



## International Academic Programs

### Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program

Short-term academic programs taught in English

### Medical School for International Health

A four-year medical degree in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center

### Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies

M.A./M.Sc. in Desert Studies, M.Sc. in Hydrology & Water Quality, and a PhD program

### Honors MBA Program

An intensive one-year MBA program, with a focus on finance, entrepreneurship and marketing

### Foreign Literatures and Linguistics

Bachelor's and master's degrees in English

### International Summer School

This German-speaking program offers students of various disciplines and backgrounds the opportunity to learn the Hebrew language in a rich academic environment

### Israel Studies International Program

A master's program that integrates historical and contemporary perspectives and focuses on the emergence of Zionist ideology, the building of the Yishuv (the pre-state Jewish community in Eretz Israel), and the State of Israel

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Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established in 1969 with the aim to bring development to the Negev, a desert area comprising more than sixty percent of the country. The University was inspired by the vision of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, who believed that the future of the country lay in this region.

Today, Ben-Gurion University is a major center for teaching and research, with campuses in Beer-Sheva, including the Marcus Family Campus, as well as in Eilat and Sede Boqer, where Ben-Gurion lived in his final years and is buried. Close to 20,000 students are enrolled in the Faculties of Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management and the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies. Major University research institutes include the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev, the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research with the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism. New interdisciplinary programs are redefining the boundaries between the Faculties and attracting outstanding students. Its world-famous Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School has become a model for community-oriented and global medicine, while social work and education degree programs supply Beer-Sheva and the region with the majority of its social service personnel.

In keeping with its mandate, Ben-Gurion University plays a key role in promoting industry, agriculture and education in the Negev. University-sponsored community colleges and pre-academic and continuing education programs make learning accessible to greater numbers of Negev residents, while a myriad of community action programs involving over half of the student body benefit the various communities in the region.

Ben-Gurion University is part of the global community, with researchers sharing their expertise internationally in such fields as hi-tech, bio-tech, medicine, arid zone agriculture, solar energy, water resource management, nanotechnology and more. The University welcomes exciting challenges in innovative fields of research and strives to bring new opportunities to Beer-Sheva and the Negev while continuing its pursuit of academic excellence and expanding its contribution to the community.



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

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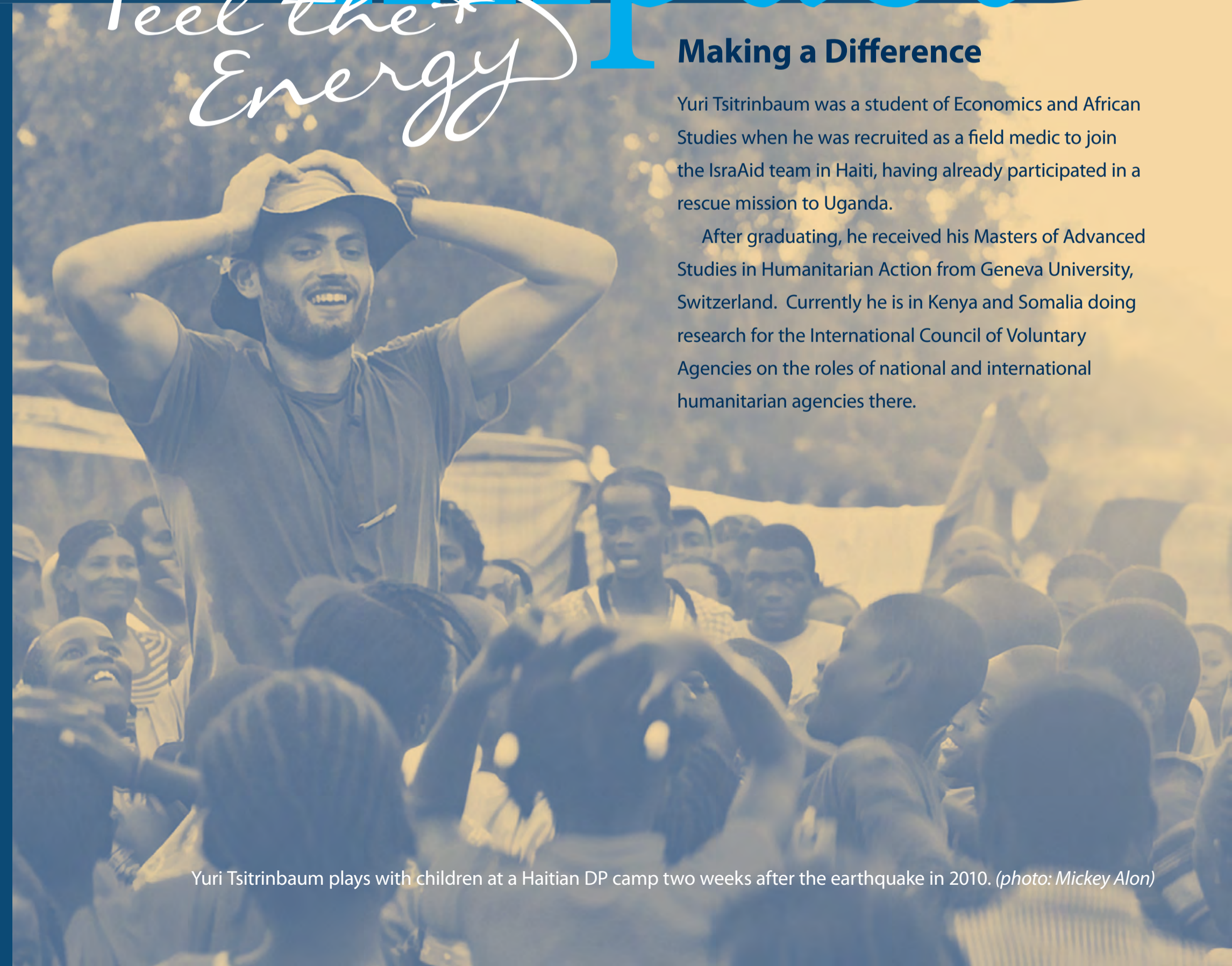
# making a global impact



## Making a Difference

Yuri Tsitrinbaum was a student of Economics and African Studies when he was recruited as a field medic to join the IsraAid team in Haiti, having already participated in a rescue mission to Uganda.

After graduating, he received his Masters of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action from Geneva University, Switzerland. Currently he is in Kenya and Somalia doing research for the International Council of Voluntary Agencies on the roles of national and international humanitarian agencies there.



Yuri Tsitrinbaum plays with children at a Haitian DP camp two weeks after the earthquake in 2010. (photo: Mickey Alon)



# health impact

## Unique Medical School Prepares Doctors for International Arena

Now in its fifteenth year, the Medical School for International Health (MSIH) in collaboration with the Columbia University Medical Center prepares doctors to address the cultural, political, economic and environmental factors that impact the health of populations and individuals. The North American style curriculum incorporates global health coursework into all four years of the program and includes

specialized workshops, lectures, modules and an international clerkship, usually in a developing country. Graduates are expected to contribute to global health through clinical work, advocacy and policy development, and research.

A recent survey of MSIH graduates found that 65 percent of alumni respondents are engaged in one or more areas of global health or serving the underprivileged.

MSIH Director Dr. A. Mark Clarfield, Sidonie Hecht Chair in Geriatrics, notes that,

*"We run what I call a 'boutique' medical school. Not only do our students enjoy the excellent facilities and staff of our Faculty of Health Sciences, but just by dint of studying in Beer-Sheva, they are exposed to a multi-cultural clientele which would be hard to find in any other developed country."*

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## Working in the World

From US prisoners to Zambian children - Spotlight on Alumni



**Melissa Dawalt Klein, MD ('05) MPH** is now an internist at the Cleveland Clinic, but recently completed work with the Unity Health Care Program, which delivers healthcare to federal correctional facilities in the Washington, D.C. area. There she learned about the tremendous difficulty that the prison population and newly-released prisoners face in receiving timely and adequate healthcare. Federal statistics

estimate that the United States prison population suffers from substance abuse problems, severe mental illness and homelessness at much higher rates than the general population. She notes that upwards of 50 percent of all inmates suffer from mental health problems such as depression, mania and psychotic disorders for which they receive sub-par care or no care at all.



**Daniel Urbine, MD ('04)** recently completed a three-year fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, and is preparing to return to Zambia for his fourth medical mission. There he works primarily in rural villages to treat malaria and other infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. He is leading a medical team from Detroit's Oak Pointe Church, which has sponsored international medical missions for the past 13 years. "You can save a child's life for \$3.00 - the cost of malaria medication," he recently reported. Urbine notes the large crowds that wait to be treated, often under makeshift tents to protect patients from the sun.

He is also involved in the construction of a medical clinic in rural Zambia through Living Hope International.

## To Save a Life

In sub-Saharan Africa the rate of infant mortality is more than 100 deaths for every thousand births, compared to the rate of 4-10/1000 in developed countries. Understanding the causes of death and planning sustainable interventions with simple low-tech interventions is the key to significantly improving outcomes.

That's the core philosophy behind a project in Kumasi, Ghana begun by doctors from the

major percentage of deaths of children under five, improving newborn care is significant in achieving this goal.

Prof. Emeritus Michael Karplus, along with Golan and Dr. Eilon Shani, launched the project in 2004/5 to help the two million people of Kumasi achieve this goal.

With funding from the Foreign Ministry's MASHAV program, assistance from the World

and a continuous electricity supply. Low cost interventions combined with health education achieve the highest results, she contends.

Other interventions include promoting breast feeding and adoption of the "Kangaroo Mother Care" model in which the babies are kept in constant physical contact with their mothers. "There is a significant shortage in medical staff, so mothers undertake most of the care for their babies. This is also a unique setup to promote health education, which will be of significant effect as the babies are discharged to their homes," Golan explains.

For now, the BGU team is made up mostly of volunteers. "This project has a significant impact on the professional development of each member of my staff," says Golan, "and we feel blessed to have such a unique opportunity to work with our Ghanaian partners."

"The philosophy of our department is not just about self-enrichment but also about sharing our knowledge with those who need it."

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Faculty of Health Sciences (FOHS). "Appropriate resuscitation at birth, maintaining the right temperature, proper nutrition, promoting and encouraging breastfeeding, and prevention of infection can all reduce infant mortality," says Dr. Agneta Golan, head of the Soroka University Medical Center's Neonatal ICU and a member of the Department of Neonatology at the FOHS.

The project is in concordance with the UN's Millennium Development Goals to reduce mortality of children under five by two-thirds by 2015. Since infant mortality represents a

Health Organization and a dedicated medical team from both sides, two neonatal units were designed, built and equipped in two regional hospitals in Kumasi.

"There's no hope of keeping infection at bay with three babies to a bed," Golan says. "This by itself reduces infant mortality."

The units implement simple low-tech interventions such as temperature-controlled rooms that accommodate many babies rather than sophisticated incubators that require high maintenance

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Dr. Agneta Golan (center, kneeling) in Kumasi, Ghana



# social impact



## BGU Geneticist Makes Landmark Appearance on the BBC's Doha Debates

In a singular honor for an Israeli, BGU geneticist Prof. Ohad Birk (2nd from left) appeared on the BBC's Doha Debates. He was invited to participate as "a leader in genetic diseases in Arabs" to discuss cousin marriages. The Doha Debates reaches more than 400 million homes around the world. Birk is the head of the Morris Kahn Laboratory of Human Genetics at BGU's National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev. His work has led to the discovery of some twenty genetic diseases in the Bedouin community resulting from the high rate of consanguinity.

## Alean Al-Krenawi Pursues Regional Cooperation in Qatar

Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi (center) from the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work went farther afield recently to help a burgeoning program of social work – in Qatar. "During my visit to Qatar I gave a workshop for social workers from Hamad Medical Corporation and students of social work and faculty from Qatar University," he says. Al-Krenawi met with the chair of the department and professors of social work. "We discussed future collaborations on regional research."



## Restoring Cultural Cohesion Through Art and Symbols

"Israel has so many problems that we forget how much we've learned from them. We can use our experience to help others," declares Dr. Ephrat Huss of the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work.

Huss has transformed a national history full of pain and conflict into tools for coping with war and disaster. She has developed

arts-based resilience projects that help communities and individuals cope. "Because Israel is so multicultural, the arts are used a lot in social work, so the field is more developed here than in other places," she explains.

Huss recently transplanted some of the projects developed in Israel to Sri Lanka, a country wracked by civil war and natural disasters. Together with the UK-based NGO Tag International Development, she has launched a scheme to train local Sri Lankan leaders in the use of art to restore symbolic coherence to communities.

"After a disaster the symbolic forms of community cohesion shatter under the pressure of survival. One way to cope is to create a story of the disaster through symbols, thereby deriving meaning out of it," Huss says. For example, "Wall paintings can be a didactic

tool to warn people about minefields or what to do if there's another tsunami. Repainting temples can be reassuring because people turn to religion for solace and Hinduism is very visual," she says.

The project stresses the training and involvement of local leaders and artists to encourage sustainability. Huss devises the projects and evaluates them to determine what is feasible. The projects can also assist specific sectors of Sri Lanka's population by involving unemployed young men, helping young widows start small businesses and reintegrating students into school.

"International social work is a growing field and Israel has a lot to contribute," Huss says. "Social work straddles the line between research and practice and it's great to be able to do both in one project."



## New Center to Bring Bologna Process to Israel



Dr. Sharon Pardo

Dr. Sharon Pardo, a Jean Monnet Chair in European Studies in the Department of Politics and Government and Director of BGU's Centre for the Study of European Politics & Society, recently launched Israel's first Bologna Training Center (BTC) in cooperation with BGU's Centre for the Study of European Politics & Society. "The BTC sees itself as a disseminator of knowledge and information regarding the Bologna Process," explains Pardo. "We hope to trigger an informed discussion on the strategy of the Israeli higher education system concerning the Bologna Process, internationalization, and modernization of higher education in Israel."

A joint 47-country education reform project that aims to create a common European Higher Education Area, the Bologna Process was established to advance three common goals: mobility, employability and Europe's competitiveness as an educational alternative.

In 2003, BGU established the Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society to offer faculty and students the

opportunity to deepen and enhance their knowledge of contemporary political and social developments in Europe, as well as to promote a greater awareness within Israel of the growing importance of the European Union.

Recently Pardo was the only Israeli academic to take part in the Information and Training Seminar for Euro-Med Diplomats held at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in Malta. Held under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean, it was attended by diplomats from the EU, Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the PA and Israel.

"The annual Euro-Mediterranean seminar in Malta for diplomats from all Euro-Mediterranean countries aims at providing Arab and Mediterranean diplomats with state-of-the-art academic analysis and updated information on the European integration project and on the key aspects of Euro-Mediterranean relations," Pardo says.

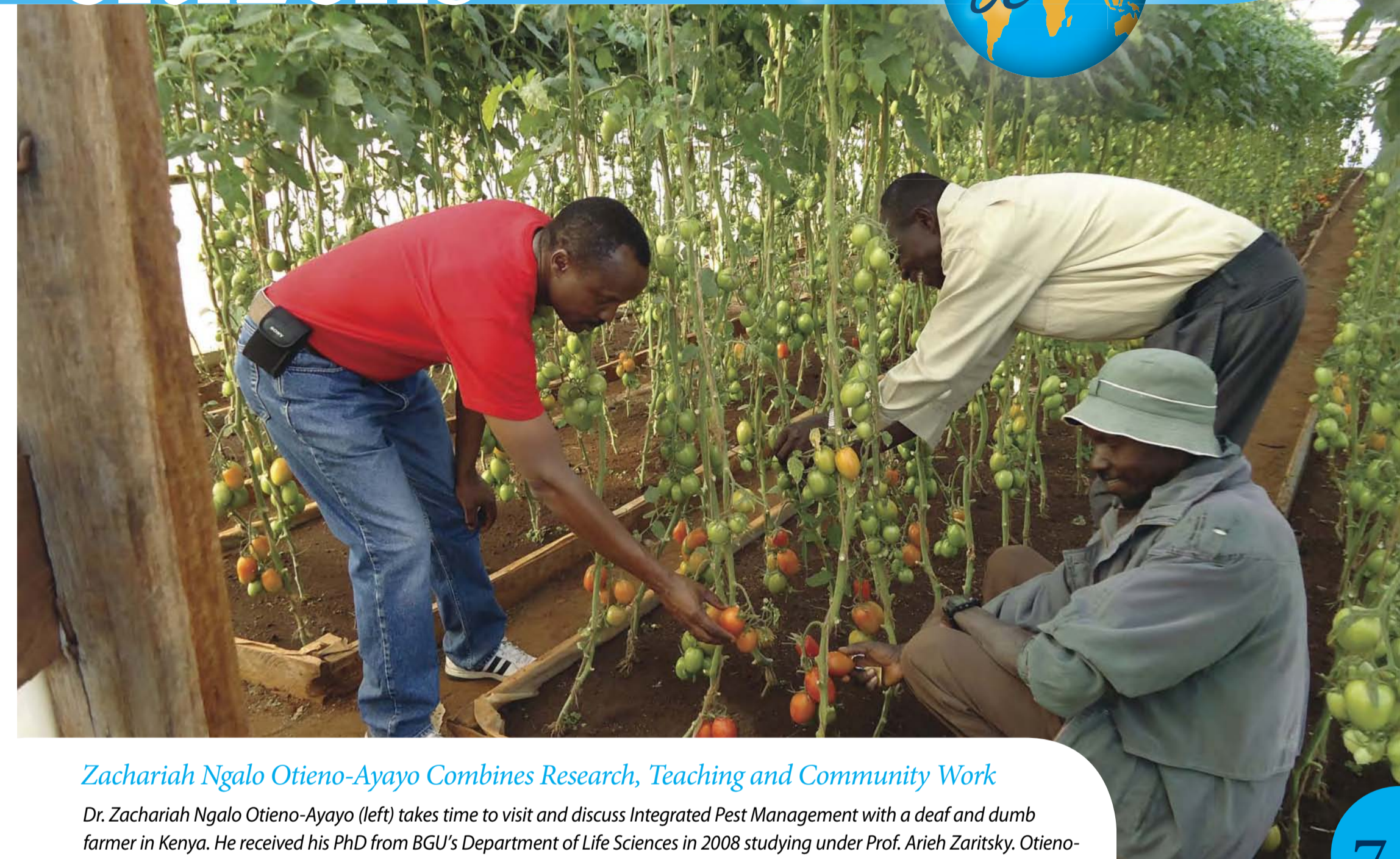


# nurturing global citizens

## Beyond the Boundaries of Language

The Student Union has launched a "Buddy System" program to encourage Israeli students to interact with their international counterparts.

A series of cultural programs took place throughout the year encouraging students from around the world to get acquainted, while minimizing the boundaries of language. They ranged from an African beat evening of a professional percussion group to a Super Bowl Pub Night; a Chill Out weekend at the Ashalim student village, movie nights, joint holiday dinners and an advocacy course arranged in cooperation with the prestigious Ambassadors Club and StandWithUs.



## Zachariah Ngalo Otieno-Ayayo Combines Research, Teaching and Community Work

Dr. Zachariah Ngalo Otieno-Ayayo (left) takes time to visit and discuss Integrated Pest Management with a deaf and dumb farmer in Kenya. He received his PhD from BGU's Department of Life Sciences in 2008 studying under Prof. Arieh Zaritsky. Otieno-Ayayo is currently the Dean of the School of Science and Technology at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton. He is also engaged in malaria diagnosis research sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Together with his colleagues, they screen for *Plasmodium falciparum* in the target locations and test a novel diagnosis method based on a chemical reaction that shows a color change. They hope to come up with a diagnostic kit to be used in remote areas where there is no electricity.

## TEDxBGU

x = independently organized TED event

### TEDxBGU Showcases Local Talent

TED Talks internet lecture videos have become a showroom for the intellectual style of the digital age. TED (the acronym for Technology, Entertainment and Design) is an American non-profit formed to disseminate "ideas worth spreading" to a growing global audience.

The idea for TEDxBGU came from Irene Koplinka-Loehr, a third-year student at the Medical School for International Health, who says she wanted to use the TEDx format and audience to highlight local stories and talent.

She earned her bachelor's degree in Studio Art at Carleton College in Minnesota, where she was a volunteer director of a center for survivors of sexual and domestic abuse. Her long-term plans are to "work as a physician in an under-served area somewhere in the world."

"Working on TEDxBGU," she relates, "was a long process. It was very time-consuming, but it was worth-while; they were such interesting people, and so passionate about what they wanted to talk about."



## Rutgers Students Learn Through Experience

Clinical Professor Jennifer Rosen Valverde and eight law students from the Rutgers School of Law–Newark spent a week in Israel learning about international human rights law and policy, specializing in identity and advocacy in Israel. Organized by Prof. Richard Isralowitz from the Spitzer Department of Social Work, the exchange included exposure to the activities of the University's Community Action Department and its wide range of outreach programs.

BGU hosts include CAD Director Vered Sarousi Katz, head of the Lillian and Larry Goodman Open Apartments Program Ilan Kalgrad and Yair Ronen, an attorney and lecturer in the Spitzer Department.



# ecological impact



A participant from the 2010 conference

*“Drylands and deserts are not wastelands. They are critical to food, water, energy and human security everywhere. That’s what makes the decisions taken at the Rio+20 of historic significance. There was agreement to ‘strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world’ and ‘to monitor, globally, land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.’*

*“World leaders also stressed the importance of science, and of measures and indicators to monitor and assess the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought. To the extent that this conference is able to advance implementation of these outcomes, it will become a major driver of change globally, and posterity will thank us for it.”*

Luc Gnacadja

## Implementing Rio+20 for Drylands

The fourth bi-annual International Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification (DDD), which will take place Nov. 12 - 15, 2012 at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, will bring together leading international experts from more than 60 countries to discuss issues related to land degradation in drylands, and their sustainable use and development.

This year’s four-day conference will focus on the outcome of the UN Conference

on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), which was held this past June, and will consider the science required for implementing their recommendations relevant to drylands and desertification, explains conference organizer Prof. Alon Tal.

Organized in cooperation with UNESCO, the event will be held in the presence of Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification Luc Gnacadja, who gave the keynote address at the 2010 conference.



## Saving the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

The Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) is being hunted into extinction for its succulent flesh – particularly sought after for the preparation of sushi and sashimi. Although fishing quotas are regulated by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the two recognized stocks are subjected to severe fishing pressure.

“BFT is a major top predator of the pelagic ecosystem of the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea that may play a key role in determining food web structure and ecosystem dynamics and whose extinction might induce drastic changes in the functioning and structure of the Atlantic ecosystem, such as cascading effects on the pelagic food web,” warns Nadia Berkovich, a PhD student in the Marine Biology and Biotechnology program at BGU’s Eilat campus. Berkovich, a student of Prof. Michal Shapira, Dean of the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies and Dr. Hanna Rosenfeld, director of the National Center for Mariculture, is a member of the EU’s SELFDOTT (Self-sustained Aquaculture and Domestication of Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus thynnus*) initiative which is seeking ways to raise the fish in captivity for the food market so the wild stocks can renew themselves.

“In addition to the quality of the BFT’s flesh, this species’ very fast growth rate (about 10 times higher than other cultured fish), good ratio of edible meat to body weight and tolerance to a wide temperature range, make it an ideal species for domestic marine aquaculture,” says Berkovich.

However, sustainable BFT production necessitates controlled sexual maturation in captivity, according to Berkovich, which is where her research comes in. Knowledge of first sexual maturity, also known as puberty, has important implications for broodstock management, and these become more important for BFT, as it takes time, feed, and labor to produce and maintain broodstocks for these large fish. To that end, she is researching the endocrine control of puberty.

Berkovich has traveled to India and Rhodes for conferences and to Croatia, where she and her colleagues conducted experiments in the Mediterranean Sea.

## Green Technology Translation

How do environmental technologies get transferred? How do people “translate” green technologies from one setting or culture to another?

These are some of the questions Dr. Yaakov Garb and his students have addressed at BGU’s Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research.

Solar water heaters are a common sight in Israel. Next door in Jordan, which has a similar climate, they have yet to reach a 20 percent distribution rate. Sandwiched between the two, and without any legislation, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has a 70-80 percent

distribution rate. Why are solar water heaters so prevalent in the PA?

“For years, Palestinians built most of the houses in Israel and so they saw that building a house meant having a solar water heater. This exposure, and the easy access to reliable systems from Israel, led to the initial takeoff of this fuel saving Israeli technology in the PA,” says Garb.

However, another of Israel’s technological achievements has had uneven success – drip irrigation in Africa.

Israelis developed drip irrigation technology and have adopted it extensively. Companies like Netafim have also made it

widely available in Africa. But in some countries, successful deployment has been minimal. Garb and BGU doctoral student Lonia Friedlander, who has studied drip irrigation systems in Africa, have developed a theory. “There is a complex system of infrastructures and social structures that are part of any machinery or hardware,” Garb explains. Simply transferring the hardware and the technology is not enough. The accompanying social systems must also be conveyed in a way that is suited to a new local context if it is to be relevant and useful. “We really need to think in terms of technology ‘translation’ rather than technology transfer,” he says.

## Getting Ahead Through BGU



Sarah Mendelsohn’s work as a BGU summer research associate studying water politics in the Hebron region gave her vital experience to catapult her career forward.

Shortly after completing her master’s degree in Integrated Water Resources Management at McGill University, Mendelsohn was appointed as the Executive Director of The Water Trust, an NGO working to improve water, sanitation and hygiene in East Africa.

Working with Dr. Yaakov Garb, Mendelsohn conducted a survey of household water uses and technologies in the Hebron area of the Palestinian Authority. “We began with the idea that while many are examining the Arab-Israeli

water conflict at an international level, we wanted to approach the situation at the household level, to understand all actors and levels,” Mendelsohn says.

“The research most certainly helped me obtain my current position. First and foremost, working with Yaakov during this research process taught me how to assess a situation, the available resources, mobilize those that we do not have and move forward toward multiple goals simultaneously in a dynamic way that allows the goal to continually change. The final component of the research required me to identify and manage an international expert committee, which was a wildly attractive quality for my current employers.”



# educating future leaders



Organized by BGU Prof. Roni Kaufman and Prof. Terry Mizrahi from Hunter College, this unique exchange program brings together Israeli and American students of social work

## Developing a Diverse Learning Community

Students from the University's Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work and the MSW program at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in New York City participated in a rich learning exchange on comparative social policies, social work and social activism in the US and Israel.

Developed and taught by Dr. Roni Kaufman from BGU and Prof. Terry Mizrahi from Hunter, the program includes parallel coursework by Israeli and American students who work together to study the comparative aspects of

their chosen topics. The program includes a 10-day immersion in Israel travel component as well as on-line communication.

The course compares the role of professional social work education and social services in both countries, and the changing nature of the welfare state especially as it affects vulnerable and marginalized communities. There is an exchange of information, ideas and experiences with the goal of identifying the methods and means for professional social workers and others to

promote the social justice and human rights values embedded in the tradition of social work.

The 16 US students included a diverse group of Jews and Christians, from Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Asian and Israeli backgrounds. This is the first time in Israel for more than half of them – and the first time they were exposed to both the problems and diversity of Israeli society and the people making a difference in their communities.

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## Sharing a Complex Reality

Osama Abuganem found himself in a surprising situation last fall. He was the sole Israeli participant at the Mediterranean Youth Meeting MeYouMe held in Italy, representing BGU's Student Union.

"There were supposed to be two of us, but in the end it was just me," Abuganem says. He originally became interested in the conference to meet other Arabs who were thinking about a better future.

Initially, both the Europeans and the other Arab Muslims gave him the cold shoulder. "When I got there, no one would talk to me as an Israeli until they discovered my Palestinian roots," he explained.

One Lebanese woman went so far in her anti-Israel stance that it caused an unlikely alliance between Abuganem and Ramzi Abu

Abdou from Gaza. The two even gave a joint presentation to their group at the conference about having to live amidst conflict. "It was amazing, the audience applauded us," Abuganem said.

At the same time, "I told the other Arab representatives there that despite sometimes overt and sometimes covert discrimination, I had a better life than anyone from an Arab country," he says.

Abuganem, the eighth child of 11, is studying social work so he can return to Rahat to help his family and those he loves in his community. "Growing up, social workers were sometimes reviled and sometimes praised, but they were always figures of great authority and significance," he explains.



Osama Abuganem

## A Refreshing Intellectual Environment



Xintong Yuan

Xintong Yuan, 23, is one of the first two PhD students from the School of Materials Science and Engineering, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, in a new joint program with BGU. For Yuan, who hails from Harbin in Northern China but has been studying in Singapore for five years, BGU has many refreshingly different aspects than her lab at NTU.

"We have French, American, Israeli and Arab researchers all working in the same lab. The way they think and their methods are very different from the Asians I work with in Singapore. You can broaden your mind if you interact with people from all over the world and not just those with a similar mindset," the young materials science and nanotechnology researcher asserts.

She's also very impressed with the cooperation and lack of competitiveness at the lab. "I can tell my lab partner anything and he is willing to help out," says Yuan. In Singapore, there is a lot of competition – partly because of the large numbers of students and partly because of the Asian mentality, she adds.

Yuan became interested in BGU after Prof. Robert Marks from the Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering and the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev went to NTU to recruit students.

She was quite keen to join the 5-year CREATE program, a joint research endeavor between NTU-BGU and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, focused on "Nanomaterials in Energy and Water Management." This program includes a new joint PhD program and Yuan wanted to be the first student to join it!

"What I like about Robert and about BGU is that the bio-sensor for water testing that we are building is a complete project and I can be involved in every part. You can share your

idea and it will be adopted.

"I chose Robert as my thesis supervisor because he's very helpful and supportive," she says.

Yuan arrived on campus shortly after a round of missiles fell and at first she was apprehensive. "From the news it appeared very dangerous here, but it is not an opportunity everyone can have. I love this place. The people are very friendly. I love the food," she grins.

Every time she has traveled, Yuan comes back changed. "I think that when I go back to Singapore, I will have changed again," she says eagerly.

"I am quite happy to have created a new concept through the special Singapore NRF CREATE program, whereby PhD students (there are now five such students) will come over the next five years to BGU to be trained and do research with several professors (Ibrahim Abdulhalim, Levi Gheber, Ariel Kushmaro) participating in the program. This gives flexibility and I think this is a much better system than assigning a particular student to a given scientist. Furthermore, the research is broken into projects whose needs are defined and then the students and resources are assigned accordingly," says Marks. "Some Israeli students have already gone to NTU and more visits are planned."

"It is nice to see the students evolve in Israel. They are picking up the Israeli ways quite fast..." he adds.

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## Cultural Exchange Goes Both Ways

Daniel Handler went to Germany to discover new cultures and ended up finding her Israeli identity in the process. After a short visit to the country in 2008, she participated twice in delegations dedicated to improving and preserving communications between German and Israeli students and recently spent a year at Zeppelin University studying public management and governance.

While abroad, she learned a lot about German and European culture, but also found herself explaining to the Europeans what it really means to be Israeli.

"I tried to escape being Israeli but you can't. They don't understand the culture and there are a lot of stereotypes. You learn to present Israel culturally," she discovered.

Learning and writing papers in a different language was also invaluable.

"If you want to be a researcher, you have to write in a different language. I wrote 60 pages in English for my bachelor's thesis," she declares. After another year in Germany, Daniel plans to come back to Beer-Sheva and bring German culture to the Negev capital.



Daniel Handler