Changing the Face of the University

New Faculty 2011-2013
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Preserving and developing Bar-Ilan University’s human capital is at the forefront of our academic activities. It is this commitment to scientific and scholarly excellence that has led the University to make a bold decision: to expand, replenish and energize our academic ranks by pre-filling academic positions that will become available over the course of the next ten years. This has allowed BIU to actively recruit an unprecedented number of new faculty across the entire spectrum of disciplines – Israeli scientists and scholars returning from abroad, new immigrants and noteworthy members of the academe from Israeli institutions. This sea-change is already making an impact on the research performance of the University, on the number and caliber of students enrolling in our undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and in our international status on the world scientific and academic scene. This brochure provides a listing and brief biographies of our newest faculty members, as well as a representative selection of profiles which provide you with a glimpse into the world views and experiences of some of our exceptional newcomers.
an appreciation of Jewish values and culture is the key to fostering a commitment to the Jewish people
Introduction

Judaism is at the core of Bar-Ilan University’s founding mission, and the Faculty of Jewish Studies is the largest in the world. It is this important academic legacy that has led BIU to recruit the best and brightest Jewish Studies scholars, each of whom will contribute to our understanding and knowledge in a broad spectrum of Judaic disciplines. These scholars reflect the University’s belief that an appreciation of Jewish values and culture is the key to fostering a commitment to the Jewish people and the Land of Israel. Following are the newest recruits to the Faculty of Jewish Studies:

Who's Who of New Faculty in Jewish Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faculty</th>
<th>Recruited From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Shawn Zelig Aster</td>
<td>Yeshiva University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Martin (Szusz) Dept. of Land of Israel Studies &amp; Archaeology</td>
<td>Biblical Studies &amp; Assyriology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jonathan Grossman</td>
<td>Herzog College, Gush Etzion</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Zalman Shamir Bible Department</td>
<td>Jewish Philosophy &amp; Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tsippi Kauffman</td>
<td>Shalom Hartman Institute, Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Department of Jewish Thought</td>
<td>Chassidic Philosophy and Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Yaakov Kohler</td>
<td>Ben-Gurion University of the Negev</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Department of Jewish Philosophy</td>
<td>Halachic Arguments in 19th-Century Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Eric Lawee</td>
<td>York University, Canada</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Zalman Shamir Bible Department</td>
<td>Hebrew Biblical Exegesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Adina Moshavi</td>
<td>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages</td>
<td>Biblical &amp; Modern Hebrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Claudia Rosenzweig-Kupfer</td>
<td>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Joseph &amp; Norman Berman Department of Literature of the Jewish People</td>
<td>Old Yiddish Literature in Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Michael Ryzhik</td>
<td>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Department of Hebrew &amp; Semitic Languages</td>
<td>Mishnaic &amp; Medieval Hebrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nili Samet</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Zalman Shamir Bible Department</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible, Assyriology &amp; the Ancient Near East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Adam Silverstein</td>
<td>Cambridge, University, UK</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Department of Middle Eastern Studies</td>
<td>Abrahamic Religions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Joshua Tettelbaum</td>
<td>Hoover Institute, Stanford University, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Department of Middle Eastern Studies</td>
<td>Modern Middle East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Zalman Shamir Department of Bible

Dr. Jonathan Grossman

Dr. Grossman’s fields of expertise are in Jewish Philosophy and Bible. He taught Bible at Yeshivat Har Tzion, Midreshet Migdal Oz, and Herzog College before joining the Zalman Shamir Bible Department at Bar-Ilan University. He has a BA in Education from Herzog Teacher’s College, an MA in Jewish Philosophy from the Hebrew University, and a PhD in Bible Studies from Bar-Ilan University. He is the recipient of the Council for Higher Education’s Nathan Rotenstreich Fellowship, and the Mofet Institute Fellowship for research on “Social Issues in the Story of Ruth.”

Dr. George Yaakov Kohler

Having completed his Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Frankfurt, with a BA in Public Relations and Business Communication from Berlin College of Arts, an MA and a PhD in Jewish Thought from Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Dr. Kohler was a Lecturer of Jewish Thought at his alma mater, and a Guest Lecturer at the Papal Lateran University in Rome. Kohler was awarded the Rotenstreich Fellowship, the Grunewald Prize of Leo Baeck Institute, and the Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives Fellowship. The author of a number of books, his research interests include theology, philosophy of religion, 17th century and early modern philosophy, 19th-century German philosophy, Jewish-Christian relations, early modern intellectual history, and Jewish thought.
Prof. Eric Lawee
With a PhD from Harvard University, Prof. Lawee has taught most recently at Stanford University and York University. His research centers on medieval and early modern Jewish biblical interpretation, literature, and thought. His book Isaac Abarbanel’s Stance Toward Tradition: Defense, Dissent and Dialogue won a Canadian Jewish Book Award. He has won numerous other grants and prizes, including the Van Courlandt Elliott Prize from the Medieval Academy of America; a research grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and a Lady Davis Fellowship Trust Visiting Professorship.

Dr. Nili Samet
Dr. Samet’s research focuses on the Hebrew Bible, Assyriology, and the Ancient Near East. Dr. Samet, who has a PhD in Biblical Studies from Bar-Ilan University, was a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology. She is the winner of the 2011 Alon Fellowship for Outstanding Young Researchers, the Beit Shalom Grant, and many other grants and awards.

Dr. Adina Moshavi
Dr. Moshavi’s research focuses on Biblical and modern Hebrew syntax and pragmatics, politeness and argumentation theories, and speech acts. Author of Word Order in the Biblical Hebrew Finite Clause: A Syntactic and Pragmatic Analysis of Preposing, she has published numerous articles in professional publications around the world. Dr. Moshavi received her BA, MA and PhD from Yeshiva University. Her most recent position was at the Hebrew University.

Prof. Michael Ryzhik
Prof. Ryzhik’s research focuses on Mishnaic and Medieval Hebrew, Judeo-Italian and other Jewish languages, and Italian literature in the Middle-Ages and during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. He earned his BA and MA in Biology at Moscow State University, continuing MA and PhD studies in Hebrew Language at the Hebrew University and lecturing there before joining Bar-Ilan University. He is the recipient of the Y Kutscher Prize, the Nehemia Aloni Prize, the Vigevani Grant, and the Ben Yehuda Center Grant for the Research of the Hebrew Language.

Department of Jewish Thought
Dr. Tzippi Kauffman
With a BA in Physics and a Teacher’s Certificate in Education from BIU, Dr. Kauffman holds an MA and a PhD in Jewish Thought from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before joining BIU, she taught at Midresheet Ein HaNatzi and Midresheet Lindenbaum, the Van Leer Institute, and was a Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, all in Jerusalem, and a Teaching Fellow at the Program for Religion Studies at Tel Aviv University. Kauffman received several academic grants, including the Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines. Author of a book about the Chassidic perception of God as well as several published articles, Kauffman’s research focuses on Chassidic philosophy and literature since its inception and until modern times.

Joseph & Norman Berman
Department of Literature of the Jewish People
Dr. Claudia Rosenzweig-Kupfer
Dr. Rosenzweig’s specialty is Old Yiddish Literature in Italy. With a BA from the University of Milan, an MA from the University of Trier, Germany, and a PhD from the Hebrew University, she has taught and conducted research at a number of prestigious universities in Italy in Biblical Hebrew, Hebrew Medieval Literature, Modern Hebrew Literature, History of the Yiddish Language, and Judeo-Italian Languages. She has published articles about Modern Hebrew and Modern Yiddish Literature and translated works by Shalom Aleichem and S. Y. Agnon into Italian.
Prof. Joshua Teitelbaum
A Senior Research Associate at the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies, Prof. Teitelbaum, who has a PhD from Tel Aviv University, is a leading historian and expert on the modern Middle East. He is Visiting Fellow and Contributor to the Herbert and Jane Dwight Working Group on Islamism and the International Order at the Hoover Institution, and Visiting Scholar at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, and is the recipient of a prestigious research grant from the Israel Science Foundation for his work on tribes and the military in Saudi Arabia.

Prof. Adam Silverstein
Prof. Silverstein has a PhD in Medieval Islamic Studies from Cambridge University. He is the author of numerous books and articles and has held positions at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London. He began his career with a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, which he held at Cambridge University. His academic research focuses on the religious history of the Near and Middle East, including continuities from the ancient to the Medieval Near East, and the comparative study of the Abrahamic Religions.

Dr. Shawn Zelig Aster
Dr. Aster lectured at the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as at Yeshiva University and Rutgers University. The author of several books, he holds a BA from Harvard University, an MA from McGill University, Montreal, and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the winner of several fellowships and academic grants. His research interests include Connections between Biblical Prophecy and History, Historical Geography, Rabbinic Biblical Interpretation, and Comparative Study of Cuneiform and Biblical Civilizations.
Dr. Jonathan Grossman: Transforming Ambiguity into Academic Excellence

Dr. Jonathan Grossman, a senior lecturer in BIU’s Zalman Shamir Bible Department, loves ambiguity. He thrives on exploring double meanings in texts, uncovering hidden narratives, and probing the interface between religious interpretation of Judaism’s holiest books and modern biblical criticism.

This expertise has made Grossman, at only 42, one of Bar-Ilan’s most prolific young researchers, with tens of academic papers published in top scholarly journals since his graduation in 1997 with an MA in Jewish philosophy from the Hebrew University and a PhD in bible from Bar-Ilan in 2006. He is one of seven academic stars absorbed into BIU’s Faculty of Jewish Studies during Academic Year 2011/12, within the framework of the University’s innovative Faculty Recruitment initiative.

The best way to understand Grossman’s work is via example. In one of his more recent papers, Grossman looked into the story of Absalom’s revolt as described in the Second Book of Samuel. In it, a distant relative of King Saul named Shimei ferociously appears to curse David and even throws rocks at him for the latter’s role in replacing the former king.

That’s the usual, literal, interpretation, says Grossman, but “a syntactic analysis of the sentence reveals that the curse also reflects God’s anger at David. “ This dual meaning repeats itself in numerous places in the bible – including Ruth’s interaction with Boaz, in the Book of Esther, and in particular with how to understand the long litany of sacrifices in the Book of Leviticus in the Torah. Indeed, it has formed the backbone of much of Grossman’s academic research.

Other papers and publications he has authored on the subject include “Structural Ambiguity in the Book of Ezekiel,” “Two Double Narratives in Genesis: Hagar’s Departure and the Announcement of Isaac’s Birth,” and “Repetition in Biblical Narrative as a Basis for the Assimilation of Ambiguous Expressions.”

While Grossman is religious, his approach is eminently worldly. Rather than dismiss modern biblical critics, as he says many traditional rabbis do, Grossman embraces their work. “The approach of the biblical critics is often completely contradictory to traditional analysis, and that makes harmonizing the discrepancies between the two quite a challenge,” he says. But those same rabbis ought to be “the first to seek to use every means that contributes to a better understanding of the bible. Why ignore the tremendous significance of the tools that were developed by the more recent biblical critics?” he asks.

Grossman also finds that the unique mix of religious and secular students in his Bar-Ilan classes adds significant value. “The religious students generally have an advantage in that they are quite familiar with the bible and the ancient commentaries. However, the secular students come to the text from a ‘neutral’ perspective, without any prescribed positions,” he explains.

Grossman’s interest in biblical studies is not surprising; his father, Prof. Avraham Grossman, taught the history of Israel at the Hebrew University and was an Israel Prize laureate. The younger Grossman has also received a fair share of recognition, including Hebrew University’s Award of Excellence, the Council for Higher Education’s Nathan Rotenstreich Fellowship, and an off-the-beaten-track fellowship from Japan’s Beit-Shalom on “Outer Narrative and Hidden Reading.”

Grossman was part of BIU’s Doctoral Fellowships of Excellence program in 2003. His PhD advisor at Bar-Ilan was one of the University’s top bible studies professors – Moshe Garsiel.

Beyond his academic work, Grossman was on the committee that was charged with creating a new curriculum for bible studies in Israeli religious high schools. “We did a broad survey and discovered that students find studying the bible boring and unnecessary – even in religious schools,” Grossman reports.

The committee recommended that teachers move past memorization (the all too “standard” way of teaching the bible in Israeli) and allow students to engage in more interactive and personal discussions of what they are reading in class. And “we wanted students to learn the books of the bible in the context of history, rather than randomly as it is done today,” he adds.

If implemented, such changes represent a radical departure from the last 50 years of secondary school instruction. But for Grossman, it would be in keeping with a career that has never shied away from asking tough questions and promoting out-of-the-box thinking. And, after all, there’s nothing ambiguous about outstanding scholarship.
students with a profound sense of connection to those who have come before us
Bar-Ilan University believes that the role of a university in strengthening the State of Israel rests largely on producing intellectuals and leaders who possess creative and critical thinking abilities, a broad knowledge base and an understanding of both Jewish and general sources that develop and deepen the spiritual and humanistic aspects of lives in Israel. BIU is now focusing on securing up-and-coming star Humanities scholars who view the humanities as an invaluable opportunity to provide students with a profound sense of connection to those who have come before us, as well as to those who share our world today. Following are the newest recruits to the Faculty of Humanities:

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Silvia Adler</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>French Studies</td>
<td>French Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Fallenberg</td>
<td>Beit Berl, Kfar Saba</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing</td>
<td>Arabic Modern Arabic Texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Yoel Greenberg</td>
<td>Princeton University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>18th-Century Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dorit Gottesfeld</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Modern Arabic Texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hilla Karas</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Translation &amp; Interpreting</td>
<td>Ancient to Modern French Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Lior Laks</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Phonology, Morphology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tamar Levanon</td>
<td>University of Haifa</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>General Philosophy</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Galit Sassoon</td>
<td>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Cognitive Sciences of Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Yakov Yosef</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Mamluk Era</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Dorit Gottesfeld
Dr. Gottesfeld earned her BA and MA in Arabic Language and Literature and a PhD in Cultural Studies from Tel Aviv University, along with a Teaching Certificate in Arabic Language. She is a research fellow and Head of the research groups “Young Arab Women Writers” and “Arab Feminism” at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Her research focuses on Arab and Palestinian women’s fiction.

Dr. Yakov (Koby) Yosef
Dr. Yosef earned his BA in Arabic Language and Literature and Middle Eastern and African History (Islamic History), and his MA and PhD from the School of History (Islamic History), all from Tel Aviv University. Yosef understands Hebrew, Arabic, German, Spanish, French and Persian. He was previously a Research Assistant at the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at his alma mater, where his research focused on society and politics in the Mamluk Sultanate, Islamic law and political thought.

Evan Fallenberg
Evan Fallenberg is a graduate of Georgetown University and the Vermont College of Fine Arts. As well as serving as Coordinator of Fiction for the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Bar-Ilan, he is an instructor in the low-residency MFA program in creative writing at City University of Hong Kong, and director of The Studio for Writers and Readers of English. The recipient of a MacDowell Colony fellowship, Fallenberg serves as an advisor to several literary prizes and runs a Writers’ Studio in Bitan Aharon. The author of two novels and translator of many more. Fallenberg has been the recipient of a number of prestigious awards.
Dr. Silvia Adler
Dr. Adler received her BA, MA and PhD from Tel Aviv University. With her expertise in French linguistics, she is the recipient of the Scholarship for Research in French Linguistics from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a Scholarship in French Studies and Belgian Culture from the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Adler has published numerous books and articles both in French and English, and is a sought-after speaker at scientific conferences all over the world.

Department of French Studies

Dr. Galit W. Sassoon
Dr. Sassoon has a BA, MA and PhD in Linguistics from Tel Aviv University, and has held postdoctoral positions at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Institute of Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Her most recent position was at the Hebrew University. Recipient of a number of scholarships and grants, including one by the Spanish government, she received the Cognitive Science Society’s award for the best student contribution at the 16th annual meeting of The European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, at Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

Dr. Lior Laks
Dr. Laks served as Lecturer for Basic Arabic Studies and Phonology at Tel Aviv University, Lecturer of Phonetics and Phonology at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, translator at the Federal News Service in Jerusalem, and Research Assistant at the Heidelberg University in Germany. With a BA and MA in Linguistics and a PhD in Cultural Studies, all from Tel Aviv University, Dr. Laks focuses his research on morphology, phonology, syntax and their interface, and on thematic operations. Dr. Laks is the recipient of numerous academic grants and awards.

Department of General Philosophy

Dr. Tamar Levanon
Dr. Levanon has a BA in Behavioral Sciences from the College of Administration in Israel, and an MA and a PhD in Philosophy from Haifa University. She was granted a postdoctoral scholarship from the Open University and another one from the Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science at the Hebrew University. Her research focuses on the ontological status of change, the concept of transition as key to the understanding the nature of change.

Dr. Ya’el Greenberg
Dr. Greenberg earned a BSc in Computer Science and Mathematics, an MSc in Mathematics, an MA in Musicology, and PhD in Musicology – all from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He served as Visiting Research Collaborator at the Department of Music at Princeton University, where he was also a postdoctoral departmental guest at the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Among his many awards and grants are the Fulbright Fellowship, a Postdoctoral Stipend from Princeton, the Princeton-Hebrew University Tikvah Fellowship, the Rotenstreich Scholarship for Humanities, and the Nicola Ugo Stame travel award for a young researcher from Seconda Universita di Napoli. Having previously taught in the Musicology Department at the Hebrew University, Greenberg is also a violist with the Carmel Quartet and was a principal violist in the Tel Aviv soloists’ chamber ensemble.

Dr. Hilla Karas
Dr. Karas was a lecturer of French Studies at Tel Aviv University and at the Tel Aviv-Yaffo Academic College. With a BA in French Studies and Linguistics, an MA in French Studies and a PhD in Cultural Studies from Tel Aviv University, Karas’ research focuses on theory of translation, translation and national identity, history of French philology, and French Medieval literature. She is the winner of a research grant from the French Community of Belgium, a research fellowship at the Free University of Brussels, and the President’s Honors Grant at Tel Aviv University. Karas is a member of the Israeli Association for Applied Linguistics, and has translated texts by renowned French philosophers such as Michel Foucault, Julia Kristeva, and Jacques Derrida.
With the Latest Word on How Words are Formed

Every week, Bar-Ilan lecturer Dr. Lior Laks drives from his office at the University to “Beit Hayeled,” a boarding school in Tel Aviv for children who come from broken families. Laks, a linguist, has been tutoring students at Beit Hayeled for 13 years in English, Arabic, French and Hebrew grammar, many for their matriculation exams. He has worked with some of his students for nearly 10 years, from 8 to 18-years-old. “It gives me such satisfaction to help these children graduate and receive their full diploma,” he says proudly.

Bringing his expertise in language into the community is just one way that Laks, who is now in his second year at Bar-Ilan, stays in touch with what’s happening on the street, not just in the ivory tower of linguistics. His latest area of research looks at how English words find their way into hip Israeli parlance. The latest linguistic innovations include lehaspim – to send a spam message by email; leagner – to ignore someone (particularly on Facebook); lesames – to send an SMS or text message; and a new trendy favorite: legaytcheck – to gate-check-in someone in at the airport.

Such slang is more than just a good laugh; it’s the basis of “morphology,” the study of word structure, and the focus of Laks’s scholarly pursuits. “I’m very interested in how words are formed spontaneously by the speakers themselves. What are the unconscious rules by which we make up new words?” he wonders.

“We can’t know exactly how language has developed in the past,” he adds. “But by watching how it evolves in real time, we can begin to discover what it means to ‘know’ language. How can we uncover the ‘black box’ in the mind that handles the language faculty?”

Together with fellow linguist Dr. Evan-Gary Cohen of Tel Aviv University, Laks has also studied how prefixes and suffixes meander from one language to another. For example, the Hebrew word beyachad means “together.” Israelis have now added the English suffix “ness” to the word to create beyachad-ness – literally, “togetherness.” What’s interesting, Laks points out, is that there is no single word for togetherness in Hebrew. The same goes for zug-less where zug means partner – thus creating a single word for a person without a partner.

“We can’t know exactly how language has developed in the past,” he adds. “But by watching how it evolves in real time, we can begin to discover what it means to ‘know’ language.”

Linguistics may sound esoteric, but there are practical applications as well, for example in data mining, text analytics and sound translation for hi-tech. Laks provided “linguistic input and quality assurance” to a company that did just such work.

Laks received his master’s degree and PhD from Tel Aviv University. His dissertation looked at verb patterns in both Hebrew and Arabic. At Bar-Ilan, Laks teaches linguistics in the English Department and, even though his subject matter is Hebrew and Arabic, all classroom discussion and papers are in English.

English is also the lingua franca, so to speak, during his frequent travels to participate in linguistics conferences around the world where he has had the opportunity to exchange opinions with fellow researchers from different countries, even ones like Syria and Lebanon that don’t have diplomatic relations with Israel. “It’s very collegial,” he says, although he’s not sure he’s ready to take on the mantle of linguistics “ambassador.”

Laks, 35, has been fascinated by language since he was a child. His mother is a pianist in a philharmonic orchestra and he attended the music department at a school for the arts in Tel Aviv. The structure of music and language have a lot in common and, before long, he was hooked on grammar. He later learned Arabic during a pre-military language course.

Laks raves about the atmosphere at Bar-Ilan. “The faculty members are amazing,” he says. “They’ve given me great mentoring; advice on how to shape my research, on how to plan my classes.” He also appreciates the special study days the University organizes, as well as smaller interdisciplinary groups for new faculty members to get to know each other better.

Or to put it morphologically, to foster greater beyachad-ness.
BIU continues to strengthen the Israeli judicial system.
Bar-Ilan University is deeply committed to the advancement of democratic values in the State of Israel. The world-class legal education provided by the scholars in the Faculty of Law to an elite group of students has been an important means by which BIU continues to strengthen the Israeli judicial system. The Faculty’s graduates occupy key positions in government, the courts, the military, the educational system and business. Following are the newest recruits to the Faculty of Law:

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<th>New Faculty</th>
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<th>Specialization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ori Aronson</td>
<td>Harvard University, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Procedure &amp; Constitutional Law &amp; Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov</td>
<td>Columbia University, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Constitutional Law &amp; Legislative Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hanoch Sheinman</td>
<td>Tulane University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Ethics &amp; Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who’s Who of New Faculty in Law

**Dr. Ori Aronson**
- Aronson comes to the Faculty of Law from Harvard Law School where he obtained an LLM and JSD. His research specialties are in procedure, courts, institutional analysis, constitutional law, constitutional and political theory, judicial review, multiculturalism, and American law. He is a recipient of the 2011 Alon Scholarship for outstanding junior professors (Israel Council for Higher Education), among other prizes and grants.

**Dr. Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov**
- Bar-Siman-Tov, whose expertise is in constitutional law, constitutional theory, legislation, the legislative process, and judicial review, has an LLB from the Hebrew University, and an LLM and JSD from Columbia University. A member of the Israel Bar Association, he was an Associate in Law at Columbia University, and a Permanent Senior Law Clerk to Justice Dorit Beinisch in Israel’s Supreme Court. He is the recipient of a Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship, a David E. Fischman Scholarship and a Morris Fellowship.

**Dr. Hanoch Sheinman**
- Sheinman teaches law and philosophy. He specializes in philosophy of law and ethics. In philosophy of law, he studies the nature of law and legal systems, as well as the philosophical foundations of specific legal fields (such as contracts and torts). In ethics he is interested in normative theories (such as consequentialism and contractualism). He is finishing a book in which he argues that promises impart knowledge (as other assertions about the world).
Dr. Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov
Procedures Matter – Investigating How a Law Passes

Bar-Ilan University Law lecturer Dr. Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov specializes in what at first might seem to be a very obscure part of the legal world: the legislative process and judicial review. That is, the study of whether courts can – and should – get involved in the nitty gritty procedural elements of lawmaking. For example, was the vote for a new bill concluded in the specified amount of time and, if it wasn’t, should a court step in and annul the law?

At first blush, one might conclude: what does it matter if the time for voting was 15 minutes as prescribed or extended for 30 minutes? But it can make a huge difference, explains Bar-Siman-Tov, who received his doctorate on the subject from Columbia University, where he was also a Fulbright Scholar, a Morris Fellow and an Associate-in-Law. Bar-Siman-Tov is one of 16 young academic stars absorbed into BIU’s Liberal Arts disciplines during Academic Year 2011/12, within the framework of the University’s innovative Faculty Recruitment initiative.

He cites an actual example that occurred in the United States. Congressional rules stipulate that voting must be closed in 15 minutes. In one case, however, when it was clear that a majority of the House had voted against the bill, the Chair illegally extended the time frame, during which time supporters of the bill pressured legislators to change their vote. When the supporters finally secured a majority in favor of the bill – after almost three hours – the Chair promptly declared that the bill had passed.

“This case illustrates how violations of even technical rules can change outcomes of votes and frustrate the democratic will of the chamber,” explains Bar-Siman-Tov. An even more egregious case of opportunism happened in Israel where some members of Knesset essentially voted twice by switching seats and pressing the button for absent members.

In both cases, Bar-Siman-Tov argues, the courts should have intervened and struck down the laws for violation of procedure. But courts are very reluctant to do so; indeed, no court has yet invalidated a law for violation of parliamentary rules, neither in the U.S. nor in Israel. As a result, the laws in question that Bar-Siman-Tov raises are both still on the books.

“While most classes in law school focus on courts and on reading judicial decisions,” he explains, “this course will turn students’ attention to the legislative process itself.”
fostering a keen understanding of the contemporary societies in which we live
Who's Who of New Faculty in Social Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faculty</th>
<th>Recruited From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Menachem Abudy</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>Equity Based Compensation, Corporate Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Yona Amitai</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Public Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Iris Ben David-Hadar</td>
<td>Stanford University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Churgin School of Education</td>
<td>School Finance Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Yair Berson</td>
<td>State University of NY, Binghamton, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Organizational Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Aharon Buzaglo</td>
<td>Bar-Ilan University</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Churgin School of Education</td>
<td>Values, Educational Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nir Cohen</td>
<td>Ruppin Academic Center, Emek Hefer</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Geography and Environment</td>
<td>Political Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Gabrielle Gayer</td>
<td>University of Haifa</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Decision Theory, Microeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Offer Lieberman</td>
<td>University of Canterbury, New Zealand</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Nir Madjar</td>
<td>Monash University, Australia</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Churgin School of Education</td>
<td>Educational Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Racheli Magness</td>
<td>Ariel University</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nachshon Perez</td>
<td>University of Montreal, Canada</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Political Studies</td>
<td>Tolerance &amp; Pluralism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Alon Raviv</td>
<td>Brandeis University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>Credit &amp; Risk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Boaz Shalgi</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Psychoanalysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Eitan Shamir</td>
<td>Ben-Gurion University of the Negev</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Political Studies</td>
<td>Military Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dana Sheffer</td>
<td>Harvard University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Elana Stephan</td>
<td>University of Southampton, UK</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Social Cognition &amp; Motivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Inbal Yahav</td>
<td>University of Maryland, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Graduate School of Business Administration</td>
<td>Operations Research &amp; Statistical Data Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Menahem Yeaty</td>
<td>Leiden University, Holland</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Churgin School of Education</td>
<td>Discourse Process, Cognition, Visual Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Menachem Yeari</td>
<td>Leiden University, Holland</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Churgin School of Education</td>
<td>Discourse Process, Cognition, Visual Perception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Menachem Abudy
Dr. Abudy specializes in equity-based compensation, corporate finance, corporate governance and private firm valuation. He has a PhD in Finance from Tel Aviv University and is the recipient of a University Fellowship from TAU Faculty of Management, a Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) Fellowship, and a G.I.F. Young Scientists Program research grant, among others.

Dr. Alon Raviv
Dr. Raviv lectured at the International Business School at Brandeis University, Boston University, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Raviv holds a BA in Economics, and an MA and a PhD in Business Administration, all from the Hebrew University. A Visiting Scholar at NYU’s Stern School of Business, Dr. Raviv’s research focuses on risk management in financial institutions, asset pricing, derivatives, fixed income and corporate finance, and has been presented at multiple conferences and published in books and competitive refereed journals.

Dr. Dana Alice Sheffer Gavrieli
Dr. Sheffer Gavrieli has a BA in Psychology from Harvard University, and an MA in Business Administration and PhD in Engineering from Stanford University. She is the recipient of multiple awards from Harvard University and Stanford University, as well as the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship and the Precourt Energy Efficiency Center research grant. Sheffer is the founder and general manager of the Quest Scholars’ Program at Harvard University, designed to advanced at-risk youth. Her research focuses on strategic management and organization theory, technology and innovation strategy, industry structure and evolution, and the boundaries of the firm.

Dr. Inbal Yahav
With a PhD in Operations Research and Data Mining from the University of Maryland, Dr. Yahav was a visiting lecturer at their Department of Decision and Information Technology, Robert H. Smith School of Business. Her research focuses on the interface between operations research and statistical data modeling, in the context of health care applications and online auctions.
Dr. Gabrielle Gayer
Dr. Gayer has a BA, MA and PhD from Tel Aviv University. She comes to Bar-Ilan University from the University of Haifa where she was an economics lecturer. With her main research interests in decision theory, microeconomics, behavioral economics, experimental economics and political economy, she is the recipient of a number of awards, including a grant from the Zimmerman Fund and the Jaffray Lecture, RUD Conference in Paris.

Prof. Offer Lieberman
A two-time winner of the Econometric Theory Award, Prof. Lieberman lectured at the Technion, Yale University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Bristol in England. Lieberman holds a BA and an MA in Economics from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and a PhD in Economics from Monash University in Australia. He is the recipient of numerous scholarships and grants, among them a Research Fellowship from the Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l’Administration Economique in Paris, France. He also received several research grants, including from the Israel Science Foundation. Prof. Lieberman’s academic research focuses on econometric theory and practice, financial econometrics and time-series analysis.

Dr. Iris Ben David-Hadar
Dr. Ben David-Hadar holds a PhD in Education Leadership, Policy and Administration from BIU, and an MA and a BA from Tel Aviv University. Previously, she was a Visiting Scholar at the School of Education at Stanford University. Dr. Ben David-Hadar’s research focuses on school finance policy and funding formulas, resource reallocation, the inquiry of the relationship amongst students’ performance, students’ background characteristics and schools resources, incentives for schools’ achievement improvement and educational values, equality, equity and justice.

Dr. Nir Madjar
Dr. Madjar’s academic credentials include a BA in Behavioral Sciences, an MA in Education and Psychology, and a PhD in Education, all from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He completed his Postdoctoral fellowship in Educational Psychology at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Among Dr. Madjar’s many awards and accomplishments, are a Graduate Scholar Award from the World Universities Forum, a Stipend from the American Psychological Association (APA), and several Graduate Student Scholarships from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Dr. Madjar’s research focuses on personal and environmental aspects of motivation, using the theoretical frameworks of epistemic beliefs, achievement goal orientations and expectancy-value theory.

Dr. Menahem Yeari
Dr. Yeari received his BA, MA and PhD in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Haifa, and was a postdoctoral fellow at Leiden University, The Netherlands. Most of his scientific work was done in the field of visual attention, particularly on the spatial and organizational aspects of attentional allocation and orientation within the visual field. For the last three years he has broadened his specialization to discourse processing and reading comprehension domains, from an interdisciplinary cognitive-science perspective. His post-doctoral research project, which was formulated (in detail) independently following an autodidactic study of the field, was awarded (with a perfect score) by the Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship of the European Union.
Department of Geography and Environment

Dr. Nir Cohen
Dr. Cohen earned his MA at Columbia University and his PhD at the University of Arizona. He has since been a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and an adjunct lecturer at Ruppin Academic Center. Dr. Cohen’s research focuses on space, migration and the politics of Diasporic membership, internal migration of ethnic and national minorities, and migration and urban citizenship as it relates to new, non-Jewish groups residing in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area.

Dr. Aharon Buzaglo
Dr. Buzaglo received his MA and PhD (2011) from Bar-Ilan University’s Churgin School of Education, and is now a new faculty member within the School. His doctoral dissertation was on “Teacher Training for Moral Education in State Colleges in Israel.” His areas of expertise are values, moral education, leadership & educational policy. Among grants and awards he has received is BIU’s prestigious Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence.

Department of Management Studies

Prof. Yona Amitai
Prof. Amitai’s medical studies were at the University of Bologna and the Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. Former head of the Health Ministry’s Mother, Child and Adolescent Department, his main interests are public health service for children and adolescents, preventive medicine in children, pediatric environmental health, prevention and treatment of poisoning in children; chemical safety and marine environment toxicology, and pediatric pharmacology.

Department of Political Studies

Dr. Racheli Magnezi
Dr. Magnezi holds a BA in Marketing and Finance from the Tel Aviv College of Management, an MBA from BIU’s School of Business Administration, a post graduate degree in Health Systems and Business Administration from Tel Aviv University, and a PhD from the Department of Health System Management at Tel Aviv University. She is the recipient of grants from the Research Fund of the Defense Ministry, the National Institute for Healthcare Policy, and the Research Authorities of the Ariel University Center, and the National Council for Logics in Healthcare Systems. Editor of “Economic and Social Aspects of Israel’s Healthcare System”, Magnezi’s research focuses on health policy, chronic disease management programs, cost and control in health utilization, and health economics. She has served as Senior Lecturer at Ariel University Center, Lecturer at the Israel Center for Management, Head of Budget and Control (rank: Lieutenant Colonel) at the IDF Medical Corps HQ, and Coordinator of a Chronic Disease Management Project at the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer.

Dr. Nahshon Perez
A graduate of the BA Program in Communication and Political Studies and the MA Program in Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University, Dr. Perez earned his PhD from the Hebrew University. Before joining BIU, Perez lectured at Boston University, UCLA, the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and was postdoctoral fellow at the University of Montreal, Canada. Perez’s research interests revolve around political theory, historical wrongs and compensation, toleration and pluralism, and Israel as a Jewish state. He is the recipient of the European Union Marie Curie Reintegration Grant, the Israel Association of Canadian Studies Scholarship, the Halbert Fellowship from the University of Toronto, and the Rabin Fellowship for the Advancement of Peace and Tolerance from the Hebrew University. He is the author of “Freedom from Past Injustices” (Edinburgh University).

Dr. Eitan Shamir
Dr. Shamir lectured at Brigham Young University, where he also earned his MA in Organizational Behavior. Shamir also holds a BA in Political Science from Tel Aviv University and a PhD from King’s College in London. Author of “Transforming Command: The Pursuit of Mission Command in the US, UK and Israeli Armies”, (Stanford UP), Shamir won a number of academic grants and scholarships from Israel and abroad. Shamir’s research interests include: security, strategy, organizational and military culture and command and leadership.
Dr. Yair Berson

With a BA and an MA in Psychology from the University of Haifa and a PhD in Management from Binghamton University in New York, Dr. Berson is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the Polytechnic Institute of NYU, SUNY, and several National Science Foundation Research Grants. Prior to joining BIU, Berson taught at NYU’s Stern School of Business, the Polytechnic Institute of NYU, the University of Haifa, and was Visiting Scholar at Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. Berson’s research focuses on the role of leader characteristics in shaping organizations and in driving processes, such as organizational learning and change. His work has been published in key venues of his field and he serves on the editorial board of The Leadership Quarterly. In addition, Dr. Berson is the coauthor of the book *The Dream Weavers: Strategy Focused Leadership in Technology Driven Organizations*.

Dr. Boaz Shalgi

Dr. Shalgi has a BA in Psychology from the Hebrew University, an MA in Psychology from Bar-Ilan University and a PhD from Tel Aviv University and served as a Lecturer at the Psychotherapy Program at Tel Aviv University. Dr. Shalgi’s research interests include the history of psychoanalysis, the subject as represented in psychoanalysis and philosophy, inter-subjective psychoanalysis and philosophy, and contemporary psychoanalytical technique and theory.

Dr. Elena Stephan

Dr. Stephan has a PhD in Social Psychology from Tel Aviv University. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Psychology at the University of Southampton, England. Dr. Stephan’s research focuses on social cognition and motivation: future predictions and coping with psychological threats to the Self, and psychological distance aspects in interpersonal relationships.
Dr. Inbal Yahav
Crunching the Data to Save Lives

The gap between the number of kidney donors and patients who are waiting for a transplant is disheartening: in the U.S. alone, there’s an 8:1 ratio working against the people who are desperately in need of a life saving organ: 100,000 candidates vs. only 12,000 donors a year. So, when the rare kidney does become available, how do doctors, hospitals and institutions decide who will be granted a second chance at life?

Dr. Inbal Yahav, a lecturer in the Graduate School of Business Administration at Bar-Ilan University, has developed an algorithm that may help with the heartbreaking process. Yahav studied Computer Science and Information Systems at the Technion and at the University of Maryland. She has a PhD in Operations Research and Data Mining, and her keenest area of research is in healthcare; her most recent published paper, in fact, was on “Modeling Kidney Allocation.”

“I don’t have a medical background;” Yahav explains, “so I can’t say who gets the match. But I can help by looking at the data to determine fairness and the efficiency of allocation. We can analyze historical data that shows how long a patient will live with a kidney, without a kidney, what will change based on when the kidney arrives, and how sick a patient might be. We can even take into account demographic information.”

Yahav’s statistical analysis has been sent to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) as a candidate to create a new national allocation system (the last one still uses data modeling from the 1980’s).

“When you work on something like this, it’s very gratifying,” Yahav beams. “In academic life, you may come up with a beautiful system, but in practice it often doesn’t get used.”

Yahav is one of 16 young academic stars absorbed into BIU’s Liberal Arts disciplines during Academic Year 2011/12, within the framework of the University’s innovative Faculty Recruitment initiative. Her most popular class actually has nothing to do with healthcare, yet everything to do with data mining: in this case, it’s all about the social network. Yahav gives the surprising example of eBay.

“In academic life, you may come up with a beautiful system, but in practice it often doesn’t get used.”

“People think of social networks,” she says, “it’s always Facebook, but eBay is one too. It connects buyers and sellers in a trust relationship. The question we looked at was what factors make a buyer loyal to a particular seller? Perhaps counter intuitively, it turns out that a high price can often generate more loyalty if it results in a perception of greater quality.

Yahav first became interested in her field while working in Information Systems in the Israel Defense Forces. Later, she went to work for a transportation company while an undergraduate. “We’d try to predict the effect on traffic of changing the number of lanes, of adding stop lights,” she says. “That’s when I decided that data is my thing.”

Yahav loves teaching at Bar-Ilan. “It’s the most friendly academic environment I’ve seen,” she enthuses. “It’s based on real relationships and caring for each other. And the University understands if you have kids, you can be flexible with your schedule.”

Yahav’s latest project is back to the health space – this time she is looking at how to use data to distinguish between the symptoms of a bio-terrorism attack and those of just a seasonal flu. “The main fear is that we’ll have an attack and we won’t know about it,” she says. “A doctor won’t recognize the symptoms and will tell the patient to simply take an Advil and go home.”

With all of Yahav’s professional passion for data, one might think it would stop when she returns home to spend time with her family (she has two children under the age of 3). But for Yahav, data never sleeps.

“We were looking to buy a new apartment and wanted to understand the prices,” she explains. “Everyone says that prices in Israel are going down. So I wrote a program to download real estate data from Yad2 (a popular ecommerce website in Israel). It turns out that in the area where we were looking, prices have actually gone up by 10 percent in the last year!”

Yahav hasn’t bought a place yet. But there’s no doubt it will be the data that will alert her when the price is right.
knowledge is best served when it enables a broader perspective that enriches learning.
Bar-Ilan University has embraced the notion that knowledge is best served when it is not confined to a specific discipline, but rather, a enables a broader perspective that enriches learning by drawing on information from a multitude of fields. This requires academics who are capable of posing important questions about common assumptions, uncovering new meanings in artistic works, and finding new ways to understand cultural interactions. The end result: an enrichment of the multidisciplinary disciplines themselves, through innovative research, creative and unconventional approaches, and use of state-of-the-art technology. Following are the newest recruits to Interdisciplinary Studies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faculty</th>
<th>Recruited From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Moshe Bar</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Brain Science Program</td>
<td>Complex Brain Processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Liran Razinsky</td>
<td>Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Hermeneutics &amp; Cultural Studies</td>
<td>Psychoanalysis, 20th Century French Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jay Rothman</td>
<td>University of Cincinnati, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Conflict Management and Negotiation</td>
<td>Conflict Resolution &amp; Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Amit Shriya</td>
<td>Open University, Israel</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Social Sciences</td>
<td>Gerontology, Trauma, Subjective Wellbeing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Liran Razinsky's research focuses on psychoanalysis, French literature of the 20th century, and 20th century French theoreticians. He holds a PhD from the Hebrew University, and has complete two postdoctoral fellowships, one at the Hebrew University and one at NYU. He is also the recipient of numerous international scholarships from Cornell University’s School of Criticism and Theory and a Scholarship from the Center for Austrian Studies for a two-month German course in Vienna. He has published several books and articles, and is a sought-after speaker and lecturer in scientific conferences and professional symposia.

Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center

Prof. Moshe Bar
Director of the Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, Prof. Bar is a world-recognized expert on complex brain processes such as cognition, expectations, and emotion, using cutting-edge methods to research which areas of the brain are active in those processes at various times. Prof. Bar completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University before receiving his appointments at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Dr. Amit Shrira
Before becoming a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Interdisciplinary Social Studies at Bar-Ilan, Dr. Shrira filled several academic positions, including Teaching Associate at the Department of Psychology at Tel Aviv, and Instructor at the Department of Education and Psychology in the Open University. With an MA and PhD in Psychology from Tel Aviv University, Shrira completed his Post Doctorate at the Hebrew University. He was involved in research projects funded by several academic grants, among which are a grant from the Israel Science Foundation, and a grant from the NIH (US National Institutes of Health). He also received the Bergman Award for PhD Dissertation, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Human Development and ESHEL Grant, and the Marmot Grant. Shrira’s research interests include gerontology, trauma, meaning in life, and subjective wellbeing.

Conflict Management and Negotiation

Dr. Jay Rothman
Dr. Rothman has a BA from Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, and an MA and PhD from the University of Maryland. His fellowship research was conducted at the Truman Institute for International Peace and the Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. With his expertise in Conflict Resolution, he has taught at a number of institutions, including the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges, Antioch University, the Jezreel Valley College, Israel and most recently at the University of Cincinnati, where he served as Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence. He also serves as a Fulbright Specialist, selected to serve as Conflict Resolution/Middle East Peace Specialist for Fulbright as requested by universities abroad, 2010-2015.
On July 25th, 1989, President George Bush signed a resolution declaring the 1990s to be "The Decade of the Brain," signaling America's commitment to neuroscience research. In another event that was a decade in the making, Bar-Ilan is soon to celebrate the tenth anniversary of one of its flagship institutions: the University's Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center.

The Gonda Center is devoted to solving the scientific world's biggest puzzle: how the human brain allows us to perceive and understand the environment, while generating our memory, thoughts and emotions. Today, over 30 senior researchers pursue their goals in the Gonda Center's magnificent North Campus building, designed as an architectural expression of the Center's ultimate goal: to provide a fully-integrated research and teaching environment where scientists trained in a variety of fields build a common language in order to work – and succeed – together.

Since the beginning of the 2012 academic year, the Center's Director has been Prof. Moshe Bar, one of the world's leading researchers in cognitive neuroscience. Prior to joining the faculty at Bar-Ilan, Prof. Bar served as associate professor in psychiatry and radiology at Harvard Medical School, and associate professor in psychiatry and neuroscience at Massachusetts General Hospital. He also directed the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory at the Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging. Prof. Bar's research focuses on how the brain extracts and uses contextual information to generate predictions and efficiently guide cognition.

"We receive over 60 applications every year, for a very limited number of places in the graduate school."

As he looks towards the next ten years, Prof. Bar says that the Gonda Brain Center is well positioned to continue to achieve major advances in science, both in basic research, and in the "translational" discoveries that will be parleyed into practical treatments and techniques for improved health and wellbeing. "We have very ambitious plans, based both on the talented people who are already here on staff, and on the new faculty we hope to recruit in the future," he says. "All-in-all, being at the multidisciplinary intersection of the last major frontier of science that is brain research, surrounded by superb intellectual talent and a host of exciting destinations, we feel fortunate and ready to work."
a proactive policy of absorbing returning Israeli scientists from abroad
Israel’s strength draws heavily on its unrefuted excellence and innovation in science and technology. The scientists produced at Israeli universities in general, and at Bar-Ilan University in particular, constitute a huge contribution to this core strength. BIU made a strategic decision to significantly increase its scientific capabilities by enlarging and enhancing the faculty roster through a proactive policy of absorbing returning Israeli scientists from abroad. In this way, the University succeeded in significantly enriching research output in physics, chemistry, computer science, and mathematics. Following are the newest recruits to the Faculty of Exact Sciences.

**FACULTY OF EXACT SCIENCES**

**Department of Chemistry**

Dr. Sharon Ruthstein

Specializing in Chemistry, Symmetry and Electron Paramagnetic Resonance, Dr. Ruthstein earned her BSc in Chemical Engineering from the Technion, continuing her graduate studies in Chemistry at the Weizmann Institute of Science, where she received her PhD with honors. She followed this with an EMBO long-term postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Ruthstein is the winner of numerous international scientific awards, and her research focuses on protein structure and function, structural biology, magnetic resonance and metalloproteins.

**Department of Physics**

Dr. Beena Kalisky

Dr. Kalisky returned to BIU from Stanford University. Her research focuses on sensitive magnetic measurements, scanning SQUID, superconductivity, magnetism and biomagnetism. Superconductors – materials that conduct electricity with near-zero resistance – have fascinated Kalisky since her days as a BIU PhD student, when she worked under the supervision of Director of BIU’s National Laboratory for Magnetic Measurements and former University Rector, Prof. Yosef Yeshurun. She continued her research of superconductors at the Weizmann Institute before leaving for her postdoc at Stanford.

Dr. Sharon Shwartz

Previously a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, Dr. Shwartz’ research focuses on quantum optics, biphotons generation and manipulation, nonlinear phenomena at x-ray energies, quantum optics in the x-ray regime. Shwartz acquired a BA and a PhD in Physics, all from the Technion in Israel. Among his many awards, Shwartz won the Adams Fellowship from the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Applied Materials Fellowship at the Technion, and the Miriam and Aharon Gutwirth Fellowship Award at the Technion.

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**Who's Who of New Faculty in Exact Sciences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faculty</th>
<th>Recruited From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Noa Agmon</td>
<td>Texas University, USA</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Multi-Robot Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Shimon Brooks</td>
<td>Stony Brook University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Number Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Yoav Goldberg</td>
<td>Google Research</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Machine Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Avinatan Hassidim</td>
<td>MIT &amp; Microsoft Research</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Algorithms, Game Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Beena Kalisky</td>
<td>Stanford University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Magnetic Measurements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nathan Keller</td>
<td>Weizmann Institute of Science</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Combinatorics, Probability Theory &amp; Cryptography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nir Lev</td>
<td>Centre de Recerca Matemàtica, Spain</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Approximation Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Sharon Ruthstein</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Detection &amp; Identification of Free Radicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sharon Shwartz</td>
<td>Stanford University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Quantum Optics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Shimon Brooks
Dr. Brooks' research focuses on quantum chaos, dynamical systems and ergodic theory, spectral theory and number theory. Dr. Brooks holds a BA in Mathematics and English and an MA in Mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Mathematics from Princeton University. Previously a postdoctoral lecturer at Stony Brook University in the US and an instructor at Princeton, Dr. Brooks is also the recipient of a research grant from the NSF and the Marie Curie Career Integration Grant.

Dr. Nathan Keller
Dr. Keller's research focuses on Combinatorics and its applications to Probability Theory, as well as Cryptography. The recipient of the Koshland Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Weizmann Institute of Science, Dr. Keller has also received the Adams Fellowship, the Orbach and the Zuchovitsky Prizes for excellence in PhD studies at the Einstein Institute of Mathematics at the Hebrew University.

Dr. Nir Lev
Dr. Lev’s research focuses on harmonic analysis and its related areas. Dr. Lev was a Wallenberg postdoctoral fellow at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, Sweden, a postdoctoral fellow at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica in Barcelona. Dr. Lev earned his BSc in Mathematics and Computer Science, and a PhD in Mathematics in the Direct Study Track at the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Tel Aviv University. He is a winner of the Excellent Teaching Award from Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Yoav Goldberg
Dr. Goldberg’s research focuses on natural language processing and machine learning, with focus on techniques that can be applied at large scale. He has a special interest in processing languages other than English, in particular Hebrew and other morphologically-rich languages. Goldberg holds a BSc, an MSc and a PhD in Computer Science, all from Ben Gurion University of the Negev, where he was also a Research Assistant. He was awarded the Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship from the US-Israel Educational Foundation and the Wolf Foundation Prize for Outstanding MSc Students. Before joining BIU, he was at Google Research where he worked on accurate syntactic processing at web scale.

Dr. Avinatan Hassidim
Dr. Hassidim’s research focuses on the study of algorithms, game theory, quantum computing and approximation algorithms. After receiving a BSc, MA and PhD from the Hebrew University, he received a post-doctoral fellowship from MIT and was a consultant at Microsoft Research doing mechanism design, before joining Bar-Ilan University.

Dr. Noa Agmon
Dr. Agmon’s research interests include aspects of multi robot systems, robot navigation, and multi agent planning in adversarial environments. With a BSc in Computer Science from Bar-Ilan University, an MSc in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from the Weizmann Institute of Science, and a PhD in Computer Science from BIU, Agmon was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas and at the Weizmann Institute of Science. She participated in the Israel Ministry of Commerce MAGNETON Program, and was awarded the Dan David Prize Scholarship for Young Researchers, and a BIU Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence.
Dr. Noa Agmon
Making Robots Smart

The Golem of Prague, Frankenstein - human culture is replete with autonomous fictional characters calibrated to do the bidding of their creators. But, in today’s world, imbuing machines with advanced artificial intelligence is no fiction. Rather, it is a rapidly growing field called robotics, and Dr. Noa Agmon, a senior lecturer in the Department of Computer Science, stands among those at its forefront. She designs applications to help keep the world - and Israel - safer.

With undergraduate and doctoral degrees from BIU and a Master’s from the Weizmann Institute, Dr. Agmon is part of BIU’s Returning Scientists Program, an initiative aimed at reversing Israel’s academic “brain drain” by offering promising young Israeli scientists who went abroad choice career opportunities at home. Dr. Agmon, who was born in Israel and served in the IAF (Israel Air Force), spent two years doing research at the University of Texas at Austin after finishing post-doctorate work at the Weizmann Institute.

This year, she became one of more than 40 returning biologists, chemists, physicists, engineers, and brain researchers to accept faculty positions at BIU, joining a department that, in the latest Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), appears among the 100 best Computer Science departments in the world.

“At Bar-Ilan, I’m mainly continuing my research on multi-robot systems that I began in Texas,” says Dr. Agmon, a mother of four. Multi-robot systems are robots that “work autonomously as a team to achieve a goal together as efficiently as possible,” she explains. Her specific area of interest is multi-robot patrol - “robots that need to jointly visit one or more points of interest or areas in order to monitor changes or catch infiltrators.” As an extension of her research, she heads the new Security Robotics Group at BIU, which uses robots to run student experiments primarily concerned with security and military applications.

But, Dr. Agmon’s work goes beyond security, with applications in the humanitarian and industrial spheres, as well. “Robots can be employed in dangerous situations to do work that is hazardous to humans, such as locating survivors after an earthquake, exploring a shipwreck, or sweeping for mines. On the other hand, I have a simple robot at home that vacuums my house. On a more sophisticated level, a team of robots can be programmed to clean a mall.”

“Robots can be employed in dangerous situations to do work that is hazardous to humans, such as locating survivors after an earthquake, exploring a shipwreck, or sweeping for mines.”

Each situation is unique, she says, and meeting the respective intelligence requirements is what her work is about. “Robots have limited sensing and communication capabilities. My job is to figure out how to optimize those capabilities. For instance, patrolling on the ground is very different from patrolling a marine environment.” And, while several Israeli security companies use her technology—giving her an opportunity to see for herself that what she tested in the lab actually works—she says the beauty of what she does is in the potential for its broader use.

Globally, the implications for Dr. Agmon’s research are obvious. “I know my work is part of a bigger picture - that it has a direct bearing on what the world, and especially Israel, must do to keep people safe. It makes me happy that my job may have an impact on real-world problems and situations.”

Though “loving” her experience at the University of Texas, coming back to academia in Israel was never a question for Dr. Agmon. With a husband in the IAF and family living in the country, she says she never considered her stay abroad anything more than a long vacation. “My home is in Israel,” she contends, where she, her husband and children live on Moshav Kfar Uriya, between Rehovot - her childhood home - and Beit Shemesh.

But, while her return to academic life here has gone smoothly, she acknowledges that for other Israelis the path back is often more challenging. “It’s not that the work is harder in Israel. Academic work around the globe is generally the same - research, applying for grants, advising students. But, I think Israeli institutions can make it difficult for candidates who apply for positions here. Bar-Ilan is the exception and really facilitated my return, but I have friends who had a hard time with other institutions and some who are still waiting for offers.”

Dr. Agmon’s PhD advisor, Prof. Gal Kaminka, feels lucky to have her on board at BIU. “She is one of the world’s foremost experts on security robotics. Given the continuing growth in this area, we expect her research to be scientifically and commercially relevant. Her lab is the only one in Israel specializing in this area,” he says.

As for her goals at BIU, Dr. Agmon plans to “do as much research as possible” and to expand the Security Robotics Group. “I want to get more and more students involved in robotics. It’s a fascinating and expanding field, one that opens up a whole world of interesting possibilities.”
significantly enriching research output in the life sciences
The decision to increase the number of experimental science faculty at Bar-Ilan University has succeeded in significantly enriching research output in the life sciences with the result that BIU has the highest research output in the physical sciences per researcher than any other Israeli university. Following are the newest recruits to the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences:

Who’s Who of New Faculty in Life Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faculty</th>
<th>Recruited From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ido Bachelet</td>
<td>Harvard University, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Biologically-inspired Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ofir Hakim</td>
<td>NIH, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Gene Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Lee Koren</td>
<td>University of Calgary, Canada</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Behavioral Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Eitan Okun</td>
<td>NIH, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Neuro-Degenerative Diseases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Ido Bachelet
Dr. Bachelet leads a multidisciplinary group developing and studying emerging biologically-inspired technologies, ranging from synthetic biology, DNA machines and computers, nano-robots and swarm intelligence to architecture, physical computing, design, art and interfaces between the physical and digital worlds. He has a PhD in Pharmacology and Experimental Pharmaceutics from the Hebrew University and postdoctoral fellowships at MIT in biological engineering and Harvard University on immunomics and DNA nanotechnology.

Dr. Ofir Hakim
Dr. Hakim was a Research and Visiting Fellow at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). His research focuses on nuclear high-order architecture, regulation of gene expression, transcription factors action, using genomics and imaging. Hakim holds a BSc in Food Engineering and Biotechnology from the Technion, and an MSc and a PhD in Plant Molecular Development from Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Lee Koren
Dr. Koren earned her PhD in Zoology, an MSc in Nature Conservation Research, and a BSc in Life Sciences, all at Tel Aviv University, and completed her postdoctoral degree at the University of Calgary, Canada. Dr. Koren is the recipient of numerous study awards, such as the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine’s competitive Entrance Award for Postdoctoral Fellows at the University of Calgary, the Wolf, Trotsky and Beneen Foundations’ scholarships for outstanding PhD students, and the MSc scholarship from the Ecology and Environmental Studies Fund. Dr. Koren’s research focuses on behavioral ecology, combining animal communication, hormones that are linked with social behaviors, and the evolutionary outcomes associated with hormones and behaviors.

Dr. Eitan Okun
Dr. Okun’s research focuses on understanding the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease and Huntington’s disease and ischemic brain stroke, as well as the molecular mechanisms governing learning and memory processes during aging. He has a PhD from Bar-Ilan University, and a postdoctoral degree from the National Institutes of Health.
Dr. Ido Bachelet

Problem Solving – With Nature’s Help

What do a geneticist, an architect and an artist have in common? At the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA), they’re all part of one research team that takes multidisciplinary collaboration to a new level: the laboratory of 2012 BINA recruit Dr. Ido Bachelet.

“It’s important for me to work with people of diverse backgrounds because I believe that problem solving is multidisciplinary,” says Bachelet, whose own training ran the gamut from a PhD in pharmacology and experimental therapeutics, to two postdoctoral research positions in Boston: the first, focusing on engineering and social insect behavior at MIT, and the second, devoted to immunomics and DNA nanotechnology at Harvard.

Bachelet’s focus is on creating technologies that communicate or draw inspiration from biological assemblies. “We’ve created a DNA nano-robot – a 3D machine that can interface with living cells, collect data, and carry out programmed tasks within the body,” Bachelet says, adding that this approach may help overcome a major problem in drug design – the fact that doctors have almost no control where or when a drug will be active once it is administered. Dr. Bachelet’s system opens up new possibilities for bio-embedded computers that can work as a coordinated team, responding to cellular signals, making a drug available or unavailable at will, and controlling drug interactions.

“I write bio-inspired music for piano solo, and am also exploring the boundary between music and science.”

While at MIT, Bachelet studied swarm behavior in insect colonies, examining how termites work together to build complex nests. Today, in collaboration with artists and architects, he applies natural social dynamics to the creation of new paradigms for building devices, buildings and even cities for humans.

A common theme in all of Bachelet’s projects at BIU is that science should be a personal calling.

“I write bio-inspired music for piano solo, and am also exploring the boundary between music and science,” he says. “Biology is more of a jumping-off point than a path, and that’s the spirit I want in my lab. As brilliant as my students are, they should always remember that science should be fun.”
a huge impact on Israel's technological capabilities
Introduction
Over a decade ago, Bar-Ilan University established the School of Engineering in order to help provide Israel with a cadre of highly trained engineers who could, in their confluence, make a huge impact on Israel’s technological capabilities. Recently expanded from a school to a full-fledged academic faculty, an influx of the best and brightest has resulted in a young but dynamic academic enterprise which works in partnership with industry to provide creative solutions which make the world a better and safer place. Following are the newest recruits to the Faculty of Engineering:

Who’s Who of New Faculty in Engineering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faculty</th>
<th>Recruited From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Meir Danino</td>
<td>Chief Scientist, Elisra, Bnai Brak</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Electro-Optics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Alexander Fish</td>
<td>Ben-Gurion University</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Energy-efficient Chips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Moti Fridman</td>
<td>Cornell University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Optics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Carmit Hazay</td>
<td>Aarhus University, Denmark</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Computer Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tomer Kalisky</td>
<td>Stanford University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Stem Cell Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Doron Naveh</td>
<td>Carnegie Mellon, Pennsylvania &amp; Princeton University, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Cryptography &amp; Electronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Adrian Segall</td>
<td>Technion Institute of Technology</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Computer Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prof. Meir Danino
Prof. Danino received his BSc (Cum Laude), MSc and PhD in Physics from BIU. He has taught Math and Physics, at BIU, Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, Purdue University in Indiana, has conducted research at Lifshitz College, Jerusalem, Jerusalem College, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Avionic Lab, Elor, Rehovot, and served as Chief Scientist at Elisra, Bnai Brak. He has designed and conducted many professional courses for young and experienced engineers in Israel and abroad on Atmospheric Physics, Optical Engineering, Electro-Optics, Sophisticated Optics, Infrared and more. He is the recipient of a number of prestigious awards, most recently, the Israel Security Prize.

Prof. Alexander Fish
Prof. Fish was a Senior Lecturer at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Calgary in Canada and Teaching Assistant at the Technion. Editor-in-Chief of the "Journal of Low Power Electronics and Applications", and Associate Editor of the "IEEE Sensors Journal", Prof. Fish received the Israel Chief Scientist and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor grant and a grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology. He holds a BSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Technion, and an MSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering and a PhD in Electro-Optics from Ben-Gurion University. Research interests include low power electronics, ultra low power VLSI circuits and systems, sub/near-threshold digital logic, low power memory arrays, low power CMOS image sensors, sub-threshold asynchronous design and low power applications.

Dr. Moti Fridman
Formerly a postdoctoral fellow in the Faculty of Applied Physics and Engineering at Cornell University, Dr. Fridman holds a BSc in Physics and Computer Science from Bar-Ilan University, and an MSc and PhD in Complex Systems and Physics from the Weizmann Institute of Science. Fridman is the winner of the J.F. Kennedy Award, and the Benin, Eshkol and Schwartz Scholarships. Fridman’s research focuses on optical processing in fibers, optical manipulation of light, and polarized light in fiber amplifiers and fiber lasers. Fridman authored and co-authored more than 20 papers, a patent and a book chapter.
Dr. Carmit Hazay
Dr. Hazay acquired her BSc in Computer Science and Mathematics, and her MSc and PhD in Computer Science at Bar-Ilan University. During her PhD studies she was awarded the Eshkol Fellowship from the Israel Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Bar-Ilan University Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence. After completing her studies, Hazay became a postdoctoral fellow at the Weizmann Institute of Science and at IDC in Herzliya. She then became a postdoctoral fellow in Aarhus University in Denmark. Hazay’s research interests include cryptography with a focus on the study of secure protocols and their efficiency.

Dr. Tomer Kalisky
Having served as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, Dr. Kalisky has now returned to BIU, his alma mater, where his research focuses on single cell genomics and applications to stem cell biology and cancer. His degrees from BIU include a PhD in Physics and a BSc (summa cum laude) in Physics and Mathematics, and he also was a postdoctoral fellow at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Kalisky received the Machiah Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship and a PhD Scholarship from the Center for Complexity Science (the Horowitz Foundation). Kalisky has co-patented the “Single cell gene expression for diagnosis, prognosis and identification of drug targets” US registered patent.

Dr. Doron Naveh
Having completed postdoctoral fellowships at Princeton University and at Carnegie Mellon University, Dr. Naveh joined the School of Engineering in the microelectronics track. Naveh earned his PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science and his earlier degrees in Physics and Materials Science from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. His group investigates electronic devices fabricated from graphene, an atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a honeycomb lattice, that holds great promise for future technologies.

Prof. Adrian Segall
Prof. Segall is Head of the Department of Computer Engineering at Bar-Ilan University and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Technion. He received his BSc (Cum Laude) and MSc from the Technion, followed by a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. The recipient of a number of awards for outstanding research, he has served as research engineer and visiting professor at many institutions, including MIT and, most recently, Columbia University. His latest publications focused on the Evaluation of Sensor-Networks Performance and on the Analysis of the Bluetooth Time Division Duplex Mechanism.
Prof. Alexander Fish  
**Designing Tomorrow’s Microchip Today**

With advancements in computing technology and expansion of mobile applications handling more and more information at faster rates, energy consumption has emerged as the primary concern for scientists working in the area of “very large-scale integration” (VLSI) design. VLSI is the process of creating integrated circuits by combining millions of transistors into a single chip.

In other words, how do you keep microprocessors running at high performance levels without burning them out, and cell phones, digital cameras, and bio-medical devices working without the constant need to recharge them?

That’s where Prof. Alexander Fish comes in. He is associate professor at the Faculty of Engineering at BIU and head of the microelectronics track. A new recruit from Ben-Gurion University, his research focuses on designing energy-efficient chips that consume less energy. That’s good news not only for computers, but also for portable battery-operated devices in which energy consumption is critical. It is energy consumption that determines the lifetime of a battery or the time between recharges.

“Energy consumption is one of the fundamental limits in both high performance microprocessors and low-to-medium performance portable battery-operated systems,” Prof. Fish explains. “In high-performance devices, the challenge is to make sure the temperature at the chip does not exceed the maximum allowable level or else the device will fail. So, the question becomes: How do we improve performance while reducing energy?”

“In portable battery-operated systems, the question is: How do we extend the life of a device that is powered by the limited energy of a battery? Imagine if you could recharge your laptop just once a week, or your cell phone just once a month.”

Developing new technologies for energy-efficiency in electronics is in high demand these days and Prof. Fish’s arrival at BIU puts its Faculty of Engineering in the spotlight of VLSI research. A senior lecturer at Ben-Gurion University where he founded the Low Power Circuits and Systems laboratory, at BIU he heads a new microelectronics program that includes teaching and research. Also, he is working to establish the Energy Efficient Electronics and Applications (E3A) laboratories, an initiative that will employ graduate and doctoral students to design, model and measure energy-efficient chips and low-voltage circuits.

“Imagine if you could recharge your laptop just once a week, or your cell phone just once a month.”

“This is the beginning of something new at Bar-Ilan and something unique in Israel,” he says. “Researchers at other universities are incorporating aspects of energy-efficient design into their work but nowhere in Israel is energy efficiency the main goal.”

The E3A labs, to be up and running soon, will also conduct research in collaboration with leading labs in Israel and around the world. Prof. Fish envisions them as a first step toward the larger goal of establishing a new research center that will have the support of semiconductor companies and other worldwide leading research centers.

“I saw coming to Bar-Ilan as a huge opportunity. First of all, I liked the people and the spirit here. But also, the Faculty of Engineering and, in particular, the microelectronics track, are areas that are growing quickly. Developing the microelectronics track almost from its beginning is both an opportunity and a challenge for me.”

Prof. Fish, who was born in Ukraine and moved to Israel with his parents when he was 14, earned his BSc degree in Electrical Engineering at the Technion and his MSc and PhD *(summa cum laude)* degrees at Ben-Gurion. He spent two years at the University of Calgary in Canada as a postdoctoral fellow, then returned and joined the faculty at Ben-Gurion.


An IAF (Israel Air Force) reservist, he believes it is important for Israeli academics abroad to return home to work. “Israel is our home and we have to develop our home,” he says. “I feel it’s very important to contribute to education in Israel and to the development of industry here.” He adds that he was always sure he’d return from Canada if he could, and is grateful for the opportunity BIU has afforded him to continue his research.
upgrading Israeli healthcare for the citizens in the country's north
Bar-Ilan University is committed to the national mandate of upgrading Israeli healthcare and advancing innovative medical research for the citizens in the country's north. With the government's full encouragement and support, a School of Medicine was opened in Safed in Academic Year 2011/12. As Israel's fifth medical school, and the only one to be established over the past 35 years, the quality of its faculty is critical to the fledgling School's development. As such, a painstaking and unprecedented recruitment process has led to the appointment of the following new faculty members for the School:

### Who's Who of New Faculty in Medicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faculty</th>
<th>Recruited From</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Orly Avni</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Daniel Barkan</td>
<td>Sloan-Kettering Institute, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Miriam Bentwich</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Bioethics &amp; Medical Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Michael Blank</td>
<td>National Cancer Institute, NIH, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Tumor Suppression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Evan Elliott</td>
<td>Weizmann Institute of Science</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. David Enshell-Seijffers</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Meital Gal-Tenamy</td>
<td>University of Texas, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Virology and Liver Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hava Gal-Henn</td>
<td>Yale University School of Medicine, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Molecular Biology &amp; Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Amnon Harel</td>
<td>University of California, USA</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Izahak Haviv</td>
<td>Peter McCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Cancer Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. David Karasik</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Genetics of Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa</td>
<td>Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Liver Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Itay Onn</td>
<td>Carnegie Institute, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Mary Rudolf</td>
<td>University of Leeds, UK</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Avraham Samson</td>
<td>Stanford University, USA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Bioenergetics &amp; Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Michael Weingarten</td>
<td>Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Primary Health Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Faculty from Israel

- **Dr. Orly Avni**
  - Dr. Avni holds a BSc in Biology and an MSc and a PhD in Immunology, all from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before joining BIU’s School of Medicine in the Galilee, Avni was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Blood Research at Harvard University and a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine at the Technion. She is the recipient of research grants from the Israel Science Foundation, the Niedersachsen Israel Research Corporation Program, and the Israel Cancer Association. In her research, Avni focuses on the study of epigenetic regulation in the immune system, specifically of T helper cells.

- **Dr. Daniel Barkan**
  - With a BSc and an MSc in Microbiology and an MD, all from the Hebrew University, Dr. Barkan is now a Lecturer at BIU’s School of Medicine in the Galilee, where he studies the pathogenesis of M. tuberculosis, the causative agent of tuberculosis disease. His professional background includes positions as Resident and Instructor of Internal Medicine at Hadassah Medical Center, as Fellow, Research Fellow, Attending Physician and Instructor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital (infectious disease and mycobacterial pathogenesis), and as Attending Physician at Kaplan Medical Center (infectious diseases). Barkan is the recipient of the Robert and Ethel Cohen Foundation Research Grant, and has patented “Chimerical II-6 receptor protein for prevention of renal failure”.

### New Immigrant

- **Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa, Dean**
  - Prof. Tur-Kaspa is an internationally-renowned leader and researcher in liver diseases. With a medical degree from the Hebrew University, Tur-Kaspa was a Fulbright Fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University and a visiting scientist at the NIH in Bethesda. He heads the Department of Medicine and the Liver Institute at the Rabin Medical Center, Petach Tikva, and was Vice-Dean of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University before joining BIU as Dean of the School of Medicine.

- **Prof. Michael Weingarten, Associate Dean for Medical Education**
  - Prof. Weingarten has extensive academic and clinical experience in Israel and abroad. An alumnus of the University of Oxford, he has held a visiting professorship at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and was a visiting scholar in the Oxford University Department of Primary Health Care, and the Centre for Ethics and Communications in Healthcare. A renowned senior family physician, he also headed the humanities division at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University before joining the BIU School of Medicine.
Dr. Meital Gal-Tenamy
Dr. Gal-Tenamy explores the mechanism by which viruses cause liver disease in humans and developing strategies to combat these agents. She joins the School of Medicine following postdoctoral fellowships at the Department of Virology and Immunology at the University of Texas and the Felsenstein Medical Research Center at the Sackler School of Medicine in Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Hava Gil-Henn
An expert in Molecular Biology and Genetics, Dr. Gil-Henn joins the School of Medicine from the Yale University School of Medicine where she worked as an Associate Research Assistant since 2008. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale, where she was awarded the 2006 Young Investigator Award of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research for a paper she published in the prestigious “Journal of Cell Biology”.

Dr. Amnon Harel
Dr. Harel was Postdoctoral Fellow and Assistant Specialist at the University of California in San Diego and Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Biology at the Technion. With a BSc in Biology and PhD in Genetics from the Hebrew University, Dr. Harel is the recipient of grants from Israel and abroad, including the Israel Science Foundation, the Niedersachsen Foundation, the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation, the Marie Curie Reintegration Grant and the NanoSci-ERA Network, the Landau Fellowship and the Salmon Simon Mani Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Harel’s research focuses on the structure and function of the cell nucleus and on macromolecular traffic through the nuclear pore complex.
Dr. Itay Onn  
Dr. Onn completed a PhD at the Hebrew University and two prestigious postdoctoral fellowships at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York and the Department of Embryology at the Carnegie Institute in Baltimore. He joins the School of Medicine faculty through his expertise in the field of molecular biology.

Prof. Mary Rudolf  
Prof. Rudolf, a graduate of the University of London, was a consultant pediatrician at Leeds General Infirmary, and honorary professor of child health at the University of Leeds, before joining the School of Medicine as Professor of Public Health. She is the recipient of a National Health Service Clinical Excellence Award.

Dr. Avraham Samson  
Dr. Samson, who completed his BSc in Bar-Ilan’s Department of Chemistry and an MBA in BIU’s Graduate School of Business, while he was finishing his PhD at the Weizmann Institute of Science, joins the School of Medicine, specializing in bioenergetics and pharmacology. Dr. Samson was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. He has published 12 papers in competitive, refereed journals and two chapters in books.
Dr. Michael Blank  
"So That All Mankind Can Benefit"

Cancer is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the developed world and accounts for more than 7.5 million deaths worldwide each year. When Dr. Michael Blank was seven-years old, his father succumbed to cancer, creating a void that became “the main driver in my life,” he says. His father’s death set him on a career path to cancer research and continues to impel his work in the hope that his efforts will contribute to new, more efficient cancer treatment.

Recently returned to Israel from the US after five years as a visiting postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Blank brings his quest to understand the origin of cancer cells to Bar-Ilan University as an assistant professor and senior lecturer at its School of Medicine in the Galilee. Specifically, he is interested in the molecular mechanisms that regulate cell growth and lead to tumorigenesis - the formation of tumors. At Bar-Ilan, his research will focus on continuing to study a tumor suppressor gene that he and his teammates discovered while he was at the NIH.

“It’s called Smurf2,” he says with a chuckle, well aware that, for most people, the name of this anticancer molecule conjures an image of tiny, blue fictional creatures of television fame. “Smurf2 stands for smad ubiquitin regulatory factor two,” a mouthful, he concedes. “It is a gene that inhibits the transformation of normal cells to cancer cells.”

Interestingly, scientists already knew about Smurf2 and about certain of its biological functions in cells. But, Dr. Blank discovered that the gene also acts as a powerful tumor suppressor that, when inactivated, clears the way for a spectrum of tumors to develop.

“We ‘knocked out’ the Smurf2 gene in one group of mice and compared it to another group with regular genes. We found that different types of tumors began to grow in the organs and tissues of the first group. Some mice developed lymphomas, others mammary tumors, still others lung or liver cancers,” he says.

The discovery is significant and was recently featured on the cover of, and with a full-length research article in, the prestigious biomedical journal “Nature Medicine.” It was also highlighted in other respected biomedical journals and earned Dr. Blank the NIH Fellows Award for Research Excellence in 2010.

Born in Ukraine, the future cancer biologist began his training by studying toward an MD degree at Donetsk State Medical University - “in Ukraine, as in all of the former Soviet Union, you must complete medical school before you can deal with biomedical science,” he explains. But, in 1995 with one year left to complete the degree, he decided to immigrate to Israel. “Israel had a high level of education and research facilities. I wanted to continue my studies here,” he says. At age 25 he decided to make aliyah and came to Israel alone.

With five years at Donetsk to his credit, the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University considered his medical studies in Ukraine the equivalent to earning a BSc degree in Israel and on this basis accepted him to its Master’s program. After receiving his MSc degree, Dr. Blank stayed on at Sackler to earn a PhD degree and then, as a postdoctoral fellow, he joined the lab of Prof. Yosef Shiloh at Tel Aviv University, rising to become a senior scientist there. In 2007 he made the jump to the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, where he remained for five years.

Married with two children, Dr. Blank is happy to be back in Israel where “there is an outstanding academic environment and good support.” Also, he was excited to learn about Bar-Ilan’s new School of Medicine in the Galilee. The move back, he says, felt right.

“I’m a seasoned scientist. I think my knowledge and experience will contribute to the scientific excellence of the University in general and the School in particular,” he says, noting that Bar-Ilan sweetened the pot by offering him new research facilities with the most advanced scientific equipment.

Returning to Israel made sense to him from a family perspective, as well. “Israel is a great place to raise kids, even despite the instability in the region. We live in Karmiel, a beautiful place where we’re all doing well,” he says, and on a sober note, adds: “We just hope for peace, because the ultimate goal of scientists like me who return from different countries is to make our work so that all mankind can benefit from it.”
Promotions to Senior Faculty positions from within the University

- Dr. Noa Aharony - Faculty of Humanities (Naftal-Yaffe Department of Information Science)
- Dr. Arnon Atzmon - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Talmud & Oral Law)
- Dr. Efrat Aviv - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Middle Eastern Studies)
- Dr. Yehuda Balanga - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Middle Eastern Studies)
- Dr. Basilious Bawardi - Faculty of Humanities (Department of Arabic)
- Dr. Moshe Bensimon - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Criminology)
- Dr. Iris Ben-David Hadar - Faculty of Social Sciences (Churgin School of Education)
- Dr. Hanoch Ben-Pazi - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Jewish Thought)
- Dr. Anat Ben-Porat - Faculty of Social Sciences (Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)
- Dr. Shirley Ben-Shlomo - Faculty of Social Sciences (Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)
- Dr. Yossi Ben-Zion - Faculty of Exact Sciences (Department of Physics)
- Dr. Tovi Bibring - Faculty of Humanities (Department of French Studies)
- Dr. Rena Bina - Faculty of Social Sciences (Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work)
- Dr. Alon Chasid - Faculty of Humanities (Department of General Philosophy)
- Dr. Barak S. Cohen - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Naftal-Yaffe Department of Talmud & Oral Law)
- Dr. Kobi Cohen-Hattab - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Martin [Susz] Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology)
- Dr. Hadar Dancig-Rosenberg - Faculty of Law
- Dr. Avinoam Dar - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Psychology)
- Dr. Michael Ehrlich - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Middle Eastern Studies)
- Dr. Amir Elalouf - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Management)
- Dr. Aner Govrin - Interdisciplinary Studies (Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies Program)
- Dr. Yuval Hadas - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Management)
- Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Jewish Thought)
- Dr. Yaakov Hoffman - Faculty of Social Sciences (Interdisciplinary Department of Social Sciences)
- Dr. Pini Ifergan - Faculty of Humanities (Department of General Philosophy)
- Dr. Shira Iluz - Faculty of Social Sciences (Churgin School of Education)
- Dr. Ronit Ir-Shai - Interdisciplinary Studies (Gender Studies Program)
- Dr. Esther Isman - Faculty of Social Sciences (Churgin School of Education)
- Dr. Dan Jaffe - Faculty of Jewish Studies (The Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History)
- Dr. Almog Kasher - Faculty of Humanities (Department of Arabic)
- Dr. Binyamin Katzoff - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Naftal-Yaffe Department of Talmud & Jewish Oral Law)
- Dr. Anat Koplowitz-Breier - Faculty of Humanities (Department of Comparative Literature - World Literature)
- Dr. Yossie Liebersohn - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Jewish Thought)
- Dr. Cilla Magen - Faculty of Social Sciences (School of Communication)
- Dr. Zohar Maor - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of General History)
- Dr. Lisa Maurice - Faculty of Humanities (Department of Classical Studies)
- Dr. Meirav Mishali-Ram - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Political Studies)
- Dr. Lilach Netanel - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Literature of the Jewish People)
- Dr. Amotz Perlman - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Management)
- Dr. Elishева Rosman-Stolman - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Political Studies)
- Dr. Michael Schneider - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Jewish Thought)
- Dr. Shlomo Sela - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Department of Jewish Philosophy)
- Dr. Zvi Shimon - Faculty of Jewish Studies (The Zalman Shamir Bible Department)
- Dr. Benjamin Shmueli - Faculty of Law
- Dr. Matan Shnaiderman - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Management)
- Dr. Ornit Spektor-Levy - Faculty of Social Sciences (Churgin School of Education)
- Dr. Hindy Stern - Faculty of Social Sciences (Churgin School of Education)
- Dr. Vered Tohar - Faculty of Jewish Studies (Joseph & Norman Berman Department of Literature of the Jewish People)
- Dr. Noa Vilchinsky - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Psychology)
- Dr. Ruth Wolf - Faculty of Social Sciences (Interdisciplinary Social Sciences)
- Dr. Ada Yurman - Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Criminology)
- Dr. Maayan Zhitomirsky-Geffet - Faculty of Humanities (Department of Information Science)