

SUMMER 2015

BGU & YOU

NEWSLETTER OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב



The Clara & David Nightingale Scholarship Fund Launched

Prof. Rivka Carmi Becomes Honorary Commander of the British Empire



Mapping the Future: The 45th Board of Governors Meeting



A Degree of Success



Four Questions: Winemaker Meital Damri



Prof. Rivka Carmi receives her CBE title from British Ambassador Matthew Gould

British Ambassador to Israel H.E. Matthew Gould bestowed upon President Rivka Carmi the title of Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the name of Queen Elizabeth II on June 9, 2015.

"Rivka is an outstanding leader whom I hold in high esteem. She is also an outstanding and wonderful friend and partner in the mission to build scientific links between the UK and Israel. She has invested huge amounts of time to make it happen, and I could not have hoped for a better partner. It

is my enormous pleasure to award you with this medal," Ambassador Gould said.

Carmi also received a scroll personally signed by Queen Elizabeth II. "I am truly honored to accept this award," she said. "I accept this not for myself, but for Ben-Gurion University and for Israel, both of which I am proud and pleased to serve.

"The brainchild of Matthew (Gould), the UK-Israel Life Sciences Council brought together the scientific powers of our



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Max Steinberg Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund Established



Stuart and Evelyn Steinberg (far left)

Stuart and Evelyn (Evie) Steinberg of California joined the BGU family for the Israeli Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism Remembrance Day Ceremony in Beer-Sheva in April. BGU has established, through its American Associates, the Max Steinberg Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund in partnership with Max's parents, Stuart and Evelyn, and his siblings, Paige and Jake. The fund commemorates Max, who died in battle in Gaza during Operation Protective Edge last July.

The Steinberg endowment will provide scholarships in perpetuity to BGU students with preference to lone soldiers, students from the Golani unit where Max served and other combat reservists.

"We are delighted to know that Max's legacy will be connected to a university and

scholarship program that grants opportunity and promise to the soldiers who have put their lives in harm's way for the people of Israel," Stuart Steinberg said in February. "We know that Max cared deeply for his fellow soldiers and that he would be wholeheartedly supportive of a program that allows soldiers to pursue their passions and create a great future."

"With their decision to create the Max Steinberg Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund, the Steinberg family is memorializing Max in a way that will celebrate his life and his choices in perpetuity and will impact a widening circle of young people – an act that is truly worthy of admiration," said BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi. "Losing a child is every parent's worst nightmare, but they have turned this personal tragedy into an opportunity to do a greater good."

Prof. Rivka Carmi Receives CBE

(cont. from page 1)

two countries in order to increase collaboration and to promote peace through science, and it is for my small part in this project that I – an Israeli – today become a Commander of the British Empire!"

Carmi thanked her Council Co-Chair for his tireless work. "I am fortunate to have the most outstanding Israeli scientists in my group and so very fortunate to have as partner Prof. Raymond Dwek of Oxford, who co-chairs for the UK and his British group of equally distinguished scientists.

"With Matthew in the driving seat, this project has far exceeded our expectations and is testament to the amazing talent, creativity and innovation as well as sincere wish to collaborate and work together, that abounds in Israel and the UK," she added.

Turning to a matter of grave concern, she asserted: "I cannot gloss over the current BDS campaign against Israel and, like many of you, I am both disgusted and worried by the seemingly increasing momentum it is gathering. However, I believe absolutely that the amazing success of our joint Sciences Council is the best response.

"At universities across Israel and the UK, including BGU and Oxford, we will not be halted in our endeavors to use the great talent of our scientists to conduct cutting-edge research and to bring new solutions to global issues – and to truly improve the life of people regardless of race, color or religion," she declared.

The Clara & David Nightingale Scholarship Fund Launched

Naomi Fromstein and her husband Prof. Efrim Boritz of Toronto, Canada were on hand for the launch of the Clara and David Nightingale Scholarship Fund, designated for undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships at Heksherim: The Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture and The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism. A total of 74 scholarships were granted this year.

Using funds donated by the estate of Clara and David Nightingale, Naomi noted that

her Aunt Clara would be very happy to know that BGU scholarships are tied to community volunteerism and that these funds would, therefore, not only help the student, but also the Beer-Sheva community. "Both my aunt and uncle had strong feelings about Israel and education and I know that they would be happy with what we see here today," she said at a ceremony marking the launch of the Fund.

Efrim noted that they had learned far more about higher education in Israel on this visit and that they were deeply impressed with

what was happening at BGU. "We should be thanking you, and not the opposite," he said.

After a short ceremony, they continued to the unveiling of the inscription "In memory of Clara and David Nightingale" on the Founders and Arava Walls on the Marcus Family Campus. "Every student who receives an undergraduate scholarship from BGU also volunteers in the community – helping others while they themselves benefit from the experience, earning what we call 'an extra soul'," explained Carmi. "Thank you for being our partners in promoting this extra spirit!"

How to Measure Success



Sitting left to right: Dr. Gideon Katz; Ruthie Mor; Vered Sarousi-Katz; Dan Katz; Yehudit Katz; Ariel Katz; Sofie Sudin

Ariel Katz, Israeli hi-tech leader and the founder of the newly established Fanny and Yosef Katz Scholarship Fund, met with students at the annual scholarship ceremony for Israeli funds and told them that, "that you receive something special when you give."

For Zichron Yaakov residents Ariel and wife Yehudit, deciding to create a scholarship fund in memory of Ariel's parents, Fanny

and Yosef Katz, seemed the natural way to commemorate people who put education and values first: "As Holocaust survivors, my parents faced many hardships, but they always urged my brothers and I to achieve an education and have good values – they said that was the only way to succeed in life."

BGU alumnus and the president of a thriving biotech company, Ariel spoke at the annual scholarship ceremony for Israeli scholarship

funds on what success really means: "It can't be measured by what you've achieved for yourself – it depends on how much you've contributed to your community."

For Ariel and the entire Katz clan, BGU is a family affair: in addition to Ariel, his brother Dan, son Idan and daughter-in-law Shani are also BGU alumni, and his younger son Roi is currently a student at BGU. Ariel's younger brother, Dr. Gideon Katz, is a faculty member at the Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, and sister-in-law Vered Sarousi-Katz is the Director of the Department of Community Action.

Addressing this year's BGU scholarship winners, Ariel, himself a one-time scholarship recipient, said: "In life, you won't always remember everything you've done, but you'll always remember how it made you feel. Giving is a gift, and I hope that one day you'll all have the privilege of giving back. I'm grateful for the opportunity to close the circle. Believe me, it feels great!"

Mapping the Future

Guests from around the world were on hand to mark the 45th Board of Governors Meeting and celebrate the University's accomplishments, while outlining its Vision 2020 plan for the next five years



Crossing the newly dedicated Jim and Liz Breslauer Bridge

“Get your children involved in BGU,” said **Chairman of the Board of Governors Alex Goren** as he opened the 45th Board of Governors Meeting. Noting that one of the initial donations that launched BGU came from his parents, Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren, he encouraged everyone present to follow his parents’ example in involving their children in the University and supporting its vision.

“We are proud to have played and continue to play a crucial role,” he declared, adding that it is important to “work in your country to expand the circles involved in BGU.”

Beer-Sheva **Mayor Ruvik Danilovich** focused on the importance of building the North Campus, which will double the size of the University. “Moving forward to plan the North Campus requires a historic decision on the part of the University, which will shape both the University and the Negev,” he asserted.

Danilovich called the North Campus “a catalyst for change – social, cultural, educational and technological change on a national level.

“Our mission is to take responsibility for

building something greater than ourselves to fulfill the Zionist enterprise,” he declared, inspiringly.

Appealing directly to the audience, he said, “The North Campus cannot be realized without the support of everyone here. The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

University **President Prof. Rivka Carmi** explained that the first buildings on the North Campus will include student dormitories and an international conference center. This combination will enable BGU to expand its global outreach, offering

state-of-the-art facilities for academic and professional gatherings and expanding the University’s limited housing options.

“One of the underlying principles of this ambitious development is the continued internationalization of the University. With the building of new housing for research students, post-docs and young faculty to match that of any leading university in the world, BGU will soon be well placed to successfully compete for the most talented and committed young scholars and researchers, who will form the vanguard of future achievement.

“Our Vision 2020 sets out to realize a preferred future – a future that we walk into our dreams and imaginations,” she said.

Outgoing **Head of the Student Union Avi Benalal** reflected on his experiences at the University, saying that what he had enjoyed most was to be able “to broaden my horizons, intellectually, socially and culturally.”

Guest of Honor **Prof. Ruth Arnon** offered numerous examples of Israeli inventions and innovations to disprove the myth that Israeli researchers and educators have remained locked away in their ivory towers.

From a Reporter’s Notebook

Israel Channel 10 Arab Affairs Correspondent **Zvi Yehezkeili** presented a fascinating lecture under the auspices of the Robert St. John Chair in Objective Middle East Reporting, titled *Israel in the*



Beer-Sheva Mayor Ruvik Danilovich



Prof. Ruth Arnon



Rector Prof. Zvi HaCohen, Micaela Goren Monti and Alex Goren

Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann Remembered

Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann, Vice-Chairman of BGU's Board of Governors for two decades and one of the University's most magnanimous supporters, was remembered during the Board with a movie in his honor, screened at the Opening Plenary Session, and a concert in his memory performed by members of the Chamber Music Course at BGU, conducted by Daniel Lachish.



The event was moderated by **Dr. Opher Donchin**, Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering, and a member of the Zlotowski Center for Neuroscience.

An Attitude of Gratitude

At the ceremony welcoming new members of the Ben-Gurion Society and recognizing the University's most loyal supporters, **Jill Ben-Dor**, Director of the Department of Donor and Associates Affairs, acknowledged the generosity of spirit that is the engine behind BGU's phenomenal growth. "Whereas the Board is primarily about BGU, we are here today to say thank you, to you our friends and supporters who make all of this possible."

"I am deeply inspired by your dedication and believe that we are truly partners, working together, hand-in-hand, to build BGU, advance the Negev and strengthen the State of Israel," said Prof. Carmi.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the busy day was the very popular Student Evening, organized with the Student Union.



Prof. Adele Diamond presents the Annual Zlotowski Lecture

Sponsored by AABGU members **Brooke Kroeger and Alex Goren, Maribeth and Steven Lerner, Aileen Whitman and Roy J. Zuckerberg**, the event offered

participants a chance to spend an informal evening with students and an opportunity to experience the rich campus life that is BGU's trademark.

Age of ISIS: Somewhere between Gaza and London. The event was moderated by **Prof. Amit Schejter**, Chair of the Department of Communication Studies.

Through a series of humorous vignettes and specific examples drawn from his years covering the region, Yehezkeli maintained that the major conflict in the Middle East is not Israeli-Palestinian, but rather Sunni-Shia. "It is a conflict that has raged for over a thousand years," he said. "Time is understood differently in the Middle East and the long view should be taken when attempting to understand the real current of events," he advised.

The day before she was awarded an honorary doctorate, **Prof. Adele Diamond** presented the **Annual Zlotowski Lecture**. She offered insights from neuroscience to help children thrive. She spoke about the

importance of executive functions, such as self-discipline, attention control and creativity, for children's success in life and encouraged parents to match expectations with children's abilities.

"Stress impairs executive functions and can cause anyone to look as if he or she has an EF impairment (like ADHD) when that's not the case," she said, remarking that "You may have noticed that when stressed you cannot think as clearly or exercise as good self-control."

Noting that it has been proven that boys do better under stress than girls, she suggested we match the task to the situation and educate children in a supportive atmosphere. "It's important that we communicate loud and clear our faith and expectation that each one of our young people will succeed," she concluded.



Zvi Yehezkeli



Ezra and Yaffa Yerucham with Prof. Carmi



Alain Kostenbaum with Prof. Carmi



The Chairman's Council, back row (l-r): Gary Fine, Canada; Lionel Halpérin, Switzerland; Gérard Worms, France; Lloyd Goldman, USA; Arnie Bengis, USA; front row (l-r): Adv. Asher Heled, Chairman of the Executive Committee; Prof. Rivka Carmi; Bertie Lubner, South Africa; Alex M. Goren, Chairman of the Board of Governors; Eric Charles, UK; Elen Marcus, USA



At the Annual Year in Review session

One of the highlights was a BGU trivia game that offered answers to key questions such as, "If I am on floor 5½, what building am I in?" (The Cukier, Goldstein-Goren Building) and "How many dogs are being trained as seeing-eye dogs by BGU students?" (Over 50).

A Hub of Activity

On Tuesday morning, Board members learned about the exciting developments at BGU at the annual Year in Review and were treated to a unique look at one of the initiatives the University has devoted much time and effort in creating – the Advanced Technologies Park. Representing the multi-national companies that have opened offices at the ATP, **Shelly Gotman**, Managing Director of Lockheed Martin IS&GS Israel, and **Maya Hofman-Levy**, General Manager of EMC's R&D Center in Beer-Sheva, explained their rationale and



Lionel Halpérin with students from the Keren Moshe Leadership Training Program



Abraham Ben David Ohayon (center) and Laurence Ohayon (right) with Elise Donat and graduate student Sarit Ouriel

vision for helping Beer-Sheva grow into an international capital of cyber security and life sciences research and innovation. Introduced by **Prof. Dan Blumberg**, Vice-President and Dean for Research and Development, the event included a visit to the ATP to meet with BGU faculty and alumni working there.

The inauguration of the Amos Oz Initiative for Literature and Culture in Arad was launched with a special lecture in memory of **Stuart B. Young**, in the presence of his wife, **Toni Young** of Wilmington, Delaware, and family. Renowned Israeli author and **Professor Emeritus Amos Oz** was lauded by members of the Department of Hebrew Literature, including **Prof. Nissim Calderon**, **Etgar Keret** and **Prof. Yigal Swartz**, Director of the Heksherim Research Institute. Moderated by **Dr. Haviva Ishay**, Chair of the Department, the event outlined the

importance of the Initiative that offers new opportunities to the residents of Arad and the surrounding Negev region (full coverage on page 12).

Renowned feminist thinker **Prof. Carol Gilligan** reflected on empathy and gender during the **Irene and Hyman Kreitman Annual Memorial Lecture**. She posited that all human beings are born empathetic and that what we should be focusing on is not how to “teach” empathy, but how people “lose” their empathy.

As small children we learn to divide the world by gender, she explained. “It takes a nano-second to realize that this is absurd, yet it goes on,” she said. “We internalize gender stereotypes that we know are inane and yet we repeat them.” Moderated by **Dr. Leeat Granek** from the Department of Public Health, the enthusiastic audience

expressed its appreciation throughout the event.

The day culminated with the conferment ceremony of Honorary Doctoral Degrees upon seven deserving individuals: **Prof. Jill Banfield**, USA; **Prof. Adele Diamond**, Canada; **Prof. Carol Gilligan**, USA; **Prof. Anne Glover**, UK; **Alexander M. Goren**, USA; **Prof. Jacques Lewiner**, France; and **Lorry I. Lokey**, USA.

On Wednesday, Board participants were treated to outstanding tours of BGU Negev-related research sites, led by researchers from the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism. From water to wine, Bedouin culture and the Ben-Gurion Archives, guests received a glimpse of the diverse types of research being conducted at the Institutes.



Prof. Carol Gilligan delivers the Irene and Hyman Kreitman Annual Memorial Lecture

The third phase of the **American Associates Village** was dedicated, in the presence of donors and international students who have come to study at Sede Boqer. Former President of the American Associates and current Chairman of the



Dr. Sarab Abu-Rabia (center) with guests on a research tour focused on the Bedouin community

Board, **Alex Goren**, praised the initiative, noting that the Institutes had to turn away students because of the housing shortage, but would now be able to grow. “This is one more vision shared by those of us committed to the Negev,” he said.

Prof. Boris Zaltzman, Director of the Blaustein Institutes, thanked the American Associates for investing in a particularly warm and inviting living environment. “Our students come from around the world and this becomes their home,” he said. “Our mission is to make the desert bloom and make the world a better place. With your support, we are well on our way.”

A unique social incubator, the Rothschild Cube – Center for Effective Social Action, was inaugurated later that afternoon by the University, together with the Rothschild Caesarea Foundation, in the presence of its

Vice Chairman, Shlomo Yanai (full coverage on page 16).

The very successful 45th Board of Governors Meeting culminated with a gala evening at the new Carasso Science Park, which featured a band and dancing into the night.

We hope to see you here next year at the 46th Board of Governors Meeting, to be held on June 5–8, 2016.

To view the movies, visit the Board website at www.bgu.ac.il/Board and click on movies.



Dedicating the American Associates Village (l-r): Prof. Boris Zaltzman; Prof. Rivka Carmi; Coby and Riki Dayan; Lloyd Goldman; Alex Goren; Carol and Harry Saal



Ellen Marcus and Hilary and Bertie Lubner with Prof. Rivka Carmi at the gala evening

Inauguration of the Amos Oz Initiative for Literature and Culture in Arad

The Amos Oz Initiative for Literature and Culture in Arad was launched with an event in memory of Stuart B. Young, in the presence of his wife, Toni, and family during the 45th Board of Governors Meeting.

Passionate about the Negev and dedicated to its educational and cultural development, Toni and the late Stuart B. Young, long-standing champions of the town of Arad, sought to combine their passion for the arts with their love of Israel. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Toni Young explained that, "The arts have the power to change people and to transform societies. We strongly believe that literature and the arts help us find our humanity and understand the humanity and perspective of the other. Through the arts we experience a different dimension of life." She expressed her wish that this Initiative would encourage more people to read Israeli literature and discover the true nature of Israel and its people.

In his keynote address, Prof. Emeritus Amos Oz stated that Israel is currently experiencing in a cultural Golden Age,



Professor Emeritus Amos Oz

unlike any other since the revival of the Hebrew language. The Amos Oz Initiative for Literature and Culture in Arad will promote the flourishing of this exceptional creativity in Israel, and particularly in the Negev.

The three-part Initiative is designed to enable acclaimed author Amos Oz to give back to the city that was his home for

so many years by encouraging Hebrew Literature research and writing and offering literary and cultural events to Arad's residents and students. "This vision is based on establishing and deepening the connection between the Young Family and BGU, the Department of Hebrew Literature, and the Heksherim Institute, on the one hand, and on the other, the city of Arad and its various communities, with which the Youngs already have a strong connection," Prof. Yigal Swartz, Director of the Heksherim Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture, said at the event.

The Initiative opened with a two-day conference in Arad focused on promoting young researchers. The Amos Oz Prizes for Excellence were awarded to graduate and undergraduate students. The prizes will also support the production of two books featuring the writings of artists from Arad and from the creative writing track at BGU. Three prizes were awarded to Negev high-school students for a poem, story, literary essay or research project. Other planned events include a lecture series, a workshop to promote BGU students in the creative writing track and campus visits for Arad residents.



Toni Young (right) with author Etgar Keret and her daughter Ann

Bridging the Faculties



Jim and Liz Breslauer (left) and BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi (center) cut the ribbon in the presence of former BGU President and MK Prof. Avishay Braverman and his wife, Yael (right).

The Jim and Liz Breslauer Bridge was dedicated in the presence of the benefactors and their family, and guests from around the world. The Breslauer-Soref Foundation generously supported the construction of the bridge connecting the Faculty of Health

Sciences and the Marcus Family Campus. The event, which included presentations of interdisciplinary research projects, was moderated by Prof. Amos Katz, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The bridge was designed by renowned Israeli architect Ada Karmi-Melamede, who also designed the buildings now connected by the bridge. Made of steel and wood, the 41-meter-long bridge spans the busy Ben-Gurion Boulevard.

"Whenever someone asks me what I love best about BGU – I love the students. Talking with them and learning from them, and finding out what makes them tick," Jim Breslauer said at the ceremony.

Jim Breslauer currently serves as Chairman of the Breslauer-Soref Foundation and sits on a number of local, national and international boards. "Our family has been part of the BGU family for decades," he added. "It is an honor and a pleasure that we have the ability to come here." The Breslausers, from Long Beach, California, funded the bridge with the return on their early investment in the Advanced Technologies Park.

From Jaffa to the Negev

The pre-Board trip focused on Tel Aviv, the first Hebrew city and learned about its dynamic growth. Guests visited historic sites following in David Ben-Gurion's footsteps, while tasting the very best of modern Israel.

Standing (left to right): Constance Crosby; Victor Elias; Aya Bar-Hadas; Ellen Marcus; Diana Sandler; Conrad Sandler; Tamara Fine; Gary Fine. Sitting (left to right): Daniel Rosenblum (tour guide); Janice Levine; Toni Young; Dr. Paula Kabalo; Nina Perlis; Dodi Fromson.



BGU Recognizes Exceptional Accomplishment with the Awarding of Seven Honorary Doctorates



Clockwise from back row, left: Prof. Jill Banfield; Alexander M. Goren; Prof. Anne Glover; Lorry I. Lokey; Prof. Adele Diamond; Prof. Carol Gilligan; Prof. Jacques Lewiner

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev bestowed honorary doctorates on seven groundbreaking scientists, inventors and philanthropists during the 45th Board of Governors Meeting.

Each recipient received a scroll with the University's citation, as excerpted below.

Prof. Jill Banfield, USA

"In appreciation of a trailblazing scientist, a leader in the field of geomicrobiology, who has brought this discipline to the forefront of scientific knowledge; to an internationally acclaimed expert, for her pioneering work on the impact of microbes and microbial processes on the environment, and for the exceptional creativity that led her to employ novel genetic methods for the characterization of this unique ecosystem under extreme natural conditions; in honor of a member of the American National Academy of Sciences, a laureate of many prestigious distinctions, including the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth and

Environmental Science, for the inspiration she provides to numerous colleagues and students and for her dedication to the advancement of education and research; in recognition of one whose comprehensive studies have enhanced our understanding of global climate changes, serving as a foundation for pivotal applications in the protection of the Earth; and with gratitude for her insights regarding colonization dynamics of the human microbiome and their long-term ramifications on the health and quality of life of all human beings."

Prof. Adele Diamond, Canada

"In acknowledgement of a brilliant researcher, among the founders of the field of cognitive developmental neuroscience, whose groundbreaking discoveries have led to worldwide improvements in the treatment of cognitive and attention disorders, thus enhancing the lives of thousands of patients worldwide; in honor of a distinguished, award-winning scientist, who has attained a profound understanding of the cerebral

cortex, for illuminating the connection between biological and environmental factors as they pertain to our health, pushing the boundaries of knowledge regarding executive functions; in recognition of a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, whose pioneering publications have enriched generations of students and colleagues; with esteem for a preeminent academic, who has held noteworthy positions in both public and academic institutions, including as governmental advisor on matters of education, significantly influencing early childhood pedagogy; and with appreciation for one who has helped children succeed at tasks long thought beyond their ability, thus offering the prospect of a brighter future to the next generation."

Prof. Carol Gilligan, USA

"In recognition of a groundbreaking psychologist in the study of human development, the founder of difference feminism, who shed a bright new light on the disparities between young men and

women, their perspectives and motives, thus revolutionizing gender studies and other social science disciplines; in acknowledgment of an exceptionally accomplished researcher and writer, who substantially expanded the breadth of knowledge regarding a girl's transformation into womanhood and human beings' moral development; in appreciation of an outstanding scientist, whose seminal books – translated into many languages – constitute invaluable cultural assets, for the admirable pursuit of justice and sense of responsibility that have guided her fearless struggle against oppression, discrimination and exclusion of all kinds; and with gratitude for her lifelong devotion to raising the female voice, long silenced by theory and history, imbuing it with new meaning and endowing all of humanity with hope for a more egalitarian future."

Prof. Anne Glover, UK

"In recognition of a visionary academic, whose commitment to the advancement of science crosses borders and continents; in appreciation of an extraordinary researcher in the fields of molecular and cell biology, whose innovative study of the human body's response to stress at the molecular level sheds light on the aging process; in acknowledgment of an exceptional scientist, appointed Commander of the British Empire for her significant contribution to environmental sciences through the development of pollution-detecting biosensor technology; with gratitude for a highly respected advisor to public and governmental institutions in all aspects of science, technology and innovation, the recipient of numerous honors and a member of prestigious international associations; and with esteem for an inspirational leader, who has devoted herself to the empowerment of women in academia while occupying such eminent positions as Chief Scientific Adviser to the Scottish First Minister and to

the President of the European Commission, for her ceaseless efforts to promote the values of science in her own country and throughout the world."

Alexander M. Goren, USA

"With esteem for the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, a devoted friend and visionary leader; in acknowledgment of an extraordinary entrepreneur and dynamic businessman, who has applied his rich experience managing his successful business ventures in Israel and around the world, particularly in the domains of investment and real estate, to the realms of social action, community development and philanthropy; in recognition of an influential member of the American Jewish community, for his support of such valuable causes as education, culture and social welfare; to a distinguished member of the Ben-Gurion Society, for his exemplary service to the University's Board of Governors and its American Associates, where he served as President; and with gratitude for a magnanimous and passionate Zionist, whose family has been associated with the University since its inception, for upholding an illustrious tradition of giving, contributing to its physical growth and academic achievement, thus demonstrating his profound commitment and unwavering belief in its promising future and in its importance to the residents of the Negev and the State of Israel."

Prof. Jacques Lewiner, France

"In appreciation of an ingenious physicist and inventor, whose original research has yielded invaluable innovations and industrial applications; with high regard for an eminent scientist, whose wide-ranging work integrates basic and applied physics, for his numerous publications illuminating the domain of electromagnetism; in profound recognition of a member of the French Academy of Technologies, who for many years served as

the Scientific Director of the École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles of Paris and in other important capacities, and who was instrumental in the creation of thriving technology-oriented start-up companies, thus building bridges between research and industry; in acknowledgment of a devoted friend of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the benefactor of the Prof. Jacques Lewiner Fund for the Department of Chemistry; and with esteem for the founder of the Espace Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, demonstrating his commitment to making science accessible to the general public and to the younger generation."

Lorry I. Lokey, USA

"With gratitude for a magnanimous philanthropist and distinguished businessman, who generously contributes to important causes worldwide; in honor of a trailblazing journalist and entrepreneur, founder of Business Wire, who for decades stood at its helm, nurturing it into a thriving international corporation serving countless communications agencies around the world; in acknowledgment of a munificent benefactor actively involved in the North California Jewish community, who is constantly guided by the value of giving to others, and whose beneficence has touched numerous organizations, particularly institutions of higher education; in profound recognition of a trustee of several corporations and associations, for his unflinching commitment to the advancement of technology, education and science, specifically in Israel; and in appreciation of a member of the President's Pillars and new member of the Board of Governors of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, for his contribution to the construction of a chemistry building and for his ardent friendship and extraordinary devotion to the welfare of the students and of the community at large."

Rothschild Cube – Center for Effective Social Action Inaugurated



Prof. Rivka Carmi with Shlomo Yanai

The Rothschild Cube – Center for Effective Social Action, a joint initiative of BGU and the Rothschild Caesarea Foundation, was inaugurated during the 45th Board of Governors Meeting in the presence of Shlomo Yanai, Vice Chairman of the

Rothschild Caesarea Foundation.

“The Rothschild Cube increases the effectiveness of social initiatives by means of training, mentorship and the development of knowledge, using a new social simulator

featuring innovative technologies,” explained Edna Batan, Director of the program, which is part of the Community Action Department.

“It isn’t only the first of its kind in Israel; it is the first in the world. Nonprofits face a lot of challenges – usually unsuccessfully – so they need to improve effectiveness. The Rothschild Cube is designed to help them face this challenge. The integrated system uses the most advanced simulators and the most simple of methods – actors role-playing. The combination of hi-tech and low-tech will help us help others,” said Dr. Hagai Katz, the Center’s academic consultant, at the ceremony.

Addressing the Foundation’s motivation to partner with BGU in supporting this project, Yanai remarked that the Rothschild family has always been committed to innovation and entrepreneurship, combined with effective implementation. Its endowment is now dedicated to higher education in Israel and “BGU is a strategic pillar in a more socially aware and effective future.”



It All Adds Up

Prof. Wilfried Schmid (left) from Harvard University presented the annual Mathematics lecture under the auspices of the Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics. The Noriko Sakurai Fellowship Award for outstanding Post Doctorates and the Friedman Prize for Outstanding Doctoral Work for the year 2015 were also awarded at the event, in the presence of Board member and supporter Daniel Sternheimer.

Celebrating BGU’s First Building on the Occasion of Our 45th Anniversary



Cornerstone laying ceremony of the Zalman Aranne Central Library, February 23, 1971



Beautifully renovated floor, 2014

Over the past two years the Zalman Aranne Central Library has undergone a comprehensive renovation program, refurbishing the University’s oldest building in the spirit of the time and in accordance with the latest standards of academic libraries worldwide. The Zalman Aranne Central Library was the first building inaugurated on Ben-Gurion University’s new campus, today the Marcus Family Campus.

Designed by architects Shulamit and Michael Nadler in 1968, it was constructed in the Brutalist style, and features monumental sculptural forms rendered in raw, molded concrete.

Upon completion, the Library housed 83,000 volumes; today, this number has grown to one million books and thousands of electronic items, reflecting the Library’s “green” policy.

The oldest book in the Library, composed by Isaac Abravanel as a commentary on Ethics of the Fathers, was published in 1506.

The book of the largest dimensions contains drawings of the Holy Land by painter David Roberts and measures 62 x 45 cm. The smallest book is an English-German Dictionary from the Lilliput series, measuring 4.5 x 3 cm.

Thank You, Mrs. Zlotowski!

The following is adapted from the remarks by the representative of this year’s recipients of the Zlotowski Admission Award for Outstanding Students, acknowledging their life-changing impact.

My name is Moshe Borow. I am 24 years old, married to Reut and live in Sderot. I am honored to represent the 136 students of Ben-Gurion University who received the Zlotowski Award this year. I am a first-year student in the Department of Life Sciences and also take part in a special program called *Ashalim*, exposing us to the most up-to-date research in the field.

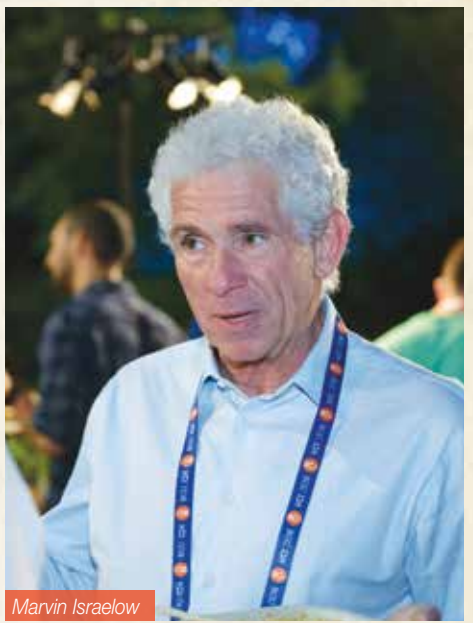
When I married Reut, we decided to make our home in Sderot. During Operation Protective Edge, Reut and I ran activities in bomb shelters for local kids. For the past three years, I’ve also been volunteering with Yitzhak, a handicapped 37-year-old man, who was injured in two rocket attacks.

When I decided to pursue my academic studies, I knew I wanted to study at BGU, to keep living in the Negev, but also because I had heard so much about the high level of academics here. The exceptional research programs, lectures and labs I participate in, all make me realize I’ve made the right choice.

On behalf of all Zlotowski students, I would like to say *Todah* to dear Mrs. Zlotowski, and thank her for the wonderful support she has provided to so many students over the years. She enables us to pursue our dreams, and empowers us to make our own contribution to the world.



Douglas and Bernice Krupp



Marvin Israelow



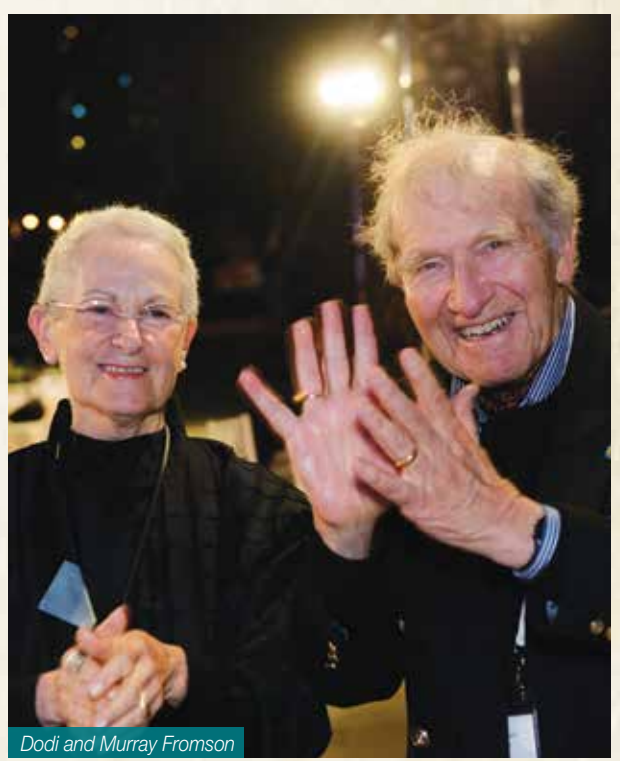
Eise Donat with the IE-Club delegation from France



The Canadian delegation: Back row, l-r: Sheldon & Florence Zamick, Constance Crosby, Victor Elias, Tamara Fine, David Berson, Ariel Karabelnicoff, Gary Fine, Mark Mendelson, Mitch Oelbaum; Front row, l-r: Albert Lo, Lily Lo, Jack Altman, Diane Altman, Naomi Oelbaum



Conrad and Diana Sandler



Dodi and Murray Fromson



Snapshots

A glance at BGU events



At Israel's CyberTech 2015 Conference (l-r): Daphna Naily, Prof. Yuval Elovici, Eldad Matityahu, Peter Wexler, Prof. Bracha Shapira, Victoria Livschitz, Kira Makagon, Riki Dayan, Coby Dayan and Dr. Harry Saal

A Degree of Success



Graduates of the Medical School for International Health ham it up for a group "selfie"



Dr. Hana Abu Kaf, MD



Photo: Yisrael Balzovski

Dr. Yonah Alexandre holds the new Torah scroll that he and his wife Elisheva Bronstein donated to the BGU synagogue in memory of Manuel Bronstein



Green Campus awarded prizes to students for innovative projects in the presence of the head of the initiative, Prof. Yaron Ziv, Rector Prof. Zvi HaCohen and Vice-Rector Prof. Gad Rabinovich

5,474 graduates received their degrees in a series of ceremonies held in May and June, including 226 new PhDs from the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies and 99 MDs from the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School and the Medical School for International Health. A whopping 3,465 undergraduate degrees were conferred by the different faculties: Engineering, 1,107; Humanities and Social Sciences, 1,312; Natural Sciences, 419; Health Sciences, 342; and Management, 285.

1,489 Master's degrees were granted, and another 195 people received teaching certificates.

Congratulations to our wonderful graduates! Welcome to the BGU alumni family!



PhD recipient Monique-Yolande Bassomo with the Ambassador of Cameroon in Israel Mr. Henri Etoundi Essomba, her advisor Prof. Gabi Lemkoff and family

Excellence Recognized



Prof. Ron Dagan (left) and Avishai Henik

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev recognized excellence in teaching and research at all levels during a special awards ceremony held in June under the auspices of Rector Prof. Zvi HaCohen.

Prof. Shmuel Ahituv was lauded for winning this year's Israel Prize for Bible Studies. The prize committee cited Ahituv for his contribution to the study of the history of the Jewish People in the biblical age and to biblical literary commentary. He deciphered ancient Hebrew inscriptions and presented them in an accessible format used by scholars and students in Israel and around the world.

Two senior professors received the title of **Distinguished Professor at BGU**, an honor granted to those who have achieved international renown in their field and who continue to engage in original research.

Prof. Avishai Henik, a world-renowned expert in psychology and cognitive neuroscience, was one of the founders of the Zlotowski Center for Neuroscience and a former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

and Social Sciences. He studies numerical processing, attention, word processing, and synesthesia, with the aim of elucidating the basic mental operations and brain structures involved in these processes.

Prof. Ron Dagan, a world-renowned physician and researcher in the field of infectious children's diseases and the incumbent of the Werner J. and Charlotte A. Gunzburger Chair for the Study of Infectious Diseases, has concentrated his energies on finding vaccines for Hepatitis A, Rotavirus and pneumococcus bacteria. He has also played an enormous role in better understanding and overcoming the antibiotic-resistant bacteria that cause infections in children's respiratory and digestive tracts.

Prof. Iris Shai was awarded the **Prize for Excellence in Nutrition Research**, a unique prize created in honor of Joyce Sillins on the occasion of her 75th birthday. Shai, the incumbent of the Dr. Herman Kessel Chair in Epidemiology, conducts groundbreaking research on the effects of various diets on long-term health issues and metabolic diseases.

At the same ceremony, the **Toronto Prize for Excellence in Research** was granted to six exceptional researchers. Created in 1998 by the Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Associates of BGU, the Prize supports promising young researchers, encouraging them to excel.

The recipients were:

Dr. Ilan Dinstein, Psychology: His research focuses on autism, investigating various aspects of brain function and brain memory in autism, while collaborating with scientists at Carnegie Mellon U, NYU and UCSD. He is a major force behind the new autism research center, which he established with clinical partners at Soroka University Medical Center.

Dr. Natalie Elia, Life Sciences: Elia is an expert in cutting-edge microscopy technologies, in particular super-resolution fluorescence microscopy. Her work addressing the involvement of ESCRT machinery in cell division was published in several top journals, and she has recently been awarded a prestigious Horizon 2020 European Research Council Starting Grant and the Krill Prize from the Wolf Foundation for excellence in scientific research.

Dr. Olga Kagan, Foreign Literatures and Linguistics: An expert in semantics, combining traditional grammar and theoretical linguistics. She has already published two books, as well as articles in leading journals in the field.

Dr. Dan Levy, Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics: Levy, incumbent of the Alice and Seymour Powers Career Development Chair in Basic and Clinical Oncology, is an expert in Epigenetics and Chromatin, a new field in molecular biology that enhances the understanding of gene expression. He has introduced this new field to the Department and succeeded in obtaining research grants from ISF, BSF, GIF and ICRF.

Prof. Taleb Mokari, Chemistry: Mokari's PhD work in nanoscience and nanotechnology yielded four patents and 24 publications in top scientific journals. He is now considered one of the world's leading young researchers in the area of nanomaterials synthesis.

Dr. Niv Papo, Biotechnology Engineering: Papo, incumbent of the Edgar de Picciotto Career Development Chair in Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging, focuses on the field of protein engineering. His combination of protein engineering, peptide chemistry and *in vivo* cancer studies distinguishes him as an exceptionally accomplished scientist and promising independent investigator. He has received a number of prestigious awards, such as an ERC, the Krill Prize and the Young Investigator Award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

The **Charles Roth Prize for Excellence in Teaching** was presented to **Dr. Naama Atzaba-Poria** from the Department of Psychology. The award was created by Board of Governors member Lyon Roth in honor of his father. It recognizes outstanding lecturers who have had a significant impact on their students' lives and careers.

The **David and Luba Glatt Prize for Excellence in Teaching** was awarded on behalf of Adv. Herman Glatt, in memory of his parents, Luba and David. This year's recipients are **Dr. Daniel Markiewicz** of the Mathematics Department and **Dr. Sharon Pardo** of the Department of Politics and Government.

These laureates were joined by more than 20 researchers, who received awards for excellence in teaching, as selected through a University-wide student poll. All of these scholars have brought international recognition to BGU and are an inspiration to their students and colleagues.

You make us proud!

BGU Salutes Its Friends



Congratulations to **Amb. Esther Herlitz**, long-time member of the University's Board of Governors and founder of Israel's umbrella organization for voluntary services, upon receipt of the Israel Prize Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Independence Day.

- **Prof. Joseph Kost**, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, has been elected member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.
- **Prof. Tamar Alexander** of the Department of Hebrew Literature, incumbent of the Estelle S. Frankfurter Chair in Sephardic Studies, and Director of the Gaon Center for Ladino Culture at BGU was recently appointed Chairperson of the National Council for Ladino Culture.
- **Prof. Pesach Shvartzman** of the Faculty of Health Sciences and incumbent of the Mayman Chair in Family Medicine received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Israel Association of Family Physicians.
- **Prof. Emeritus Ilan Troen** was elected President of the Association for Israel Studies, the preeminent international society for scholarship and research of modern Israel.

The Four Questions

Questions

Alum Meital Damri

Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management



Meital Damri

Why did you choose to become a winemaker?

I was born and raised in Beer-Sheva, and while I was studying Management at BGU I lived at home and helped my father with his hobby – making wine for our own use. The world of wine and winemaking fascinated me and by the time I graduated I knew that was what I wanted to do professionally.

For me, winemaking is a combination of art and science intertwined with a very strong and passionate connection to the land, which in my case, is the Negev.

How does being a winemaker in the Negev differ from being one in other places?

Israel's wine industry is very dynamic and continually expanding. Midbar's slogan,

"Wine in the Desert Is What We Do," reflects the winery's aim to make internationally acclaimed limited-edition wines from grapes grown exclusively in the Negev Desert. We produce 40,000 bottles per year.

What is the uniqueness of wine produced in the desert?

Our vineyards are located in Nahal Zin, a dry river bed near the Ramon Crater, on terraces that date back to the Nabatean period, when the Negev was an important wine-producing area. The combination of low humidity/drought and abundant sunshine helps create a unique terroir in which the grower has complete control of the amount of water the vine receives, and thus the ability to regulate the size of the leaves and of the grape itself.

The white top soil reflecting the sunlight onto the vines, combined with extreme variations

in day and nighttime temperatures, affects the way the grapes ripen, resulting in naturally high levels of acidity.

Midbar believes its outstanding wines showcase the positive aspects of small-scale wine production in the desert.

What are your goals for the future?


Of the three wines we sent to Eshkol Hazahav (the Israeli wine "Oscars"), one won a gold medal and another a bronze. This is very encouraging, and proof that we are going in the right direction. Our ultimate aim is for people here and abroad to recognize the Negev as an important and excellent wine-growing region, just like in ancient times.


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