

WINTER 2013

BGU & YOU

NEWSLETTER OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

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Deutsche Telekom CEO René Obermann presented with Ben-Gurion Leadership Award

Mr. René Obermann, CEO of Deutsche Telekom AG, one of the largest telecommunications companies in the world, was presented with the Ben-Gurion Leadership Award this fall.

"This award recognizes those leaders who see the potential for growth and development in ideas that are only just emerging. Those people who capture the moment and turn it into the future. Mr. Obermann is one of those people," Prof. Dan Blumberg, BGU Deputy Vice-President and Dean for Research and Development, said at the ceremony.

Deutsche Telekom AG and BGU have been collaborating on research since 2004. Today, there are more than a hundred students and researchers working on cooperative network security and customer analytics projects at BGU's T-Labs. Further expansion is expected next year with the opening of the Advanced Technologies Park adjacent to the University. T-Labs has already reserved almost 1,000 square meters of laboratory and office space.

President Prof. Rivka Carmi addressed Obermann and the audience. "Leadership is about having a vision and planning the journey. René Obermann is a leader in the spirit of David Ben-Gurion. He foresaw the central role the mobile phone would have and will continue to have. Acting on that vision meant acknowledgment of the hi-tech industry and Israel's innovative spirit and choosing BGU, Israel's youngest university, located in the periphery. It was a courageous decision which has fostered a unique cooperation model between academia and industry," she said.



DT CEO René Obermann and Prof. Rivka Carmi

Obermann accepted the award "on behalf of the many people in my company and our partners. They are the visionaries."

"At a recent trade show, we exhibited 40 innovations and many of them or parts of them originated at T-Labs," he noted. Turning to his attempts to introduce new ways of thinking at the company, he laid out a vision of "employees becoming entrepreneurs at heart," mentioning that he "supports DT employees to have curiosity about how to make things better and the enthusiasm, will-power and discipline to do it."

He closed by saying the award was "an inspiration to live up to."



The distinguished recipients of honorary doctorates and the Ben-Gurion Negev Award at this year's Ben-Gurion Day ceremonies

Ben-Gurion Day Salutes Excellence

H.E. British Ambassador to Israel Matthew Gould, M.B.E. used the podium of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's honorary doctorates ceremony to denounce those who would boycott Israel.

"Everything we do is an expression of our values, and it is through our actions that we give voice to those values. Like our belief in science as a potential force for good, above politics, beyond nation, that can unite and heal. Like our belief in academic freedom as the essential underpinning of any liberal and tolerant society that values knowledge and accepts debate," he declared.

"Like our rejection of academic boycotts, because we believe that boycotts divide people and reduce understanding, when what we need is to bring people together.

"Our mission, of building scientific and academic links between our nations, is deeply unwelcome to some, who would rather go down the route of boycott than engagement. My government has stood firm by this mission, in part because of the

knowledge that universities in Israel are places where the measure that counts is excellence, not agreement," he said.

BGU awarded honorary doctorates to five outstanding individuals including Gould on December 26.

Referring to all the recipients, BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi noted that, "We especially appreciate the dedication and conviction of those who invest in education and culture at all levels, in developing human capital, one of the few natural resources we have."

Prof. Yakir Aharonov is a renowned quantum physicist and observer of the Aharonov-Bohm effect. Adina Bar Shalom is the founder of the Haredi College of Jerusalem, the first higher education college for haredim. BGU is an active partner in creating and sharing curricula. Renowned Israeli author Meir Shalev chronicles the pioneering settlement of Israel and is the author of a number of beloved children's books. Defying the odds, Berta Yampolsky founded the Israel Ballet when the state was still young.

The Ben-Gurion Negev Award was bestowed upon Dr. Orna Berry, Corporate VP and General Manager of EMC's centers of excellence in Israel; she was responsible for EMC's decision to open an R&D Center in Beer-Sheva.

Carmi declared, "Orna saw the potential of the Negev for Israel and BGU's central role long before others. She saw, and in contrast to others who might also have seen, she also went and realized that potential."

Berry said that she hoped the opening of EMC's Center of Excellence in Beer-Sheva would be a "cornerstone of flourishing industry which will provide income to the Negev for many years to come."

Ben-Gurion Memorial Day was inaugurated by law in 1976, three years after David Ben-Gurion passed away, and designated to fall on the 6th of Kislev every year, the Hebrew date of his death. This year, BGU's ceremonies were postponed because of Operation Pillar of Defense.

BGU and Israel Lands Administration sign Lease Agreement for **New Northern Campus**

University President Prof. Rivka Carmi signed an agreement with the Israel Lands Administration (ILA) in the presence of Housing and Construction Minister Ariel Atias to lease a 57-acre tract of land adjacent to the Marcus Family Campus in Beer-Sheva. According to the agreement, the first building project will be new dormitories on this north campus. ILA Director-General Benzi Lieberman and

University Vice President and Director-General David Bareket were also present at the signing. Dormitories with 1,000 beds will be built within four years with a potential expansion to 2,500 beds. The north campus is across the train tracks from the Marcus Family Campus. "This is an historic step that will shape the character and identity of the University in the next 50 years," Carmi said.

Bareket added, "The significance of adding the north campus is to double the University's area. I want to take this opportunity to thank the ILA for this important decision which will enable us to strengthen the University by, among other things, increasing the number of students and building more classrooms and laboratories. It is important to stress that this process complements the IDF's move to the Negev."

Helmsley Charitable Trust invests in Robotics

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust Fund has donated more than \$6.2 million to BGU for multidisciplinary, application-oriented robotics research and systems development. The grant will be used to establish the ABC Robotics Center at the University. The acronym stands for agricultural, biological and cognitive robotics. Research and development will focus on medical, service and agricultural robotics. A portion of the grant also provides fellowships to postdoctoral and doctoral students, updated technological equipment and additional faculty positions.

Fully autonomous robots, capable of performing new tasks in complex and unknown environments and interacting with people, do not yet exist. Robots require human-like cognitive capabilities to successfully enter real-world settings and cope with dynamic and unstructured human environments. This requires robots to be equipped with advanced perception and dexterity, as well as the ability to adapt to changing conditions and to efficiently learn new tasks.

According to Prof. Yael Edan, the Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut Chair in Manufacturing Engineering, who has been spearheading the University's robotics research for



Prof. Yael Edan and her research team

years, the new center will encourage interdisciplinary collaborative research to push the boundaries of the field. "The center will focus on the research areas that BGU excels at and will be created to strengthen the ties between researchers who come from different fields such as robotics, psychology, biology and medicine," she said.

"The Helmsley Charitable Trust is proud to partner with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in advancing the science, technology and human interactivity of robotics, which will be so critical to medicine, industry and agriculture in the future," said Sandor Frankel, a Helmsley trustee.



BGU Explores Collaborations with Chinese Universities

In the fall members of the University administration traveled to the People's Republic of China to capitalize on the initiative of the State of Israel to expand scientific cooperation with Chinese universities. The delegation included President Prof. Rivka Carmi, Rector Prof. Zvi HaCohen, incumbent of the Maks and Rochelle Etingin Chair in Desert Research, Dean for Research & Development Prof. Moti Herskowitz, incumbent of the Israel Cohen Chair in Chemical Engineering, Director-General David Bareket, and Dean of the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies Prof. Michal Shapira, incumbent of

the Myles Thaler Chair in Plant Genetics.

"The Chinese have a great appreciation for Israeli ingenuity and entrepreneurship skills and are looking for ways to expand their own capabilities," explained Carmi upon their return. "BGU offers them science in the areas of expertise that they are interested in, with a touch of that pioneering Israeli spirit that they want to learn about."

The State of Israel has announced several funding options for developing joint programs, including the creation of an Israel-China Research Fund through the Israel

Science Foundation and a scholarship fund through the Council for Higher Education.

The group visited eight universities to explore possible long-term research collaboration agreements and educational exchange programs at the graduate and post-graduate level and short-term "executive courses" focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship. "Everyone we met was enthusiastic about the possibilities. Now we are sitting with the departments and the Bengis Center for Entrepreneurship and Hi-Tech Management to see what kind of programs we can offer," said Carmi.

Jordanian Students Graduate from Unique Three-Year Emergency Medicine Program



H.E. Dr. Mohammed el-Hadid

It was no ordinary graduation. There was a palpable feeling among the audience and speakers that a historic moment was in the offing. For the first time ever, 14 Jordanian students were graduating with Bachelor's degrees in emergency medicine from an Israeli university. The students, including one woman, had spent the last three years studying, touring Israel and participating in professional exercises.

The ceremony took place in the presence

of many government officials and representatives of the organizations who funded the exceptional program, including H.E. Ambassador Daniel Carmon, head of the Foreign Ministry's MASHAV initiative, Mr. Adi Ashkenazi, representing the Regional Cooperation Ministry, senior members of the Israeli Magen David Adom and Jordanian members of the Red Crescent.

President Prof. Rivka Carmi, in a heartfelt speech, talked about choosing a different path in the region. "You are coming back with an esteemed degree bought with a lot of effort, both academic and otherwise. I do hope it will open doors in Jordan," she said.

"I think we managed to prove that things can be different. We are more successful when we work together," she said. "Please consider this place as home and us a kind of family. Spread the word and keep in touch!" she implored the graduates.

Ambassador of the European Union Andrew Standley noted, "This should be a commonplace graduation of one of a

number of programs. But it's not and so this is a very special occasion." As one of the primary funding bodies for the program, he offered to find resources for future students.

Jordanian Red Crescent President H.E. Dr. Mohammed el-Hadid, one of the principal visionaries behind the program, along with former Rector and currently Sapir Academic College President, Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt, talked about recognizing the other's humanity, particularly since the event was taking place less than a week after Operation Pillar of Defense had ended and on November 29th, the very day that Israel was recognized by the UN in 1947 and Palestine in 2012.

In an eloquent appeal to all people's common humanity, he said, "As war arises in men's minds it is in men's minds that we should build the ramparts of peace. A young mind is receptive to change and ready to accept new ideas – this should be encouraged. Youth is the future generation and any investment in youth made now will yield untold riches in the future. A sample of which are our graduates tonight."

Jordan Baruch Stem Cell Research Fund Dedicated



President Prof. Rivka Carmi with members of the Baruch family at the dedication. Jordan Baruch's widow Rhoda is just to the right of the sign

"This marks a milestone, being here with all my near and dear ones," Rhoda Baruch said at the dedication of the Jordan Baruch Stem Cell Research Fund in memory of her late husband. The ceremony took place in the presence of 21 members of the extended Baruch family.

"Jordan recognized that here at Ben-Gurion University are the people who walk the extra mile and who are dedicated to the less fortunate. What the people of BGU have in addition to their brilliance and creativity is a sense of compassion and dedication that touched us so much. If anyone can do it, you guys can do it," she declared.

"This is a tribute to the life of an influential man, a family man who was an advocate of science and innovation," Vice-President for External Affairs Prof. Amos Drory said at the ceremony, "He transformed visions into practical inventions that helped propel us into the 21st Century. Jordan's genius was to see the potential in all that he touched."

"His was a brilliant mind," said BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi, "He thought far ahead of most people. His loss is a great loss to mankind, to the DC Jewish community and the AABGU and BGU community. Rhoda, thank you for taking forward his vision."

The Jordan Baruch Stem Cell Research Fund will facilitate basic scientific inquiry oriented at future clinical applications in the treatment of disease. Prof. Smadar Cohen, incumbent of the Claire and Harold Oshry Chair in Biotechnology and founding chair of the Avram and Stella Goldstein-Goren Department of Biotechnology Engineering, will oversee the fund in the framework of the new Center for Regenerative Medicine, Cellular Therapy and Stem Cell Research.

Throughout Jordan's long and impressive career, he oversaw numerous government contracts and patents, and worked with the National Institutes of Health to create one of the first examples of remote database

access, a colorimeter for cardiovascular procedures and a new lighting system used for brain surgery. He was invited to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology for President Carter from 1977-1979 and was instrumental in the creation of the BIRD (Binational Research and Development) Foundation, which fosters research and cooperation between Israel and the U.S.

Jordan and Rhoda contributed to the success of the American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in its early years, founding the D.C. chapter of AABGU in the 1980s, of which Jordan was an active member for the rest of his life. Rhoda continues to serve on the local board. Their magnanimous support throughout the years includes the funding of the Mendel Wasserman Career Development Chair in Desert Studies, named in memory of Rhoda's father.



BGU signs MoU with the newly-established **Botswana International University** of Science and Technology



BGU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote a collaborative research and teaching agreement with the newly-established Botswana International University of Science and Technology. The agreement was signed between BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi and acting-President of BIUST Prof. Steven Howell in the framework of a visit to BGU.

This summer a delegation from BGU was invited by the government of Botswana to explore the potential for cooperation in areas such as technology and desert studies and was asked for assistance in the launch of the new university. "BGU is proud to be able to help create this new university that will have a long-term impact on Botswana's development and also make a difference for all the countries in the region," said Carmi at the signing.

Ilse Katz Institute Awarded Major Nano Grant to **Develop Infrared Night Vision Glasses**



Prof. Gabby Sarusi

A team led by BGU received a five-year Focal Technological Area (FTA) grant from the International Nano-Science and Technology Advisory Board on behalf of the Israel National

Nanotechnology Initiative (INNI). Prof. Gabby Sarusi from the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology (IKI) will

lead a group of researchers aiming to create a thin coating that will turn invisible infrared light into visible light for night vision glasses.

Sarusi, a member of the Unit of Electro-optic Engineering, says "I knew what the layer architecture should be. I was looking for the best builder for each part of the layer." To that end he has put together an interdisciplinary team including IKI Director Prof. Yuval Golan, Head of the Department of Chemistry Prof. Gabriel Lemcoff, Prof. Michael Bendikov from the Organic Chemistry Department at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Prof. Gil Markovich, the head of the School of Chemistry at Tel Aviv University, Prof. Amir Sa'ar and Prof. Uriel Levi, the former head and the current

head of the Nanotechnology Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem respectively, and Prof. Efrat Lifshitz from the Chemistry Department of the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

This is the second FTA proposal in nanotechnology won by BGU this year. A BGU team is also developing targeted drug delivery systems under Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences Prof. Joseph Kost. "IKI is the only institute to be awarded more than one flagship project under the second INNI program. This reaffirms the outstanding level of research in nanotechnology at BGU," Golan says.

Working together to Fight Desertification



More than five hundred participants came from all over the world to take part in the four day conference, which included a day of field trips in the Negev

More than 500 participants from over 50 countries were on hand for the 4th annual International Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification (DDD) held at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research. This year's event focused on exploring the science needed to implement the Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development – UNCSD.

The highlight of the four-day conference was an evening in memory of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement, in the presence of her daughter, Wanjira Mathai. At the moving event, University President Prof. Rivka Carmi presented her with a certificate indicating that BGU had planted 18 trees in Israel's Negev desert in honor of Prof. Maathai. "The number [18] stands for 'life' in the Hebrew language," she explained. Today, Mathai continues her mother's work as the Director of International Relations for the Green Belt Movement.

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Luc Gnacadja spoke about the goal of Zero Net Land Degradation and encouraged conference participants to not give up hope. "Change is possible if we educate people and work together," he stated repeatedly.

Organizer Prof. Alon Tal noted that, "The DDD has emerged as an important global gathering of scientists, field workers, industry, government, CSOs, international development aid agencies and other stakeholders from over 50 countries concerned about land degradation in drylands, and their sustainable use and development."

The event was sponsored by a wide coalition of international and Israeli organizations, including the Israeli Foreign Ministry and MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, and the UNCCD.

German-Israeli Scientific Cooperation Celebrated in Berlin

In December, Prof. Ute Deichmann, head of BGU's Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, participated in a round table discussion on German-Israeli cooperation in science and research at the Federal Chancellery as part of the German-Israeli Inter-Governmental Consultations. The event was held in the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Angela Merkel.

Deichmann was one of the five academics involved in the discussion. "As a German who lives and works in Israel, teaching at BGU," she explained, "I was invited to participate."

After short statements by the heads of state Netanyahu and Merkel, the five scholars were asked to talk about their involvement in Israeli-German cooperation in science and research. Their presentations were frequently interrupted by questions and comments by the heads of state, which indicated their interest and readiness to listen. All agreed that the cooperation has been fruitful for research in the past and present, some of the work being cutting-edge science in Germany and Israel. Moreover, this cooperation, which also includes young scholars, has in many cases, opened up new cultural horizons for the researchers.

Noting that her "work as a historian of science deals with, among other things, science and scientists in Nazi Germany, and the difficult beginning of the Israeli-German scientific cooperation," Deichmann summarized the post-war Israeli-German science cooperation as "a miracle that ought to be celebrated rather than belittled."



Snapshots

A glance at BGU events



Prof. Rivka Carmi welcomes Nahum Guzik to BGU



Israel's Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu speaking at the Prime Minister's Prize for Entrepreneurship and Innovation ceremony held on the Marcus Family Campus



Legendary violinist Ivry Gitlis came to visit



Have a drink and expand your mind: BGU researchers went out to the pubs of Beer-Sheva to talk science during Science Fest 2



Taking a **Global Approach** to Business

Though Canada is one of the largest physical countries in the world and Israel one of the smallest, they share certain demographic similarities, explained Vice-President for External Affairs Prof. Amos Drory as he welcomed a delegation of 12 deans from Canadian business schools.

“Both countries have the majority of their populations focused in a very small area,” explained Drory, incumbent of the Ernest Scheller, Jr. Chair in Innovative Management and the founding Dean of the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management. “And we both have indigenous populations living in the periphery that pose similar educational challenges,” he said.

The week-long tour was hosted by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) out of Canada and included visits to Israel's leading universities and some of its most innovative companies. The participants came to the country to learn about Israeli business schools in general, explore potential collaboration, summer programs/exchange, and to learn more about the “Start-Up Nation” phenomenon.

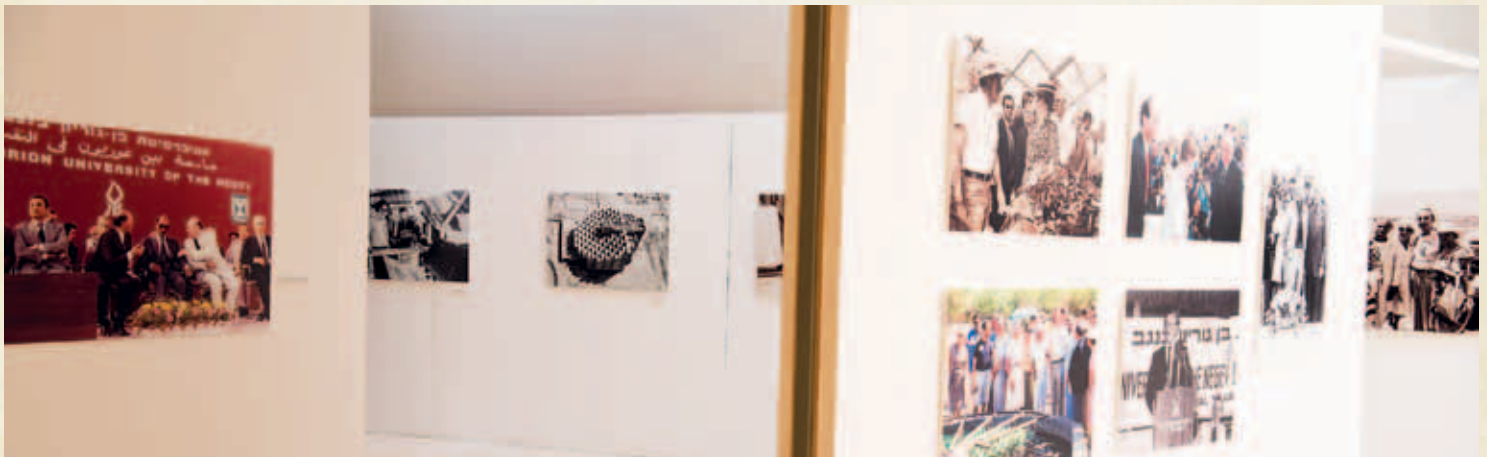
During the morning's discussions at the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, the group heard presentations by the GGFBM's acting Dean, Prof. Arie Reichel, and members of the Faculty. BGU's Director of Marketing from the Office of International Academic Affairs Ainav Derkson outlined the areas for potential cooperation.

Member of the delegation and Dean of

the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba Dr. Michael Benarroch spoke about his School's successful exchange program with BGU. Noting that they have far more applicants than they can accept, the Thorsteinson Student Exchange Program effectively introduces students to the global business environment while developing their management savvy through a special course that includes targeted business meetings with leaders in both Canada and Israel.

“It is a very good model of a global course that encourages collaboration,” he said. All the participants agreed that the visit was a good starting point to explore future opportunities for both research and student exchange programs.

From the Past to the Future



The exhibit "From the Past to the Future" is on display through April 1st in the Samuel and Milada Ayrton University Center

A new exhibition titled “From the Past to the Future” is on display in the Samuel and Milada Ayrton University Center on the Marcus Family Campus through April 1st. The show is the culmination of a project to

build a digital database of images of the University by the Department of Publications and Media Relations. Some 20,000 images – photographs and old negatives – were scanned and transferred to digital format.

“It is important to have some perspective about how far we have come in such a short time,” said Prof. Rivka Carmi at the opening. “We are realizing the dream of building the Negev.”

Excellence recognized



Prof. David Faiman

Prof. David Faiman Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Eilat-Eilat International Renewable Energy Conference conferred its Lifetime Achievement Award on BGU Prof. (Emeritus) David Faiman during its annual conference on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Bryan Medwed family.

Faiman established the University's Department of Solar Energy & Environmental Physics and was the first director of the Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Center. He has performed pioneering research in the area of Concentrator Photovoltaics, is widely published and has chaired or been a member of numerous national and international committees.

Dr. Raz Zarivach named as EMBO Young Investigator

Dr. Raz Zarivach of the Department of Life Sciences and a member of the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev was named as an EMBO Young Investigator. He is one of four Israelis to receive this honor among a group of 22 young researchers from around the world.

Zarivach is currently the head of the Macromolecular Crystallography Laboratory at BGU, which focuses on the structural determination of magnetosome-related proteins derived from Magnetotactic bacteria. The EMBO Young Investigators recognizes researchers under forty years of age who have established their first laboratories in the past four years and who have the potential to produce world-class scientific results. He is also funded by the Myers Recruitment and Retention Endowment Fund for Young Scientists in Life Sciences.

King of Spain grants Order of Civil Merit to Prof. Tamar Alexander

Prof. Tamar Alexander, incumbent of the Estelle S. Frankfurter Chair in Sephardic Studies and a member of the Department of Hebrew Literature, was awarded the Order of Civil Merit at the direction of His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

The event took place at the Spanish Ambassador Fernando Carderera's residence in Israel. Alexander was praised for "promoting bilateral relations between

Israel and Spain and her contribution to research about Sephardic Jewry and the heritage of Spain in the Middle Ages." Alexander is the founder and director of the Moshe David Gaon Center for Ladino Culture. The Order of Civil Merit was created in 1926 and is bestowed upon Spanish nationals and foreign nationals for their contribution to Spain.

Dr. Taleb Mokari appointed to "Young Academia" of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Dr. Taleb Mokari from the Department of Chemistry and a member of the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology has been appointed a member of the "Young Academia" of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, for scholars "who have demonstrated excellence in research and original thinking, have won prestigious awards for their research or who have received a research grant from the Israel Science Foundation."

Prestigious Literature Prizes Awarded to BGU Faculty

Author Etgar Keret, a lecturer in the Department of Hebrew Literature, received the Irving and Bertha Neuman Literary Prize for Excellence in Belles Lettres in Hebrew Literature in recognition of his achievements in creating and teaching Hebrew literature. Launched in 1960, the award is given by the Department of Literature of the Jewish People at Bar-Ilan University.

Prof. Haviva Pedaya from the Department of Jewish History has been awarded the Yehuda Amichai Prize for Hebrew Poetry

BGU Salutes its **Friends!**

- Oxford **Prof. Raymond Dwek**, who serves as the co-director of the UK-Israel Life Sciences Council and Special Advisor to BGU's President on Biotechnology, was awarded the honor of Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to UK-Israel scientific collaboration.
- **Morton Mandel** and **Robert Kraft**, USA, were both named as fellows of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- **Helen Diller**, USA, received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Philanthropy from the Golden Gate Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.



Prof. Raymond Dwek

for her book, *Blood's Ink* (HaKibbutz Hameyuchad, 2009). The Yehuda Amichai Prize for Hebrew poetry has been awarded for the last 10 years by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Ministry of Culture in recognition of outstanding poetry.

Prof. (Emeritus) Aharon Appelfeld of the Department of Hebrew Literature was awarded the 2012 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize for his Holocaust survival story, *Blooms of Darkness*. The novel is loosely based on the 80-year-old Appelfeld's childhood during the Second World War. His literary archive is housed at BGU at Heksherim - The Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture, and is open to the public.

Prof. Ashraf Brik received Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award

Prof. Ashraf Brik from the Department of Chemistry and the Edmond J. Safra Center

for the Design and Engineering of Functional Biopolymers has won the Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award - Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry for 2013.

Tetrahedron is a scientific journal publishing full original research papers in the field of organic and bioorganic chemistry and decided to award the prize to Brik, "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of bioorganic and medicinal chemistry." In addition, a dedicated issue of the journal will be published in his honor.

Prestigious Juludan Prize awarded to **Prof. Amir Karniel**

Prof. Amir Karniel, chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious Juludan Prize from the Technion. Founded in 1984, the prize honors outstanding scientific research achievements that show promise of having valuable scientific technological applications and are channelled to enhance man's welfare and prolong the human life span.

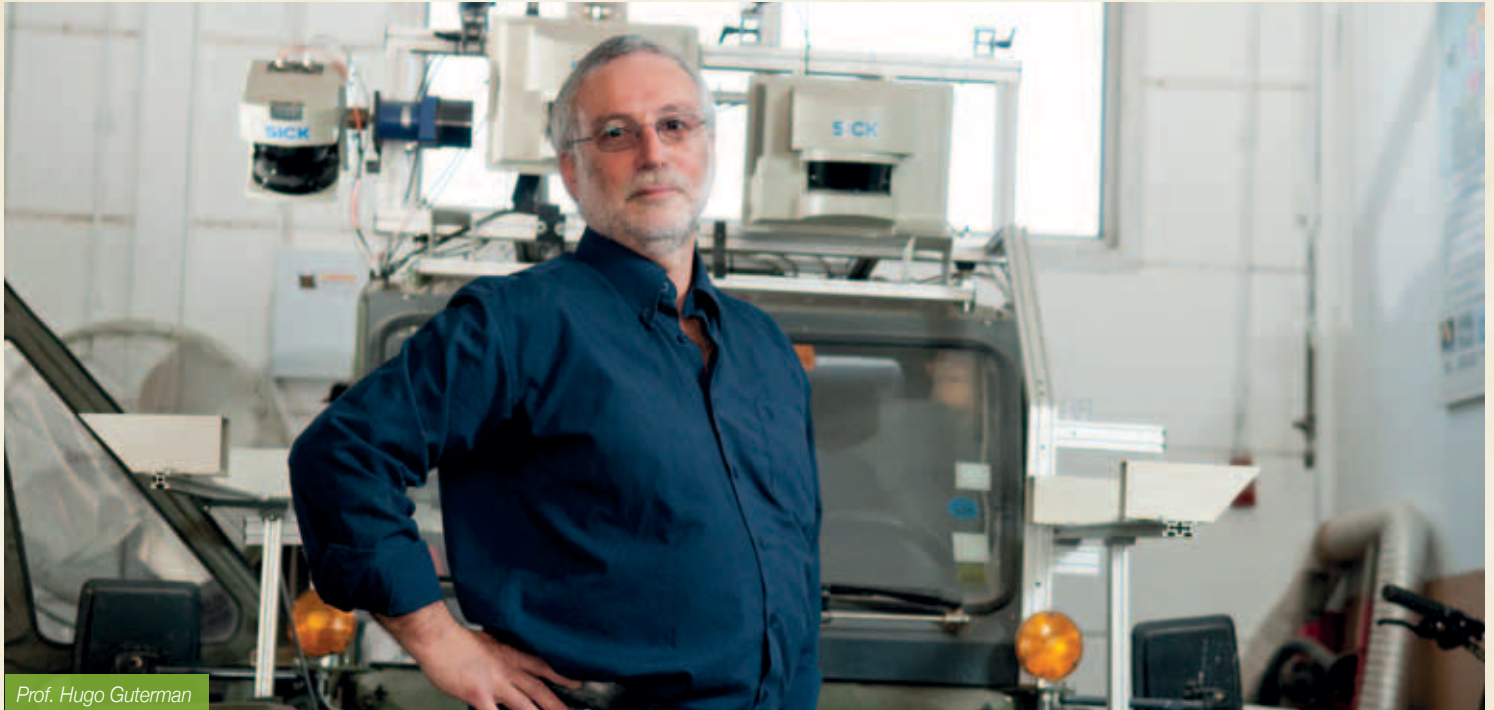
Karniel researches Transparency in Teleoperation. The computational motor control laboratory is funded by the Israel Science Foundation, the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation, the Zlotowski Center for Neuroscience, the National Institute for Psychobiology in Israel, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Paul Ivanier Center for Robotics Research and Production Management.

Prof. Joseph S. Pliskin receives Roger L. Nichols Excellence in Teaching Award from Harvard University

Prof. Joseph S. Pliskin, incumbent of the Sidney Liswood Chair in Health Management and a member of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, received the Roger L. Nichols Excellence in Teaching Award from Harvard University. The award is given for continuing excellence in teaching and is awarded to one person every year.



BGU to Lead Team in DARPA's **Robotics Challenge**



Prof. Hugo Guterman

DARPA, an agency of the United States Department of Defense responsible for the development of new technologies, has accepted one Israeli team to compete in its recently launched Robotics Challenge. BGU-led Robil was the only foreign team chosen for Track B that will develop control software for the proposed disaster response robot.

According to team leader Prof. Hugo Guterman of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, "Robil is an ad-hoc consortium led by BGU and comprised of the leaders of the Israeli robotics industry (IAI and Cogniteam) and academia (BGU, Bar-Ilan University, Technion - Israeli Institute of Technology). It includes 20 key personnel and over 40 graduate students and engineers."

The DARPA's Robotics Challenge is focused on creating robots that can work under difficult conditions in natural and man-made disasters, such as the Deepwater Horizon

oil spill and the Chilean Copiapó mine collapse. "The DARPA Robotics Challenge program," DARPA explains, "will help directly meet these needs by developing robotic technology for disaster response operations. This technology will improve the performance of robots that operate in the rough terrain and austere conditions characteristic of disasters, and use vehicles and tools commonly available in populated areas. This technology will also work in ways easily understood by subject matter experts untrained in the operation of robots, and be governed by intuitive controls that require little training."

Each group has six months to produce the most advanced solution possible to the problem posed by the Challenge. The software will control the GFE Platform being developed by Boston Dynamics, Inc., based on its Atlas humanoid robot platform and modified to meet the needs of the DARPA Robotics Challenge.

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