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At **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**, multi-disciplinary is more than just a buzzword. It is the special spirit that brings people together – with mutual respect and scholarly cooperation providing the context for cutting-edge research groups that are dedicated to creating a better world.







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From the **Chairman**

As I reflect on the past year, I am truly inspired by the plentiful evidence of endurance and ingenuity that was personified by Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and that which I witness at this University named in his honor. In less than forty years, it has grown from modest beginnings to become a leading institute of education, scholarship and research. Despite the enormous difficulties faced over the past year, I have no doubt that Ben-Gurion University of the Negev will not merely endure, but rather continue to forge ahead on the path of outstanding development and proven excellence.

The University is fortunate to have at its helm President Prof. Rivka Carmi, an inspiring leader who works tirelessly and enthusiastically with her senior administrative team and academic faculty to ensure that the University provides quality in teaching and excellence in research, while never forgetting the enormous value of community outreach and involvement.

This was never more evident than during the period in January when rockets fired from Gaza rained down on Beer-Sheva causing injury and damage in the city and the surrounding region. At that time, the University was forced to suspend classes, many students were called up to military

service and those remaining were deeply involved in supporting local children and the elderly. The entire basement level of the Cukier, Goldstein-Goren Building was transformed into a huge kindergarten. The Sports Center was turned into a resting station for soldiers and numerous ad hoc community centers in the nearby suburbs were staffed by our students.

It is clear, however, that the global financial crisis also poses an enormous challenge for the University, and despite the last three years of record fundraising, it will be difficult to meet our goals for support in the near term.

It is said that giving is good for your health. You enlarge your soul and better connect with others by increasing your generosity. I believe that I can count on all members of the Board – and all of BGU's extended family – to join the effort of steering the University through these troubled times in order to reach the heights of academic excellence and international recognition dreamed of by those of us familiar with the vision of our namesake David Ben-Gurion.



Roy J. Zuckerberg

Chairman of the Board of Governors

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From the President

From the global financial crisis to the terrifying missile attacks on Beer-Sheva – the past year has been filled with unexpected difficulties. This was particularly true this winter when the University was forced to cancel classes due to Operation Cast Lead.

Thanks to the generous support of our friends around the world, the University was able to respond effectively to the situation by providing a variety of services. These include immediate support for our students and staff who were called up for army reserve duty to creating safe daycare options for children in and around Beer-Sheva, increasing psychological support and adding new security systems on the BGU campuses to ensure they meet the highest standard of safety. If there is a silver lining to such a situation, it is in rediscovering the strength of the BGU connection when it is needed most.

Similarly, despite the economic pressures created by the worldwide economic downturn, we have stayed focused on our strengths, continuing our investment in core research areas – particularly water and alternative energy, biotechnology, information technologies, nanotechnology, Jewish thought and Hebrew literature and various endeavors in the social sciences.

The University was not directly invested with Madoff, but we have great sympathy for our wonderful supporters and friends who have been hurt by this abominable act of deception. We are also deeply thankful to those who have the wisdom and ability to invest in our future now – helping BGU turn the crisis into an opportunity to bring young scholars and scientists back to Israel, providing the seed money for their absorption here.

Indeed, this has actually been a very productive year for BGU. Significant movement has been seen on a number of key projects, including: the signed agreement by the Israeli government to invest \$30 million in the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev; real progress on the ground in the Advanced Technologies Park infrastructure; the plans of Deutsche Telekom – Europe's largest telecommunications company – to expand their activities at BGU. Three major building projects include the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology; Caroline House – the Health Sciences Student Center; and the Biomedical Resource Facility, all of which are nearing completion. A good number of awards and prestigious publications have been garnered by our amazing academic faculty this year and have brought much pride to our community.

BGU has also moved forward with a number of initiatives, including a "Green Campus" program to increase interdisciplinary environmental awareness throughout the University and the community-at-large and a program to promote women in academia.

Time and again, I have found myself uplifted by the overwhelming team spirit that drives our students, faculty and staff to reach out – to one another and to the community – while keeping their eyes focused on the goal of pursuing excellence in education and research. And it is all made possible only through the ongoing support and vision of our friends around the world.

In friendship,



Prof. Rivka Carmi

President

Academic

Development

The opening of the academic year was delayed for three weeks due to the national strike by senior academic faculty members the previous spring, which necessitated reorganization of the academic calendar. In late December and January, classes were cancelled for three weeks as the result of the threat of missiles falling on the Marcus Family Campus in Beer-Sheva. The academic calendar had to be amended once again to ensure that academic work could be completed. Considerable efforts were made at all levels of the University to minimize the impact of the war without compromising academic standards.

The University is facing great challenges in recruiting students due to competition with other academic institutions. Nevertheless, we have managed to significantly increase enrollment, reaching over 19,000 students this year. We have achieved this by enlarging the selection of study tracks and by introducing new programs, many of which are multidisciplinary, in order to maintain an attractive edge as an innovative scientific institution.

At the undergraduate level, a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology-Psychology is now offered, while the opportunity to combine majors in the Faculty of Natural Sciences with minors from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

allows students the opportunity to broaden their educational experience according to personal preference. The Council of Higher Education has approved Masters degrees in Art History and Visual Culture; Social Work with a specialization in Art Therapy; Non-Profit Organization Management; and Politics and Government. Requirements for granting doctoral degrees have been met by a growing number of departments, the latest options being in Communications and Electro-Optical Engineering.

Our efforts to increase the University's standing as a strong research institution have been successful. According to the Times Higher Education-QS Rankings for 2008, when compared with the three other research universities in Israel that appear in the rankings, BGU is the only one to show a consistent rise in ranking over the last three years.

Among the main elements for this success are fellowships from the Kreitman and Pratt Foundations and the Negev Fellowship Program for Ph.D. candidates. This year, the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies is granting 140 doctoral degrees.

The Office of International Academic Affairs, headed by the newly-appointed Dean of International Academic Affairs, is developing new international study

collaborations, educational consortiums and student exchange programs in an effort to establish and strengthen relationships with institutions in global networks. Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and BGU's Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society.

Particularly rewarding is the growing interest of European Union countries in collaborating with the University, as well as EU countries choosing BGU as a "partner" with the opening of EU-funded programs at Israeli institutions. Other educational-exchange ties are being forged with NATO and the European Union. In addition, we are developing our collaborative ties with North American universities, colleges and research institutions in both the United States and Canada. In spite of the considerable pressure from various arenas to boycott Israeli academia, we continue to encounter very positive responses.

The Eilat Campus has shown robust growth and the number of academic programs offered there has increased. The innovative and multidisciplinary nature of many of the Eilat programs further reflects the dedication of the University to the vision of its namesake, David Ben-Gurion, to realize the full potential of the Negev.



Distribution of Students by Faculty and Degrees for 2006 – 2009

	Humanities and Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Engineering Sciences	Health Sciences	School of Management	
2006/07						
Bachelors	3,345	1,456	4,312	1,309	717	
Masters	1,269	240	746	976	1,424	
Ph.D.	283	246	185	195	26	
Other	321	23	220	45	25	
Total	5,145	1,957	5,422	2,490	2,191	17,230
2007/08						
Bachelors	3,479	1,464	4,660	1,345	837	
Masters	1,396	253	888	982	1,549	
Ph.D.	324	252	220	214	40	
Other	138	7	69	9	13	
Total	5,243	1,969	5,791	2,530	2,439	17,750
2008/09						
Bachelors	3,545	1,596	5,114	1,780	916	
Masters	1,357	299	728	561	1,783	
Ph.D.	332	336	241	237	29	
Other	162	32	167	18	9	
Total	5,306	2,174	6,162	2,583	2,737	18,962

- Not all totals add up because there are students enrolled in multiple Faculties or pursuing multiple degrees. (e.g., 137 interdisciplinary Masters students and Ph.D. candidates at the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies and 124 interdisciplinary Ph.D. candidates of the Kreitman School for Advanced Graduate Studies, who are included in the total figures).
- The above figures relate to the first semester only.
- First- to third-year medical students are included in the Health Sciences - Bachelors category.
- Students of the Medical School for International Health, in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center, receive their Masters degrees from the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- An additional 714 students are studying for their Bachelors and Masters degrees at the new BGU campus in Eilat.
- "Other": Preparation for graduate and doctoral studies.

Research and Development

The administration and academic faculty have been working together for a number of years to improve the University's standing as a top-tier research institution. This has resulted in a significant increase in the quality and size of competitive research grants and commercial contracts received by the University and its ability to attract outstanding graduate students. We have also seen a significant increase in the number of publications in prestigious journals.

These impressive achievements have been made possible thanks to the support of individuals and foundations around the world who have become our partners in this process. These resources have allowed us to significantly upgrade our investment in advanced research facilities and manpower, including the ability to offer competitive start-up packages, and the completion of a number of major physical infrastructure projects and improved administrative services for researchers.

This has had a major impact on the University's ability to compete for peer-reviewed research funding and other important sources.

We are proud of the accomplishments of the University's researchers, reflected in the quantity and quality of competitive, prestigious grants received this year. Highlights include:

- Dr. Amir Aharoni from the National Institute of Biotechnology in the Negev

and the Department of Life Sciences has won the highly prestigious grant from the European Research Council on "Protein Engineering for the Study of Detoxification Enzymes" and another European grant on "Directed Evolution of Functional Proteins";

- The Human Factors Engineering group, led by Prof. David Shinar of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, has received important awards for the promotion of road traffic safety; among them two Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) grants "ITERATE" and "2 Be Safe";
- Prof. Ron Apte, together with Dr. Elena Voronov, both from the Shraga Segal Department of Microbiology and Immunology, received a prestigious grant from the FP7, as part of INFLA-CARE – a project uniting 21 European cancer research groups;
- The Israel Science Foundation created a new Center of Excellence at BGU for the study of cognitive and brain mechanisms involved in arithmetic. Headed by Prof. Avishai Henik of the Department of Psychology, the newly-created Center for the Neurocognitive Basis of Numerical Cognition (CNBNC) includes researchers from BGU, Haifa University and Achva Academic College;
- Prof. Sammy Boussiba and the team at the Landau Microalgal Biotechnology Laboratory of the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research have started a multi-year, multi-million dollar collaboration with Primafuel Inc. on development of algae biorefinery

technologies for the production of renewable fuels;

- Prof. Elisha Qimron from the Department of Hebrew Language has been commissioned by the Yad Ben-Zvi Institute to prepare a comprehensive edition of all the Hebrew non-biblical scrolls.

Interdisciplinary institutes and centers are one of the most important tools for advancing research. The Government of Israel has committed \$30 million in a three-way partnership to fund the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev.

The Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, supported by the Israel National Nanotechnology Initiative and the Negev Foundation, continues to develop and provide the critical infrastructure for conducting high level research.

The Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research, the French Associates Institute for Agriculture and Biotechnology of Drylands and the Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental Research at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research have had a significant positive impact on their development and growth.

The Homeland Security Institute has been established and is currently in its formative stages. Among other fields, it deals with information technology, sensing threats and protective technologies and medical treatment of mass disasters.

The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism and Heksherim: The Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture are important tools in the research of the humanities.

In addition to our more established frameworks of research, new initiatives based on our proven expertise are being promoted in the fields of renewable and green energies, concentrated in nearly four decades of work in solar energy, renewable fuels, fuel cells and energy crops.

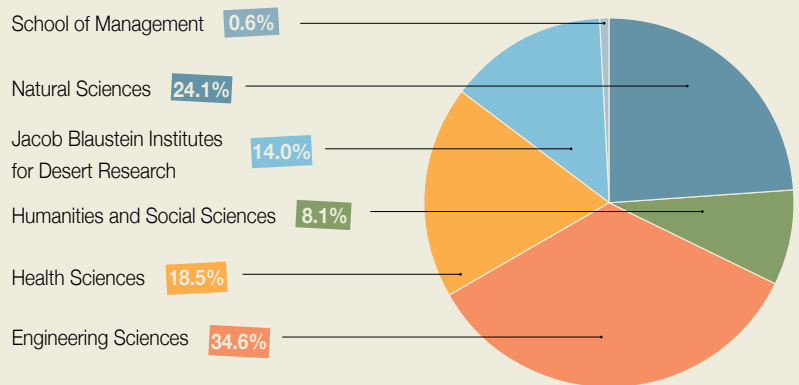
BGN Technologies

BGN Technologies is BGU's technology transfer company, responsible for the protection and commercialization of know-how and innovation technologies created by University researchers. Through the development of novel technologies and creative partnering with industry and investors, BGN brings value to the technological marketplace and to the University and its researchers, filing patent applications worldwide and managing the University's patent and IP portfolio.

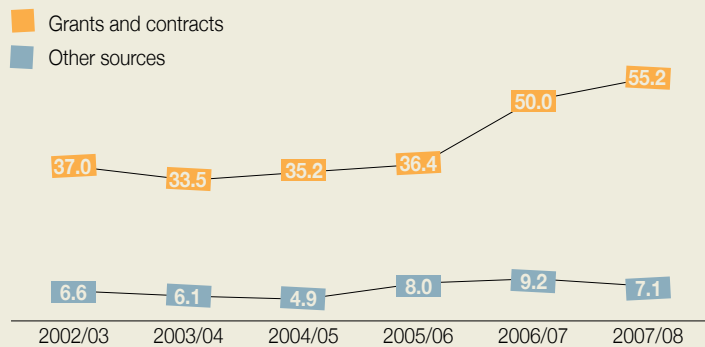
Despite the worldwide economic crisis, 2008 was a very good year for BGN and the University. An eight percent increase in yearly revenue was reported – including research and royalties – totaling some \$12 million, which represents the highest figure ever.

BGN also applied for more patents than ever before. Almost 60 patent applications were filed, three times higher than only five years ago. BGN successfully licensed a number of technologies that were developed at BGU to internationally-recognized companies such as Deutsche Telekom, Bayer CropScience, Primafuel, Microsoft and ExxonMobil.

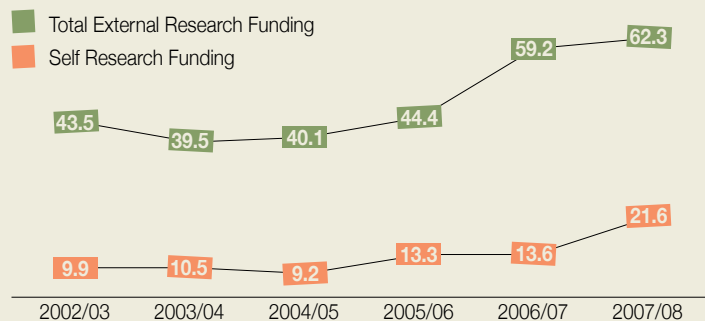
Percent of Grants by Faculty 2007/08



Total External Research Funding (\$US m)



Total Investment in Research (\$US m)



From the

Vice-President and Director-General

The past year has been filled with unprecedented difficulties and challenges on numerous fronts. Undoubtedly the most unexpected of all was when the University and all of Beer-Sheva found themselves the targets of missile attacks from the Gaza Strip. At first, we attempted to maintain a normal study routine at the University, but after missiles fell in close proximity to the Marcus Family Campus, we were compelled to cancel classes for three weeks. Research activity continued under a cloud of tension.

During the last week of Operation Cast Lead, classes resumed for graduate students and students in their last year of undergraduate studies. Once the attacks ended, the University reorganized the academic calendar to make up for lost study time by extending the first semester. With the help of emergency funds raised by its supporters around the world, BGU has undertaken a comprehensive effort to better prepare all of its campuses for any future attacks.

The grave global economic crisis has not left us unscathed, and the 2008/09 academic year is operating in the shadow of this situation. Like other universities around the world, we are seeking creative

ways to weather this storm, while our ability to raise funds has been severely hindered. Significant commitments of philanthropic funds that were earmarked for specific, vital projects have been reneged upon or deferred. Furthermore, the University has incurred heavy losses on its investments. For the first time in 17 years, BGU ended the 2007/08 academic year with a deficit – of nearly NIS 9 million (\$2 million). Since October 2008, the University has suffered additional losses as the market crisis has intensified.

Despite these events, which are beyond our control, I am pleased to note several significant achievements. A marketing drive to attract students brought an unprecedented increase of 7.7% in the number of new students who registered in 2008/09; during the first semester, the student body numbered an impressive 19,500. This is an achievement unparalleled by any other Israeli university, placing BGU in the enviable position of being the most sought-after academic institution in the country for undergraduate students.

In the realm of physical development, ten new classrooms and two 160-seat auditoriums were added. Also a number

of laboratories were refurbished for new researchers, thereby alleviating the considerable shortage of space.

Infrastructure work continues at the Advanced Technologies Park adjacent to the University, with the first enterprise expected to begin operating in 2011. This initiative will undoubtedly bring about dramatic changes, the benefits of which the University will enjoy for many years to come.

From every aspect, we do not expect the coming year to be an easy one. In light of this situation, we are making supreme efforts to cope with the hardships, to work within the framework of a balanced budget and to preserve the University's financial stability.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev plays a central role in the development and advancement of Beer-Sheva, the Negev and the State of Israel. This is our mission. It is my sincere hope that together we will continue to make a valuable difference, despite all the obstacles that stand in our way, and fulfill the vision of our namesake, David Ben-Gurion.



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Operating Budget

	2006/07			2007/08			2008/09		
	NIS m	\$ m	%	NIS m	\$ m	%	NIS m	\$ m	%
INCOME									
Planning and Budgeting Committee	546.7	119.1	64.5%	609.7	144.5	69.0%	656.7	164.2	70.8%
Tuition and Dorms	151.5	33.0	17.9%	165.5	39.2	18.7%	184.8	46.2	19.9%
Contributions	14.1	3.1	1.7%	15.4	3.6	1.7%	12.3	3.1	1.3%
Endowment Funds	40.0	8.7	4.7%	40.0	9.5	4.5%	20.0	5.0	2.2%
Other Income	41.6	9.1	4.9%	48.3	11.4	5.5%	49.6	12.4	5.3%
Transfer between Funds	54.1	11.8	6.4%	5.1	1.2	0.6%	4.6	1.2	0.5%
TOTAL	848.0	184.7	100.0%	884.0	209.5	100.0%	928.0	232.0	100.0%
EXPENDITURES									
Salaries	636.0	138.6	75.0%	644.5	152.7	72.9%	693.0	173.3	74.7%
Fellowships	53.3	11.6	6.3%	52.8	12.5	6.0%	53.9	13.5	5.8%
Teaching Expenses	41.1	9.0	4.8%	45.6	10.8	5.2%	34.1	8.5	3.7%
Institutes & Research Centers	8.2	1.8	1.0%	20.3	4.8	2.3%	20.5	5.1	2.2%
Computer Expenses	10.2	2.2	1.2%	10.4	2.5	1.2%	9.9	2.5	1.1%
Library Expenses	20.2	4.4	2.4%	19.5	4.6	2.2%	19.7	4.9	2.1%
Administration	21.3	4.6	2.5%	26.9	6.4	3.0%	31.7	7.9	3.4%
Maintenance	54.4	11.9	6.4%	60.5	14.3	6.8%	61.8	15.5	6.7%
Financing	3.3	0.7	0.4%	3.5	0.8	0.4%	3.4	0.9	0.4%
TOTAL	848.0	184.7	100.0%	884.0	209.5	100.0%	928.0	232.0	100.0%
NIS/\$ exchange rate		4.59			4.22			4.00	
Higher education expenses index		104.0			102.6			106.8	

2008/9 Overall University Budget (NIS Thousands in Current Prices)

	Operating Budget	Research Budget	Development Budget	Special Programs	Total Budget
Expenditures	928,000	240,000	84,328	89,550	1,341,878
Income	928,000	240,000	73,799	95,925	1,337,724

From the

Vice-President for External Affairs

This has been a year of extremes. On the positive side, I am pleased to report that last year completed three years of record fundraising levels. Unfortunately, fundraising over the past six months has been severely hampered, due to the impact of the global economic crisis. This situation has presented the University with some of the most severe challenges in its history. Luckily, Ben-Gurion University had no direct exposure to the Madoff scandal, but we did experience the loss of substantial pledges made by some of the very generous foundations that were wiped out as a result of the situation.

Despite the radical drop in fundraising in recent months, we have still received several significant donations that have enabled us to purchase new and much-needed research equipment and to support important research projects and outstanding young researchers.

At the end of December and into January 2009, BGU found itself, for the first time in its history, under direct enemy rocket fire. Due to the impossibility of guaranteeing the safety of our students, we ceased all teaching for almost a month. Many of our students were called up for reserve

duty, and, for a considerable period of time, were unable to keep up with their academic tasks or support themselves financially. At the same time, we had to significantly upgrade safety and security equipment and activities on campus.

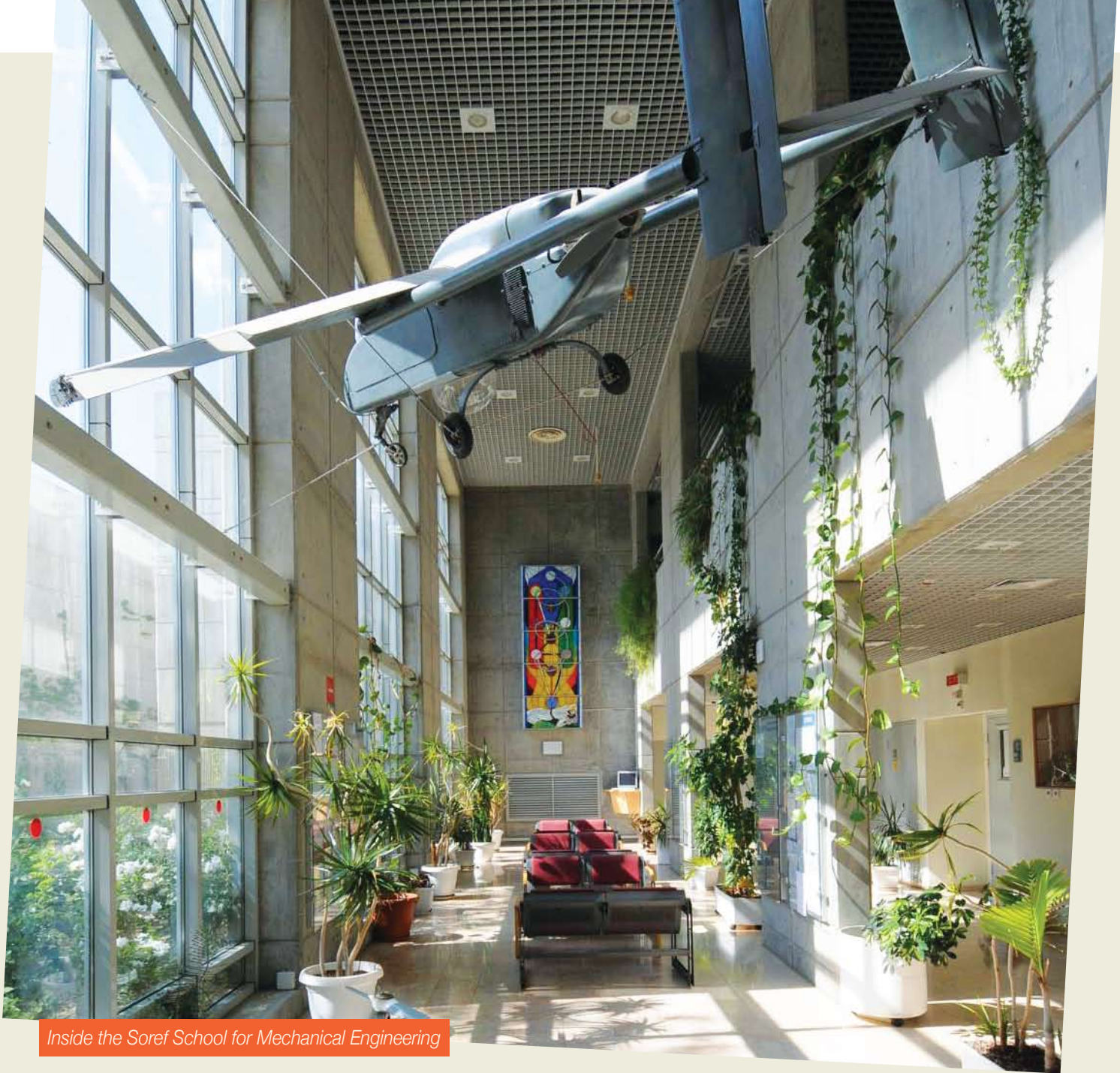
An Emergency Campaign helped the University deal with the considerable expenses incurred due to the effects of the war. Many of our donors, particularly those in the United States, responded very generously. The much-needed support received made it possible to enhance security on the Marcus Family Campus, to offer alternative learning facilities and other means to make up for lost classes, and to provide additional financial assistance to students called up for military duty. We are deeply grateful to our friends and supporters who rose to the occasion and helped us through this crisis.

In spite of all the hardships before us, we made every attempt this year to build up our development capacity. The international consultant group hired last year to assess our fundraising capabilities has recently completed its survey. They have provided concrete measures to improve our organization, tools and

procedures. As part of this effort, we welcomed the appointment of a new president of the Israeli Friends of BGU and hired a professional director to lead fundraising operations in Israel.

A new executive committee of the Israeli Friends of BGU was formed and has already begun operating. New professionals were assigned to step up our activities in continental Europe and in the United Kingdom. In the coming year, we plan to augment the level of communication and collaboration between our Associates' organizations around the world in order to actively pursue our fundraising agenda. At the top of our list of needs are: scholarships and student support; academic and applied research, particularly in such areas as solar energy, brain imaging and Jewish and Israeli literature and culture; and community outreach.

Next year, we will mark the fortieth anniversary of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. We hope to celebrate this event with all of you, commemorating the University's magnificent accomplishments at the 40th Annual Board of Governors Meeting in 2010.



Inside the Soref School for Mechanical Engineering

Our Worldwide Family of Associates at Work: 2007/08 Year-End Figures

	Total	Unrestricted
Contributions from Associates	\$51,667,760	\$2,392,181
Interest Income from Endowments	\$8,400,857	\$4,769,815
Endowment Fund Balance (as of 30/9/08)	\$201,789,835	\$104,481,539

1. All figures are approximate due to fluctuating exchange and interest rates.
2. 2007/08 interest income was calculated at approximately 4.0%.
3. Figures do not reflect approximately \$27.5 million in endowment and trust funds held in the U.S. by and on behalf of AABGU (including outside managed trusts).

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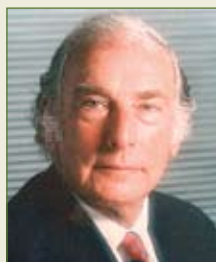
Senior Administration



Roy J. Zuckerberg
Chairman of the
Board of Governors



Lord Weidenfeld of Chelsea
Honorary Chairman
of the Board of Governors



Robert H. Arnow
Chairman Emeritus
of the Board of Governors



David Brodet
Chairman of the
Executive Committee



Prof. Rivka Carmi
President



Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt
Rector



Prof. Moti Herskowitz
Vice-President and Dean
for Research & Development



David Bareket
Vice-President
and Director-General



Prof. Amos Drory
Vice-President
for External Affairs



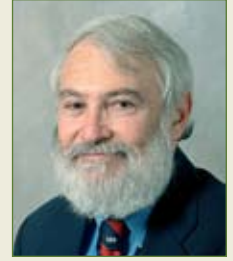
Prof. Moshe Justman
Dean - Faculty of
Humanities and Social
Sciences



Prof. Amir Sagi
Dean - Faculty of
Natural Sciences



Prof. Gabi Ben-Dor
Dean - Faculty of
Engineering Sciences



Prof. Shaul Sofer
Dean - Faculty of
Health Sciences



Prof. Arie Reichel
Dean - Guilford Glazer School of
Business and Management



Prof. Shaul Krakover
Dean - Eilat Campus



Prof. Ramy Brustein
Dean - Kreitman School of
Advanced Graduate Studies



Prof. Mark Gelber
Dean - International
Academic Affairs



Prof. Avigad Vonshak
Director - Jacob Blaustein
Institutes for Desert Research
and Director - Ben-Gurion Research Institute
for the Study of Israel and Zionism



Prof. Varda Shoshan-Barmatz
Director - National Institute
for Biotechnology in the Negev



Prof. Yael Edan
Deputy-Rector



Prof. Lily Neumann
Vice-Rector



Prof. Arie Moran
Deputy Vice-President
and Dean for R & D

Not a Drop to Spare

When, in 2002, Israel's Supreme Court ordered the state to conduct a comprehensive hydrological survey to identify sources of pollutants in the groundwater near Tel Aviv, the National Water Authority approached experts at BGU's world-renowned Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research (ZIWR) at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) for help.

The court order followed alarming findings that extremely poisonous organic compounds had infiltrated the local water sources, which were connected to the country's major underground aquifer. The contaminants had been introduced into the system from dismantled military industries in the area as well as from decades of intensive agricultural activities. The nearby wells were immediately shut down, but a hydrological survey was needed to identify the exact sources of the pollutants.

"The Water Authority wanted more than just a snapshot and to know who the culprits were," recalls ZIWR Director **Prof. Eilon Adar**, who would lead the project. "The major objective was to identify the subsurface areas where the pollutants were flowing and come up with scenarios for future water production policies."

It was a daunting task. Together with the late hydrologist Prof. Ronit Nativ from the

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Adar set up an interdisciplinary team that included BIDR hydro-geologist **Prof. Emeritus Arie Issar**; environmental hydrologist **Dr. Noam Weisbrod**; chemist **Prof. Roni Kasher**; and microbiologists **Prof. Zeev Ronen** and **Dr. Ofer Dahan**. They were joined by a number of water and chemical engineering graduate students. Researchers **Dr. Alex Yakirevich** and **Mikhail Kuznetsov** did all of the mathematical modeling.

"The research teams worked in parallel, but with 100 percent synergy," comments Adar. They turned up some scary findings: although the industries were long gone, the residues of materials used in missile fuel and explosives and volatile organic compounds were still in the soil, migrating into the groundwater flowing below.

"This is a huge area; we haven't identified all the sources, but we know where the major ones are," explains Weisbrod. "The difficulty is that the pollution is vertical; if you miss the precise location in the soil, you'll miss the contamination. You simply can't afford to guess."

Answering the question of which way the toxic elements would flow took two years of calculations. "We had to provide a prediction of which wells would become polluted and when," says Adar. "We predicted that it would take less than

three years at the same rate of pumping for wells in the Tel Aviv area to become polluted. The authorities were afraid that we were creating a panic. But in the end, we were right."

Now that their prediction has been proven accurate, should the authorities continue pumping from these wells? Weisbrod is leading the project to design a strategy of remediation in order to prevent further percolation of the contaminants and to clean up the water that has already been contaminated.

One positive finding: strains of microorganisms that "eat" heavy metals have been discovered in the soil. The group is now trying to enhance these natural processes in the lab. "We are investigating whether by injecting these bacteria into the ground we can remediate the soil," says Weisbrod. "We are now establishing a field pilot in one of the ponds with the highest concentration of perchloride and will monitor what happens."

Weisbrod stresses that this is an endeavor that involves many different scientific fields. "People are coming together from physics, chemistry, fluid dynamics, mathematics," comments Weisbrod. "If you want to create a project that is a combination of cutting edge science and practical solutions, you have to combine forces."



Dr. Ofer Dahan

Prof. Roni Kasher

Prof. Eilon Adar

Inside the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research Building



Dr. Mony Benifla

Prof. Avishai Henik

Prof. Yael Amitai

Dr. Ilan Shelef

In the courtyard of the Abraham Ben David Ohayon Behavioral Sciences Complex

Delving Deeper into the **Brain**

Using nearly one-fifth of the body's oxygen supply, the brain is our most complex and least understood organ. However, in the first decade of the 21st century, the technology for uncovering the brain's secrets has been leaping forward thanks to the partnership of diverse fields. Today, brain research is an area in which biology, medicine, humanities, computer science and psychology have joined forces.

Nowhere is this trend more evident and enthusiastic than at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, which has already earned considerable international respect in the area of neuroscience research.

Here, scientists and researchers from several Faculties engage in a variety of projects and hold weekly joint seminars or lectures to share findings on brain-related research. This forum for scientific cross-talk has generated a very special research cluster affiliated with the Zlotowski Center for Neuroscience.

Pride of place among these joint accomplishments is the Brain Imaging Lab at the Soroka University Medical Center. Combining the methodologies of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans and electroencephalograms (EEG), scientists and doctoral students are uncovering the secrets of the brain: how it works, what causes it to malfunction and – increasingly – how to fix it when something goes wrong.

According to **Prof. Alon Friedman** of

the Departments of Physiology and Neurosurgery in the Faculty of Health Sciences, the uniqueness of this interdisciplinary group results from the open flow of information between science and medicine. "We have researchers who are clinicians and clinicians who are researchers," says Friedman, himself both a neurologist and an internationally-renowned figure in epilepsy research. "The good research questions come from our patients. They show us what we need to understand."

Two other medical doctors at the Faculty of Health Sciences are involved in brain research: neuro-radiologist **Dr. Ilan Shelef**, head of the Soroka MRI Unit, and pediatric neurosurgeon **Dr. Mony Benifla**. "We are not just theoretical but are interested in practical applications, using new therapeutics and understanding common diseases of the brain: Alzheimer's, stroke and epilepsy," explains Friedman.

Two years ago, Friedman won a prestigious award for his breakthrough in epilepsy research that confirmed the importance of the blood-brain barrier – the delicate barricade that separates the bloodstream from the neural connections of the brain – in causing neurological disorders, including epilepsy.

"We've discovered a new pathway of how epilepsy is generated," he explains. "We have preliminary findings on how to prevent epilepsy in an animal model, and

in parallel, we're studying patients, using specific imaging techniques."

The Brain Imaging Lab specialists include behavioral scientists, particularly psychologists. "After all," says Friedman, "behavioral science is what the brain is all about. Psychologists help us understand altered behavior, how the brain functions and dysfunctions."

Prof. Avishai Henik, a leader in the cutting-edge field of cognitive neuropsychology, explains: "The MRI technology allows researchers to understand function – that is, what happens physically to the brain when a person reads, computes, has an emotional reaction. Blood goes to areas that need oxygen. So we give people mental tasks and observe the flow of the blood in order to learn what area is involved." This ability to diagnose mental tasks, continues Henik, has become an essential tool in brain surgery.

Together with his colleagues **Dr. Galia Avidan** of the Department of Psychology and **Prof. Yael Amitai** of the Department of Physiology and Neurobiology at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Henik designs tests using functional MRIs to test patients before surgery. "Our research helps to obtain more and more knowledge in order to facilitate precise surgery."

Says Friedman: "Clinicians and scientists once went their own ways, but we can all do better by combining our resources, and here we've built a really solid bridge."

Sweeter than **Wine**

The so-called “French Paradox” is well known to nutritionists. The French eat rich food yet have fewer heart attacks and less obesity than other ethnic groups. Reasons for this enigma concentrate primarily on the effects of all the wine that they drink. University researchers are working together to address this question from the perspective of diabetes – declared “the illness of the millennium” by the World Health Organization.

A new multi-disciplinary University study is now testing the effects of alcohol consumption on diabetics. A three-month pilot last year led by nutritionist and epidemiologist **Dr. Iris Shai** from the S. Daniel Abraham International Center for Health and Nutrition at the Faculty of Health Sciences, working with researchers from the Diabetes Clinic at the Soroka University Medical Center and BGU’s Departments of Epidemiology and Clinical Biochemistry, demonstrated that there were clear beneficial effects on diabetics who drank one 150-ml. glass of wine a day.

But the pilot was too short to show the effect of the alcohol on the cardiovascular system. The new study will follow the participants for two years offering a more complete picture of the impact of the wine.

“There’s a significant lowering of blood sugars and the wine also provides people with a general feeling of well-being,” says **Dr. Ilana Harman-Boehm**, head of diabetes

research and education, supported by Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied), and Director of the Diabetes Clinic at Soroka. “This is obviously an important issue. Israel is still one of the few countries where one can carry out such a study since we have people who are ‘alcohol naïve’ – that is, they don’t drink and never have, so you can give them wine and see the results clearly,” she explains.

In addition to epidemiologists and biochemists, researchers from the cardiology and brain imaging departments are involved in the project, giving their clinical input. Furthermore, Israel’s finest wine-makers will be contributing their products for this project.

Last year, a research team led by Shai received international recognition for a study that showed low-carbohydrate and Mediterranean diets may be safer and more effective in achieving weight loss than the standard, medically prescribed low-fat diet. The results of the study, published in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*, also demonstrated that these diets had more favorable effects on lipids and/or glycemic control, a key factor in controlling diabetes.

This is only one piece of the puzzle. One of the highest risk factors for Type-2 diabetes is obesity. **Dr. Assaf Rudich**, a senior lecturer in the Department of Clinical Biochemistry at the Faculty of Health Sciences and a key researcher

involved in the diabetes study, is investigating the connection between diseases and morbidity caused by obesity and fat-tissue inflammation in the abdominal area of the body.

“The patients have agreed to let us take biopsies from subcutaneous (under the skin) fat and fat accumulation found in the abdominal cavity,” he explains. The research has found a correlation between the degree of intra-abdominal fat inflammation and markers for increased risk of developing Type-2 diabetes and heart disease.

“This adipose tissue bank project has been a real interface between clinical and basic medical research,” he says. “We’ve created quite an extensive program in which there is a large network of people involved from many fields.” In addition to Drs. Harman-Boehm and Shai, this team includes surgeons **Dr. Eliezer Avinoah** and **Prof. Soli Mizrachi** and **Prof. Nava Bashan** from the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, and colleagues from the University of Leipzig, Germany.

Harman-Boehm agrees that collaboration between clinical science and basic science is what makes BGU unique. “There’s no cut-throat competition here,” she comments. “I’m not being facetious. I think the really special quality about BGU is the collaborative atmosphere, the reciprocity and mutual esteem; this is one of the few work environments where it still exists.”



Dr. Assaf Rudich

Dr. Iris Shai

Dr. Ilana Harman-Boehm

Prof. Nava Bashan

In the garden of the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School

A Win-Win Situation

Everyone agrees that any future Palestinian state must develop its own economy, particularly in those professions that will provide employment for more skilled workers, such as hi-tech. A few years ago, members of the Guilford Glazer School for Business and Management decided to explore how cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians could advance this idea.

"This was a sort of revolutionary concept," relates **Prof. Raphael Bar-El**, Chairman of the Department of Public Policy and Administration. "No one thought it was possible to collaborate in the hi-tech arena because of its competitive nature, but we thought it was worth pursuing."

To test the waters, he enlisted **Dr. Miki Malul** from the same Department and **Prof. Dafna Schwartz** of the Department of Business Administration and head of the Bengis Center for Entrepreneurship and Hi-Tech Management. They teamed up with members of DATA Studies and Consultation of Bethlehem, a research institute of the Palestinian Authority, headed by Dr. Samir Hazboun, to carry out an exploratory survey.

Questioning 38 Israelis and 38 Palestinians from the academic and business sectors – the group discovered that, under the right conditions, this kind of hi-tech collaboration can be implemented. "We analyzed several aspects – the constraints and the potentials – and the results were positive," he says.

Buoyed by their initial conclusions, they organized a round table meeting in November 2007. Sponsored by the Center for Regional Economics and International Finance at Université Paul Cézanne-Aix-Marseille III, the Innovation and Action Lab in Belgium and BGU's Bengis Center, the day-long event in East Jerusalem was attended by some 40 people, including Israeli academics, Palestinian businessmen and officials associated with the Palestinian Authority.

Among the participants were Rector **Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt** and **Prof. Arie Arnon** – both faculty members of the Department of Economics and the Aix Group. Assembled in 2002 by Prof. Gilbert Benhayoun of the Paul Cézanne University, in collaboration with Prof. Bar-El, Dr. Ron Pundak of the Peres Center for Peace in Israel and Saeb Barmya of DATA, the Aix Group includes Israeli, Palestinian and international economics experts.

"We focus on long-term ideas about economic agreements, and deal with really difficult issues – like trade and labor relations," explains Arnon. "It's very difficult these days, but just this past March, we met in Paris for a very productive session that was attended by ambassadors from the Arab world," he says.

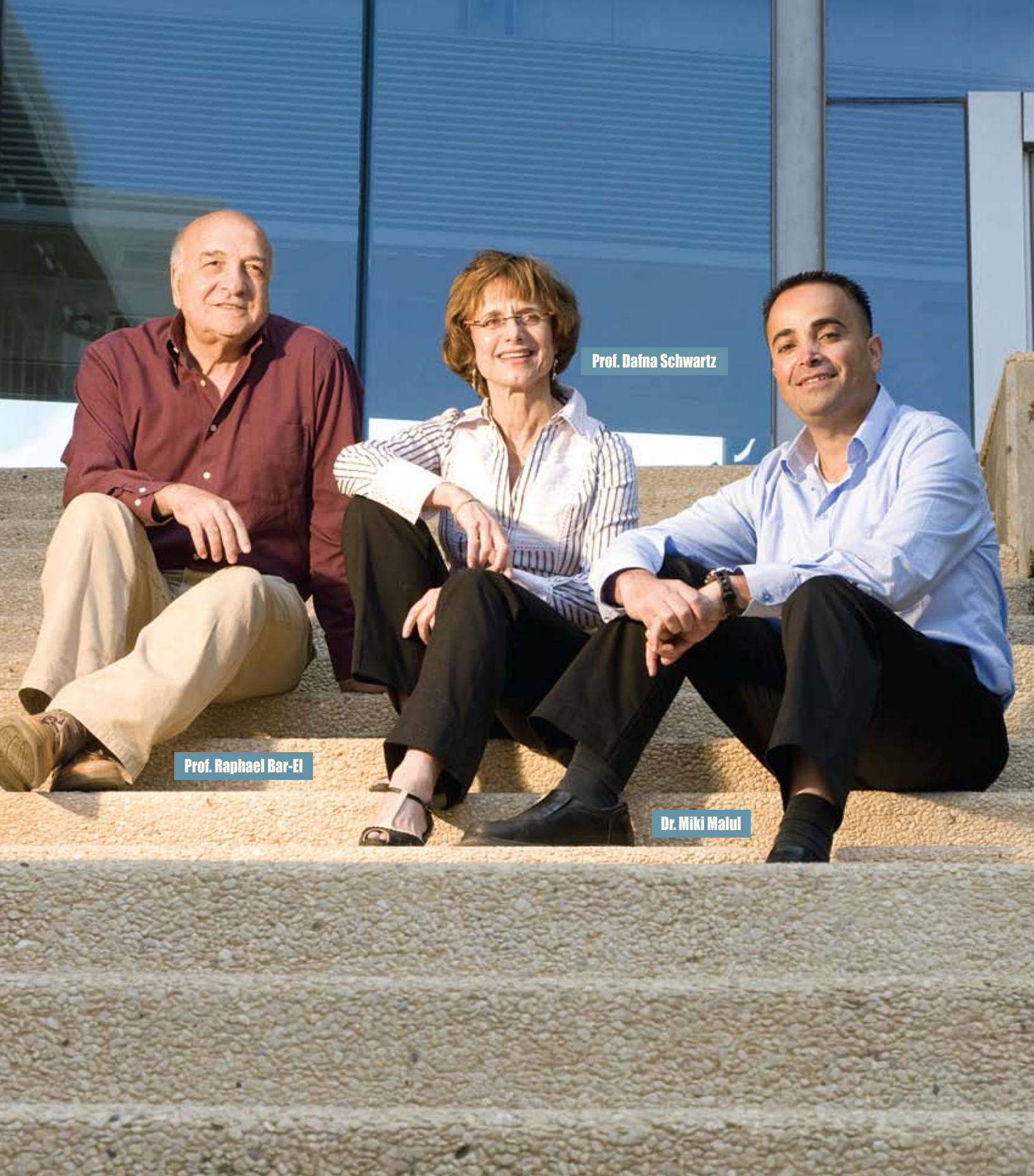
On the basis of the round table conclusions, Bar-El, Malul and Schwartz' group continued investigating the potential for collaboration. "In practical terms, we prepared, together with our Palestinian colleagues, a model for a joint 'virtual'

incubator, which we call the Palestinian-Israeli Virtual Incubator (PIVI)," says Bar-El. "This model was discussed at various professional meetings in Europe. We hope that the next step will be the actual implementation of this idea."

Bar-El, Malul and Schwartz recently submitted their report, "Patterns of Cooperation in Hi-Tech – Constraints, Feasibility and Benefits: Results of a Study among Palestinians and Israelis," to the University Institute for Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation (UIDRC).

This is one aspect of regional outreach at the Guilford Glazer School. The Departments of Management and Public Policy and Administration have organized a pioneering course in local government management for Bedouin leaders. Malul oversaw the course, whose aim was to train the future leadership of the Abu-Basma municipal council communities – itself created by the government in order to enable reorganization and recognition of nine unrecognized Bedouin villages.

Designed in coordination with the Interior Ministry, the course taught skills such as dealing with budgets and government offices. "We brought the best academic lecturers from all over the country and from key posts in local government," explains Malul, "in order to impart academic knowledge of the highest level together with practical knowledge that will allow the committee members to manage their settlements and to take their fate into their own hands."



Prof. Raphael Bar-El

Prof. Dafna Schwartz

Dr. Miki Malul

On the steps of the Diane and Guilford Glazer Building



Prof. Daniel Lasker

Dr. Chanita Goodblatt

Dr. Ephraim Shoham-Steiner

Prof. Avi Gross

Dr. Haviva Ishay

Inside the Helen Diller Family Center

Turning the Past into the **Future**

What were the textures of the lives of people in medieval times? What shaped their ideas, their social order, their culture, the structure of their communities? What markers have they left scholars – in their art, liturgy or even tombstones – who are trying to unravel their secrets?

Far from the twisting roads of medieval cities, BGU boasts an impressive array of scholars of medieval and early modern studies. They teach and carry out research in many different fields, namely art history, literature, Jewish and general history, religion, biblical studies and philosophy.

“This was a major area of intellectual ferment around the world, and BGU has a lot of people involved in it,” comments **Dr. Chanita Goodblatt** of the Conrad and Chinita Abrahams-Curiel Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics. “It is significant that so many people have come together here in the Negev in this field.”

Goodblatt, who is an advisory editor on the preacher John Donne’s Hebraism to Oxford University Press, specializes in poetry and culture and Christian Hebraism in Reformation England. She was one of the founders of the University’s Forum for Medieval and Early Modern Cultures – designed to encourage interdisciplinary work in the field. Created ten years ago, the Forum holds regular meetings and events to discuss research, analyze texts and upcoming papers and encourage dialogue among faculty members and graduate students in the field.

The era under discussion spans approximately one thousand years, from 700 to 1700 CE. “We insisted on the word ‘culture’ in the name of the Forum, since this is an aspect that is more unifying than history, literature or philosophy,” explains **Prof. Avi Gross**, Chairman of the Department of Jewish History. Gross, also one of the founders of the Forum, is an expert on the history and culture of Iberian Jewry, the Marranos and the history of Jewish martyrdom.

Members of the Forum arrange conferences on a variety of themes, in which as many people as possible from different disciplines can participate. Some of the Forum’s most successful events include *Conversion and Penitence, Martyrdom, and Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain, 950-1492*.

Incumbent of the Blechner Chair in Jewish Tradition and Values and a member of the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought **Prof. Daniel Lasker** continues: “We try to have programs which coordinate the interests of the various departments and which connect disciplinary boundaries.”

“Usually once a year, we arrange for young scholars or scholars-to-be to present their work in progress, to create an encouraging atmosphere,” adds Gross. “These are interesting and lively sessions.” This year, the Forum focused on the life and work of Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra, one of the most distinguished Jewish men of letters of the Middle Ages, during a day-long conference

co-sponsored by the Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought. Known as “The Wise, the Great and the Admirable Doctor,” Ibn Ezra (1089-c1164) excelled in philosophy, astronomy, astrology, medicine, poetry, linguistics and exegesis.

“He was a real renaissance figure,” says Goodblatt, whose work focuses on how he used his interests in scientific and linguistic exegeses to create a picturesque poetry. “The best scholars from all over the country came to present interdisciplinary responses to his work.”

The different characters and trends of these periods find expression in the different collaborations between Forum members. **Dr. Haviva Ishay** of the Department of Hebrew Literature works on medieval Hebrew and Arabic literature and has recently edited the works of writer Moshe Ibn Ezra.

“The Medieval Forum has become a true meeting place,” says **Dr. Ephraim Shoham-Steiner** of the Department of Jewish History. Together with **Prof. Katrin Kogman-Appel** of the Department of the Arts, he is exploring medieval Jewish attitudes to human imagery. “I could be doing my research anywhere,” explains Shoham-Steiner, who came to BGU as part of the Kreitman Foundation Fellowship program, “But the Forum workshops are what makes the atmosphere here conducive to my work. It’s as if the past becomes the future,” he says.

Replicating Superman's X-Ray Eyes

Bar-code readers and new electro-optic diagnostic tools may seem like light years apart from one another, but they are based on the same principle of “reading” that which otherwise cannot be seen by the human eye.

Research in the field of electro-optics – the study of the effects of an electric field on light traversing it – has dramatically increased in the last few years, as the applications in our daily lives keep expanding. Scientists are well on their way to harnessing the secrets of Superman's “X-ray eyes” in ways never thought possible. Soldiers can see in the dark; scientists use biosensors to detect toxic materials; physicians use optical imaging systems to see through the body – examining tissues with non-invasive means.

With this in mind, six years ago BGU established the only graduate program in electro-optics in Israel. “The field demands multidisciplinary fields and experience,” says **Prof. Ibrahim Abdulhalim**, head of the Unit of Electro-optics Engineering. “It’s where the next revolution in applied optics is already happening, in a similar manner to what optics has done to telecommunications in the last 20 years.”

The key is a special nano-structured surface made of metal which can

strengthen a sensor's sensitivity by a factor of 1,000. “We shine light through a prism on which there is a very thin layer of metal – gold or silver,” he explains. “To that layer is added a layer of silicon which is highly refractive, and this enhances the electro-magnetic field when it comes into contact with any other light. We look at the reflection at certain angles, from which we can measure the concentrations of what we see.”

One direction of medical optics is the use of Spectro-Polarimetric Imaging, which can measure polarization changes at different wavelengths and thus detect, for example, the depth of a cancerous growth. Abdulhalim's team, in collaboration with **Prof. Lior Rosenberg** and **Dr. Ofer Arnon** from the Faculty of Health Sciences, is working on a prototype Spectro-Polarimetric system to introduce into clinical studies at Soroka University Medical Center. This project is supported partially by the BGU interfaculty fund.

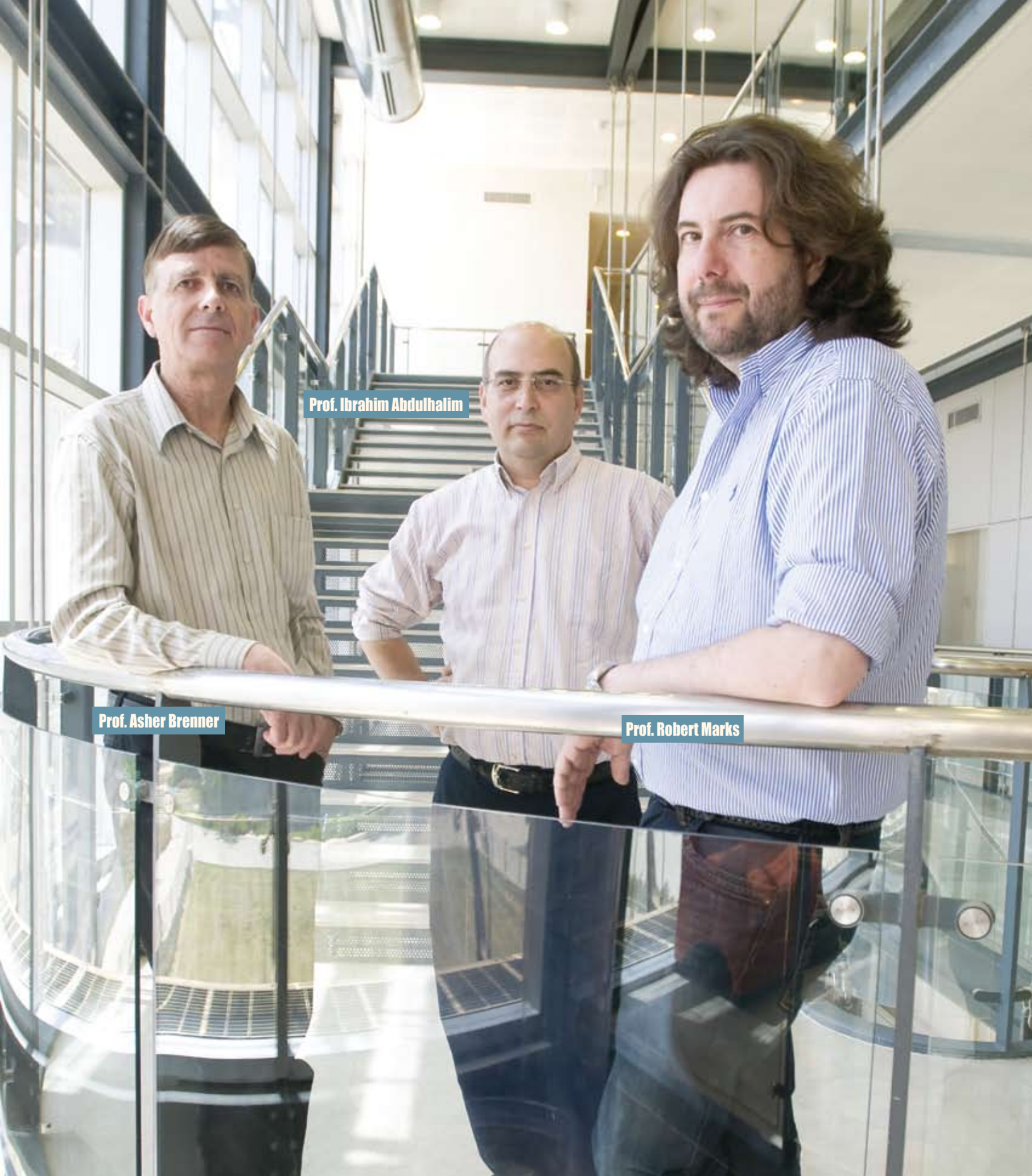
By greatly increasing the optical properties of the surfaces, this development is set to revolutionize biosensing in a variety of applications, particularly detecting pollution in water, and detection in the body for medical purposes. Abdulhalim and his team design these kinds of special nanostructures – some of which are

produced in the nano fabrication facility of the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology.

According to **Prof. Asher Brenner** of the Unit of Environmental Engineering, the presence of organic micro-pollutants in water systems “is a crucial issue worldwide due to the gradual accumulation of toxic compounds, such as endocrine disrupting compounds (EDC) in the closed loop of water use and reuse. The scope of the problem is huge, since these chemicals are released directly into the environment after passing through wastewater treatment plants, while their removal and identification is relatively complex,” he says.

Together with Brenner and **Prof. Robert Marks** and **Dr. Ariel Kushmaro** of the Department of Biotechnology Engineering, Abdulhalim and his team are carrying out a multidisciplinary project to construct and test a sophisticated biosensor that will assess the occurrence, distribution, persistence, toxicity and risk potential of these emerging organic micro-pollutants, as well as devising mechanisms for the removal of this threat.

“The surfaces developed by Abdulhalim have such increased sensitivity that they have allowed us to greatly simplify our testing methods,” states Marks.



Prof. Ibrahim Abdulhalim

Prof. Asher Brenner

Prof. Robert Marks

On the stairs of the Alon Building for Hi-Tech

Converting Light into Energy

A convergence of green sensibilities and financial interests has brought alternative energy research – particularly solar power – into the spotlight.

Building upon the core strength of the National Solar Energy Center (NSEC) at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) in Sede Boqer, the University now has nine research groups in five different departments carrying out state-of-the-art work on various aspects of the complex issue of generating cost-efficient solar electric power.

Prof. David Faiman, Director of the NSEC and Chairman of the Department of Solar Energy and Environmental Physics at the BIDR, explains that there are no simple solutions to building comprehensive solar energy systems.

“Research is like an onion,” he says. “You solve one problem and discover another one waiting to be addressed.” This year the Israeli start-up ZenithSolar opened the first solar “farm” based on his technology of Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) systems. Faiman’s success in the creation of a low-cost system for large-scale solar power generation means that new problems such as storage capabilities have become more important.

Dr. Iris Visoly-Fisher, of the Department of Chemistry, is proud of how the University has encouraged cooperation among the different groups. “We have seminars once a month. Each of us presents our way of looking at the same issue, so we

understand the ties between us,” she says.

Inspired by photosynthesis in plants, Visoly-Fisher and **Dr. Rafi Shikler** of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering are working to convert “light into electricity” at its most basic level. “We take the concept of energy conversion in photosynthesis and are trying to create molecules synthetically that can do the same thing,” she explains. “It will be the smallest possible device that can convert light into electricity – one nanometer, perhaps.”

With his expertise in optics and engineering, and her knowledge of photovoltaic materials – which can absorb light and convert it into an electrical current – they hope to integrate an optical component with existing photovoltaic devices to improve its optical absorption, and therefore its energy conversion rate.

“What is special about our work is that we’re dealing with organic materials – whatever has hydro-carbons – for example, plastics,” she continues. “They are very cheap, easy and clean to manufacture. And at the same time, they are light-weight and mechanically flexible.”

Shikler stresses that it’s the “clean aspect” of the plastics that is important. “Plastics are considered unfriendly to the environment, but this is not a single-use instrument that is quickly discarded. And yet it could be as cheap as a disposable

device, and make alternative energy accessible to everyone,” he says.

The two envision practical, portable devices that are a tenth of the size of comparable items today. “Imagine screens that you can just roll up and take with you. We can make them as big as solar panels, so you can hang them up in a baseball field, then roll them up and take them away.” This, they believe, is not going to solve the energy problems of the world, but it will make some uses and applications more accessible and cheaper, resulting in more human-size devices. “We think that the energy crisis is not going to be solved by one solution, but by a combination of solutions. And this is a small part.”

The researchers will be collaborating on various aspects of solar energy production to integrate the optical component with various photovoltaic materials and devices with many different research groups, including **Prof. Yuval Golan** and **Dr. Nurit Ashkenasy** of the Department of Materials Engineering; **Prof. Rachel Yerushalmi-Rozen** of the Department of Chemical Engineering and **Dr. Eugene Katz**, **Prof. Daniel Feuermann**, **Dr. Sergey Biryukov** and Faiman of the Department of Solar Energy and Environmental Physics at the BIDR.

“This is where the cross-fertilization of our forum helps advance the greater scientific endeavor,” Visoly-Fisher adds. “We’re all scientists and engineers working together.”



Dr. Iris Visoly-Fisher

Dr. Rafi Shikler

Facing the Larry Goodman Family Administration Building for Engineering Sciences



Dr. Eitan Rubin

Dr. Dan Mishmar

Outside the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev

Following the Genomic Trail

Did some genetic human mutations that took place during evolution play a role in our susceptibility today to diseases such as cancer? Researchers at the University's National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN) have a hunch that there is a connection.

Dr. Eitan Rubin, an internationally recognized expert in bioinformatics, and geneticist **Dr. Dan Mishmar**, of the Department of Life Sciences, are members of the NIBN and collaborators on an intellectual journey that they believe provides enough significant clues to answer this question.

The team set out to look for mutations in the genome of the *mitochondria* – the part of the cell responsible for energy production, and which is passed only through females – that may have functional importance for the evolution of species, and also for diseases. “We hypothesized that some mutations accumulated during evolution played a role in human adaptation to ancient environments and play a role in today's susceptibility to complex diseases, such as cancer,” explains Rubin. “To test this, we analyzed data produced in other labs for which researchers found no connection. We analyzed the same data differently and showed that there is a connection.”

Their findings were recently featured as the cover story of the leading American journal *Genome Research*. The team – including a graduate student and a

programmer – studied the *mitochondrial* genome of humans who migrated out of Africa to populate Europe 100,000 years ago. They carried seven mutations that are found in almost all Europeans today, compared to their African ancestors. The team showed that the very same “evolutionary mutations” were independently reversed in multiple tumors. This suggests that the mutations that most researchers regard as functionally unimportant must be revisited.

“This finding has profound implications for our understanding of the genetic basis of cancer and its similarity to human evolutionary processes – findings we are now pursuing. We are the first to show conclusive evidence of the role of *mitochondrial* evolutionary mutations and cancer,” declares Mishmar.

“We hope this will direct us to new ways of predicting how cancer appears in humans,” notes Rubin, adding that, “We had to do this together. I wouldn't have thought of it alone, and neither would have Dan. The NIBN puts scientists from different disciplines together and then collaborations develop.”

The Government of Israel has recognized the NIBN as the country's leading research facility for innovative biotechnology research and has recently penned an agreement to provide \$30 million of a \$90 million research fund. Made possible through the founding vision and commitment of Swiss banker Edgar D. de

Picciozzo, the Institute continues to attract exceptionally promising researchers from around the world.

Rubin returned to Israel three years ago from a prestigious position at Harvard University because, he says, “for what I wanted to do, I had to collaborate and BGU was where I could best do so. At Harvard and in the U.S. in general, they have access to the best brains from all over the world, and many times the amount of resources we have here. What do we have that they don't? We talk to each other,” says Rubin.

Another related project that he has been working on builds on the expertise of **Dr. Alon Monsonego**, incumbent of the Zehava and Chezy Vered Career Development Chair for the Study of Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases.

“We are trying to see how the immune mechanisms of our body are used in the repair of damaged brain cells, and how to encourage this system,” says Monsonego, also a member of the NIBN. Through Rubin's expertise in bioinformatics, and Monsonego's knowledge of neurodegenerative processes, the two researchers are trying to find how the immune system can modulate the process of regeneration of new brain cells.

“There are high gains through interdisciplinary studies, but also high risks,” Rubin concludes. “But I knew that at BGU I could really make a difference.”

New and **Noteworthy**

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev continues to grow, expanding its academic opportunities and research facilities, while investing in its physical infrastructure. Our researchers and students are involved in a wide range of academic initiatives and industrial collaborations both in Israel and around the world. Below are some of the significant highlights of the past year.

Milestones

Thirty years have passed since Egyptian President Mohamed Anwar El-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin made an historic visit to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev on May 27, 1979. Speaking on the occasion of the visit, then-BGU President Ambassador Yosef Tekoah noted that, "All that we are doing here at the University can help cement the structure of peace between our two countries."

Physical Development

- The Deichmann Building for Community Action and Spitzer-Salant Building for the Department of Social Work were recently awarded first prize in two different categories in the 2008/09 Project of the Year Competition run by *Architecture of Israel*.
- The Deichmann Plaza was awarded Design Project of the Year for 2009 in the category of Architecture, City and Landscape Planning by a non-profit group that includes representatives from the Ministry of Construction and Housing; the Association for City Planners in Israel; the Association of Interior Designers in Israel; and leading academics in the field.
- The Nahum and Anna Guzik Building was named thanks to the generous support of its benefactors, enabling the University to build a number of greatly-needed classrooms.
- The state-of-the-art Helga and Walter Oppenheimer Auditorium was named in the new auditorium building of the Gershon Cherni Classroom and Cultural Complex.
- The University embarked on a major laboratory refurbishment program, providing cutting-edge infrastructure for research campus-wide.

New Academic Centers and Research Activities

- The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental Research (SIDER) was established to foster integrated, interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the environment in the drylands of Israel and the world at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research. The SIDER endeavors to improve human well-being in natural and man-made dryland environments by promoting conservation of the environment and sustainable development.
- The Marc Rich Foundation Prizes for Women Researchers were distributed, promoting excellence for women in academia thanks to the vision of the Rich Foundation.
- The Litwin Foundation and the Aaron Gural Family have partnered with Dr. Alon Monsonego from the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev to provide major support for groundbreaking research relating to a vaccine for Alzheimer's Disease, an illness that afflicts millions worldwide.
- Though still in the fundraising stage, the multi-disciplinary Institute for Homeland Security was created and is expected to conduct research and engage in development on the various aspects of homeland security.



Egyptian President Mohamed Anwar El-Sadat receives the Star of Peace from BGU President Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, May 1979

Excellence Recognized

- University President Prof. Rivka Carmi, M.D., was honored by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, as a "Woman of Distinction" for her outstanding accomplishments in Israel and around the world.
- Preeminent author Prof. Amos Oz, incumbent of the S.Y. Agnon Chair in Hebrew Literature established by the German Associates and a member of the Department of Hebrew Literature, was awarded the Heinrich Heine Prize by the city of Dusseldorf, Germany, for "his literary quality, political sensibility, humanitarian engagement and bold clarity and determination in trying to build bridges between Israelis and Palestinians."
- Dr. Tuvia Friling, a senior research fellow at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, has been awarded the "Cultural Merit, in rank of Commander," by the Romanian government. The decoration was awarded by Romanian President Traian Basescu in recognition of his contribution to the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania and for his academic accomplishments.
- Prof. Alon Tal, a member of the Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology and the Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental Research at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes of Desert Research, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ministry of Environmental Protection for his role in creating the environmental movement in Israel as part of the country's 60th anniversary celebrations.
- Prof. Yigal Ronen of the Department of Nuclear Engineering received an honorary doctorate degree from the Russian Academy of Sciences for his outstanding scientific achievements, the highest honor awarded in Russia to foreign scientists.
- Prof. Avigad Vonshak, Director of the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, became the incumbent of the UNESCO Chair in Desertification.
- Dr. Eli Lewis, incumbent of the Ilse Katz Career Development Chair in Health Sciences Research of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry and Director of the University's Clinical Islet Laboratory, received the Krill Prize for Excellence in Scientific Research of the Wolf Foundation for Medicine (2009).
- Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi of the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work was named Killam Visiting Scholar at the University of Calgary, Canada.
- Dr. Ohad Medalia of the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev and the Department of Life Sciences received the 2008 FEI European Microscopy Award for his groundbreaking research on cryo-electron tomography of cells and his work on the "Molecular Architecture of Integrin-mediated Cell Adhesion by Cryo-Electron Tomography."
- Prof. Gabi Ben-Dor, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences and incumbent of the Dr. Morton and Toby Mower Professor of Shock Wave Studies, was named the Centenary Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Science, one of India's oldest research institutions.



The award-winning Deichmann Building for Community Action, Spitzer-Salant Building for the Department of Social Work and the Deichmann Plaza

- BL-1040, a novel myocardial implant for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction – developed by the Chairperson of the Department of Biotechnology Engineering, Prof. Smadar Cohen, and Prof. Jonathan Leor of the same Department – was named one of ten Most Promising Cardiovascular Projects by Windover Information, a leading provider of business information products in the biotech industry and one of the ten most important developments of 2008 by theheart.com, the leading cardiovascular information website.
- Dr. Yoram Etzion, Director of the Cardiac Arrhythmia Research Laboratory at Soroka University Medical Center and the Faculty of Health Sciences, won the 2009 Neufeld Prize of the Israeli Heart Society. This is the second time that Etzion, incumbent of the Dr. Gabi and Eng. Max Lichtenberg Career Development Chair in Medicine, has won this award in three years.

- Dr. Assaf Rudich of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry and the S. Daniel Abraham International Center for Health and Nutrition at the Faculty of Health Sciences received the Lindner Prize from the Israel Endocrine Society, in recognition of his exceptional scientific achievements and contribution in endocrinological research.

Prize-Winning Books

- Prof. Katrin Kogman-Appel of the Department of the Arts received the American Historical Association's Premio del Rey prize for her book, *Illuminated Haggadot from Medieval Spain: Biblical Imagery and the Passover Holiday* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006). The biennial Premio del Rey Prize is awarded for the best book written in English on Spanish history before 1516.
- Dr. Guy Beiner of the Department of General History was awarded first prize in the 2008 Wayland D. Hand international competition for an

outstanding publication in history and folklore, for his book, *Remembering the Year of the French: Irish Folk History and Social Memory* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2007).

- Prof. Uri Ram of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology received the 2008 Yonathan Shapiro Prize for Best Book in Israel Studies, for his book, *The Globalization of Israel: McWorld in Tel Aviv, Jihad in Jerusalem*.
- Dr. Guy Ben-Porat, a member of the Department of Public Policy and Administration at the Guilford Glazer School of Business and Management, received the Ernst-Otto Czempel Award of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) for his book, *Global Liberalism, Local Populism: Peace and Conflict in Israel/Palestine and Northern Ireland*.
- Dr. Anat Weisman of the Department of Hebrew Literature and incumbent of the Rosen Family Career Development



Chair in Judaic Studies received two of the five awards presented by the Minister of Science, Culture and Sport for “Excellence in Published Books in the Year 5769.”

- Dr. Avi Bareli of the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism has been awarded the Yitzhak Ben-Zvi Prize for the history of the Land of Israel for his book, *The Struggle over Political Institutionalization in Mapai, 1948-1953*.

Academic Honors Bestowed

- Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany, Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers, received an honorary professorship from the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research.
- Award-winning news commentator Marvin Kalb was a guest of the Robert St. John Chair for Objective Middle East Reporting.

- World-renowned physicist and Director of the Institute of Problems of Electrophysics in the Russian Academy of Sciences Prof. Philip G. Rutberg received an honorary professorship from the Faculty of Engineering Sciences.
- The Director of the Institute for High Energy Densities at the Russian Academy of Sciences Prof. Vladimir E. Fortov received an honorary professorship from the Faculty of Engineering Sciences.

Regional and International Impact

- More than 400 people from over 50 countries attended the International Drylands, Deserts and Desertification Conference on issues relating to combating desertification, organized by the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research in conjunction with UNESCO and the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Delegates came from such countries as China, India and Pakistan for the four-

day event. Some 100 African experts, practitioners and officials participated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ MASHAV Center for International Cooperation program. A delegation from Jordan participated in a special round-table discussion on regional cooperation.

- A University study analyzed the main causes of infant death among Negev Bedouin, which has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive program to reduce infant mortality by 25 percent over the next five years. Developed by Prof. Ilana Shoham of the Department of Epidemiology at the Faculty of Health Sciences, the plan was created in coordination with the Ministry of Health and with the generous support of the Yad Hanadiv Fund of Israel. The University will train some 100 community professionals to improve prenatal care, encourage the use of genetic testing and precautions to avoid crib death and increase the levels of household safety.

Community Outreach

Community Action Unit

Since the Community Action Unit (CAU) was established more than 30 years ago, it has devoted itself to having a direct, hands-on impact on the society around it, promoting social justice while creating opportunities for disadvantaged populations. The Unit operates a variety of programs that serve more than 5,000 people each year, with an emphasis on education – in the broadest sense – as a means of enriching the lives of students and local residents.

In spite of the economic downturn sweeping the country and the missile attacks upon the region this winter, the University continues to maintain and expand its community outreach programs. The Open Apartments Program got a significant boost through the generous support of Sarah Lohby of New York. The importance of the Program – where students live in 65 University-owned apartments in some of the most neglected neighborhoods in Beer-Sheva – was particularly felt during the missile attacks on Beer-Sheva. Though the University was closed, many of the students stayed in their apartments coordinating activities in their neighborhoods. They opened day care centers for the local children, calmed the residents and helped the elderly and new immigrants to understand the instructions of the Home Front Command.

Additional second-hand clothing bazaars were held this year in the Dalet

neighborhood. The weekly Friday bazaars have become a meeting place that allow for the building and nurturing of relationships with local residents.

In the Yud-Alef neighborhood, a new counselors' course was opened this year for teenagers. With the guidance of a BGU student, sixth-grade children organized group activities for younger children in a wide range of topics.

The activities in coordination with the Ayalim program in the Dalet neighborhood have been improved, and large events were held on Purim and Tu B'Shvat. Events were also planned for Holocaust Day and Remembrance Day.

Two new community gardens have been created in the Dalet neighborhood.

The Keren Moshe Leadership Training Program prepares students to take a proactive role in their communities, providing them with the skills and confidence to promote social change.

Working with a branch of the computer company Cisco, the CAU has opened a computer enrichment center in the south. University students with technological skills and social orientation teach a Cisco course focused on technological training to children in Cisco-run *Netta* centers.

Using psychodrama to help youth-at-risk, the Barvaz theater group staged a new production of the play *Brundibar*

(Bumblebee), a children's opera that was written by an inmate of Theresienstadt during the Holocaust.

The Access to Higher Education Program in the Negev now includes over 1,100 students who come to the Marcus Family Campus every Friday from Beer-Sheva and towns across the region, including Mitzpe Ramon, Kiryat Malachi, Ofakim, Arad, Yerucham, Sderot and Bedouin communities such as Rahat and Tel Sheva for academic enrichment classes and empowerment training. The Ministry of Education, the Rashi Foundation, Atidim, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Leumi Aharai Organization partner in this venture that offers promising students a window into the broad opportunities available to them.

Other long-term projects – from the Sparks of Science program that reaches out to youth of Ethiopian origin, to the NewStart program that helps adults close educational gaps – have continued despite numerous challenges, primarily thanks to the dedication and commitment of students and faculty to reach out to the community.

Perach

The southern division of Perach – a nationwide Big Brother/Big Sister mentoring program – is the largest in the country. Based at BGU, the program includes students from the University and local colleges who work throughout the



At the Perach enrichment center in the Deichmann Building for Community Action



region, including in Bedouin communities. This year, there was a five percent growth in the number of student mentors in the program, due primarily to the new partnership between students from the *Ayalim* Association and the International Sephardic Education Fund (ISEF), and the launching of new enrichment programs in local schools.

The ISEF program encourages high school pupils from the town of Ofakim to pursue higher education. The *Ayalim* project involves the operation of enrichment centers in the afternoon in peripheral areas of the Negev.

Negotiations have begun this year with the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work to offer an academic tutoring course for Perach tutors, similar to the one offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Perach's operations significantly expanded around the Eilat Campus – a direct benefit of the University's

presence in the city. Plans are underway to establish a much-needed Perach Enrichment Center there. A generous anonymous donation enables Perach to operate in the peripheral towns of Yerucham, Ofakim and Netivot by providing monthly transportation expenses.

Perach's main activity continues to be individual tutorials offered at schools, from the third through twelfth grades. These constitute approximately 85 percent of all Perach activity, while the remainder is devoted to group projects, including the newly created "Everybody Needs a Friend" in elementary schools with the support of the *Yad Hanadiv* Fund.

Assistance for adolescents has been expanded. Creating personal connections during these difficult years presents many challenges, but ultimately this makes a difference for many of these youth. This year saw the expansion of "virtual" tutorial activity, through which students assist high school pupils and prepare them for

matriculation exams via distance learning.

In the Bedouin sector, Perach operates an extra day of studies on Fridays in local communities, where some 100 children receive individual tutorials. This year, Perach continued its joint activity with the *HaPoel Tel Aviv* sports club in the Bedouin settlements, providing two hours of soccer training in addition to academic tutorials. A project titled *The Nature of Chemistry* was launched in the Bedouin city of Rahat, in which innovative teaching methods were employed to introduce junior high school pupils to chemistry.

Perach also operates programs for children with special needs. Children with physical limitations are encouraged to participate in various group enrichment activities including sports, made possible by friends in the Netherlands.

The main Perach enrichment center in the south is situated in the Deichmann Building for Community Action on BGU's Marcus Family Campus. One of the

enrichment centers in Beer-Sheva was renovated, turning it into a community center where older residents can learn about computers, Hebrew and other subjects in the morning hours. This year, due to the special circumstances resulting from Operation Cast Lead, the *Havayeda* served as a secure environment for children of University employees during the three weeks when local schools were closed.

The Center for External Education

The Center for External Education offers academic courses tailored to the needs of the general public, ranging from personal enrichment workshops and professional training programs to a full range of popular courses that encourage lifelong learning.

The Youth for Science Unit organizes scientific group activities for youth from Beer-Sheva and the periphery. Other meetings focus on developing study skills for students from the towns of Sderot, Yerucham and the Sha'ar Hanegev and Ramat Hanegev local councils. Dozens of Science Days took place in different fields. A unique new program, "Youth Research in the Desert", created in cooperation with the Jacob Blaustein Institutes and supported by the Legacy Heritage Fund, was launched. Last summer a scientific camp took place for students from the seventh to tenth grades that dealt with genetic engineering and study skills to prepare them for high school.

At the same time, the Access to Higher Education Program entered its eighth year, with more than 1,000 high school students arriving on the Marcus Family Campus in Beer-Sheva every Friday for enrichment classes. Students come from

26 schools in 13 communities across the Negev. In addition, there is a similar program of activities on the Eilat Campus with around 60 students from three schools in the city.

Academic Preparatory Courses

New pre-academic programs were launched this year, aimed at increasing the number of students from the south. These new tracks are in addition to existing programs that offer students a year of enrichment studies to ensure their full preparation for higher education and academic success.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, a four-month course for Bedouin students interested in the nursing profession was created. Some 60 students are participating in the program that includes academic study, workshops in study techniques, and courses in inter-personal communication and professionalism that will provide a solid base for university study, particularly in the Department of Nursing at the Leon and Mathilde Recanati School for Community Health Professions.

A new course – *Ofakim* (Horizons) – targeting recently discharged soldiers from the south includes fifteen months of study for up to 100 students. The program aims to give veterans of the Israel Defense Forces – who might otherwise not consider higher education a viable option – a chance to explore the possibility of academic studies and includes general preparation for academic studies.

A comprehensive nine-month program to promote students whose families emigrated from Ethiopia was also

launched. The comprehensive course includes the added dimension of mentors and student counselors to provide students with the psychological tools required to succeed in their studies. This unique program is the result of a partnership between the Municipality of Beer-Sheva, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Jewish community of Montreal and the Bnei Shimon Regional Council.

Alumni Association

This past year has been one of reorganization, with the integration of the Alumni Association into the Israeli Friends Association. A professional director was hired to manage and promote both.

The new infrastructure better positions both organizations to address the challenges posed by the international economic crisis by combining efforts to increase the University's local presence through new fundraising initiatives as well as by strengthening BGU's visibility nationwide.

Some 10,000 alumni have registered as members in the Alumni Association. Some have proven responsive to the needs of the University, especially in providing scholarships to students with limited economic means. An active website helps alumni network through an e-newsletter, regular mailings and a full range of professional career counseling services. An emphasis is placed on social networking through class reunions and cultural events.

This is all part of the greater effort to maintain the community spirit that characterizes the student experience at BGU and to develop and expand our influence in Israel.

Student Life

Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office works closely with the University administration and the Student Association to advance the general welfare of the student body in all of its facets – from dormitory life, to cultural events on campus and other academic support services, particularly for students with learning disabilities. Seven specialized audio systems have been installed in classrooms and auditoriums for students with hearing impairments.

Over the past summer, renovations and improvements were carried out in the Dalet Dormitories, designed to bring them up to the standard of the recently renovated Zlotowski Dormitory Complex and the AABGU Dormitory Complex.

Thanks to a special emergency campaign, students who did military reserve duty during Operation Cast Lead in Gaza received a special stipend, additional tutoring sessions and psychological counseling in addition to the regular support offered to returning soldiers.

An innovative program for students with mental health problems was launched. The program includes personal support and counseling, carried out in collaboration with the Reut organization.

The Office has simplified administrative procedures and expanded its newly-centralized services for all Arabic-

speaking students. This includes the awarding of scholarships dependant on criteria consistent with the lifestyle of the southern Bedouin community; the addition of a student counselor and an academic advisor; and social assistance in order to ease the absorption and success of first-year students. The Unit for Employment Counseling and *Kav Mashve* (Employers' Coalition for Equality for Arab University Graduates) joined forces to secure employment for Arab students and alumni.

Under the supervision of the Office, a musical group that includes Jewish and Arab students has been established as part of a greater program to promote cross-cultural involvement and encourage dialogue through music. A choir comprised of students, faculty and administrative employees has been upgraded, along with the Zlotowski Student Dance Troupe, which proudly represents the University.

Copy machines that allow payment by credit card are now available on the Marcus Family Campus.

Student Association

The Student Association is dedicated to advancing the general well-being of the student body while serving as an advocacy organization to advance student rights. The Association works to strengthen the bond between its members, unaffiliated students and

the wider community that takes part in student activities. It also provides information services to students about academic, cultural and social issues and is currently revamping its website to expand its outreach. This year, the Association has adopted environmental concerns – expanding student awareness of the issues while working with the University administration to obtain a “green campus certificate.”

In January, during the time that classes were cancelled due to missiles being fired from Gaza on Beer-Sheva, the Association mobilized student volunteers to staff shelters around the city. Working in cooperation with officials from the Municipality, students provided much-needed emotional and physical support for the weakest populations in public bomb shelters throughout the city. We are very proud that so many students chose to remain in Beer-Sheva and provide assistance, despite their own difficulties and fears during that period.

Operation Cast Lead also resulted in significant call-up of reserve soldiers. The Association took an active role in helping students compensate for missed days, and created a number of different mechanisms to help them return to their routine, including “welcome back” kits that include photocopy cards, fully-subsidized exam books and other key information to help them reintegrate into their academic studies. This year, a special concert was held for students



who are actively serving in the reserve forces to show the Association's appreciation for their dedication.

The Association sponsors a full array of cultural events that enrich student life, from an annual year-opening concert to the end of the year highlight: Student Day. A long-standing tradition, the Tuesday afternoon cultural event brings popular musicians to the Marcus Family Campus for an hour of conversation about their music accompanied by acoustic music.

New activities include promoting sports with mini-competitions, educational lectures and informal tournaments. A new group organized a two-day nature walk through the Negev to acquaint students with the region.

Thanks to the continued support of friends abroad, the Association again sent the largest delegation of all Israeli universities to participate in the March of the Living in Poland.

The Student Association's Lending Library continues to grow with some 4,000 titles available to students at minimal expense. Over the past year, nearly 800 lecture summaries in a wide range of topics have been added to the Lecture Archives and over 150 lecture summaries have been added in new topics and fields. In addition, the option of downloading audio recordings of lectures has been expanded. Thousands of students benefit from this vital service, thanks to the assistance and support of our generous friends.

The Division of Academic Affairs constantly works to improve the academic services available to the students, improving and developing the quality of teaching, offering preparatory courses for advanced studies and professionally-oriented courses at special prices, and disseminating a wide variety of innovative and unique services for the benefit of the BGU student body.

Ginsburg-Ingberman Overseas Student Program

The Ginsburg-Ingberman Overseas Student Program (OSP) is currently undergoing a major reorganization. Following a strategic decision by the University administration to expand international programs and cooperation, and the creation of the position of Dean

for International Academic Affairs, the OSP is broadening its perspective and designing novel programs for the future.

Some of the innovations reflect adaptation to the new global realities and possibilities in international education worldwide. Other changes have been initiated to emphasize the unique educational opportunities at BGU for international students, emphasizing access to the University's outstanding research groups.

Beginning this year, three new academic tracks are now available to international students in Global Health; Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice; and Peace Studies and Regional Security. Each track is directed by an independent academic who is an internationally-recognized scholar in the field. The OSP has grown with a sizeable cohort of students from European universities who come to BGU as exchange students on prestigious programs, such as Erasmus Mundus.

The International Summer University in Hebrew, Jewish Studies, and Israel Studies – the only international program at an Israeli university specifically designed for German-speaking students – appears ready to at least double and possibly even triple its registration for the summer of 2009, based on current pre-registration figures. Plans are under way to open a winter Hebrew language program at the University's Eilat Campus.

Zalman Aranne Central Library

The Library continues to expand in all areas. In the last academic year, over 12,000 new titles were added to the general collection, with the majority strengthening the humanities and social sciences collections. A specially-designed display area was completed, allowing visitors access to the impressive collection of books donated by the family of Nobel laureate and BGU honorary doctorate recipient, the late Sir Isaiah Berlin.

Today, the Aranne Library allows access to around 20,000 journals with full text articles. Some 170 computer stations are available for public use, while the electrical infrastructure and wireless system have been upgraded. The number of photocopiers, scanners and public printers has been increased and improved as technologies develop.

The construction of an additional building is in the planning stage. Renovations are still being carried out in the existing building. The lack of storage space will hopefully find an appropriate solution.

Computation

The Division of Computing and Information Systems has kept pace with changing technologies, expanding and developing its University-wide services. New communications networks were installed in all student dormitory rooms.

The computing infrastructure has also been broadened in the dormitories. A number of new computer labs were opened on the Marcus Family Campus and in the Zlotowski Dormitory Complex.

Wireless infrastructure on the different campuses has been expanded. The High Performance Cluster for research groups and equipment has also been enlarged. The system presently includes approximately 100 servers with 600 cores that serve twelve research groups.

An infrastructure for organizational searching and IT management environments based on Microsoft's "Moss" technology has been established. E-learning has been extended, while a new study environment – Moodle – based on Open Source was created. LCD screens were installed around the Marcus Family Campus to allow for increased communication with faculty and staff in public spaces.

The online kiosk of student services has been expanding, allowing for greater access to retrieve transcripts, diplomas and other academic documents.

A system to manage inquiries from potential applicants – Customer Relationship Management (CRM) – has been established using products from Salesforce.com, opening an interface with the student administration system.

BGU is
**powered
by people** 
Who care!

Thank you

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David Bergman Campus
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AABGU Student Dormitory Complex
Zlotowski Dormitory Complex

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Jacqueline Ann Ayrton Sports Hall
Samuel and Milada Ayrton University Center
Boyko Research Building
Caroline House – the Health Sciences Student Center
Gershon Cherni Classroom and Cultural Complex
Sir John and Lady Cohen Building
Cukier, Goldstein-Goren Building
Deichmann Building for Community Action
Deichmann Building for Mathematics
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Helen Diller Family Center
Pedro Dondisch Building for the Ben-Gurion Heritage Institute
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Foyer des Etudiants Fondation Simon et Jeanne (Hanna) Mani
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W.A. Minkoff Senate Hall
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Spitzer-Salant Building for the Department of Social Work
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Zlotowski Building
Zlotowski Classroom Complex
Zlotowski Student Administration Building
Zlotowski Student Center
Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research Building

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 Dr. Carl Gans Herpetology Library
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 Greenpark International Greenhouse
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 and Archeological Gallery
 Ronald and Annette Oelbaum Laboratory in Life Sciences
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 Ilan Ramon Youth Physics Center
 Edith and Louis Reitman Sports Park
 Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt Dormitory Wing
 Eric F. and Lore Ross Atrium for Community Action
 and Enrichment
 Eric F. and Lore Ross Lecture Hall

Vlasta Lampel Roubickova Visitors Lounge
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 Zlotowski Neurosciences Wing
 Zlotowski Student Activities Area

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2000

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2001

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2003

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2004

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1980

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