

# **From Vision to Reality**



Then

Sheep graze near the Zlotowski Dormitory Complex





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# From the Chairman

This year's President's Report coincides with a milestone – forty years since the establishment of this great pioneering university. The President's Report quite appropriately looks back over the dramatic developments of the past forty years while addressing the future and BGU's ongoing challenges and weighty responsibilities.

This Report revisits a journey – a journey from the modest plans to establish a local technological institute, over a course of steady progress, culminating in a first-rate research university enjoying international recognition, which is Ben-Gurion University of the Negev today.

"From Vision to Reality" juxtaposes a small and sleepy desert town of forty years ago, characterized by its remoteness, with a modern institute for higher education that is a bridge to the future. Once completed, the Advanced Technological Park promises to widen employment opportunities in the region, while enhancing the University's potential for collaborative research.

One cannot but feel a sense of wonderment when visiting BGU today – to see a modern university, beautifully landscaped campuses and newly finished buildings that contrast so sharply with its humble beginnings – simple shop fronts, with no labs, scientific equipment or research facilities.

Today, BGU leads the Negev region in initiatives for sharing knowledge in desertification and water resource management, revitalizing classic disciplines; building bridges between academia and industry; and reducing inequality through community action; and it has extended its hand in friendship and collaboration to Israel's neighbors.

The realization of all of these achievements has demanded very substantial investment in buildings, infrastructure, maintenance, scientific equipment and research funds, all of which could not have been made possible without the care, concern and support of the University's worldwide family. The success and achievement of BGU belong to all those who chose to give of themselves and contribute to this great cause.

I remain thoroughly convinced of Prof. Carmi's stewardship; her leadership and capabilities have been tested and proven during some of the most challenging times in our history. She is a kindred spirit to our founders in her ambitions and vision for BGU. I am delighted to be by her side as she begins her second term of office with undiminished enthusiasm for what the future can hold.

However, the future is not her responsibility alone. All our efforts must continue, new dreams must flourish, and all members of the Board of Governors need to be active supporters of our University. Together – and only together – can we fulfill our mission to educate the future policymakers, thinkers, scholars and leaders of Israel and develop the Negev.

Together, we can look forward to the next forty years with excitement and high expectations.

Roy J. Zuckerberg

Chairman of the Board of Governors



Dear Friends,

Nearly 35 years ago, I made a personal decision to join a young university and work to build a new, fledging medical school in the Negev. Like my colleagues, I came because of the challenge – to create something from nothing – something new and better than had ever been done before.

This was the *balutziut* (pioneering) spirit that was embodied in the founding principles of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the only university in Israel (and possibly the world) that was created with a government mandate to use knowledge and technology to bring development to a specific region. This was our ideology and compass, the guiding principle that shaped the very nature of the University.

As we mark our fortieth anniversary this year, it is clear that the path we have since travelled has not always been easy. There were many times when we felt like the children of Israel, forsaken in the desert, as successive governments promised and cancelled yet another regional development plan. But the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of the BGU community provided the direction that kept the entire endeavor moving forward, growing and transforming BGU into the world class university that it is today.

From our first graduating class of 23 students to our present student body of 20,000 and more than 89,000 alumni, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev can take great pride in its accomplishments: highly-competitive academic programs, unique community outreach programs and internationally recognized cutting-edge research in fields such as water and renewable energies, community and inter-cultural medicine, bio- and nanotechnology, information technologies, Hebrew literature and more.

With campuses in Beer-Sheva, Sede Boqer and Eilat, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has led the way, advancing education, healthcare and welfare services while enriching the cultural and social life of the region. This is being further boosted now that the Advanced Technologies Park is taking shape, reinforcing the University's leadership role as the powerhouse behind the economic development of the Negev.

We have much to celebrate. BGU is the success story that reinforces the power of human potential, of individuals who are passionate about their concern for others and their desire to make a difference, and who are devoted to Israel and committed to its growth and success.

Despite all the obstacles and difficulties that we have encountered, we have managed to grow and develop, cross more boundaries and achieve new successes. I am deeply grateful and privileged to continue to be a part of the BGU community – faculty, students, staff, friends and our tireless supporters – and can only say "thank you". Thank you for believing in BGU, for investing in our future – the future of the Negev and of the State of Israel.

In friendship,

Prof. Rivka Carmi

President

## Academic Development

### Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt, Rector

Anniversaries provide an opportunity for reflection and as such, it is impossible not to look back with appreciation at the University's forty years of incredible achievement. In the late 1960s, the government of Israel decided that another university was needed, and that it would be established in Beer-Sheva. This decision satisfied the charismatic vision of David Ben-Gurion that saw the Negev as a world center of intellectual and scientific activity, "... a sort of Hebrew Oxford in the Negev ...," although cynics viewed the establishment of a university there with much skepticism.

Beer-Sheva was then a small town of about 50,000 residents, and the first years were indeed very difficult. The number of students, all undergraduates, was in the hundreds, and scholars were reluctant to join the institution, but there was a small number of pioneering idealists – in most cases very talented – who believed in the potential of this venture. They were not wrong.

Today, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is a thriving and world-respected research institution that has earned an international reputation for excellence and pioneering innovation in several fields. It has become the first-choice university for undergraduate students in Israel, for many graduate students, and for many outstanding young scholars seeking employment. This shows that, as the great French author Anatole France wrote, "To accomplish things we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe."

As we look through a prism of forty years of accumulated history, we see that BGU has generated close to 90,000 degrees, including 57,500 at the Bachelors level and 19,500 at the Masters level, 1,500 Ph.D. degrees, and 1,480 M.D. degrees. Currently, BGU has close to 20,000 students of all degree levels, including approximately 5,500 Masters degree students and 1,200 Ph.D. candidates in a variety of fields, and close to 800 tenure-track faculty members. Furthermore, it has achieved this with an active philosophy of working intensively at all student and faculty levels to advance the general well-being of the region.

BGU is now a comprehensive university, teaching and performing research in all major disciplines except law. It operates five campuses that encompass the great majority of

the vast Negev region: from the Marcus Family, Bergmann, and Tuviyahu Campuses in Beer-Sheva to the campuses in Sede Boqer and Eilat.

Demonstrating its uniqueness, BGU has the country's only program for academic studies for the Israel Air Force and a number of undergraduate degrees that are unique in the country, such as the Bachelors degree program in emergency medicine services. The University encourages students to expand their horizons, offering a growing number of multi-disciplinary degree programs combining departments from different faculties and schools.

BGU has grown to excel in research, with a world reputation in the fields of humanities and social sciences, particularly Jewish thought, as well as in the fields of engineering, natural sciences, health sciences and management. It is world renowned for its research activities involving desert research and environmental sustainability studies, and the study of Israel and Zionism. Today, BGU has nine university-level research institutes and 17 multidisciplinary university-level research centers, as well as over 30 faculty-level research centers.

Some years ago, BGU launched intensive initiatives to increase international activity, including scientific outreach and student exchanges. We recently signed agreements with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Fox Chase Cancer Center, for example, and have ongoing contacts with certain departments of the European Commission. With the creation of the Office of International Academic Affairs and expanded investment in the Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program, the University continues to explore new options in the area of student exchange, enhancing international understanding at a comprehensive level.

In spite of continuing budgetary difficulties, prospects for the University's future are excellent. We are one of the leading research universities in Israel and are on our way to becoming among the top in the world in certain fields. Overall, our success has been the ability to recruit excellent students and outstanding young faculty – a combination assuring the highest potential to realize the very definition of academia.



### Distribution of Students by Faculty and Degrees for 2007-2010

	Humanities and Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Engineering Sciences	Health Sciences	School of Management	
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
2009/10						
Bachelors	3,734	1,567	5,331	1,396	1,019	
Masters	1,293	326	676	960	1,806	
Ph.D.	304	360	236	225	33	
Other	136	19	250	12	13	
Total	5,467	2,177	6,425	2,593	2,871	19,533

- Not all totals add up because there are students enrolled in multiple faculties or pursuing multiple degrees. (e.g., 188 interdisciplinary Masters students and Ph.D. candidates at the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies and 121 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 M.D. degrees from the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- An additional 761 students are studying for their Bachelors and Masters degrees at the BGU campus in Eilat.
- "Other": Preparation for graduate and doctoral studies.

## Research and Development

### Prof. Moti Herskowitz, Vice-President and Dean for R&D

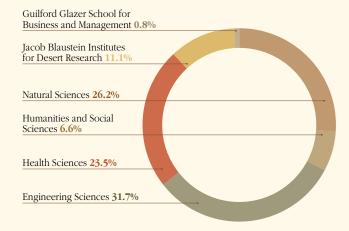
The University's administrative and academic faculty have been working together to improve BGU's standing as a top-tier research institution and, through its research and development, to impact the development of the Negev.

Over the past three years, total research income increased from \$43 million in the academic year 2005/06 to \$64 million in 2008/09 as a result of a concerted investment in research infrastructure, including advanced facilities and manpower, competitive start-up packages, improved administrative services for researchers and the completion of a number of major physical infrastructure projects. A significant part of this growth would not have been possible without the vision and support of individuals and foundations around the world who have become our partners in this process. Particularly noteworthy is the completion of the building for the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, housing state-of-the-art equipment acquired over the past three years.

University researchers received a significant number of grants from prominent funding agencies in Israel and abroad. Highlights of grants obtained from the European Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) including the following:

 Dr. Michael Meijler of the Department of Chemistry and the National Institute of Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN) received a highly prestigious FP7 European Research Council grant (ERC). He also received grants from the Israel Science Foundation, the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the Human Frontiers Science Program.

### Percentage of Grants by Faculty 2008/09



- Prof. Ohad Medalia of the Department of Life Sciences and the NIBN also obtained an ERC grant for research.
   In addition, he received grants from the German-Israel Foundation, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the Minerva ARCHES program.
- Deputy Rector Prof. Yael Edan, incumbent of the Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut Chair in Manufacturing Engineering, was awarded two FP7 grants for team projects she heads: one for establishing an "interactive robotics research network" that includes a BGU team working with colleagues from three universities and two industrial firms, and a second project as part of a 15-member consortium of universities and industries planning to conduct a large-scale integrating project on robots for agricultural use.
- Prof. Eilon Adar, Director of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research and incumbent of the Alain Poher Chair in Hydrogeology and Arid Zones, is heading a team that is involved in a 19-partner consortium focused on the development of rehabilitation technologies and approaches for multipressured degraded waters and the integration of their impact on river basin management.
- Seven researchers received International Reintegration Grants (IRG) to advance their specific projects.

Among the grants awarded by foreign funding agencies were three from the German Research Foundation (DFG) trilateral program, promoting cooperation between German, Israeli and Palestinian scientists. The grants were awarded to:

- Prof. Shifra Sagy of the Department of Education, incumbent of the Shane Family Chair in Education and Head of the Martin-Springer Center for Conflict Studies and Negotiation with colleagues from Georg-August-University of Göttingen and Al-Quds University;
- Prof. Jihad El-Sana of the Department of Computer Sciences with colleagues from the Technische Universität Carolo-Wilhelmina zu Braunschweig, the Triangle R&D Center and Birzeit University;
- Prof. Alon Friedman of the Department of Physiology and Neurobiology with colleagues from the Technische Universität Dresden and Al-Quds University. In collaboration with a researcher from the University of California Berkeley, he also received grants from the National Institutes of Health, from Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE), in partnership with the United States Department of Defense (DOD), and from the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation.

The past year was marked by three milestones in the establishment of BGU's research infrastructure: a \$90 million research fund for the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN) was established; the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, supported by the Israel National Nanotechnology Initiative, moved into its state-of-the-art building that houses some of the University's most sophisticated laboratories; and Deutsche Telekom announced its intention to double its investment in the DT Laboratory at BGU, reflecting their satisfaction with the level of research and professionalism of the research group.

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, continuing nearly four decades of work focused on solar energy, renewable fuels, fuel cells and energy crops.

### **BGN Technologies**

BGN Technologies is the University's technology transfer company, responsible for marketing applications and knowledge created by BGU researchers. The company is responsible for filing worldwide patent applications and managing the University's patent and IP portfolio.

Through the development and promotion of BGU generated knowledge, enhanced by creative partnering with industry and investors, BGN brings value to the technological marketplace and to the University and its researchers.

Despite the worldwide economic crisis and its major impact on R&D budgets, 2009 was a good year for BGN and the University in terms of income generated by its business entities. A nine percent increase in yearly revenue was reported, totaling some \$13 million, which represents the highest figure ever. Three new spin-off companies were established this year, including one start-up in the medical devices arena and two in new water related technologies.

# There were significant developments with other existing projects:

 GlaxoSmithKline, one of the three largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, has licensed a vaccine from Protea Vaccines, a BGN spin-off company, based on the invention of Prof. Yaffa Mizrachi and Prof. Ron Dagan, incumbent of the Werner J. and Charlotte A. Gunzburger Chair for the

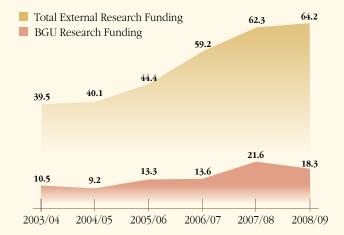
- Study of Infectious Diseases, from the Faculty of Health Sciences:
- Bioline, a licensee company of BGN with a technology invented by Prof. Smadar Cohen, chairperson of the Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering, and incumbent of the Claire and Harold Oshry Chair in Biotechnology and Prof. Jonathan Leor from Tel Aviv University, has sublicensed the technology to the American company Ikaria.

### Total External Research Funding (\$US m)





#### Total Investment in Research (\$US m)



## From the Vice-President and Director-General

### David Bareket

Last year was dominated by the global financial crisis. It reached its peak in March 2009, but from then on a surprising recovery took place and the situation largely recuperated. This positive development allowed the University to recover its past losses in investments, in endowment and other funds, and even to realize substantial profits.

For this, the University's Investments Committee deserves to be congratulated. It succeeded – wisely and prudently – to navigate the financial investments and to take advantage of the crisis to make new investments that yielded high profits. It is mainly this success that allowed the University to end the financial year 2008/09 with a surplus that covered the deficit incurred in the previous year.

During the past year, new salary agreements were signed with the academic, administrative and technical staffs. These agreements brought about a significant increase in salary expenses, partly compensated for by the government's Planning and Budget Committee (PBC).

Also, in the 2008/09 academic year there was a six percent increase in student enrollment, which brought the University up to its budgeted number of students. Research activity increased substantially to \$64 million. The University has invested significant resources in attracting outstanding scientists to BGU and absorbing them into the various departments. Towards this end, considerable sums were budgeted for purchasing advanced equipment and establishing advanced laboratories for these scientists.

The National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN), established in the framework of an agreement with the government, has gained momentum, and some returning scientists were absorbed there. This year, the construction of Caroline House – Health Sciences Student Center was completed, as was the Preclinical Research Facility at the Faculty

of Health Sciences. In May, we will celebrate the completion of the construction of the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology. This building, which is the most complex and innovative structure to be built by the University, will offer a modern infrastructure for research in this cutting-edge field.

The year 2009/10 began without an authorized budget by the PBC, a situation that persisted until the end of February 2010, almost halfway into the academic year. As a result of cutbacks by the government, we will have a budgetary deficit of approximately NIS 10 million, which we will be able to cover from reserves that were accumulated in past years.

The University is very much in demand and, thanks to our successful marketing efforts, opened the 2009/10 academic year with a record 20,000 students. This number far exceeds the number allocated to us by the PBC. As a result of the increase in research activity and in the number of students, the PBC granted the University a total increase in allocations for the current year. I hope that we will continue on this path in the future.

We are at the peak of upgrading the University's data systems in the framework of large projects in Student Administration, Finances, Human Resources and the University's Internet site. Once these projects are successfully completed, it will enhance our ability to provide excellent service to all our applicants, students and staff members.

The global financial crisis is still in the air, and we feel it quite significantly in the decrease in philanthropic funds raised for development, research and scholarships. I hope that the current year will bring about an improvement in this area as well. The University is in a period of growth in all parameters and truly needs these resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends and supporters who have made our achievements possible.

### 2009/10 Overall University Budget (NIS Thousands in Current Prices)

	<b>Operating Budget</b>	Research Budget	Development Budget	Special Programs	Total Budget
Expenditures	987,600	254,600	21,592	96,556	1,360,348
Income	987,600	254,600	46,115	96,556	1,384,871



### Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Operating Budget

	2007/08		2008/09			2009/10				
	NIS m	\$ m	%	NIS m	\$ m	%	NIS m	\$ m	%	% change
Income									·	
Planning & Budgeting Committee	609.7	144.5	69.0%	656.7	164.2	70.8%	672.8	177.1	68.1%	2.5%
Tuition and Dorms	165.5	39.2	18.7%	184.8	46.2	19.9%	205.4	54.1	20.8%	11.1%
Contributions	15.4	3.6	1.7%	12.3	3.1	1.3%	9.6	2.5	1.0%	-22.0%
Endowment Funds	40.0	9.5	4.5%	20.0	5.0	2.2%	40.0	10.5	4.1%	100.0%
Other Income	48.3	11.4	5.5%	49.6	12.4	5.3%	44.3	11.6	4.5%	-10.8%
Transfer from Funds	5.1	1.2	0.6%	4.6	1.2	0.5%	15.5	4.1	1.6%	237.8%
Total	884.0	209.5	100.0%	928.0	232.0	100.0%	987.6	259.9	100.0%	6.4%
Expenditure										
Salaries	644.5	152.7	72.9%	693.0	173.3	74.7%	731.8	192.6	74.1%	5.6%
Fellowships & Student Assistance	51.6	12.2	5.8%	52.7	13.2	5.7%	54.1	14.2	5.5%	2.7%
Teaching & Research Expenses	37.1	8.8	4.2%	34.7	8.7	3.7%	37.5	9.9	3.8%	8.2%
Institute & Research Centers	26.8	6.4	3.0%	24.3	6.1	2.6%	26.9	7.1	2.7%	10.9%
Computer Expenses	10.4	2.5	1.2%	9.9	2.5	1.1%	9.7	2.6	1.0%	-2.0%
Library Expenses	19.7	4.7	2.2%	19.7	4.9	2.1%	21.8	5.7	2.2%	10.7%
Administration	25.3	6.0	2.9%	24.3	6.1	2.6%	27.3	7.2	2.8%	12.3%
Maintenance	65.1	15.4	7.4%	66.0	16.5	7.1%	74.8	19.7	7.6%	13.3%
Financing	3.5	0.8	0.4%	3.4	0.9	0.4%	3.6	0.9	0.4%	5.9%
Total	884.0	209.5	100.0%	928.0	232.0	100.0%	987.6	259.9	100.0%	6.4%
NIS/\$ exchange rate:		4.22			4.00			3.80		-5.0%
Higher education expenses index		102.6			106.8			111.2		4.1%

# From the Vice-President for External Affairs Prof. Amos Drory

This year, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is celebrating its 40th birthday. We can proudly say that over the four decades since our establishment, we have grown from a small institution of higher learning into one of the most respected and prominent universities in the country. We boast a student body of nearly 20,000, over 800 full-time faculty members, an impressive research and physical infrastructure and a leading edge in many academic fields. At the upcoming Annual Board of Governors meeting we will celebrate our achievements and thank our donors from around the world for their dedication and generosity that helped to make all of this possible.

In terms of fundraising, the year 2008/09 was extremely challenging as the effects of the world financial downturn were still being felt. Thankfully, towards the end of the year we saw significant improvement. We count on our devoted communities of donors and supporters worldwide to help us achieve our goals as we strive to maintain and exceed our high standards of academic excellence.

Among our most notable achievements is the completion of the magnificent new building for the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, which will be home to the state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment needed to advance this promising scientific field. We will be celebrating the opening of the building, made possible in particular through the generous support of the Negev Foundation.

This year we have also officially launched a \$90 million research fund for the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN), established through the munificence of an anonymous donor together with the Government of Israel. The NIBN has already recruited ten new researchers, all of whom are Israeli scholars returning home from top academic institutions around the world.

On Ben-Gurion Day, we celebrated the opening of Caroline House – Health Sciences Student Center, donated generously by Caroline and Arnie Simon of Israel. This building, which serves the students of the Faculty of Health Sciences, is a beautiful and welcome addition to our campus.

We have also received major donations to support research in the Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering, as well as in the fields of chemistry and medicine

Looking to the future, we are focusing efforts on a number of targets where we hope to see significant progress in the coming years. Efforts to raise money for these purposes are well on their way, and some significant gifts have already been made.

The American Associates have undertaken a major effort to expand their fundraising capacity. This endeavor involves the implementation of a three-year business plan model, upgrading marketing material, improving their infrastructure and more. Additionally, a series of events are planned in the United States as a part of the American Associates' 40th anniversary campaign.

An international campaign to raise funds for solar energy research is underway. Our French Associates have taken the initiative in this field. The goal is to raise substantial funds to build new infrastructure and research facilities, to purchase equipment and to recruit new researchers. We are concurrently developing new and innovative fundraising plans to support research in the fields of alternative and sustainable energy that will serve to encourage the commercialization of our applied research.

The exciting field of brain research is also among those being expanded with donor support. Several generous donors have given significant funds for new MRI equipment for research in this vitally important area.

While we work constantly to advance scientific discovery, we never lose sight of the parallel mission of preserving our heritage. As a living, breathing example of the implementation of modern Zionism, we are now specifically promoting the academic study of Israel and Zionism, and plan to raise funds to support new and innovative programs in this arena.

Expanding our international fundraising horizons has been a central goal and we are working hard to increase our



development efforts in the UK and to establish a fundraising presence in Australia.

In South Africa we have made a significant step forward in initiating two major joint research projects with the University of Johannesburg. The two universities have agreed to continue to raise funds for collaborative research on applied projects of mutual benefit.

In the festive spirit of the  $40^{\rm th}$  anniversary, celebrations have taken place in several countries around the world. The Israeli Friends of BGU held a gala dinner in Tel Aviv, where they called upon Israeli friends and alumni to rise to the occasion and show their support of the University. The French Associates organized a magnificent gala soirée at the Château de Versailles in Paris, raising considerable funds to support solar energy research. The Montreal Chapter of the Canadian Associates held a successful event celebrating the  $40^{\rm th}$  anniversary, raising funds for the

University. Our Dutch Associates are focusing on helping the Jordan-Israel Collaboration in Disaster Preparedness and the Management Program at a celebratory dinner. Major events are planned in Switzerland to further support the establishment of the Swiss Institute in Sede Boqer.

In recognition of our donors from around the world, thanks to whom our amazing achievements have been made possible, we have created a new level of recognition between the Ben-Gurion Society and Founders. The new level, to be called the Negev Society, specifically acknowledges giving at levels of over one hundred thousand, two hundred and fifty thousand and five hundred thousand dollars.

I would like to thank all our international friends for their efforts, acts of solidarity and persistent generosity, all of which play such a crucial role in determining the future success and prosperity of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

### Our Worldwide Family of Associates at Work

### 2008/09 Year-End Figures

Contributions from Associates Interest Income from Endowments Endowment Fund Balance (as of 30/9/09)

Total	Unrestricted
\$29,333,740	-\$525,735
\$5,784,908	\$3,301,141
\$204,167,047	\$103,909,725

- 1. All figures are approximate due to fluctuating exchange and interest rates.
- 2. 2008/09 interest income was calculated at approximately 3.0%.
- 3. Figures do not reflect approximately \$26.2 million in endowment and trust funds held in the U.S.A. by and on behalf of the American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (including outside managed trusts).

# 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



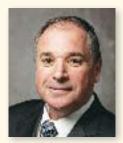
Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt Rector



Prof. Zvi Hacohen Rector-Elect



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. 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



Yaakov Affek Dean of Students

### THE PRIME MINISTER

I believe that during the next ten years, the development of the Negev and the South will be at the center of Israel's activity and concern. Only in these areas is there a little open space, totally absent in the North, and there is room for additional extensive settlement bosed both on agriculture and pasture as well as on workshaps, nines and Industry.

The Morth, too, needs the revealing eye of science, the diligent hand of technology and the scrutinizing study of research and experimentation. In the South, however, we need all these sevenfold. The actentific survey carried out since the establishment of the State, has already encovered several of nature's hidden resources in the Negev. Cuarries and mines of great value were revealed, but the work has only begun. The Sebrew University in Jerusalem, the Technion ir Haifa, the Weizmann Institute in Schover, the Israel Defense Forces Scientific Corps and scientists outside these institutions have done, not a little, to expand our knowledge of the nature of our country, its imperfections and treasures. However, only researchers and scientists who live within the gates of the Negev and concentrate on the open expanses of the Nagev all their life through constant observations and never-ending experiments and examinations in the extensive southern area of our State - will succeed in revealing what is concealed in the bosom of the earth, and the Dead Sea. They will study the blessings of the sky and the sem and the appearant air which shower endless treasures of emergy, deu, winds and beneficial rays which go to waste because we do not yet know how to utilize them to make the wilderness blosson, as we still do not know how to utilize sea water, the arid soil and the seemingly sparce vegetation.

The Negev Institute will designer the code of nature in this region, and will give us the keys to the steps we must take to make the wilderness blossom and to thange the laws of nature in the southern half of our State.

My faithful greetings are sent to the initiators of the institute and to its workers. Steet compensation avaits your efforts - set to work and succeed.

1

Respectfully,

D. Ken-Jurian

1 October 28, 1957: The letter that then Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion sent to the founders of the Negev Institute saluting them for their inititive to advance higher education in the region.





A resident of the Negev since 1946, Aharon Yadlin has been one of the leading figures in Israeli public life for many years. His relationship with BGU began in 1968, when he was Deputy Minister of Education in the Labor government under Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

At the time, Beer-Sheva Mayor David Tuviyahu had been lobbying the government to establish an institute of higher education in the Negev. "There was no talk then about a university, and it wasn't clear yet how it would develop," Yadlin recalls today. "Beer-Sheva was a small place and we didn't know how we could bring in top-level faculty. There were some who opposed the idea, but in the Ministry of Education, we never had any doubts."

Yadlin's association with the University was renewed in 1974, when he was appointed Minister of Education in Yitzhak Rabin's first government, replacing Yigal Alon. Both he and Alon wanted the newly created Institute for Higher Learning in the Negev to become a full-fledged university.

This was immediately following the Yom Kippur War, and there were huge financial pressures to rebuild the army. Nevertheless, says Yadlin, under Rabin's government, education remained a priority.

Whatever his position, Yadlin has always been intimately involved in the development of the University. "I was among those who truly believed that this must be a unique university. We were also committed to Ben-Gurion's name, as founder of the country and as someone who chose to live in the Negev," he states.

In 1976 Yadlin sponsored and pushed through a law in the Knesset commemorating Ben-Gurion in various institutions and locations, including Ben-Gurion's house in Tel Aviv, his hut in Sede Boger, and two academic institutions on the site.

"Ben-Gurion had talked about establishing a university in Sede Boqer that would be what he called an 'Oxford at Yavne,' that is, universal as well as Jewish," Yadlin recounts. "I told him that there would be a university, not in Sede Boqer but in Beer-Sheva, because that's where the urban center is. When he died and I was Minister of Education, I said that at least there must be something in Sede Boqer as Ben-Gurion had envisaged." Yadlin was instrumental in the passing of the Ben-Gurion law that called for the establishment of the Ben-Gurion Heritage Institute and a university-affiliated research center (today the Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism) and the Institute for Desert Research, now the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research. "So I feel I have a historical responsibility for the Sede Boqer campus," he states.

Yadlin was awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree by BGU in 1984 for his work to develop the Negev and the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement in 2010.

He takes great pride in his role over the years in helping BGU's students. When serving as Co-Chairman of the Committee for Student Affairs (together with Suzanne Zlotowski of the United Kingdom), as well as Vice-Chairman of the University's Executive Committee, he lobbied for improved services for students: everything from academic help to psychological services and economic aid, setting up a wide-ranging scholarship network.

"It was our job to guarantee that there was an attractive atmosphere in the University," he boasts, citing the surveys that call BGU the friendliest campus in the country.



### **Presidents**

1972-1975

Prof. Moshe Prywes

1975-1981

Amb. Yosef Tekoah













1969-1973 Prof. Haim Hanani

1973-1974 Prof. Zvi Pelah

1974-1979 Prof. Moshe Rosen



### **Chairmen of the Executive Committee**

1970-1975 Dr. Alec Lerner

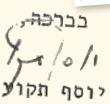
1975-1982 Avraham Agmon



### Chairmen of the **Board of Governors**

1970-1976 Dr. Alec Lerner

1976-1979 Nessim Gaon











# 1969-79

# At the Beginning The First Decade

At the beginning of the 1960s, people of vision and courage raised the idea of establishing a university in Beer-Sheva. The counting of the decades begins on December 14, 1962, the day the "Pickled Herring Meeting" took place. Dr. Yosef Stern, then-Director of the Central Negev Hospital, held a meeting in his office in which he assembled a group of 22 people including scientists, public figures, directors of Negev industries and institutes and Beer-Sheva residents. Pickled herring was served at the meeting, hence the nickname. A daring idea rose: to bring higher education to the Negev. A decision was made to immediately begin taking the necessary steps to carry out the task, one that seemed almost fanciful to these dreamers.

An "Initiating Committee" was established to present the idea to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. It was passed on to the Minister for Education Zalman Aranne and then to former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, and the three began to work together with the aim of establishing an academic institution in the Negev. Ultimately, "The Institute for Higher Education in the Negev" was officially established. Studies were under the academic auspices of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the Weizmann Institute of Science. In the first year there were 250 students. A search for a suitable site to build the University campus continued and the area north of the hospital, adjacent to the city's Dalet neighborhood was decided upon. This decision immediately integrated the institution into the life of the city.

In 1969, the cornerstone was laid for the library building, the first edifice to be erected on the new campus. In the same year, Prof. Haim Hanani was elected to serve as Rector and Israel Ben-Amitai as Director-General. The first Board of Governors meeting in 1970 was headed by the new Chairman, Dr. Alec Lerner, and ended the period of the Institute for Higher Education in the Negev and the beginning of the University of the Negev. In 1972, Prof. Moshe Prywes was elected President of the University. In 1974, following the passing of David Ben-Gurion, the name was changed and the institution has since been known as Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The first decade was full of new beginnings. Everything had to be done at once: from the employing of lecturers, to the establishment of faculties and academic departments and the dedication of the Founders Wall to recognize supporters of the young institution. The Institutes for Applied Research were incorporated into the University. Administrative departments were established, as was the Community Action Unit. Students began to show an interest in the new university and enrollment grew. Towards the middle of the first decade there were already 3,500 students. Innovations were established in the academic arena, such as the establishment of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and the Medical School, the latter declaring its intentions clearly: to educate doctors of a different caliber with a focus on the community. The guest of honor at the Medical School Inauguration Ceremony was Senator Edward M. Kennedy. In 1975, Prof. Moshe Prywes resigned as University President to become the first Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, while Israel's former Ambassador to the United Nations Yosef Tekoah was elected as the University's second President. At that time, the University's worldwide Associates Organizations began to blossom. In the same year, a friend of Tekoah's - the movie star Danny Kaye - came to visit.

In Sede Boqer, the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research and the Ben-Gurion Heritage Institute were established. In 1977, Vice-President of the United States Walter Mondale visited to inaugurate the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Social Research, and in 1979 the University awarded its first honorary doctorate degree.

The first decade closed with the historic visit of the Egyptian President Mohamed Anwar El-Sadat, accompanied by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, on May 27, 1979. One member of the entourage was Hosni Mubarak, who sat on the presidential stage during the ceremony in which Sadat was awarded the "Star of Peace" prize from President Tekoah. The visit took place within the framework of the Camp David Accords and had a tremendous impact on the University. Ten years old and BGU was already an international university with a global impact.



Professor Emeritus Shimon Glick well recalls the time immediately after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when "if you talked rationally, there was no realistic way you could set up a medical school. It was more of a dream than a reality," he relates.

Back then Glick, one of the founding members of the BGU Medical School (today the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School), had been invited by the legendary medical educator Dr. Moshe Prywes to move from the U.S. to Israel to help set up the school. He left prestigious positions in New York as Chief of Medical Services at the Coney Island Hospital and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Downstate Medical Center, and moved to Beer-Sheva with his wife Brenda and six children.

"We really started the school with nothing – a few crazy people. But Prywes was that kind of a dreamer, and we just went ahead," muses Glick today.

Created under extremely adverse economic and psychological conditions, the School accepted its first students immediately after the Yom Kippur War. At the time, there was a small community hospital in Beer-Sheva. Kupat Holim, which owned the hospital, desperately wanted a medical school, as did Beer-Sheva Mayor David Tuviyahu. The other rationale for the school, explains Glick, was that Israeli physicians were not going out into the community. "Our idea was to build a medical school that was involved in the community, that improves the care in the community and that trains doctors to take care of people."

Father of six, grandfather of 45 (at last count) and greatgrandfather to 23, the 77-year-old Glick was born in New Jersey and trained in internal medicine at Yale University Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital. At BGU he became Chairman of the Division of Medicine, taking over the job of Dean and head of Health Services in the Negev region from 1986-1990. He currently heads the University's Center for Medical Education and is a member of the Lord Jakobovits Center for Jewish Medical Ethics.

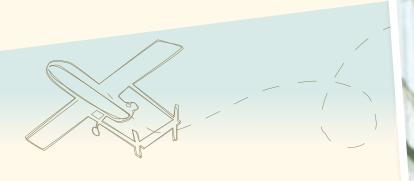
Glick confesses that he and his colleagues had to make up the curriculum as they went along. But they were very clear about the innovations in medical training that they wanted to include, beginning with the revolutionary idea of "early clinical exposure." Students met patients in the first week of medical school, before they had even cracked open a book. "The students don't just treat patients. They talk to them and learn what it's like to be sick," says Glick.

Another innovation was Prywes' idea that students take their medical or Hippocratic oath when they begin their studies rather than when they finish.

The School also introduced an admission interview process. "The aim was also to see if someone was philosophically committed to the way we saw our mission: a person who cares about people, a mensch," explains Glick.

Glick also served for over a decade as ombudsman for Israel's National Health Service. He has also been involved in numerous activities promoting medical ethics practice and teaching, both at the University and elsewhere. When he began studying medicine, he notes, medical ethics was not part of the curriculum. "It's now a critical aspect of medicine. Issues come up every day, and students have to learn how to recognize an ethical problem and how to deal with it," he says.

"Our ideas have been introduced gradually in other medical schools. Imitation is the best form of flattery," he concludes.



Prof. Kenneth Preiss

"No one handed us the University on a silver platter," declares Professor Emeritus Kenneth (Kenny) Preiss of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management. As someone intimately involved in the conception, long gestation and birth of BGU, he should know.

Raised in South Africa, where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering, Preiss first came to Israel in 1958, served in the army and then designed civilian buildings, including some in Beer-Sheva.

After earning a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering in England, Preiss taught at the University of Illinois in Urbana. But despite an offer of tenure and U.S. citizenship, in 1966 he made the crucial decision to return to Israel and join what was then the Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research.

Founded with the help of UNESCO, the Institute, which was under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office, conducted research in desert science and technology; Preiss was given responsibility for the technologies of desalination, solar energy and geophysics. But Institute Director Joel Schechter, former Mayor David Tuviyahu and others dreamed of creating a university. Tuviyahu brought Preiss into the group that would establish the precursor to BGU - the Institute for Higher Education in the Negev.

The first courses taught were in the fields of biology and mechanical engineering. Lecturers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Technion in Haifa taught together with the few academics then at the Institute and elsewhere in the Negev. "We would fly people down to give lectures; when experimental facilities were needed, a taxi drove the equipment back and forth from Haifa." Classes were held at HIAS House in central Beer-Sheva, but they soon ran out of space and lectures were held in a row of small shops.

The population of Beer-Sheva was then around 50,000. The telephone numbers comprised only four digits. "But it was almost easier to make the 2 1/2 hour drive to Tel Aviv than to get through to Tel Aviv on the phone."



Levi Eshkol, there was considerable opposition – from other universities, the Treasury and government officials – to the idea of a university in Beer-Sheva, "We had to fight for everything, so it's lucky there were people like Tuviyahu," Preiss declares.

"The name Beer-Sheva University," says Preiss, "suggested something local and provincial. The name University of the Negev, which had a more universal significance, was chosen." After David Ben-Gurion passed away in 1973 the name was changed to "Ben-Gurion University of the Negev."

Preiss, incumbent of the Sir Leon Bagrit Chair of Computer-Based Global Industrial and Scientific Development until his retirement, is proud to have led a core of University researchers who, with two dozen engineers and scientists from the Negev, made significant contributions, from 1968-1988, to the technical combat capability of the Israel Defense Forces Southern Command. "Many of the solutions developed were implemented into the whole IDF, and one in particular, to remove mines in front of tanks, became standard equipment also for the U.S. and many other armies," he says.

What motivated Preiss to make Israel his home? A poem from his school days back in South Africa included the line "Be still prepared to die.' I understood this meant that I should not waste even a day on superficialities. From a very early age, it was clear that the most important thing for me was to contribute to Israel and the future of the Jews. Not only me. My colleagues at the Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research really felt that we were pioneering scientists. This was Zionism at its best."





Prof. Yehuda Gradus didn't grow up in the Negev. He was born in Karkur, a moshav near Hadera, went to high school in Haifa and to university in Jerusalem, but today he is often referred to as "Mr. Negev." Incumbent of the Harry Levy Chair in Geography and Regional Planning, he came to the University in 1971 when it was just getting started.

He founded the Department of Geography and Environmental Development, served as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and has published hundreds of articles and many books in his field. He has even served a term on the Beer-Sheva Municipal Council (1998-2003) to try and bring his many ideas on improving the Negev's capital to fruition. It's a never-ending process, trying to raise the region to its rightful place in the nation's consciousness, but Gradus enjoys the work immensely.

"I didn't know the Negev before," Gradus says, "and I spent the first few years driving around the desert, getting to know it. The Negev became my laboratory – and it still is."

What he discovered is that the reason why the Negev has not reached its potential is because it is effectively at a disadvantage compared with the all-powerful center of the country. "Israel is a very centralized country – everything is decided in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The politicians don't understand the periphery, they rarely even visit," he says.

The region was getting little systematic attention from the government, no long-term planning or budgeting, so Gradus sought to bring some breadth of vision to the issue, at least on the academic level, when he founded the Negev Center for Regional Development in 1993. Thanks to the support of private funding and various foundations, the Center is able to integrate practical research, policy analysis and regional planning in a range of fields: local and regional industrial development, human resources development, the advancement of education and environmental quality and plans for multi-national cooperation in the Middle East.

The changes necessary to raise the Negev in the national conciousness, says Gradus, are threefold: firstly, it has to be treated holistically, with a governing body similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority, so that planning and budgeting for the range of issues – from desalination to cultural enrichment – are addressed cohesively.

Secondly, says Gradus, the electoral system has to be changed to give regional, not just ideological, representation so that the Negev, as well as other regions, will have politicians speaking for them and being answerable to them.

Finally, he says, Ben-Gurion University has to be recognized and exploited as the hub of the Negev's renaissance, particularly as the knowledge center around which hi-tech industries will be built. "There's still very little hi-tech in the Negev," he notes, "but hopefully this will change soon with the construction of the Advanced Technologies Park adjacent to the Marcus Family Campus."

Advocating the cause of the Negev can seem like a Sisyphean task. But Gradus can't stay away from it; the Negev is his laboratory and Beer-Sheva is his home, he says. "I will never leave."





It was just after the Yom Kippur War when Professor Emeritus Bracha Rager, then a postdoctoral student in microbiology at New York's Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and her husband, Yitzhak, then a diplomat in the Israeli Consulate, read that Israel was planning to close the Negev development town of Mitzpe Ramon. The highway to Eilat was being rerouted to bypass the small town, which would effectively dry it up, so the most practical thing to do was to simply shut it down, Rager recalls.

"If you wanted to be efficient and economical, they wouldn't have done half the things they did to build this country," she says. So the Ragers decided that when they returned to Israel, they wouldn't be moving to her hometown, Tel Aviv, or to his, Jerusalem, but to the Negev, where idealists like themselves were most needed.

At first, she recalls, the Faculty of Health Sciences' labs were located in the pathology labs of the hospital and in an office building near the central bus station. That was in the 1970s, when money was thin and conditions were rough. "We used to save the little plastic cups of yogurt that we brought from home, wash them out and use them in the labs," she recalls.

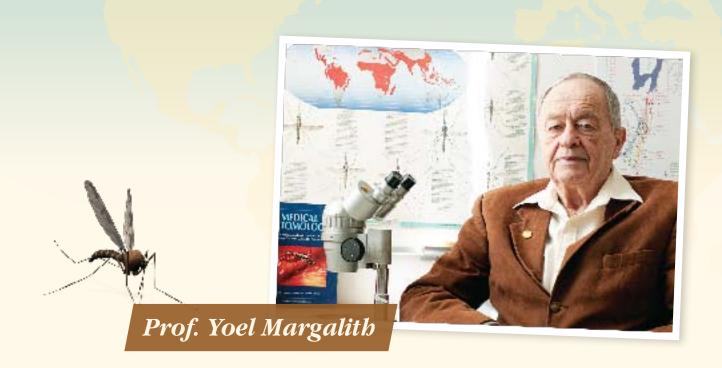
Like many of BGU's early academics, Rager had strong ties with her collegues and collaborators at the Weizmann Institute of Science. "They let me take mice from their labs and bring them to Beer-Sheva in our family car," she laughs.

"Meanwhile, local citizens persuaded Yitzhak Rager to continue the work of his father who was city engineer and convinced him to run for mayor," she says, noting that he served nine years as mayor until his death in 1997. Beer-Sheva's major thoroughfare that runs past BGU is named after him.

Teaching and doing research at the Shraga Segal Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Rager brought with her the state-of-the-art methods she had practiced at the Einstein School and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where she received her doctoral degree.

The Ragers' socioeconomic background was far removed from that of the Negev Bedouin or the Palestinians in Gaza, which augmented her sense of responsibility as a medical professional. In the late 1980s, she coordinated advanced courses in medical education for 60 doctors from the Gaza Strip. A decade later, by which time Rager was Chief Scientist for the Health Ministry, many of those Gazan doctors from her classes reunited with her at the Middle Eastern Cancer Consortium.

Rager remembers fondly the years with her young family in Beer-Sheva. "The social life was very nice; many faculty members moved to the area, and all our kids were about the same age," she says. "Beer-Sheva was all tenement buildings, and we had to go to Tel Aviv for a lot of our shopping. But there was a swimming pool, a theater and a symphony orchestra. It wasn't life in the fast lane, but there was a very deep sense of satisfaction and purpose. Looking back, I feel I was privileged to be part of it."



It was a chance discovery by Department of Life Sciences Professor Emeritus Yoel Margalith during a routine survey that led to a breakthrough achievement that would save millions of lives worldwide from mosquito- and black fly-borne diseases.

In 1976 biologist Margalith, an external lecturer of entomology at BGU, was working as Senior Scientist at the Israel Institute for Biological Research in Nes Ziona under Prof. Rachel Galun, one of the world's authorities on blood-feeding insects. As part of his research, he was involved in a survey of mosquito infestations in the Negev.

In a small pond in the Nahal B'sor riverbed, Margalith found masses of dead and dying mosquito larvae. He discovered that the killer was an unknown strain of a bacterium known as *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt. The bacterium was identified by the Pasteur Institute in Paris as a new strain of mosquito larval-pathogen, and labelled as *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* – or Bti.

In 1977 Margalith joined the newly created Department of Life Sciences, located in HIAS House, one of the first multi-story buildings in Beer-Sheva. "I had a small room for my office and one additional room for the students. We had a few microscopes and that was it," recalls Margalith.

Most of his students in the 1970s and early 1980s came from the Negev, but little by little students started coming from the center of the country. "Sometimes I had students who had done their first year at Tel Aviv University," he adds. "At first they kept their distance, as professors there were much more formal. Here they knew they could come to see me at any time and could call me by my first name. It was another world."

Over the next two decades he received large competitive, international grants that would eventually enable him to set up the Center for Biological Control within the Department of Life Sciences.

Born in Yugoslavia, Margalith survived the Bergen-Belsen and Terezienstadt concentration camps. "I survived only by chance. I was the only Jewish child who returned to our town after the war," he relates today. He immigrated to Israel in 1948 and after a year on a kibbutz, moved to Jerusalem where he got his first job at the Biblical Zoo.

After earning his doctoral degree at the Hebrew University, Margalith, his wife Miriam, a virologist, and their two young children, moved to the United States, where he took up various teaching positions. "But as soon as we were offered jobs in Israel, we returned," he says.

Over the years, Bti, the environment friendly, inexpensive microbial agent, has been successfully employed against the vectors of malaria, river blindness carried by the black fly, and deadly arthropod borne viruses, with an enormous effect on human health and a cleaner environment.

Internationally recognized as the leader in his field, Margalith has won numerous awards, including in 2003 the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, the premier award for environmental science, energy and medicine.

Despite his age and delicate health, Margalith still travels the world to continue his work, including a cooperative project with Palestinian and Jordanian scientists to eradicate mosquitoes in the Jordan Valley.



Huguette Elhadad, the founder of the Community Action Unit (CAU), had her Zionist consciousness awakened at a very early age, as was her belief in social justice. Her energetic passion drove a tireless campaign, beginning in the late 1960s, to help the underserved and underprivileged in the Negev.

Originally from Algeria, Elhadad's family moved to Morocco when she was a child. In 1964 at the age of 15, she left her family to join a clandestine youth movement settling on a kibbutz in the Negev.

"We had a very good life, but it was a bit of a bubble," she recalls. When they travelled to the surrounding development towns, the conditions there left them shocked. "We felt that we could not remain indifferent." The group decided to leave their comfortable life and move into the poor neighborhoods in Dimona and Beer-Sheva.

"We all had a very high social consciousness and wanted to live amongst the people who needed help," Elhadad adds. While studying at what would become Ben-Gurion University, she and her friends found apartments in neighborhoods in Beer-Sheva. One of their earliest projects was to develop the public parks and playgrounds, which hardly existed at the time.

By this time Elhadad was teaching regular classes in a local high school. Wanting to expose her fellow students to the "other side of the tracks," she got them involved. "I was 24 and believed in absolute justice and a better world. My students followed me."

Her volunteer activism earned her considerable publicity in the local newspapers and came to the attention of BGU's second president Ambassador Yosef Tekoah. He invited her to transfer her ideas to the University and launch a program involving students. "They were offering me an army of students for my cause," declares Elhadad. And thus, the CAU came into being – the University's revolutionary contribution of direct outreach to the local population.

The first project, which would become the CAU's flagship community program, was the Open Apartments Program, in which students live rent-free in apartments in exchange for their intense, daily involvement in the lives of their neighbors.

The students contributed their talents and academic skills, organizing activities for children, teenagers and adults, including homework and computer clubs, literacy, health, drama, sports and holiday programs, as well as summer camps and community centers.

Another project Elhadad initiated and shepherded through the bureaucratic hurdles was for high school dropouts. "They were asked at a very young age to help the family, so they stopped school and went to work in menial jobs. "I was getting all the delinquents of Beer-Sheva to go back to school," she remembers. Other innovations included a program for prisoners; the first ever course to prepare Bedouin high school students for the psychometric exam; and a scholarship program for adult professionals who had never completed their formal education.

Elhadad is justifiably proud of the fact that today BGU is famous worldwide for its innovative outreach programs to local communities and disadvantaged populations – programs considered so unusual when she began them.

And, she stresses, "Ben-Gurion University was always very open and committed. We carried out these projects because they were important and made a difference."















1984-1986 Prof. Haim Elata

1986–1990 Prof. Avraham Tamir







### **Presidents**

1981-1985 Maj-Gen (Res.) Shlomo Gazit

1985–1990 Prof. Chaim Elata



# **Chairmen of the Board of Governors**

1979-1982 Nathaniel de Rothschild

1983-1994 Robert H.Arnow



### Chairmen of the Executive Committee

1983-1988 Haim Zadok

1988-1998 Adiel Amorai



The first years of the young institution's second decade were very difficult. At the beginning of the 1980s, inflation was running rampant in Israel. The University administration had difficulty presenting financial statements due to the rapid fluctuations in monetary value. Some even said that it would be cheaper to bus the students to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem every day than to support an academic institution in the Negev.

University President Yosef Tekoah completed his term and Major-General (Res.) Shlomo Gazit was elected third President of the University. The Rector was Prof. David Wolf and Robert H. Arnow of the United States was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors. Prof. Haim Elata replaced Prof. Wolf as Rector and two years later, he was elected the fourth President.

The University made tremendous efforts to extricate itself from the financial crisis; in a display of exceptional solidarity, the staff even took a six percent pay cut for one year – therein becoming guarantors for a loan to the institution.

As part of its attempts to find creative solutions to the problem, a committee of 23 renowned academics from Israel and abroad was established to evaluate the various academic activities of the faculties and research institutes and propose a comprehensive policy for the coming years. An end to the crisis came in 1985 when the budget was finally balanced.

The University's worldwide Associates came to the aid of the institution, and new friends, impressed by the University's accomplishments, were encouraged to take part in the process and enlist additional resources.

In 1982, the Academic College opened in Eilat under the auspices of the Pinchas Sapir Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. By the mid-1980s the Faculties of Natural Sciences, Engineering Sciences and Health Sciences had matured and were able to award undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was still strengthening its academic departments, with the aim to gain authorization to grant Masters degrees. At the end of the second decade, the number of students had reached 5,500.

In the winter of 1983, Hollywood actress Elizabeth Taylor came to visit. There was great excitement at the young institution that had just celebrated its Bar Mitzvah. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher also arrived on campus, as did former President of the United States Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn. Not to be left out, Vice President George Bush (senior) and his wife Barbara visited a few years later.

The second decade that began in such difficulties ended with a sigh of relief. The University had recuperated and was looking towards the future.

1 Elizabeth Taylor visits BGU in 1983 / 2 British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her busband Denis listen to an explanation by Prof. David Faiman, with Hyman Kreitman (left) / 3 Former President of the United States Jimmy Carter visits Sede Boqer / 4 (l-r) Robert H. Arnow, Mordechai Mayer and then Vice-Premier Shimon Peres at the 1988 dedication of the Pioneers of the Negev Obelisk / 5 At the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences / 6 BGU students demonstrate on behalf of the Negev / 7 David Tuviyahu with Shimon Peres (left) and Beer-Sheva Mayor Eliyahu Navi / 8 General Alexander M. Haig Jr. receives an Honorary Doctoral Degree in 1982 from BGU President General Shlomo Gazit (right) and Rector Prof. David Wolf / 9 Working out at the Jacqueline Anne Ayrton Sports Hall / 10 At the opening plenary session of the 11th Annual Board of Governors Meeting / 11 The Sonnenfeldt family at the cornerstone laying ceremony of the Joya Claire Sonnenfeldt Auditorium.



Prof. Miriam Cohen, a theoretical mathematician known as "Mia" by her friends, came to the Negev in the late 1970s with her husband, who had been asked by the government to help develop the town of Yerucham. "He is an idealist. So from Herzliya Pituah we took four kids, a bird and a dog and moved to Yerucham, where we lived for 10 years."

Cohen earned her B.Sc. at California State University and her M.A. at UCLA, where she was a Ph.D. candidate, but when it came time to begin her dissertation, her homesickness got the better of her. She returned to Israel and began working as a teaching assistant at Tel Aviv University while she finished her Ph.D.

Cohen has always been a woman of action. In 1991 when the flood of immigration from the former Soviet Union brought topnotch mathematicians and physicists to the country, she was determined to find them suitable employment.

"My father was a successful industrialist in Germany, but when he and my mother fled to Palestine in 1939 they arrived penniless," she relates. "I think he eventually died of a broken heart because he never succeeded in Israel. I wanted to save some of these immigrants from the same fate."

She conceived of a special center for industrial mathematics, where they could sell mathematical services to industry. At the same time, some mathematicians from Harvard University had the same idea. Together they founded the Institute for Industrial Mathematics under the auspices of BGU.

Cohen also counts the creation of the Bioinformatics track as one of her accomplishments. As Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences (now two separate departments) in 1993-95, Cohen, together with Profs. Daniel Berend and David Chipman, created the program, positioning the University at the forefront of this emerging field.

In 1998 she was elected Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the first time a woman had ever held that position in Israel. Of all of her accomplishments, she is particularly proud of the Department's Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics, established in March 2001. The idea for the Center was conceived by the late Swiss mathematician Prof. Beno Eckmann, who received an honorary doctoral degree from BGU in 2004.

"I was doing my best to organize conferences here. Mathematics is a language that only a few speak, so being able to interact with colleagues is a crucial factor in research," she recalls. Eckmann understood this very well and had already helped to establish centers of advanced studies in several universities worldwide. Another friend of BGU who understood the need was Lis Gaines, former president of the University's American Associates. So between Prof. Eckmann's vision, Lis Gaines' energy and resources and the guiding hand of Miriam Cohen, it happened.

"The Center supports the whole academic food-chain," she explains, "from gifted high school students to postdoctoral fellows, visiting lecturers and international conferences." Its international advisory committee members include worldrenowned prize-winning mathematicians from Israel and abroad. The Center is also noteworthy in that it funds an unprecedented number of postdoctoral fellows.

"We are a department of 29 faculty members with an unbelievable 17 postdoctoral fellows." she says, adding that "they are part of the research atmosphere and the dynamics of the Department."



ain





Professor Emeritus Amos Richmond, the founding director of what is today the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR), remembers his first days in the desert, over 40 years ago: "Born in Tel Aviv, growing up in Haifa and receiving my university education in the United States, it took some time before I grew to love the desert. But once I acclimated, I felt very much at home in this serene and unique environment."

Richmond, the first incumbent of the Miles and Lillian Chan Chair in Economic Botany, spent the initial years after returning from his studies in the USA at the Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research in Beer-Sheva. "It was 1966. The Israeli government was settling new immigrants in the Negev and developing several new communities here. We were there to provide intellectual hinterland and scientific guidance for the decision-makers and planners," he explains. With the creation of the University, Richmond served as Dean of the new Faculty of Natural Sciences. In 1974, he was appointed by University President Prof. Moshe Prywes to establish, develop and head the University's new ambitious research center, The Institute for Desert Research in Sede Boger.

"I was 42 years old, ready to adapt grand new ideas," he says. "The aim was to set up a world-class institute – 'an Oxford on the Wadi Zin' – as David Ben-Gurion envisioned, only meters away from his grave site. The idea was met with much scorn, but I fully identified with the mission.

"In those days, Sede Boqer was a small desert post, barely a town, a two-hour drive from Beer-Sheva," he recounts with a grin. The University provided him a driver and a secretary, "whom you see before you," he says as his wife Dalia appears from downstairs. "Living down there involved a quiet life, all of us deeply and totally involved in our scientific work. The Institute was rather poorly equipped, yet our hopes were high.

A breakthrough came in the late 1970s, when Israel's Council for Higher Education matched the donations from the Jacob Blaustein Foundation. Later, a substantial contribution from the Rashi Foundation enabled the BIDR to offer employment to new immigrant scientists arriving from the former Soviet Union and invest in the necessary infrastructure. Finally, he explains, "some generous donations provided the resources to build 'respectable' buildings and advanced facilities, which we didn't have for the first 20 years."

Among the highlights of the research achievements pioneered at the BIDR, Richmond notes work in water desalination and hydrology, particularly the confirmation of a vast storage of groundwater in underground aquifers in the Negev; the development of desert architectural concepts; solar energy research, which has resulted in many promising developments; several leading achievements in environmental physics; ecology and meteorology of the desert; development of fish cultivation based on local saline ground water; as well as microalgae cultivation for commercial uses and runoff water agriculture to combat hunger in dry zones. "Today the BIDR is recognized the world over for its leadership in these fields," he notes with pride.

Recalling those first days in Sede Boqer, he says, "Pioneering is hard work mingled with more then a few disappointments and even despair, yet there is no better life."





## Prof. Lea Kacen

In 1982 Prof. Lea Kacen – one of the founders and twice chair of the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work and the founder of the Israeli Center for Qualitative Research – was on maternity leave from her position as acting Director of Social Services at the Soroka University Medical Center, when she was approached to help create a program for social work at BGU. It was the late Frances Ackerman, Kacen stresses, whose tireless struggle to establish the Department helped it become the successful and flourishing academic department it is today.

For a social worker, Beer-Sheva has always presented special challenges. "It was always a very multi-cultural and multi-social status area. The available positions for social workers weren't filled because there weren't enough social workers with academic degrees," she explains.

At the time, Kacen recalls, there was almost no one in Israel with a doctorate in social work, "neither myself nor 'Franny,' as we all called her. But once the Board of Higher Education gave the green light, she asked me to be in charge of field work. Prof. Richard Isralowitz joined us from the United States, so we were then a faculty of three."

Today there is a doctoral program in social work at every university in the country, but at the time, the Beer-Sheva initiative started out slowly. For six months Kacen and Ackerman worked together with a group of leaders in the social welfare community of the Negev to develop the concept of their educational program. In October 1982, they welcomed the first students.

"From the beginning it was essential that every staff member be involved in the community, and this is still our policy." That initial dual commitment to training social workers of the highest professional standard, and to community involvement, would



make what in turn became the Department a highly sought after program. But that first adventurous and successful academic year of 1982-83 was almost the last. The fledgling department was told it would be closed down for financial reasons. Kacen vividly recalls the scene when the entire staff of Beer-Sheva's Municipal Social Services Department came to protest, and threatened to sever all connections with the University if the new department was shut down.

Coincidentally and fortuitously, American philanthropists, the late Charlotte and Jack Spitzer, were visiting. "Charlotte Spitzer was a clinical social worker and Jack was Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors. When they heard that social workers in the field were protesting the closure of the department, they were very moved and decided to donate the funds to ensure that it would continue to exist," recounts Kacen.

"They were very involved donors," she says of the Spitzers. With the combination of pressures from the students and the municipality, together with the Spitzer's pledge to help, then University President Shlomo Gazit invited the tiny faculty into his office and drew up an official scroll declaring the independence of the Department.

Kacen points out the many innovative programs and projects that were "born" in the Department, such as Beer-Sova that provides food to the needy; the School Food Security Law enacted in the Knesset not long ago; social work services for the Bedouin in the Negev in the settlements themselves; and the Social Service Administrators' Forum that meets monthly. "Everyone comes here to talk to us about our work," she says with pride.





Prof. Yossi Mizrahi

The office building on the Bergman Campus where agronomist Professor Emeritus Yosef Mizrahi works is the same one since he started working at BGU in April 1968. "A lot of people don't know it, but this is the University's original campus. It all started from here in 1957, only then it was called the Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research," Mizrahi says, as he reaches into a bag and takes out a couple of pieces of unfamiliar-looking fruit.

Handing a visitor one of the fruits, which look like small tennis balls, he explains that the juice of this African exotic fruit called marula is the only natural substance known to increase a person's "good" cholesterol and decrease his "bad" cholesterol. Mizrahi hopes to help bring this exotic fruit product to market – the field to which he has devoted the better part of his long career, and in which he's won worldwide acclaim.

"Israeli farmers are upper-middle class people, not peasants; they can't compete with farmers from Morocco, Egypt and Algeria. They'll always be undercut in price if they raise staple crops, so the market for us is in exotic fruits," says Mizrahi, former incumbent of the Israel and Bernard Nichunsky Chair in Desert Agriculture.

Over the years, he has traveled among indigenous people throughout Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas in pursuit of exotic fruits that grow in warm climates similar to Israel's, and which can become the basis for successful local cultivation. "Until now we've produced ten exotic fruits that can be grown by Israeli farmers. Now we have three on the world market – the Pitaya, the Koubo (a red cactus fruit), and the Desert King (a flamboyant, purple cactus fruit).

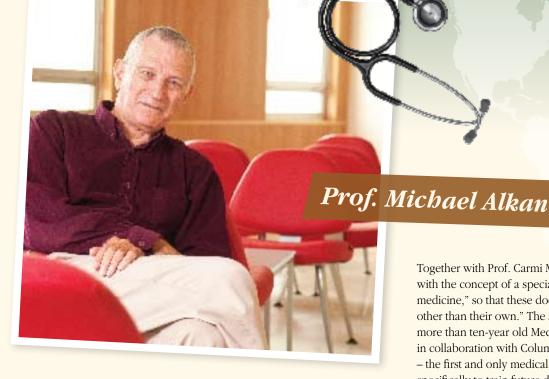
Mizrahi, who hails from seven generations of Jerusalemites on his mother's side and whose father emigrated from Yemen in 1910, was first inspired to come to the Negev when, as a member of the Scouts youth movement in 1956, he heard a speech by David Ben-Gurion. "Ben-Gurion told us that the challenge for the country's youth was to develop the Negev. We took it seriously," he recalls, adding that he was among 40 Scouts who joined "the old man" to live in Kibbutz Sede Boger.

After starting out at BGU, Mizrahi went on to do postdoctoral work at Purdue University, where he focused on the subject of "non-ripening tomato mutants." It paid off handsomely. "Every single tomato in Israel today is the offspring of the 'father' I brought back from Purdue in 1975," he says.

Mizrahi had high hopes for marketing these wonder tomatoes overseas, but the economies of scale were such that they couldn't compete in price with those from less developed countries, so he turned to cultivating exotic fruits for the upscale foreign stores. "It's a quirky business," he says. "There was this exotic fruit called Chinese gooseberry that nobody was buying until a marketing expert in Southern California changed the name to kiwi fruit."

Mizrahi, whose three children graduated from BGU, insists on sharing the credit for his success in exotic hybrids with "the 47 graduate students who've worked with me over the years." Last but definitely not least, he says, "Without the help of the friends of the University in the United States and elsewhere, we could not have achieved all that we have accomplished."





It seems there are few remote places on the globe where Professor Emeritus Michael ("Mick") Alkan hasn't helped set up treatment centers for infectious diseases, or community oriented medical schools.

Alkan, former incumbent of the Werner J. and Charlotte A. Gunzburger Chair for the Study of Infectious Diseases, is justifiably proud of the graduates of BGU's Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School, which he helped to found in the early 1970s. "Our graduates are woven into the medical system of Israel, particularly in the Negev." He fell in love with the Negev during his last year of medical school at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A month spent in the Negev in 1963 with the late Dr. Benjamin Ben-Assa travelling by jeep to scattered Bedouin tribes also marked his commitment to becoming a doctor.

He returned to Beer-Sheva in 1967 after his internship, working in what was then a 300-bed community hospital. He did his specialization in internal medicine at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, though not before being sent to the front during the Six Day War. Afterwards came the invitation from the legendary medical educator Prof. Moshe Prywes to help set up a new medical school in Beer-Sheva. Alkan and his young family returned enthusiastically to the Negev.

He recalls the passion with which the first founders of the Medical School devised the curriculum that "would create a different atmosphere, a different style, a different way of viewing medicine. This meant first of all, early clinical exposure, a revolutionary idea at the time."

A world-renowned expert on AIDS and other infectious diseases, Alkan founded the Institute for Infectious Diseases at Soroka University Medical Center. He has traveled all over the world helping to teach medicine – in rural Kenya, Botswana, Ecuador, Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, and Papua, New Guinea, to name a few.

Together with Prof. Carmi Margalith (Margolis), he came up with the concept of a special course of study for "international medicine," so that these doctors "could function in a culture other than their own." The scheme eventually became the now more than ten-year old Medical School for International Health in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center – the first and only medical school in the world established specifically to train future doctors to provide healthcare for populations throughout the globe.

It was his involvement in establishing community oriented medical schools at Moi University in Kenya, the Catholic University of Quito in Ecuador, and the Patan Academy for Health Sciences in Kathmandu, Nepal, that enabled him to create the special collaborations that would allow the MSIH students to do clerkships in their fourth year, a program that provides vital hands-on experience.

Closer to home, Alkan works with the Bedouin communities in the Negev, migrant workers in Tel Aviv and Ethiopian Jews, for whom, he says, he has a special affinity.

He has participated in several Israeli disaster relief missions, including at the Thai-Cambodia border, Kosovo, the volcanic eruption in eastern Congo and New Orleans, when the city was hit by Hurricane Katrina.

Alkan is particularly proud of this innovative approach to community-oriented medicine, which means that a disease is part of a patient, a patient is a part of a family and a family is part of a community. He believes that "If you know nothing about the community, knowing about the disease won't help you."







Prof. Ya'acov Blidstein

It wasn't entirely unexpected. Nevertheless the phone call in 2006 from then Minister of Education, Culture and Sport MK Meir Sheetrit to Professor Emeritus Ya'acov (Gerald) Blidstein telling him he'd been awarded the Israel Prize in Jewish Thought "was a very nice feeling," relates Blidstein.

"I was especially pleased, since the prize was usually awarded to those dealing in the classical areas of Jewish philosophy, and I'm really in the history of Jewish law, ideology and political thinking in the law," he says. "I was happy to see the recognition for this area as a result of the award, recognizing that these topics belong to Jewish thought," he adds.

An internationally-renowned scholar on Maimonides' *Halachic* law and philosophy, Blidstein, the former incumbent of the Miriam Martha Hubert Chair in Jewish Law, is considered one of the founders of the field of Jewish political thought. His work in Jewish law focuses on Jewish public law and the interface of law and social ethics.

Together with his wife Batya, a clinical psychologist, and their three children (three more were born in Israel), they moved to Israel in 1972 from New York. "It was a given that we would move to Israel." The offer to teach in the periphery suited his approach. "I liked the idea of coming to Beer-Sheva, an unformed place. It was a challenge to settle in the Negev," he explains.

Blidstein helped establish what is now the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought. "There were six or seven permanent faculty members and very few students then, all undergraduates," he says. "It was a mix of students, mainly from the area, many of them children of working class parents who had never gone to high school, or were even illiterate. There was this big jump," he recalls.

Over the years Blidstein served in a number of senior positions including as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as frequently chairing the Department.

Today, the Department is particularly noteworthy as it has incorporated the study of Talmud as part of the greater body of Jewish thought. "Usually this is taught as a separate track,"

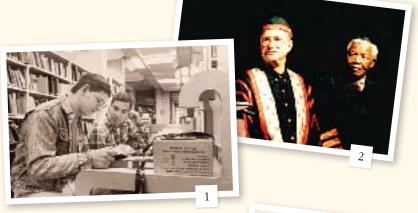
he explains. "We integrated the two because we think that intrinsically Talmud should be seen as a statement of thinking, the dynamics of thinking, the dialectic of thinking."

With the establishment of the Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought in 2000, Blidstein explains, the University was poised to become a leader in the field in Israel. "The commitment of financial backing for doctoral and postdoctoral students makes the whole enterprise a lot more professional. The Goldstein-Goren Fellowships have made a tremendous impact."

"We're very good academically and students know this," he adds. "People say we're a friendly bunch of people, helping students who come from a wide range of backgrounds."

In 2008 Blidstein became the first BGU faculty member to be inducted into the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Israel's premier organization to foster and promote scientific and scholarly activities. He has published many studies on the history of prayer and liturgy from ancient times to the present. His most recent book, *Etzev Nevo, The Death of Moshe Rabbeinu in Midrashei Chazal*, deals with "Moses as human, as everyman, going through the experience of transformation in which he acknowledges the fact that he will die." Blidstein received his Ph.D., and in 1997 an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, Yeshiva University in New York.

Blidstein has watched BGU's dramatic growth from its earliest days – a fact he sees as "a very positive thing. There are many advantages to being bigger. If we had remained small, we wouldn't exist anymore," he concludes.



President 1990-2006 Prof. Avishay Braverman





Rectors 1990-1994 Prof. Dov Bahat

1994-2002 Prof. Nachum Finger



Chairmen of the Board of Governors 1994-1996 Hyman Kreitman

1996-2004 Lord Weidenfeld of Chelsea



Just after the beginning of the third decade, the Gulf War broke out. Campus life was disrupted. The Department of Behavioral Sciences suggested ways of coping with anxiety and how to succeed in examinations during times of stress.

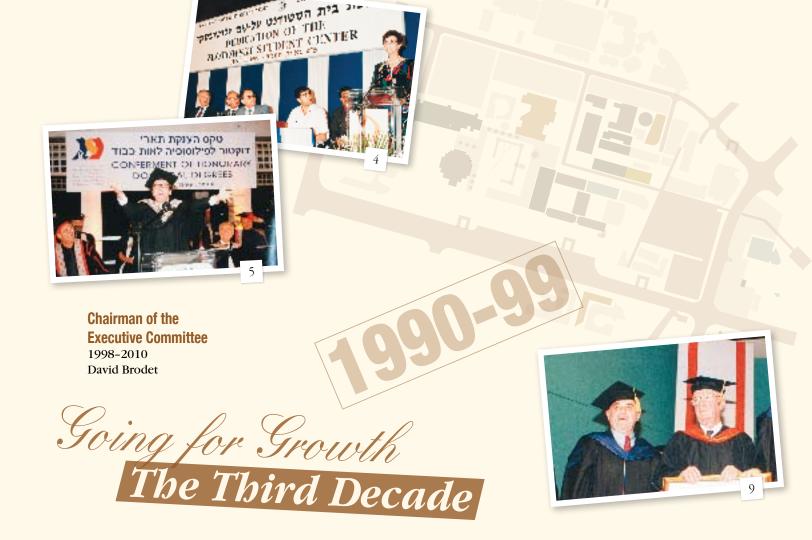
At the beginning of the decade, Prof. Avishay Braverman was elected as the University's fifth President. The Rector was Prof. Dov Bahat. At that time, 5,700 students were enrolled. Braverman believed that in order to put the institution on the "global map," the number of undergraduate students should be increased considerably. He spoke of an increase of more than 10,000 students over the next few years. Braverman knew that in order to attract students to Ben-Gurion University, they had to be offered diverse fields of study and suitable physical and social conditions. So he sprung into action.

Slowly, slowly throughout the country, rumors were heard about a young and dynamic university in the Negev, where student life was special and different from that at other universities. BGU graduates became the University's best ambassadors. The facts spoke for themselves: by 1995, the number of students had risen to 10,000. During those years, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences matured, and

some of the departments gained full academic independence in all degrees. At the same time the number of Masters and Doctoral students also grew. The University absorbed many new immigrant students and faculty, more than any other university in the country and expanded its physical infrastructure at an unprecedented rate. These were the first years of a building boom on campus: student dormitories, classrooms and laboratories were built.

As the University grew, so did its international ties with other academic institutions. Special courses were offered to researchers from Africa and Asia at both the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research and the Institutes for Applied Research, administered jointly by the University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. BGU was involved in a variety of projects with colleagues from Morocco, Egypt, Jordan and the Gaza Strip. Avi Yitzhak, the first Ethiopian medical student in the country, began and completed his studies at the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School.

In 1994, Robert H. Arnow ended his term as Chairman of the Board of Governors after 11 years and Hyman Kreitman of the United Kingdom was elected in his stead. These leaders



were among the most active supporters of the University and facilitated the strong foundation of the Associates organizations in their respective countries and helped others to do the same, creating an international network of active supporters. The page is too short to include all of the good people who stood at the University's side in the difficult times, who expressed their deep understanding of its needs and translated their caring and support into resources.

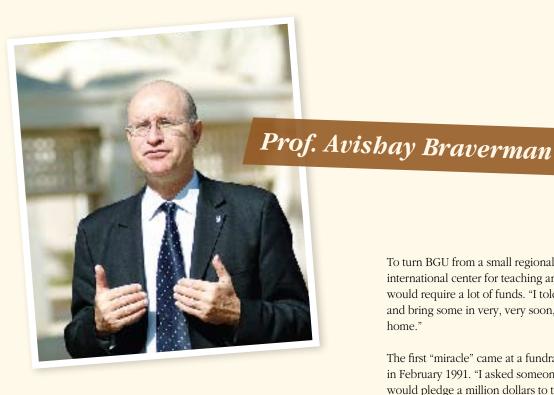
With the completion of the Zlotowski Student Center, students now had a warm home to call their own, using the facilities to their maximum advantage. On the tenth anniversary of the visit of Egyptian President Mohamed Anwar El-Sadat to the University, the "Gate of Peace" was opened. Later, the "Gate of Aliyah" was dedicated in memory of the late Yosef Tekoah, providing an opportunity to solicit donations to aid in the absorption of new immigrants at the University.

In the third decade, especially towards the end, the University's reputation grew and VIP visits and Nobel laureates became part of the scenery. To mention just a few: former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev came with his wife Raisa, French President François Mitterand received an Honorary

Doctoral Degree in an impressive ceremony that took place in the sports hall in Sede Boqer which, with the addition of suitable décor, was transformed into an elegant hall bedecked with Israeli and French flags.

Ben-Gurion Day is the national commemoration of the passing of Israel's first Prime Minister. On that occasion in 1994, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited BGU and in a moving ceremony, was awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree. Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Helmut Kohl also received an Honorary Doctoral Degree. The King of the Zulu Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu visited to better understand the University's achievements in the field of arid zone research. South African President Nelson Mandela received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from BGU in his native country.

The decade ended with the visit of Oscar-winning Italian actor Roberto Benigni as he received an Honoral Doctorate Degree in May 1999. Looking around at the thousands of students and staff who turned out to cheer him on, it was clear that life really was beautiful for this young university.



Sitting in his Knesset office, Minister for Minority Affairs Prof. Avishay Braverman is thinking back 20 years to when he accepted the offer to become President of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

"There were only a handful of buildings on campus and about 5,700 students. Today there are nearly 20,000 students and the architecture of the Marcus Family Campus is a marvel. Whenever I was feeling low, I'd take a walk through the grounds and immediately I'd be refreshed, inspired again."

He was 41 years old when he came to Beer-Sheva in 1990, straight from his studies at Stanford University and a highly successful 14-year career as an economist at the World Bank in Washington, DC.

The first thing he did was move to the city, not to a suburb outside. "I wanted to make a statement about the University's place in the life of the city," he says. Being president of a young university was all new, he says, "I wanted a challenge. I wanted to create a Stanford in the desert."

There were many, many skeptics, practical-minded people who said BGU could never compete with the more established universities in Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv for students, faculty and funding. They said the government would not cooperate.

To turn BGU from a small regional college into a national and international center for teaching and research, he realized, would require a lot of funds. "I told myself that if I don't go out and bring some in very, very soon, I can pack my bags and go home."

The first "miracle" came at a fundraiser in Palm Beach, Florida, in February 1991. "I asked someone there to announce that she would pledge a million dollars to the University. She agreed on the condition that it be anonymous. By the end of the meeting, the pledges totaled three-and-a-half million dollars and I knew the gates had opened," he relates with pride.

After that, he was "blessed" he says, to be introduced to a number of people who shared his vision for the Negev. From their generosity came the transformation of BGU. "There were so many miracles, so many angels," he continues. "I was blessed to find so many warm, committed people to work with. We challenged the government to match our vision, and finally we succeeded."

Braverman is known for his evangelical zeal in promoting the Negev as Israel's future and BGU as the engine of the Negev. "I meet people, I tell them what I believe in. When you believe in something, miracles happen. And my belief was in excellence, in bringing young people forward. And when you present this belief to people, they will give you their backing.

"People want to be challenged. If you challenge them, if you touch that part of their hearts, you can climb mountains together."

He is proud of his involvement in transforming BGU. "I would have to say that the University has become all I imagined it would be and more. The physical infrastructure is beautiful, the students and faculty members are the best and the brightest, and the spirit of the place is unique, I think, in the world of higher education. Ours is a university that embraces people."





Professor Emeritus Ora Kedem, a pioneer in desalination technologies, is currently working on two water-related projects. One focues on the commercialization of evaporating brine, which began as an experiment on her Haifa rooftop and then moved to the backyard of a BGU colleague, and another uses electrical fields in various innovative ways for desalination.

Ask her age and she laughs lightly: "Eighty-five...going on six."

Kedem, who shared the 1961 Israel Prize for Natural Sciences with Prof. Aharon Katzir (who was murdered in the 1972 Lod Airport massacre), began her career in membrane biophysics, which later became the basis for her activity in modern desalination techniques. It was this field that brought her to Beer-Sheva for a year in 1967. After retiring from the Weizmann Institute of Science, she agreed to return to BGU as the founder and head of the Department of Desalination and Water Treatment in 1995, a post she held for eight years.

"In 1967, I participated in the activities of the Beer-Sheva Institute of Higher Education. There were five of us on the academic planning committee: the visionary Mayor David Tuviyahu, as well as representatives from different faculties of three universities – and I'm the one who's still here to tell you about it," she smiles. "We hoped then that the Institute would grow eventually into a proper university, but we never dreamed this could happen as fast as it did. Idealism wasn't something people talked about. We simply believed in the importance of building the country."

Years later, Yigal Allon, then Minister of Education, in his speech to the fledgling University's first graduating class, harkened back to Beer-Sheva in the first days of the state, recalling the time the local residents asked an official delegation visiting from Jerusalem for a kindergarten of their own.

Allon said the officials from the capital thought the folks in Beer-Sheva were asking too much in those austere times, and told them: "That's fine – today you're asking for a kindergarten, tomorrow you're going to ask for a University!"

In 1995 Kedem arrived in Beer-Sheva as an Israel Prize laureate and Weizmann Institute professor who had also spent years doing research at the top universities of Holland and Massachusetts. The challenge at BGU was the application of desalination research to real life processes. She was inspired by the work of the late American scientist Prof. Sidney Loeb, who revolutionized the field of reverse osmosis and whose discoveries are still at the basis of desalination techniques today.

"Once I turned my attention to water, I realized that the desert is the natural place for anyone working on desalination and on water treatment," she says.

However, her practical aims, her wish to contribute to water quality and quantity in Israel, did not at all mean she was retiring from scientific research.

"At the start we faced great difficulties," she notes, but adds that the department she founded, which is now part of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, has achieved an "outstanding international status." Meanwhile, BGU has awarded Kedem an Honorary Doctoral Degree, as has Holland's Twente University, while the American Academy of Engineers has made her a life member. This year she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Israel Water Organization.

Being part of the BGU family remains an important part of a rewarding life: "There was no place like the Negev," she says, "to be filled with purpose."



As the daughter of two Czech Holocaust survivors, Prof. Hanna Yablonka grew up in Beer-Sheva steeped in the European tragedy. But she did not think of studying it until she heard Prof. Yehuda Bauer speak one Holocaust Remembrance Day. She left her Masters program in psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to study with him, ultimately earning her Masters and Doctoral degrees from the Center for Contemporary Judaism at the same institution.

A meticulous historian, Yablonka pioneered the study of Holocaust survivors in Israel. "When we talk about mass immigration to Israel in the 1950s, we always talk about those who came from Morocco," she says. "But 51 percent of all new immigrants were Holocaust survivors, and nobody thought that was interesting."

As Yablonka pursued her Doctoral degree, she moved back to Beer-Sheva and began lecturing on history at Ben-Gurion University, where she had earned her Bachelors degree. "I had a very strong connection with the University, and my husband worked at the Beer-Sheva Theater," she says.

Her first book examined Holocaust survivors in the first decade of Israel's existence. Her third book examined how the 1961 Eichmann trial of the notorious architect of the Holocaust served as a catharsis and a bonding experience for the young Jewish state. For her extensive research, Yablonka received the 2002 Yad Vashem Buchman Fund's Remembrance Prize.

While delving into the place of Holocaust survivors in Israel, she noticed a lacuna in how academics related to recent history in her country. Middle Eastern Studies departments didn't include Israel. "There was Jewish history and the history of nations. It all ended somewhere in the 1940s," she says.

Together with colleague Dr. Tuvia Friling from the Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, she founded the Israel Studies track to fill the gap. This was the first program in Israel to critically examine the country's recent history, and it placed the University at the forefront of understanding the collective national experience.

The first courses examined Iraqi Jews, Holocaust survivors in Israel and Hebrew music and cinema. One course, called "Following Documentation," took place in the archives at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute in Sede Boqer.

"We started with very harsh opposition," Yablonka says. "People blamed us for creating 'national studies'."

The Israel Studies track proved its mettle with incisive research and an impressive faculty. From its initial 40 students, the Israel Studies track now has hundreds of students. "If the Hebrew University is the Jewish university and Tel Aviv University is the international university, then Ben-Gurion University is the Israeli university," she says.

Yablonka also teaches Holocaust education in Beer-Sheva schools, advises high school students on their final projects and speaks regularly to Holocaust survivors through the *Amcha* association for survivors.

As the head of the Committee for Teaching History, in the Ministry of Education, she oversees curriculum and is trying to reconnect Israelis with the lost cultural heritage of European Jewry.

People focus on the "evil and violence" of the Holocaust, but, she says, "it's much more interesting to learn about the people who were murdered, what was lost, and what we must do to revive this culture."



When Prof. Raphael Bar-El first came to BGU in 1996 to establish the Department of Public Policy and Administration, he had many years of experience under his belt in the world of applied economic research. An expert in regional development, urban growth and economic cooperation in the Middle East, Bar-El was deeply involved in what is referred to as "peripheral regions" and the growing distressing economic gaps between

far-flung communities and the center of the country.

"Economic growth does not just refer to cold statistics, what's important is how it affects people and their welfare," explains Bar-El, who was director of the Israeli National Economic Planning Authority for three years before coming to BGU. "A state may be getting richer by 5 or 6 percent a year, but it can be poorer in terms of the welfare of the total population."

Bar-El, now the Chair of the Department of Public Policy and Administration at the Guilford Glazer School for Business and Management and co-director of the Bengis Center for Entrepreneurship and Hi-Tech Management, had also served as member of the Joint (Jordan-Israel-U.S.A.) Steering Committee for the Integrated Development of the Jordan Rift Valley, and was in charge of the Economic Development Plan as part of the Long-Term Master Plan for Israel, and shepherded economic master plans for a number of Israeli cities. He has also participated in regional development plans in various countries abroad.

From its inception, the aim of the Department, declares Bar-El, was to improve the functioning of public servants in order to achieve better welfare for people. "For me, as an economist, this means better growth and the enrichment of the quality of life in the peripheries. This has been my guiding philosophy: creating conditions for the improvement of the lives of the weaker sectors of the population."

Bar-El connects this passion to his own personal experience. Born in Morocco, he came to Israel in 1960 with his family at the age of 17. Nine family members lived together in a tiny house in a transit camp (*ma'abara*). Today, he is troubled by the reality of Israel that has the largest gaps between rich and poor in the Western world. "We have here a region that we want to develop. It's crucial that we reduce these gaps."

Thanks to the support of the Marc Rich Foundation for Education, Culture and Welfare, the Department designed a special graduate course for mid-career public servants, who will be able to exert an influence on public policy in the future. "I was very happy that someone had a real understanding of this need," says Bar-El, noting that there have been 700 applicants for 25 places in the course every year.

Bar-El initiated several key projects carried out by the then newly-created School of Management that – in quite diverse areas – have provided promising models for regional development. One particularly noteworthy innovation was a first-of-its-kind course in local government management to train the future leadership of the recently recognized Bedouin communities, which was created by Dr. Miki Malul from the same Department. The comprehensive training program provided theoretical and practical tools in the field of management in local government. The 70 participants included poorly educated elders and residents with advanced degrees.

"Establishing a university in the Negev is not a trivial matter," Bar-El states. "This was not a given. BGU is really trying to shape a new structure and reality in the Negev."

He believes that the University has shown real leadership in the direction of public policy through the integration of social considerations into economic policy.





In 1992 Dr. Inna Khozin-Goldberg was thinking of emigrating from Moscow to Israel, but only vaguely. But one day a professor she knew suggested that she do a post-doctorate at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) in Sede Boqer in her field of biotechnology. She came for two years, which turned into 18 and counting.

Now Khozin-Goldberg and her colleagues from the Landau Family Microalgal Biotechnology Laboratory at the French Associates Institute for Agriculture and Biotechnology of Drylands, including her original advisor Prof. Zvi Hacohen are receiving international interest in the work they're doing with algal lipids that make "healthy pufa" for baby formula, plant seeds, anti-inflammation drugs and other commercial applications.

This work has gained the avid attention of multinational giants Dupont and Nestlé, which have expressed interest in their findings. Several patents have been filed and are pending. Nestlé has also provided research funding.

For Khozin-Goldberg, like many of her peers from the former Soviet Union, the transition into Israeli society was not easy. At first, she lived alone with her young son. Her father came and helped out while she studied Hebrew and built her career. To an outsider, this would seem like a rough beginning. But to Khosin-Goldberg, it was wonderful to find her place in academia.

She says language was never a problem here in her work. "The international language of science is English, and scientists everywhere, both in Russia and Israel, have to be able to work in it. Much of the scientific literature in the University's libraries was in English," she notes.

Khozin-Goldberg was one of the talented scientists from the former Soviet Union who proved a boon to Israeli academia, and whom BGU, like other universities, absorbed readily. She won one of the coveted Kamea grants, a government-supported annual salary that goes to the best immigrant scientists, mainly from the former Soviet Union, Argentina and Poland. "Every year there is a fight with the government to renew the grant," says Khozin-Goldberg, adding that there are nearly 100 recipients at BGU, eleven of them at the Blaustein Institutes.

Remembering her early years at Sede Boqer, Khozin-Goldberg says the work conditions were actually quite good; she had the means to do high-level research and publish articles. "But it can't compare to what we've got now. A comprehensive, extremely sophisticated campus has been built here. Everything in the labs is state-of-the-art."

Not only have research and teaching conditions improved dramatically since then in Sede Boqer, but living conditions have as well, she adds.

"There were no more than 20 students living there at the time; now there are about 200," she says, referring to the students at the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies. "And instead of small student apartments, there's a whole community, with a neighborhood of single-family houses and more being built."

She now lives in one of those houses with Alexander Goldberg, a technician from the BIDR whom she met and married, and with whom she has now has two young children.

Despite all the head-spinning commercial possibilities of the work she's doing, and despite the distance she's come from depression-racked Moscow of the early 1990s, Khozin-Goldberg has modest ambitions. Being fully aware of the economic pressure on universities everywhere these days, she says: "I just want the opportunity to go on doing the work I love."





Like so many of the University's founders, Professor Emeritus Ilan Troen was inspired to move to the Negev by the challenge of being part of the creation of something new. "To come to this place 40 years ago was to come to a place with no international recognition, where the idea of a quality university was very much in the imagination of those who came here," he explains.

Troen moved to Israel in 1975 with his wife Carol, four children and one on the way. He calls it *haluztiut*, a pioneering spirit, and notes that "If someone really believed in the building of Israel, as we did, then the place to be in the 1970s was the Negev. It wasn't just to make the desert bloom, it was to create something where there was nothing!" he exclaims.

Born in Boston, educated at Brandeis University and the University of Chicago, Troen was 37 when he became the first Dean of the new Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. "I was not trained to be involved with University administration, nor was I an entrepreneur, but I had to do both or else it would not have worked," he says.

The leap from those beginnings in the early 1970s to today, he believes, is the result of the dedicated work of "very ambitious people, who worked for personal goals as well as the larger good of the University."

It was, perhaps, as Director of the Kreitman Foundation Fellowships that Troen was able to oversee a program that had a very significant impact on the growth of BGU. The Fellowships were set up in 1994 through a gift from the late Chairman of the Board of Governors Hyman Kreitman and his wife Irene of the UK, who were among the founders and central pillars of the University.

"In the early days, not only were the academic staff pioneers, so were the donors," observes Troen, the former incumbent of the Anne and Sam Lopin Chair in Modern History. "By the 1990s, we

recognized that what we needed were the funds to ensure that the talented faculty we had here and were trying to attract could maintain the standards that they aspired to. This meant getting the best students. The solution was to provide support."

Over the years the highly-competitive and prestigious Fellowships attracted outstanding graduate and post-graduate students of proven achievement and exceptional promise. "We attracted people literally from Moscow to Stanford. The best of the best."

Troen also counts his time as Director of the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism in Sede Boqer from 1984-88 as a noteworthy accomplishment. He was asked to transform the small research group into an academic center. A specialist in American history, he decided to concentrate on the history of Israel. Troen also takes pride in having founded the leading English-language journal in the field, appropriately named *Israel Studies*. Founded in 1996, the multi-disciplinary academic journal covers the history, politics, society and culture of the modern state, to which more than 2,000 universities subscribe.

Now there are Israel Studies programs in major universities throughout the world. Today Troen heads Brandeis University's Center for Israel Studies, the first and largest in the United

States. "All of this happened as a result of what we pioneered at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev," he says proudly.







Pursuit of Excellence
The Fourth Decade



2002–2010 Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt





Chairman of the
Executive Committee
1998–2010
David Brodet

In its fourth decade, the University came of age. It broadened its international reputation and scientific achievements. It was no longer a developing, but rather a developed university.

In the third and fourth decades, a strong emphasis was placed on the physical character of the campus. Who remembers the "black hole" in the middle of the "new campus" (as it was then known)? Irene and Hyman Kreitman decided to pick up the gauntlet, bringing in Israel's leading landscape architect Shlomo Aronson to design the impressive Kreitman Plaza. It connected the Zalman Aranne Central Library with the buildings on the southern side of the campus and the Zlotowski Student Center with the Cummings Plaza.

Many impressive new buildings popped up all over the campus, new classrooms and laboratories were established. Lush gardens and a series of courtyards and covered walkways transformed the University into a desert oasis. A similar process took place at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research in Sede Boqer. Today, the campus has become an architectural pearl thanks to the tremendous assistance of the Negev Foundation and the German government, whose loan helped to provide for the impressive transformation. In 2003 the University opened its new Eilat Campus, expanding its impact to the country's southernmost city.

The University grew at a phenomenal rate. The number of students tripled. The demand for housing brought prosperity to the real estate market in Beer-Sheva – a modest contribution of BGU's students to the economy of the city. But there has been another contribution, maybe even more important – to life in the less privileged neighborhoods: through after-school projects under the auspices of the University's Community Action Unit, the Perach program and a myriad of other outreach programs, ties have been forged and woven between the students and the residents of those neighborhoods in which they live.





In the fourth decade, the University emphasized excellence in research. Dozens of inter-disciplinary centers were established. The University welcomed bright, young scientists and has also raised the acceptance thresholds for all degrees. The emphasis became quality and excellence, without compromising the special warm atmosphere that the University was known for.

An international array of world leaders and Noble Prize laureates were regularly seen on campus, but the Dalia Lama created the most excitement when he came to receive the Ladislaus Laszt Ecumenical and Social Concern Award in 2006.

A partial list of these accomplishments include the creation of a number of research powerhouses, including: the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev; the Deutsche Telekom Laboratories at BGU focusing on information technology and telecommunications; the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology; and *Heksherim*: the Institute for the Research of Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture, containing the archives of many of Israel's outstanding writers. The Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies expanded and now grants almost 200 Doctoral degrees annually. The unique Academic Program for the Israel Airforce Flight Course, whose graduates are awarded Bachelors degrees in one of the fields offered by the University, was also created.

In 2006, Prof. Ya'akov Blidstein of the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought was awarded the Israel Prize in Jewish Thought. More and more BGU researchers from across the spectrum were being awarded prestigious prizes and grants, bringing great honor to the University.

This is also the decade in which the Ministry of Transport grasped the University's message that a railway station was needed adjacent to the campus. The new Beer-Sheva North University Railway Station, made possible through the

graduate

generosity of the Goodman Family Foundation, connected to the campus by the 200-meter Mexico Bridge, placed the University squarely on the Israeli map. Now the Negev was only a few stops away from the center of the country.

In the fourth decade, the main campus was named the Marcus Family Campus, in recognition of the munificent gift of Dr. Howard and Lottie Marcus and their daughter Ellen from the United States. In the middle of the decade, Braverman's fourth term came to an end after nearly 16 years.

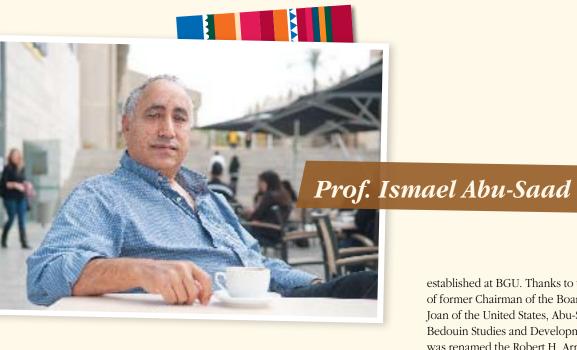
In 2006, the leadership baton was passed to Prof. Rivka Carmi. BGU, always a pioneer, chose Carmi to stand at its helm – the first woman to head an Israeli university. Carmi had previously been the first woman in the country to serve as dean of a medical school. Lord Weidenfeld of Chelsea completed his term and Roy J. Zuckerberg of the United States became the new Chairman of the Board of Governors.

The past four years have only proven the maxim that success brings success. The University is now nearing 20,000 students. The quantity and quality of competitively raised research funding continues to grow. Many of the best and brightest young scholars and scientists have chosen BGU as their home.

The Marcus Family Campus was transformed by the completion of a number of significant building projects, including the inviting Deichmann Plaza that won the Design Project of the Year in 2009. Work has begun on the infrastructure of the Advaned Technologies Park, being built adjacent to the University.

On the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is proud of its many accomplishments and looks forward to the future.

<sup>1</sup> The Mexico Bridge connects the Marcus Family Campus to the University Train Station / 2 Prof. Avisbay Braverman "passes the torch" to Prof. Rivka Carmi 3 Students at the Deutsche Telekom Laboratories at BGU / 4 The Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research / 5 Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann at the dedication of the award-winning Deichmann Plaza / 6 The Dalai Lama was on campus to receive the Ladislaus Laszt Ecumenical and Social Concern Award / 7 The Marcus Family meets with then Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres in 2005 / 8 Students from the Academic Program for the Israel Airforce Flight Course



When he became a lecturer in the Department of Education in the early 1990s, Prof. Ismael Abu-Saad had come full circle. And what a circle it was.

"Growing up in the Negev Bedouin community near Tel Arad, the school I went to until the fourth grade was in one room without water or a bathroom." For middle school he had to travel nine kilometers (5 ½ miles). "So I shared a donkey with my cousin," he recalls, shaking his head at the memory.

One of 11 children, he would become the first Israeli Bedouin to earn a Ph.D. Abu-Saad is a pioneer in the advancement of education for Bedouins, while breaking new ground in the education of indigenous communities worldwide by linking the challenges facing Negev Bedouin with those facing Native Americans and rural African tribes. But it was those early years riding a donkey to and from school for three hours a day that forged Abu-Saad's commitment to creating "a revolution in Bedouin education."

The turning point for Abu-Saad came when his parents sent him to a first-rate high school in the town of Tira, located in what is called the "Triangle" of Arab cities. "It wasn't easy for my father to afford to send me away to school," he notes, but he understood that education was the key to the future.

Abu-Saad received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in education from BGU, and his Doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota. His research focused on the education of indigenous communities. Gaining a reputation for cross-cultural scholarship, he became a member of the University's Department of Education. Today he is the incumbent of the Abraham Cutler Chair in Education

At the time, there were no more than 100 Bedouin students, and only a handful of them were women. Having seen the advances made for indigenous students by centers established by other universities, Abu-Saad proposed that such a center be

established at BGU. Thanks to the generosity and active support of former Chairman of the Board Robert H. Arnow and his wife Joan of the United States, Abu-Saad established the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development in 1997. In 2007 the Center was renamed the Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development.

The Center became a place where Bedouin students could go for academic and financial assistance. It was also a buffer zone from the culture shock many of these students encountered. The results, says Abu-Saad, "were magic." In less than a decade, the number of Bedouin men receiving Bachelors degrees rose from 58 to 162, while the number of Bedouin women graduates rose from 17 to 112. Today there are over 250 Bedouin women studying at BGU and hundreds of graduates – both male and female – working in their fields throughout the Negev.

The challenge remains, he says, to convince Bedouin students to enter the science and business fields in greater numbers. "There is a clear need to encourage, equip and assist more Bedouin students to enter science and hi-tech oriented fields at the undergraduate level," he says. "This is essential both for the development of the Bedouin community and for its full integration into the modern, hi-tech Israeli labor market."

The Bedouins, who represent one out of four residents of the Negev, remain at the bottom of Israel's socioeconomic ladder; they have a long way to go. "The success of the Bedouin Center can also be gauged by the fact that its impact continues beyond the undergraduate level," Abu-Saad continues. "Its support has produced a significant pool of Bedouin students who have continued on to pursue graduate studies." And so the circle expands with a ripple effect.





"I have been in science roughly 40 years, and every day is exciting" says Prof. Varda Shoshan-Barmatz, the incumbent of the Hyman Kreitman Chair in Bioenergetics, the Director of the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN) and a member of the Department of Life Sciences.

Shoshan-Barmatz was in her last year of high school, at the Eshel-Hanassi high school in the western Negev when Prof. Yoash Vaadia visited the school and invited her to hear about the new Department of Biology at a fledgling university in Beer-Sheva. Several months later, she began her studies in what was then the University of the Negev.

BGU and Shoshan-Barmatz matured together. She received her Masters in physiology and biochemistry as a joint degree from BGU and the Hebrew University, because the former was not yet accredited. She went on to perform her Doctoral studies at the Weizmann Institute of Science, followed by postdoctoral studies in Madison, Wisconsin, and the University of Toronto. In 1982 she returned to the Department of Biology, later the Department of Life Sciences, as a faculty member, and has worked there since.

Her current research focuses on programmed cell death regulated by *mitochondria*; the energy-generators of cells, recently recognized as key players in programmed cell death, aging, cancer and neurodegenerative disease. Her research is designed to minimize the self-defense mechanisms of cancer cells and to stimulate their death as a means of developing cancer therapies.

In her years at BGU, Varda's passion and energy influenced the growth and development of the Department of Life Sciences and the University's agenda of advancing women. For the past decade she has been deeply involved in the establishment of the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN), and for the last five years has served as its Director.

Focused on applied research, the NIBN is a unique research center, with goals set at bridging the gaps between basic

and applied research, and between academia and the biotechnological industry.

Establishment of the NIBN was first announced in 2001 when then-prime minister Ariel Sharon expressed the government's commitment to create a national institute. The NIBN took a significant step forward this year when it became a company with a development plan and activity budget of \$90m for the next eight years. This was agreed upon by the Israeli Government, an anonymous donor and BGU.

With an international advisory board headed by Nobel Prize laureate Prof. Sir Aaron Klug OM FRS and including Israeli Nobel Prize laureates in Chemistry Profs. Ada Yonath and Aaron Ciechanover, and the distinguished scientists Profs. Raymond Dwek and Philip Needleman, the NIBN successfully recruits outstanding scientists based on their academic excellence as well as the biotechnological implications of their research. The NIBN encourages and funds cutting-edge, discovery-driven research and is home to some of the University's most advanced laboratories.

The NIBN was created with a mission to plant the seeds that will lead to the growth of successful biotechnology industries in Israel, particularly in the Negev, she explains. To impact the economic prosperity of the Negev, the Institute will fuel spin-off companies and accelerator corporations designed to commercialize novel ideas and technologies developed by its researchers. "The mission of the NIBN is to develop the Negev," says Shoshan-Barmatz, clearly proud of how far it has come.







Dr. Yuval Elovici

Is he running an industrial plant with an academic feel, or a university research center with an industrial feel? This is the question put to Dr. Yuval Elovici, director of Deutsche Telekom Laboratories at BGU, sitting in his office in the cool, modernistic complex on the top floor of the Alon Building for Hi-Tech on the Marcus Family Campus.

The place may look like a hi-tech plant, but not to worry, Elovici says – it is definitely a university research center. In fact, it's unique in Israel, and even in the world – a university research center fully integrated with state-of-the art industry, yet retaining the freedom and intellectual atmosphere of academia.

"It's easier to integrate academic and industrial research when it is performed in an academic setting. We're a Research and Development center dedicated purely to the innovation needs of a telecommunications industry giant. Nevertheless, whereas typical industrial R&D centers and laboratories focus mostly on the D, in our case, operating under a university's auspices enables us to focus on the R," he explains.

Born in Beer-Sheva, Elovici spent seven years in the Israel Air Force working on complex software projects. "Because Israel is surrounded by enemies, the country has become an internationally acclaimed leader in the area of computer and network security," he says. But beyond the realms of national and critical infrastructure security, the discipline Elovici speaks of has all sorts of mundane, everyday civilian applications as well. "Computer network security enables you to use your cell phone privately, it enables you to safely make an online bank deposit," he notes.

After obtaining a doctorate at Tel-Aviv University, Elovici became a director of several start-ups, an adviser on Israeli legislation to protect digitized personal information and ultimately chairman of the University's software engineering program in the Faculty of Engineering Sciences.

But it was the field of computer network security that turned out to be a major attraction for the German telecommunications giant Deutsche Telekom (DT).

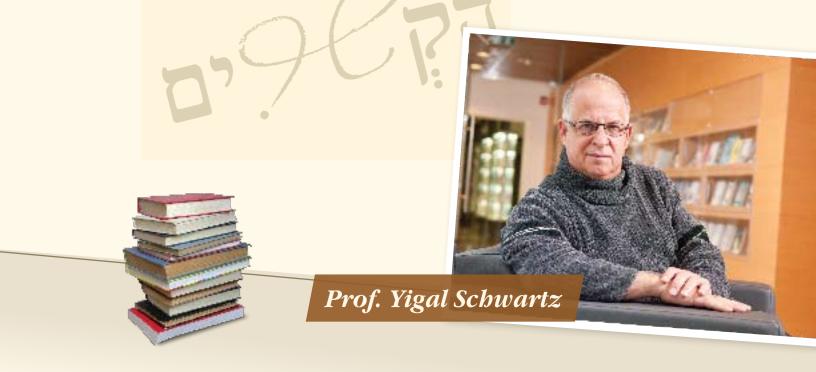
"Because of Israel's reputation for technological creativity, DT came here looking for a cooperative agreement. The company went to different universities before settling on BGU. They didn't really know exactly what sort of project they wanted to undertake with us, so they asked us to propose several alternatives. After 11 months of exploration, DT chose its first project in the area of computer network security and sent their Chief Technology Officer to the campus. The outcome of the visit was an agreement to invest \$3.6 million in a three-year project aimed at combating computer network viruses and other kinds of malicious software," he says.

From there, the partnership blossomed. Additional projects were launched, and in February 2006, DT's CEO, Kai-Uwe Ricke, visited the University and signed a \$12.1 million framework agreement inaugurating DT Laboratories at BGU.

Today the labs run some 10 different projects employing approximately 100 students and many faculty members and researchers. Recently, DT's CEO agreed to further deepen the collaboration and double the operating budget of the Lab.

Currently, the Lab registers an average of one-and-a-half patents per month, says Elovici, and adds: "Our main measure of success is the number of patents and scientific publications we produce. We are engaged in pure innovation – in exploring new product and service concepts for DT's customers, all in order to improve the company's position in the highly competitive telecommunications industry."

Call it partnership, call it privatization – the important thing is that this bold new relationship between industry and academia clearly benefits everyone involved.



On a winter's afternoon, Prof. Yigal Schwartz from the Department of Hebrew Literature guides a visitor through the sun-drenched archive of *Heksherim* – The Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture. Inside the small side rooms are boxes upon boxes devoted to the letters, news clippings and interviews with literary giants such as Amos Oz, Aharon Appelfeld and David Avidan.

"Around the world, either you have a national archive or individuals who purchase private collections," says Schwartz, the founder of *Heksherim*. "But there is no place where they put together the archive of a generation," refering to what he calls "the First Generation," those authors, playwrites and poets who wrote in Hebrew after the creation of the State.

Schwartz founded the archive in 2001 as Chair of the Department of Hebrew Literature. The Ramat Gan native began his career as a student, then department head, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was also the leading editor at the Keter Publishing House. But a decade ago, he made a dramatic move to BGU. In the process, he has revitalized the Department, world-renowned for its extensive archives, international seminars and impressive annual publication list.

It was at Keter that he worked with Prof. Amos Oz, a long-time member of BGU's Department of Hebrew Literature. Oz connected him with then-BGU President Prof. Avishay Braverman. "I met Braverman at the King David Hotel, and he said, 'What do you want?' I came with a very long shopping list," says Schwartz. As a result, he left the Hebrew University, bringing with him 25 Masters and Doctoral students.

Before his mandatory army service, Schwartz spent a year as a counselor for juvenile delinquents in the Negev development town of Netivot, at the time a struggling and impoverished peripheral community. "I worked for a year with these guys, and I understood there is an 'other' Israeli culture," says Schwartz.

Because of the experience, he said the move to the Negev was "a sort of coming back."

Besides planning the archive, Schwartz's other major innovations include the launch of the *Mikan* literary research journal, as well as the *Massa Critit* (Critical Mass) periodical, which publishes research books several times a year under the auspices of Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir Publishing House; and the creation of the English-language journal, "BGU Review of Israeli Culture," published with the support of the Axel Springer Siftung of Germany.

"The new Hebrew culture in the State of Israel was built on Hebrew literature," Schwartz says. "For the last 150 years, nearly all the Jewish writers dealt with the idea of building the Jewish people anew. So if you want to understand what's happening here now, you have to read and research Hebrew literature."

Schwartz is also a fervent exporter of Hebrew literature. Four years ago *Heksherim* ran a three-day conference in China, followed by similar events in Moscow, Kiev, Philadelphia, Naples, Cambridge (UK) and at Stanford University. A particularly moving conference was held two years ago in Germany, which Schwartz says was the first of its kind since World War II.

This year, Schwartz hopes to launch a "Book Studies" track within the Department, which will train students both in analyzing Hebrew literature, as well as the more technical side of the publishing industry.

For him, the move to Ben-Gurion University was perfectly timed. "The University had decided that Hebrew literature would be its flagship field, and made that known administratively and financially," Schwartz says. "I think that so far, we have delivered the goods."



During the post-Yom Kippur War energy crisis, London-born and Oxford educated Prof. David Faiman, a new immigrant to Israel, said to himself: "If I'm going to stay, I'd better do something more useful than theoretical physics."

In April 2009, President Shimon Peres attended the industrial debut of Faiman's invention – a solar "tree" with mirrors that capture sunlight 2,000 times more efficiently than standard panels, that have the potential, Faiman says, "to provide a fully cost-competitive alternative to fossil fuel energy." A cluster of "trees" now heat all the water used at Kibbutz Yavne and provide solar energy that is sold to the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC).

Longtime director of the National Solar Energy Center at BGU's Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research at Sede Boqer, Faiman was working at the Weizmann Institute of Science when Prof. Amos Richmond, founder of the BIDR, painted him a picture. "Amos said that if we can find a way to make the desert habitable for people, it will be a boon not only for Israel but for the whole world. I was young and impressionable, and I thought – this is what I was born to do!"

Arriving in 1976, Faiman, his wife and three young children were one of only four families in Sede Boqer. The "campus" was dominated by the "remains of an ORT school set up by Ben-Gurion that had failed. There were two telephone lines, only one of which worked at any given time. "I was living in the middle of the desert, incommunicado," he recalls.

Soon, Faiman recruited other scientists and they began traveling the country, inspecting the embryonic solar energy companies, figuring out ways to improve them. Out of this group grew the Department of Solar Energy and Environmental Physics, of which Faiman was the first chairman, a post he holds again today.

Faiman is one of the world's veterans in solar energy research. "The biggest problem with solar energy," he explains, "is that the source – sunlight – is so diffuse. If you collected all the sunlight that fell on a one-square meter patch of desert for an entire year, you'd have hardly more energy that you can get from a single barrel of oil."

So the challenge Faiman took on was developing a solar panel that could pay for itself. The answer he found: mirrors. "By installing mirrors in the solar panel and curving them in a certain way, I was able to devise a panel that is smaller and cheaper than ordinary ones." The system is now being marketed by an Israeli start-up Zenithsolar.

But Faiman isn't stopping there. Now he's trying to figure out how to store the energy. "No one has developed a suitable battery for feeding solar energy into the national grid," he says, adding that he has been granted unprecedented cooperation from the IEC for his work on this daunting project.

Faiman has come a long way. "All my life I had two goals – to become an accomplished physicist and to settle in the Holy Land," he says. Soon after reaching the Holy Land, he decided: "If I really want to be a pioneer, the place to go is Sede Boqer."

After so many years of being regarded as a kind of solar Don Quixote, Faiman says, "it is satisfying to report that my knowledge and advice are finally being sought after by policymakers – in Israel and around the world."



Prof. Smadar Cohen didn't start her academic career rebuilding broken hearts, but her research in the pioneering field of biotechnology led to breakthrough discoveries, one of which promises to revolutionize the treatment of patients recovering from a massive heart attack.

Together with her research partner Prof. Jonathan Leor, Director of the Neufeld Cardiac Research Institute at Tel Aviv University, Cohen invented the first injectable device designed to support cardiac tissue damaged as a result of acute myocardial infarction (MI), improving cardiac function and survival.

"We were the first to show that biochemicals can induce regeneration in a unique way," states Cohen, adding that her team demonstrated that you can deliver biomaterials after a heart attack via the coronary artery, as opposed to open-heart surgery, where it forms a protective "scaffold" that enhances the mechanical strength of the heart muscle during recovery and repair.

The technology was licensed to the Israeli drug development company BioLineRx Ltd. and, following successful clinical trials, subsequently sold to Ikaria Holdings Inc. in New Jersey.

Born and raised in Petah Tikva, Cohen says she "always knew I wanted to be a scientist; I was very curious all my life and loved to explore things." Today, Chair of the Avraham and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering and incumbent of the Clair and Harold Oshry Chair in Biotechnology, she can justifiably boast of world-famous developments resulting from her research in the cuttingedge fields of tissue regeneration and controlled delivery of therapeutic proteins.

Another product that is now in commercial development by Invitrogen Corporation of California is "AlgiMatrix." This is the first user-friendly, animal-free bio-scaffold available for the development of high-fidelity cell culture models.

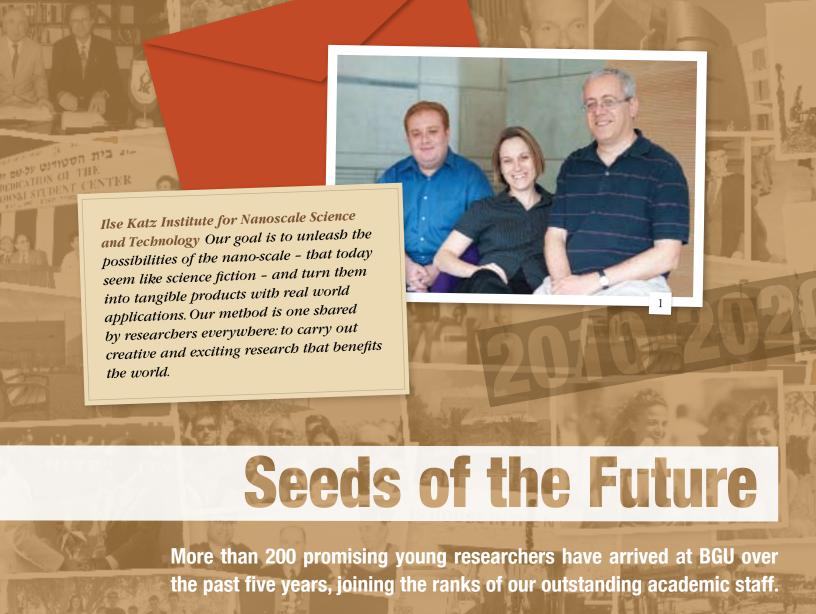
Cohen did her post-doctorate work at MIT with Prof. Robert S. Langer, a world-renowned researcher on the interface of biotechnology and materials science. "I began working on tissue engineering, that is, putting cells into biomaterials, which shape the cells to create new functional tissue," she relates.

She worked with the World Health Organization to develop a delivery method for controlled-release bio-degradable tetanus vaccines. "This is especially important for the Third World, where refrigeration is a problem and the vaccines have to be kept for a long time," she explains.

In 1991 Cohen returned to Israel and found her place at BGU. At the time, biotechnology was under the umbrella of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Cohen and her colleagues gradually built the program that, in 2000, would become an independent department, the first in Israel, which she has headed since 2004.

Like many University departments, Biotechnology Engineering has an outreach program. Organized and run by Dr. Tsiona Elkayam, "An Academic Window for Biotechnology" brings high school students from all over the Negev to work on various experiments. "We're living in a relatively poor region of the country. Our Department has so much to give, and this has become an important experience for the kids."

Cohen has seen dramatic changes in the last two decades. "When I came here I was the only woman in chemical engineering; now more and more women are entering the field." And for the future? "Until now we have concentrated on building the University and increasing the number of students. Now we need to step up our efforts to recruit more excellent scientists, and I believe this is happening."



They are the seeds of our future.

Department of Mathematics Our goal is to enhance our collaborations with other mathematicians in Israel and around the world and strengthen BGU's international reputation as a leader in the field. We are looking to create a community of people of all ages who speak a common language of discovery.



## 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 2009.

### **Milestones**

A three-way agreement to create a \$90 million research fund for the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev was signed by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor Benjamin Ben-Eliezer on behalf of the Government, the University and an anonymous donor. The NIBN is now registered as a separate corporation in Israel that will operate under the auspices of the University.

## Physical Development

- The building for the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, housing the Roberta and Ernest Scheller, Jr. Family Surface Analysis Lab, the Stan and Ruth Elaine Flinkman Microsopy Wing and many of the University's most sophisticated laboratories was completed and will be dedicated in May 2010.
- Caroline House the Health Sciences Student Center, was dedicated, significantly expanding facilities for students at the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School and providing spacious office space for the Medical School for International Health.
- The Preclinical Research Facility was completed and occupied, providing state-of-the-art support for researchers from all Faculties.
- The construction of the Brian and Avrona Schachter Family Student Dormitory was completed. Located adjacent to the Eilat Campus, the 2,500 square meter project was managed

- by the Rashi Foundation in partnership with BGU, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, United Israel Appeal of Canada and the Municipality of Eilat.
- The Jerry Cohen Radiobiology Laboratory in the Department of Nuclear Engineering, exploring the biological effects of exposure to low-dose ionizing radiation and its application to improved cancer treatment, will be dedicated in May.
- The Prof. Daniel E. Koshland Jr. Promenade was dedicated at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research in Sede Boqer.
- The Department of Industrial Management dedicated their new research laboratories, covering an area of 400m<sup>2</sup>.
- The University received formal accreditation as a "Green Campus" from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Council for Higher Education, having met their criteria in three fields: environmental studies; contribution to the community; and rational use of resources.

## **Newly Established Chairs**

- D.E. Koshland Jr. Family Career Development Chair in Advanced Technologies in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- D.E. Koshland Jr. Family Career Development Chair in Desert Studies
- Stanley D. and Nikki Waxberg Chair in Advanced Materials

#### Honors Bestowed

- Former German Minister of Defense Dr. Peter Struck, MdB, received an Honorary Professorship from the University.
- Prof. Randolph L. Braham received the Ladislaus Laszt International Ecumenical and Social Concern Award.
- Father Patrick Desbois, President of the organization
   Yahad-In Unum, received the Ladislaus Laszt International



- Ecumenical and Social Concern Award.
- Prof. Steven A. Schroeder will receive an Honorary Professorship from the Faculty of Health Sciences in May.

## **Excellence Recognized**

- University President Prof. Rivka Carmi, incumbent of the Kreitman Foundation Chair in Pediatric Genetics, received an award in excellence from the Israel Ambulatory Pediatric Association (IAPA) for her lifetime achievement.
- BGU Rector Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt, incumbent of the Marsha and Kenneth Tucker Chair in Economic Development, was named a member of the Commission for Innovative Pedagogy within the EuroMed Higher Education and Research Area.
- Prof. Gabi Ben-Dor, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, incumbent of the Dr. Morton and Toby Mower Professor of Shock Wave Studies and a member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, was named Centenary Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Science.
- Prof. Smadar Cohen, incumbent of the Claire and Harold Oshry Professorial Chair in Biotechnology, and Chair of the Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering, was awarded the prestigious Rappaport Prize for Excellence in Biomedical Research for her "potential to significantly advance any medical or biomedical field" and the "Teva Founders Prize" from the Israeli company Teva Pharmaceutical Industires Ltd.

- Prof. Ora Kedem of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Israel Water Organization.
- Dr. Anne Bernheim, from the Department of Chemical Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering Sciences received the prestigious Krill Prize for Excellence in Scientific Research of the Wolf Foundation for Medicine (2010).
- A group of researchers from the Center for Multidisciplinary Research on Aging received the Bergman Prize in the field of aging for outstanding work in the biology of aging from the Israel Gerontological Society.
- Prof. Shlomi Dolev of the Department of Computer Science, incumbent of the Rita Altura Trust Chair in Computer Sciences, and Head of the Lynne and William Frankel Center for Computer Science, was elected Chairman of the Governing Council for the Inter-University Computation Center, established under the auspices of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education to deal with communication infrastructures among its member institutions.
- The Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research received the CleanTech 2009 Excellence Award in the category of Outstanding Academic Institution in the Field of Environmental Studies.
- Prof. Zohar Yosibash, founder and head of the Computational Mechanics Laboratory at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, received the Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) Hans Fischer Fellowship from the Technical University of Munich.

## New and Noteworthy (Cont.)



## Regional and International Impact

- Working in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Colorado and the Hashemite University of Jordan, researchers from the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research are developing technology and setting up pilot desalination facilities sites in Israel and in Jordan. Their work is supported by grants from the NATO Science for Peace program and the Middle East Desalination Research Center.
- A unique three-year English-language academic medical emergency training program for Jordanian students was launched at the Faculty of Health Sciences. The academic program is part of a joint project aimed at developing a coordinated regional response to emergency scenarios, which included the creation of a Development Strategic Forum (DSF), comprising key officials from Jordan and Israel, which will serve as a platform for regional

- cooperation between the emergency medical systems of Jordan and Israel.
- An agreement on academic and cultural co-operation with the Corvinus University of Budapest (CUB), Hungary, was signed to encourage collaboration between the two institutes.
- The Sophia Antipolis Foundation of France and the newly created BioNegev Consortium, together with BGN Technologies, signed an agreement of cooperation to capitalize on the world-renowned academic achievements of BGU, Soroka University Medical Center and the National Institute of Biotechnology in the Negev.
- An international partnership was signed between BGU
  and the University of Johannesburg to conduct scientific
  research in the fields of water purification and microalgal
  biotechnology. Researchers from the University of California
  at Los Angeles (UCLA) will also be contributing to the project.



 A cooperation agreement was signed between BGU and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung calling for increased cooperation with the University's Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society.

## New Academic Centers and Research Activities

- The Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering was named.
- The Professor Jacques Lewiner Fund for the Department of Chemistry was established and will provide support for basic and applied research as a standing fund designed to invest in scientists and research infrastructure.
- The University and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES) signed a five-year agreement whereby AIES courses approved by the University will receive University credit.

- The University's new interdisciplinary Africa Centre was inaugurated in the presence of a delegation of African University Presidents in partnership with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- A Yiddish Center was created as part of the Folklore Track in the Department of Hebrew Literature.
- A Center of Excellence in Environment and Health that focuses on the health effects of environmental hazards in Southern Israel was created by researchers from the Department of Epidemiology at the Faculty of Health Sciences, and made possible through the support of Yad Hanadiy
- The Center for Emergency Response Research (Prepared) was established to conduct cutting-edge research and to increase knowledge and preparedness for medical emergency and disaster situations.



## **Community Action Unit**

Committed to its founding principles that "With your contribution, society is worth more," the Community Action Unit (CAU) dedicates itself to helping others while enriching the lives of all participants. The Unit organizes outreach programs that impact thousands of residents of the region.

Thanks to the vision of Eric Ross of the United States, a strategic plan was conceived for "The Circle" – a multimedia center to be located in the Deichmann Building for Community Action. The center will use new technologies to infuse Negev teenagers with the values of social responsibility and equal opportunity, hoping to inspire independent thinking, social sensitivity and civic responsibility.

Two new programs were launched: an NGO, Itach (With You) – Women Lawyers for Social Justice, whereby disadvantaged women will be empowered by legal knowledge and practical skills; and the Ted Arison Family Foundation Scholarship Program to develop awareness and social sensitivity among the participants. This year the Foundation supported ten students who will devote four hours weekly to a wide range of social projects in Beer-Sheva. Participation in the program is for three years and includes theoretical training, lectures and empowerment workshops.

This is in addition to the varied and rich activities of the existing CAU programs, including the Open Apartments Program, in which students live in disadvantaged neighborhoods and work with the local population; the Keren Moshe Leadership Training Program; and the Public Activities – Leadership Program that provides knowledge on Israeli society to nurture active and concerned students. This year close to 200 outstanding students received scholarships and leadership training, enabling them to initiate social change in their own communities. The *Habarvaz* theater group presented a special production of Brundibar (bumblebee), a children's opera written by an inmate of Theresienstadt during the Holocaust.

The Promoting Accessibility to Higher Education in the Negev program continues to grow, with over 1,100 high school students coming to the Marcus Family Campus weekly for enrichment studies. Generously supported by the Ministry of Education, the Rashi Foundation, Atidim, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Leumi Aharai Organization, the program includes a wide range of academic classes and empowerment training.

This year more than 800 eighth graders participated in *Manof*, a program to promote community activism and volunteerism in Beer-Sheva, with an additional 150 participating in after-school activities. *Manof* programs are being held in four schools, with a total of thirty classes. The program is run in cooperation with the Beer-Sheva Municipality, the Kivunim Company and the Ministry of Education.

The first class of 20 students completed the three-year Sparks of Science Program for students from the Ethiopian community, in cooperation with the Branco Weiss Institute for the Development of Thinking, Atidim and the Jewish Agency. The program exposes 10<sup>th</sup> grade students of Ethiopian background to different points of view with the aim of developing motivation for future academic study and includes meals and organized travel to the campus

#### Perach

The University houses the southern division of Perach – a nationwide big brother/big sister mentoring program. Covering the largest division in the country, the program includes students from BGU and local colleges who work in communities throughout the Negev, including the Bedouin sector.

There are currently 3,500 student mentors, about half of whom are from BGU. This year there was a three percent increase in the number of Perach scholarships available.

Thanks to the growth of the University's Eilat Campus and the support of the Jewish Federation of Toronto, there are now 280 mentors in that city. There was also an increase among the Bedouin sector with the creation of new projects in the communities of Tel Sheva, Rahat and Segev Shalom.

Perach's main activity continues to be the provision of individual tutorials at schools for students from third to twelfth grades, which constitute 75 percent of its activities, the remainder being group projects. This year a new program focused on increasing the number of female students in engineering programs was launched in a number of regional high schools. The program introduces students to the potential career options in the field while strengthening their skills in core topics.

Perach enrichment centers provide a warm environment for mentoring activities, including games, computers and a homework resource center. The largest and most active



continues to be in the Deichmann Building for Community Action. Perach operates two additional centers in Beer-Sheva, another one in Arad and one in Eilat, with a total of over 22,000 visitors expected this year.

With the generous support of Teva Pharmaceuticals, Perach operates four Havayeda Teva science centers in the region. The first center – originally located in the Zlotowski Student Dormitories – has now moved into a significantly larger space in a new community center in Beer-Sheva.

The "Best Buddies" project pairs students from the Faculty of Health Sciences with special needs children. The students undergo suitable training as part of their studies and in coordination with Perach. A large number of tutors participate in the "Preparing for Bagrut" program – to strengthen youths through personal tutoring, particularly in schools in Beer-Sheva, Eilat, Ofakim and Dimona.

## Academic Preparatory Courses

The University invests a great deal of effort and resources in helping potential students to realize their dream of a higher education. Towards this end, four new pre-academic projects were opened this year.

The first class – *Hi-Tech Horizons* – included two classes of 60 students. The program is tailored to help recently discharged soldiers from the social and geographical peripheries who have high personal potential. An intensive and wide-ranging course allows them to close study gaps in engineering and exact sciences and to be integrated in employment in the field of hi-tech in Israel. The students receive full financing for tuition and scholarships for living expenses according to their socioeconomic situation.

Fifteen students participated in a special three-month program that provides support for students whose families emigrated from Ethiopia. Sixty students participated in a four-month course for Bedouin students interested in the nursing profession in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Eighty-one students participated in a special introduction to physics course during the first semester.

These programs are in addition to the University's standard preparatory programs that focus on closing gaps among those who might otherwise not qualify for academic studies.

#### Alumni Association

This year the Association worked to expand and invested extensive efforts in recruiting new alumni. An evening dedicated to Israelis who received honorary doctorates from the University opened the University's  $40^{\rm th}$  Anniversary celebrations. Many alumni who are prominent leaders in the fields of economics and industry attended and took up the challenge of raising funds for scholarships, which were inaugurated this year, including the Mirella Luzzatto Scholarship Fund.

Intense efforts have been made to expand the services available through the Alumni Association's website. Career opportunities are posted in cooperation with the University's Career Planning Unit; job fairs are advertised and great effort has been invested in encouraging alumni who are employers to participate; information is distributed on academic departmental conferences, new study tracks, surveys targeting alumni and activities of interest organized by the University.

The Alumni Association provides excellent opportunities to meet with old friends, network, and the most important – to remain an active and influential member of the Ben-Gurion family. www.bgu.ac.il/alumni



## Dean of Students

The Office of the Dean of Students is dedicated to advancing the general welfare of students. Working in coordination with the BGU Student Association and the University administration, the Office provides a range of services from psychological counseling to improving the quality and number of restaurants on the Marcus Family Campus.

Workshops were held for study strategies in subjects such as effective speed reading, comprehension and concentration, study planning, memory improvement, organizational strategies and time management. Thousands of students participated in a series of marathon sessions focused on taking final examinations. A new center to evaluate learning skills was opened.

Regulations concerning public and political activities on campus were updated, and an agreement defining the relationship between the University and the Student Association was signed.

A number of significant investments were made in infrastructure, including the installation of air-conditioners in the western wing of the Zlotowski Student Dormitories; a "pedestrian walkway" was created between the Dalet and AABGU Dormitories with the closing of the access road; a newly-renovated food court replaced the main cafeteria and faculty club in the Zlotowski Student Center; Maccabi Healthcare Services opened a clinic on the Marcus Family Campus and access for the physically challenged was expanded throughout the University. A new University gift shop that will market BGU branded items is slated to open this spring.

At the Eilat Campus, the Brian and Avrona Schachter Family Student Dormitory was completed, enhancing the experience for students studying there.

The psychological counseling team took part in a continuing education program on drug and alcohol addiction, improving outreach and treatment for students.

Expanded cultural activities include the creaton of a chamber music program, which includes the formation of seven student ensembles; the University Choir appeared at several events, including Holocaust Memorial Day and Israeli Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism Remembrance Day; the Zlotowski Dance Troupe produced a new performance called "Yonatan". Some 40 students participated in the Debating Society, which took part in competitions in Israel and England.

#### Student Association

The Student Association is dedicated to advancing the general well-being of the student body, while serving as its primary advocacy organization. The Association works to strengthen the bond between students and the wider community, while providing a variety of services to students to enhance their academic, cultural and social experience.

The academic year opened with a live outdoor concert, distribution of welcome gifts and a forum to introduce new students to the Association. Throughout the year, the Association offers a broad range of social events that include music on campus, lectures, sports events and the hugely successful annual Student Day. This year the opening of the spring semester was marked by a colorful Purim happening.

The Association works towards strengthening the connection between the city of Beer-Sheva and the students, and social communal organizations operating in the area. This year the Association established a division for student involvement that connects all the student organizations active on the Marcus Family Campus. The widespread activities include information workshops, a fair highlighting volunteer opportunities and social advocacy groups and a series of activities to promote environmental issues. A competition for "Green Living" highlighted original conservation techniques that have been adopted by students.

In addition, the Association promoted student initiatives on behalf of the local community, such as "the community garden" project in Beer-Sheva, Hebrew lessons for Arab women and classes for underprivileged children in Dimona.

The Student Association's Textbook Lending Library continues to grow and this year acquired hundreds of new books for students to borrow at a minimal cost. The Lecture Archives has also expanded.

In cooperation with the University, the Student Association inaugurated the Africa Centre. This year two student delegations traveled to the Ivory Coast and Ghana, where they interacted with the local community and volunteered in various fields for three months.

Thanks to the ongoing support of friends from abroad, the BGU Student Association delegation was once again the largest of all Israeli universities to participate in the March of the



Living in Poland. The Association website was revamped this year providing an additional channel of communication with students.

## Office for International Academic Affairs

With an eye clearly placed on the future, the University is further expanding its international portfolio through the newly created Office for International Academic Affairs. This is in keeping with the strategic decision by the University administration to further expand international programs and academic cooperation.

The Office is focused on breaking new ground within the Israeli academic community. 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.

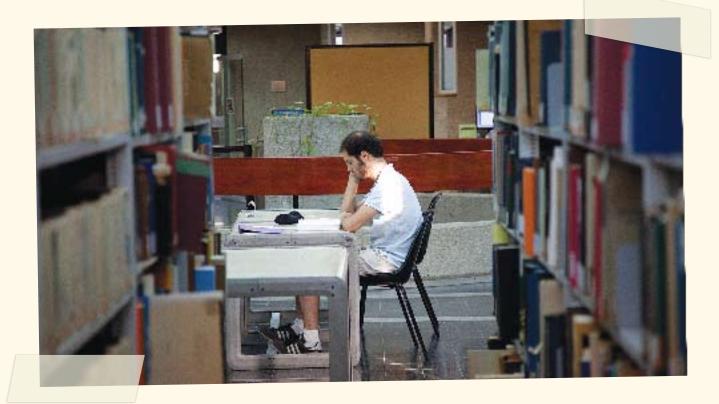
Under this new umbrella, the Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program (OSP) is progressing, following last year's major reorganization, and is rapidly making an international name for itself through its own unique programming. The OSP continues to expand with increasing numbers arriving

from European and North American universities who are studying at BGU through traditional study abroad programs and as exchange students through bilateral agreements with international flavor, such as the European Erasmus Mundus program.

Most of the North American students have made their way to the OSP in the wake of a renewed interest by universities to encourage study abroad, particularly in the Middle East. Enrollment, particularly from the U.S. is up, thanks in great part to the program's benefactors Stanley Ginsburg and Ira Ingerman and to increased marketing efforts by the American office.

Erasmus Mundus is a parallel program of the European Commission that finances the establishment of joint Masters and Doctoral degree programs as well as student and staff mobility between universities in the European Union and in developing countries.

The International Summer University in Hebrew, Jewish Studies and Israel Studies – the only program at an Israeli university specifically designed for German-speaking students – succeeded in doubling its registration this year and is focused on further expanding in 2010.



## Zalman Aranne Central Library

This year was a year of reorganization, consolidation and expansion of services provided to students, faculty and the general public.

Over the past year the Library's organizational structure was revised: the sorting and cataloging section was abolished and a technical services section was established to manage its more than 20,000 electronic and print journals, electronic and print books and many databases covering all scientific disciplines. Rights to three important digital collections of scanned journals were acquired, allowing easier access for users and in turn freeing up critically-needed storage space.

Thanks to the generous support of Jacob Shochat of Philadelphia, plans are under way for a new building to house the natural and engineering sciences collections, thus providing long overdue room for the humanities and social sciences collections, opening the way for the expansion these divisions. One of the more significant donations this year was of 100 books on modern Japan.

During the academic year 2008-09, over 11,000 new titles were added and electronic textbooks acquired. Thanks in part to the vision and support of the Isaac Auerbach Library Endowment Fund, the digital and computerized divisions were updated and expanded. Several new computer stations and wireless hotspots were added for the benefit of students.

## Computation

The Division of Computing and Information Systems continued to implement new applications and technologies to improve user service and functionality for the entire University community. Networks were improved throughout the campus, expanding wireless service to additional buildings and classrooms and improving home access for students and staff. Online course instruction using tablet-pc was expanded. The method allows academic faculty to record lessons easily and independently, including use of multi-media aids, which have received praise in student satisfaction surveys.

Management of public computer classrooms has been improved through the introduction of the Altiris program, allowing for flexibility and greater control during computerized examinations.

The University invested in the consolidation of servers, by using VMWARE software, allowing system resilience and saving resources. Back-up systems using IBM robotics were strengthened. Computerized forms based on Microsoft InfoPath product were developed.

Information storage using a Netapp platform was improved, and the system for managing student candidates on a CRM platform, which is central in dealing with new applicants, was expanded and assimilated.





#### New Ben-Gurion Society Members 2010

Hilda and Manasche Ben Shlomo Foundation Bella and Yosef Guzick Dresner, Beer-Sheva Barbara and Morton Mandel, Cleveland, Ohio Ralph S. Martin, Doris Springer Martin and Allen B. Rabin David and Inez Myers Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio Raphael Recanati Family Foundation, New York/Israel Herbert Rosen, New York, NY Brian and Avrona Schachter, Toronto, Canada Stanley D. and Nikki Waxberg, New York

#### S. Daniel Abraham

Chinita and Conrad Abrahams-Curiel, London Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany Dr. and Mrs. Sam L. Agron, Montville, NJ The Alon Family Foundation, Saratoga, CA I/m/o Rita H. Altura, Altura Family, Los Angeles, CA Robert and Joan Arnow, United States

Isaac and Carol Auerbach Family Foundation, PA

Milada Ayrton, Lausanne

Dr. Beryl Bearint, Port St. Lucie, FL Bengis Family, Cape Town/New York Eric and Illeana Benhamou, Saratoga, CA

Famille Danièle et Maurice Bidermann, Paris, France

The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation Hannah and Norbert Blechner, New York, NY Fondation Bona Terra, Geneve, Suisse

The Camelia E. Botnar Foundation, Switzerland Rhoda Boyko, New York City, USA

The Brink Family, Belgium

I/m/o Naftali & Anni Bronicki, Mordechai & Miriam Wander

Dr. Hubert Burda, Munich, Germany Rothermel L. Caplan, Lebanon, PA

The Chais Family Foundation, Los Angeles, CA

Aron Chilewich Family, USA

Sir John and Lady Cohen, Great Britain

The Sam Cohen (Windhoek) Scholarships Trust Elizabeth and Sidney Corob, London, England

Crown Family, Chicago, Illinois Dr. and Mrs. Heinz-Horst Deichmann Helen Diller Family, California Ing. Pedro Dondisch, Mexico

Doron Foundation for Education and Welfare Harry T. and Shirley W. Dozor, Philadelphia, PA

Tamara and Ariel Elia M. Ernst, Paris

George Evens Family, Antwerpen

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Feher, Paris, France

Ruth Elaine and Stan Flinkman, Santa Monica, CA

Fondation Flamme, Geneve, Suisse Albert and Patricia Frank, Chicago, IL Estelle S. Frankfurter, New York, NY

Edy and Sol Freedman and Family, New York

Lis Gaines, New York, NY

Nathan Galston, Los Angeles, California Stan and Arlene Ginsburg, Philadelphia, PA Diane and Guilford Glazer, Beverly Hills, CA The Irving Goldman Foundation Inc., USA Richard and Rhoda Goldman, San Francisco, CA

Stella and A. Goldstein-Goren

Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Fdn., CA Lawrence and Lillian Goodman, Chicago, IL The Fraida Greenhill Fdn., United States

Ruth and Maurice Grosman

Monroe Guttmann Charitable Foundations, Pittsburgh, PA In memory of Parents Fira & Efim by Nahum Guzik, CA

Ivan and Vilma Halaj, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

The Thomas O. Hecht Family

Rosalind Henwood, Boca Raton, FL

In Memory of Benzion Sundel Hersch, Anne & Harry

Zfira and Efraim Ilin, Israel

Eileen and Ira Ingerman Family Foundation, Penna.

ISEF - International Sephardic Education Fdn. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

The Kahanoff Foundation, Calgary/Tel Aviv Kahn Family Fund for Humanitarian Support

Richard and Edythe Kane, Sarasota, FL

Ilse Katz Liebholz, Geneva Leonard Litwin, Great Neck, NY Keren Moshe, Geneva, Switzerland Koret Foundation, San Francisco, CA

Harold Irving Korn, M.D. and May Elting Korn, NY Prof. Daniel E. Koshland, Jr., UC Berkeley, CA Irene and Hyman Kreitman, Great Britain Douglas and Judith Krupp, United States George and Lisbeth Krupp, United States Philip and Bernice Krupp, United States Bernice and Morton Lerner, Salisbury, NC Marjorie and Gustave Levey, Houston, TX, USA Velva G. and H. Fred Levine, Houston, TX Sophie and Stephen Lewar, Toronto, Canada Eng. Max and Dr. Gabriele Lichtenberg, Israel/FL Regina and Simon Liebermann, New York, NY

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Evelyn Metz Estate, New York, NY

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Belle and Murray Nathan, New York, NY

Negev Foundation

State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

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Abraham Ben David Ohayon, Geneva, Switzerland

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Harold and Claire Oshry, United States

Markus and Sara Pajewski and Joseph Parker, USA

Mary and Marvin Paul, Toronto, Canada

Jack Pearlstone Charitable Trust, Baltimore, MD

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Ferdinand and Ursula Piëch

Richard and Jeanne Pratt, Melbourne, Australia

Rashi Foundation - Rachi Fondation

In memory of Howard Rauberger, New York

Claire and Emanuel G. Rosenblatt, Palm Beach, FL

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The Caesarea Edmond Benjamin de Rothschild Foundation

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In memory of Irma and William Rulf, London, UK

Harry and Carol Saal Family Foundation, Palo Alto, CA

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Rubin Salant, Renee, Camille, Robin, and Grandchildren

Milton E. and Frieda Salen, Brooklyn, NY

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Alvin and Leanor Segal, Montreal, Canada

David and Fela Shapell Family, Beverly Hills, Calif.

The Harry and Abe Sherman Foundation, London

Jacob Shochat, Mahwah, NJ

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Judith and Murray H. Shusterman, Abington, PA

Caroline and Arnold Simon, Omer, Israel

Skirball Foundation

Elaine, Irving and Sarah Sklar, New York

Frances Fohs Sohn and Fred Sohn

Eta and Sass Somekh, Los Altos Hills, CA

Rudolf and Inger-Ma Sonneborn

Katja B. Goldman & Michael Sonnenfeldt, USA

Samuel and Helene Soref

Jack J. and Charlotte Spitzer, United States

Ruth and Robert St. John, Washington, D.C.

Harry Stern Family Foundation, Philadelphia

Dr. Anne Tanenbaum, Toronto, Canada

Joey and Toby Tanenbaum, Toronto, Canada

Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation

Herbert A. and Vivian B. Thaler, Baltimore, MD

Zoltan and Maria Toman

Kenneth and Marsha Tucker, IL

Gerda Knopf Tworoger and John Tworoger, NY, USA

Ed and Miriam Vickar, Winnipeg, Canada

Bernat and Ilona Wachs, Singapore

The Weiler Family, New York, USA

Elsa Weinberg, Gaby Avron and Hillel Cherni, Israel Henry and Anita Weiss and Family, Los Angeles, CA

Richard Weiss, Daytona Beach, FL

Aileen Epstein Whitman, Chester County, PA, USA

Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust, London

The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust

Martin and Els Wyler, Clarens, Switzerland

Yad Hanadiv, Jerusalem

Solly Yellin and Family, South Africa and Israel

Ruta and Dr. Felix Zandman, Phila. and Tel Aviv

Adelene Zlotowski, London

Suzanne M. Zlotowski, Geneva

Roy and Barbara Zuckerberg

# Negev Society 2010

## Dedicated in bonor of BGU's 40th anniversary

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Alon Building for Hi-Tech

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

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Deichmann Building for Community Action

Deichmann Building for Mathematics

Ruth and Heinz-Horst Deichmann Building for Health

**Professions** 

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and Research Center

Raquel Dondisch Education Building

Ariel Elia Medical Building

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Benhamou Incubation Center

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Berelson Field

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Corob Center for Medical Sciences

Maxwell and Queenie Cummings Plaza

Deichmann Plaza

Department of Mathematics Research Laboratories Wing

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Institute and Research Center

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Gerson Epstein Physiology Wing



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David Lopatie General Reference Section of the Central Library

Mitrani Residences for Scientists

Michel and Balbina Naftali Research Laboratory Wing

Belle and Murray Nathan Library Reading Room and

Archeological Gallery

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Markus and Sara Pajewski Laboratory for Plant Tissue Culture

Ferdinand Porjes Student Dormitory

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Elaine and Sarah Sklar Molecular and Cell Biology Teaching Laboratory

Sarah Sklar Molecular Opto-Electronics Laboratory

Joya Claire Sonnenfeldt Auditorium

Harry Stern Family Psychobiology Clinical Research Pavilion

Ruth Sytner Auditorium

Sara Tadmor Auditorium

Thaler Undergraduate Laboratory in Life Sciences

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Zlotowski Student Activities Area

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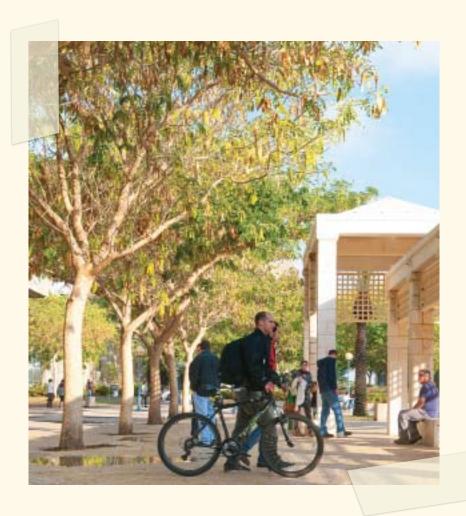
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