How the Pratt Foundation Fellowship Changed My Life

By Pratt Fellow Alumni of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

June, 2019
June 16, 2019

Mrs. Jeanne Pratt AC
Pratt Foundation
Australia

Dear Mrs. Pratt,

I hope you may remember that several years ago we had dinner, together with the late President Shimon Peres, in New Delhi. At the time, I was the Dean of Life Sciences at Tel Aviv University.

As of January of this year, I am the new President of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. I was particularly thrilled to learn of the Pratt Foundation’s spectacular support of our graduate students throughout the years.

I am touched to learn of your strong interest in the whereabouts of our talented Pratt Fellow alumni, and hope you will enjoy this booklet – with a sampling of reports from our grateful alumni and their impressive achievements to date. Your inspiring support of our talented and ambitious researchers will ensure that they realize their scientific potential to the fullest.

We are deeply grateful for our loyal and devoted friends “down under.” Thank you for playing such an integral role in our student’s lives. They embody our brightest hope for the future of the Negev, Israel and the world and will help us realize the vision of David Ben-Gurion.

I hope to have the privilege of meeting you soon, here at BGU or in Australia.

In friendship,

Prof. Daniel A. Chamovitz
President
Elan Levy

**Years as Pratt Fellow:** 2014-2018

**Motto:** “The best way to lift one’s self up is to help someone else” (Booker T. Washington).

**Degree Received:** PhD in Geology.

**My Research:** I investigated the geochemical history of the Dead Sea brine derived from pore-fluids in deep-drilled cores.

**Why I Chose it:** I have always been fascinated by the natural processes on Earth – this is what brought me to study geology. Being one of the most concentrated lakes on the planet, and with a unique chemical composition, the Dead Sea is a geological wonder. I was motivated to explore how this unique lake had evolved over geological time, from a chemical perspective, as a result of climate change, precipitation and dissolution of salts in the lake, and interaction with the surrounding rocks of the region.

**My BGU Experience:** I studied at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev for my three degrees (i.e., BSc, MSc and PhD) and my experience was thoroughly positive. The social environment at the University was blooming and invigorating, both on the campus and in the city of Beer-Sheva. Volunteering played a major role in my life. From an academic perspective I also received the best possible support at the University, which allowed me to produce top quality research and publish some great papers in international journals of high scientific impact.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I am married and have two young children. I am still living in Beer-Sheva and travel most days of the week to the Geological Survey of Israel to do some research. Later this year, I will start a post-doc at the Max Planck Institute of Chemistry in Mainz, Germany. Recently I received the Dr. Asaf Gur excellence award for PhD students from the Geological and Environmental Sciences Department at BGU. I am passionate about the outdoors, and most of my free time involves trips around Israel with my family and teaching my children about the natural environment we live in.

**My Goals:**

I want to continue to unravel and explore how climate has affected and been recorded in the geological environment and pursue a career in academia. I want to motivate and guide people, in particular the younger generation, to study geology, climate and the environment.
My Message to the Pratt Foundation: This scholarship allowed me to research a subject I would have never been able to study otherwise. It allowed for fruitful academic research, numerous publications in high impact journals, and a newfound understanding of how the Dead Sea composition changes over geological time. Finally, the Pratt Fellowship opened a window to a possible academic career for me, and for this I am sincerely thankful.
Inbar Levi Ram

**Years as Pratt Fellow:** 2016-2017

**Motto:** Listen to your intuition and try new things.

**Degree Received:** MSc in Hydrology and Water Quality.

**My Research:** Biofiltration of Atrazine-Contaminated water.

**Why I Chose It:** I'm very interested in biological remediation of environmental pollution, an area which I think is very important.

**My BGU Experience:** I completed both my BSc and MSc degrees at BGU and very much enjoyed my studies.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I'm married and a mother of two, doing part of my PhD at Monash University, Melbourne.

I enjoy traveling, hiking and sports activities such as Gyrotonic.

**My Goal:**

**To help create a greener world.**

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** I'd like to acknowledge the Pratt Foundation for supporting me during my studies. This support made it possible for me to study for a PhD with overseas collaboration while raising young kids.
Moshe Unger

**Years as Pratt Fellow: 2014-2018**

**I believe:** I believe in luck and in people. The harder I work and see an opportunity in every difficulty, the luckier I become.

**Degree Received:** PhD in Software and Information Systems Engineering.

**My Research:** Context Inference and Modeling for Recommender Systems.

**Why I Chose It:** From an early age, I have always loved computers. In the ninth grade I started studying at the Open University in Israel and that was when I fell in love with engineering and computers interaction.

**My BGU Experience:** I studied at BGU for ten years and volunteered at the Lillian and Larry Goodman Open Apartments Program. As part of my studies, I taught a variety of courses and I really liked the desert atmosphere.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I’m a postdoc researcher at NYU Stern School of Business. I live in NYC and work with Prof. Alexander Tuzhillin in the field of recommender systems.

**My Goal:** My goal is to be an academic faculty member at BGU.

**I love the desert and I really want to teach and educate the next generation of students in Beer-Sheva.**

In addition, I want to be a professor and keep inventing new technologies that will eventually help to improve our way of life.

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** Thanks for letting me concentrate on improving and educating the next generation of students, and thanks for helping me be a better researcher.
Keren Shalev

**Years as Pratt Fellow:** 2017-

**I Believe:** When planning settlements, you have to take people’s needs into account and consider their cultural past and present, to create healthy life environments, and help communities form their own identities and feel connected to where they live.

**Degree to be Received:** PhD

**My Research:** Urbanization Processes of Rural Spaces in Israel (kibbutzim, moshavim and community settlements), with interdisciplinary tools that combine typological/spacial, social/communal and socioeconomic/demographic aspects.

**Why I Chose It:** Israel is a small and crowded country with limited land, and thus land policies and land utilization have long-term repercussions. Changes in rural spaces are perceived as a threat since they cause lack of diversity, coherence and local identity, which were characteristic of older settlements and are rapidly disappearing. To maintain these characteristics at a time of rapid development,

**my research aims to comprise a broad multidisciplinary research base of urbanization processes in Israel and**

their repercussions on rural settlements, and the residents’ sense of identity and belonging.

**My BGU Experience:** This is my fifth year studying at the Sede Boqer campus (first doing my masters and now my doctorate). I’m very happy at the university, both with my department and with the people.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I’ve been living in the Negev for the past ten years with my husband and two daughters. We really love the desert and live in a small settlement called Be’er Milka, situated on a beautiful sand dune overlooking the Sinai. I’m grateful for the opportunity to raise my daughters in the desert while advancing my academic and professional career. Since our settlement is young and remote, we have an active community and lots of opportunities for me to volunteer and contribute to planning and design projects. My research is very relevant to where I live and enables me to influence local planning. Together with my family, I also volunteer in renovating homes and buildings of various associations that provide support for weaker populations. Volunteering is a great gift and a special experience and we are grateful to be able to give back.
**My Goals:** I want to expand my knowledge on the development of rural space in Israel, to publish articles and participate in conferences. I hope to stay in academia, continue my research and play a significant role in future planning in Israel.

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** I want to thank the Pratt Foundation for the financial support that enables me to advance my doctoral research while living in the periphery and raising my family. Thank you for inspiring me to help others.
Nadav Even Chorev

**Years as Pratt Fellow:** 2014-2016

**Degree Received:** PhD

**My Research:** "Coming from Blindness to Uncertainty": Configurations of Risk and Uncertainty in Information Technologies in the Field of Personalized Medicine.

**Why I Chose It:** Risk and uncertainty have become central to the discourse of many fields. A few years before I began my PhD studies, I was working as a consultant in information systems and noticed how these concepts are taken for granted in the field of information technologies, both as a means to manage risk and uncertainty, and as human-made artifacts that pose risks. This seemed to merit reflective sociological critique. Investigating these concepts and the role of information technologies in medicine was an opportunity to combine my interest in these fields. The field of personalized medicine, in particular, concerns predicting and managing future health risks. Personalized medicine is a site where advanced technologies are applied and represents a change both in medical practices and in social relations.

**My BGU Experience:** I studied at the Department of Politics and Government, with Prof. Dani Filc as my supervisor. The department invests resources in teaching and tutoring its doctoral students. It was a nurturing environment, enabling professional and intellectual growth. The Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies and the University as a whole accord importance to graduate student training. The continuing support of the Department and the University, along with the University’s dynamic atmosphere, allowed for a positive experience during my studies.

**What I’m Doing Now:** My wife and I are raising a daughter, who is nine years old. Since 2016 I have been residing in Milan, Italy, where I work as a post-doctoral fellow at IEO, European Institute of Oncology, IRCCS. I work in the Risk Assessment and Societal Impact module of the EU Horizon 2020 project “EDC-MixRisk”. This multi-partner, multi-disciplinary project – a life-sciences project which for the first time includes a full social science component – integrates epidemiological data with molecular biology studies to uncover the mechanisms underlying adverse effects of exposure to mixtures of endocrine disrupting chemicals.

This project has the potential to impact European chemical policy, and to contribute to the long-range wellbeing of the European and global population.

In addition, I initiated a reading group and a conference, and have written and published scholarly
articles. In my free time, I study Italian and take part in local community activities as much as possible.

**My Goal:** Soon I plan to move to the US, where I intend to further develop my skills and to contribute my interdisciplinary knowledge and experience in a framework that hopefully will also provide broader benefit to society.

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** Nowadays, doctoral students are viewed as the next generation of innovation, public service and particularly academia and research. Though exempt from some aspects of academic faculty activity, PhD students are expected to fulfill similar demands in an increasingly competitive labor market. Financial support is therefore crucial to ensure their success. The scholarship from the Pratt Foundation allowed me to concentrate on my studies with minimal distraction, assistance the importance of which cannot be overstated. Moreover, the Foundation’s emphasis on social contribution as part of its selection criteria for awarding scholarships serves as an acknowledgement of individual activity, which many times goes unnoticed.
Nur Shami

**Years as Pratt Fellow:** 2015-2017

**Degree Received:** About to submit my PhD in Social Work.

**My Research:** Alibi – 'I Was in a Different Place': A Participatory Action Research with Young Women in Social Work.

**Why I Chose it:** This area of research allows me to realize social work ideas and democratic values within an academic setting.

**My BGU Experience:** I started my studies at BGU as a masters student and immediately joined the teaching staff, so I experienced the joint collaboration between academia and community. I had the privilege of studying at a university that fosters creativity, initiative and cooperation between different fields and people from different areas.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I live in the Old City in Beer-Sheva, teach at the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work at BGU, and train social workers who work with teenagers. Together with my team of researchers, we adapt our approach to the teenagers’ needs and to their outlook. We run lectures, write articles and teach together. I also lead various discussion groups for social workers, students at the Lillian and Larry Goodman Open Apartments Program, teenagers, etc. I love art and poetry: they have the power to teach us about people’s reality.

Art and poetry can help people in the margins of society share their viewpoints.

**My Goals:** I want to keep doing social work research, and focus on female teenagers and young adults, and keep working with them. I hope to build a treatment system that can respond to the unique needs of today’s reality, to the challenges of social workers working in welfare systems, and to the challenges facing at-risk female teenagers and young adults suffering from poverty, exclusion and distress.

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** Many times I’ve heard people say “Dream it and do it!” and my message is that you really can. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to do my unique research with young women, who are usually on welfare. Without the Pratt Foundation’s support, it would have been difficult to realize my dreams and ideas.

Your help let me cross the bridge between dreaming and doing.
Offer Rozenstein

*Years as Pratt Fellow: 2012-2014*

**Degree Received:** PhD

**My Research:** Remote Sensing of Terrestrial Systems.

**Why I Chose It:** I’ve always been passionate about earth observation.

**My BGU Experience:** I studied at BGU for nine wonderful years and completed all three of my academic degrees there. I came to Beer-Sheva looking for a “college experience” and later moved to the lovely Sede Boqer campus to live in a small, yet vibrant desert community.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I live in Tel-Aviv by the beach with my partner whom I met at BGU.

I work as a researcher at the Agricultural Research Organization, Volcani Center, in the field of digital agriculture - modelling crop water use to support precision irrigation and increase agricultural water use efficiency.

**My Goal:** To conduct excellent research in my field and train my graduate students to be top-notch scientists.

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Pratt Foundation for enabling and supporting me during a critical period in my academic training.
Reuth Mirsky

Years as Pratt Fellow: 2016-2018

Motto:
Find time to volunteer. The good you do will come back to you in ways you never imagined.

Degree Received: PhD

My Research: Plan Recognition.

Why I Chose It: I believe in systems that can reason about their users' goals and plans, as they can be better collaborators and help us achieve our goals.

My BGU Experience: I did all of my degrees at BGU: a BSc in Computer Science and a masters and PhD in Software and Information Systems Engineering.

What I'm Doing Now: I'm a post-doc at the University of Texas in Austin. I just moved there with my husband, daughter and our two cats.

My Goals: To promote the human factor in AI, and make better human-friendly systems.

My Message to the Pratt Foundation: Thanks to the Pratt Foundation, I was able to focus on my research and achieve so many great milestones. During my time as a Pratt fellow I got married, became a mother, and published two conference papers and three journal articles.
Rinat Cohen

**Years as Pratt Fellow:** 2013-2017

**Degree Received:** PhD

**My Research:** What Motivates Pupils to Study? Personal Characteristics of Pupils, Behavior of Teachers and the Connection Between Them.

**Why I Chose It:** I wanted to examine the personal characteristics of pupils and environmental behavior, as potential factors that form the pupil’s perception of their teachers. This perception influences the pupil’s motivation to study. Today, most educational studies focus on teachers and their behavior in the classroom as a main factor that affects pupils’ study motivation. In my research, I wanted to shed light on the pupil's active role in forming his own study motivation, instead of just seeing him as a responder whose actions are based on behavior of the environment, as is assumed in many research studies.

**My BGU Experience:** I did all of my degrees at the wonderful BGU. I also worked as a teaching assistant and a statistics advisor at the Departments of Education and Psychology and at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I’m married to Uriel and we have three great kids: Yoav, Itamar and Ayala. We live in a town in the Negev. I am presently doing my postdoc at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. I love to read and go on nature hikes.

**My Goals:** To keep doing what I love – asking questions and doing research!

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** In this era, in which women must make a living while maintaining their traditional roles, such as raising children and doing the housework, pursuing an academic career is difficult and almost impossible without assistance – and especially financial support.

Women have a more difficult journey, full of challenges and pressures. But my dream to study and keep doing what I love was stronger than the setbacks, and it was made possible thanks to the financial support I received during my studies from the Pratt Foundation.

I would like to thank the Pratt Foundation for their support that let me study, while at the same time providing for my family and being a mother!
My Research: Seismic-Wave Propagation and Ground Motion Prediction During Strong Earthquakes: The Dead Sea Transform.

Why I Chose it: Over one-third of the world’s population lives in earthquake-prone regions. To mitigate losses during earthquakes, the distribution of damage must be anticipated ahead of time. This is crucial for designing new buildings, retrofitting existing ones, and planning rapid response to future earthquakes.

Given that the rate of potentially destructive earthquakes will remain constant, and that population density will continue to increase rapidly, the number of people exposed to seismic hazard will steeply rise. I wanted to make a difference.

My BGU Experience: The Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences at BGU was, and still is, my second home, and my second family (now that I have one of my own). I enjoyed my time as a PhD student at BGU and even as I was studying I knew I would miss it once it was over. I surely do. As a PhD student at BGU, you are expected to teach or assist in teaching some courses. Not all universities in Israel do that and it provides an opportunity to influence young students and their passion for the subjects being taught. My experience as a teaching assistant and later as a course lecturer allowed me to be close to the students who chose to study at BGU. I always thought there was something special about them.

What I’m Doing Now: I am doing my third year as a postdoc researcher at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. I am also a researcher in the Seismology and Acoustics group at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute. In this project, I ventured into a new field of research to study interaction of seismic-waves in the solid-earth with acoustic-waves in the oceans and atmosphere. The physical process by which these two wave fields are coupled in all three media is yet to be fully understood by the seismo-acoustic community. I study earthquakes and nuclear explosions as sources of both seismic and acoustic waves and use models to explain the observed signals from such events. In my publications, I successfully explain observations that were previously discarded as artefacts. This motivates me to keep pursuing my line of research.
I moved to Delft in The Netherlands in February 2017 with my life partner and our child, then not even two years old. A year later we had twins (!!!), which added to the challenge of starting a life in a new place without any help from nearby grandparents. Delft is a small university city, which makes it very international and our experience here has been great so far.

I continue to pursue my semi-professional hobby that is all forms of climbing (rock, ice, mountain, etc.). Although the Netherlands is not the best place to pursue this, there are plenty of places you can just drive to without even noticing that you have crossed through four different countries.

**My Goal:** As a person who is driven by curiosity, I would like to continue pursuing a career as a scholar. I also enjoy teaching and passing on my knowledge to others, whether formally, to students in a classroom or informally, during science outreach at a bar or a museum.

I will continue working along the lines of earthquake research to generate practical methods for engineers, useful data for seismic hazard assessments, educate policy makers and response personnel, and to further our knowledge on these intricate geophysical processes that are simply fascinating.

**My Message to Pratt Foundation:** The scholarship I received from the Pratt Foundation allowed me to focus on my challenging PhD research with very little distractions. I also enjoyed very much the occasional gatherings we had with other Pratt fellows to learn about each other’s research and discuss science and life. For this I am utterly grateful.
Sigal Naim

Years as Pratt Fellow: 2014-2016

I Believe: In my research I try to show that old people are no different than young people. They have the same or even more experience and abilities.

Degree Received: PhD

My Research: Elders on Social Network Sites: Patterns of Use, Benefits and Risks.

Why I Chose It: I’m a gerontologist. I wanted to combine study in my field of research with a new interesting topic: technology.

My BGU Experience: The University has a vibrant student life and emphasizes accomplishments and excellence.

What I’m Doing Now: I’m married with three children (aged 17, 15 and 11), and live in Shimshit – a small community in the Yezreel Valley. I’m a gerontologist, and work as a lecturer at the Department of Gerontology at Ben-Gurion University and at the Departments of Human Services and Nursing at Yezreel Academic College. I finished my post-doc at Ariel University in the School of Communication, focusing on digital literacy of senior citizens. I’m now involved in several studies: at Ariel University - elder Wikipedia contributors: “Do Baby Boomers “Speak” Emoji Like the Z generation and How They Interpret It”, at Yezreel Academic College: “Perceptions Regarding Ageism in TV Commercials - a Comparative Study: A Life Course Perspective on Gendered Pathways of Exclusion From Social Relations in Later Life, and its Consequences on Health and Wellbeing” (a study funded by the European Commission), and at Haifa University: “Preferences of Living Arrangements in Old Age, the Association for the Elder Population in Israel.” I also serve as a board member in the Israeli Gerontology Association and ROSEnet, a European research network on aging.

My Goal: To continue studying in this field.

My Message to the Pratt Foundation: With the help of the Pratt Fellowship, I managed to complete my doctoral studies on time. This support showed me that the age of the candidate makes no difference to the quality of their research.

It is never too late to study.
Tal Moran Yorovich

Years as Pratt Fellow: 2013-2016

Degree Received: PhD

My Research: My research focuses on implicit social cognition. I investigate the underlying processes and moderators of the automatic activation of stereotypes, attitudes and beliefs.

Why I Chose It: I hope that by studying the factors that contribute to the automatic activation of stereotypes, attitudes and beliefs, I will add to existing knowledge on how automatic social biases are formed and how they change.

Hopefully, this knowledge will contribute to the development of effective intervention programs to fight automatic social biases.

My BGU Experience: I had a great research experience in BGU. During my years at BGU, I learned different experimental and statistical methods that continue to contribute to my research. I received great theoretical and methodological guidance from the faculty members.

What I’m Doing Now: I hold a postdoc research position at Ghent University in Belgium. I continue to study implicit social cognition in one of the most expert labs in the world in this field. I relocated to Belgium with my husband and three children.

My Goal: My goal is to apply for a faculty position in Israel within the next few years. I hope to open a new lab that will investigate implicit social cognition.

My Message to the Pratt Foundation: The years I spent studying for my doctoral degree were financially challenging, especially since I also started a family during that period. The financial support I received from the Pratt Foundation enabled me to devote my time to doctoral research and to publish my research findings.
I Believe: People think superstitions are a thing of the past, but we all have them. They’re part of every society. I’m trying to expose the truth about superstitions and reveal it to others.

Degree Received: PhD

My Research: The Tripling and Dressing of Convert Abner of Burgess.

Why I Chose It: This topic had never been researched. It has many repercussions on Jewish thought. I received many awards for my doctoral dissertation (Pines, Warburg, Toledano for Youth, and Ben Zvi Institute awards).

My BGU Experience: I had a very positive study experience. After I did my post-doc at the Van Leer Institute in the Polonsky program at Tel-Aviv University, and studied at Bar-Ilan University and at the Hebrew University, I returned to BGU two and a half years ago as a senior lecturer at the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought, where I did my doctorate.

What I’m Doing Now: I live in Otniel in Mount Hebron. I have ten children. My wife is one of the first female orthodox rabbis to become ordained in Israel. I enjoy long distance running, and compete in marathons and half marathons.

My Goals:
I hope to become one of the leading researchers in medieval Jewish philosophy. Another of my goals is to enable medieval religious philosophy (Jewish, Muslim and Christian) to affect the modern world by adapting it to modern philosophy and needs.

My message to the Pratt Foundation: This scholarship let me devote my time to research in the most optimal way during my doctoral studies. Thanks to this support, I completed my doctorate thesis with over ten articles that were unrelated to my thesis. This enabled me to receive many prizes and a scholarship for post-doc studies and eventually to obtain an academic position.
Yanir Kadosh

**Years as Pratt Fellow:** 2017-

**Degree to be Received:** PhD

**My Research:** Electrochemical Oxidation of Methane for the Production of Methanol and Power Generation.

**Why I Chose It:** Energy conversion and environmental aspects have always interested me.

**What I’m Doing Now:** I like to combine social and volunteering activities with my academic activities. My wife is an early childhood education student at Kaye College of Education in Beer-Sheva. We like traveling together every Saturday, especially hiking in nature. We also love to spend quality time with our families and close friends. In my spare time, mainly on Fridays, I volunteer at the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Israel in Beer-Sheva.

**My Goal:** When I finish my studies, I plan to start working as a researcher in the field of electrochemical energy conversion.

**My Message to the Pratt Foundation:** Your contribution has helped me very much. It is very hard for me to combine work with engineering studies. You made it so much easier for me to concentrate on my studies, and thanks to your support I’m less worried about my financial situation.
Past and Present Pratt Fellows and Their (Amazingly Diverse!) Research:

**Boaz Arad**: Hyperspectral Properties of Natural Scenes. I use equipment traditionally suited for either aerial imaging or microscopy to explore the hidden properties of everyday scenes, which consumer imaging equipment and the human eye are unable to detect.

**Nur Shimei**: Social Work with Girls and Young Adult Females in Distress (Participatory Action Research with Young Adult Females)

**Orna Donath**: Sociologist-Feminist Inquiry of the Wide Landscape of Non-Mothering and Mothering Experiences that May Replete with Dialectical Tensions

**Aviad Hadar**: Neural and Behavioral Correlates of Smartphone Usage

**Ittai Herrmann**: Remote and Proximal Spectral Sensing in the Fields of Agriculture and Ecology

**Letizia Cerqueglini**: Linguistic and Cognitive Fieldwork On the Language and Cognition of Space Among the Arab Tribes of the Negev

**Hila Cohen**: Social Entrepreneurship and Social Entrepreneurs’ Psychology. An investigation of the unique characteristics of the social entrepreneur, such as motivation, values and ethics.

**Hagit Damri**: The Action Heroine Hermetic Body as a Cultural Reaction to the Crisis of the Female Body

**Boris Khalfin**: Proteases Involved in Cellular Responses to IFN-γ: Development of Inhibitors with Clinical Potential

**Moshe Unger**: Context Inference and Modeling with Deep Learning Techniques. Learning behavioral patterns of users from their mobile phones and improving their usability in various applications.

**Rinat Cohen**: Student’s Perceptions of Their Educational Environment and the Influences on Their Motivation to Learn and Their Emotions

**Nadav Even Chorev**: Ways in Which Risk and Uncertainty are Configured, Managed and Understood in the Emerging Field of Personalized Medicine (Also Known as Genomic or Precision Medicine)

**Yaniv Mezuman**: Rabbi Shalom Sharabi’s Intentions of Prayer Throughout the Ages of Kabbalah

**Reuth Mirsky**: Online Plan Recognition

**Sigal Pearl Naim**: Older Adults in Social Network Sites (SNS): Use Patterns, Benefits and Risks

**Shifra Kisch**: Structures of Opportunity Choices and Life Trajectories of Ambitious Bedouin Men and Women who, Despite Many Obstacles, Obtain Degrees in Audiology and Speech Therapy from Jordanian Universities
Elad Wexler: Bohemia of Tel-Aviv in the Sixties and Seventies

Iftah Nudel: Biomechanics of the Compartment Syndrome of the Limbs

Niva Levy: Designing Covalent Inhibitors for the Virulence Regulator in Cholera

Nuphar Katzman: Development and Design of Technological Devices for Soldiers in Operational Environments From a Human Factors Engineering Perspective

Nitzan Shtreimer Kandiyote: Using Synergistic Combinations on Antimicrobial Peptide/Vancomycin on Surfaces and Reverse Osmosis Membranes

Ido Ben-Dayan: Theoretical Cosmology: Was There Something Prior to the Big Bang?

Elan J. Levy: Geochemistry of the Porewater (Water Extracted From These Cores) and How It Shows the Chemical Evolution of the Dead Sea Water Over the Last 220 Thousand Years

Tal Moran Yorovich: The Associative Structure that Underlies the Encoding of Affective Relational Information and the Possible Implications of Affective Relational Information on Deliberate and Automatic Evaluation

Yotam Nagar: Interaction Between Ultra-Relativistic Particles Embedded in a Hydrodynamic Medium

Avi Weinberg: Incoming Records Classification by Decision Trees Induced from Massive and Heterogeneous Data Sources

Yair Gordin: Unusual Behavior of Rocks and Dynamic Issues in the Oil and Gas Industry: How Rocks Will Behave and Change in the Subsurface During Oil and Gas Reservoir Lifetime

Keren Shalev: Development of Rural Villages

Amit Alon: The Influence of Chabad Literature on the Writings of Aharon David Gordon

Chen Misgav: Memory, Planning and Foreign Policy: Revisiting Israeli Spatial involvement in Africa 1956-1973

Yanir Kadosh: Electrochemical Energy Conversion of Natural Gas

Inbar Levi Ram: Biofiltration of Atrazine-Contaminated Water

Hilel Rubenstein: Innovative Concept of Very Low Orbit Observation Satellite

Hadas Meitav: Biblical Narrative in the Writings of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

Mirit Du-nour: The World of Communal and Missionary Groups in Israel: The Way in Which the Changes in the Ideological Fulfillment in Israeli Society Shape the Relations between the Members of These Groups and Their Wider Surroundings

Roi Ram: Groundwater Systems in the Arid Region of Southern Israel

Yair Bochlin: Electrochemical Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Using Metalloporphyrin/Graphene Catalytic Systems
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) is the fastest growing research university in Israel. With 20,000 students, 4,000 staff and faculty members, and three campuses in Beer-Sheva, Sede Boqer and Eilat, BGU is an agent of change, fulfilling the vision of David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s legendary first prime minister, who envisaged the future of Israel emerging from the Negev. The University is at the heart of Beer-Sheva's transformation into the country's cyber capital, where leading multinational corporations eagerly leverage BGU’s expertise to generate innovative R&D.

As it counts up to its fiftieth anniversary, BGU’s mission continues to be effecting change, locally, regionally and internationally. With faculties in Engineering Sciences; Health Sciences; Natural Sciences; Humanities and Social Sciences; Business and Management; and Desert Studies, BGU is a university with a conscience, active both on the frontiers of science and in the community. Over a third of our students participate in one of the world's most developed community action programs. The University is a recognized national and global leader in the fields of nanotechnology, cyber security, Israel studies, drylands agriculture, biotechnology, robotics, alternative energy, hydrology, social leadership, hotel and tourism management and much more, actively encouraging multi-disciplinary collaborations with government and industry, and nurturing entrepreneurship and innovation in all its forms.

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