israel’s courts, and its unique medical interpreting course.

In this issue we also celebrate some landmark events, such as the Russian and Yemenite aliyot to Israel and the enormous success of these immigrant populations at Bar-Ilan University.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Moshe Kaveh

Prof. Moshe Kaveh
President
With a five-year plan to implement, the enlargement of existing university departments, a campaign for financial development, and oversight of the new Bar-Ilan Faculty of Medicine in Safed on her agenda, incoming Deputy President of Bar-Ilan Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats has no shortage of pressing tasks.

But Zilbershats, a true Bar-Ilan veteran — she received both her undergraduate and doctorate degrees at the school — is no stranger to university management. As both vice dean and dean of Bar-Ilan’s law school, where she’s been a faculty member for 20 years, the Ramat Gan native is looking forward, she says, to “translating her abilities to a larger scale” in her new role working alongside Bar-Ilan President Prof. Moshe Kaveh.

Prof. Zilbershats has specialized in high profile legal matters such as immigration and citizenship, the war against terror, universal jurisdiction and even the controversial Goldstone Report. The author of numerous articles on citizenship and international law who currently plays an important role in the formulation of Israel’s immigration policy, she has published a book on The Human Right to Citizenship.

Prof. Zilbershats has been a member of various official government committees, serves on the Boards of the Israel Democracy Institute and the Jewish Agency, and officiates as the Vice President of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. She hopes to continue teaching a class and to work with her higher degree level students - even with her new responsibilities.

Prof. Zilbershats is proud of Bar-Ilan’s accomplishments, both as “an excellent research university” and for its social outreach to the community. When she was heading the law school, Bar-Ilan became the only university in Israel to require from all its students to go out into the weaker parts of Israeli society to do pro bono work.

Prof. Zilbershats would like to see that program expanded to other faculties. Another noble goal to fit into her busy schedule.
Prof. Haim Taitelbaum was appointed Bar-Ilan’s new Rector, a position in which he is responsible for initiating and supporting the policies that ensure the University’s educational excellence. A Bar-Ilan alumnus, with a BSc in Physics and Computer Science and a PhD in Physics, Taitelbaum received the Rothschild Scholarship and completed a post-doctorate at the University of Maryland and at the National Institutes of Health in the United States. In 1993 he joined the faculty of BIU’s Department of Physics, where he has been a full professor since 2006.

Prof. Taitelbaum is former Chairman of the Department of Physics and of the University’s Disciplinary Committee. Most recently, he served as the Vice Rector of the University, Chairman of the Admissions Committee, Advisor to the Rector for new immigrant scientists, and a member of the University’s Security Committee.

Until recently, Prof. Taitelbaum served in active reserve duty as a colonel in the artillery unit of the IDF. He is a member of the Public Council for reservists and served in reserve duty for over 25 years as a battery commander, battalion commander and deputy commander of an artillery division.

Prof. Taitelbaum’s research aims to understand a variety of physical processes in complex systems – physical, chemical, and biological, such as reaction-diffusion systems, physics of interfaces and theory of light propagation in biological tissues for diagnostic purposes through optical imaging.

Prof. Taitelbaum has published 70 articles in international journals, delivered over 40 lectures at international conferences, advised 15 research students (for graduate degrees, doctorates, and post-doctorates), received research grants from the Israel National Science Foundation and from the Ministry of Science, and has participated in organizing international science conferences. He has served as a referee for dozens of research projects, articles, and proposals, has served on dozens of professional committees, and is a visiting scientist at the University of Michigan in the United States.
Prof. Moshe Addad, former Head of Bar-Ilan’s Department of Criminology, was awarded the 2010 Israel Prize in Criminology Research.
Prof. Moshe Addad: Israel Prize Winner in Criminology

Prof. Moshe Addad is Israel’s foremost criminologist. During his distinguished career, he has published numerous important books and articles, and his work has had a significant impact and influence on researchers and theoreticians both in Israel and internationally.

Born in Beja, Tunisia, he and his family suffered under Nazi tyranny and in 1943 his father was kidnapped and held and tortured in a Nazi labor camp in Tunis. The family immigrated to Israel in 1961, and Addad attended religious high school in Kfar HaRoeh. On completion of high school and yeshiva studies he served in the Israel Defense Forces.

Prof. Addad’s initial academic training included psychology, biology and chemistry, followed by MA studies in criminology at Tel Aviv University. He earned his PhD summa cum laude from the prestigious Sorbonne in Paris.

Prof. Addad was, from the start of his career, a pioneer in his approach to his chosen field. Early on he was already espousing a theory which has become popular during the last decade. In 1984, he co-authored a paper on Vincent van Gogh (Van Gogh; The Stigmatization of Society, Annales Medico-Psychologiques, vol. 142, no. 9) wherein he set out to illustrate the relationship between madness and stigma by analyzing the artist’s biography and letters. Today, through his bio-psycho-social approach Addad has developed a unique method of treating drug and alcohol abuse, emphasizing the chemical factors causing addiction.

In the framework of his research, Prof. Addad also studied Palestinian terror and suicide bombings during the second Intifada. He concluded that most suicide bombers conducted their mission due to their poor socio-economic standing and as a result of substance abuse.

In addition to his special contribution to criminology research, Addad is credited with the establishment of criminology departments in several Israeli colleges and universities. He has taught thousands of students, some of whom are today’s senior faculty members, professors and researchers, and his work has had a significant impact on many criminologists in Israel and abroad. Today, Addad is academic head of the Safed Academic College and he continues to supervise graduate students at Bar-Ilan University.

“One of the things that I admire most about Prof. Addad is his commitment not only to education, but also to volunteerism and social action,” said BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh on hearing of the award. “He pioneered the concept of social action as an integral part of academic study, and we are proud of the many generations of students he nurtured and educated over his many decades of teaching and research.”
Applied Criminology:

Bar-Ilan’s Applied Criminology Program offers the student a unique opportunity to combine academic instruction with hands-on practical experience in the field.
Criminology is the scientific analysis of criminal behavior, of criminalization processes and of the processes of social control. Criminology is also an applied discipline. As such, it studies interventions that help resolve conflicts and promote therapy and rehabilitation into society. Bar-Ilan's two-year Masters Degree Program in Applied Criminology provides students with the necessary tools to pursue careers in the field of "Correction" (Tikkun in Hebrew), such as the Police Service; the Prison Service; Probation and Juvenile services; the Prosecution Service; community and voluntary organizations (for example, drugs projects or youth work); government agencies; and academic research.

The uniqueness of Bar-Ilan's Program lies in the obligatory component of practical application, during which students gain hands-on experience within various frameworks, such as: prisons, correctional institutions, Police Force, advancement of youth-at-risk intervention programs, and law courts.

Dr. Malca Alek, Head of the Applied Criminology Program: "Bar-Ilan's Program has an enormous responsibility to its students and to Israeli society. We are training professionals for an exceptional career, unique in its suitability for working with populations at high risk of deviance, with criminals and their families, with youth, and with victims. We aim to provide our students with everything necessary to help them succeed in their work in crime prevention, treatment and rehabilitation."

In addition to studying the psychological, developmental and social processes underlying criminal behavior, students acquire expertise in interviewing, assessment and socio-therapy, counseling, and various intervention techniques, for individual cases, families and group therapy. They are exposed to the complexity of problems which characterize both older and younger offenders, at-risk populations, the weak and the victims, and learn to assess the most suitable methods of intervention, both formal and informal. During their practicum they get the chance to put the theory of the classroom into practice, and apply techniques they have learned in real cases within the penal and social rehabilitation systems.

The practical element of Bar-Ilan's Applied Criminology Program also affords its graduates an added advantage when seeking employment, and they often gain their initial work experience within the frameworks in which they carried out their practicum.

Graduate A: "For the practical part of my studies and since graduating, I have worked as a teacher at the "Ofek" Prison for Young Offenders aged 14-18. In addition to the task of helping them progress academically, my efforts are heavily invested in building a relationship of trust with the youngsters and working on their rehabilitation. How does a teacher in the classroom function as a criminologist? Creativity is a must; sensitivity coupled with firmness; and above all the determination to help these youngsters rehabilitate and succeed in the future. I use whatever tools are at my disposal - from inviting the input of offenders when writing reports on their misbehavior, to using care of the animals in the prison's petting zoo to create a dialogue on prison life. I have faith that with patience and commitment, it is possible to make a positive difference to the future lives of these young offenders. My training as a criminologist gives me a real sense of satisfaction and purpose."

Graduate B: "Since completing my Masters degree in Applied Criminology, I have worked in a number of special programs in prisoner rehabilitation for both youngsters and adults. Currently, I am an independent criminologist, offering freelance services to the Public Defender's Office and to private lawyers. As part of my work, I lead a psycho-educational group for sex offenders, and prepare criminological assessments for the courts and the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority, including recommendations for parole, interventions and therapy. My future plans include the opening of a private therapy group for domestic violence and anger management."

Dr. Alek: "The overall objective of the Bar-Ilan Program is to provide students with the concepts, theories and methods necessary for a better understanding of the realities of crime and control, and with the practical skills that will allow them to participate and, hopefully, to make a meaningful difference in these areas."
In Israel, more people die in traffic accidents than in wars, and around 1,000 people are treated each week for injuries suffered during the collisions that happen – on the average – every 12 minutes. This situation costs the Israeli economy some 12 billion shekels every year.

But what if we invested in stopping accidents before they happen? That’s the idea behind a unique study track offered at Bar-Ilan University – the interdisciplinary program on road safety.

“Our goal is to save lives by giving students the background they need to make management-level decisions,” says Dr. Tova Rosenbloom, a traffic psychologist and criminologist who launched the two-year diploma program in 2003. “Ultimately, we’d like to see academic accreditation become a prerequisite for working in any position of authority related to road safety.”

Israeli law requires every local authority to hire a professional safety officer. But according to Rosenbloom, there is no law that defines the training these officers should bring to the job. “Until recently, people were working in the field without any specific education,” says Rosenbloom, adding that Bar-Ilan’s 150 safety graduates are already making a real difference. “We’ve created a program that gives our students a broad-based understanding of the human and technological factors that go into saving lives.”

The curriculum of the Road Safety program draws on psychology, criminology, engineering and law, and requires each student to conduct research under the supervision of an academic advisor. It also introduces students to municipal administration, as well as the way the mass media influences driver behavior. Then, after the training is over, every student chooses his or her own road.

“Our alumni include senior officials in the Ministry of Transportation, road safety managers in local authorities and the high-tech sector, driving instructors, and teachers,” Rosenbloom says. “Thanks to the education Bar-Ilan University has given them, their work in the field rests on a solid theoretical base. And that makes everyone safer.”
Every child deserves to be nurtured within a safe, loving family, along with the opportunity to grow into adulthood with self-confidence, a positive self-image and a firm set of normative values. Tragically, this does not always happen. Children at risk are placed out of their family homes for a variety of reasons, such as abuse, neglect, or parents’ inability to care for them properly.

The number of children and youth at risk in Israel today stands at over 350,000, of which 60,000 live away from their biological family, in foster homes, institutions, residential schools, and hostels. They are among the most vulnerable in society. The wrong treatment at such a crucial and sensitive period of their lives has tragic consequences for their personal fate and long-term, expensive consequences for society — many of these children’s lives spiral downwards to crime, drugs, and long-term unemployment.

Bar-Ilan’s Louis and Gaby Weisfeld School of Social Work is slated to become a national center and leader for confronting this social challenge head-on with the establishment of the Institute for Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Care.

Spearheading the proposed Institute is Prof. Rami Benbenishty, who brings 25 years of experience to this project and a proven record of significant research and practice. “Bar-Ilan’s Institute for Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Care will be unique in Israel, since no other academic institution has a research institute dedicated to dealing with the social challenge of this specific sector of the population. In fact, it will be one of the very few such centers worldwide,” he says.

The program aims to improve the long-term effects of different types of treatment and placement frameworks by combining successful practical treatment of these youngsters with professional training of the practitioners, managers and policy-makers who stand at the helm of the out-of-home placement system in Israel. In addition, it will play a unique role in promoting the rights of children and youth in out-of-home care.

“The social investment in children living in out-of-home care is enormous,” concludes Prof. Benbenishty. But the negative impact on these children due to unsuitable treatment and conditions is likely to exact an even greater price from society. For the sake of these children, their families, and Israeli society as a whole, it is Bar-Ilan’s duty to invest its resources of knowledge and social commitment in this challenge.”

A Home Away from Home at BIU’s Institute for Children and Youth

The Institute for Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Care will be a hub of active research aimed at making a significant contribution to science and society, enriching the training of professionals, providing guidance and support for both practitioners and policy makers, and developing real solutions to pressing practical questions.
In Africa, hundreds of thousands of children aged 0 to 14 years are living with AIDS. Better access to medications has changed the prognosis for infected children from a uniformly deadly disease early in childhood to one in which survival well into adolescence is not uncommon. This change has underlined the critical need for programs to confront the cognitive, psychological and socio-emotional developmental problems characteristic of HIV-infected infants, toddlers and very young children. The provision of basic medical and nutritional care alone is not enough.

One such highly-regarded program, the More Intelligent and Sensitive Child (MISC) Program developed by Prof. Pnina Klein, of Bar-Ilan's Churgin School of Education, has recently been adopted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the tool for early intervention in combination with medical treatment for AIDS-infected children in Africa.

The MISC Program, designed for children with developmental disabilities, children from low-income families and gifted children, has proven very effective in improving the cognitive, psychosocial and emotional development of disadvantaged children. MISC provides an intervention program, individually tailored to each child, based on the analysis of parent-child interactions and using naturally occurring situations and objects in the home environment.

Prof. Klein explains, “Research has shown that parents, not just teachers, play a major role in shaping their children’s development. Enhancing the quality of parental mediation vastly improves the child’s cognitive performance, as well as social and emotional behavior.”

The process of training the caregivers in MISC theory and strategies is structured, while the process of implementing MISC with the children in the household is individualized and unstructured. “In this way,” explains Prof. Klein, “caregivers acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for effective intervention to guide parents in enriching the child’s home-based learning environment.”

In Israel, MISC is taught to all involved in early child care, including parents and caregivers in various settings of group care. But it has become popular around the world, too, since the Program requires no special equipment and can be adapted to any culture.

Klein’s approach to early intervention has been applied successfully with young children in Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden, Israel and the U.S.
Providing subsidized therapy since 1967, Bar-Ilan’s Psychological Services Clinic is unique in Israel. Most campus-based clinics are defined as part of the universities’ internal health services, and are geared toward the treatment of students. At Bar-Ilan, the Clinic is directed towards helping members of the community-at-large.

In a society called upon to function normally despite the constant threat of war and terror attacks, Israelis face numerous challenges that can best be overcome with the help of trained psychologists. Over the years, the Psychology Services Clinic has developed specialized treatment and counseling programs for immigrants, IDF veterans, the disabled, single-parent families, and the Ultra-Orthodox religious sector.

The Clinic offers the public – both those of limited means and those who can afford private therapy – access to a unique clinical environment in which therapy is informed by advanced research, and where high-level, continuous supervision ensures the very best care.

As one of the country’s foremost centers of psychological research, Bar-Ilan has the “insider’s edge” on matching the most effective treatment strategies to individual patients.

The Clinic is also a significant factor in Bar-Ilan’s ability to attract top psychology graduates, by offering doctoral students the opportunity, unique not only in Israel but also in the world, for internship of real-life clinical training, which gives them a head-start when they launch their careers as therapists.

Dr. Tuvia Peri, former head of the Psychiatry Department at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem and an expert on trauma, is Co-Director of the Psychology Services Clinic. Dr. Peri says that the clinic has much-needed plans to expand its horizons. “We must answer the acute need for new programs that will address growing problems in Israeli society, including anorexia, autism and Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder (PTSD). The Clinic should be able to provide a wider range of low-cost, comprehensive services, year-round, to a larger number of patients.”

Among the new planned components are specialized therapy and support groups, an Early Childhood Unit, a Center for the Treatment of Trauma and Anxiety, a Clinical Research Unit, and more.

Dr. Peri has nothing but praise for the sensitivity and empathy of the students. “While many of the students are secular, they identify themselves as emissaries of Tikkun Olam,” he says. “Bar-Ilan is the natural home for the Clinic’s work, which is putting into practice some of Judaism’s most basic precepts.”
With 5,000 graduates to its credit and plans to enlarge its scope of participants both within and outside the University as it celebrates its 14th anniversary, Bar-Ilan’s Religious-Secular Dialogue Program is poised to become an important conduit for dialogue and tolerance within Israeli society.

The Program is currently working on training plans which would expand their dialogue program to include both government school teachers, as well as youth in community centers across the country. Some of their graduates will be involved in leading the groups for the community centers.

“Israel is becoming a very diverse country with many traditions, races, new immigrants, as well as veteran Israelis,” says the Program’s tireless director, Dr. Lipaz Shamoa-Nir. In order to strengthen Israeli society, this diversity and these differences must be addressed, she adds.

Born out of the national shock following former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination in 1995, the Dialogue Program strives to give expression to the differences between students while teaching them to respect the other. Each group consists of twenty-five participants, equally divided to create a mix of secular, traditional and orthodox students of both sexes, who get together for 14 seminar meetings and a shared group Shabbat, and two encounters – one with non-religious Israelis studying Jewish texts from a secular perspective, and the other with members of the Ultra-Orthodox sector, to gain a perspective of their world.

“We don’t necessarily need to reach an agreement but we need to be able to talk about issues from a place of tolerance and respect,” says Dr. Shamoa-Nir. “Bar-Ilan University’s Religious-Secular Dialogue Program gives people a safe place where they can talk about their differences.”

Indeed, says Dr. Shamoa-Nir, the Dialogue Program has been able to successfully move forward beyond its initial mandate of focusing on the trauma of the assassination and religious-secular relations, to also probing into the essence of students’ Jewish identity, traditions and their connection to Israel.

Based on feedback from their numerous graduates, it is apparent that participation in the Dialogue Program has given them indispensable tools to act as a bridge of tolerance among different sectors of Israeli society, she adds.

“I believe Bar-Ilan University’s Religious-Secular Dialogue Program has a long-term positive affect on our students. They will take the process they have learned here and integrate it into the many facets of their future lives,” says Shamoa-Nir proudly.
Bar-Ilan’s Social Involvement Unit strives to enable disadvantaged students to realize their learning potential despite their limitations, by providing them with the technical, emotional and professional support they need to succeed in their academic studies.

The Unit helps students with physical, learning and medical disabilities to cope with the challenges inherent in higher education study and to achieve their academic potential as independently as possible.

Hadar Shuvi, the Unit’s Coordinator, explains that the Social Involvement Unit assists approximately 1,000 students through a variety of critical services, including personal tutoring and counseling, equipment loan, exam adaptation, reading aloud for the visually impaired, and workshops to maximize study skills. She highlights two such students:

G. is visually impaired as a result of juvenile diabetes. Despite a number of medical procedures, he became fully blind during final exams at the end of his second year of study for his BA. One of his first thoughts was to give up his studies, but he decided to continue and turned to Bar-Ilan’s Social Involvement Unit.

The Unit immediately assigned him a student to read him all the required material for his courses, and write his dictated exam answers. G. credits his impressive accomplishments as a BA student to the Social Involvement Unit. He is currently studying for a doctorate in Social Work, and working in the outpatient mental health unit at Tel Hashomer Hospital.

G: “If the Unit hadn’t helped me, I would have stopped studying. I never would have achieved what I have without their support.”

R. suffers from severe learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder. Despite strong discouragement by family and social workers, he decided to pursue an academic degree and he has proven to be one of the shining stars in his field of study, completing his BA in Education. “I want to learn. I can learn,” says R. “But without this Unit, I never could have gotten as far as I have. The Social Involvement Unit literally saved me, and I will never forget what they have done for me.” R. is now pursuing Social Work studies and he hopes for a career in Clinical Social Work.

Hadar Shuvi adds, “These two students, and many others, choose professions which will give them an opportunity for “Tikkun Olam,” by helping others to receive the proper attention and understanding which was denied them prior to their experience at Bar-Ilan.”
“We’re hoping to discover how to preserve important memories.”

Pushing the Boundaries of Memory and Attention: Diagnosing ADHD

Diagnosing Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children is a tricky process. There is always a subjective element involved – for example, how focused the person being tested is on a particular day. Diagnosis is important – getting it wrong can result in being put on the wrong medications.

Now Prof. Eli Vakil of the Bar-Ilan University Psychology Department and head of the Memory and Amnesia Research lab at the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, has developed a new system to make diagnosis entirely objective. He does it by using a special device for tracking eye movements. The exact technique is still under wraps, Vakil says, but it involves comparing attention rates between ADHD and non-ADHD children.

Vakil’s interest in diagnosing ADHD came as a result of his main work at BIU: studying memory and rehabilitation. “We work with patients who have gone through traumatic injuries,” he says. “We’re hoping to discover how to preserve important memories.”

Vakil’s research is not entirely theoretical. As part of his job at Bar-Ilan, he is in charge of the Rehabilitation Center for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries. He also works with people who suffer from Parkinson’s Disease, and is studying aging as it relates to memory. “We’re trying to help brain injured patients re-learn important thinking strategies.”

His outreach to ADHD diagnosis stems from the same line of questioning: what are the different cognitive domains that link attention and memory. Ultimately his goal is to determine if there are specific manipulations that might help an ADHD sufferer focus longer. He hopes to offer his diagnostic method and attention-building tools to the public.

Vakil is a Bar-Ilan veteran – he’s been a professor at the University since 1987. He is a founding member of the Israeli Neuropsychological Society and has served as a board member of the International Neuropsychological Society.

One of Vakil’s other areas of research at Bar-Ilan may prove to be a boon for those of us who have trouble remembering names and faces. It’s all about environment and context, he says. “If you and I are introduced in a certain office and then I meet you two months later at a wedding,” he explains, “I probably won’t know who you are. But if we meet again in the office, there’s a higher chance I will remember you.”

Good news for making the most of your next cocktail party!
Among the major problems confronting the Jewish people, both in Israel and the Diaspora, is the deep rift between Judaism’s rich philosophical and cultural world and the modern and postmodern environment in which Jews find themselves today. According to Dr. Moshe Hellinger, Judaism has a lot to say about reconciling tradition with modernity.

“I’m very critical about many aspects of the Western world, but Judaism can’t be closed off from it,” he says. “My model promotes a way to bridge the gap – strict adherence to the observance of the mitzvot on one hand and openness to Western values on the other.”

Former director of Bar-Ilan’s acclaimed Religious-Secular-Dialogue Program, Hellinger specializes in Jewish political philosophy in general, and the relationship between Judaism and democracy in particular. He leads a research program aimed at finding ways to implement Jewish political thought on liberty, solidarity, and foreign and social policies within modern societies.

Dr. Hellinger is just one of a number of Bar-Ilan faculty members who are firmly committed to giving back to the community, and to reaching out to the public sphere with Bar-Ilan’s message of mutual respect and tolerance, promoting dialogue between Orthodox and secular Jews.

He has devoted endless hours of his time to meetings with educators and policy-makers in both the religious and secular school systems, bringing them together to build a concept for teaching democracy and Judaism. More recently, he has been giving seminars to scores of Israeli army officers and soldiers, addressing subjects such as military insubordination, the status of women, and more.

In addition to his position at Bar-Ilan, Hellinger is a senior researcher at the Israel Democracy Institute and the head of the Ernest and Marta Schwarcz Institute for Ethics, Judaism and State at Beit Morasha, Jerusalem. As a result of this work, the Bar-Ilan Press is publishing the first volume in a series of books on vital political-philosophical issues, such as civil equality, basic human rights, war and morality, ethics and policy.

“In today’s reality, religious and liberal thought often come into conflict,” says Dr. Moshe Hellinger, of Bar-Ilan’s Department of Political Studies. “But if society takes a different perspective, there actually can be dialogue. And when there’s dialogue, I believe that you can live in two civilizations at the same time.”
When Bar-Ilan University was tapped last year to build Israel's fifth medical school in the Galilee city of Safed, it needed a leader who was an academic physician, renowned researcher and proven administrator. Bar-Ilan found all three in Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa.

Prof. Tur-Kaspa is an internal medicine and liver disease specialist and currently the head of the Department of Medicine and the Liver Institute at the Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva. He runs a busy lab researching viruses of the liver and was, for four years, the vice dean and head of the medical school at Tel Aviv University.

Moreover, he is a fourth generation Israeli whose great-grandparents arrived on the first aliyah in 1882 and were among the founders of both Zichron Yaakov and Binyamina, where Tur-Kaspa grew up. That deep rootedness to Israel helps fuel his passion for building a new medical school that will positively impact not only Israel's north, but the country as a whole which is already suffering from a shortage of doctors — a situation that is predicted to only get worse.

Tur-Kaspa's vision is not just to address current problems, but to build an institute that teaches students "how to be a physician in the year 2020," he explains. He and his staff have developed a cutting-edge curriculum that focuses on creating "disease-oriented research centers," rather than the more traditional medical school approach of separating studies by disciplines such as biochemistry and microbiology.

The centers will conduct research into cancer, heart disease, aging, infectious diseases, trauma and child development, and will include a variety of teaching and research specializations including bioinformatics (determining gene sequences related to diseases), preventive medicine, medical ethics and law, sociology and even medical economics. The school will look at the quality of the environment, as well — "air pollution, for example; really anything that has to do with medicine," Tur-Kaspa says.

The research at the Safed campus will be paired with centers in local Galilee hospitals in Afula, Nahariah, Tiberius, Nazareth, and Safed, as well as the psychiatric hospital in Acre. That way, doctors can work with real patients "in the field" while at the same time having all the research benefits of being part of a larger school of medicine.

The new school aims to hire 40 new scientists to head the labs and teach the courses. In keeping with Bar-Ilan's incentives to returning scientists, Tur-Kaspa's faculty will be recruited primarily from Israeli researchers who are currently working or studying overseas. Students will be from Israel only. "We're not planning to open a section for overseas students," Tur-Kaspa says.

Tur-Kaspa himself spent time overseas as a Fulbright Fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University and as a visiting scientist at the NIH in Bethesda. He received his medical degree from the Hebrew University. The 61-year-old married father of three daughters lives in the Jerusalem suburb of Mevasseret Zion.

The new Bar-Ilan Faculty of Medicine is slated to open in October 2011 in a temporary building. The permanent campus will take another five years to build on a slope "with a fantastic view," Tur-Kaspa muses, overlooking the Sea of Galilee and the enchanting village of Rosh Pina.

Seventy students will be in the first class, with a goal to reach 1,000 in six years' time. The Faculty will offer a four-year program for science graduates, a combined program for MD-PhD students, and a program for MSc and PhD research students.

The ultimate goal, Tur-Kaspa says, is for BIU graduates to "integrate a deep knowledge of the scientific basis of medicine with the best clinical skills, all the while teaching doctors to be empathetic with their patients." If Tur-Kaspa can achieve his vision, Israeli medicine will be enriched far beyond the immediate need to train more physicians.
Keeping Plastics Safe from Infection

Anyone who’s seen the classic film “The Graduate” remembers the career advice the young Dustin Hoffman receives: “plastics.” Bar-Ilan researcher Prof. Chaim Sukenik was only 16 when the movie came out, but a good portion of his professional life has been devoted to just that – “plastics,” or more broadly, polymers.

Sukenik’s latest research involves preventing bacteria from collecting on the polymers that are ubiquitous in today’s bio-medical revolution - from tubes for catheters and drawing blood to valves in artificial hearts.

“Bacteria like to accumulate on polymer surfaces,” he explains, “many of which are particularly well suited for biomedical devices because they are relatively soft. However, it’s that “fluffiness” that to some extent makes them prime candidates for infection.

People go into the hospital for one problem and the IV or catheter that is being used to help save their life can become a highway for bacteria to enter the body.”

Sukenik’s lab has created a super-thin coating – just ten nanometers thick (a nanometer is one billionth of a meter) – that prevents bacterial growth on a number of types of medical polymers. One of the most exciting potential
applications for his innovation is for use with cochlear implants – the devices that have made it possible for thousands of fully or partially deaf people to regain their hearing.

A cochlear implant consists of two components – an external device that sits on the outside of the head and a little package of electronics wrapped in silicone rubber – you guessed it, a polymer. The implanted device is connected directly to the auditory nerve.

The problem is that if infection-causing bacteria grow on the polymer, there is no good way to deliver antibiotics to the area since the plastic isn’t connected to any blood vessels. If the infection becomes particularly bad, the entire cochlear implant may have to be removed.

That’s a disaster on two fronts. The unit is very expensive and, once it’s removed, it cannot be reconnected. “You’ve created a situation where a person has been given the ability to hear, and now you take it away,” Sukenik says sadly. Sukenik’s anti-bacterial coating has been proven to work on the silicone rubber casings, and will soon be tested on the cochlear implants themselves.

Sukenik first got involved with coating polymers from a decidedly non-biological direction: satellites and aeronautical materials. In low orbit, satellites are bombarded with radiation and high-energy particles that quickly erode the polymers used in the satellite structure. Sukenik’s coating – in this case a whopping 100 nanometers thick – stops the degradation while adding virtually no weight.

Sukenik, who lives in Nof Ayalon, is enthusiastic about the scientific atmosphere at Bar-Ilan University. “The University has made a huge investment in the last six years to create an infrastructure for scientific research in chemistry in general and in nanoscience in particular.” The returning scientists program has brought some “very bright young colleagues who are spectacular scientists. It’s created a very exciting and creative atmosphere,” Sukenik says.

And then with a wry aside, he adds, “You know that old slogan ‘better living through chemistry?’ At the end of the day, science really does service the broader community. It has tremendously enriched our lives – and the best is yet to come.”
Medicine has made important steps in treating deadly diseases such as cancer and AIDS. But a complete cure remains elusive. One major challenge physicians face is "residual tumors"—tumors that become resistant to chemotherapy. In these sad but not infrequent cases, treatment may initially appear to have worked, but afterward a few tumor cells remain and, if they metastasize, will not respond if chemo is used again.

Prof. Benjamin Sredni, who heads the Cancer, AIDS and Immunology Research (CAIR) Institute at Bar-Ilan University, has developed a potential solution that uses a synthetic non-toxic compound called AS101, first synthesized by Prof. Michael Albeck, of the University’s Department of Chemistry.

AS101 can overturn tumors that are resistant to chemotherapy thereby sensitizing them so that they become responsive to treatment. Based on Sredni’s research, clinical trials of AS101 on patients with acute Myeloid leukemia were approved in the Hematology Department of the Sheba Medical Center.

Sredni is now preparing a protocol for more clinical trials, this time treating Parkinson’s disease patients with AS101 at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. Sredni’s findings on AS101 and Parkinson’s, as well as the potential impact on Alzheimer’s disease, were recently published in the prestigious FASEB Journal.

The CAIR Institute, which Sredni heads, focuses on five areas: cancer; neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, ALS, stroke and depression; infectious diseases including AIDS, hepatitis, West Nile Virus, bird flu and sepsis; auto-immune diseases such as lupus and diabetes; and inflammatory disorders (the most notable of which are Crohn’s Disease, ulcerative colitis and psoriasis).

AS101’s immune-stimulating properties hold promise also for this latter group. Clinical trials treating psoriasis with topical AS101 have already been conducted at Rabin Medical Center and are due to be further expanded at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem.

In addition to conducting research projects and clinical trials, Sredni is the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Health in Israel and teaches immunology at BIU’s Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences.

The main thing, Sredni says, is to "work hard and to do something to make a real change." With this Bar-Ilan professor’s help, patients will see that change soon.
Have you ever been at a party, with loud music, and just couldn’t hear the person to whom you were speaking? You nod your head and hope the conversation will end soon. The agony is only exacerbated when you’re trying to converse with more than one person at a time. A new technology by Prof. Sharon Gannot, an associate professor in Bar-Ilan University’s School of Engineering, may offer hope for the hard of hearing.

Gannot has developed an algorithm that can operate an array of 3-4 microphones in order to remove background noise and pick up only the voices of the people talking. There is no new hardware required – it’s all software for signal processing. Gannot’s algorithm understands the parameters of speech and the presence of multiple microphones compensates for audio problems such as reverberation where the sound signals literally bounce off the walls.

It makes sense. “We have two ears,” Gannot explains. “That’s why we can distinguish speech coming from the right or left side. If two ears essentially equal two receivers, then four is even better.”

Gannot’s technology is different than the noise-canceling headphones that are advertised in airplane in-flight shopping inserts. “Those measure the environment and then transmit the opposite into your headphones,” he says. “My applications are passive – they get a signal and enhance it.”

It’s not likely we’ll be adding a microphone array to our headgear for better party small talk. A more likely application would be in a car when you’re talking on a hands free cell phone (imagine hearing only the driver and not the screaming kids in the back seat) or in a state-of-the-art office video conference call.

Gannot is working with Bar-Ilan’s Research and Development Company to commercialize the product and already has a deal with an Israeli hi-tech company to improve echo cancellation on long distance calls.

Gannot, 45, was born and raised in the Israeli coastal city of Hadera. He studied at the Technion and Tel Aviv University and did his post-doc in electrical engineering in Belgium. At the BIU School of Engineering, in addition to teaching, he is the head of its signal processing lab. This summer, he hosted the prestigious International Workshop on Acoustic Echo and Noise Control in Tel Aviv.

Gazing into the looking glass, Gannot can imagine his signal processing eventually being used in hearing aids. You’d have to use both ears, which raises its own complications. Wireless is too risky. “Maybe you could connect the two devices via one’s glasses?” he suggests.
Wouldn’t it be wonderful if you could live to be 120 and not have to worry about many of the degenerative diseases that come with aging? Bar-Ilan University returning scientist Dr. Sivan Henis-Korenblit has initiated promising genetic research at the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences that may hold the key to combating debilitating conditions such as Huntington’s Disease, Alzheimer’s and even cancer.

It all starts with a worm – specifically, a type of earthworm known as C. elegans. It turns out that these tiny animals have many of the same genes and mechanisms that affect aging as humans. For example, by restricting the amount of insulin in the worms, aging is delayed. This is also the case in higher organisms such as flies, mice, dogs and even humans. Less insulin equals longer lifespan and – more importantly – potentially better health.

The problem, of course, is that we need insulin to control the sugar levels in our blood. So Dr. Henis-Korenblit’s work is to find a way to uncouple the two. Her team seeks to find the specific genes that regulate the aging rate, when insulin is reduced without affecting other important biological processes.

“People used to think that aging was a passive process of deterioration over time, similar to mechanical wear-and-tear,” Henis-Korenblit explains. “But everything in biology seems to be regulated by genetics. So why not aging?” The field is still relatively young, she adds. “We’ve only been studying it for the last 20 years, and have made tremendous progress.”

The actual process Henis-Korenblit uses to undertake her research involves painstakingly feeding the one-millimeter long transparent C. elegans some 20,000 different types of bacteria. “We have a library that tells us what genes each bacteria inactivates,” Henis-Korenblit says. That is then correlated with how the animals age. Once the aging-related genes are identified, she hopes to develop new therapies for age-related diseases.

Born in Jerusalem but working for the University of California San Francisco for the last seven years, the 36-year-old Henis-Korenblit was ready to come back to Israel. Bar-Ilan made that dream a tangible reality through its returning scientists program, which provided her with a supportive research environment; startup money to set up a lab, hire students and a technician; and a position as senior lecturer.

The secrets Henis-Korenblit’s worms are revealing aren’t just for the young. “You can slow the aging process at any time, we just need to learn how,” she says. Will we live to be as old as Moses? Only time will tell.
In 1965, Intel co-founder Gordon Moore postulated that the number of transistors that can be put on an integrated circuit — and the accompanying speed in computer processing — would double every 18 months. This rule, dubbed “Moore’s Law,” has held true for nearly 40 years. But now it looks to be coming to a halt. Bar-Ilan University senior lecturer Dr. Avi Zadok, from the School of Engineering, wants to do something about that.

“Moore’s Law is hitting an impasse because all those transistors generate too much heat,” explains Zadok. “The amount of heat per area is the same generated as inside a nuclear reactor.”

The solution? Optical communication inside the computer. This might sound like a trivial pursuit — after all, optics (comprised of pulses of light on fiber lines thinner than a strand of hair) have been carrying phone calls and Internet data underneath the oceans for years. But getting them to integrate with the silicon electronics of computer processors had “always been the Holy Grail,” Zadok says.

The breakthrough came in 2006 when a team at Intel and the University of California at Santa Barbara was able to create a “hybrid laser” that glued together pieces of silicon with a semiconductor material — indium phosphide. Several other universities joined the effort including Caltech, where Zadok was working on his post-doc.

The CalTech team created an enhanced version of the device with improved performance that attracted Bar-Ilan’s interest. Zadok was quickly recruited, as part of the University’s Returning Scientists program, to set up an Israeli capability in “silicon photonics,” instantly putting the Bar-Ilan University on the international electro-optic map.

Optical communication, says Zakok, is not intended to replace the computer chips we have today; rather they would connect the multiple “cores” that are the building blocks of all new computers. He aims to build hybrid devices that can support a much larger grid of cores than is possible today. He’s set an aggressive timetable to have the first prototype devices ready within a year.

Going from device to mass deployment may be a bit trickier. “It will require a radical change in the processor,” Zadok explains. “We’ll need to change the fabrication plants where they make the chips. A whole new set of materials will be incorporated into the hybrid devices. It may even change the way programmers write code.”

Dr. Zadok is delighted to be back in Israel and raves about the “buzz” at Bar-Ilan. “The scientists here are all very young and upcoming,” says the 37-year-old researcher. “There is great camaraderie and very much a feeling of being in a startup with everybody helping.”

Speeding up the Next Generation of Computing

The Bar-Ilan University Magazine BIU TODAY
For 16 elderly Ethiopian immigrants from the town of Pardes Hanna, a recent visit to the Bar-Ilan Optometry Clinic was an eye-opener. During their very first encounter with the optometry profession — an anomaly in the villages of Gonder — they were treated to comprehensive eye examinations and fitted with glasses, compliments of the Department of Optometry and the "Sagam" and "LuxVision" labs. Now they will be able to more sharply view the world around them. For those suffering from glaucoma, diabetes and other diseases, such a "routine" check-up has particularly vital health consequences.

This special community outreach project was initiated three years ago by the Department of Optometry — Israel’s only university-degree program — and its head, Prof. Michael Rosenbluh. Each year, a group of Ethiopian seniors experiencing visual difficulties is brought to the BIU campus clinic. There they are examined by 4th year optometry students, under the supervision of Dr. Mark Guggenheim, Director of the Eye Clinic, and additional staff doctors. This year the University picked up the tab for travel expenses to and from Bar-Ilan. In order to facilitate communication, Amharic interpreters are provided by the University’s Community Interpreting course, which is run by Prof. Miriam Shlesinger, of the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies (see article on page 32).

One of the most exciting project "visuals" was evident when an immigrant woman was examined by Ethiopian optometry student, Michal Rada. Born in 1985, shortly after "Operation Moses" brought her parents from Gonder to the Promised Land, Michal understands a smattering of Amharic but doesn’t speak the language fluently. She, was, therefore, pleased to have at her side BIU community interpreter, Mantegbush Alma, to fill in the gaps. Mantegbush, who immigrated to Israel as a young girl, is majoring in Early Childhood Education. After thoroughly examining her patient's eyes, Michal prescribed glasses. "She really was amazed to see how much they helped her to see," relates Michal, who, in consultation with a staff doctor, also referred the woman to a specialist for her diabetes.

"I like it here at Bar-Ilan where I feel I’ve learned a great deal," says Michal. After completing the program and passing the Ministry of Health examinations, she hopes to find a job in the field. "I want to help people," she adds.

When the Bar-Ilan project was launched, "the immigrants were hesitant to come to the clinic," recalls Yossi, the local Kes (religious leader), who coordinates the Ethiopian Seniors’ Club in Pardes Hanna. But after seeing how it has helped so many, "everyone wants to go for an eye exam." No doubt echoing the sentiments of his community, he enthuses: "We very much appreciate Bar-Ilan University and its important work. To be able to see — nothing is more important than that."
Along with the circus performance, students viewed demonstrations of the scientific fields that would be featured in their year-long curriculum: nanotechnology, biotechnology, physics, chemistry and robotics.

To round off the year of activities, an end-of-year event was held recently on campus. During the fun-filled day, 160 children from Israeli boarding schools for disadvantaged youth took part in a number of action-packed “extreme sport” activities, pictured above.

In addition to these enrichment events for disadvantaged children, BIU runs special summer programs for neighborhood kids in which the youngsters get to perform scientific experiments under the experienced supervision of graduate students.

When you grow up poor, it can seem like all the forces of the world are working against you. What better reason to introduce children to forces that can work in your favor? This is what happened at a special performance of the “Circus of Physics” – part of a science education event attended by 200 lucky students on the Bar-Ilan University campus.

Acrobats Eran and Shuka entertained the students – all being educated in Israel’s network of boarding schools for underprivileged youth – with feats of juggling, balance and fire-handling, accompanied by comic narration that introduced the physical laws behind each trick. The circus performance was part of a party that launched a year-long program of enrichment activities – sponsored by the Legacy Foundation and hosted at Bar-Ilan’s Division for Science Activities for Youth.

“Making Science Fun for Israel’s Youth

The goal of the program is to bring boarding school students closer to science, while instilling a stronger sense of Jewish pride,” says Youth Division Director Hadassa Speizman. “By participating in the program and getting a taste of the academic experience, the children come to realize that there’s nothing they can’t do.”

According to Daliah Lev-Sadeh, Head of the Welfare Ministry’s youth department, over 6,000 children are living away from their homes in boarding school settings, and many suffer from difficulties in school. “By letting these children learn on a beautiful campus and in advanced laboratories, Bar-Ilan is showing them how enjoyable learning can be – and this can have a profound impact on their future.”

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It is never easy to leave one’s country and immigrate to a new land, especially when you are a top professional in your field and you are concerned about finding appropriate employment. In 1992, after the large scale wave of immigration to Israel from the former Soviet Union, Bar-Ilan University stepped in to help ease the transition for new Russian scientist immigrants and aid in their successful absorption by establishing the Jack and Pearl Resnick Institute of Advanced Technology.

Here, says Bar-Ilan Physics Professor Issai Shlimak, scientists like himself were able to find a warm and professional environment during their first years of aliyah, where they were able to acclimate themselves to Israeli society while at the same time continuing with their scientific work at a high level and making connections with the people in their field of expertise.

BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh, who at the time was Dean of the Faculty of Exact Sciences, was among those instrumental in setting up the Institute, which focused on the successful integration of scientists and engineers in the fields of microelectronics, electronics and semiconductor physics, who otherwise would not have been able to continue with their work because of the language barrier.

The Resnick Institute was a very important stepping-stone for scientists from the former USSR, recalls Prof. Shlimak. It was the first place for scientists to land safely and help them integrate into Israeli industry. During their work at BIU they were able to make connections with colleagues from other universities and from industries in the country.

“Many former Soviet Union immigrant scientists started their work here and were able to move on,” says Prof. Shlimak. Some dozen former Soviet Union scientists, engineers and graduate students have been a part of the Resnick Institute family, gaining their first foothold into the country and its scientific and industry community here, he adds.

“It was my first publication in this journal,” he notes proudly. “Of course, getting a position in the University also helped greatly in the successful absorption of my family, as well as of the families of other immigrant scientists accepted by the Resnick Institute.”

“There are very good scientists here,” enthuses Prof. Shlimak, who today is Deputy Director of the Institute and heads its semiconductor laboratory. “I have been very happy here and Bar-Ilan has been like a second home to me,” he adds.

Today, as Bar-Ilan University has witnessed the successful absorption and integration of immigrant scientists into the Israeli work force, the Institute no longer functions as an incubator for immigrant scientists and has grown to include veteran Israeli, immigrant and international world-class scientists and graduate students.

The scientific investigations in the Resnick Institute have now shifted from micro- to nanoelectronics and new nanotechnology processes within the mainstream of modern science. Within its Solid State Physics seminar, students at MSc and PhD level are involved in advanced studies extending the frontiers of science in Israel and abroad.

“There is no doubt that the Bar-Ilan University Resnick Institute has more than fulfilled its goal of absorbing immigrant scientists,” concludes Prof. Shlimak.
As Israel gears up to celebrate the 60th anniversary of "Operation Magic Carpet," which saw the emotional gathering in of some 50,000 Yemenite Jews to Israel, Bar-Ilan University’s Aharon and Rachel Dahan Center for Culture, Society, and Education in the Sephardic Heritage will mark the occasion with an October conference on the Jews of Yemen.

More than 40 researchers are scheduled to take part in the conference, which will be organized in conjunction the Ben Zvi Institute of Jerusalem, notes Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director of the Dahan Center.

"The Yemenite community is an example of one which was successfully integrated and absorbed into Israel because of its yearning and love for the country," he adds. "They came here from an ideal and although they did encounter difficulties during their absorption, their very strong connection to Israel helped them deal with those issues and to be understanding while facing the problems."

The Yemenite immigration was the first and largest aliyah after the creation of the State of Israel where almost the entire community came to Israel in just over a year from June 1949 to August 1950 while Israel was just a fledgling state. Prior to that some 35,000 Yemenite Jews had come to Israel through various other means, notes Prof. Dov Levitan, Administrative Director of the Regional Colleges and Pre-Academic Training Program at BIU

Over the next six decades the community became an integral part of the Israeli mosaic and integrated itself in every level of Israeli society ranging from entertainers, businessmen, and academics, he says.

"The Yemenite community is an example of one which was successfully integrated and absorbed into Israel because of its yearning and love for the country."

"The uniqueness of the Yemenite Jews is that they have retained many traditions which date back to the time of the Second Temple Period which other communities have lost," states Prof. Aharon Gaimani, head of BIU’s Department of Multi-Disciplinary Jewish Studies. "As the noted historian Prof. Shlomo Dov Goitein said: if you want to learn about Judaism in the Second Temple Period, study the traditions of the Yemenite Jews."

For example, notes Prof. Gaimani, who has collected over 1,700 traditional Yeminite ketubot, they all begin with a special prayer which does not appear on the ketubot of other Jewish communities.

"We also see this tradition in ketubot of some 1,000 years ago in Egypt. Everywhere else in the Jewish world they have forgotten this prayer," he says. In addition, he says, the Yemenite Jews retained the tradition and knowledge of the kashrut laws regarding the locust which was traditionally eaten in Yemen.

"Not all locusts are kosher and the Jews of Yemen traditionally know the details of the kashrut laws," says Prof. Gaimani. Much of this knowledge is at risk of being lost as the older generation which came from Yemen is dying, and so he has learned these traditions himself and is passing it on to the younger generation.

Gaimani, whose parents arrived in Israel from Yemen in 1949, began to take an interest in his own Yemenite roots after having received his BA from BIU and was one of the first to begin researching the community. BIU helped him immensely in this endeavor, he notes, and today the University is the leading academic institution in the world in the field of academic research of the Yemenite Jewish community.

"Before there was no address to turn to for this information," says Prof. Gaimani. "BIU has provided a place for this very important research and study of Yemenite Jewry."
From a young age Dr. Yael Shai, the youngest daughter of Yemenite immigrants who came to Israel in 1949, was drawn to music. When it came time for university studies she decided to study at BIU’s Department of Music. But it was only after a wedding invitation that she discovered the music of the Yemenite Jews of Habban and the course of her academic life was forever altered. She decided to focus her MA and PhD studies delving deeper into her Yemenite musical heritage from the southeastern tip of Habban to the center and northern areas of Yemen where her own family had come from. Today she is one of Israel’s foremost musicologists on Yemenite Jewish music.

The Yemenite community has contributed greatly to Israeli society and is truly a story of successful immigration, she says. To this day, she notes, she and her siblings maintain the wonderful traditions they learned as children in their parents’ home. “I completed all my degrees at Bar-Ilan University. BIU contributed a lot to the advancement of my studies. I love this place so much I have continued to lecture at the University!” says Dr. Shai, adding proudly that her own son has followed her tradition and will soon be completing his Bar-Ilan BA in Logistics and Economics.
Until about a decade ago, if a Jewish woman wanted a divorce through the rabbinical court, she had two choices: secure the services of a female legal advocate (toenet rabbinit) who had studied Jewish Family Law extensively but possessed no traditional legal background, or hire a lawyer who was trained in the laws of secular court but had no real understanding of the Jewish Law which guides the Rabbinical Court.

Choshen Mishpat, the Program for Women in Law and Halacha, is a joint effort of the Faculty of Law and the Midrasha for Women in the Ludwig and Erica Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies. Spawned from former Bar-Ilan Executive Council Chairman and current Justice Minister Yaakov Neeman’s idea that Din Torah be applied to the Israeli legal system, it is a winning combination of the formal study of law enhanced by the teachings of the Shulchan Aruch. The program, previously supported by the Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Women, gives an elite group of women in their second year of law school at Bar-Ilan the opportunity to train intensively in all aspects of religious and secular family law, empowering them to serve Jewish women as learned and bold voices advocating for justice in the complex legal system.

The Program’s strict acceptance criteria demand that students maintain an 85 average and be willing to invest 20 intense weekly academic hours beyond their regular studies in the Law.

Seeking Justice for Women in Israel's Courts

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Faculty. Each year, some 12-15 women participate and, according to Rabbi Dr. Yitzhak Kraus, Director of the Midrasha, “only the cream of the crop is accepted and the women really are among the brightest and best. It’s almost like simultaneously working toward another degree.” Indeed, the credits earned are accepted towards a graduate degree.

The women of Choshen Mishpat make up a diverse community. They are alumni of the IDF and Israel’s National Volunteer Service, Israeli-born and foreign-born (this year’s students include women who made aliyah from Ethiopia and the U.S.), highly observant and traditional, from a variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, and married and single. Many are on an accelerated track to complete both their LL.B. and their LL.M. in just four years. All were moved to pursue advanced studies in Jewish Law out of love of Jewish texts, as well as the desire and determination to help women.

Although couples in Israel may divorce and wage custody battles through the secular court system, it is still the religious court that handles the bulk of the cases. “The discussion in court is much fairer if the lawyer representing the woman is familiar with Jewish Law,” explains Rabbi Kraus. “The lawyer representing the woman isn’t forced to accept the ruling of the judge, but instead can expertly argue the case and secure far better terms for her client.”

A woman who is represented by a graduate of Choshen Mishpat has another clear advantage, explains Rabbi Kraus: “Instead of telling her story twice – to both a toenet rabbait and an attorney – she need only tell it once to a competent professional who encompasses the best of both legal worlds.

While the Program is designed for women, Rabbi Kraus feels that men could also benefit from the study of Jewish Family Law and that the adoption of such a program abroad would be advantageous. “The religious Jewish community in New York inquired about the possibility of duplicating Choshen Mishpat at New York University. The need is definitely there.”

While there are three academic institutions, including Bar-Ilan, which offer studies towards becoming a female legal advocate, Bar-Ilan is the only university in the world that offers a program which combines traditional legal studies with the study of Jewish Law. “It’s truly unique,” says Rabbi Kraus, “and extremely important.”
Imagine that you are a 67-year-old Russian-speaking grandmother and you need a life-saving kidney transplant. But you possess only rudimentary Hebrew language skills so communication with the healthcare professionals treating you is severely limited. Will you understand how to actively participate in your treatment? Would you even fully comprehend your diagnosis and its ramifications?

This is one of the real-life predicaments presented by Prof. Miriam Shlesinger, Associate Professor in the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies, who, in cooperation with Dr. Michal Schuster and Tanya Voinova, teaches Community Interpreting, a year-long elective course which empowers speakers of minority languages to play an active role in inter-lingual and inter-cultural mediation. In addition to being fluent in Hebrew, the students enrolled this year are proficient in Russian, Amharic or Arabic and Prof. Shlesinger says there is a demand for other languages, as well. “In Israel, as in virtually every multilingual country, there has always been a need for interpreters and the sad fact is that a patient who cannot adequately communicate with her doctor is at a grave disadvantage.”

For two weekly academic hours, students learn a wide range of professional terminology, the significance of language rights, and the link between language and identity. Prof. Shlesinger says that it’s a challenge placing every student in the most appropriate setting. There are logistical and professional considerations, as well as ethnic and cultural ones. “We once placed a male Arab student at a busy well-baby clinic and realized it was uncomfortable for all concerned.” There is also the human factor, notes Prof. Shlesinger, “as students often get very emotionally involved. We have secured placements in pediatric oncology wards, where students tend to form strong bonds with the children and their parents. When a child dies, it can be devastating.”

Launched by the Israeli counterpart of Campus Compact, Academy-Community Partnership for Social Change (and the Council for Higher Education), Community Interpreting was designed to strengthen the ties between academic institutions and the community-at-large. It also bridges gaps between students of different ethnic backgrounds and attracts a broad cross section of students from various disciplines including optometrics, criminology, literature, and biology, who all share a common desire for social justice.

Occasionally the students are harnessed to assist medical interpreting on campus. When several dozen Ethiopian immigrants came to have their eyes examined by optometry students, the Amharic speaking students in the course interpreted. Prof. Shlesinger reveals that although there is the occasional health facility that declines interpreting assistance, “the institutions that we work with almost always come back and ask for another student the following year. They clearly understand the need for it,” she says. In addition to medical interpreting, the course also provides training for interpreting within the framework of law enforcement and social services, with students volunteering in prisons, police stations, NGOs, welfare agencies and municipalities.

Since the course’s inception four years ago, approximately 120 students have donated over 12,000 volunteer hours to interpreting. Aside from official course statistics, that number is actually much higher as many students do, in fact, continue to volunteer long after the course is over, bringing academic knowledge acquired at Bar-Ilan into deeper engagement with community organizations. “By the time they’ve finished the semester,” sums up Prof. Shlesinger, “they want to go on performing some kind of community service.”
Providing Legal Aid to Those in Need

While free and subsidized legal aid has been available in Israel for years, did you know that the oldest civil legal aid clinic is located at Bar-Ilan University? Founded in 1984 to offer free legal advice and services to members of the weaker socio-economic segment of society who cannot afford the costly services of legal representation, the Law Faculty’s civil legal aid clinic handles approximately 1,300 cases per year and shows no sign of slowing down.

Fully staffed by third-year law students who volunteer their time, skills and enthusiasm to represent citizens in matters such as employment, consumer protection, neighbor relations, national insurance and execution of judgments, the legal aid clinic is headed by Adv. Yael Adoram, who admits that the budding legalists gain just as much as the clients. “For many of the students, it’s their first experience dealing with people who have a real legal issue to solve. Their work in the clinic helps them identify with people in need and it’s an experience that is likely to stay with them for the rest of their lives.”

Adv. Adoram explains that students volunteer in one of 25 legal aid stations, most of them in the center of the country, where they document legal issues presented by members of the local community. Although they are not allowed to give legal advice, they are encouraged to ask questions, draw out as many details as they can and no less important, to sympathize.

Students return to the clinic where each case is researched and discussed, formulating practical solutions through dialogue and debate. One solution might be a co-authored letter with Adv. Adoram and other times students are dispatched to help the clients conduct effective negotiations as a means to amicably solve a legal dispute.

Extremely proud, and even touched, by the feedback she has received from clients whom the clinic has assisted, Adv. Adoram recalls an elderly man who received a request for payment from an organization with whom he had no contact. “His attempts to clarify the mistake went unheeded. We simply wrote a letter and the problem was resolved. In return, he wrote us a heartwarming thank you note, explaining that the money we saved him made it possible for him to pay for his prescription medication.”

Third-year students at Bar-Ilan’s Faculty of Law are required to volunteer in one of seven law clinics. Reemon Silverman, an immigrant from Maine, USA, selected the legal aid clinic under the supervision of Yael Adoram, “because it provided me with a unique opportunity to become exposed to the different sectors of society that make up the State of Israel.” Reemon says the legal quandaries put before her have involved labor relations, utility company overpayments and “regular people just wanting to know if the law is on their side.” Reemon admits that not having a full command of Hebrew has made her more sympathetic. “The people who come to us don’t understand this whole language of law and since, as an olah, I know what it’s like to struggle with a new language, I want to do everything I can to help.”

“What really wins out here,” enthuses Adv. Adoram, “is the passion the students have for what they do. By successfully using their professional skills and knowledge to help the less fortunate, they realize that not only are they giving someone else a gift, but they themselves are being rewarded by gaining high personal values.”

What is also exciting are the solid relationships formed between the students and the various clinics in which they volunteer. Adv. Adoram says that in the 12 years she has been managing the legal clinic, many of her former students still volunteer at SHIL, an organization devoted to assisting citizens who are faced with legal problems with the various authorities. “The start they got working for our legal clinic,” says Adv. Adoram, “really helps them see the person behind the case and they feel strongly about helping human beings rather than just making waves in bureaucracy.”

According to Adv. Adoram, 38 law students are completing the program this year and she is personally involved with every case. Whether she is discussing possible legal ramifications with her students or occasionally representing a client in court, she feels that the work she and her students perform is nothing short of a calling. “For me, helping others is a way of life, much more than a profession.” And at Bar-Ilan, where most students perform good deeds as a way of life, the legal aid clinic is a great way to combine skills and values – all in a day’s work.
In May this year BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh delivered a special 55th anniversary President’s Report to the 2010 Board of Trustees in which he outlined his ambitious five-year plan for Bar-Ilan University.

Prof. Kaveh began his presentation by relating the University’s successes in their historical context. “Since Bar-Ilan was established 55 years ago, the University has grown at an unimaginable pace,” said Prof. Kaveh. After demonstrating BIU’s phenomenal advances in student enrollment, prize-winning faculty members, new buildings, scientific and research accomplishments, and the contributions to society of BIU alumni, he went on to introduce his vision for the future.

First and foremost in BIU’s five-year plan is the establishment and development of its new Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee, which has been declared by the Israeli government to be a national project. The first class will begin in 2011. The goal is that by 2021 the Faculty will have a student enrollment of 1,200 (see interview with the Dean-designate of the Faculty of Medicine on p. 16).

“At the same time we will enhance campus academics in a number of diverse areas,” Prof. Kaveh said. He pledged to advance Humanistic Sciences through the establishment of new Research Centers of Excellence, strengthen Jewish Studies, and the form a new Faculty of Management, while in the Exact Sciences, he plans to increase Experimental Sciences, the Engineering faculty, and Research Centers in Emerging Areas.

Campus-wide, the President intends to increase faculty-student ratio, improve the quality of teaching and technological tools, and develop innovative academic programs, while forging ahead with the construction of new projected facilities for the Graduate School, Scientific & Biblical Archaeology, Computer Science, the Faculty of Management, Middle Eastern Studies, and Student Services.

“We would never have been able to achieve so much at Bar-Ilan without the hard-working devotion of our dedicated staff and supporters,” acknowledged Prof. Kaveh in his final remarks. “And now we must look to the future,” he concluded.
According to official reports of the Council for Higher Education, BIU has the largest number of degree students in the State of Israel, including the largest Freshman Class. BIU provides a quality academic experience to 33,917 students, of which 26,000 (76%) are seeking their BA, MA and PhD degrees, and 8,000 (24%) are enrolled in various non-degree academic programs. From gifted high school students to army veterans, religious and secular, young and old, on campus and in regional colleges throughout the country, BIU’s commitment to diversity and inclusivity has made it the fastest growing institution of higher education in the country.

$206M was invested over the past decade in the building of new facilities:
- Gonda [Goldschmied] Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center
- Shapell Central Promenade
- The Wohl Centre
- Engineering Complex
- Rosenberg Music Building
- Beit Jakobovits/Shamoon Centre
- Gonda [Goldschmied] Nanotechnology Triplex
- Jim Joseph Education Building
- Kort Language Studies Building
- Katz Interdisciplinary Studies Building
- Stern Graduate Studies Building
- Benin Real Estate Law Annex
- Webb & Family Psychology Building
- Nagel Family Jewish Heritage Center

BIU leads in comparative ranking of departments:
- 10 departments lead in number of publications/faculty member.
- 7 departments lead the nation in research output/faculty member.
- 17 departments lead in number of doctoral students/faculty member

Among BIU award-winning faculty: Prof. Moshe Addad (2010 Israel Prize for Criminology, see article on p. 4); Prof. Zvy Dubinsky, Prof. Yehuda Lindell, Prof. Haim Cohen and Prof. Michal Lavidor (European Union Prize); and Prof. Eli Porat (youngest faculty member to be appointed full professor in Israel). Four returning scientists received the Alon Fellowship of Excellence for Young Scientists – Dr. Doron Gerber and Dr. Shay Ben Aroya, Dr. Avinoam Zadok, and Dr. Tali Kaufman.

Jewish Studies are a key part of the curricula at Bar-Ilan University. The unique Responsa Project was awarded the Israel Prize in Torah Literature. There are 1,800 academic courses in Judaism-related studies. The Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies has developed new and unique programs: Nitzotzot - Torah and Science Forum for Doctoral Students of Excellence; Training Program for Community Rabbis in Diaspora; Reshit Program which brings Torah study to the secular; and there is a new pre-Army program for intellectually gifted students.
For most young parents the stress of finding good, affordable child care rests heavily on their shoulders. But last year Bar-Ilan students with young children had one less thing to worry about when the University's new Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre, geared primarily for babies from the age of three months to three years, opened its doors.

The highly-appreciated Centre is managed by Emunah, the religious women organization which also runs numerous such institutions throughout Israel. The Centre is much in demand as BIU's dedicated students balance their academic careers with married life, and registration was quite high as soon as the announcement of the opening was made.

Conveniently located on campus, the Day Care Centre has enabled young mothers to focus on their studies while knowing their children are nearby in the hands of competent, professional caretakers. The fully equipped Centre also provides a warm lunch for every child.

"I believe this service that is afforded to our students will allow young mothers to hone their talents and pursue their academic goals side-by-side with raising their children," says BIU Director General Haim Glick.

Also aimed at making life easier for students at BIU is the new Internet wireless system which went up at the beginning of last semester, allowing them to access the Internet throughout the campus in open spaces, as well as in buildings — because who wants to spend all day studying inside when they could be outside enjoying some fresh air in the beautifully landscaped BIU campus? Set up of the system on the North Campus was completed first and continued on the South Campus.

"This wireless system improves the services Bar-Ilan provides for our students, researchers and lecturers dramatically," notes Director General Glick.
At Bar-Ilan many student activities are organized by the Student Union which is dedicated to making life easier for students. “We make sure the students don’t feel overwhelmed,” explains Batel Avni, this year’s Student Union VP. “We want them to see Bar-Ilan as a place where they can have fun, too,” she adds.

As such, the Student Union held a concert during the day so that all students would be able to attend. The Union also organizes small events during breaks between classes. Each month the Union holds a Campus Shabbat in which all students are invited to spend Shabbat together. The Student Union also plays a role in community outreach, organizing volunteer visits to hospitals or families in need.

A main function of the Student Union is to act as a liaison between students and administration. “Students who have problems relating to their studies know that we will deal with those issues as best we can,” says Avni.

With over 300 English-speaking students living in the Bar-Ilan area, the Student Union has begun to work more closely with the immigrant students. “Ametz Oleh” is a big brother/sister program in which first-year immigrant students are paired up with an Israeli buddy, someone who can help them with their Hebrew, schoolwork, and friendship.

“ESCape” is an active community for the English speakers of Bar-Ilan. The name is a play on two different components, the escape button on a keyboard, symbolizing a brief “escape from studies,” and an acronym for the English Speaking Community. New immigrants turn to ESCape in times of need, and for some fun on campus, such as the annual Open Mike night in which students get to demonstrate their creative talents, Trivia night wherein students form teams to compete against each other, the Tu B’shvat Seder and the Shabbaton, in which students either host or are hosted for Sabbath meals in the area, with a joint Oneg on Friday night and Seudat Shlishit on Shabbat day. This helps the Anglo students branch out, meet more of the community, and make new friends.

Bar-Ilan students know that the Student Union and ESCape are always there for them, helping them to both adjust to and enjoy university life to the fullest.
Academic Conferences and Events

February 2010

- Social Policy, Poverty, Growth, and Social Gaps (Louis & Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)
- Lecture by Dr. Alexander Murinson from the University of London: “Turkey and the Caucasus” (Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies)
- Lecture on the ‘Who Lost Oslo’ debate and the Bankruptcy of the Peace Process (Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies)
- Medicine and Halacha (Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences)
- Middle Age—Mental and Actual Processes (Department of Psychology)
- General Rules for Researching Biological Disease Generators and Meeting the Standard of the Law (Marilyn Finkler Cancer Research Center and the Ministry of Health)

March 2010

- Conference in Honor of International Women’s Day with “Kolech”— the Jewish Religious Women’s Forum (Program in Gender Studies)

April 2010

- Military Insubordination, Protest, and Society (Faculty of Law and The Israel Democracy Institute)
- Glimpse Into Prison (Department of Criminology)
- Music Therapy (Department of Music)
- Chronicles (The Zalman Shamir Bible Department)
- Yemenite Jewry (Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History)
- Religion & Enlightenment: Discourses of Reason, Inspiration and Revelation in Early-Modern England (Department of Comparative Literature)

May 2010

- Takeoff and Landing: New Barriers and Breakthroughs in the Integration of People with Learning Disabilities into the Workplace (with the participation of Minister of Industry, Trade, and Labor, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer) (Louis & Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)
- Bnei Akiva Yeshivot and Ulpanot—70 years since the establishment of the first Yeshiva in Kfar Haroeh (The Dr. Zorah Warhaftig Institute for Research on Religious Zionism)
- SAFE-COMMS (Counter Terrorism Crisis Communication) (Department of Political Studies)
- Policy and Management in Education in the Global Era (Churgin School of Education)
- Attention Economy: The Challenges of the Information Overload Era (Graduate School of Business Administration)
- Religious Zionism and its Success During the Holocaust (The Dr. Zorah Warhaftig Institute for Research on Religious Zionism)
June 2010

- Disabled Peoples’ Right to Parenthood (Faculty of Law)
- International Conference on Religious Education in a Democratic State (Faculty of Law)
- The 2010 HBSC Spring Meeting and The Scientific Conference on Adolescent Well-Being (BIU and the JDC-Brookdale Institute)
- Bioethics Conference: “The Power to Detect and Create” (The Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies; Leslie and Susan Gonda [Goldschmied] Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center; Columbia University [College of Physicians and Surgeons])
- “Who Am I? Israeli Song” (Department of Music)
- The Israeli Magnetic Resonance Society Meeting (Department of Chemistry)
- Religious Zionist Leadership: In Memory of Haim-Moshe Shapiroa, 40 years since his death (The Dr. Zorah Warhaftig Institute for Research on Religious Zionism)
- Music Therapy (Department of Music)

July 2010

- Sustainability in Transition and the Changing Faces of Rural Areas: Environmental, Social, Cultural and Economic Dimensions (Department of Geography and Environment)
- Methods for Researching and Teaching Jewish History (Louis & Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)

Awards and Appointments

- Prof. Aharon Gedanken, of the Department of Chemistry, was awarded the 2009 Edwards Prize of the Israel Vacuum Society for Excellence in Scientific Research.
- Prof. Yaron Harel, of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History, received the 2009 President’s Prize in memory of the country’s second president, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.
- Prof. Aharon Gedanken, of the Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Shlomo Shpiro, of the Department of Political Science and BESA Center, were among the recipients of awards of recognition granted by the President of Israel Shimon Peres, to Israeli researchers and scientists who are conducting international research projects funded by the European Union.
- Prof. Betty Olivero and Dr. Shai Cohen, of the Department of Music, won the 2010 ACUM Award in the field of concert music.
- Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Director of the Faculty of Law’s Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Women, has been re-elected as a member of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Dr. Dan Thomas Major, of the Department of Chemistry, won the 2010 Krill Prize for Excellence for the development and application of theoretical methods for the study of biological systems and nano-materials.
- Prof. Moshe Rosman, of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History, won the 2009 National Jewish Book Award for his book Rethinking European Jewish History.
- Prof. Shulamit Michaeli, of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, was appointed head of the Department of Life Sciences at the Israel Science Foundation.
BIU Hosts Visitors from Far and Wide

Forging Partnerships with Key Academic and Research Institutions Abroad

This year, Bar-Ilan University’s outreach efforts to leading academic and research institutions around the globe resulted in a number of important visits with delegations visiting campus from all over the world. In the pages that follow, we highlight a select number of those institutions.

Delegation from the University of Miami

A prestigious delegation from the University of Miami visited campus this July to discuss potential avenues for cooperation between their respective faculties of medicine and other academic/research enterprises.

1. Israeli President Shimon Peres (center) receives Dr. Pascal J. Goldschmidt, Dean of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine and CEO of the University of Miami Health System; Prof. Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami and former US Secretary of Health and Human Services; Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, and Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa, Dean-designate of the BIU Faculty of Medicine.

2. The BIU – Miami U. delegation meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

3. Sue Miller, who established the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami in memory of her late husband, breakfasts with Prof. Moshe Kaveh at an informal meeting (Not in picture: Prof. Donna Shalala and Dr. Pascal J. Goldschmidt).

4. Prof. Harold Basch, BIU Vice President for Research, meets with Tim Sutherland, CEO of Pace Global and Steve Kohler, Senior Manager of Ridge Global.

Delegation of Argonne National Laboratory

5. Prof. Moshe Kaveh (center) welcomes the Argonne National Laboratory Delegation (from left to right): Dr. Mark Peters, Deputy Director; Stephen Goldberg, Special Assistant; Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, BIU Deputy President; Dr. Eric Isaak, Director, Prof. Harold Basch; and Ruth Cohen, Director, BIU Desk of VIP Visits & Events.
Delegation of South Ural State University
1. South Ural State University Rector Prof. Aleksandr L. Shestakov (center), and colleagues tour the BIU campus and explore possible cooperative ventures in Nanotechnology, Engineering and other vital scientific realms.

2. Touring the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), the Ural mission hears from Engineer Shmuel Gan-El, BIU Deputy Director General of Construction and Development, about the University’s state-of-the-art labs in the new Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex.

Delegation from Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
3. Prof. Bretislav Dancak, Vice-Dean for International Affairs, and Dr. Petr Suchy, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Studies at Masaryk University – on campus to discuss cooperative ventures such as the exchange of students and professors, international conferences and joint research.

Delegation from China Youth University for Political Sciences and Chinese University of Hong Kong
4. During the Chinese delegation’s visit to Bar-Ilan, a cooperative agreement was approved. Pictured here: Dr. Yossi Harel-Fisch, Principal Investigator in the BIU Churgin School of Education, Prof. Zemira Mevarech, Head of the Churgin School of Education, Associate Vice President Judith Haimoff, Prof. Xinqing Wang, President of the China Youth University, and Prof. Harold Basch.

Visit of University of Montana International Program
5. During their recent campus visit, the delegation explored avenues for future cooperation with BIU officials (from left to right) Mr. Brian Lofink, UM International Liaison for International Programs; Prof. J.B. Alexander (Sandy) Ross, UM Special Assistant to the Associate Provost; Prof. Basch, Dr. Mehrdad Kia, UM Associate Provost for International Programs; and Prof. Amnon Albeck, Chairman of the BIU Department of Chemistry.

Visit of Queen’s University, Canada
6. While at Bar-Ilan, Prof. Daniel R. Woolf, Principal and Vice-Chancellor at Queen’s University in Ontario, met with Prof. Doron Aurbach, the Director of the BIU Nano-Cleantech Center, and also visited the School of Engineering and the Leslie & Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center.

Visit of University of Manitoba, Canada
7. Dr. Digvir Javas, Vice President of Research and Development at the University of Manitoba, hears from Returning Scientist Dr. Orit Shefi, about her Tissue Engineering project and was also later briefed by BIU ecologists, plant scientists and biological oceanography experts.
Delegation from the German Ministry of Education and Research
1. Mr. Thomas Rachel, Parliamentary State Secretary of BMBF (center), and Dr. Jutta Illichmann, German Embassy Science Counselor (fourth from left), on a tour of the Bar-Ilan University campus

Visit of Israeli Minister of Science and Technology Daniel Hershkowitz
2. Rabbi Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz views from up front research advances in the Neurodegenerative Disease Laboratory in the Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center

Visit of the Ambassador of the Netherlands, H. E. Mr. Michiel den Hond
4. The Ambassador hears from BIU MEG Technician Yuval Harpaz about Israel’s first MEG brain scanning machine – housed in the Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center – which is used by hospitals throughout Israel to screen for epilepsy and other brain disorders

Ambassadors’ Forum IV
5. Ambassadors and senior diplomats from nations around the globe convene at Bar-Ilan’s fourth Ambassadors’ Forum, devoted to Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism
6. Former Mossad (Israel Secret Intelligence Service) Director Shabtai Shavit (far right) delivers the keynote address as the other panelists – Dr. Yoaz Hendel of the BESA Center, Dr. Shlomo Shpiro Associate Director of Research of the Center for International Communications (CIC), and Adv. Arie Rotter, Former Director of the Israel Security Agency Legal Advisory Division – take note
Visit of University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
1. Prof. Carola Weil, Associate Dean of Planning and Strategic Initiatives at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism (far right) is welcomed by Prof. Eytan Gilboa, of the BESA Center, and Prof. Harold Basch

Visit of Arizona State University
2. Dr. Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Director of Jewish Studies and Professor of Modern Judaism and History at Arizona State University, met with leading BIU Talmudists and noted Law Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Director of the Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Women and a member of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Bioethics Conference with Columbia University
3. The Center for Bioethics at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine — all of New York — joined Bar-Ilan's Ludwig & Erica Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies and its Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, in examining the complex issue of Bioethics

Bar-Ilan Valencia Binational Workshop
4. Bar-Ilan's Valencia Binational Workshop featured lectures ranging from computer-aided drug design to engineering nanoparticles for diagnostics and treatment and a visit to Bar-Ilan's cutting-edge Nano labs

Delegation from University of Minnesota
5. As part of their global seminar, Science and Technology in the Middle East, 25 students from the University of Minnesota visited Bar-Ilan engineering labs along with their mentor and their university’s Director of Undergraduate Research, Prof. Marvin Marshak

Ramat Gan Municipality and BIU Launch Nanotechnology Program for High Schoolers
6. Thirty-five gifted Ramat Gan high school students are participating in a novel Nanotechnology Program — initiated by BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar — which includes theoretical study and experiments in BIU’s new Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex
Highlights from the 2010 Board of Trustees Meetings

The Bar-Ilan University 2010 Board of Trustees Meetings featured an exciting array of academic and cultural events and festive dedications, along with important plenary and committee sessions, and a moving honorary doctorate ceremony.

During the week, our eminent 2010 honorary doctors enlightened us with lectures and discussions in their specialty fields: nanoscience, business, law, social support services, Israel’s PR challenges, and contemporary Jewish education in Israel and the Diaspora. Two vital initiatives – the Barbara and Fred Kort Doctoral Fellowship Program in the Humanities and the Tager Family Jewish Law Program – were dedicated as were two facilities – the Isidor and Ida Locker Complex and the Louis and Gabi Weisfeld Hall. The dramatic dedication of the magnificent new Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex was celebrated with a stunning multimedia presentation and the unveiling of the Aharon and Rachel Dahan Nanotechnology Invariant Zone and the Dr. Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Floor for Nano-Security Research, as well as the launching of the Nanotechnology Science Fair.

Our pre-plenary, plenary and committee meetings included an in-depth briefing on BIU’s new Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee, and the election of trustees and the new Deputy President, Law Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, who will be overseeing operations in External Relations, the Spokesman’s Office and Global Development. The 2010 Honorary Doctorate Ceremony marking BIU’s 55th Anniversary paid tribute to eleven esteemed individuals who have made seminal contributions in Israel and the global community, in science, law, business, culture, society, and philanthropy.

This year’s Board of Trustees Meetings were further enhanced by “The Spirit of the Galilee” – a full day of activity up north, where we visited key cultural, spiritual and historic landmarks, including the future site of the BIU Faculty of Medicine in Safed. The following week a special tribute event was held in cooperation with Habima Theater, Bar-Ilan University and the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality for 2010 BIU Honorary Doctor Lea Koenig Stolper, in recognition of 50 years on the Israeli stage.

Pre-Board Lecture

1. Rabbi Chananya Chollak, founding director of Ezer Mizion, the Health Support Organization, and BIU 2010 Honorary Doctor, addresses students of the Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work on “Dealing with the Family in Times of Need”

Post-Board Program

2. BIU Honorary Doctor Justice Prof. Aharon Barak lectures to Bar-Ilan Law students on “A Jewish and Democratic State” in the Benjamin Kaufman Moot Court

Post-Board Tribute Event in cooperation with Habima Theater, Bar-Ilan University and the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality honoring Lea Koenig Stolper in recognition of 50 years on the Israeli stage and for receiving a 2010 BIU Honorary Doctorate

3. BIU Honorary Doctor Lea Koenig Stolper takes center stage with fellow Habima actors
Board Program

1. “Education in Israel and the Diaspora”: a discussion engaging BIU 2010 Honorary Doctor Alvin T. Levitt, President of the Jim Joseph Foundation, at the new Jim Joseph Education Building

2. A discussion with Reshit students in the Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies in honor of BIU 2010 Honorary Doctor Norman Sternthal

3. Lecture by Prof. Robert Curl, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry and BIU 2010 Honorary Doctor, to faculty and students in the Exact and Life Sciences, on “Nanoscale Science and Technology of Carbon”

4. Lecture by BIU 2010 Honorary Doctor Romie Tager QC, to Law students on “Open Justice: Where There is No Publicity There is No Justice”

Pre-Plenary Session

5. Board members are updated on BIU’s new Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee by its Dean-designate Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa and BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh
Plenary Sessions

1. Dr. Mordecai D. Katz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, conferring with Norman Sternthal

2. Shortly after her election, the new Deputy President, Law Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, poses with BIU Director General Haim Glick and the Deputy Director General of Construction and Development, Shmuel Gan-El

3. Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa (far right) with Faculty Establishment Team member, Life Sciences Prof. Haim Breitbart; Vera Muravitz, Executive Director UK and Australasia Operations; Jane Stern Lebell and Don Lebell

4. BOT member and Venezuela’s Chief Rabbi Pynchas Brener with Prof. Izak Yohai, Member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Iberoamerican Desk

5. An active physics presence: Rector-designate, Prof. Haim Taitelbaum and Prof. Moshe Kaveh
Dedication of the Barbara and Fred Kort Doctoral Fellowships Program in the Humanities

1. Barbara Kort (center) flanked by her Doctoral Fellowships of Excellence students and Mordechai (Motty) Mishan, Chief of Staff & Senior Advisor to the President (far right)

2. Barbara Kort, Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Dorit Kaveh enjoy the festive dedication luncheon

3. Kort Friendship Mission visits Bar-Ilan University

4. Barbara Kort, Prof. Moshe Kaveh and members of the Kort Friendship Mission participate in a sign language class in the Fred and Barbara Kort Language Studies Building

5. H.E. Zhao Jun, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, presents a book to Barbara Kort at the reception which he hosted at his home in her honor
Dedication of the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex

1. Campus Rabbi Shlomo Shefer (center) and Michael Gonda, grandson of Leslie and the late Susan Gonda, prepare to affix the mezuzah at the main entrance of the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex, as Shmuel Gan-El looks on.

2. The Unveiling of The Aharon and Rachel Dahan Nanotechnology Invariant Zone

3. The Unveiling of the Dr. Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Floor for Nano-Security Research

4. Unveiling of the Benefactors Plaque, in the presence of (from right to left) David and Susan Gradel, Gary Fetter, Don and Jane Stern Lebell, and Jacob Shachar.

5. Returning Scientist Dr. David Zitoun (right) makes presentation to Jacob Shachar.

6. Ceremonial Cutting of the Ribbon by Michael Gonda with the help of Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh.
2010 Board of Trustees May 9-12

7. Multimedia Presentation showcasing the magnificent new home of Bar-Ilan’s Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA)

8. Highlighting BINA’s vital role in drawing talented returning scientists from prominent universities around the globe

9. From energy storage to reducing bacteria, BINA showcases promising innovations

10. Hezi Bezalel hears from Dr. Doron Gerber about novel devices that may provide new insights into how viruses hijack the machinery of the host cells

11. Dr. Avi Pe’er shows Conrad Morris an experimental system for the precise stabilization of a laser’s frequency

12. Michael Gonda tests a unique method for monitoring a patient’s heart beat with the help of Yevgeny Beiderman
2010 Board of Trustees May 9-12

Dedication of Facilities

1. Isidor and Ida Locker Complex
   Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Jehudi Kinar, Executive Director of the European Desk, Dr. David Jeselsohn, Chairman, European Friends

2. Louis and Gabi Weisfeld Hall
   Gabi Weisfeld, Chairman of the Canadian Friends (right) with Dr. Mordecai D. Katz and Mordechai (Motty) Mishan

Dedication of the Tager Family Jewish Law Program

3. Israeli Justice Minister Yaakov Neeman addresses the gathering

4. Romie Tager (fourth from left) congratulates a Tager Award recipient
1. Dr. Sharon Gannot (left) hosts Cherna Moskowitz, of Florida, at his signal processing laboratory in the School of Engineering. Also participating on the tour is Lorry Rubenstein and Laurie Hirsch, Jayne Kaplan, Executive Director of the Southeast Region of AFBIU, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh

2. Michael Gonda (third from left) is updated on the developments in Alzheimer’s research by Dr. Ed Stern, of the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center. Seen also are Henia Gal, Administrative Director of the Center, and Ron Solomon, Executive Director of the West Coast Friends of Bar-Ilan

3. Rabbi Mitchell Wohlberg (center) gives personal greetings on behalf of Aharon Dahan to the Aharon and Rachel Dahan Family Scholarship recipients

4. Gila Slonim, Coordinator of North American Operations; Gillian Sinclair, Director of Programs and Operations of the Canadian Friends; Gabi Weisfeld, Dov Altman, Executive VP of the Canadian Friends; and Dr. Merav Galili, Acting Director of Global Resource Development Operations

5. Gabi Weisfeld sings with Bar-Ilan tots enrolled in the Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre

6. Gabi Weisfeld hosts a luncheon for the scholarship students whom she sponsors
2010 Board of Trustees May 9-12

Festive Dinner for Trustees and Honorees

1. Prof. Ada Yonath, Prof. Joseph Menis, Rector, Dr. Mordecai D. Katz and Prof. Joshua Rosensweig, Chairman of the Executive Committee, at the special presentation given to each BIU Honorary Doctor at the Dinner

2. Campus Rabbi Shlomo Shefer with 2010 BIU Honorary Doctor Chananya Chollak

3. BIU 2010 Honorary Doctor Lea Koenig Stolper with BIU 2009 Honorary Doctor Miriam Zohar and BIU 1999 Honorary Doctor Dina Berniker

4. Elka and Justice Prof. Aharon Barak, Dalia and Eli Hurvitz, Justice Minister Yaakov Neeman

Convocation Ceremony Marking BIU’s 55th Anniversary

5. Academic Procession of Bar-Ilan University’s 2010 Honorary Doctors

6. Prof. Moshe Kaveh at the podium delivering his keynote address
1. Justice Prof. Aharon Barak with Prof. Kaveh, Sanford Colb, Prof. Emeritus Aharon Enker, Founding Dean of the Faculty of Law, and Prof. Moshe Abeles, Director of the Gonda Brain Research Center at BIU.

2. Rabbi Dr. Chananya Chollak with Prof. Kaveh, Prof. Joseph Menis, Shlomo Mandelbaum, member of the BIU Executive Council, and Rabbi Shabtai Rappaport, Head of the Ludwig and Erica Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies Beit Midrash.

3. Nobel Prize Laureate Prof. Robert F. Curl with Prof. Kaveh, Prof. Benjamin Ehrenberg, of the Faculty of Exact Sciences, and Prof. Shmaryahu Hoz, Senior Advisor to the University President.

4. Eli Hurvitz with his grandson, Lior Shalev (right), Prof. Moshe Kaveh and David Fuhrer, Chairman of the Israel Friends.

5. Lea Koenig Stolper with Barbara Kort, Dina Berniker and Ronnie Benin-Barr.

6. Alvin T. Levitt with Prof. Zemira Mevarech, Head of the Churgin School of Education, and Jack Slomovic.
1. Dr. Cherna Moskowitz with Dr. Mordecai D. Katz, Jane Stern Lebell and Prof. Harold Basch

2. Dr. Norman Sternthal with Prof. Kaveh, Gabi Weisfeld, Prof. Meir Wilchek and Rabbi Prof. Daniel Sperber, President of the Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies

3. Dr. Romie Tager with Prof. Kaveh, Prof. Arie Reich, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Esther Tager and David Gradel

4. Nobel Prize Laureate Ada Yonath with Prof. Kaveh, Alan Zekelman, Prof. Shula Michaeli, and Arnon Katz

5. Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau congratulates BIU Honorary Doctors Levitt and Chollak

6. Israel Army Radio interviews Dr. Lea Koenig Stolper
Visit to the Future Site of the Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Medicine in Safed

1. Safed Mayor Ilan Shochat; Dr. Shabtai Lubel, Senior VP of Planning & Development; Prof. Joseph Menis; Prof. Harold Basch, VP for Research; and Dr. Mordecai D. Katz look on while Prof. Moshe Kaveh reads a special declaration marking the historic moment.

2. Posing on the site of the future Faculty of Medicine.

3. Ancient Alleyways and Synagogues: Touring Historic Safed with the Mayor.

4. A veteran Safed resident (second from right) shares anecdotes and stories with Drs. Mordecai D. and Monique C. Katz, and Judith Haimoff, Associate Vice President.

5. Dining and dancing at the ancient “Red Mosque” in Safed.
SOUTHEAST REGION

Cocktail Reception hosted by longstanding Bar-Ilan friend Maria Finkle

1. Maria Finkle, (seated) with Dorit and Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President

2. Michael and Edith Gelfand with Prof. Moshe Kaveh

Southeast Region event supports Rackman Center

3. Jana Falic, far left, hosted an event on behalf of Bar-Ilan University’s Ruth & Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Women. Joining her at the event were, Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Director of the Rackman Center, and event co-chairs Mojdeh Daniel and Evelyn Katz

4. Ronalee Galbut together with Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari
NEW YORK REGION

American Friends of Bar-Ilan University (AFBIU) Westchester outreach event features Rabbi Prof. Daniel Sperber

1. Rabbi Prof. Daniel Sperber, President of the Ludwig and Erica Jesselson Institute of Advanced Torah Studies, with event hosts Vivian and Gerald Adler

2. Rabbi Prof. Sperber addressing the audience. Among those in attendance were Steven and Caron Gelles seen in the front row

A Literary Evening was held at Random House Tower in New York City in memory of Dr. Shaindy Rudoff. The event was attended by over 200 people and was sponsored by the Rudoff Family and The Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing at BIU in cooperation with AFBIU

3. Carolyn Hessel of the National Jewish Book Council and Hedda Rudoff

4. Suri Rudoff Sugarman and Sheldon Rudoff

5. The event’s guest speaker Rebecca Newberger Goldstein signing her recently acclaimed book 36 Arguments for the Existence of God for Sara Olshin
CAMPUS VISITS

1. David Schaecter, of Florida, is seen with Prof. Dan Michman, Chair of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research at BIU, near the remnants of a Sefer Torah that was rescued from the Holocaust

2. Dr. Yanay Ofra hosts Eric Matheson, of Florida, in the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex

3. Aviva Apel, of Florida, meets with Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA)

4. Sharon Evans, Director, North American Operations (NAO), and Judy Bloom are shown recent archaeological discoveries by Dr. Amit Dagan of the Biblical Archaeology Institute
5. Roger and Paula Seid, of Cleveland, (front left and back center) are introduced by Gila Slonim, Coordinator NAD, to Amital Reisal (front right), the MA student whom they sponsored and her husband Aminadav, standing behind her.

6. The Young Israel of Oceanside Mission visits the Bar-Ilan campus and is briefed by Dr. Ed Stern, of the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center.

7. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Kenneth and Nira Abramowitz of NY are hosted by Dr. Orit Shefi (2nd from right), of the School of Engineering.

8. Frank Beda, of NY, together with Gila Slonim on his recent visit to Bar-Ilan University.
Dedication of the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies Office Suites

1. Yekutiel and Yedidya Koschitzky, together with Prof. Moshe Kaveh, unveil the dedicatory plaque at the new BESA suites in the absence of their grandparents, benefactors Saul and Mira Koschitzky.

2. Dr. Thomas O. Hecht, founder of the BESA Center, together with his wife, Riva, and Prof. Efraim Inbar, Director of the BESA Center, proudly cut the ribbon at the entrance to the new BESA office suites.

3. Mr. Muzi Wertheim, founding member of the BESA International Board, affixes the Mezuzah at the front door.

Campus visits

4. Mr. Kurt Rothschild and Mr. Jules Samson (front) meet with students from the Norman and Johanne Sternthal Reshit Torah Program at the Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies. Back: Gila Slonim, Coordinator North American Operations (NAO), Reshit students, Rabbi Dr. Yitzhak Krauss, Director of the Midrasha for Women, Sharon Evans, Director, NAO (front).

Canadian Outreach

5. Mrs. Chava Kwinta hosted a luncheon in Florida for Canadian Snowbirds and welcomed Prof. Moshe Kaveh as the guest speaker.
1. Presidents of German Welfare Organizations headed by Benny Bloch, Director General of the Jewish Welfare Organization, visiting the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center

2. Prof. Uri Nir, Dean of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, lecturing at the Ceremony of the Leon and Maria Taubenblatt Prize for Excellence, which was awarded to him

3. Jehudi Kinar, Director of the European Desk, hosting Yvette Blaiberg from Belgium


5. APAC Cantorial Concert at the UNESCO House in Paris in cooperation with BIU. Pictured: Jehudi Kinar, Daniel Sandler (APAC), Adv. Karine Elharrar, Yael David Touati, and Nimrod Barkan, Israel’s Ambassador at the UNESCO
Business Forum with Guest Speaker Tzipi Livni, Leader of the Opposition in the Knesset and Faculty of Law Alumna

1. Tzipi Livni speaking at the Business Forum

2. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President, with Tzipi Livni and Adv. David Fuhrer, Chairman of the Israel Friends of BIU

3. Prof. Arie Reich, Dean of the BIU Faculty of Law, Adv. Ruth Preminger, a lobbyist in the Knesset, and Adv. Bosmat Carmon, Director of the Israel Desk

4. Adv. David Fuhrer, Michal Fuhrer, Henri Zimand, Chairman and President of Anda's Spirit, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh

5. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Henri Zimand, Rafi Sela, business development consultant, and Prof. Zeev Zalevsky of the BIU School of Engineering
The Law Faculty Celebrates 40 Years

Bar-Ilan celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the Faculty of Law at a Business Forum Breakfast. 100 attorneys representing Israel’s leading law firms attended the event at which the President of the Supreme Court, Dorit Beinisch, delivered the keynote address. This event, the second in a series, marked the beginning of a new era of joint association between the Faculty of Law and the Israeli legal community.

1. Standing: Haim Glick, BIU Director General, Prof. Joseph Menis, Rector, and Prof. Arie Reich, Dean of the Faculty of Law. Seated: Prof. Yedidia Stern, of the Faculty of Law, Dorit Beinisch, and Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, Deputy President


4. Dorit Beinisch addressing the audience

5. Prof. Arie Reich at the podium
1. Prof. Moshe Kaveh greets Moshe Horev, CEO of Oracle, Israel, during his visit to campus

2. Scholarship student recipients and guests at the Pollak Scholarship Awards ceremony at BIU. Seated: Moshe Sanbar, past Governor of the Bank of Israel and Michelle Pollak, representing the Israel Pollak Foundation

3. Amit Dagan, PhD student in Biblical Archaeology and Adv. Bosmat Carmon greet Arik Carasso of Carasso Group, during a campus visit

4. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Adv. Karin Elharrar, Director of Clinical Education in the Faculty of Law, Sam Topaz, and Adv. Bosmat Carmon during Mr. Topaz’s visit to BIU

5. Scholarship student recipients and guests at the Pelephone Scholarship Awards ceremony at BIU. Standing to the left of the sign: Dan Zur, VP Human Resources, Pelephone
1. Prof. Harold Basch, BIU VP for Research; Avi Aroch, CEO of Universal Motors Israel (UMI); Prof. Moshe Kaveh, and David Eini, Chairman of UMI, during a visit to BIU

2. Adv. Bosmat Carmon; Yehoshua Salti, Founder of the Salti Foundation, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh, at the BIU ceremony marking the enlargement of the Salti Center for Ladino Studies and its goal to spread the heritage of the Ladino language and tradition

3. Yehoshua Salti, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Prof. Shmuel Refael, Director, Salti Center for Ladino Studies, and Prof. Eliezer Tauber, Dean of the Faculty of Jewish Studies

4. Gad Propper, CEO of Osem International, and Dr. Yuval Garini, a returning scientist at the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex at BIU

5. Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of BINA and the Nano Energy Center; Prof. Chaim Sukenik, Director of the Nano Materials Center; Prof. Moshe Kaveh; Dr. Doron Gerber, returning scientist; Galia Maor, President and CEO of Bank Leumi, and Tamar Yassur, Director of the Marketing Division at Bank Leumi, during a visit to the Gonda Nanotechnology Triplex
1. Eyal Ofer and Eli Elroy visit with BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh at Bar-Ilan University

2. Mick Davis on a visit to campus, with Prof. Haim Breitbart, of the Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh

3. The proud recipients of the Katz Family Scholarships for Research Advancement celebrate in the Wengrowsky Visitors Center and Observatory. Pictured: Dr. Ehud Benin, Dr. Orit Shefi, Prof. Ruth Feldman, Ilana Katz, Arnon Katz, Chairman of the British Friends, and Dr. Tamar Juven-Gershon

4. Jeffrey Cohen, representative of the Pacey Trust, ponders ancient biblical history through shards from the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project with Prof. Aren Maeir in the Archaeology lab

5. Miguel Abadi attended the alumni reunion for the Religious-Secular Dialogue Program, pictured with Daniela and Maya Bachrach

6. Hezi Bezalel learns how big Nano can really be at the Nanotechnology Fair. Shlomo Rechtschaffen, looks over Hezi Bezalel’s shoulder at demonstrations by returning scientist Dr. Amos Sharoni

7. British Friends of BIU celebrated the “First Cup Before Pesach” party aboard Richard and Philippa Mintz’s yacht in the Herzliya Marina, with Shlomo Rechtschaffen, Executive Director, British Friends, Vera Muravitz, Executive Director of UK & Australasia Operations, Richard Mintz and Dr. Merav Galili, Acting Director of Global Resource Development. Ahoy, Bar-Ilan!!
1. Wendy and Raymond Ackerman, of South Africa, (second and third from left) visited BIU and lectured to the International MBA Graduate School of Business Administration students. Among the enthralled audience were also (from left) Prof. Beni Lauterbach, Head of the School of Business Administration, Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, Deputy President, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President

2. Dr. Wally Cox (extreme right) & David Lantzke (second from right), representatives of Harry Hoffman, OAM, discover the wonders of BIU’s archaeology lab with Amit Dagan (extreme left), BIU doctoral student, Vera Muravitz, Executive Director of UK & Australasia Operations, and Prof. Moshe Kaveh

3. Robert and Ruth Epstein on a recent campus visit

4. Minister of Science and Technology, Rabbi Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz addresses a delegation from Monash and La Trobe Universities who visited BIU and met with some of our top research scientists

5. Greg Rosshandler (second from right) visits the Begin Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies with (from left) Dr. Eytan Gilboa, Senior Research Associate at the BESA Center and Director of Center for International Communication at BIU, Vera Muravitz and Prof. Efraim Inbar, Director of the BESA Center for Strategic Studies

6. Vera Muravitz shows the BIU campus to Phillip Saddik

7. Andrea Faulkner, Australian Ambassador to Israel (second row, center); Louise Hitchcock, Senior Lecturer in Greek Pre-History at the University of Melbourne; and Prof. Aren Maeir, of the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, surrounded by students from the University of Melbourne, at the Tell es-Safi/Gath archaeological dig

(Photographer: Richard Wiskin)
José María Aznar, former Prime Minister of Spain, was honored at a dinner hosted by the Argentine Friends of Bar-Ilan University, at the residence of Kuky and Sergio Grosskopf.

1. José María Aznar with part of the Grosskopf family, together with Yossef Bar-Magen, Director of the Iberoamerican Desk.

2. José María Aznar, his son and guests attending the dinner hosted by Kuky and Sergio Grosskopf.


4. José María Aznar and Sergio Grosskopf.

5. Sergio Grosskopf receiving the Certificate of the Rambam Prize from José María Aznar and Yossef Bar-Magen.

6. José María Aznar and Sergio Grosskopf holding the Rambam Prize, with Yossef Bar-Magen.
Prof. Chaim Milikowsky, Incumbent of the Zoltan and Lya Gaspar Chair in Talmud and Prof. Izak Yohai (far right) congratulate Moshe David Adler upon receiving the Gaspar Scholarship.

Recipients of the Samuel Cula Rosenblat and Laura Buller de Cula Keren Chai Scholarship, gather together with Prof. Izak Yohai, Member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Iberoamerican Desk, representing the family (seated, center), and Shalom Almagor, Assistant Campus Rabbi, at the BIU ceremony.

Prof. Chaim Milikowsky, Incumbent of the Zoltan and Lya Gaspar Chair in Talmud and Prof. Izak Yohai (far right) congratulate Moshe David Adler upon receiving the Gaspar Scholarship.
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