

IMPACT



AMERICAN ASSOCIATES
Ben-Gurion University
of the Negev

SUMMER 2007

EILAT CAMPUS BECOMES MARINE BIO HUB

GLAZER BUSINESS
SCHOOL NAMED

AFFORDABLE SOLAR ENERGY

TEACHING COEXISTENCE

INSPIRING DONORS
MAKE AN IMPACT



Dear Friends,

It is with great satisfaction that we unveil our new and improved **Impact**. This upgraded bi-annual news magazine will come to you in the summer and winter. Our goal is to make it chock full of news, inspiring stories and articles reporting groundbreaking research that share comprehensive and interesting views on how donors, faculty and students are making a sustainable impact on Ben-Gurion University, on the Negev and on Israel.

Ben-Gurion University is where the pioneering spirit of Israel's earliest founders still flourishes, and it is this passion that we hope to convey in this and future issues of **Impact**. Have we done our job? Our editors and staff want to know. Please send your comments about this issue and suggestions for what you'd like to see in upcoming issues to Impact@aabgu.org. We're listening!

Sincerely,

Carol D. Saal
President



Dear BGU family,

It is with mixed feelings that I inform you that after two years as executive vice president of AABGU, I will be returning to Ben-Gurion University in the fall to resume my academic and administrative duties.

During my time here, I have come to love this organization and the generous, compassionate donors, board members and staff I have had the privilege to come to know. I am proud of our service together and I am grateful for the support they have given me to succeed.

In partnership with Carol Saal, AABGU's president, we've taken some strategic steps to move the organization forward, building our infrastructure and enabling us to increase our fund raising and raise our profile in the American Jewish community.

I thank you all for the opportunity and remind you that your support for BGU is more than a charitable donation; it is a real investment in the future prosperity of Israel and the next generation of its leaders. As *The New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman said, referring to the students at BGU, "These are oil wells that don't run dry" (June 10, 2007).

B'shalom,

Amos Drory
Executive Vice President

AMERICAN ASSOCIATES
BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV
1430 Broadway, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10018
1-800-962-2248 • info@aabgu.org
www.aabgu.org

President
CAROL D. SAAL, CA
Executive Vice President
AMOS DRORY
Immediate Past President
LIS GAINES, NY
Vice Presidents
MARTIN BLACKMAN, NY
STEPHEN BRESLAUER, TX
LLOYD GOLDMAN, NY
BEN GUEFEN, TX
Treasurer
MARGO ACKERMAN, TX
Secretary
MICHAEL ZEIGER, NJ

Regional Offices:

GREAT LAKES REGION
4238B N. Arlington, Heights Road, #346
Arlington Heights, IL 60004 • (847) 279-2357

GREATER BROWARD/DADE REGION
3900 Hollywood Blvd., PH-E
Hollywood, FL 33021 • (954) 962-3440

GREATER NEW YORK REGION
1430 Broadway, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10018 • (212) 687-7721, Ext. 186

GREATER TEXAS REGION
24 Greenway Plaza, Suite 550
Houston, TX 77046 • (713) 522-8284

MID-ATLANTIC REGION
261 Old York Road, #417A, P.O. Box 1128
Jenkintown, PA 19046 • (215) 884-4510

NEW ENGLAND REGION
1318 Beacon Street, Suite #8
Brookline, MA 02446 • (617) 232-2300

NORTHWEST REGION
220 Montgomery Street, #498
San Francisco, CA 94104 • (415) 399-1090

SOUTHEAST REGION
20283 State Road 7, Suite 300
Boca Raton, FL 33498 • (561) 482-9424

SOUTHWEST REGION
9911 West Pico Blvd., #710
Los Angeles, CA 90035 • (310) 552-3300

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE REGION
c/o Hessel and Aluise, P.C., 1050 17th Street N.W.
Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20036

IMPACT

Executive Editor: RONNI STRONGIN
Writer and Editor: VICKI BROWER
BGU Photographer: DANI MACHLIS
Graphic Design: RD DESIGN

Cover Photo: ZIGGY LIVNAT

Send comments to: Impact@aabgu.org

BGU PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND CELEBRATES MILESTONES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 37TH ANNUAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

SIXTY-EIGHT AMERICANS TRAVELED TO ISRAEL THIS PAST MAY, joining more than 100 associates from around the world and over 150 Israeli friends and supporters to participate in BGU's 37th Annual Board of Governors meeting. Many also participated in a fun-filled social weekend in Ein Bokek, a resort district on the Dead Sea, prior to the meeting in Beer-Sheva. All were treated to several celebratory and educational days that emphasized the remarkable growth and dreams of Ben-Gurion University.

President Professor Rivka Carmi welcomed University supporters at the opening plenary, expressing the challenges that have been met and those yet to come for BGU in a country in political turmoil.

Despite government scandals, war with Hezbollah, increased insecurity in Hamas-led Gaza, rocket bombardments on a Negev development town, and a higher education crisis due to decreased government funding by 30 percent since 2002, "We nonetheless continue our quest for excellence in research, teaching, community action, and Negev development. And of course we continue to dream," Prof. Carmi informed the attendees. To read her full remarks, visit www.aabgu.org.

Professor Jimmy Weinblatt, rector, reported on the ongoing plans for achieving educational excellence. "We are working toward a goal of 40 percent of the entire student body being enrolled in master's degree programs, and 10 percent working toward a doctorate," he said. "If we continue along this trend, I have no doubt that it will not be long before BGU will be the leading Israeli university in a significant number of academic disciplines," he added.



"The Negev: A Plan and a Vision for the Future" – Prof. Yehuda Gradus, director, BGU's Negev Center for Regional Development; Lawrence Goodman, chairman, American Friends of the Beer-Sheva Foundation; President Prof. Rivka Carmi; Member of Knesset Avishay Braverman, immediate past president of BGU; and Efrat Duvdevani, director-general, Ministry for the Development of the Negev and Galilee

BGU Board of Governors Chairman Roy J. Zuckerberg of New York was elected to a second three-year term. He challenged all BGU supporters to make generous gifts for scholarships and other "unrestricted" donations that will help BGU keep the lights on and the doors open.

Following the opening session, a discussion on "The Negev: A Plan and a Vision for the Future" ensued. BGU remains the catalyst for Negev development and its plans for an Advanced Technology Park (ATP) that will be built adjacent to the University include a commitment from Israel Defense Forces to move its elite communications units to the ATP by 2008, which is serving as an anchor to attract many high-tech companies.

"If we continue along this trend, I have no doubt that it will not be long before BGU will be the leading Israeli university in a significant number of academic disciplines."

—PROF. JIMMY WEINBLATT

Celebrations and Dedications

Beyond meetings, panels and reports, many milestones were celebrated. The Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) celebrated their 30th anniversary and marked the dedication of the new building for the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research and the dedication of the Melvin S. Goldstein Laboratory for Environmental Hydrology. Also recognized was the BIDR's Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies which celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The Keren Moshe Leadership Program of the Community Action Unit commemorated its 10th anniversary. This flagship program trains students to become leaders as they engage in far-reaching community service projects, such as helping adult Ethiopians obtain basic education and high school diplomas; providing extracurricular activities and enrichment for at-risk children; assisting with services to help battered women get back on their feet, and more.



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Lively entertainment and joyous dancing filled the Student Evening.
2. Lis Gaines (right), AABGU's immediate past president and new member of the Ben-Gurion Society, witnesses the unveiling of her name on BGU's million-dollar-donor wall with Prof. Rivka Carmi.
3. Prof. Avigad Vonshak, BIDR director; Prof. Eilon Adar, ZIWR director; Prof. Rivka Carmi, BGU president; Roy J. Zuckerberg, BGU chairman; Avishay Braverman, member of Knesset and former BGU president; and architect Rami Gil at the dedication of the new ZIWR building.
4. Students of the Keren Moshe Leadership Program of the Community Action Unit celebrate its 10th anniversary.
5. Howard Saal, AABGU President Carol D. Saal and AABGU Vice President Lloyd Goldman enjoy an evening hosted by BGU's Student Association and sponsored by AABGU donors Alexander Goren, Lyon Roth and Harriet Soffa.
6. 2007 honorary doctorate recipients include two Americans: Prof. Michael I. Posner, Neuroscience, University of Oregon (top right) and Dr. Mary-Claire King (bottom right), Genetics and Medicine, University of Washington.
7. Attendees witnessed a moving graduation ceremony of the Class of 2007, Medical School for International Health.



7

BGU also dedicated the Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development in honor of its principal donor and visionary Robert H. Arnow, BGU chairman emeritus, at a special ceremony. The naming marked the Center's 10th anniversary of providing outreach and education to the Bedouin community. Intensive panel discussions and site visits to Bedouin villages followed. The Board of Governors meeting ended with a traditional *bafla* meal in a Bedouin tent. ■



Robert Arnow and Prof. Rivka Carmi at the dedication of the Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development.

THE DAVID AND FELA SHAPELL FAMILY RESEARCH LABORATORY

DAVID AND FELA SHAPELL OF LOS ANGELES, California, who are both Holocaust survivors, have been supporters of Israeli causes for many years. Recently they made a significant gift to AABGU to establish a vitally important laboratory in the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at BGU's Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research.

The David and Fela Shapell Family Research Laboratory will focus on developing new and innovative membrane materials to be used in the reverse osmosis desalination process. These new materials will revolutionize water production and make the process more cost-effective. ■

GUILFORD GLAZER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT NAMED

WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION, American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev announces and acknowledges the generosity of Guilford and Diane Glazer of Los Angeles, California. Their substantial contribution for Ben-Gurion University's School of Management has resulted in naming the school, "The Guilford Glazer School of Business and Management." Additionally, the building housing the business school is now called the "Diane and Guilford Glazer Building."

"The Glazers' commitment to Ben-Gurion University will help us realize David Ben-Gurion's dream of prosperity and peace for the Negev and for all of Israel. It is a reinforcement of BGU's role as the engine driving the development of the Negev and the blooming of the desert," said AABGU's Southwest Regional Director Philip Gomperts.

Guil and Diane Glazer's efforts to encourage peace initiatives in the Middle East are legendary and visionary. The endowment of the Glazer School not only provides the opportunity to expand research, it allows the School to develop educational and entrepreneurial programs to encourage Israeli-Palestinian cooperation that embodies the Glazers' quest for peace through joint business ventures.

The Diane and Guilford Glazer Building is an impressive desert-smart building, designed by Danish-Israeli architect Ulrike Plessner and opened in 2003. It includes state-of-the-art computer laboratories, seminar rooms, the Jeremiah Sundell Executive

Auditorium, and the Eva and Irwin Simon Trading Room that enables students to engage in real-time trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The rapidly expanding 11-year old School offers a variety of undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs designed to equip students with superior training, preparing them for the research and practical management challenges of the 21st century. The flagship Honors MBA Program, taught entirely in English, prepares graduates for the highly competitive global marketplace.

"The Glazers' decades-old commitment to investing in Israel, with a new focus on the Negev and particularly Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, reflects their commitment to the nation's long-term growth and development," said BGU President Prof. Rivka Carmi. "We are honored that the Glazer family believes in our potential and look forward to working with them to realize their dream of training a new cadre of managers for the region," she added. ■



Guilford Glazer School of Business and Management students at work in the Eva and Irwin Simon Trading Room.

AABGU ORGANIZES COALITION PROTESTING BRITISH BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI ACADEMICS

AT A TIME WHEN MASKED TERRORISTS ARE TAKING CONTROL OF GAZA, as more missiles are launched into the Israeli development town of Sederot, and Syria is amassing military units along its border with Israel, Great Britain's "educated" community is calling for boycotts on Israel.

Britain's University and College Union passed a resolution on May 30, 2007 proposing a boycott of Israeli academic institutions by its membership – the world's largest academic trade organization. American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev organized a coalition of the American-based support groups for Israel's seven universities to take unified action in protest.

The proposed boycott seeks to prohibit Israeli scholars and scientists from working in British universities, presenting their work at international conferences, publishing their research in scholarly journals, engaging in cross-border academic and research collaborations, and would impede the efforts of Israeli academics to gain funding from the European Union for research projects.

The AABGU-led coalition issued a public statement and placed a full-page ad in *The New York Times* on June 14, 2007 (visit www.aabgu.org for details).

Additionally, AABGU held an emergency leadership briefing on June 8. Speaking to representatives from major national Jewish organizations, as well as AABGU leaders and supporters, Prof. David Newman from BGU's Department of Politics and Government provided an assessment of the situation he has been personally involved with for the past three years.

Originally from the United Kingdom himself, Prof. Newman was in England the past academic year fulfilling a

prestigious British Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorship. He was the only Israeli professor to address the British Union of Colleges and Universities before its pro-boycott vote.

Most regrettably, on June 20, 2007 UNISON, the United Kingdom's largest trade union, representing over 1.3 million members working in the public sector, passed an even stronger motion, calling for "an economic, cultural, academic, and sporting boycott" of



Prof. David Newman

Israel. While the British government and major universities are vehemently opposed to boycott proposals, these two union resolutions follow similar ones made by groups representing British journalists and doctors, and several other unions throughout Great Britain have since followed suit.

"While many of Britain's senior academics and politicians are indeed speaking out against these discriminatory and anti-democratic boycott attempts, there are still too many who remain silent," said Prof. Newman. "By their silence, they too are guilty of creating an atmosphere on campuses and in trade unions where Jewish members generally, not just anyone with sympathetic feelings toward Israel, feel harassed and uncomfortable," he said.

To view a video of Prof. Newman's presentation and to learn more about the boycott and what you can do, visit our Web site at www.aabgu.org. ■

BGU PROFESSOR RECEIVES OLYMPIC AWARD

PROFESSOR SHAUL LADANY of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management has been awarded a lifetime achievement medal for his outstanding contributions to sports and the Olympic movement.

One of the greatest race-walkers in history, Prof. Ladany was cited as "an unusual person with unusual outstanding sports achievements during a span covering over four decades" by the Council of the Olympic Order, which made its decision to award him the Pierre de Coubertin Medal at a recent meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Beginning his career as a marathon runner, Ladany turned to walking in the early 1960s, and thereafter set many records for race-walking. He still holds numerous world records.

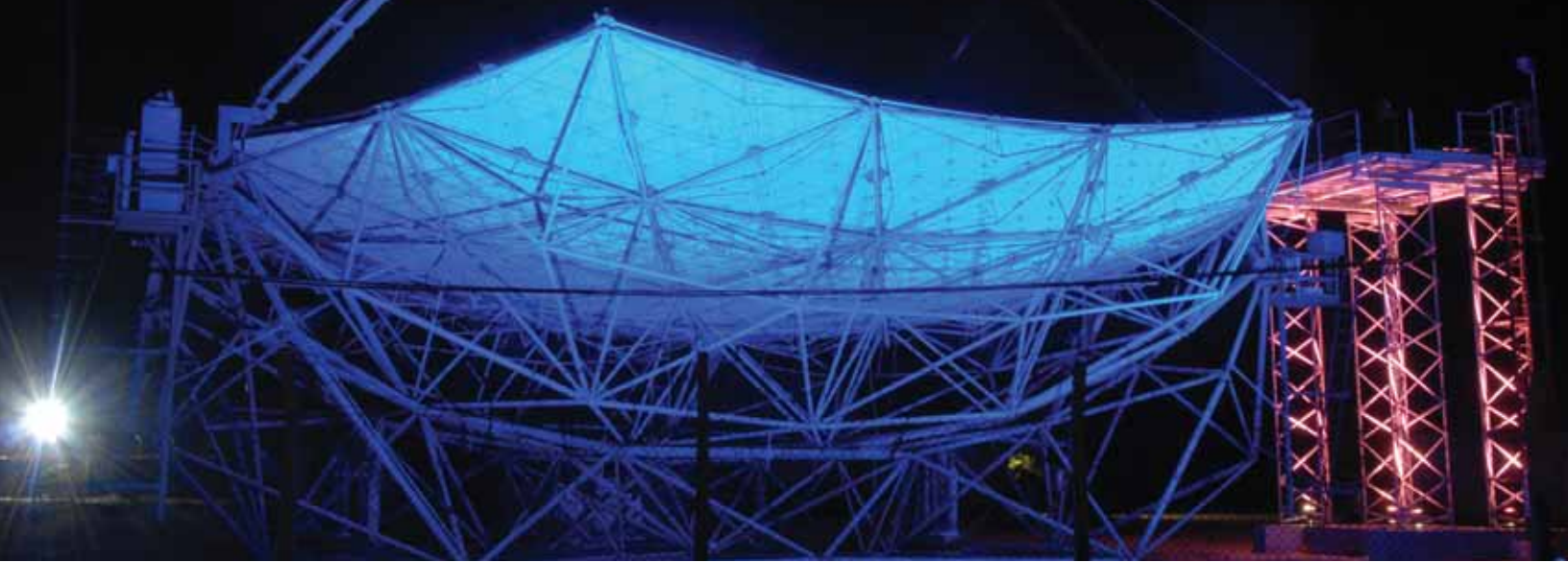
What is less well-known is that the Belgrade, Yugoslavia-born Ladany was sent at age eight to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during the Holocaust and was saved, with 2,000

others, by a deal made by the Americans. Arriving in Israel after the war, Ladany participated in the 1968 Olympics and the 1972 infamous Olympics in Munich.

*Continued on
Page 27*



INNOVATIVE SOLAR TECHNOLOGY PRODUCES SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



A DEVICE THAT RESEMBLES A GIANT, upside-down umbrella made of mirrors, located on BGU's Sede Boqer campus, could be the solution to the world's diminishing reserves of fossil fuels. Using solar energy as a solution to the dependence on oil has long been desired. But the problem has been expense – making solar energy cost-effective or even cheaper than gas and oil. That is, until now.

David Faiman, physics professor at BGU and chairman of the Department of Solar Energy and Environmental Physics at BGU's Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, has developed a replacement for conventional solar panels. Conventional silicon photovoltaic cell panels produce energy at a cost that is not competitive enough for wide scale use.

Prof. Faiman developed a concentrator photovoltaic system (CPV) which uses a reflector – mirrors – instead of conventional solar panels to capture light. His reflector concentrates light 1,000 times onto a much smaller surface than a traditional solar

panel, and is the key to why this method can produce energy far more cheaply than solar panels. “What was previously the most expensive part to produce – the solar panels – is, in our invention, the least expensive component,” said Faiman, who presented this work in February at the 14th Sede Boqer Symposium on Solar Electricity Production, which he hosts every year.

The key to Faiman's invention is the four-inch by four-inch CPV cell module, which uses sunlight captured and concentrated by large mirrors. This invention actually works better at higher temperatures than silicon, and could be up to 40 percent more efficient in converting sunlight to electricity. Therefore, a power plant could be built for less than \$1,000 per kilowatt – a ballpark number by which cost-effectiveness is judged, Faiman explained. Domestic systems using small CPV modules like this could result in more than \$1,000 in savings a year per home. In fact, this is precisely the aim of a startup company with which Faiman is collaborating to produce the modules.

“What was previously the most expensive part to produce—the solar panels—is, in our invention, the least expensive component.”

— PROF. DAVID FAIMAN

Equally exciting is the prospect of using very large CPV systems for widespread power production. Faiman has suggested that Israel and the United States collaborate in a plan that would be cost-effective in any desert state. Each \$1 billion CPV power plant would generate \$200 million a year in revenues. By building one such plant each year, the cost of the sixth would already be covered by earnings from the first five. “Such power plants would take up a lot of land, but ultimately they would be extremely cost-effective for regions like the Negev and the Sonora desert where land is largely unusable for other purposes,” Faiman added. ■

ROBOT RECEPTIONIST 2.0: “MAY I HELP YOU?”



Hiroshi Kabayashi and Ms. Saya

AT FIRST GLANCE, the new receptionist neatly dressed in blue and white sitting in the Benhamou Technology Hall, greeting visitors to the Alon Building for High-Tech appears to be a bit formal and reserved. But Ms. Saya is no ordinary university employee – she is a robot.

The result of a collaboration between BGU's Prof. Shlomi Dolev of the Department of Computer Sciences and Hiroshi Kabayashi, an associate professor at the Tokyo University of Science, Ms. Saya has garnered quite a bit of attention, smiling, answering visitors' questions, and participating in interviews with the media since her arrival at BGU in February.

A learning and research project meant to inspire and challenge computer science students to push computer technology to the next level, Ms. Saya answers her visitors' questions, whether Hebrew, English or Russian, in English.

Not only is she trilingual, she has a sense of humor and even a bit of an attitude. Asked in a recent interview on Israeli television in Hebrew if she likes her job as receptionist, Saya responded in English, "It's boring; I feel like a robot." Asked by another reporter what she would like to do in

Continued on Page 27

CREATING A NEW LEXICON OF ISRAELI LITERATURE

HEKSHERIM, BGU's Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture, is creating a unique lexicon of contemporary Israeli literature. Its director, Prof. Yigal Schwartz, is editing the new lexicon with Zissi Stavi, who worked on the literary supplement of the Hebrew newspaper *Yediot Achronot* for three decades.

There is no up-to-date lexicon of Israeli literature in print currently. Two lexicons were published in the mid-20th century – one in 1959 and another in 1965. Three volumes of the new lexicon will be produced, with

the first to appear in 2009.

The new lexicon will focus on Israeli writers from the establishment of the State of Israel until today. The project will take four years, cost NIS 2 million, and is being funded by the Rothschild Family's Caesarea Foundation.

Rather than creating a comprehensive lexicon of all Hebrew literature, the editors envision the volumes as a broad compendium of literature from writers working in Israel after 1948 in Hebrew, Arabic and Russian. This means that while the works of Hayim Nahman Bialik and Shaul Tchernikovsky will not be included, those by writers Haim Hazaz and Natan Alterman will be included. Works by Israeli Arabs who write in either Hebrew or Arabic,

the literature of the transit camps of the 1950s, and works of contemporary Russian writers living in Israel will also be included.

The creation of this unique lexicon is yet another expression of BGU's passionate commitment to Israeli literature. The University, with the largest department of Hebrew and Israeli literature in Israel and in the world, is home to *Heksherim* – or "contexts" in Hebrew. Founded in 2001 under the direction of Prof. Schwartz, *Heksherim* is based upon the premise that culture, society and community are intertwined. Its goal – to forge a connection between academic research and literary creativity – will be concretized in the new lexicon. ■

SHINING A LIGHT ON INFECTION

EVER WONDER WHETHER YOU NEED

antibiotics for an infection, or whether you've just got a virus? A new type of fiber optic biosensor-enabled blood test rapidly determines what type of infection a patient has, and whether he needs antibiotics.

Called PhagoLum, the test was developed by Drs. Moni Magrisso and Robert Marks of BGU's National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev and the Department of Biotechnology Engineering. It could be on the market by 2009.

"No other system today can

diagnose the cause of a disease and discern the patient's ability to fight it as efficiently as our system," said Dr. Marks. The PhagoLum kit uses whole blood chemiluminescence to differentiate between infections caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi.

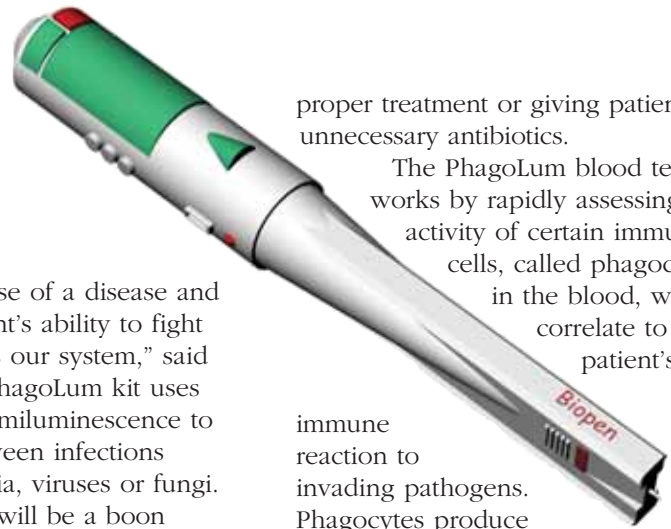
The new test will be a boon for use in emergency rooms, in physicians' offices, and in hospital laboratories, enabling the rapid diagnosis of sick patients. Current lab tests may take days to determine what type of infection a patient has, which may mean either delaying

proper treatment or giving patients unnecessary antibiotics.

The PhagoLum blood test works by rapidly assessing the activity of certain immune cells, called phagocytes, in the blood, which correlate to a patient's

immune reaction to invading pathogens. Phagocytes produce distinct and measurable responses to viruses, bacteria and fungi.

In addition to helping pinpoint a diagnosis, the PhagoLum technology can also determine a patient's prognosis – how he or she is recovering, and if antibiotics are working. ■



SOCIAL SCIENCE PIONEER PUBLISHES BREAKTHROUGH TEXTBOOK

LIKE MANY ACTIVISTS, Julie Cwikel believes that it is not enough to study the interaction of social problems and public health, but that one must use that knowledge to develop ways to improve health and well-being. A pioneer in the field of social epidemiology, Prof. Cwikel is leading the way to bridge two formerly distinct fields that examine many of the same problems – social science research and public health.

A professor of social work and founder and director of the Center for Women's Health Studies and Promotion at Ben-Gurion University, Prof. Cwikel recently published a groundbreaking textbook, *Social Epidemiology: Strategies for Public Health Activism*, which combines the methodologies of the social sciences and public health, and includes both qualitative and quantitative research methods and analyses.

"For the most part, researchers have studied determinants of health, such as

poverty, gender and age – which can yield useful information," Cwikel told **Impact**. "My approach emphasizes that these factors can be both determinants of health and the very conditions that we need to study and change," she said.

The bottom line for Cwikel, who is American by birth and in the United States this summer as a scholar-in-residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute for Research on Women at Brandeis University, is that health of individuals, groups and society is intrinsically linked to social structure and problems. Violence, infectious diseases, child abuse, and drug abuse are related to society's overall trends, not just to individual behavior. Prof. Cwikel's new book teaches how to study the connections between society and health, and use that understanding to promote health.

Applying such an interdisciplinary approach to a range of problems, Cwikel and her team examined health issues of trafficked sex workers in a number of Israeli cities, with the goal of getting the women – who are often smuggled into Israel from the republics of the former Soviet Union – better healthcare.



Prof. Julie Cwikel

"We may not have halted the trafficking but the work we did was instrumental to getting the women better treatment, healthcare and legal advice, while persuading the government to stem the influx of sex workers," said Cwikel, who has spoken before the Israeli Knesset on this issue.

Another ongoing and long-term project is the Mother-to-Mother program, which pairs new mothers who have little social support with volunteer mothers who visit them weekly at home for at least a year. This program originated in Jewish

Continued on Page 27

MY “GIRSA DYANKUTA”

BY YOSSI FRIEDMAN

Yossi Friedman of New York City was born in Beer-Sheva and educated at Ben-Gurion University. He shared these thoughts in May as he dedicated prizes he underwrites for outstanding math and computer science students.



THE EXPRESSION *girsā dyankuta*

comes from Aramaic and literally means “the things that a person learned in childhood.” The deeper meaning of the expression is that the knowledge, wisdom and understanding that a person absorbs as a child are deeply imprinted on his soul and accompany him throughout his life. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is my *girsā dyankuta*.

When I was born in Beer-Sheva at the Soroka University Medical Center there was a large sandy lot covered with thorns across from the hospital. At that time, Ben-Gurion University was scattered around several locations, and only several years later were the first buildings erected on the site where the campus is today.

When I was in the fourth grade, about age nine or 10, I took a number of achievement tests along with many of the schoolchildren of Beer-Sheva. My parents received a letter

Yossi Friedman (third from left) with prize winners.

stating that as an “above-average” pupil I was invited to participate in special enrichment courses for schoolchildren at the University.

I knew these courses were worthwhile because my sister, who is four years older than I, had participated in them several years earlier and had been very excited about the classes. And, like everything else that my sister did, I wanted to do the same. She was interested in the life sciences, but as I was afraid of blood, I chose the computer course. At the time, computers seemed futuristic and fascinating, like Jules Verne’s science fiction.

When I began the course at the computer center – which contained only one computer that required special climactic conditions – it seemed even more fantastic than science fiction. We, the pupils in the course, ran around the center, mingling with the

university students, not just on the days of the course, but every day. There was ten-year-old Dror, who came every day by himself from the town of Kiryat Gat on the bus, and later became a professor at Harvard. There was Victor, the new immigrant from the Soviet Union, and me, and other “computer freaks” like us.

The University loved us, the little “freaks,” and allowed us to come and go as we pleased. It gave us computer time and access to lecturers and researchers, and helped us to develop intellectual curiosity, and to look for solutions. So much so, that on several occasions my dad had to come to the computer center to get me at midnight, wearing a sweater over his pajamas, because I’d lost track of time.

When I began high school, it was the Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences that offered me a chance to take courses as a regular university student while I was still a high school pupil. There were teachers at my high school who were not pleased with this, and who saw it as a personal insult to them, and BGU came through by allowing me to be absent from lectures that overlapped with these teachers’ lessons.

And so it happened that shortly after I graduated from high school, I received my bachelor’s degree in mathematics and computer sciences. With the recommendation of my lecturers at BGU, I was accepted into a Ph.D program at Stanford University, and with the *girsā dyankuta* from BGU, I ultimately became a partner in an investment firm in New York City.

I live in a beautiful apartment

Continued on Page 27

EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIA AROUND THE COUNTRY

A new model for educational events was established this year and showcased throughout the country. AABGU sponsored two symposia in six regions. Attendees were treated to an in-depth look at cutting edge research and innovations at the University.

GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGE

The Southeast, Greater Broward/Dade and Great Lakes Regions each hosted “A Global Challenge: Innovative Health Care in Israel and Around the World” in February 2007.

BGU’s international experts shared their insights on and contributions to medical relief in disaster areas, establishing medical schools in developing countries, the global AIDS pandemic and education, and genetic disease research and prevention. The expert panel also discussed some of the cutting-edge research and innovations in global health care taking place at BGU.

One of the guest speakers was Dr. Michael L. Alkan. He is an internationally recognized expert in global health issues and disaster relief, an AIDS educator and Werner J. and Charlotte A. Gunzburger Chair for the Study of Infectious Diseases at the University, and a professor of medicine at BGU’s Medical School for International Health (MSIH), one of the world’s only community-oriented medical schools. The MSIH is a collaboration with Columbia University in New York City.

Another expert was Dr. Ohad Birk, member of BGU’s Faculty of Health Sciences and head of the Genetics

Institute at the BGU-affiliated Soroka University Medical Center, whose research has led to genetic testing and counseling that has prevented innumerable genetic diseases among the Bedouin in the Negev. Dr. Simon Kotlyar, chief resident of emergency medicine at Yale University’s surgery department and a graduate of the MSIH shared the invaluable expertise and perspective he gained at BGU.

GREEN TECHNOLOGY

Some of BGU’s most renowned experts on green technology and research spoke to full houses at events held in the Northwest, New England and Greater New York Regions this past March. They discussed how BGU’s development of revolutionary and affordable green technologies is helping to transform the Negev region into a thriving area and a center for the research and development of a wide range of environmentally friendly technologies.

The panelists included hydrologist Eilon Adar, director of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at BGU’s Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, and a lecturer in the University’s Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences; Dan Blumberg, chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental

Development, and director of BGU’s Earth and Planetary Image Facility, a NASA regional facility; and David Faiman, chair of the Department of Solar Energy and Environmental Physics at the BIDR, and director of Israel’s National Solar Energy Center – home to the world’s largest solar energy dish.

Prof. Blumberg explained remote sensing using satellite technology and how it can be used to monitor climate changes, water quality and geomorphology. Prof. Adar pointed out how Israel has made irrigating the desert for agriculture both efficient and economical. In the Negev, farmers use reverse osmosis desalination to raise organic fish, and then use the waste produced by the fish to fertilize crops. He also discussed a proposed pipeline between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

On the topic of solar energy, Prof. Faiman compared the costs of generating energy from photovoltaic cells (CPVs) to those from fossil fuels and reported that breakthroughs in concentrating solar energy in his newly developed CPVs can make solar energy competitive with conventional sources (see p. 7). ■

To find out about speakers, events and activities in your area, visit www.aabgu.org or contact your regional office.

GREAT LAKES

Judy Rosen, *Director*
(847) 279-2357
jrosen@aabgu.org

The Great Lakes Region held regularly scheduled programs in 2006-07, often partnering with other local organizations. Prof. Rivka Carmi, president of BGU, met with donors in Chicago and spoke at a dinner honoring longtime supporter Larry Goodman.

In August 2006, Prof. Eilon Adar, director of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research (ZIWR), spent several days in Chicago meeting with individual donors and speaking at events held at Congregation Moriah in Deerfield, Bank Leumi in Highland Park, and at a small, private dinner. He highlighted the innovations coming from the ZIWR, which include innovative fish farming, the use of brackish water to grow sweeter tomatoes, and more efficient uses of desalination.

Prof. Adar returned in January 2007 to address a joint program of AABGU, the American Israel Chamber of Commerce and Chicago Sister Cities Foundation at the Chicago Cultural Center. Later that evening, he met with AABGU friends in the home of Maggie and Murray Scheinman.



In November 2006, Prof. Arie Moran, BGU's vice president for research and development, spoke with Chicago supporters at a luncheon. He told the guests how last summer's war affected BGU's returning students.

On a blustery March evening, Temple Beth Israel in Skokie hosted the region's Global Health Symposium. Moderated by Rabbi Michael Weinberg, the event brought out both old and new friends of the University. The following day, Profs. Birk and Alkan spoke at a luncheon downtown, sharing their experiences working with underserved communities in Israel and throughout the world.

The Global Health Symposium at Temple Beth Israel: Rabbi Michael Weinberg; Dr. Mick Alkan, BGU; Ernie Simon, AABGU board member; Judy Rosen, director, Great Lakes Region; Dr. Ohad Birk, BGU; and Dr. Simon Kotlyar, graduate of BGU's Medical School for International Health.

GREATER BROWARD/DADE

Billy Joel, *President*
Stuart Bart, *Chair*
Samuel Borger and Lenore Shulman, *Co-chairs*

Aliza Ranish, *Director*
(954) 962-3440
alizar@aabgu.org

Dr. David and Mrs. Betsy Krant hosted this region's Global Health Symposium. The chair, Dr. Sheldon Levin, and moderator, Dr. Neil Weinreb, led the discussion about AIDS, disaster relief, genetic disease, patient-centered care, and community relations. More than 100 guests attended the event, including longtime Board Member and Founder Dr. Auriela Thau, and new Founders Mimi Enzel, Gerry Reiter, Billy and Sandra Joel, Edith Litwin, and Gerry Steiglitz.



In honor of Prof. Rivka Carmi, Tamara and Ariel Elia opened their home for a formal reception in their penthouse on Williams Island on Saturday evening, March 3.

Dr. Bernard Simmons, Lenore Simmons, Rubin Salant, Prof. Rivka Carmi

On Sunday afternoon, more than 100 founders and supporters of Ben-Gurion University honored Dr. Bernard and Lenore Simmons at Porto Vita's Villa Grande Club in Aventura. The event included a presentation of the Ben-Gurion Award and the key to the City of Miami Beach to Dr. Bernard and Lenore Simmons, a presentation by Michael Aller, and a tribute by Dr. Gregory Baker Wolfe, president emeritus of Florida International University. The weekend included a cruise on the Intercoastal Waterway, hosted by Rubin Salant and Billy Joel.

In April, the Greater Broward/Dade Region hosted a luncheon and fashion show at the Zodiac Restaurant at Neiman-

Marcus in Bal Harbor. In addition to lunch, beautiful fashions, and violin serenades, Lyon (Lenny) Roth, head of Young Leadership, Founder Dorothy Kravitz and JoAnn Weissman spoke to the group about the progress being made at BGU. They also celebrated the birthday of Founder Hanna Posniak and recognized the region's newest founder, Sandra Joel, and newest board member, Bess Mason.

Several founders traveled to Israel for the Board of Governors meeting in May, among them Rubin Salant, Dr. Bernard and Lenore Simmons, Billy and Sandra Joel, Edith Litwin, Mimi Enzel, Gerry Steiglitz, Claudine Assous, and Babette Kabak.



Prof. Carmi presents Founders Scroll to Shoshana and LeRoy Schecter of Miami, Florida.

GREATER NEW YORK

Lite Sabin and Jessica Sillins, *Co-chairs*
Kevin M. Leopold, *Director*
(212) 687-7721
kleopold@aabgu.org

Throughout the year, the Greater New York Region hosted a series of "Lunch and Learn" programs and evening receptions to introduce renowned BGU professors and their innovative research to friends in the greater New York community.

Recent program topics included: water research, solar energy, biotechnology, nanotechnology, Israeli politics and coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians, and environmental and green technology issues.

Lite Sabin and Jessica Sillins recently assumed the position of co-chairs of the Greater New York Region. Lite Sabin and her husband Arnold have been involved with AABGU for more than 25 years. During this time, Lite has tirelessly worked to promote BGU as an invaluable member of numerous dinner and event committees. Jessica Sillins has overseen BGU's hotel management and touring summer internship program in New York for the past few years. Through Jessica's dedication and diligent efforts, this program has grown and thrived.

Under the leadership of Suzanne Nash, who had served as the regional chair for the previous three years, New York has grown and expanded its programs and



outreach. In a short period of time, Lite and Jessica have demonstrated a vision for building on this success.

This summer will see more exciting educational programs and anyone interested in learning more is invited to contact the regional office. Finally, save the date for an outstanding, different kind of dinner. On Wednesday, October 24, 2007, the Greater New York Region will honor the 10th Anniversary and Dedication of the Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development in classic Bedouin style. The event will take place at the Grand Hyatt in New York City.

Lite Sabin and Jessica Sillins

**SAVE THE DATE:
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2007**

The Greater New York Region will honor the 10th Anniversary and Dedication of The Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development

GREATER TEXAS

Dr. Jeffrey and Margo Ackerman
Co-chairs

Deborah Bergeron, *Director*
(713) 522-8284
dbergeron@aabgu.org

More than 300 guests attended the Greater Texas Region's Sixth Annual Gourmet Kosher Dining Extravaganza held on March 22, 2007 at the Intercontinental Houston. The Extravaganza featured nine of Houston's top chefs. Funds raised were dedicated to BGU's Student Scholarship Program.

Dinner Co-chairs Shira Yoshor and Stephen Friedman planned an evening that honored Julian Goldberg, *z"l*, and Carmelo Mauro for their tremendous effort and support of BGU. The honorees received the David Ben-Gurion Leadership Award. Accepting on behalf of Julian Goldberg was his wife Jean and son Ralph Howard, themselves dedicated and committed supporters of BGU.

The evening began with a silent auction chaired by Co-chairs Robin Vinegar, Carol Rothenberg and Ilana Finn. The live auction set the fundraising in motion. Honoree and Chef Carmelo Mauro kicked it up a notch by donating two trips to Italy for six lucky couples with him and his wife Hilary as the tour guides.

Assisting in the dinner planning and event set-up were Margo Ackerman; Jessica Arnold; Sandy and Steve Breslauer; Sandra Finkelman; Jane Friedman; Jean Goldberg; Ronnie Harrison; Dora Klaff; Alan Levin; Jill Levy; and Steven Plumb.

The fun and excitement continued at the patron reception, "Champagne and Caviar," that took place on April 22 to recognize the event patrons, chefs and Dinner Committee. Chai Society Members, donors who contributed \$18,000 or more, were also recognized.



Over 50 major donors filled the new Ibiza Lounge Next Door, one of the hottest wine rooms in Houston, for champagne, caviar, chocolate bread pudding, tea sandwiches, and more.

Kosher Extravaganza Co-chair Shira Yoshor; Honoree Jean Goldberg; Regional Director Deborah Bergeron; Honoree Chef Carmelo Mauro and Hilary Mauro



The kosher event was catered by Jenny Tavor Catering, and the chairs were Dora Klaff and Jean Goldberg. The guest speaker, Dr. Erica Spatz, told of her personal and professional experiences at BGU's Medical School for International Health.

New Chai Society members were recognized at the 2007 Patrons' Reception: Shira and Dr. Daniel Yoshor; Golda and Gil Baker; Leo Rubenstein; Steve Finkelman; Stephen Friedman; and Phillip Turboff.

MID-ATLANTIC

Jack R Bershad, *Regional Chair*

Ann Waldman

Philadelphia Chapter Chair

Ernest Scheller, Jr.

Philadelphia Chapter Vice Chair

Richard Seidenberg

South Jersey Chapter Chair

Claire Winick, *Director*

(215) 884-4510

winickc@aabgu.org

The Mid-Atlantic Region enjoys a vibrant community and active leadership. Numerous events were held this year to promote and support Ben-Gurion University.

In November 2006, the Philadelphia Chapter Annual Community Gala honored Samuel J. Greenblatt, immediate past chapter chair. A record crowd of 350 people gathered to celebrate Sam's outstanding leadership. Records were also broken by the income generated through the tribute ad journal.

The Board of Directors held a Chanukah luncheon, focusing on planned giving and the development of BGU's Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program.

Over 80 members and friends of the Next Generation Committee heard from Dr. Erica Spatz, a graduate of BGU's Medical School for International Health at the "Sky's the Limit" reception in January.

Dr. Matti Gershenfeld held a Health Sciences Resource Committee breakfast in her home in February. Dr. Spatz shared her experiences in Israel and Africa.

Also in February, the Eighth Annual Snowbird Reception was held at the Polo Club in Boca Raton, Florida. Prof. Fred Lazin, the Lynn and Lloyd Hurst Family Professor of Local Government and the director of the Department of Politics and Government, spoke about the Middle East political scene to more than 100 guests.

Dr. Ron Folman presented "Imagine the World 10 Years from Now: How Nanotechnology Will Revolutionize the Way We Live" in March at a leadership luncheon and a Tomorrow's Leadership Committee Reception. Jennifer and Daniel



Stern were the hosts of the TLC event and are the leaders of this new group. Adam Levine is co-chair.

Samuel J. Greenblatt (left) accepts the David Ben-Gurion Visionary Award from Jack R Bershad.

The Next Generation Committee sponsored "Art in the Park" in April. Guests enjoyed



brunch and a guided tour of the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey.

A June champagne brunch honored the generous support of members of the International Society of Founders. Commerce Bank hosted the event and received recognition as the newest founder.

Justin Petersmeyer, "Sky's the Limit" co-sponsor; Dr. Erica Spatz; Jerry Johnson, event co-sponsor; Rhoda Temkin, a member of the Next Generation Committee who helped develop support for the event; and Immediate Past Chapter Chair Samuel J. Greenblatt

NEW ENGLAND

Max Schechner, *President*
Howard Shrut, *Vice President*
Mark Goldman and Ralph Kaplan
Co-chairs

Ben Shamir, *Director*
(617) 232-2300
bshamir@aabgu.org

Max Schechner, who has been involved with BGU for more than 25 years, became the region's president this past fall, and Ben Shamir, a BGU alumnus, became its new regional director. Under their leadership, exciting times lie ahead for the New England Region.

Most recently, the region hosted its 24th Annual Evening at the Pops at Boston's Symphony Hall. A few hundred Ben-Gurion University patrons and guests enjoyed hearing Dr. Ron Folman discuss the great potential in the emerging field of nanotechnology. He intrigued them with a vision of a new world—that of robots and medicines the size of an atom; super-strong, extremely light-weight metals for airplanes and cars; and tiny robots that could be placed into the human body to eliminate only disease, not healthy cells and tissues.

During the program, Dinner Chairs Jeff Coffman and Max Schechner announced the goal of raising \$1 million in order to dedicate a New England Region floor in the new Ilse Katz Institute for Meso and Nanoscale Science and Technology building at BGU. Following the dinner, guests were treated to a jazz concert by the Boston Pops conducted by Keith Lockhart, featuring special performances by jazz legends Chick Corea and Gary Burton.

This region's Green Technology Symposium was hosted by the law firm Foley Hoag and co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to New England. Also in March, Prof. Julie Cwikel, director and founder of BGU's Center for Women's Health Studies and Promotion, presented her work to local donors (see p. 9).



Ben Shamir, new regional director (center), with Marjorie and Max Schechner at the Ben-Gurion gravesite. The Schechners represented the New England Region at BGU's 37th Annual Board of Governors meeting.



Photo credit: Scky Photography

Jeff Coffman, event co-chair, presents the Heritage Award to Ina and Sam Starobin during the 24th Annual Evening at the Pops.

NORTHWEST

Sonny Hurst, *President*
Daphna Noily, *Director*
(415) 399-1090
dnoily@aabgu.org

AABGU's Northwest Region, based in San Francisco, initiated a new annual program: an academic symposium hosted in conjunction with a major local university.

Held at the Stanford University Faculty Club, the standing-room-only Green Technology Symposium included BGU's President Prof. Rivka Carmi as a special

guest speaker. The dinner that followed the esteemed panel featured nationally syndicated radio personality Betsy Rosenberg who spoke about everyday things everyone can do to conserve energy and help protect the environment.

Local, national and international lay leaders were integrally involved in the program. Northwest Regional President Sonny Hurst, National AABGU President Carol Saal, and national board member and international Board of Governors Vice Chairperson Eric Benhamou participated in various portions of the evening program. The Consulate General of Israel to San Francisco co-sponsored the entire program. Starbucks, Cole Street Hardware and Pacific Gas & Electric Company donated the favors for attendees.



Photo credit: Joyce Goldschmid

This region was also host to several of BGU's faculty who gave lectures and presentations at various venues throughout the Bay Area, including Amos Oz, Alon Tal, Yigal Schwartz, and Etgar Keret. Etgar Keret and Professors Oz and Schwartz are members of BGU's Hebrew Literature Department,

which is recognized as one of the best Hebrew literature departments in the world. The archives and collections of some of Israel's pre-eminent authors, including BGU professors emeritus Amos Oz and Aharon Appelfeld, will be ensconced in the beautiful new Helen Diller Family Center building.

Green Technology Symposium at Stanford University

SOUTHEAST

Madeline Pargh, *Regional Chair*
Norman Rubenstein
Central Florida Chapter Chair

Linda Slavin, *Director*
(561) 482-9492
lslavin@aabgu.org

Prof. Avigad Vonshak, director of BGU's Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, spoke at a "Desert and Dessert" reception in January 2007 at the home of Jodi and David Krinker. He discussed BGU research on desert architecture, fish farming, solar energy, and the development of plant life with Norman Rubenstein, Central Florida Chapter Chair; Bill Sholk; Dr. Mark Klafter; Sasha Klein; Dr. and Mrs. Barry Render; and Prof. Ady Milman, among others.

Following this region's Global Health Symposium in February, Prof. Michael Alkan, M.D., one of the symposium's esteemed panelists, was the featured guest at a reception sponsored by the Central Florida Chapter at the home of Shari and Dr. Mark Klafter.

On March 1, 2007, Southeast Region supporters gathered for a spectacular

evening at the magnificent Boca Raton home of longtime University supporters Carole and Barry Kaye. Dr. Yitshak Ben Gad, consul general of Israel, brought greetings and an Israel update to the crowd of 150. Barry Kaye introduced Prof. Rivka Carmi to the enthusiastic guests. Prof. Carmi spoke of her vision for the future of Ben-Gurion University to a rapt audience, which resulted in a very generous contribution from Lore and Eric Ross (see p. 23).

Elyssa Kupferberg, senior vice president, Mellon Financial Private Wealth Management, was recognized by Madeline Pargh, Southeast regional chair, for her continuing support. The Reception Committee co-chairs included Lis Gaines; Phyllis and Gerald Golden; Gloria Lester; Ruth Merns; Madeline and Eugene Pargh; Larry Phillips; Deborah and Dr. William Rand; Lore and Eric Ross; Edith and Martin Stein; Yehudit and Herman Swartz; and Shelley and Barry Yeckes.

The Southeast Region's "Buzz from BGU," an innovative, new monthly speaker/luncheon series, is planned for the coming winter season in Boca Raton and Palm Beach. Watch your mailbox for the exciting details or call the regional office for more information.



Photo credit: Fairchild Photography

Carole and Barry Kaye with BGU's President Prof. Rivka Carmi

SOUTHWEST

Ruth Flinkman, *Campaign Chair*
Philip Gomperts, *Director*
(310) 552-3300
pgomperts@aabgu.org

A highly successful event hosted by Ruth Flinkman, Southwest regional campaign chair, was held in conjunction with the Economic Consul for Israel in October 2006 to promote BGU to high-tech industry executives in both Los Angeles and Israel. More than 150 top business people from Los Angeles attended.

Fundraising during the first six months of 2007 has been extremely successful, including the very generous contribution by Guilford and Diane Glazer (p.5), and the establishment of a laboratory in the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research by David and Fela Shapell (p.5). In addition, a substantial bequest has been made to AABGU by Doris and Ralph Martin (p.26).

The Southwest Region is planning a



number of events for the coming months in order to showcase the University's important role in the development of the Negev region.

Nahid and Mansour Parsi of Los Angeles, California were both proud and impressed during their recent visit to BGU.

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE

Edie and Art Hessel
Washington, D.C. Chapter Chairs
Helen and Dr. Armand Gold
Baltimore Chapter Acting Chairs

Keren M. Waranch, *Director*
kwaranch@aabgu.org

A parlor meeting featuring a presentation by Prof. Fred Lazin, of the Department of Politics and Government, was held on April 18, 2007 at the home of Frank and Ahuva Dye. Prof. Lazin's topic was, "World Focus on the Middle East: Israel and Her Neighbors."

New Director

AABGU is proud to announce the appointment of Keren M. Waranch who became Washington/Baltimore regional director on July 30. Most recently, Keren was the assistant director of financial resource development at The Jewish



Federation of Greater Washington. Keren is currently searching for a new, permanent regional office. Read more about Keren in the next issue of **Impact**.

Frank Dye and Washington, D.C. Chapter Co-chairs Edie and Art Hessel with Prof. Fred Lazin.

ILAN RAMON YOUTH PHYSICS CENTER OPENS

TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF COLONEL ILAN RAMON, Israel's first astronaut and a Beer-Sheva native, Ben-Gurion University dedicated a new Youth Center for Physics in his name in January 2007 on the fourth anniversary of his tragic death. His widow Rona Ramon and his family,

“This center...will keep Ilan’s memory alive with activities and learning, and provide youth with a local role model and hero.”

—PROF. RIVKA CARMI

University President Prof. Rivka Carmi, NASA astronaut Joe Tanner, Beer-Sheva Mayor Yaakov Terner, and other Israeli and North American colleagues participated in a ceremony opening the Ilan Ramon Youth Physics Center in the new Sacta-Rashi Building for Physics, situated on the Marcus Family Campus.

“Ilan Ramon was a son of the Negev,” said Prof. Rivka Carmi. “This center, a first-class educational institution, will keep Ilan’s memory alive with activities and learning, and provide youth with a local role model and hero.”

The Ramon Center is a powerful investment in the region’s young people and in the South’s continuing development. Its mandate is to strengthen local high school students’ love of science – physics in particular. To facilitate that goal, it will serve as the center for the Sacta-Rashi Foundation’s *Madarom* (Science in the South) Project.

The culmination of a collaborative effort of BGU, the Sacta-Rashi Foundation, the Israeli Ministry of Education, and the Beer-Sheva Municipality, the Ramon Youth Physics Center will give a great boost to the quality of physics education for the region’s teenagers, exposing them to advanced fields such as space science, nanotechnology, astrophysics, and biophysics.

The state-of-the-art educational facilities will serve 10,000 local high school students and includes a physics lab for high school seniors, a computer lab for university-bound students,

professor of physics and dean of the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies.

At the dedication, Rona Ramon thanked the collaborators for helping her family commemorate her husband’s legacy. “We decided to focus all of the projects honoring Ilan in the area of education here in Beer-Sheva, where he grew up.”

The Ramon Youth Physics Center is located in a wing of the Sacta-Rashi building into which BGU’s physics department moved and which formally opened this past May.

“The physics department will



Prof. Rivka Carmi; Rona Ramon; Canadian astronaut Steve MacLean; and NASA astronaut Joe Tanner

a planetarium with a roof-top observatory, and a lab for conducting sophisticated experiments in quantum mechanics and optics.

“We also hope that the planetarium, which will be Israel’s best, will attract students and visitors from around the country,” said Ramy Brustein,

benefit from contact with bright youth eager to learn, and the region’s young students will benefit from contact with graduate students and established researchers,” said Prof. Brustein.

The Ramon Youth Physics Center will, said Brustein, “encourage high school students to reach for the stars.” ■

NEW MARINE BIOLOGY LAB OPENS ON EILAT CAMPUS

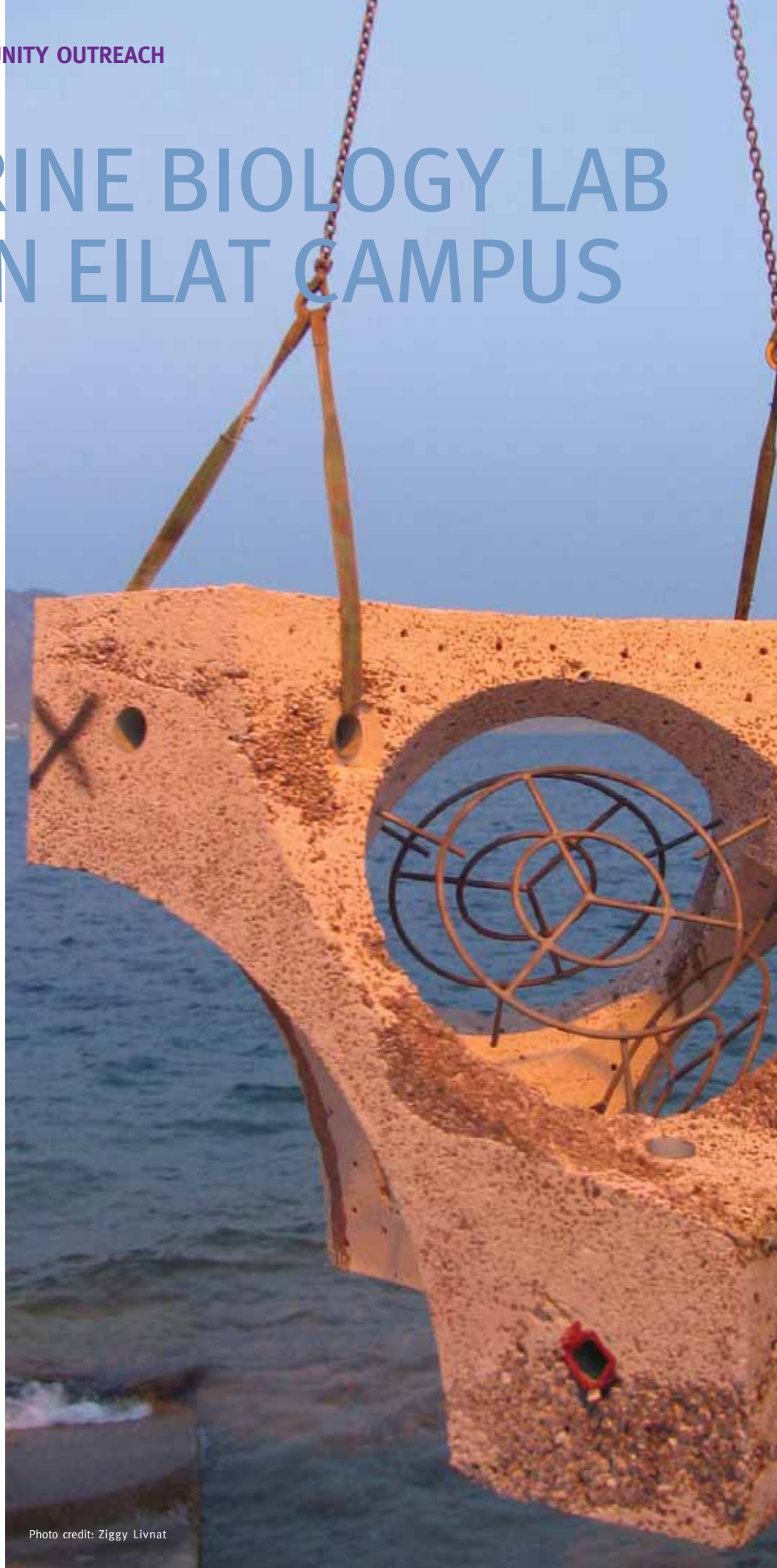
A NEW MARINE BIOLOGY and biotechnology laboratory, which opened at BGU's Eilat campus this past winter, is giving the University's academic program in this area of study a huge boost. "The reality of this new lab means that the University can greatly expand its courses in marine biology and biotechnology, which are offered only at the Eilat campus," said Prof. Amir Sagi, the head of marine biology and biotechnology studies in BGU's Department of Life Sciences.

"It will enable life science majors the opportunity to focus their major in the area of marine biology and biotechnology for the first time," Sagi said. In addition to serving the marine biology and biotechnology programs, the new facility will provide laboratory space for faculty research.

"We were thrilled and honored to build this lab," said Prof. Shaul Krakover, dean of the Eilat campus, who thanked Prof. Sagi "for working very hard to make this dream a reality." Prof. Sagi has been working on the planning and execution of the lab for nine years – long before BGU opened its Eilat campus in 2002.

Students who concentrate in marine biology and biotechnology will now spend their first two years of study at BGU's Beer-Sheva campus and their third year in Eilat, working in the new lab. In May, the lab's first group of 14 students, whom Sagi calls "pioneers," completed their studies in Eilat.

Over the past few years, anticipating that the lab would be up and running by the 2006-2007 academic year, BGU has been recruiting new students into the marine biology and biotechnology program. In the coming academic year, 17 to 20



students will arrive in Eilat to study in the marine biology lab, and in the year after there will be 25 students, according to Dr. Nadav Shashar, a senior lecturer in the department.

“This state-of-the art facility will serve to accelerate science and produce

new knowledge for the benefit of students and researchers around the country and in the worldwide scientific community,” said Prof. Shaul Krakover at the dedication of the new lab in January 2007. ■

ARTIFICIAL REEF PLACED IN THE RED SEA

A Cooperative Project between Israelis and Jordanians

One of the projects initiated by Dr. Nadav Shashar, the marine biology lecturer who is in charge of students' marine projects at BGU's Eilat campus, is the development and placement of artificial reefs to reduce environmental pressure on the region's natural reef. In April 2007, students and faculty installed the first new artificial reef, called the Tamar Reef, in the northern end of the Gulf of Eilat. “This represents a culmination of six years of research and planning,” said Dr. Shashar.

This project is part of a collaboration between Israelis and Jordanians to restore the local reef culture in the Gulf. The Tamar Reef is the first of four reefs to be installed – two on the Israeli side, and two on the Jordanian coast. Students and faculty from both countries will work together to study the artificial reef and how it affects the marine ecology in the area.

Artificial reefs are manmade, underwater structures built to promote marine life and control beach erosion. The Ben-Gurion University reefs are designed to provide hard surfaces to which corals can adhere and which will attract fish. Restoring the underwater life that has been destroyed as a result of heavy underwater tourist “traffic” of swimmers and divers is the main objective.

In Eilat alone, about 150,000 dives are performed annually in the Coral

Beach Nature Preserve – a reef that is less than one kilometer long. The project aims to develop alternative dive sites that will take some of the human pressure off the natural reef. The Tamar Reef will offer an alternative diving site for lovers of coral reefs.

“In many places, reefs are being degraded to the point where even the bare rocks are gone,” said Shashar. “Therefore, we are trying to build a new reef environment that will be different from the natural reefs in the vicinity, which will allow and even encourage the survival of species that are rare to the local area. So not only will we expand the reef area – on a very small scale – we will also strengthen the most vulnerable species and communities,” said Shashar. This, he noted, “is most exciting, as it is the ultimate challenge to an ecologist.”

The process will take time. To shorten the duration it takes for corals to find their new homes in the artificial reef, his team is growing coral in a nursery under improved conditions and will plant them when they reach proper size in the artificial reef's pre-fabricated holes.

Together with Jordanian students, BGU's marine biology students will study the effects of artificial reefs on marine culture in the area, hoping to change the delicate balance of underwater life for the better. ■



PARALLEL NARRATIVES: TEACHING COEXISTENCE TO ISRAELI AND ARAB STUDENTS

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS SHARE

a history, but they often disagree about what exactly that history looks like. A new curriculum developed for Israeli and Palestinian high school students by BGU's Prof. Dan Bar-On and colleagues presents both narratives to Israeli and Arab students, so that each side can "hear" and "see" the other's point of view, even if they disagree. Prof. Bar-On, who is currently completing a year as a Matthew Family Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, recently published the curriculum's final workbook in the series of three.

Dr. Bar-On, a professor of psychology, head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and director of the Center for Dialogue between Populations in Conflict at Ben-Gurion University, developed the project over the past five years with Prof. Sami Adwan, a lecturer in education at Bethlehem University. Both educators co-direct the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East, or PRIME, a non-governmental organization founded nearly 10 years ago with aid from Germany's Peace Research Institute.

At the core of the curriculum are two vastly different historical narratives, which drive home the notion that there is not one authoritative version of history. Each page of the workbook is divided into three equal parts: the Israeli narrative and the Palestinian narrative, which appear on either side, and in the middle, blank space for students to write their feelings about the two histories. The curriculum begins with the Balfour Declaration and ends in 2000 with the (second) Al-Aksa Intifada.



Prof. Sami Adwan and Prof. Dan Bar-On

"Our goal is not to build a single, agreed-upon narrative," said Prof. Bar-On. "Rather, it is to learn about the other's history and respect the other's narrative, even if we don't agree with it," he said. "Clearly this is not a process that will solve all the problems," Bar-On added. Indeed, most Israeli students did not change their positions, but teachers believe that there is value in the exercise, if only to get students to see the "other" from a different perspective, Bar-On explained.

The curriculum, which Profs. Bar-On and Adwan developed for 16-year-olds, can also be adapted for younger ages. Special sessions are included for parent participation.

"Teachers in both school systems have done a fantastic job so far presenting the curriculum, working under vastly different circumstances," said Bar-On.

At the beginning of the project, during the second Intifada, some thought that the pair would not succeed in developing a study program that deals head-on with the longstanding conflict. Indeed,

just to meet, Bar-On and Adwan had to overcome many real roadblocks, as well as the fear of traveling in the other's territory. The process of developing the curriculum was not simple, and can be considered a microcosm of the difficulties that is the subject of the curriculum, according to Bar-On.

Last year, 14 teachers from Israeli and Arab schools used the curriculum with a few thousand students; Bar-On and Adwan hope those numbers will increase next year, and that the Israeli and Palestinian Ministries of Education will eventually pick it up for more widespread use. "We plan to approach the two Ministries of Education when the time is ripe," Bar-On said.

Prof. Bar-On developed the idea for the coexistence curriculum over the past two decades. No stranger to conflict, he developed a unique dialogue group process – a method of telling the story of one's personal experiences and listening to the other – working with Holocaust survivors, their children and German World War II survivors, which he adapted for use in a number of different contexts.

**"Our goal...is to learn
about the other's history
and respect the other's
narrative, even if we don't
agree with it."**

—PROF. DAN BAR-ON

He described this pioneering work in *Legacy of Silence: Encounters with Children of the Third Reich* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1989), and *Fear and Hope: Three Generations of Holocaust Survivors' Families* (Harvard Univ. Press, 1995), and most recently, *The Indescribable and the Undiscussable* (Central European Univ. Press, 1999). ■

“EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS LUCK AND TIMING,” according to Eric Ross, a generous Ben-Gurion University donor, businessman and philanthropist. But luck doesn’t begin to explain the remarkable life that he has lived and the legacy that Eric Ross has built.

Born in 1919 in Dortmund, Germany, Ross fled Europe in 1938, built a loving family and two successful plastics manufacturing plants, and has spent decades dedicating himself generously to philanthropy – what he modestly calls “giving back,” to a myriad of causes, including his most recent \$1.6 million gift to Ben-Gurion University. But “luck” explains little of Eric Ross’ success, unless it’s the luck that he himself made.

Leaving his home and school at age 14 when the Nazis came to power, Ross became an apprentice in his brother-in-law’s rubber manufacturing plant in Frankfurt, which was requisitioned by the Nazis in 1938. Living in a furnished room far from his family for five years, Ross not only learned a trade that would serve him well later, he excelled in it, becoming a raw materials buyer at the age of 18.

After applying for a visa to the United States in 1937, hoping to take his family with him, he alone received the visa. Although he had not seen his family for two years, 19-year-old Eric Ross left Germany by ship earlier than he’d planned, after only a brief two-day family visit.

As he walked off the S.S. Washington in New York Harbor, Ross saw pictures in the newspaper of destruction he’d barely escaped – Kristallnacht. Eric Ross had arrived in New York two days after the Night of Shattered Glass. His parents, residing in Hamburg, were sent to Theresienstadt in June of 1942 and then to Auschwitz, where they perished.

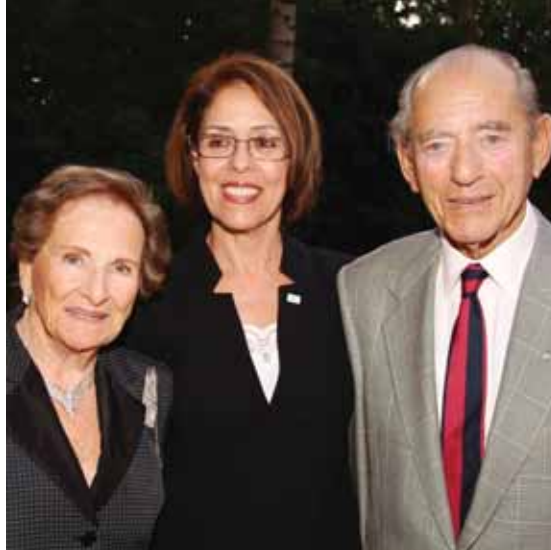


Photo credit: Fairchild Photography

ERIC ROSS, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

ON CREATING GOOD LUCK AND GIVING BACK

Ross describes finding his first job in the United States with a rubber broker as “good luck.” With a list of European rubber brokers and \$9 in his pocket, Ross found his first job working, ironically, for a German who later mentored him, knowing of his Jewish and German background and experience in the industry. Ross quickly became well-accepted.

When his brother-in-law came to the U.S. in 1940, the two started a trading business. A year later Ross joined the U.S. army, trained in intelligence and earned his lieutenant bars in Europe and a Bronze Star for meritorious service.

It was also “good luck” that led Eric Ross to find Lore Blumenthal in New York, who was also from Frankfurt and whom he had known there. Married in New York in 1942, the two, who have three children, 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, settled for 38 years in West Orange, New Jersey. They currently divide their time between their residence in Palm Beach and their summer home in New Jersey.

Over four decades, Ross built a successful business in Newark, New Jersey, Alpha Chemicals and Plastics

Corporation, becoming a recognized supplier of polyvinyl chloride compounds to the medical industry. Ross started a second factory in 1960, Mercer Plastics, in central Florida, developing a leading line of vinyl floor products.

Since selling the companies to a Fortune 500 company in 1985 and “retiring,” Eric Ross has tirelessly devoted himself to philanthropy. In addition to donating generously to local institutions,

including the Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union in West Orange, Newark’s New Jersey Performing

Arts Center and the Jewish Community Center of MetroWest, his major commitment has been to Holocaust education. In 2006, Eric and Lore Ross made a significant gift to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., making them the largest donors in the museum’s history.

Perhaps because of his lack of formal schooling, supporting education is particularly important to Ross. Over the past decade, the Rosses have been generous donors to BGU.

“Fifteen years ago, I went to a presentation by a BGU professor about the incredible research being done at the University to make the desert bloom,” Ross said. “I was impressed then, and more recently, I was impressed when meeting with Prof. Rivka Carmi during her trip to Florida. I developed a fondness and respect for her and am inspired by her vision for the future,” he added.

In March, the Rosses generously donated \$1.6 million to BGU. In appreciation for their generous and longtime commitment to the University, AABGU will honor the Rosses on January 17, 2008 at The Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach. ■

In the photo: President Prof. Rivka Carmi (center) with Lore and Eric Ross.

ON HER FIRST VISIT TO BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY of the Negev, Lolita E. Goldstein had a feeling of déjà vu. Prof. Eilon Adar, director of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research (ZWIR) at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR), took Mrs. Goldstein to see firsthand some of BGU's vital water projects. While visiting one of these sites, Lolita had the feeling she had been there before. Sure enough, she had.

Forty years earlier, Lolita had visited that very site with her husband Melvin who at the time was working for Israel Bonds to develop a potential pipeline from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea.

Once Lolita realized the symmetry of her late husband's project all those years ago to those of BGU's water research program of today, she knew her connection to the University was *bashert* – destiny.

Lolita and Melvin Goldstein's activism on behalf of Jewish causes began in the 1930s, when they were both in Europe. Born in Barcelona to German-Jewish parents, Lolita and her family had moved back to Germany when she was a child but fled to Lisbon, Portugal when she was 16, just after Hitler came to power. As a 16-year-old, Lolita played a pivotal role in her family's decision to leave Germany at that time.

As the sole support of her family, Lolita began working as a tutor, and in the early 1940s was hired by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) as an interpreter. Proficient in German, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and English, she assisted refugees with passport facilities and other issues.

One of the people Lolita met was a young American from the New York JDC office who arrived to help Jews find safe haven. That young man was



**LOLITA E. GOLDSTEIN
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

A FASCINATION WITH THE DESERT: A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT

Melvin S. Goldstein. The two fell in love, and six months later were married.

After the war, the Goldsteins lived in Paris, where Melvin continued his work with the JDC and Lolita studied at the Sorbonne. In 1951, the couple moved to the United States where they remained devoted to helping raise funds for the struggling new Jewish State.

Lolita first became introduced to BGU through a letter she received in 2003 that included general information about the University, which led her to make her initial contribution to AABGU.

Soon after, she attended a Greater New York Region evening reception where she expressed an interest in water issues. On her next visit to

Israel, AABGU arranged a meeting with Prof. Eilon Adar at the BIDR. She became fascinated with desert culture – the landscape, the architecture and the possibilities of harnessing solar energy in the desert, and of course, improving water desalination and purification.

It did not take long before Lolita developed a strong bond to BGU and became a major supporter. Following her first visit to the University in 2005, she decided to generously establish an endowed scholarship as a fitting memorial to Melvin, who died in October 2002,

for an exceptional master's student studying hydrology, water engineering and water resources management at the ZIWR.

In 2006, she made another significant gift to the ZWIR. This past May,

Lolita Goldstein saw the fruition of her generosity as she and her family visited BGU for an emotional dedication of the Melvin S. Goldstein Laboratory for Environmental Hydrology during the 37th Annual Board of Governors meeting. And, most recently, Lolita has shared her intention to leave AABGU a generous bequest.

In a short time, Lolita has become a very special member of the BGU family. All who have had the privilege and pleasure of meeting Lolita have fallen in love with her spirit for life and passion for making a difference for Israel and in the lives of others.

"At BGU's Board of Governors meeting, it did my heart good to hear young, eager and bright students talk about their future and the future of Israel," said Lolita. "I realized once and for all that I was really fulfilling Melvin's dream: 'love of Israel and love of education.'" ■

In the photo: Lolita Goldstein with students and new friends she came to know and love at the 37th Annual Board of Governors meeting where the Melvin S. Goldstein Laboratory for Environmental Hydrology was dedicated.

BOTH DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS AND EDUCATORS,

Alton and Mona Sutnick have had long and successful careers focused on improving global healthcare and bettering medical and health education. Not only have they been linchpins of AABGU's work in the Mid-Atlantic Region, the Sutnicks have lent their professional expertise to Ben-Gurion University's medical and health science programs since their first visit in 1984.

"We first visited BGU when the university was just a few buildings in the sand," said Alton Sutnick, M.D. "We were really taken by the place – the relationship between the faculty and the students, and the atmosphere of warmth and informality," he said. It is the Sutnicks' belief in BGU's mission and its academic excellence that has drawn them to return to BGU each year since their first visit 23 years ago.

A visionary long before the word "globalization" became popular, Al Sutnick has been active in international health and medical education since 1958. When he served as dean of the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now Drexel University College of Medicine) for 14 years, he expanded that school's medical education programs internationally. He has subsequently consulted and helped establish programs in over 50 countries in Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Mona Sutnick, a registered dietitian who has an Ed.D. in nutrition education, is a pioneer and consultant in the area of nutrition and women's health, who has long had an international focus to her work.

"When we first visited BGU, Mona was the keynote speaker at a conference based on her book on nutrition and women's health, the



**DRS. ALTON AND MONA SUTNICK
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

GLOBAL VISION AND LOCAL ACTIVISM

first event in Israel ever to focus on women's health," said Al. Both have served as consultants to BGU programs at Soroka University Medical

"We were really taken by the place – the relationship between the faculty and the students, and the atmosphere of warmth and informality."

—ALTON SUTNICK, M.D.

Center. Al has been particularly active in the Moshe Prywes Center for Medical Education.

To build on the excellence of BGU's cancer research, Al initiated a

partnership with Philadelphia's Fox Chase Cancer Center, which thus far has seen six collaborative research projects, 38 visiting professors, eight seminars, and five symposia – three at Fox Chase and two at BGU. Currently, a BGU doctoral student is conducting his dissertation research at Fox Chase.

The Sutnicks have contributed of their own resources, and have tirelessly helped raise funds for BGU. In 1990, they created the first endowed medical education fellowship, now the Sutnick/Tauber Senior Fellowship in Medical Education. More recently they endowed a travel fellowship for the BGU/Fox Chase program.

Their work in their hometown of Philadelphia has been invaluable. They are officers of the Philadelphia chapter, and have been for a number of years. Al is a member of AABGU's national

Board of Directors and this year chaired its Nominating Committee. But their involvement in AABGU goes far and beyond committee work. In any given week, one can find the Sutnicks hosting faculty members or students from BGU, for whom they warmly open their home, and who, they report, are "sheer pleasure."

The Sutnicks' longstanding involvement in medical education – with BGU and in the Jewish community – has garnered both Sutnicks numerous awards and honors. Most recently, Mona was honored by Israel Bonds for her commitment to Ben-Gurion University. In 2006, Al received the Strittmatter Award, the highest honor conferred by the Philadelphia County Medical Society, and in 2004, they jointly received the Negev Award from AABGU. ■

PROMOTING PEACE AND COEXISTENCE IN ISRAEL

is, for Doris and Ralph Martin, an urgent goal. Longtime supporters of Israel, the Martins got involved with BGU last year when they learned about the Center for Conflict Studies and Negotiation under the direction of psychology professor Dan Bar-On (see related story on p. 22).

"We met Prof. Dan Bar-On and fell in love with his programs," they said. "We were very impressed with his work and with the University overall." After meeting Prof. Bar-On, the Martins generously decided to bequeath to BGU their family trust and two homes in California and Arizona, at a value of about \$3.5 million, following their death.

As a result of the couple's extremely generous planned gift, the Center for Conflict Studies and Negotiation will now be known as the Martin-Springer Center for Conflict Studies and Negotiation. The University will also dedicate a plaque to Doris' parents and her family's survivors in the Department of Holocaust Studies.

Doris' experience during World War II was central to the Martins' decision to support the new Center. She was born in Bendzin, Poland, which is about 20 miles away from Auschwitz, where she was sent before being transferred to the Ludwigsdorf concentration camp.

After spending three years imprisoned there, miraculously, Doris survived the war, along with six other family members, who she found only after her release. Because of her experience during those "dark days," as she calls them, Doris has, for decades, been devoted to supporting Israel – "the only place we Jews could go after the war," she told **Impact**.

Aware of Israel's many challenges, the Martins, who have been married



**DORIS AND RALPH MARTIN
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA**

PROMOTERS OF PEACE THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

for 45 years and live in Flagstaff, Arizona and Escondido, California,

"Let us pray that some day the word 'coexistence' will not be necessary to describe people living together in peace."

—RALPH MARTIN

knew they wanted to help support education as a way of empowering Israel's young citizens and thereby enabling Israel's continuing existence and prosperity. "We considered many

educational organizations when we thought about which to support," said Ralph.

What first made BGU stand out among Israeli educational institutions was its location – the Negev. "We believe the Negev is where the future of Israel lies," said Ralph, who is now retired and an engineer by training who worked for many years in the aerospace industry and then in the hospitality business.

The Martins' strongly held belief that the Negev's development is vital for Israel's future led them to visit BGU's campus last year. Their most pressing concern for Israel is its ability to live in peace with its neighbors and within

its borders. Ralph stresses that "the need to find a non-military solution

to the conflict in the Middle East" is of utmost importance.

While visiting BGU, the Martins met with Prof. Bar-On. "We felt that his work with young people was outstanding." They were particularly impressed with Bar-On's coexistence curricula, in which Israeli and Palestinian children have an opportunity to hear each other's history. They were also impressed that many Palestinian teachers agreed to participate in the program. "I suspect they are sticking their necks out pretty far," said Ralph. In the United States, peace studies is "somewhat abstract, but in Israel, it is much more of immediate concern," he observed.

Their generous gift will enable BGU to continue to contribute to meaningful coexistence work among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. "Let us pray that some day the word 'coexistence' will not be necessary to describe people living together in peace," Ralph added. ■

OLYMPIC AWARD

Continued from Page 6

At the Munich Games, as Israel's sole male representative in track and field, Ladany finished the 50-km walk the morning before Palestinian terrorists broke into the Olympic Village with the intention of taking the entire Israeli delegation hostage. Eleven Israelis were killed by the terrorists, but Ladany and four others escaped. He published his memoirs, *The Walk to the Olympics*, in Hebrew in 1997.

Despite his high-level, full devotion to sports, Ladany said modestly that he "moonlighted" as a scientist. He received a Ph.D. in business administration from Columbia University in New York, while simultaneously competing and becoming the American race-walking champion, a title held for many years. Ladany has become a pioneer and world leader in the field of sports operations research. ■

ROBOT RECEPTIONIST 2.0

Continued from Page 8

the future, she responded, "I'd like to be a fashion model for a robot agency."

Ms. Saya makes eye contact with whomever she speaks, and when asked, can show facial expressions that correspond to fear, surprise and even disgust. "I feel that she is almost like a real human being," said Prof. Kobayashi, the inventor of Ms. Saya's hardware.

Prof. Dolev, with a team of colleagues – Profs. Eyal Shimony, Matya Katz and Ohad Ben-Shahar – and numerous graduate students, brought Saya to life by developing her animating software. Prof. Dolev believes that Ms. Saya has almost unlimited potential. "In 50 years or less we may have robots like Ms. Saya performing many tasks. But more immediately, we wanted to make students aware that life is changing all the time, and to get

them to want to learn more about computers in their many different forms, and robotics."

One of Prof. Dolev's near-term goals is to "teach" Ms. Saya to respond in Hebrew, English and Russian. Further in the future is the possibility that she will be able to conduct a true conversation, mirroring back some speech, and eventually even act as a therapist. "That would truly be an amazing application," said Dolev. ■

SOCIAL SCIENCE PIONEER

Continued from Page 9

Family and Children's Services in Boston.

"Over years, we've seen that mothers who receive intensive, one-on-one support have kids who, much later, do better in school, have better communication skills, less drug abuse, and less high-risk health behaviors," said Cwikel. She is seeking to expand the Mother-to-Mother program to development towns around Beer-Sheva, and to train nurses and social workers to work with high-risk mothers, such as victims of domestic violence, and those who abuse drugs.

"Creating new knowledge in women's health is part of what I do. But I also believe that when the empirical evidence is already there, we need the skills and confidence to become effective public health activists for the good of families and the children of today who will become the leaders of tomorrow." ■

MY "GIRSA DYANKUTA"

Continued from Page 10

and enjoy a good life. But I always remember the "incubator" of my ambitions and their fulfillment – where others believed in me and treated me like an intelligent adult when I was still a small child. That is my *girsya dyankuta* and probably that of many others as well. ■

AABGU SALUTES NEW MEMBERS OF THE BEN-GURION SOCIETY INSCRIBED UPON THE BEN-GURION WALL MAY 2007

Lis Gaines, New York, NY
Diane and Guilford Glazer, Beverly Hills, CA
Nahum Guzik, Palo Alto, CA
Eileen and Ira Ingerman Family Foundation
Narberth, PA
Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies
San Francisco, CA
Estate of Howard Rauberger, New York, NY
Eric F. and Lore Ross, Palm Beach, FL

AABGU WELCOMES NEW FOUNDERS INSCRIBED UPON THE FOUNDERS WALL, MAY 2007

Shirley and Stanley Charm, Boston, MA
Daniel and Suzanne Cohen, Los Angeles, CA
Eve Dorfzaun, New York, NY
Dweck Family Foundation, Washington, D.C.
Mimi Enzel and Family, Aventura, FL
The Estate of Hildegard Fischer, Mount Laurel, NJ
The Sidney E. Frank Foundation, New Rochelle, NY
William and Sandra Joel, Aventura, FL
Karen Levin Foundation, Miami, FL
Edith Litwin, Aventura, FL
Barry A. Passet, Washington, D.C.
The Estate of Charlotte Phillips, Memphis, TN
Lana Pinkenson, Feasterville Trevose, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Reiss, Scarsdale, NY
Herbert Rosen, New York, NY
Anne S. Rosenthal, FL
Eric F. and Lore Ross, Palm Beach, FL
Lisa Jane Scheller and Wayne S. Woodman
Allentown, PA
David and Fela Shapell Family, Beverly Hills, CA
LeRoy and Shoshana Schechter, Miami Beach, FL
The Estate of Jadzia Sobkowska, Rumson, NJ
Gerald Steiglitz, Miami Beach, FL
Judy and Leon Tenenbaum, Miami Beach, FL
Holly and Jeffrey Ullman, Stanford, CA
Martin Weiss, Fort Lee, NJ
Wolfensohn Family Foundation, New York, NY

SAVE THE DATES
JANUARY 17 THROUGH JANUARY 20, 2008

WINTER WEEKEND SPECTACULAR

The Desert Comes to Palm Beach

Join us in Palm Beach, Florida for a unique four-day event of celebrations, honors, learning, and fun. Come for all four days; come for one or more.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

Miracle in the Desert Gala at Mar-a-Lago
Honoring Lore and Eric Ross
Special Guest Performer: Tovah Feldshuh

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 AND
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2008**

Special Shabbat dinner and fun-filled activities culminating with AABGU's 36th birthday party on Saturday night.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008

Oasis of Innovation: A Symposium for the Curious
*Ben-Gurion University Scholars Share
Groundbreaking Research*
Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Dennis Ross

An eye-opening day of learning, featuring two cutting-edge panels, continental breakfast, lunch, and special guest speaker.

For more information, contact Linda Slavin at (561) 482-9424 or lsavin@aabgu.org.

EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME: SPAIN AND ISRAEL BIRTHDAY BASH

Join AABGU's 36th Birthday Bash as we explore and celebrate Spain's rich Jewish history, Israel's 60th birthday and BGU's 38th Annual Board of Governors Meeting

**SPAIN: FRIDAY, MAY 16 THROUGH
FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008**

**ISRAEL: FRIDAY, MAY 23 THROUGH
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008**

For more information, contact Deborah Bergeron at (713) 522-8284 or dbergeron@aabgu.org.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATES
Ben-Gurion University
of the Negev

1430 Broadway, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10018-3308

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hackensack, NJ
Permit 00