

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOLARSHIPS

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A Message from the President

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was created with a very specific mission: to make a difference. This is felt most in our commitment to be a university both in and for the community. We pride ourselves on our diverse student body that represents Israel's most powerful resource and hope for the future.

Our ability to aid students who might otherwise not be able to afford to study is one of the greatest tools to effect real change from the bottom up. At the same time, our ability to reward students who have shown exceptional promise is the jewel in the crown that enables BGU to attract the best and brightest students from across Israel and around the world.

We dedicate significant funds to scholarships and fellowships, as studies consistently show that access to higher education opens new horizons. And since all of our undergraduates who receive scholarships participate in some kind of community service, BGU has created a unique environment that enriches the community while expanding students' understanding of social issues.

Our namesake and Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion maintained that, "The State of Israel will prove itself not by material wealth, not by military might or technical achievement, but by its moral character and human values." Funding for scholarships and fellowships comes from our friends and supporters in Israel and around the world. We salute you for your generosity of spirit!

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Rivka

Prof. Rivka Carmi



Anna Shani with
Roy J. Zuckerberg

The Sam Zuckerberg Scholarship at Oxford Brookes Named

Anna Shani has been awarded the Sam Zuckerberg Scholarship for Israel to attend Oxford Brookes University for the coming academic year. The scholarship, made possible through the support of Roy J. Zuckerberg of the USA, covers fees, accommodation and some living expenses for the academic year for a BGU graduate to pursue a one-year full-time Master's program at Oxford Brookes University.

Shani is in her final undergraduate year in the Department of Hotel and Tourism Management at the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management. At Oxford Brookes she will be studying for her MSc. in Business Management.

"I always had big ambitions for myself, but when you live in a small town like Yokneam you can't even imagine the possibility that you might get the opportunity to study somewhere like Oxford Brookes University. I appreciate and cherish it. I'm super excited and I know that this year will be full of action and learning and I'm looking forward to it!" she declares.

The scholarship is the brainchild of the Oxford Jewish Chaplaincy Board, in particular Isaac Garson and Sandra Dwek, active members of the Oxford Jewish Congregation. Isaac is a well-known and experienced international educator and past chair of the Board. Sandra is an alumna of Brookes' law faculty and a former member of its Chancellor's Court.

Chairman Emeritus of BGU's Board of Governors Roy J. Zuckerberg granted the scholarship to honor the memory of his father, Sam. Now in its third year, previous recipients include Elad Almog, who studied international tourism marketing, and Yasmeen Haj-Amar, currently studying education.



Back row, (l-r): Hanania Havion, Baruch Shafir, Yair Magen, Ehud Shiloni, BGU student Dudu Biton, Yifrach Leizerovitch, Shaul Sapir, Ruth Avni. Front row, (l-r): Shimshon Zucker, Yoseph Hananel, Ben-Zion Rodoy and Uri Shilo

Palmach Veterans Launch Scholarship Fund

Veterans and family members established “The Families Fund of *Hayot Hanegev* Warriors (from the Palmach-Negev Brigade) to provide scholarships to students from the town of Ofakim. The fund was launched at the annual Israeli Scholarship Event organized by the Office of the Dean of Students on the 15th of May, exactly sixty-six years to the day of the Arab military invasion into the new State of Israel.

Speaking on behalf of his father – *Hayot Hanegev* commander Simcha Shiloni – Ehud Shiloni explained the decision to create a fund that would honor the unit’s actions. The *Hayot* warriors, he explained, who were among the few to face the invading Egyptian army, went on to participate in all the major operations in the Negev, and when the war was over they went home and faded into the anonymity of daily life and the severe economic crisis of the early years. “I doubt that any of them was fortunate enough to acquire a higher education, and it seems that in those days there were no scholarships or donors,” he said.

“We, the family members, believe that it is fitting and proper to act to preserve the heritage of the warriors and the memory of those who died fighting, and to do so by looking not back to the past but rather forward to the future – by way of assisting students who gain knowledge at the University which is situated here in the Negev, in Beer-Sheva.”

They chose to launch a fund to help students from Ofakim, a town that is close to where they were originally based, with hopes that their fund will grow and grant scholarships to students from across the Negev.

In Their Parents’ Honor

Ofra Makover of Maccabim, Israel, recently established the Mira & Zwi Zurr Scholarship Endowment Fund, together with her siblings, in memory of their parents. Zwi Zurr was a long-time member of the Board of Governors and Executive Committee. He received an honorary doctorate in 1998 for his deep commitment to the Negev. This is the second scholarship fund established by the Zurr-Makover families: In 2006, Ofra helped to establish the Rachel and Alexander Makover Scholarship Endowment Fund in memory of her husband’s parents.

“The people we commemorate through these funds taught us how important it is to strengthen the future generations. My parents Mira and Zwi were very modest and generous people, and instilled those values in us – urging us to live simply and give to those in need. They believed in the huge potential of the Negev, made their home here and contributed to the region. For me, supporting BGU students to honor their memory just felt right,” she said at the Israeli Scholarship Event in May.



Ofra Makover

Shira Eting to Receive the Rivka Carmi Scholarship

This year's Rivka Carmi Scholarship at Exeter College, University of Oxford, will be awarded to Shira Eting. "I studied math and computer science at BGU between 2005-2008," Eting says. At Oxford, she will study for her MSc in Environmental Change and Management.

Now in its third year, the Rivka Carmi Scholarship at Oxford is the first partnership between Oxford and an Israeli university. Prof. Raymond Dwek, director of the Oxford Glycobiology Institute, Emeritus Fellow of Exeter College and special advisor to President Carmi on biotechnology, has been a close partner in the creation of the Scholarship, as well as the creation of the British-Israel Life Sciences Council, of which he and BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi are co-chairs with British Ambassador to Israel HE Matthew Gould.

Dwek notes that "Shira continues the tradition of outstanding BGU students coming to Oxford in this unique program, and reflects the high academic standards at BGU which are a beacon in the development of the Negev."

"I am very happy to receive this significant fellowship because it enables me to finance my studies at one of the best universities in the world," she continues. "I am looking forward to studying at Oxford because, a few years from now, I envision myself leading a transition in environmental issues in Israel. I believe that Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment is the perfect place for my studies, where I can meet excellent students and teachers from different countries, enrich my knowledge and gain new tools. I feel honored and grateful for this fellowship and for the right to represent Ben-Gurion University of the Negev," she says.

The scholarship is provided by the Ben-Gurion University Foundation in the UK with the generous support of Sir Ronald Cohen, the chairman of Big Society Capital, Britain's first social investment bank, the founder of Apax Partners, Bridges Ventures and the Portland Trust and a pioneer in the area of social investment. The first Scholarship went to Liza Futerman, and Efrat Ben-Eliezer is currently completing her degree in medical anthropology.



Yael Sarig (far right) with scholarship recipients and Prof. Rivka Carmi

Educating Leaders for the Future

Students from the Moshal Scholarship Program were on-hand to cheer as Yael Sarig received the certificate on behalf of the Program as it was recognized and added to the Ben-Gurion Society during the 44th Board of Governors Meeting. Established at BGU in 2010, the Moshal Scholarship Program supports over 60 BGU students in the Faculties of Engineering and Health Sciences. The Program provides funding for students at several universities in Israel, South Africa and the Ukraine, for the duration of their undergraduate degrees. By enabling these young people to continue to higher education and by providing training for entry into the workplace, founder Martin Moshal hopes that Moshal scholars will eventually take leadership roles in Israeli industry and improve their own and their families' lives.



L-r: HE Matthew Gould, Shira Eting, Prof. Rivka Carmi and Prof. Raymond Dwek



Seated (l-r): Remy Berrebi, Susy Zlotowski and Adelene Zlotowski, with Zlotowski Admission Award students

Zlotowski Admission Awards Benefit the Best and Brightest

Many of the University's most impressive students credit the Zlotowski Admission Award for Outstanding Students as the principal factor in their decision to study at BGU. Since its inception some 15 years ago by Suzanne Zlotowski of the United Kingdom, thousands of students have benefitted from the scholarship that covers first year tuition fees.

This year, a total of 138 students are receiving the prestigious award, which is offered to students with exceptional matriculation and psychometric exam scores.

Zlotowski Award students consistently prove that their award is well-deserved. They have maintained highest grades at the departmental and faculty levels, and often receive additional prizes for outstanding achievements. The percentage of Zlotowski students who pursue graduate degrees at BGU is significantly higher than that of other students.

Ido Geva from the Department of Psychology spoke on behalf of this year's recipients at the Annual Zlotowski Lecture during the 44th Board of Governors Meeting. "Ever since I was a teenager, I knew I wanted to study at Ben-Gurion University. I had a gut feeling that I would be happy studying in a place with a vibrant student life, and now I know I've made the right decision. At BGU there are so many ways to get involved in the community and the options are endless.

"As for my studies, I have always been fascinated by the human brain, so it was very exciting to start studying at the Department of Psychology in the cognitive science track. We study human behavior, why people behave the way they do, what affects them and how our brain works – all wrapped up in an interdisciplinary approach that reflects the wide span of this field and the great promise it holds for the future.

"Dear Susy, thanks to you, so many talented students can choose to study at BGU and achieve their dreams. On behalf of all Zlotowski Award recipients, thank you for believing in us and in what we can become. Thank you for helping us realize our abilities and make our own impact on the Negev and the State of Israel."

You can make a difference in someone's life. To fund a scholarship or fellowship, please contact us at donors@bgu.ac.il or through your nearest Associates office.

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