

SUMMER 2014

# BGU & YOU

NEWSLETTER OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב



Cornerstone Laid  
for the Jack, Joseph  
and Morton Mandel  
Institute for Social  
Leadership Building



Oxford VC Launches  
British Council Water  
Initiative



MIT-BGU Create Seed  
Fund



Cornerstone Laid for  
Jusidman Science  
Center for Youth

## University Inaugurates President's Pillars



*It was a magical evening at the inauguration of the President's Pillars*

### Special insert — Spotlight on Scholarships



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The unquestioned highlight of the 44th Board of Governors Meeting was the ceremony marking the inauguration of the President's Pillars, the University's highest level of recognition for its most magnanimous supporters.

"We are here to celebrate those special people who bear the major responsibility for all that we see around us. In every direction, around every corner, the fulfillment of the visions of the men and women we recognize here this evening, shines like a beacon in the desert; a light which illuminates the Negev with knowledge, intellect and wisdom; a

signpost welcoming thousands and thousands of students, faculty, staff and guests each and every day when they come to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev," President Rivka Carmi proclaimed in her opening remarks.

"The Bible starts by telling us that 'in the beginning, there was only darkness,' before there was light and the creation of the world. History tells us that not long ago in the Negev there was only desolation; before we established the modern State of Israel. While it took us a little more than six days, we too have witnessed the miracle



## University Inaugurates President's Pillars *(cont. from page 1)*



*Ellen Marcus and Prof. Rivka Carmi*



*Robert Equey of the Negev Foundation with Prof. Rivka Carmi*

of creation. And you, my dear friends, gave it life," she continued, noting that the cumulative generosity to BGU that the Pillars have pledged is \$640 million.

The Pillars' names are proudly displayed on the porticos of the Kreitman Plaza, as part of the architectural icon at the heart of BGU. Each name bridges the pillars, which represent the intersection between nature and reason, providing shelter from the sun and rain and serving as the central meeting point on the Marcus Family Campus.

Speaking on behalf of the new Pillars, Chairman of the Board Alex Goren told how proud he was to represent three generations of the Goldstein-Goren family's connection to BGU and thanked the University for letting the participants be partners in the development of the Negev.

"It is hard to believe that so many of BGU's pioneering partners were able to gather here today," he said, adding that perhaps because BGU is the youngest university in Israel, many of the founding supporters are still alive. "I feel as I imagine many of you do that we have gotten far more from our involvement with the University than the sum total of what we have given," he said.

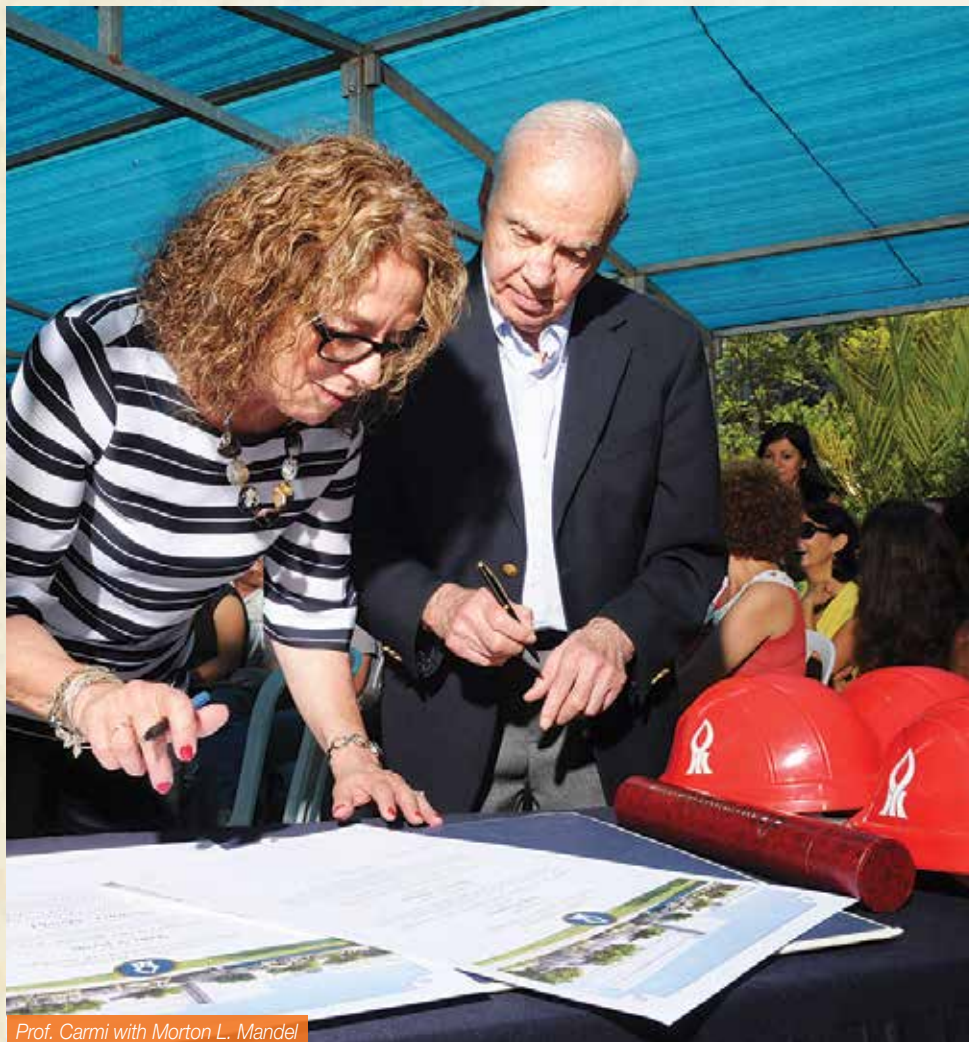


*The Bresleuer brothers, from l-r: Jim, Steve and Ben with David Ben-Gurion lookalikes*



*Adelene Zlotowski, Prof. Carmi and Suzanne Zlotowski*

# Cornerstone Laid for the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Institute for Social Leadership Building



Prof. Carmi with Morton L. Mandel

A cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Institute for Social Leadership Building was held this June in the presence of Morton L. Mandel.

“My driving concern is to improve the quality of life for everyone in this country – of all backgrounds and all religions,” declared Mandel, Chairman and CEO of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio, explaining his decision to fund programs that develop a cadre of professional leaders in the non-profit sector. The Institute will be building upon the success of the Mandel Social Leadership MBA at BGU. “My dream is to have more

fighters who care about the quality of life in Israel,” he said.

University President Prof. Rivka Carmi said “There are many shared values between the Mandel Foundation and BGU and we have managed to attract faculty and students who have that extra sense of responsibility to better Israel. Our goal is to train the best MBA students to become leaders, so that the next generation and the one after that will be better than us.”

Vice President for External Affairs Prof. Amos Drory added, “This is the sealing of a bond between the Mandel Foundation and

BGU. A few months ago, we saw the first fruits of our labor – the young graduates of the first cohort of the Mandel Social Leadership MBA at the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management (GGFBM). We will train a generation of leaders and NGO managers who will devote their lives to making Israel better and making people happier.”

Dean of the GGFBM Prof. Oded Lowengart noted the appropriateness of the location of the new building, between the humanities and management buildings. “The location of the Mandel Institute symbolizes the vision of our University: two pillars of advanced and rigorous research and teaching in all academic fields and social commitment and responsibility to Israeli society.”

Earlier this year, the University announced a gift of \$13,106,700 from the Foundation. The gift is comprised of a capital grant of \$10 million to construct the new building; the remaining more than \$3 million will establish the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Institute for Social Leadership, which will be housed in the new building.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Institute for Social Leadership will incorporate the current academic MBA program in social leadership, the Israel Center for Third-Sector Research and the other executive programs. The purpose of the Institute is to teach students within the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, including those enrolled in other business programs, relevant business administration, social responsibility and social leadership skills.

The new building will be located adjacent to the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management. The 40,000 square foot building will house classrooms, studios, offices, auditoriums and research facilities, addressing BGU's academic needs to further develop the area of social leadership.



## An Attitude of Gratitude

*The 44th Board of Governors Meeting recognized the University's most steadfast donors and committed friends over four days of celebrations*



Prof. Rivka Carmi at the annual Year in Review meeting



Dr. Nahum Guzik

More than 400 supporters thronged the hallways and paths of the University for the 44th Board of Governors Meeting in mid-May. Many came for the inauguration of the President's Pillars – a stunning event that recognized BGU's most munificent supporters. It was just one of several high profile dedications and events that honored and engaged the distinguished guests.

The Meeting began this year with a ceremony marking the construction of the Guzik Family Building for Biotechnology Engineering. **Dr. Nahum Guzik** from California, who received an honorary doctorate later in the week, was in attendance. As he remarked in the film made in his honor for the honorary doctorate ceremony "The way I see it, I'm happy to fund good causes to help Israel. I donate because they are great – not me."

On Monday morning, the Board confirmed President Rivka Carmi for a third term as President. "This morning, the Board honored me with an appointment to serve a third term as your President. I am both proud and humbled. It is my great privilege to preside over the University that you built and which now is the envy of universities across the country and around the world. I get to serve at the helm of this extraordinary institution because you had the determination, the sheer will and the remarkable generosity to create so much of what we see around us," she said.

The Honorable President of the State of Israel **Mr. Shimon Peres** received the Ben-Gurion Leadership Award, which was really a closing of a circle, since a very young Peres was an early aide and confidant of David Ben-Gurion.

The President waxed rhapsodic about the potential of the Negev to promote peace and prosperity. “The land hasn’t blessed the people. The people have blessed the land. I believe that we can teach that to our neighbors in the Middle East. All people in the Middle East can make their land blessed,” he added.

Calling the Negev the center of peace and a place to dream, “Wherever you see a shortage, that’s the place to become a leader,” the President affirmed. His reflections were greeted by a standing ovation and sustained applause.

His Excellency **Daniel Taub**, Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom offered a humorous and penetrating analysis of why Israel will triumph in the court of public opinion. “Israel stands for something



President Shimon Peres with Chairman of the Board Alex Goren May 18



Guests from around the world celebrate Lag B'Omer with a drumming circle



From l-r: Julia, Heinrich and Susanna Deichmann and Ute Deichmann and Daniel Lachish

positive. The Red-Green Alliance – the radical left and the Islamists – when you take a close look, it begs the question: Tell me what you stand for. You must engage with the reality of Israel and not the dream or the vision,” he said.

Reading a series of quotes from famous 19th century authors who referred to Palestine as “desolate and unlovely,” Taub offered the reality in comparison. “Reality no longer disappoints.” Finally, he said, “Within each negotiator, there is a tension between past and future. We must make the voices of our grandchildren louder than the voices of our grandparents, so we will have the strength to continue forward.”

Monday afternoon was devoted to dedications. The Ruth and Heinz-Horst Deichmann Classroom and Computer Lab Building ceremony took place in the presence of the younger generation of Deichmanns, Heinrich and Ute and their families. **Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann** sent a video message expressing his pleasure at the completion of a building for students. “All my good wishes are with you and the

building and for the students who soon will be entering this building and working here. I wish all of them God’s blessing, not only for their studies, but also for their whole life,” he said.

Deputy Rector **Prof. Steve Rosen** offered a similar theme in his remarks. “This building we are dedicating here is a special one. It is a building devoted to teaching, it is a building of classrooms. It is dedicated to that strange species of Homo sapiens from whom we are all descended, called students. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is not a research institute, it is a university. We raise students; we raise them to become the next generation of researchers, and we bring them into our work as researchers, but we also raise them to become great citizens, to understand the importance of learning, of critical and rigorous thinking, of listening, of responding – that is what this building stands for.”

**Prof. Golan Shahar** from the Department of Psychology pinch hit the Annual Zlotowski Lecture after the invited speaker was taken ill. His talk focused on the

issues facing Israeli adolescents exposed to terror. Held in the presence of **Suzanne Zlotowski**, UK, and **Adelene Zlotowski**, Israel, the event also included a presentation of the Zlotowski Admission Awards for Outstanding Students.



H.E. Daniel Taub, Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom



Prof. Rivka Carmi with Lorry I. Lokey and Joanne Harrington

**Lorry I. Lokey** from the USA was present for the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the new Lorry I. Lokey Chemistry Building. He has made a philanthropic career out of supporting education both in the US and Israel.

“Education in my book is number one,” Lokey told the audience. “It’s the beginning of life. It determines that person’s future. I hope one day we will have 100 percent of students graduating high school and 50-60 percent going on to university. We will have

a better world out of that group.”

Monday night was capped by the magnificent President’s Pillars ceremony and a performance by classical pianist **Evgeny Kissin**, who received an honorary doctorate on Tuesday evening.

Tuesday’s events offered a sense of the variety of student activities with the traditional Student Union lunch and auction.

Former Jerusalem bureau chief of *The New York Times* **Ethan Bronner** offered some bracing words about the possible future of peace between Israelis and Palestinians under the auspices of the Robert St. John Chair in Objective Middle East Reporting.

Bronner recalled how he had to have three going away parties – one in Jerusalem for Israelis, one in Jerusalem for Palestinians and one in Ramallah for Palestinians – to express his concern that “Israeli and Palestinian views of one another as human beings is declining. Contact is declining. It is worth contemplating whether this [near complete separation] is working. What are the long-term implications?”

British Ambassador to Israel **Matthew Gould M.B.E.** was on hand as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford **Prof. Andrew Hamilton** graciously pointed to many parallels between 900-year-old Oxford and 44-year-old BGU during the Irene and Hyman Kreitman Annual Memorial Lecture. He cited applied research partnerships with private industry as one of the key elements of future growth and humorously noted that the most famous Oxford product emerged from the Department of Medieval English – J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*.

The honorary doctorate ceremony on Tuesday evening honored seven outstanding individuals. This year short movies highlighted the accomplishments of the evening’s honorees. They can be viewed online from the Board website, [www.bgu.ac.il/board](http://www.bgu.ac.il/board)



Evgeny Kissin performs



Ethan Bronner



The ribbon cutting at the American Associates Village, l-r: Prof. Pedro Berliner, Dr. Paula Kabalo, Carol Saal, Lloyd Goldman, Prof. Rivka Carmi, Jacob Dayan, Alex Goren, Prof. Amos Drory

On Wednesday, the action shifted to Sede Boqer for the dedication of the building for the Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Center and the dedication of the American Associates Village at Sede Boqer.

**Prof. Emeritus David Faiman** was overcome with emotion at the ceremony after spending almost forty years researching solar energy out of caravans with improvised equipment. **G rard Worms** took the opportunity to announce that he was stepping down as President of the French Associates after ten years in the position. The University matched the French Associates' donation to build the new building.

**Carol Saal**, Past President of the American Associates of BGU and Vice Chair of the BGU Board of Governors explained that the American Associates Village is an eminently



Riki and Coby Dayan with apartment residents





At the dedication of the building for the Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Center, l-r: Gérard Worms, Prof. Pedro Berliner, Representative of the French Embassy in Israel Olivier Rubinstein, Danièle Bidermann, Corinne Evens, Prof. Rivka Carmi, Prof. David Faiman

worthy endeavor since it will enable the University to offer many more international students an education through the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, part of the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research and the Israel Studies International Program, a Master's degree program of the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism.

The Board wrapped up this year with a mega-performance by legendary Israeli singer **Yehoram Gaon** at the Beresheet Hotel in Mitzpe Ramon and a gala dinner celebrating the establishment of the President's Pillars.

**We look forward to seeing you next year!**

For more information, visit our website at [www.bgu.ac.il/board](http://www.bgu.ac.il/board)



Singer Yehoram Gaon with Aharon Yadlin



## BGU recognizes **Outstanding Individuals** and Supporters with Honorary Doctorates



BGU recognized seven remarkable individuals with honorary doctorates during the 44th Annual Board of Governors Meeting.

“The individuals we have chosen to honor here this evening have made profound and enduring contributions to academia, to culture, to our University and to improving the quality of life in society at large,” said President Prof. Rivka Carmi at the ceremony. “The process for choosing these individuals is long and rigorous at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, because we want our recipients to be clearly people of great integrity and extraordinary achievement – the choices we make reflect our values as an institution,” she added.

Each recipient received a scroll with the citation, excerpts of which appear below.

**Dr. Linda S. Birnbaum, USA**  
Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and National Toxicology Program Division. As NIEHS and NTP director, Dr. Birnbaum oversees a budget that funds multidisciplinary biomedical research programs, prevention and intervention efforts that encompass training, education, technology transfer and community outreach. The NIEHS supports more than 1,000 research grants.

“In appreciation of an eminent scientist who devotes her life to protecting public health and the environment; with deep esteem for the first woman to serve as Director of the US National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health and the National Toxicology Program Division; in honor of a toxicologist whose work combines multidisciplinary research in the field and the laboratory to trace the dangers of toxic chemicals and their effect on human health and to disseminate this information for the benefit of the community.”

**James M. Breslauer, USA**

One of the major proponents of the Advanced Technologies Park adjacent to the University. He has been a guiding force for 17 years since its original inception until today, when the first building is fully occupied and construction of the second building is proceeding apace.

“In recognition of a man of action who has contributed his numerous talents and rich experience from industry and sales to the world of community involvement and to the advancement of the strength and prosperity of the Jewish people and the State of Israel; and in appreciation of a man of great foresight, a committed partner in making the Negev bloom, who understands the area’s need for sustainable engines of economic growth and took the lead from the outset in promoting the building of the Advanced Technologies Park that is turning the Negev into a thriving region for the benefit of its residents and the State of Israel as a whole.”

**Prof. Saul Friedländer, USA**

One of the foremost historians of the Holocaust. He has won both a Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction and the Israel Prize. A child survivor, he has fearlessly probed the Nazis and those who opposed them, delving into the Catholic Church and its leadership, among many other topics.

“In recognition of one of the foremost researchers of the history of the Holocaust for his notable contribution in elucidating the enigma of the Jewish people’s survival in our age; in honor of the child of parents who were murdered at Auschwitz, and who survived the war years in a Catholic monastery but decided to reclaim his Jewish identity and became a sharp observer of Nazi Germany and its treatment of the Jews; in appreciation of a scholar who fearlessly probes both the murderers and those who opposed them, including the Catholic Church and its leadership during the Second World War; with deep esteem for a laureate of the Israel Prize and Pulitzer Prize, among many other awards.”

**Dr. Nahum Guzik, USA**

Founder of Guzik Technical Enterprises, which provides test solutions to the disk drive industry, as well as waveform acquisition tools for demanding ATE and OEM applications in avionics, signal intelligence, military electronics, physics, astronomy, semiconductors and a variety of other disciplines. He is also a patron of the arts, and he and his foundation have enabled hundreds of young Russian and Armenian musicians to realize their potential by providing training, and in some cases international tours.

“In recognition of a highly active philanthropist, a successful businessman who has generously contributed to noble causes worldwide; in acknowledgement of an

entrepreneur and director, who made his way from Odessa, Ukraine to the United States via Israel and founded a lucrative, cutting-edge hi-tech company in Silicon Valley; in appreciation of a benevolent and devoted supporter for his commitment to the advancement of higher education and research in Israel in general and the Negev in particular, for leaving a significant mark on the Ben-Gurion University campus through the buildings and the antiquities pathway that bear his name.”

**Prof. Andrew D. Hamilton, UK**

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. A former Provost of Yale University and Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University and the University of Pittsburgh, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received the International Izatt Christensen Award in Macrocyclic Chemistry in 2011.

“In appreciation of an academic whose vision and leadership has impacted some of the world’s most prestigious universities; in recognition of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, who is uncompromising in his pursuit of excellence and combines scientific knowledge with exceptional management skills to promote higher education and research; and in acknowledgement of his partnership with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, marking a groundbreaking collaboration between Israeli academia and the University of Oxford and testimony to the importance of academic ties as a bridge between peoples and cultures, and as an important step in the path towards peace in this region.”

**Evgeny Kissin, UK**

A world renowned classical pianist. He made his professional debut at age 10 and gave his first solo recital at age 11. He was awarded his first Grammy in 2006 in

the category of Best Instrumental Soloist Performance (without Orchestra) for his recording of piano works by Scriabin, Medtner, and Stravinsky.

“In acknowledgement of an outstanding musician – one of the leading pianists of our times – who is endowed with a warm Jewish heart; with esteem for an artist who interprets classical masterpieces with great depth and whose musical sensitivity has touched the hearts of millions worldwide; in profound appreciation of a gifted pianist who, despite having received international acclaim for his performances and recordings, continues to reinvent himself; and in honor of an ardent Zionist, an Israeli citizen by choice, who supports the State and contributes to the advancement of music in Israel, in the belief that it has the power to unite and enrich listeners and elevate the spirit of humankind.”

**Cheryl Saban, PhD, USA**

Philanthropist and women’s advocate. She created the Women’s Self-Worth Foundation to provide micro-financing programs to women in the U.S. and Israel. Saban has a doctorate in psychology and is the author of *What is Your Self-Worth? A Woman’s Guide to Validation*, drawing on her own life experiences.

“In acknowledgement of a woman of vision, a founder of the Cheryl Saban Self Worth Foundation for Women and Girls, for her commitment to the empowerment and strengthening of girls and women; with deep respect for a psychologist and prolific author whose books guide readers through her inspirational life experience; with esteem for the President of the Saban Family Foundation for her devotion to promoting educational programs and medical centers, including those for children and women at the Soroka University Medical Center.”



New names on the Eshkol Wall, l-r: Ira and Marcia Wagner, Toni and Stuart Young and Prof. Rivka Carmi



Director General of the Rashi Foundation Itzik Turgeman, Lt. General (Ret.) Gabi Ashkenazi and Haim Saban



Richard Luck-Hille with Prof. Rivka Carmi



Bertie and Hilary Lubner with Prof. Amos Drony and the BGR race car team



Max and Rachel Javit



Ben Sperer with Prof. Rivka Carni



Reuban and Fran Croll



Ernie and Roberta Scheller with Prof. Rivka Carmi



At the Evgeny Kissin concert: The audience, including members of the Israel Defense Forces and Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel Natan Sharansky



Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Governors Roy J. Zuckerberg



From l-r: Sylvia and Jerry Herman with Sandra and Billy Joel



The Chairman's Council, back row l-r: Chairman of the Executive Committee Asher Heled; incoming President of the French Associates Hervé Glaoui; Chairman of the Board of Governors Alex Goren; University President Prof. Rivka Carmi; Vice-Chairperson Carol Saal; French Associates Corinne Evens; Vice-Chairperson Arnie Bengis; American Associates President Lloyd Goldman; front row l-r: Vice-Chairperson Steve Breslauer; President of the French Associates Gérard Worms; President of the Canadian Associates Gary Fine; Vice-Chairperson Ellen Marcus; President UK Friends Harold Paisner and Eric Charles



## Oxford VC Launches British Council Water Initiative



From l-r: Prof. Pedro Berliner, Prof. Andrew Hamilton, Alan Gemmell, Prof. Raymond Dwek

Prof. Andrew Hamilton, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, launched the British Council in Israel's Water Research Initiative during his visit to the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) on the Sede Boqer campus during the recent Board of Governors Meeting.

The Initiative will fund opportunities for researchers from Britain and Israel to work with researchers in countries facing water challenges. The Initiative's first event will be a multinational seminar at the 5th International United Nations Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification in November 2014, to be chaired by Dr. Nick Middleton of St Anne's College, Oxford University. The seminar will bring together British and Israeli scientists in aridity research with colleagues from Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, India and Namibia, and look at the take-up of new technologies.

Hamilton also announced that the British Council's Global Water Conference will be held in Sede Boqer in 2015. The conference will bring world leaders in desert and water research together with social scientists to exchange ideas and share approaches to tackling water challenges.

"This was an inspiring visit. Through the British Council's Global Water Initiative, Britain and Israel will work with researchers from around the world to identify innovative solutions to one of humanity's most pressing problems. We are particularly delighted that Dr. Nick Middleton will chair the first event of this new initiative," he said.

Prof. Rivka Carmi lauded the Initiative, noting that it builds on the research strengths of both universities while creating a model for collaborations around the world. "David Ben-Gurion dreamed of

creating 'an Oxford in the Negev that will serve as a light unto the nations.' This Initiative will ensure that top-notch scientific information reaches the people who need it most. Thank you to the British Council for taking the lead on this critical project," she noted.

Alan Gemmell, Director of the British Council Israel, said: "This new Initiative will bring together world leading researchers and focus on the water challenges that threaten 1.3 billion people. We believe that Britain and Israel together can play a leading role in tackling these issues and are delighted to be launching the Initiative with Ben-Gurion University and Oxford University."



# Houminer Garden Dedicated



The Houminer family

The Sharon Houminer Garden was dedicated in May in the presence of over 200 family members and friends from Israel and around the world.

Noting that it was “bashert” (Yiddish for “meant to be”) that this garden would be dedicated in Sharon’s memory, University President Prof. Rivka Carmi explained why a garden of rare cacti collected from around the world reflected Sharon’s adventurous spirit and love of all that is exceptional and unusual. “Here you are really making the desert bloom and with it, Sharon’s special spirit will always be there,” she said.

Moderated by Prof. Amos Drory, Vice President for External Affairs and a personal friend of the Houminer family, the ceremony celebrated the life of Sharon, who died October 18, 2000, at the age of 31. “This is the closing of many concentric circles that all come together here at BGU,” he said in his opening remarks.

“The garden that we are dedicating today in memory of Sharon seals the bond between the Houminer family and Ben-Gurion University, beautifies the entrance leading from the train station to campus, and highlights a rare collection of desert cacti representing the University’s environmental and desert research.”

“This garden is the headline in our efforts to memorialize Sharon and spread the word about the ideas in life that she was so passionate about,” said her father, Prof. Ehud Houminer, who was one of the founders of the Honors MBA program at the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management. “It embodies aesthetics, nature and education,” he said, adding that though we never had a chance to see her married or raising children, “in each small plant we will see it full grown and in the changing colors and textures of the developing garden, we will remember Sharon who loved life so much.”

## MIT-BGU Create Seed Fund

BGU and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) signed an agreement to create a Seed Fund to promote and support early-stage collaborations between researchers. It is the first Seed Fund launched by MIT in Israel through its MIT International Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI).

“We at BGU are excited and looking forward to tightening our collaboration with MIT faculty and students,” said Prof. Joseph Kost, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences. “The agreement we signed today will enable MIT and BGU to move forward in key areas of research important to both institutions,” said MISTI MIT-Israel Faculty Director and MIT’s Dean of Graduate Education Prof. Christine Ortiz.

“We launched an MIT-Israel/BGU Seed Fund to support budding collaborations between faculty and research scientists at MIT and their counterparts at BGU. We see this as another step in creating widespread, lasting relationships between the scientific communities at MIT and BGU and hope to launch additional MIT-Israel Seed Funds in specific areas of interest and with other Israeli academic institutions,” said David Dolev, Managing Director of MISTI MIT-Israel and Assistant Director of MISTI.

MIT was represented at the signing by Prof. Christine Ortiz. BGU was represented by Rector Prof. Zvi HaCohen and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences Prof. Joseph Kost.



## It's All About People: Innovation Day 2014



Students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering are ready for the big event



Arnie Bengis with Beer-Sheva Mayor Ruvik Danilovich

The consensus of everyone who attended Innovation 2014 was that the secret to real innovation is people – people working together to create something new and different.

Now in its fifth year, the event proved the maxim. Organized by the Bengis Center for Entrepreneurship and Hi-Tech Management, together with the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management and the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, Innovation 2014 included formal and informal events around campus created by the participants themselves.

More than 2,000 people – including many of the country's leading businesspeople and entrepreneurs – came together at an event like no other. There were 550 student projects, 20 company exhibits, over 240 speakers at 70 lectures and 40 panels, and a full range of informal meetings such as "Venture Capital in Jalabiyas" and "Inno-Dating," a "make your pitch variation" on speed dating.

"You can feel the energy," said University President Prof. Rivka Carmi at the opening event that filled the Joya Claire Sonnenfeldt Auditorium to capacity. "The Negev is now," she added, noting that much of this momentum is thanks to the very people that were here. Director of the Bengis Center Prof. Dafna Schwartz encouraged all the participants to look beyond the excitement

of the day to see how they could engage students and researchers alike to advance the business culture of the Negev.

"This event is exactly what we had in mind when we created the Center 15 years ago," said benefactor Arnie Bengis. "A forum like this – encouraging industry and academia to work together – makes me very happy."



MK Dr. Erel Margalit with Ofra Strauss at the opening panel

## CyberSpark Takes on a Life of its Own



General Manager of IBM Israel Rick Kaplan signs the agreement to create the new IBM Center of Excellence for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Assets at BGU with Prof. Rivka Carmi

In January, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that, "Beer-Sheva will not only be the cyber capital of Israel but one of the most important places in the cyber security field in the world," while announcing the launch of CyberSpark, Israeli Cyber Innovation Arena.

A virtual cooperation between the National Cyber Bureau, BGU, a number of corporate entities in the Advanced Technologies Park (ATP), the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) most advanced technology units and the Municipality of Beer-Sheva, the CyberSpark ecosystem continues to gain momentum.

In the last few months, a number of new companies have opened offices in the Advanced Technologies Park, including Lockheed Martin, Elbit and RAD. A BGU-IBM Center of Excellence for Security and Protection of Infrastructure and Assets was launched that will operate at BGU's Marcus Family Campus.

The Center's activities will include research and development of solutions for the enterprise market, private and public, with a focus on the security and protection of critical assets in future computing environments, including cloud, mobile and IoT (Internet of Things).

BGU also recently signed an agreement with the Israel National Cyber Bureau to create a national center for the protection of cyberspace, which will significantly advance academic cyber security research in Israel.

"The center, created with an \$8.5 million three-year budget, will advance long term theoretical research and will become a foundational pillar of technological development in Israel in the field of cyber security," declared Prof. Dan Blumberg, VP and Dean, R&D and head of the Homeland Security Institute at BGU.

## Dan Blumberg Appointed VP



Prof. Dan Blumberg

Prof. Dan Blumberg was appointed as Vice President and Dean for Research & Development. He has served as Deputy VP and Dean for R&D under Prof. Moti Herskowitz since 2010 and before that was the chairperson of the Department of Geography and Environmental Development.

Blumberg joined the University's faculty as a young researcher in 1995 after completing his doctorate in planetary geology at Arizona State University. His research focuses on remote sensing using satellite and airborne sensors collecting data to investigate planet Earth and other planets. He also conducted research on a radar laboratory installed on the space shuttle and the uses of radar and hyperspectral imaging for environmental research.

Blumberg heads the Homeland Security Institute and serves as the chair of the Green Campus initiative, through which real change has been effected throughout the campus by raising awareness and promoting environmentally-friendly practices.



# Snapshots

A glance at events at BGU



Thousands participate in the annual Job Fair



Open House for prospective students



Celebrating Student Day



TEDxBGU was hugely successful this year



## Over 200 PhD Degrees Awarded



"Selfie" at the main graduation ceremony for the Pinchas Sapir Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



The "traditional cap toss" at the Medical School for International Health ceremony

In a series of lively ceremonies over a four week period, BGU granted more than 5,500 new degrees, including a record-breaking 208 doctoral degrees from the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies.

The breakdown is as follows: 3,725 undergraduate degrees, 1,572 Master's degrees, 113 medical degrees and an additional 182 who received teaching certificates.

It was a family affair at the graduation ceremony for the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School, where the majority of recipients received their diploma with the help of their children who were happy to escort them onto the stage.



Rector Prof. Zvi HaCohen welcomes a graduate and his family

# Excellence recognized



Dr. Niv Papo

## Dr. Niv Papo Receives Krill Prize in Life Sciences for 2014

Dr. Niv Papo received the Krill Prize in Life Sciences for 2014. A member of the Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering and the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN), Papo is also the recent recipient of a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant and the Young Investigator Award from the US-based Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Krill Prizes for Excellence in Scientific Research are awarded in honor and in memory of Benjamin and Gitla Krill Mansbach Shlanger. Papo's lab is using the evolved affinity proteins as selective *in vivo* imaging and therapeutic agents to detect, identify and target these markers. His focus is on promoting the next generation of prostate cancer therapeutics, including molecular imaging agents and targeted drug delivery agents, specifically multifunctional proteins with a wide variety of biomedical applications.

## Prof. Guy Ben-Porat Garners Two Awards

Prof. Guy Ben-Porat, head of the Department of Public Policy and Administration at the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, was awarded the Prof. Gidon Doron Award for Best Book from the Israel Political Science Association (ISPSA) and the Shapiro Prize for best book in Israel Studies from the Association for Israel Studies.

The ISPSA citation noted that Ben-Porat's book, *Between State and Synagogue: The Secularization of Contemporary Israel*, published by Cambridge University Press, "is theoretically sophisticated and tells an important story about Israeli society and about the country's cultural values."

Ben-Porat is also the author of *Global Liberalism, Local Populism: Peace and Conflict in Israel/Palestine and Northern Ireland*. He is co-author of *Israel Since 1980*; and co-editor of *The Contradictions of Israeli Citizenship: Land, Religion and*

*State*. Ben-Porat is also an assistant editor of the journal *Citizenship Studies*. His current research focuses on police-minority relations in Israel and elsewhere.

## Two Researchers Receive Ben-Tzvi Award for Excellence

Two researchers received the Ben-Tzvi Award for Excellence for books they recently published in Hebrew. **Prof. Uri Erlich** from the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought for his book, *The Weekday Amidah in Cairo Genizah Prayer Books: Roots and Transmission*; and **Dr. Eliezer (Eli) Papo** from the Department of Hebrew Literature, for his work, *And Thou Shall Jest with Your Son: Judeo-Spanish Parodies on the Passover Haggadah*.

Erlich's expertise is in the development of Jewish prayer and ritual. Papo teaches oral Jewish literatures, Jewish folklore and Sephardic culture and literature.

## Prof. Gary Diamond Wins Award for Suicide Prevention Research

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) awarded Prof. Gary Diamond, head of the Department of Psychology, and his colleague Prof. Guy Diamond (no relation) of Drexel University the 2014 Annual AFSP Research Award.

In its citation, the Foundation noted that the award is presented annually to a suicide researcher(s) whose contribution to the field has been outstanding. Their work

has “contributed to the field of suicide prevention by studying a clinical treatment, Attachment-Based Family Therapy, in people at suicide risk. This research led to positive results for adolescents with a history of suicide attempts. They took it a step further, studying the treatment in LGBT adolescents at high risk for suicide and their families, a focused contribution with clinical importance. Their work highlights a number of critical areas of interest at AFSP – suicide attempters who are therefore at higher risk for completed suicide, adolescents and LGBT populations.”

Prof. Gary Diamond is a licensed clinical psychologist and supervising family therapist. He heads the University's Psychotherapy Research Lab.

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### **Dr. Avraham (Rami) Reiner** Awarded Tager Prize

Dr. Avraham (Rami) Reiner was one of two recipients of the Esther and Romie Tager QC Prize awarded through the Jewish Law Program at Bar-Ilan University. A member of the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought, Reiner received the award for best article in Jewish Law for the academic year 2013-2014 titled “Regulation, Law and Everything in Between: the Laws of Gittin as a Reflection of Society,” which appeared in *Tarbiz*, a quarterly publication on the Science of Judaism.

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### Lifetime Achievement Award for **Prof. Nachum Finger**

The Association of Engineers, Architects and Graduates in Technological Sciences in Israel recently bestowed their Lifetime Achievement Award to former Rector

## BGU Breaks into QS Top 50 Under 50

BGU has reached #39 on the “QS Top 50 Under 50,” released this spring. The ranking of the world's top 50 universities established within the last 50 years is based on the highest performing young institutions in the 2013/14 QS World University Rankings®. BGU was also ranked among the top 200 worldwide in three subjects: history, linguistics and psychology.

For the fourth edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2,838 universities were evaluated and 689 institutions ranked in total. Some 130 million citation attributions were analyzed and the provision of 10,639 programs was verified. Overall, BGU was ranked 331 out of 800 in the QS World University Rankings 2013/4. Over 2,000 universities were examined.

Prof. Emeritus Nachum Finger. Finger served until recently as Deputy Chair of the Israeli Council for Higher Education, and as Chair of its sub-committee for Quality Assessment.

At BGU, he served as Rector from 1994-2002 and as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences from 1989-94. He is the incumbent of the Sir John and Lady Cohen Chair in Business and Industrial Management.

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### **Prof. Michal Krumer-Nevo** Honored

Prof. Michal Krumer-Nevo from the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work received an award in the field of social change from the Minister of Social Affairs and Social Services MK Meir Cohen, presented by a committee that includes the lobby for social workers led by MK Shimon Solomon in the Knesset and the Israeli Association of Social Workers.

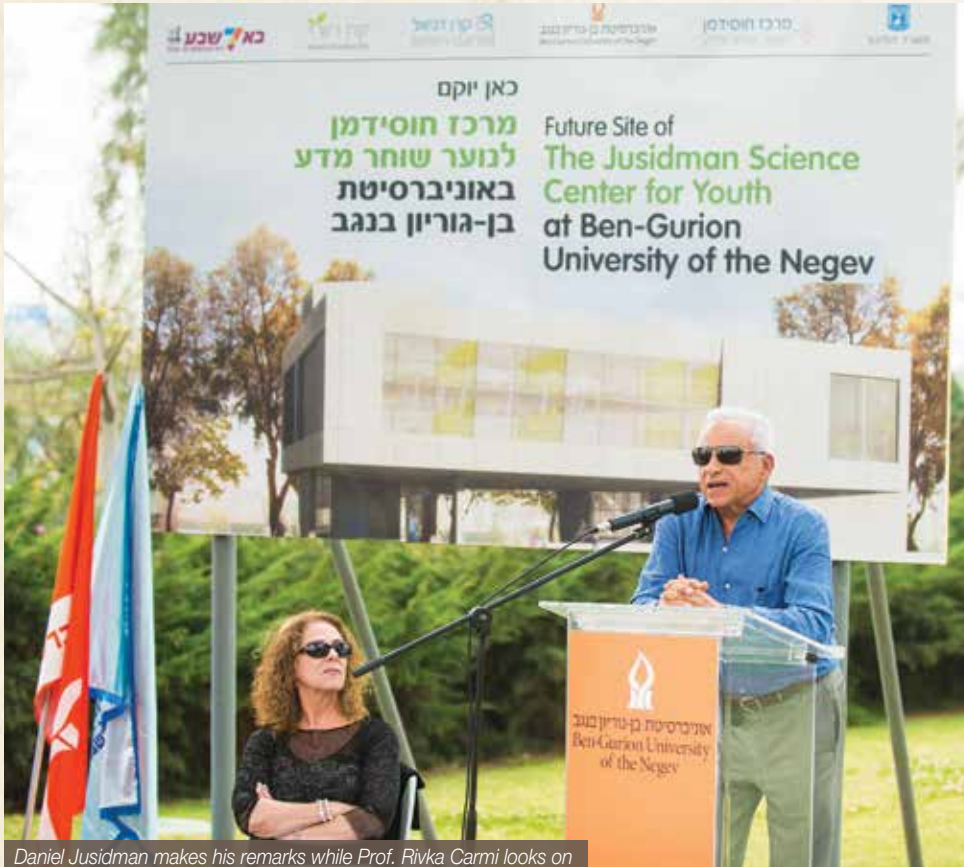
The prize was awarded to three groups of social workers, two teams of social workers and one social worker from academia. Krumer-Nevo was the winner in the category of a social worker from academia.

Krumer-Nevo, who serves as a member of the anti-poverty committee, is working to create theoretical and empirical knowledge which represents those living in poverty, with the perception that the proximity to life experiences of individuals and understanding the social structures that shape them are the key to professional action in social work.

Krumer-Nevo has been the Director of the Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies since 2006. She teaches courses in methodology and develops critical research methods, which consider the study itself an arena for social change and emphasize the subjectivity of the researcher and the study participants ("subjects"), such as auto-ethnography, action research, community based research and methodology in the research of feminists.



## Cornerstone Laid for Jusidman Science Center for Youth



Daniel Jusidman makes his remarks while Prof. Rivka Carmi looks on

The cornerstone-laying ceremony for the Jusidman Science Center for Youth was held in the presence of Daniel Jusidman of Mexico and his extended family, Rashi Foundation Director General Itzik Turgeman, BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi, Beer-Sheva Mayor Ruvik Danilovich and Ministry of Education Southern District Head Amira Haim.

The Center will be completed in a year and a half and was made possible through a joint initiative of the Rashi Foundation, the Ministry of Education and the Beer-Sheva Municipality. The initiative took shape thanks to the significant contribution of the Daniel Foundation and BGU.

President Rivka Carmi noted in her address that building the Center is an expression of the University's long-term commitment and contribution to improving science education, development of excellence among youth, and making higher education accessible to all socio-economic levels of the population of the South. "The Center will benefit from the leading academic infrastructure in the country – researchers and students alike – and without a doubt will be a national model for academic involvement in promoting science in general and developing the next generation of Israeli scientists in particular."

Mayor Danilovich added, "This is a true investment in the human capital of the

Negev – it is the right investment and secures the future of Israel." He thanked all of the partners and especially the Rashi Foundation for their initiative.

Jusidman concluded by saying that their focus has become educational projects and of all of the nine projects in which they are involved philanthropically in Israel, this is the one they are most excited about. "It is the most complex and requires the most coordination of various elements. It is brick and mortar but we also found great people to run it. It is a great concept and we have the best partners," he declared.

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Produced by the Department of Publications and Media Relations  
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Vol 11 No.1