Bar-Ilan Goes Global!
Focusing on BIU’s International Programs, Research Agreements, and Academic Collaborations

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Dear Friends,

We inhabit an ever-shrinking world. Today, thanks to astonishing advances in communication technology, scientists based in one part of the globe are increasingly collaborating with their peers who are situated half-way around the world – in real time! At the same time, researchers are sharing their work with each other at conferences and as visiting or guest professors at far-away institutions of higher-learning.

Bar-Ilan has reaped the benefits of this trend – by sending faculty and students to represent the University abroad, hosting a plethora of international programs and conferences on campus, and engaging in cutting-edge joint-research projects and inter-university agreements. The articles in this issue of BIU Today all focus on the University's global collaborations, programs, and impact, such as the internationally-acclaimed work of a world-class Bar-Ilan musician, the review of a worldwide top-ranking book on altruism, the illumination of Poland's Jewish past, legal ethics, educational research, and a 6-page spread on Bar-Ilan's connections with the Far East.

The dramatic increase in scientific research at BIU is highlighted in an interview with the VP for Research & Development, followed by articles on new technology in nano-optics, cognitive radio research, nano-inventions – such as an antibacterial coating for hospital fabrics, cancer research, and drug testing of psychiatric medications. Our new Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee is gearing up to open in the Fall with returning Israeli faculty and Israeli students from abroad, while Bar-Ilan students proudly represent the University abroad. Finally, we are happy to report that BIU's one-year “Israel Experience” Program is bringing North American students to our campus for an unforgettable experience.

Sincerely,

Prof. Moshe Kaveh
President
"My aim is to use traditional, ethnic music materials in the compositional processes, thus doing my part to participate in the essence of oral tradition."

The next time you listen to a classical music piece by Israeli composer and Bar-Ilan Prof. of Music Betty Olivero, you might detect an "echo" of Jewish tradition – maybe a little Klezmer or a cantor performing snippets of Kol Nidre. That’s because Olivero, whose compositions are performed all over the world, specializes in integrating Jewish music into her work. Through it, she creates a powerful symphonic "mash-up."

Borrowing a term from modern-day Internet parlance is not entirely out of place. Olivero has made a name for herself in the art of "transcribing" sounds from outside the concert hall into rich new musical creations.

An example: Olivero created a piece based on the synagogue experience. The rich voice of the cantor became the basis for a bass clarinet solo, while the background murmur of the congregation was transformed into the full orchestra. No, the actual cantor and crowd did not appear in the performance itself, but it was the "image" Olivero says she had in her mind when composing.

"My aim," Olivero says, "is to use traditional, ethnic music materials in the compositional processes, thus doing my part to participate in the essence of oral tradition." Indeed, by applying Western contemporary techniques, timeless Jewish melodies assume new forms in different contexts.

An even starker case study illustrates the point. Early in her career, Olivero was part of a team led by her mentor Luciano Berio to re-imagine the work of the Renaissance era composer Claudio Monteverdi.

"Monteverdi wrote his music for the masses. He would perform it in courtyards where people could come in from the street," Olivero explains.

"Where are those audiences today? They are listening to pop music."

Olivero set about to transcribe Monteverdi’s music to a present-day context as a way of making the music “more authentic, closer to its origin,” she says. The resulting composition is nearer to a rock concert in its orientation, with sections of the orchestra using modern folk instruments – mandolins and even accordions – far different from those used by Monteverdi’s courtyard players.

Olivero and Berio collaborated together for 18 years, during which time the Israel-born Olivero lived in Florence, Italy, “originally met him when I participated in an international workshop at the Tanglewood (Massachusetts) music festival,” she explains. She was one of only 10 composers selected to “have the privilege to study three months with him.” She was about to head west to complete her doctorate at the University of California at San Diego when Berio invited her to join him in Italy.

It was during her long sojourn in Europe that she met her husband, a double bass player. Their children were born in Italy, but Olivero missed Israel. So when Bar-Ilan called in 2000 to offer her a position, Olivero jumped at the opportunity. She started teaching in 2002.

Perhaps Olivero’s most fascinating project was composing the music for Der Golem, a classic silent movie made in Germany in the 1920s based on the classic Jewish legend. By chance during a trip to Munich, she met both the curator of the city’s national silent film museum and Israeli virtuoso clarinetist Giora Friedman. Their collaboration resulted in a performance for clarinet and string quartet played along with a newly restored version of the movie during the Vienna Silent Film Festival.

Olivero’s latest commission, from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is expected to be performed in 2012. It will also have a Jewish element, “but in a more metaphoric way,” she says, modestly declining to say more, then adding, “I haven’t finished it yet!”

Her most recent work – for saxophone and symphony – was performed in October 2010 at the Jerusalem Theater. Somewhere in the midst of all of her creative output, she still finds time to teach graduate composition workshops. Among her most notable students are jazz fusion composer and ordained rabbi Uri Brenner; pianist Anat Fort; Menachem Weisenberg, who lectures at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem; and jazz composer Shai Cohen.

Now, that’s a musical arrangement Bar-Ilan University can take note of. 
Ever since he posited the Theory of Evolution, Charles Darwin was plagued by a seemingly irresolvable contradiction: if survival of the fittest governs natural selection, how do we account for altruism? That is, why do some creatures do exactly the opposite of what one would expect, sacrificing their own lives for others instead of looking out for themselves?

Bar-Ilan Senior Lecturer and Chair of the Graduate Program in Science, Technology and Society Dr. Oren Harman tackles that subject in his new book *The Price of Altruism*. The topic has piqued critical global acclaim: *The New York Times* ranked the book among its top 100 books of 2010, one of only five science books to be chosen.

Harman addresses the paradoxical subject by starting with a story – that of George Price, a brilliant and, by all accounts, eccentric researcher who found himself repeatedly at the forefront of history, reinventing himself every few years.

"Price was a cross between a Forest Gump character and a Rain Man figure," Harman says. He was a member of the Manhattan Project that developed the first nuclear bomb, did pioneering research on detecting cancerous tumors, and joined IBM in the 1960s where he invented computer-aided design (CAD).

In 1967, Price became interested in Darwin’s questions and, with no training in genetics, wrote a complex formula that helped to understand the evolution of altruism from a mathematical point of view. He waltzed into the office of Cedric Smith at University College London with his work, and literally within a few minutes was granted an honorary professorship and an office in one of the most prestigious genetics labs in the world.

Price’s formula suggested to him that altruism might be a biological inheritance, one that amounted to no more than a form of self-interest in disguise. Could it be that human acts of kindness are never truly pure, that man always, even if subconsciously, is benefitting himself by being good to others? This deeply plagued Price who felt that he couldn’t live in the very world he had mathematically described.

Price embarked on a program of “radical altruism” where he began giving away everything he owned to those less fortunate than him. He wound up living penniless, homeless, hungry and delusional in a decrepit London squat before eventually taking his own life in 1975.

Harman’s book is, of course, about more than Price himself. It covers the entire 150-year history of intellectual attempts to crack the mystery of altruism, showing how researchers from different fields debated and fought over the roots of kindness.

Author Harman is a bit of a Renaissance man himself. Unlike Price, though, his academic path has been much rosier. Born in Jerusalem, he majored in biology, history and music at Hebrew University, and received his doctorate with distinction from Oxford before spending a couple of years teaching at the History of Science Department at Harvard.


Harman is a frequent contributor to *The New Republic*, and the co-creator of the Israeli Oscar-nominated documentary series “Did Herzl Really Say That?” His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Nature*, *Science*, *The Economist*, *Forbes*, *Discover*, *The Huffington Post*, and many others. He also edited a collection called *Rebels, Mavericks and Heretics in Biology*, which included 20 of the best brains in the scientific community from around the world. It was published by Yale Press.

*The Price of Altruism* is selling well and is being translated into Korean, Japanese, and Hebrew, among other languages. With an LA Times Book Prize, a Pulitzer Prize nomination and prospects for a Hollywood film, the paperback version, due this summer, may very well hit the bestseller list.

But for the 50 or so Bar-Ilan graduate students who take his courses, which include such enjoyable and engrossing topics as “the history and philosophy of the life sciences” and “Reading Darwin in the 21st Century,” Harman is already a bestseller.

*The New York Times* ranked *The Price of Altruism* among its top 100 books of 2010, one of only five science books to be chosen.
For over three decades, BIU Jewish History Prof. Moshe Rosman has frequented Eastern European archives in his quest for old records and documents that shed light on Jewish life in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1569-1795). In fact, in 1978, when Communism still reigned, the US-born Rosman – then a PhD student at the Jewish Theological Seminary – made history. As a combined Fulbright and IREX fellow, he became the first Jewish scholar focused on a Jewish topic to be admitted into Poland after World War II. He recalls donning a coat and gloves inside the unheated archives and that microfilm had to be obtained on the black market. The following year, he settled in Israel and joined the Bar-Ilan faculty.

Today, a member of BIU’s Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History, Prof. Rosman has gained wide acclaim for his scholarly works which integrate Jewish, Polish and other sources. In addition to his primary focus on Polish Jews, he also researches Hasidism, women’s history and Jewish historiography. His first book, The Lords’ Jews, which “articulated the relationship between the Jews and the Polish high nobility, demonstrated the necessity of using Polish archival sources when researching Jewish history.” The book, he says, “showed that the history of Jews in Poland was not merely about anti-Semitism and victimization – the relationship was a marriage of convenience.”

Founder of Hasidism: A Quest for the Historical Ba’al Shem Tov (Besht) “was sparked by my discovery of Polish records which prove that the Besht really did exist and that he was supported by the community,” relates Rosman. Opining that the Besht “probably saw himself as more of a continuator than an innovator in Jewish tradition,” he notes “my archival work has allowed me to take a more critical view of the Jewish sources.” This work won the 1996 National Jewish Book Award. In 2009, Rosman received his second National Jewish Book Award for Rethinking European Jewish History, co-edited with Tel Aviv University’s Prof. Jeremy Cohen, which looks at the Jewish past in light of major cultural, ideological and social changes.

His most recent work, How Jewish is Jewish History? – winner of the prestigious 2010 Jordan Schnitzer Award – is the first book in Jewish Studies to seriously confront the challenges that post-modernism poses to historical writing.

Rosman – who is affiliated with BIU’s Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for the Study of Women in Judaism – is now authoring a book on the history of Jewish women in Poland. His writings demonstrate that “It is possible to incorporate the lives of women into the Jewish historical narrative.”

An Israeli delegate to the 2010 Quadrennial International Congress of Historical Societies in Amsterdam, Rosman spoke on the history of the synagogue’s women’s section.

During his 2010 sabbatical, he spent a course on Polish Jewish history (most of his 25 students were Gentiles). He also spoke at the city’s rededicated, historic White Stork Synagogue. As a guest of Germany’s Leipzig University, he joined a research group exploring the history of legal arrangements for coexistence in multi-ethnic societies in Europe.

Rosman has consulted for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, now under construction on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto. Along with colleagues from the University of Wroclaw and University College London, he is editing a collection of studies on Hasidism. With scholars from Europe, the US and Israel, he is preparing a multivolume history of Hasidism. Prof. Rosman has closely observed and, in some ways, participated in the revival of Jewish studies in Poland. “During Communist times young intellectuals would remark to me that there were signs of past Jewish life all over the country – yet they knew nothing about it. Today there are several Jewish studies programs in Polish universities and the vast majority of enrollees are Gentiles,” he relates, noting that “Jewish history in Poland is now viewed as an integral part of Polish history.”

Two of Prof. Rosman’s works have already been translated into Polish and one has even won a Polish award. Says the esteemed Bar-Ilan historian: “The fact that universities both in Europe and the US invite me to teach and that my work has been translated and published abroad is a sign that my scholarship has resonance for the larger Jewish and non-Jewish world.”
Let’s say you’re a painter and you have to choose which type of paint to use on a big job. What will motivate you to use a higher quality paint – a strict contract but a working environment where the chance of enforcement is only 50/50, or an ambiguous contract where enforcement is more likely?

That’s the kind of conundrum Yuval Feldman, a Professor in the Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Law, thinks about daily as part of his specialty looking at the intersection between psychology, behavioral economics and law.

Prof. Feldman is superbly qualified to look at these kinds of ethical puzzles: he has degrees in psychology, jurisprudence and social policy from the University of California at Berkeley, and he wrote his doctoral dissertation on how Silicon Valley employees rationalize divulging trade secrets (and how this is actually good for the California culture of innovation).

Feldman grew up in Israel, received his undergraduate, law and psychology degrees at Bar-Ilan, and returned from abroad to join the University as a faculty member after receiving his PhD in 2004. He is widely published and has received numerous awards and competitive research grants from the European Union, the Israel Science Foundation, the Fullbright Program and the Rothschild Foundation. His work – which includes collaborations with Hebrew University professor Dr. Doron Teichman and Tom Tyler, a psychologist at New York University – has been presented at conferences in Montreal as well as at Cornell and Yale Universities.

In the case of the painter, Feldman reports in his research, which was conducted together with Teichman, the answer depends on whether the painter cares more about money... or morality. Cynics might assume that service providers will try to cut corners at any cost. And from a purely financial perspective, they would be right.

If the contract is strict but the client might not notice, the painter will tend to size up the cost of possible damages versus the savings that could be realized with shoddier materials. If the lower priced paint saves $500, and a potential fine would be less than that, the painter will probably choose the cheaper supplies from the get-go.

Most people, however, are motivated more by their own sense of personal integrity than financial turpitude, Feldman’s research surprisingly reports. So even if enforcement is dicey, a more moral painter will actually disregard the financial considerations and use the better paint to feel good about himself and the service he provides.

Feldman’s collaboration with Tyler looked at a situation similar to his work with crafty painters. Here, they investigated whether employee satisfaction increased or decreased when the state got involved.

Specifically, Feldman and Tyler tested employees’ feelings and perceptions towards the annual review process with the potential to ask for a raise: did they relate more positively when the review was mandated by the government, or when it was a voluntary “feel good” policy advocated, but not required, by law?

Their once-again somewhat surprising conclusion: employees actually want government to step in. As Feldman puts it, “There are some areas where you don’t want someone to do you a favor, like giving you a raise. You like it more when the person is obliged to do it.”

Feldman doesn’t expect any immediate changes to the way governments pass new regulations. The research so far has involved what Feldman calls “vignette studies,” rather than measuring actual behavior. “People are self-reporting,” he says.

More field research will be required to make a stronger case for policy change. That’s something Feldman looks forward to pursuing, with Bar-Ilan behind him all the way.
Speaking with Dr. Zehavit Gross is a breathtaking endeavor. A senior lecturer and the head of the Graduate Program of Management and Development of Informal Educational Systems in Bar-Ilan’s Pinkhos Churgin School of Education, Gross is juggling three international research projects, the writing of a new book, chairing a major conference on Jewish education, and her daughter’s bat mitzvah, all at once.

Somehow she manages to make it look easy. But the subjects she tackles are anything but. Her areas of research include the clash between tradition and modernity in societies undergoing rapid secularization; the organizational structures of Jewish day schools in France and Australia; a comparison of Orthodox women and their relationship to feminism in Israel and Canada; and the religious practices, values and worldviews among Israeli adolescents. And that’s on a slow day.

Many of the hundreds of papers she has published in her long career at Bar-Ilan have provocative titles – "Certainty within an Uncertain World," "War and Spirituality as Contradictory and Complementary Forces," and "Facilitating a Moral Journey in a University Setting for Managing an Age-Old Conflict in the Abrahamic Holy Land."

Gross is also heavily invested in Holocaust research. She is collaborating with Prof. Doyle Stevick of the University of South Carolina on the first ever UNESCO-sponsored initiative on worldwide Holocaust education among non-Jewish adolescents. They have already published two volumes, which will be translated into five languages - English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese and French. Gross is proud to be representing Israel in a UN forum that has too often been a platform for Holocaust denial.

Perhaps her main area of interest is the lack of frameworks for young people to express their religious identities, a subject Gross has been interested in since she wrote her master’s degree thesis on "Jewish Education in Secular Kibbutzim." That thesis was later published as a book by Tel Aviv University. Her PhD, for which she graduated summa cum laude, continued the theme where she attempts to develop a "typology of religiosity and secularism among secular high schools in Israel" that would create the types of expanded categories she advocates in her research.

Her research into Jewish education has taken her far out of Israel. In France, she has been investigating how Jewish day schools are structured and what that says about the rise of fundamentalism; she was asked to replicate that research in Australia (where she is collaborating with Prof. Suzanne Rutland from the University of Sydney), New Zealand and now Hong Kong. Her initial research won her a Frankfurter Prize in 2002, the IHRI Award in 2009, and the 2010 Tel Aviv University Nadav Award. For her work in Australia, she is receiving funding from the Pratt Foundation. She was nominated Honorary Research Associate for the years 2010–2013 by the University of Sydney (NSW), as well.

Gross has also branched out to look at non-Jewish adolescents in Europe as part of a study on 10,000 young people in ten countries (Germany, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, England, Turkey, Croatia, and Israel) on "religiosity, worldviews and values." The project is sponsored by the German Academy for Science.

Never content to stay in one place, Gross just signed a contract to write a book entitled Gender, Religion and Education together with Prof. Lynn Davies of the University of Birmingham.

Gross is also proud that, as an Israeli religious woman, she has been able to achieve so much. "To lead an international career in my circles was not acceptable," she says. She calls what’s happening now in the religious world nothing less than a “velvet women’s revolution” (referring to the 1989 Czechoslovakian revolt that overthrew the Communist government there).

If ever there were an academician to shake up the establishment, Bar-Ilan University’s Dr. Zehavit Gross would be a leading candidate.
Ever since the 1998 launching of the Fred and Barbara Kort Sino-Israel Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program, Bar-Ilan University has been forging closer bonds with the Far East. With the success of the first 100 fellows – including Prof. Qianhong Zhang, founder of the first Jewish Studies Institute in the Henan province and now Zhengzhou University VP – Mrs. Barbara Kort has graciously agreed to continue supporting Chinese post-docs.

BIU’s Far East links span academic studies, visiting professorships, research cooperation, international conferences and more (For more about BIU’s research connections with universities abroad, see Putting Bar-Ilan on the Global Research Map on page 17-18.) One faculty member – Prof. Kimmy Caplan of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History – was even born there! His father, an Australian immigrant to Israel, moved to Hong Kong with his Sabra bride to work at a leading shipping company. The couple stayed for more than a decade – and the first seven years of Dr. Caplan’s life. “It was not the post-WWII immigrant route, which was the prime social character of the Hong Kong Jewish community in those years,” notes the BIU historian, adding that it was “way before Israeli and Jewish businessmen discovered the Far East.”

Far East MA and PhD Candidates Study Bible at BIU

“The Bible fascinates me, and I was interested in studying it from up close, in Israel,” says ShinAe Kim, who is one of a dozen students from the Far East currently pursuing graduate degrees in BIU’s Zalman Shamir Bible Department. Most, like Kim, are Koreans who deeply revere the Tanach and were attracted to BIU because of its “high academic standards, traditional campus atmosphere and expertise in Medieval Jewish exegesis,” notes Dr. Elie Assis, Department Chair. He believes that the “students’ excellent integration promises us wonderful ambassadors for Israel.” Kim, who is fluent in Hebrew, is “amazed by the scholarly depth of the professors and touched by their humbleness. I appreciate the warm-hearted willingness of the people here to help a foreign student.” The PhD candidate enjoys being invited for Shabbat and seeing “various traditions – Polish, Moroccan and Iraq.” Sent to Israel by a South Korean university to complete her studies, Kim plans to return home following graduation, in order to teach. Recently interviewed in Israel’s Ynetnews, she relays that the BIU students “have accepted me very nicely, I already know I’m going to miss this place when I go back to Korea.”

Quiz Contest on Korea hosted at Bar-Ilan

Three BIU students reached the finals of a national quiz contest on Korea, which was organized at the initiative of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Israel. Bar-Ilan’s Asian Studies program hosted the contest semifinals on campus. The finalists hail from the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, the Department of Middle Eastern History and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Multidisciplinary BA in Asian Studies

Since its founding in Fall 2008, Bar-Ilan’s Asian Studies Track (part of the multidisciplinary BA Program in Humanities) has grown to encompass 120 students, who are gaining a window into the great cultures of Asia: China, Japan, India and Southeast Asia (Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia). The curriculum includes introductory courses on the history, religions and culture of these countries, and advanced courses on their society, government, economy, philosophy and thought, art and literature. A unique study focus is the Jewish perspective (e.g., a comparative view of Jewish and Chinese Diasporas). Chinese and Japanese language courses are also
Offered at all levels, “Asian Studies majors not only become culturally enriched but also gain proficiency in the social codes of the Far East – an asset for those pursuing careers in the Foreign Ministry, international commerce, and other fields,” affirms Dr. Danielle Greifwitch, Assistant to the Dean of Humanities, and BIU’s “liaison” to the Far East, who developed the program.

2010 Monotheism in Asia Conference Convenes in Tokyo

Focusing on “Continuity and Change of Monotheism in Asia,” with special emphasis on Japan, the 2010 Monotheism in Asia Conference was held at the University of Tokyo. Sponsored by BIU’s Dr. Naim Dangoor Program for Universal Monotheism, the two-day interdisciplinary conference was organized by BIU’s South and East Asia Studies Department together with the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tokyo. The international forum, which seeks to facilitate inter-cultural dialogue and understanding between Judaism, Islam, Christian, Buddhist and Confucian traditions, was attended by some 80 academicians from both Japan and Israel, who addressed such topics as: The Attempt to Accommodate Monotheism and Nationalism in Modern Japan, Religion as Identity, and Mystical Perception in Eastern Traditions. The conference sparked great interest, with the Japanese media covering the special events, which included a visit to the local synagogue. “The Japanese participants were very curious to learn about Judaism,” recounts BIU Conference Chair and initiator, Dr. Danielle Greifwitch, who heads the Dangoor Program for Universal Monotheism.

Japanese Calligraphy Workshop

A three-day Japanese Calligraphy Workshop held at Bar-Ilan afforded more than two dozen students with a real hands-on introduction to Japan’s traditional art form, also known as “Shodo.” “Under the tutelage of Master Uuuda Rosan (Tageki), who chairs both the International Calligraphers Carving and the Chitoso-Kai calligraphy group, participants learned to make sweeping brush strokes using ink that they had prepared and to artistically create such symbols as love, prosperity and peace,” affirms Dr. Danielle Greifwitch, who heads the Dangoor Program for Universal Monotheism. The Japanese teacher, Miho Kataoka-Erlich, who chairs both the International Calligraphers Carving and the Chitoso-Kai calligraphy group, participants learned to make sweeping brush strokes using ink that they had prepared and to artistically create such symbols as love, prosperity and peace. His Excellency Haruhsa Takuchi, the Japanese ambassador to Israel, also attended the workshop, which was organized by BIU’s Japenese teacher, Miho Kataoka-Erlich.

Visiting Professorship at Shandong University

In 2005, as a visiting professor at Shandong University in Jinan, Dr. Adam Feizgizer provided 60 Chinese MA and PhD candidates with their first real glimpse into Modern Judaism. Teaching at the intensive Judaic studies summer school, which drew students from around China, the articulate BIU Jewish historian and author recalls that it was “total emergence for the participants who had very little prior knowledge of anything Jewish.” The New York-born scholar was asked to help facilitate a model Shabbat meal for the group, and even taught them Hasidic melodies. “Before you knew it, they were up and dancing,” he chuckles. The students were “very sharp and had so much thirst to learn about Judaism, Jewish History and Jews” that they convinced him to give an informal class on Shabbat. “We had a fascinating text-learning session and philosophical discussion about the Bible’s approach to leadership based on the weekly Torah portion,” says Feizgizer, noting that the students used Bibles with Chinese translation. “The summer was a successful learning experience. It enabled the Chinese to gain exposure to Judaism from a new perspective and develop a human dynamic based on intellectual and personal connections,” relates the Vice Chairman of BIU’s Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry, adding that “My own perception of China was enriched tremendously.” Feizgizer, who received his PhD (summa cum laude) from BIU, believes that both Israel and China share much in common: “Two very ancient and rich civilizations, which have re-invented themselves as modern states and are still coming to some sort of understanding of how they can balance ancient customs and values within a secularized, postmodern environment,” says Dr. Adam Feizgizer who, recently lectured to a visiting Chinese delegation on campus.

Japan’s Most Prestigious Grant Awarded to BIU Scholar

Dr. Shlomy Mualem, a senior lecturer in the Department of Comparative Literature, was recently awarded Japan’s most prestigious grant, funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), in Fall 2010. He was a visiting scholar at the University of Tokyo, where he conducted research on the work of Kitaro Nishida, the founder of the Kyoto school of thought, as well as a comparative study of Hasidism and Kabalah and the Soto Zen school in Japan. Mualem, a practitioner of the Asian martial art of Aikido, also lectured in Japanese universities and met with researchers in an effort to establish a collaborative Israeli-Japanese research group that will examine the links between Jewish literature and philosophy and the Japanese culture.

Monitoring Chinese Policy to the Middle East

Dr. Jonathan Rynhold, a research associate of BIU’s Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA), has, over the years, closely followed Chinese policy to the Middle East. In 2002, he visited Taiwan as a guest of the government, lecturing widely and meeting with academicians, students, as well as with military and political officials.
In 2006, he presented a research paper on “China & the Middle East” at the Israel-India Strategic Dialogue sponsored by BESA and India’s Institute for Defence Analyses Studies. He has authored articles on “China’s Cautious New Pragmatism in the Middle East” (Survival, 1996) and “Japan’s Cautious New Activism in the Middle East” (International Relations of Asia-Pacific 2002). For the past ten years, he has taught a course on Chinese Foreign Policy in BIU’s Department of Political Studies.

Recently, he and BESA Center Research Associates Prof. Amikam Nachmani, Chairman of the Department of Political Science, and Prof. Rami Ginat met at the Center with Ambassador Wu Sike, China’s Special Envoy to the Middle East; Zhao Jun, Chinese Ambassador to Israel; and other Chinese diplomats about current events in the Middle East.

BIU Expert Advises Chinese Universities

For the past two decades, Dr. Yossi Harel-Fisch of BIU’s Churgin School of Education has served as Israel’s representative at the World Health Organization (WHO) and as head researcher of an international program which studies Health Behaviors in School Age Children (HBSC) in over 50 countries. The renowned social research expert, who was recently appointed Chief Scientist of the Israel Anti-Drug Authority, is a senior international scientific advisor to both the Chinese Youth University for Political Sciences in Beijing and the Chinese University of Hong Kong for the development and implementation of the first Chinese Youth Health Behavior Survey System (CYHBS) on a representative sample of school children across China. A book, Growing up in China, which is based on the findings of this groundbreaking study, will be launched in Beijing in English and Chinese during the reciprocal visit of a BIU delegation in May 2011.

(For more, see “China Youth University” in Putting Bar-Ilan on the Global Research Map on page 1738.)

Teaching Chinese at BIU and Hebrew at Shandong U

In 2008, a decade after completing his BSc in Physics and Computer Science at BIU, Noam Urbach returned to his alma mater to teach in a newly launched beginner’s Chinese course. Over the years, he has returned to China to study language, music and culture at Henan University and Northeast Forestry University and to explore Chinese philosophy, religion and politics at Shandong University. In Shangdong, he also taught Hebrew and Talmud to Chinese religious studies majors specializing in Judaism. That proved to be a “very rewarding experience” says Urbach, noting that four of his students are now in Israel and one is, in fact, a BIU PhD candidate in Bible. Urbach believes that Bar-Ilan is in an “amazing position to nurture future connections between Israel and China...”

Noam Urbach believes that Bar-Ilan is in an “amazing position to nurture future connections between Israel and China because it has the interest to support research and scholarship that can develop a new Sino-Judaic dialogue between Judaism and Confucian thought.”
As a direct by-product of surging faculty research at Bar-Ilan, and in addition to the individual research collaborations, a “building project” of a whole different kind was undertaken by the University – the “building” of relationships and collaborations at an institutional level.

This strategic decision has led to many exciting new developments which have positioned BIU as a major player in the global scientific community, and has kept the campus a-buzz with delegations from top universities and research laboratories.

Together with strategic contacts made at the “source” - in both the Israel Foreign Ministry and the diplomatic community – these activities have provided an abundance of new opportunities for the University’s innovative research operations. Among the key highlights of these pro-active efforts: joint relationships with Argonne National Laboratories in the US, the European Institute of Technology in Poland, various American, Australian and European universities, and more.

Particular progress was made with Chinese contacts. Indeed, Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, BIU Deputy President, is working to create new academic programs with Chinese institutions, and has recently begun developing important new projects in Business and Law, as well as an interdisciplinary degree in Asian Studies and Business Administration on the BIU campus.

BIU and Shanghai International Studies University: Creating First Israel Studies Program in China

Bar-Ilan University and Shanghai International Studies University (ShiSU) have signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding which calls for establishing an Israel Studies Program at ShiSU, Chinese cultural programs in various BIU departments, academic exchange and additional ties. As a top-tier institution and the Chinese government’s official university for Middle East studies, ShISU is an important source of Middle East policy advice. Having an Israel Studies program based at ShISU means that the academics consulting with the Chinese government would be well versed in reliable information about the State of Israel.

Shanghai Academy for Social Sciences & Fudan University

BIU was host to a number of visits from key Chinese institutions, most notably the Shanghai Academy for Social Sciences, China’s most prominent think-tank for research in the social sciences and humanistic disciplines. A high-level delegation from research-driven Fudan University, home to 2,400 faculty members and 45,000 students, also arrived on campus to explore future relationships with BIU research teams in the physical as well as social sciences.

China Youth University

The China Youth University for Political Sciences has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BIU which advances the development of a cross-cultural survey on Chinese National Health Behavior in School-Aged Children. With China having one of the largest youth populations on earth, and as a nation undergoing significant and rapid social development, information derived through this survey is vital. The project is led by Dr. Yossi Harel-Fisch and modeled after the World Health Organization global survey in which Dr. Harel-Fisch is a leading participant.

Connecting Institutions through Scientific Agreements
The Dramatic Increase in Scientific Research at Bar-Ilhan University: an Interview with the VP for Research & Development

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cientific research - from nanotechnology to alternative energy - has dramatically increased at Bar-Ilhan University over the last five years. Prof. Harold Basch is Bar-Ilhan’s Vice President for Research and Development. Born in New York and with a PhD in chemistry, he has been at the University since 1970. We asked him to explain what’s behind this “sea-change” of research activity.

To what do you attribute the significant rise in Bar-Ilhan’s research output since 2005?

Probably the most important development has been the decision of Bar-Ilhan President Prof. Moshe Kaveh to allocate funds to absorb returning Israeli scientists. These are newly minted researchers, married, with maybe 2 or 3 children, who finished their PhDs in the sciences in Israel and spent a few years at a top university or in an academic position abroad. We give them a brand new lab, an absorption package with equipment and a technician, and a tenure track position. It has been a tremendous boost to the University’s research productivity.

There has also been a growing awareness among the academic faculty that they must be involved in research. This has led to an increase in published work and in research grants we’ve received.

What makes Bar-Ilhan so appealing to scientists from abroad? Do we have a competitive advantage, and if so, in which fields?

There is a real buzz at the University today. The Returning Scientists program has taken off in just the last 6-7 years. The opening of the new Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex - the largest nano facility in Israel - has really contributed. It’s a $150 million investment. Now, when scientists from overseas come to visit, they say, “I want to see the nano building.” And they want to meet the new scientists. Bar-Ilhan has become a major “scientific tourist site.”

The Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex is just one of the new buildings that has sprung up at Bar-Ilhan in recent years. How does this growing infrastructure help Bar-Ilhan compete globally?

The Nanotechnology Triplex as well as the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, which was dedicated 4-5 years ago, truly cross departmental borders, which positions us well to compete globally. The Brain Center, for example, is built around a central core on each floor where researchers in cognition, linguistics, English and psychology can meet every day to cross-fertilize ideas.

Bar-Ilhan has done exceedingly well in securing major grants from the European Union. Can you tell us about some of the more exciting ones?

Prof. Sarit Kraus of the Department of Computer Science received a grant from the European Union for her expertise in teaching robots to make decisions. Prof. (Emeritus) Zvi Dubinsky of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences is investigating the effect of global warming on coral reefs. Prof. Michal Lavdor in brain psychology and Prof. Yehuda Lindell in computer sciences have both brought in very large grants from the European Union. They’re all rainmakers.

Research institutions like the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Max Planck Institute in Germany have been an integral part of the international research scene. How have BIU researchers fared there?

Bar-Ilhan has secured a large number of research grants from the NIH – five this year, in fact. This can be attributed, again, to the investment we have made in the Returning Scientists program as well as our focus on life sciences – a natural fit with the NIH. Our researchers also have strong connections with the Max Planck Institute in Germany, as well as other programs funded by the German government.

You’ve put an emphasis on developing alternative energy projects including solar energy, bio-fuels and conservation, as well as biomedicine and development of new drugs. What projects do you have in mind?

Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of the Bar-Ilhan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), is a good example. He’s an expert in improving solar panels and the effectiveness of solar cells. Prof. Doron Aurbach is focusing on magnesium rechargeable battery production – some of his work has been commercialized already. Prof. Yossi Yeshurun is dealing with storing solar-produced electricity in huge capacitor systems that are discharged at night, when the sun has gone down.

How has Bar-Ilhan University treated you since your arrival in 1970?

It’s been a wonderful 40 years. This is the only institution I’ve been at in Israel.
Zalevsky’s invention can “see” what someone on the other side of a telephone line is saying by tracking the vibrations of the phone handset.

"Your head is like the sound box of a guitar,” says Bar-Ilan Prof. Zeev Zalevsky. “When you talk, it vibrates according to the frequency of your speech.”

That playful analogy belies an astonishing invention: Zalevsky and colleague Javier Garcia at the University of Valencia in Spain, working with PhD research done by Yevgeny Beiderman at Bar-Ilan, have created a laser-based device that can “see” sound.

Using a sophisticated system of lasers and cameras, Zalevsky can “watch” the minute vibrations one makes when speaking and then translate those into audible sounds. Zalevsky’s invention can even “see” what someone on the other side of a telephone line is saying by tracking the vibrations of the phone handset.

That Zalevsky’s device can make meaning of such tiny visual data isn’t surprising. The professor at Bar-Ilan’s School of Engineering and a member of the Bar-Ilan University Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA) is an international expert in nano-optics.

Some of his other inventions include a super-thin fiber-based endoscope 900 times smaller than the traditional device; a new approach to multifocal glasses that don’t restrict the wearer’s field of vision; and a passive concentrator for photovoltaic electricity production – in other words, a better way to harness the sun to produce more energy.

But it’s his sound-seeing optics that have caught the attention of the nano community – his achievement was reported in November 2010 at the NanosIsrael conference in Tel Aviv. And for good reason.

In addition to the obvious applications for security – with a visual system, you don’t have to plant microphones around the room, all you need is a line of sight with your target – Zalevsky’s device can “see” your blood pulse and pressure, glucose level and even the shape and beat of your heart. After all, everything is vibrating (one’s glucose level, for example, affects the viscosity of the blood stream which in turn changes the way the arteries vibrate).

What’s the big deal, though, when it comes to monitoring your bodily functions? Don’t we already have sufficient technology? Zalevsky gives an example from a hospital operating room. “You get a spaghetti effect of wires,” he explains. “Patients have too many machines connected to them, which makes it much more difficult to move them around during the operation or to read the relevant information on time.”

Zalevsky’s device can be set in the corner of the room and present all the data in a single location, with no wires at all.

Outside of the hospital, you might wear an optical watch on your wrist, which reads your vibrations and transmits the data to your doctor.

The technology can even help people with hearing problems, Zalevsky adds. With typical hearing aids, both the voices and background noise are amplified and often times the brain can’t filter out the good from the bad. “In our device,” Zalevsky says, “we look at individual spatial pixels, so we can isolate a specific voice” from the overall morass. The solution would involve adding a tiny laser on the hearing aid, which you could focus on the person whom you’re trying to hear.

The cost savings can be significant too: Zalevsky estimates a camera and a laser might cost just a few dollars for short distances and only several hundred dollars for intermediate lengths.

Zalevsky’s latest invention is still in the research lab, but with funding, he envisions the technology coming to market in just a couple of years.

Zalevsky says he owes much of his achievement to the cross-fertilization at BINA, where researchers from multiple disciplines – chemistry, engineering, biology and more – come together to brainstorm and share ideas. Now, that’s a sound we’d all like to “see” more of.
Finding Space in the Crowded Airwaves

The need for wireless spectrum today is increasing at a relentless and often times alarming pace. New devices, from smarter cell phones to 3G iPads, not to mention existing services such as television and radio, are all demanding access, so much so that the available spectrum is rapidly becoming a scarce – and expensive – resource.

But, as Dr. Aniela Somekh-Baruch, of the Bar-Ilan University School of Engineering reports, that spectrum is far from being used optimally. Her goal: to study where there are “holes” in the spectrum and how they can be co-opted for 21st century requirements.

Somekh-Baruch – along with an international team from the U.S. and Israel, supported initially by a Marie-Curie International Fellowship within the 6th European Community Framework Program, and today in part by the CORINET consortium of the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor – is working on an engineering concept called “cognitive radio.”

“It’s called ‘cognitive’ because it’s capable of sensing the environment, spotting other signals, and dynamically improving its own transmission,” Somekh-Baruch explains.

Still in the theoretical research phase with only preliminary standardization efforts undertaken to date, if eventually deployed, this “thinking” radio would take the form of a transmission device that looks to find unused spectrum, since some frequency bands are not used for long portions of the day.

Somekh-Baruch’s research also analyzes interference between different transmitters, where signals intended for one receiver cause problems at other receivers. This not only affects communication speeds, but can raise security issues. For example, a transmission may contain confidential information. If the cognitive radio is not smart enough, data could be leaked when the signals clash.

To overcome this danger, Somekh-Baruch employs complex mathematical modeling that can calculate the highest possible reliable transmission rates under varying conditions, such as the amount of capacity in a specific region.

The results of the research can then be used by engineers to design the transmission network itself. Somekh-Baruch’s research on cognitive radio has been published in prestigious international journals, such as the IEEE’s Transactions on Information Theory, and at conferences in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Somekh-Baruch’s international collaborators include Prof. Sergio Verdú from Princeton University; Prof. Sriram Vishwanath from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas in Austin; Prof. Miguel Rodrigues from Universidade do Porto, Portugal; and Prof. Yingbin Liang from Syracuse University in New York.

Somekh-Baruch’s interest in studying data transmission schemes began with her PhD dissertation and post-doctoral work at Princeton University. Her focus was on “information hiding” systems such as “watermarking,” where secret data is embedded in a “host data,” such as a picture, movie or music file. Somekh-Baruch wanted to determine the amount of data that can be embedded if an unauthorized attempt by an “attacker” is made to extract those hidden secrets.

Somekh-Baruch has no qualms about her return to Israel after several years in the U.S. Bar-Ilan – and Israel in general – is one of the best places in the world to be for information theory research. “I’m very satisfied, scientifically speaking, to be in Israel,” she says. And with the Engineering School at Bar-Ilan celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the University is equally satisfied to have Aniela Somekh-Baruch among its faculty.
Millions of people get sick from bacterial infections contracted during a hospital stay that, in some cases, also cause or contribute to over 100,000 preventable deaths a year. That's something that Prof. Aharon Gedanken, Director of the Kanbar Laboratory for Nanomaterials at the Bar-Ilan University Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), aims to eliminate.

Gedanken’s solution: a revolutionary way to coat fabrics and textiles used in a hospital – such as bed sheets, pillow cases, curtains, gowns, pajamas, and towels – with anti-bacterial nanoparticles to counter this deadly phenomenon.

Is this a big business? The European Union certainly thinks so: they are financing Gedanken to the tune of 12 million Euros to lead a four-year program that encompasses 17 textile manufacturers, universities, and government agencies in England, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland, all working to commercialize his technique to coat and mass produce his antibacterial fabric.

Initially selling the idea wasn’t so easy. “I approached many companies about my technique,” Gedanken recalls. “They claimed to have met many people like myself in recent years with the same claims. But once they put their fabrics in hospital washing machines, all the anti-bacterial properties were removed.”

Gedanken says his method, embedding nanoparticles into the very fibers of the fabric, ensures that the anti-bacterial properties will last up to 70 cycles in industrial hospital washing machines where the temperature is kept at near boiling 92 degrees Celsius.

One of Bar-Ilan’s most respected researchers, Gedanken has been at the University since 1975. During his tenure, Gedanken has been a very busy man: he served as Chairman of the Department of Chemistry from 1982-1985; has published more than 570 scientific papers; and was a visiting scientist at AT&T Bell Laboratories and at the U.S. National Institutes for Health where he focused on spectroscopic research for several years during the 1980s and 1990s. In 2009, he won the Edwards Prize of the Israel Vacuum Society for his research work in nanotechnology.

Prof. Gedanken’s 30-person laboratory at BINA is heading up all of his nano work. In addition to anti-bacterial sheets, he also has grant-funded projects looking into some truly revolutionary products, from creating bio-diesel fuel, cleaning waste and even producing new treatments for acne.

And, after a winter of fevers and coughs, here’s one to look forward to: a technique to help you from catching the flu that works by “tricking” the flu virus into attaching to some of Gedanken’s nanoparticles instead of human cells. And that’s a Bar-Ilan innovation that’s nothing to sneeze at.
Dr. Yaron Shav-Tal has found the mechanism behind the “switch” for a particular gene – Cyclin D1 – that has been convincingly implicated in breast cancer.

Switching on a Cure for Cancer

Every cell in our bodies contains the exact same DNA. What makes the cells in our liver different from those in our eyes, for example, has to do with which genes are turned “on” and how often they switch between “on” and “off” states. Cancerous growths occur primarily when a gene gets “stuck” in the “on” position, causing cells to multiply out of control.

Dr. Yaron Shav-Tal, Senior Lecturer in the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences at Bar-Ilan University, has found the mechanism behind the “switch” for a particular gene – Cyclin D1 – that has been convincingly implicated in breast cancer. It’s only a single gene in a very complex disease, but it’s an exciting new insight into the workings – and eventual understanding and treatment – of all types of cancer.

Shav-Tal has collaborators working with him around the world, with partners in the U.S., France, Germany and even Croatia where he is working with the Institute Ruder Boškovic in Zagreb, providing imaging expertise to a Serbian project on genetics. “They are all very fruitful relationships,” he says. Shav-Tal, 41, has his own international background of sorts: he was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and came to Israel when his parents made aliya in 1971.

Shav-Tal’s discovery on the switch involved with breast cancer is more than just theoretical. His team of 13 researchers can actually “tinker with the switch,” he says. “We can make one Cyclin D1 gene that has a regular switch, going on and off every six hours, and another that is on all the time, that mimics what we’d expect in a cancer cell.” Shav-Tal calls this never-ceasing production line “a cell that’s gone berserk.”

Shav-Tal’s tinkering aims to understand “what is turning on the switch,” he says, “so we can dissect the pathway and find a solution.”

Peering into a cell is not so easy, unfortunately – cells are transparent, Shav-Tal explains. To “see” what’s going on down to the gene level, Shav-Tal uses a special fluorescent microscope. He labels specific molecules with a fluorescent tag, then sends a light beam towards the cell, resulting in a green glow.

Tracking specific molecules is part of a process known as “live cell imaging” and it represents a fundamental break from the microscopic work of the past where one worked on dead cells. The terms will be familiar to anyone who’s followed fertility treatments: in vitro refers to experiments conducted on dead cells in a test tube, while in vivo is the term for real-time live cell exploration.

Shav-Tal says he was very fortunate to do his post-doc in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Singer at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, in 2002, at a time when the field of live cell microscopy was just taking off. Having honed his skills in the U.S., he and his family returned to Israel where he joined Bar-Ilan in 2005 as one of the first recruits in Bar-Ilan’s Returning Scientists program.

Shav-Tal has no illusions about the road ahead. “Science today has become a demanding and expensive business,” he says. “It’s no longer just about mixing two compounds in a test tube. Rather, good science requires hi-tech equipment and many resources that allow us to proceed to the forefront of cancer research.”

It’s no wonder, then, that Bar-Ilan’s strong commitment to science and research has been critical to Shav-Tal’s success.
Developing a new medication is a costly business. A large drug trial can easily run tens of millions of dollars and take years to complete. If the trial fails, investors lose their money and it becomes difficult for the researchers to get additional funding for future work.

Prof. Jonathan Rabinowitz, of the Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work at Bar-Ilan University, is aiming to change the way drug testing works, specifically for new psychiatric medications. As part of an international consortium called NEWMEDS (an acronym for Novel Methods leading to NeW MEdications in Depression and Schizophrenia), Rabinowitz has been given unprecedented access to data on drug testing from over 23,000 patients in 67 trials on 11 antipsychotic compounds spanning 25 countries.

Even more dramatic: the data is coming from fiercely competitive pharmaceutical companies who have agreed to pool resources to improve their methodologies for the good of the patient, as well as to reduce the costs of new drug development, thus helping reverse a decades-long drought of new medications in psychiatry. So far, AstraZeneca, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Lundbeck, and Pfizer have shared relevant study data.

“50 years we have been doing trials the same way,” Rabinowitz says, “with a standard placebo or active control, for 4-6 weeks.” By culling through the massive data sets, Rabinowitz is beginning to identify groups of patients who show particularly strong response to medication but little response to placebo. He is also looking to see whether these outcomes could have been observable earlier. “By combining all of the results,” he says, “we will be able to determine how to make trials smaller, faster and more powerful while at the same time decreasing exposure of patients to experimental medications.”

Part of the problem with placebo, Rabinowitz explains, is that it’s almost never devoid of some therapeutic intervention. In the case of schizophrenia, for example, even patients on placebo receive psychosocial attention, which can act to ameliorate symptoms. In addition, patients often come from poor homes where a hospital stay, with three hot meals a day, can positively influence the results.

NEWMEDS is a 5-year project with ten working groups and a budget of 30 million Euros. As its name implies, the program, which was launched in September 2009, is looking at depression and schizophrenia medications in particular; Rabinowitz is heading up the working group on advanced data analysis techniques.

The consortium is headed by Dr. Tine Bryan Stensbøl from the pharmaceutical heavyweight H. Lundbeck A/S, and Professor Shitij Kapur of the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College London. Also participating are 9 major pharmaceutical companies, 3 small and medium-sized enterprises, and 7 academic research institutions, including Sweden’s Karolinska Institute, Britain’s Cambridge and Manchester Universities, the Spanish National Research Council and Germany’s Central Institute of Mental Health.

What would lead the big drug companies to cooperate in such a study? “We are dealing with precompetitive questions that are important to the entire industry,” Rabinowitz explains. There are no secrets in the data sets; it’s all about the tests and their results.

And those results, if they can lead to quicker testing time using smaller samples, could “make a huge difference in enabling drug development and bringing to market new and improved compounds,” Rabinowitz says. The real goal, however, is to “significantly improve the lives of patients suffering from mental illness.”

Rabinowitz, who is now amassing similar data from studies of antidepressant drugs, is decidedly upbeat. “Here at Bar-Ilan, we are the only people in the world who have all of this data,” he says. “It’s almost priceless.”
As the opening of Bar-Ilan University’s new Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee city of Safed draws closer, Vice Deans Prof. Haim Breitbart and Prof. Michael Weingarten have shifted into high gear recruiting both new students and faculty members.

The physician training program, which will launch in October 2011, is bringing home 50 Israeli medical students currently studying abroad who will comprise the Faculty’s first year class. There will eventually be two programs, Prof. Breitbart explains. The first is for Israelis who are learning medicine already in Europe. After three years learning abroad, they will finish with an additional three years at Bar-Ilan.

The second program will be for students with a bachelor’s degree in life sciences. They will start a four-year program, as in the U.S., Breitbart says, for a total of eight years, including one internship year. Students in Israeli medical schools study for seven years, undergraduate and graduate combined. The aim is to significantly increase the number of physicians in Israel for which a severe shortage is predicted in the coming years.

The competition for staff positions at the new Bar-Ilan Faculty of Medicine is tough, “Today we have close to 130 candidates,” Breitbart says, “and each day we get new applications. We are trying to recruit the best of the best.”

The goal is to hire some 40 faculty members; 15 Israeli medical researchers have already signed on to return from overseas and will take up their positions in August 2011. “These scientists are coming to Bar-Ilan from some of the best research institutions in North America,” Faculty of Medicine Dean Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa adds, “including Yale, Stanford, Harvard and the University of California at Davis.”

The Bar-Ilan Faculty of Medicine will spend its first years in a former hospital building in Safed, which is undergoing a NIS 100 million ($28 million) renovation. A new campus will be constructed over the coming 5 years in the western part of the city at a total investment of NIS 1.5 billion ($417 million).

The buzz over the new Faculty of Medicine goes far beyond the investment, though. With its pioneering multidisciplinary academic program and a focus on genetics, virology, metabolism, cancer, infectious diseases, and bioinformatics among other subjects, Tur-Kaspa has a vision that perhaps only a brand new school can successfully fulfill – one that looks forward to the very cutting-edge of medicine.

“We want nothing less than to teach students how to be a physician in the year 2040,” Tur-Kaspa says. Ideal graduates will adeptly represent Bar-Ilan’s core values: They will be “excellent clinicians, with a deep and personal commitment to their patients,” says Vice Dean Weingarten.
Whitewash (or I am Other: I Am Not the Person Who Did those Sins)

Whitewash
Lush, soft brush,
Slashed even and smooth
Over bump and stains.
And we try to forget
The people we upset
The things we did
Out of weakness and pain.
Whitewash,
With a thick, harsh brush
Sloshed wishfully
O'er blots and marks.
See nice, fresh wall
In bedroom and hall.
But don’t forget
Under white – it’s dark.

When Bar-Ilan University graduate law student Gilad Wiener set out to Turkey last year to press for Israeli membership in the prestigious European Law Student Association (ELSA), he expected opposition. After all, this hasn’t exactly been the easiest time for Israel on the international stage.

To his credit, Wiener, who joined a delegation of law students from other leading Israeli institutions, was met with surprising success. “A number of delegates definitely came with a very negative opinion about Israel,” Wiener explains, “but most had a little change of mind. Even if they didn’t want us as members, they agreed to cooperate with us, and that’s a huge step.”

That cooperation is in the form of a written agreement between ELSA and the Israeli Law Students Council. While it falls short of full membership, the contract – which is being drafted now – will allow Israeli law students to participate in ELSA activities and trainings, do internships in European Union law firms, bring European students to Israel via international exchange programs and scholarships, and in general express their opinions on international issues such as human rights with ELSA forums.

Beyond the formal cooperation between the Israeli and European student organizations, Wiener forged his own personal cross-cultural dialogue with his convention hotel roommate, a student from Indonesia. Representing his university faithfully, so to speak, “I put on my tefillin (phylacteries) in the morning,” Wiener says, “and he used his Muslim prayer rug. We became very good friends.”

Gilad is not the only law student to represent BIU abroad. Recently, law students and mediation experts from across the world gathered in Paris for the 6th International Commercial Mediation Competition hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). BIU was among the fifty-eight universities, representing twenty-seven different nationalities, participating in the competition. The BIU team, made up of four students selected from the Faculty of Law competed against India’s Gujarat National Law University, Washington College of Law, Germany’s Humboldt University, and Harvard University. Having spent months preparing for the competition, the team had the honor of being the sole representatives of Israel at the event and succeeded in ranking among the top thirty universities for their efforts.

A trio of students of BIU’s Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing – Miriam Green, Daniel Savery Raz and Salat Malin, and Yael Unterman, an alumna of the Program – were runners-up in the annual London School of Jewish Studies Biblical Poetry Competition. Yael is the author of Nehama Leibowitz: Teacher and Bible Scholar (Urim Publications, 2009), which was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. Her collection of short stories is due for publication by Yaldah publishing in 2012. Following is the poem she submitted.
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“Israel has been nothing short of amazing,” enthuses 18-year-old Rami Blumin of Huntington Valley, Pennsylvania, who is one of 91 North American students currently enrolled in the joint Bar-Ilan University and NCSY "Israel Experience" program. "We have great trips and Shabbatons. From experiencing the cultural differences, learning about the history of Israel to taking incredible classes, I am eager to see what this year will bring."

Rami – who lived with his Russian-immigrant parents in Israel until age 7 – is glad to be back, touring the country from the Golan Heights to Eilat, and seeing things that people don’t see in a lifetime. “The advisors ease the transition of being away from home, the teachers and Rabbis are very kind and invite you over for Shabbat, and the students on the program are great – you click with people from all around America.” Like many of his fellow participants, he was drawn to the program because of its special mix. "I wanted to go to Israel and I thought that BIU’s ‘Israel Experience’ was perfect for me because of the balance between Jewish and secular classes."

"Israel Experience" elucidates its Founding Director, Rabbi Tully Bryks, "is a middle-of-the-road program for sincere, motivated young adults who like to learn but who are not looking to study full-time in Yeshiva." As a former NCSY Regional Director, he can readily attest to the need for such a venture. Since its 2009 “strategic partnership” with the Orthodox Union (which oversees NCSY), Bar-Ilan has been operating its one-year program for overseas students within the ‘Israel Experience’ framework. Notes Rabbi Ari Kahn, BIU Director of Foreign Student Programs: “We have a wonderful hybrid of excellent academics at one of Israel’s top universities with informal, extracurricular programming incorporating popular NCSY-style trips and activities. BIU is working with one of the largest, most influential organizations on the American scene today in a program that fosters Jewish identity and continuity among Jewish youth for years to come.”

In the mornings, students attend Jewish studies courses, followed by Hevruta learning and special lectures at BIU’s Ludwig and Erica Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies. Rami, a public school graduate, is fascinated by the Contemporary Halakhic (Jewish legal) Issues course that explores such topics as war, smoking, and the concept of the “Chosen People.” The afternoon English-language secular courses include Marketing, Microeconomics, the Arab-Israel Conflict, English Composition, Science, and a Hebrew Ulpan to improve language skills.

Credits earned at BIU are easily transferable to most North American universities. Participants live in student dorms near campus, and have a choice of internships in local firms, community service, Israel advocacy or Yeshiva. “We call the program ‘Israel Experience’ because we want the participants to experience everything that Israel has to offer,” says Rabbi Bryks, mentioning the recent trips to the Negev, Jerusalem’s Old City, the Israel Defense Forces Museum in Tel Aviv, and the fruit and vegetable picking for the needy. He relates that after the recent weekend in Safed – which included a rousing Carlebach minyan, a Hassidic Tish, and a stirring Havdalah service with live music – students exclaimed that it was “the best Shabbat of their lives.”

Rashi Garfield, of Springfield, Massachusetts, joined “Israel Experience” to have a “meaningful experience but also to get college credits as well as branch out and make new friends.” He says he is “learning a lot” in all his classes (his favorites: Love and War in the Ancient World, which combines philosophy and ancient Greek history; and Jewish Leaders and Leadership throughout the Ages) and with his improved Hebrew he can now carry on a conversation. Every Tuesday, Rashi volunteers at a local children’s home doing “whatever we can to make their day better.” A graduate of a small Jewish high school in West Hartford, Connecticut, Rashi says he “really enjoyed the Shabbat in Safed – it had special meaning for me because my parents were married there.” He found it interesting to visit a Kabbalah painter, and War in the Ancient World, which combines philosophy and ancient Greek history; and Jewish Leaders and Leadership throughout the Ages) and with his improved Hebrew he can now carry on a conversation. Every Tuesday, Rashi volunteers at a local children’s home doing “whatever we can to make their day better.” A graduate of a small Jewish high school in West Hartford, Connecticut, Rashi says he “really enjoyed the Shabbat in Safed – it had special meaning for me because my parents were married there.” He found it interesting to visit a Kabbalah painter.
Breaking News: BIU Establishes New English-Language Program in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences!

One-year students and other English-speaking candidates interested in furthering their studies at Bar-Ilan now have an opportunity to complete their degree in their mother-tongue. For the first time BIU is offering eligible students a BA in Social Sciences taught entirely in English. The interdisciplinary program, combining studies in Economics, Political Studies and Sociology, is designed to provide students with a broad outlook and enhance their capabilities to succeed in today’s global world.

For more information, contact: Dean of Students Office biusocialsciences@gmail.com

An Enduring Impact
Rabbi Bryks notes that 75%of last year’s 77 graduates went through a noticeable change. “For some it means learning or observing more, transferring to YU or switching colleges to be in a more Jewish environment, for others it means that they will marry a Jew.” A quarter of last year’s group chose to remain in Israel to attend university, Yeshiva or enlist in the Israel Defense Forces. “The program is so inspiring that many students choose to connect more Jewishly,” says the Rabbi and former varsity basketball team captain, who once had his own spiritual questions. “We are here to inspire, empower and excite but they will decide what and when.”

“I wanted to go to Israel and I thought that BIU’s ‘Israel Experience’ was perfect for me because of the balance between Jewish and secular classes.”

Rami Blumin

who is “high on spirituality”, to observe a Jewish scribe in action, and to dunk in the Mikva of the great 16th century kabbalist, Rabbi Isaac Luria (the Ari). Very much at home at Bar-Ilan, Rashi says “The BIU Campus is definitely gorgeous. It’s peaceful just to walk around and I love the sculptures.”

Rachel Miller, from Toronto, Canada, is pleased she joined BIU’s “Israel Experience” program. “I wanted to continue my Jewish education but at the same time, didn’t want to take a full year off from university.” The highlights thus far, she says, are “definitely the classes – they are approached really well and are relevant to our lives.” As to the BIU grounds – “I couldn’t have asked for a nicer campus.” Interning with a wedding planner, she is creating a database of vendors and helps out at events. Rachel, who attended public school, says that the group has had some “really good trips – the Kotel (Western Wall) and water tunnels were amazing! The program has inspired me to keep on learning and to grow.”

Jennifer Freiman, of Hollywood, Florida, says that the “Israel Experience” is enabling her to take the “baby steps I need to walk back into a Jewish lifestyle.” Raised Orthodox but having lived in a totally secular environment for the past six years, Jennifer welcomed the opportunity to come to Israel and, specifically, to Bar-Ilan, which she maintains, “is not like a seminary or yeshiva, it gives you the option of real choice. Our program has rules, but they are not as strict. At ‘Israel Experience’ we have a Shabbaton every other weekend. Coupled with our stimulating classes, exciting night activities and fun and meaningful trips, I believe that these experiences are going to seriously enhance our growth and learning.” The main highlight, Jennifer stresses, “is being able to reconnect with my Jewish roots once again.”

Daniella Golbani, of Beverly Hills, enrolled in “Israel Experience” after hearing rave reviews from a friend who attended last year. “School is important to me and I wanted to get college credits out of this year,” explains Daniella, who graduated from YULA, an Orthodox Jewish high school. “I like the combination of Judaic and secular studies at Bar-Ilan, and the freedom to grow.” She enjoys the classes in Prayer, Talmud and Aggadah, which Rabbi Ari Kahn gives (“he’s an amazing teacher”) and her academic favorites are Business and Biology. “She also likes the trips, the counselors (“I can really connect to them”) and the very spiritual feeling that I have when Shabbat comes in.” At night, she says, the wide choice of activities and “get-togethers are really fun.” Once a week, Daniella volunteers in Tel Aviv, helping first-graders from broken homes with their homework. “The program is helping me to figure out where I’m at, and what kind of person I am,” she relates.

Although Rami Blumin confides that the decision to come to Israel “was one of the hardest I have had to make”, he is glad that he joined the “Israel Experience” program. “The people have really impacted me, I’ve grown in my Judaism and I feel I’m getting the best of both worlds,” he says, referring to the unique curriculum mix. “Undoubtedly, this year is going to be one of the best years of our lives.”
Academic Conferences and Events

October-November 2010

• Psychodiagnosis Seminar with Prof. Bruce L. Smith, of the University of California at Berkeley (Department of Psychology)

• Technology as a Support for Literacy Achievements for Children at Risk (Israel Science Foundation (ISF) Workshop and Churin School of Education)

• Celebrating 15 Years of the Kazakhstan Constitution: Constitutional Policy for the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2010-2020 (Faculty of Law)

December 2010

• Street Work: Youth at Risk (Department of Criminology, ELEM, and Keren Yedidut Foundation)

• Q&A Session with British Ambassador Mathew Gould MBE and BIU Students (Department of Political Studies)

• Neo-Kermanism and the Young Generation in Modern Turkey: Turkish University Professor and Author, Prof. Nilüfer Narlı (Department of Middle Eastern Studies)

• Challenges in Jewish Education: Cultural Vitality: 6th International Conference of the Israel Association for Research in Jewish Education (Churgin School of Education)

January 2011

• Speaking with Impact- Communication Excellence Workshop (The Center for International Communications - Department of Political Studies)

• Case Studies in Jewish Bioethical Decision-Making: Brain-Death, Advanced Genetic Management (“Nitzotzot” – The President’s Doctoral Forum for Innovation in Torah and Science; The Ludwig and Erica Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies)

• Internet Conference: Celebrating a Decade of Wikipedia (Department of Information Science)

• The Actuality of Sacrifice Models of Interaction between Judaism and Christianity in Past and Present (Martin [Szusz] Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology)

• International Conference in Honor of Prof. (Emeritus) Joachim Braun with Latvia’s Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Martin Prats and Prof. Martin Boiko from Latvia’s Music Academy (The Israel Musicological Society; Department of Music)

• Winter School on Secure Computation and Efficiency (Department of Computer Science; Cryptography & Security Research Group; Partially Funded by European Research Council)

• The Jew of Egypt (Aharon and Rachel Dahan Center for Jewish Studies; Department of Jewish History)

February-March 2011

• Israel in a Turbulent Middle East (Begin-Sadat [BESA] Center for Strategic Studies)

• The Tenth International Conference on Jewish Names: Fourteenth Conference in the Series “Jewish Society Through the Ages” (The Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History)

• Israeli Music in the Digital Era (Department of Music)

• The Future of Israel’s Youth, with MK Ze’ev Binyamin Begin (BIU Student Union)

April 2011

• The Jews of Egypt (Aharon and Rachel Dahan Center for Jewish Studies; Department of Jewish History)

• Winter School on Secure Computation and Efficiency (Department of Computer Science; Cryptography & Security Research Group; Partially Funded by European Research Council)

• Growing the Fruit Trees Found in Jewish Holy and Literary Sources (Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences)

Awards and Appointments

Dr. Reuven Cohen, of the Department of Mathematics, is among the winners of the 2011 Krill Prize for Excellence in Scientific Research. The coveted honor is awarded annually by the Wolf Foundation to outstanding, young faculty at Israel’s universities.

Prof. Shmuel Feiner, of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History, has won the Zalman Shazar Award for Research in Jewish History, for his book The Origins of Jewish Secularization in Eighteenth-Century Europe.

Prof. Ruth Haiperin-Kaddari, Director of BIU’s Rackman Program on Adolescent Well Being and Health, was appointed Chief Scientist of the Israel Anti-Drug Authority.

Prof. Yossi Harel-Fisch, a senior faculty member at the Churin School of Education and Head of the International Research Program on Adolescent Well Being and Health, was appointed Chief Scientist of the Israel Anti-Drug Authority.

Prof. Sarit Kraus, of the Department of Computer Science and the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, has been awarded a 2.3 million Euro research grant from the European Research Council (ERC) for her research in Artificial Intelligence.

Prof. Miriam Shlesinger, of the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies, is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Israel Translators Association.
BIU Hosts Visitors from Far and Wide

1. Associate Vice President Judith Haimoff; the Forum moderator, Prof. Gerald Steinberg of the Department of Political Studies and founder of BIU’s Graduate Program in Conflict Management and Negotiation; Ambassador of Kenya Augustino Stephen Karonjoke; Ambassador of Nepal Baija Nath Thapalia; and Ruth Cohen, Head of the BIU VIP Visits & Events Unit

2. Major General (Ret.) Yaacov Amidror, who served for 36 years with the Israel Defense Forces, primarily in Intelligence, relays that if the international community fails to stop Iran from achieving nuclear capability, Israel may be forced to attack

3. BESA research associate, Prof. Zeev Maghen of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, argues that it might be better to drop the sanctions against Iran and bomb Natanz

4. The Irish Ambassador Breifne O’Reilly confers with the Austrian Ambassador Mag. Michael Rendi

5. The Korean Ambassador Ma Young-Sam asks a question as the EU Ambassador Andrew Standley takes note

Delegation from Shanghai International Studies University (ShISU) signs agreement with Bar-Ilan to create first Israel Studies Program in China

1. Prof. Harold Basch, BIU Vice President for Research; and Prof. Tan Jinghua, Vice President of ShISU

2. Delegation on campus: Prof. Li Jilan, Chief of Teaching Affairs; Prof. Harold Basch; Xue Huailing, Head of the Education Department of the Chinese Embassy in Israel; Carice Witte, Founder/Director, SIGNAL – Sino-Israel Global Network & Academic Leadership; Prof. Tan Jinghua; Prof. Yan Tingguo, Dean of the College of Oriental Languages; Dr. Bingang Ma, Representative of China’s Personal Association in Israel; and Noam Urbach (back) of BIU’s Asian Studies Program

3. Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats, BIU Deputy President; Li Yunfei, Deputy Chief of Foreign Exchanges; Prof. Tan Jinghua; Prof. Li Jilan; and Dr. Danielle Gurevitch of the Multidisciplinary BA Program in Humanities; Carice Witte; Prof. Harold Basch; and Prof. Yan Tingguo

French Government and Academic Delegation

4. Returning Scientist Dr. David Zlowoun presents a research overview to municipal heads and university representatives from around France at Bar-Ilan’s Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA)

German Research Institute and University Delegation

5. The delegation stops to pose with Prof. Efraim Imbar, Director of the BESA Center, after hearing a lecture about the current political situation in Israel
French Minister of Industry
Eric Besson Meets at BIU with French-speaking Students from all Israeli Universities

Visit of the French Ambassador, H.E. Christophe Bigot
1. The French Ambassador, H.E. Christophe Bigot (second from the left), tours the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center with First Secretary Jeremy Opritesco (far right), Cultural Counselor Arnette Levy-Wlliard (second from right), and Henya Gal, Head of Administration at the Center, and learns about the neural basis of behavior in the sea hare, Aplysia, and how it may elucidate our understanding of memory.

2. The French Ambassador is introduced to Israel’s first Magneto Encephalograph (MEG), housed in the Gonda Brain Center, and hears from Prof. Yoram Louzoun, Head of the Computational Immunology and Network Dynamics Lab, about how this unique apparatus measures magnetic fields produced by the brain.

3. BIU Rector Prof. Haim Taitelbaum presents French Minister Eric Besson with a replica of a small ceramic shard unearthed by BIU archaeologists at Tell es-Safi, the Biblical “Gath of the Philistines” and Goliath’s hometown.

Visit of the Ambassador of Slovenia, H. E. Boris Sovic
4. The French Minister, the French Ambassador, and the Scientific Attaché Eric Seboun, with French-speaking students from Bar-Ilan, Tel Aviv and Haifa Universities, visit the Ambassador of Slovenia, H. E. Boris Sovic.

5. The Ambassador of Slovenia, H. E. Boris Sovic, with Prof. Yitzhak Mastal, an expert in Biomimetic Chemistry.

6. The Ambassador with Prof. Chaim Sukenik, Director of the BINA Nano Materials Center.

Visit of the British Ambassador, H.E. Matthew Gould MBE
1. BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh welcomes the British Ambassador Matthew Gould MBE.

2. Prof. Ari Zaban, Director of the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), briefs the Ambassador and Dr. Adee Matan, Science and Innovation Attaché at the British Embassy.

3. After addressing Political Studies students, the Ambassador poses with Prof. Asher Cohen of the Department of Political Studies and Dr. Jonathan Rynhold, a research associate at the BESA Center.

4. Prof. Michal Lavidor of the Department of Psychology and head of the Cognitive Neuroscience lab at the Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, together with her postdoctoral researcher Oded Meiron, applies transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) over the motor cortex of the British Ambassador. This basic test is conducted in order to define stimulation intensities during an experiment or a treatment. Here the Ambassador’s left brain was stimulated, aiming at generating movement in his right palm.

Visit of Edith Cowan University, Australia
5. Prof. Harold Basch meets with Prof. John Finlay-Jones, Edith Cowan University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Advancement).

6. Prof. John Finlay-Jones (right) with Prof. Zeev Zalevsky, Director of the BINA Nano Photonics Center and Head of the Electro-Optics track at the School of Engineering.
Middle East Region

Campus Visits

1. Tal Havdala, a Physics doctoral candidate, briefs AFBIU Treasurer Alan Zekelman, and his sponsors Alan and Susan Kaufman about his research
2. Gary Fetter is shown the state-of-the-art facilities in Dr. Eli Sloutskin’s lab in the Fetter Wing, established by his parents, Joseph and Frances, in the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex.Returning Scientist Dr. Sloutskin “came home” to BIU after his postdoctoral research at Harvard

New York Region

Campus Visits

1. Don Lebell, Lori and Alan Harris, and Jane Stern Lebell get a close-up of the Kadishman sculpture “Ilanot” outside the Jerome L. Stern Family Graduate Studies Building
2. Rabbi Stuart Zweiter, Director of the Lookstein Center for Jewish Education; Gila Slonim, Acting Director of North American Operations; and Judius and Sara Briller dine on the Bar-Ilan campus
3. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, BIU President; and Sharon Evans, International Director of Project Development; meet with Leir Foundation President Arthur Hoffman and his wife, Hadassah, and Foundation Co-Chair Margot Gabis

BESA Director Speaks at NYC Outreach Event

Prof. Efraim Inbar, Director of the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies at BIU, spoke about “Strategic Alternatives Facing Israel’s National Security” at a reception hosted by Ken and Nira Abramowitz.

4. Ernest Elias, Tova and Howard Weiser, and Prof. Efraim Inbar
5. Beth and Stanley Weiss together with event hosts, Ken and Nira Abramowitz
6. Eric Mandl, Paula-Ray Mandl and Cheryl Elias
7. Steven Khadavi and Ami Horowitz

Dr. Edward Stern Speaks at AFBIU Cleveland Outreach Event

The AFBIU made many new friends at the Midwest Region’s outreach event in Cleveland at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. Fascinating the crowd with his talk, “Towards the Day Alzheimer’s Disease Will No Longer Frighten Us,” leading neurobiologist Dr. Edward Stern, of BIU’s Leslie & Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, said that his goal is to make Alzheimer’s nothing more than a medical interlude, much as Polio is today.

3. Sara Hurand, together with her husband Elie Weiss, who helped coordinate this event
4. Event Chairman Peter Rzepka, immediate Past President of AFBIU
5. Charlotte Kramer with her husband, Leonard Schwartz
6. Dr. Edward Stern, who specializes in neurodegenerative diseases, lectures to a receptive audience
AFBIU held an outreach luncheon at Temple Emanu-El, with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

Guest speaker Prof. Eytan Gilboa, Director, Center for International Communication, addressed the issue of “How to Defeat the Campaign to Delegitimize Israel.”

1. Herb Froelich, Carol Meshil, and Joe Meshil
2. Phyllis Greenberg and Sandra Bernstein
3. Jonathon Gilbert, Elaine Miller, and Bill Diamond
4. Tony Lampert, Prof. Eytan Gilboa, and Ron Schram
5. Rabbi Michael Resnick of Temple Emanu-El, JCRC Executive Director Luis Fleischman, and Prof. Gilboa
Canadian Mission
Canadian Friends “Young at Heart Mission” traveled throughout Israel, visiting its unique historical, archaeological and holy sites, and participating in two days of workshops on BIU’s state-of-the-art campus. It was a memorable journey for one and all!

Campus Visit
1-2. The Mission, led by Dov Altman (back left), Executive Vice President of the Canadian Friends, visits the Bar-Ilan campus

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Canadian Snowbirds Event
Addressing Canadian Snowbirds in Florida, Dr. Mordecai Kedar of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies and the BESA Center, speaks about Egypt, the causes and the future of the revolution and its potential effects on Israel.

Campus Visit
1. Jack Prince meets with Dr. Esther Japha-Adi at the Jim Joseph Education Building

Canadian Snowbirds Event
2. Dr. Kedar (front right) is introduced to Charles and Rose Tabachnick, and Stanley and Donna Shenkman of Toronto

3. Jehudi Kinar (far right) hosts Zvi and Irit Markuszower of the Netherlands at the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials

4. Daniel Sandler, Marc Touati, French economist; Yael David Touati, Director of the French Desk; Raphael Moray, Minister-Counselor of the Israeli Embassy in France; Nadine Szlifersztejn, General Secretary of Bar-Ilan France; Rabbi Jacky Milewski; and Adv. Olivier Iteanu, President of the French Friends of Bar-Ilan, at the “Capitalism and Judaism” dinner debate, held at the residence of the Israeli Ambassador to the OECD in Paris

5. Dr. Kedar (center) with Stan and Sue Freedman of Ontario
The 29th Business Forum
Meeting with Guest Speaker
Isaac Herzog, MK and former
Minister of Welfare and Social
Services
1. Isaac Herzog addressing the
Business Forum
2. David Fuhrer, Chairman of the
Israel Friends of BIU; Prof. Moshe
Kaveh, President of BIU; MK Isaac
Herzog; and Eli Hurvitz, Former
Chairman of the Board of Teva
Pharmaceutical Industries

Law Forum Breakfast
Prof. Zohar Goshen, Chairman of
the Israel Securities Authority,
delivered the keynote address at
the Law Forum Breakfast, which
was attended by 100 attorneys
representing Israel’s leading law
firms. This event is the third in a
series which was established during
the Faculty’s 40th Anniversary
celebrations to strengthen ties with
the Israeli legal community.
1. Prof. Zohar Goshen addressing
the audience
Don-Nechiya, Adv. Zion Amir, David
Fuhrer
3. Prof. Haim Taitelbaum, BIU
Rector with Adv. Rami Bubil
Zilbershats, BIU Deputy President

3. Dr. Merav Galili, Acting Director
of Global Resource Development;
and Tal Keinan, CEO of KOPS
4. Mori Arkin, Chairman of Arkin
Holdings; and David Fuhrer
5. Dina Berniker with Yzkiel and Dr.
Shlomith Barenholtz

Leading Israeli Businessman
Rami Levy Lectures to BIU
Students
5. Rami Levy, CEO of the “Rami
Levy Shivok-Hashikma”
chain, lectures to law students
volunteering in BIU’s Legal Aid Clinics
and its Business Administration
majors
6. Prof. Ari Reich, Dean of the
Faculty of Law; Rami Levy; Adv.
Karine Elharrar, Director of Clinical
Education in the Faculty of Law
An evening honoring Morris Kahn, a founder of the Aurec Group, was held at the Gonda (Goldschmied) Nanotechnology Triplex, in recognition of his support of Returning Scientists in the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA)

1. Dr. Avi Peer, Morris Kahn and Prof. Moshe Kaveh
2. Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of BINA
3. Morris Kahn, flanked by BIU Returning Scientists, family and friends, in front of the Nano Benefactors Wall

Dvora Itzhaki Scholarship Awards

The Dvora Itzhaki Scholarship Awards ceremony was held at Bar-Ilan University in the presence of senior officials of the Mashbir Group and the 20 student scholarship recipients.

1. Einat Shohat and Dvora Itzhaki, Chair of the Mashbir Group
2. Rami Shavit, CEO of the Mashbir Group, with Dr. Merav Galili
3. The audience applauds the worthy Dvora Itzhaki Scholars

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2. Prof. Arie Zaban, Director of BINA
3. Morris Kahn, flanked by BIU Returning Scientists, family and friends, in front of the Nano Benefactors Wall

David and Michal Fuhrer hosted their friends for an evening devoted to Bar-Ilan University - “A journey from Past to Future,” featuring keynote speakers Prof. Aren Maeir of the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology and Prof. David Passig of the Churgin School of Education

4. David Fuhrer welcomes his guests and introduces the engaging BIU speakers
5. David Fuhrer; Igal Brightman, Chairman and CEO of Deloitte Brightman Almagor Zohar; Claude Brightman and Michal Fuhrer
6. David Fuhrer; Batya Ofer; Idan Ofer, Director of Israel Corporation; Dr. Merav Galili; and Gabriel Last, Chairman of the Board of the Delek Group

Bank Igud Scholarship Awards

4. Student recipients and guests at the Bank Igud Scholarship Awards ceremony at BIU. Standing to the right of the sign: Prof. Miriam Faust, Vice Rector, and Tuvia Sofer, Head of Marketing and Direct Banking at Bank Igud

Campus Visit

5. Yiftach Ron-Tal, Chairman of the Board of the Israel Electric Corporation, with Prof. Doron Aurbach, world-renowned expert in energy storage and conversion, in his lab at the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials
1. British Friends Chairman Arnon Katz meets last year’s recipients of the Katz Family Scholarships for Research Advancement, is updated on their progress and hears that they are forging cooperation for further research!
Pictured: Linda Lovitch, Coordinator for Events and UK Australasia Desk; Dr. Rachela Popovtzer of the School of Engineering; Dr. Rakefet Schwarz of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences; and Arnon Katz

2. Representatives of the Moshal Scholarship Program meet with this year’s recipients on the BIU campus.
Pictured: Adina Appel, Director of Donor Relations; Yael Lavie and Yael Sarig, representatives of the Moshal Scholarship Foundation

3. Romie and Esther Tager visit BIU and surprise the Deputy President, Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats on her birthday with a cake.
Pictured: (in back) Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats; and Prof. Arie Reich, Dean of the Faculty of Law; (seated) Romie and Esther Tager

4. Edwin Shuker visits Bar-Ilan University and is given an informative campus tour by Prof. Yaffa Zilbershats.
Pictured: Edwin Shuker and Prof. Zilbershats in front of Beit Harav Jakobovits - The Sami Shamoon Centre

5. The Hon. Christopher Pyne, Shadow Minister for Education in Australia, at BIU to take part in the Australia Israel Leadership Forum, which encourages dialogue between the top echelon of Israel’s and Australia’s public and private sectors

6. The Australia Israel Leadership Forum convenes at BIU.
Pictured: Nicola Wright, Executive Director of the Australia Israel Leadership Forum; Albert Dadon, Chairman of the Australia Israel Leadership Forum; and Avishay Braverman, Israeli Member of Knesset

7. Prof. Gal Kaminka (right) explains the wonders of his research with robots to Nir Pizmony of Australia

8. Nir Pizmony discusses the latest innovations of the Bar-Ilan Research and Development Company (BIRAD) with Dr. Shai Rahimpour and Dr. Frances Shalit, Business Development Officer, BIRAD

1. After “wowing” the audience at the Carmel School in Perth with his speech on “Jewish Education in the 21st Century,” BIU President Prof. Moshe Kaveh accepts a gift from the Carmel School Principal, David Taylor

2. During Prof. Kaveh’s visit in Australia with Harry Hoffman, OAM; Vera Muravitz, International Chairman of the Bar-Ilan Friends; and David Taylor

3. At the Melbourne breakfast sponsored by Michael Abeles: Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Michael Abeles

4. Prof. Moshe and Dorit Kaveh, and Vera Muravitz are treated to a wonderful afternoon tea in Melbourne hosted by Sam and Ruth Alter. Pictured: back: Vera Muravitz, Ruth Alter, Alex Goodman, Terry Krammers; front: Jonathan Kramer, Leon Kempler, Prof. Moshe and Dorit Kaveh
A group of 80 students from the Panama Jewish community recently visited Bar-Ilan University, touring campus and visiting such attractions as the Robotics Laboratory, while also learning about BIU’s various study options.

1. José María Aznar, former Prime Minister of Spain, was honored at a lunch sponsored by Mr. Benjamin & Rosy Perelman and Bank Hapoalim in Lima, Peru.

2. Guests at the lunch listening to José María Aznar’s keynote speech.

3. Yossef Bar-Magen, Director of the Iberoamerican Desk, addressing the guests.

4. Benjamin Perelman receiving a Certificate of Achievement from José María Aznar and Yossef Bar-Magen.

3. New Israeli immigrants Ing. Ruben Feldman (far left) and family are greeted by Prof. Izak Yohai, Member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Iberoamerican Desk, and his wife, Rivka. Ruben is the son of Ing. Israel and Rosita Feldman and the grandson of the late BIU founders, Shimshon and Chana Feldman.

4. Prof. Izak and Rivka Yohai meet General Ernesto Gonzales, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Ecuador, in Quito.
# BIU Offices in Israel and Abroad

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