



President's Report 2017

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BGU Generations

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From the Chairman

David Ben-Gurion said: "It is in the Negev that the creativity and pioneering vigor of Israel will be tested." As we march toward Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's 50th anniversary, it is important for us to recognize and celebrate the real asset and driving force of this institution – our students!

Nearly 20,000 students are enrolled in academic programs at BGU's campuses in Beer-Sheva, Sede Boger, and Eilat. The University's commitment to academic excellence, its community outreach ideology, and dynamic campus life are all part of the special atmosphere and unique experience of BGU. It makes me proud to see the leadership of BGU paving the way for the future development of the University and its students in the form of the North Campus. This is a historic process that will change the image and character of the University and of the city of Beer-Sheva. The new campus will strengthen the University's infrastructure, will allow for an increase in the number of students, and will enhance their academic experience with state-of-the-art laboratories and classroom buildings. A new dormitory complex will also reinforce the students' proven commitment to social action.

The Advanced Technologies Park, established by BGU in collaboration with the municipality of Beer-Sheva and KUD International, creates a unique entrepreneurial and research ecosystem and brings an ever-growing number of jobs and economic opportunities to the region, based on the thriving R&D hub, with BGU at its center. International companies, such as IBM, Dell EMC, and Deutsche Telekom will continue to recruit from a growing pool of tech-savvy BGU graduates, while maintaining close proximity to university research.

As the University enables students to realize their dreams, develop into informed and caring citizens, and pursue meaningful careers in the Negev, it also recognizes the accomplishments of its graduates, who carry on the spirit of Ben-Gurion University. For the second year in a row, BGU bestowed Alumni Recognition Awards upon seven prominent alumni, who have made important, unique, and influential contributions to society, economy, culture, or science in Israel or abroad. In a moving ceremony, the University recognized the outstanding accomplishments of Dana Porter Rubinshtein, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Orna Barbivai, Prof. Ami Moyal, Colonel Dr. Tarif Bader, Dr. Yair Schindel, Dr. Heftzi Zohar, and Dr. Muhammad Al-Nabari.

As Chairman of the Board of Governors, it is my privilege to work side by side with President Prof. Rivka Carmi, whose vision and inspirational leadership have expedited the development of BGU and the Negev. At a ceremony held in February, our dear President was honored as a Distinguished Citizen of the City of Beer-Sheva for the year 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her for this most deserved honor and thank her for her partnership and leadership of BGU.

Finally, I want to thank our Governors for all that they have done and continue to do for Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Our role as Governors is quite clear; we are responsible for promoting the achievements of this institution in our respective countries and for raising funds to support research activities and the welfare of our students. Leading up to our 50th anniversary, I urge you to reflect on what more we can all do to ensure the continued success of our beloved University.

Alexander M. Goren

From the President

Last year we launched our 2020 Campaign, in anticipation of our forthcoming jubilee celebration. To our great joy, many people came on board. Their support ensures our continued ability to grow and thrive over the next five decades, as we expand into the North Campus and deepen BGU's immense impact on the Negev region and the world.

As we count up to our 50th anniversary and lay ambitious plans for our future, it is clear that our hard work and determination, our investment in brilliant scholars and state-of-the-art infrastructure, have borne fruit and transformed the University into a world leader, offering unheard of opportunities to generations of students and graduates, who in turn benefit all of the Negev's residents through their scientific and social innovations.

The unique history and location of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev have shaped our pioneering spirit, our dedication to pushing the boundaries of knowledge, our investment in interdisciplinary collaborations, and our commitment to the community. We are partnering in novel ways with business, industry, and government to conduct original research, leading to the creation and marketing of new technologies to improve people's lives all over the world.

The extraordinary and unprecedented ecosystem of technology innovation and business collaboration booming in Beer-Sheva today exists because Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is the catalyst. BGU, with its outstanding students, stellar faculty, and cutting-edge facilities, is at the heart of what has been called an "Oasis of Innovation" and a "New Silicon Valley in the Middle East": a unique environment where higher education, hi-tech, industry, business, and government come together to generate groundbreaking research and bring new applications to the marketplace, thus directing Beer-Sheva's trajectory of growth as an international cyber-technology center, widely acknowledged as Israel's opportunity capital. The creation of this ecosystem, which has undoubtedly contributed to the flourishing of the Negev, would not have been possible without the dedication of our steadfast donors, often embodied by several generations of the same family. Our main campus in Beer-Sheva is named for the Marcus Family. Dr. Howard and Lottie Marcus z"l bequeathed to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev the largest legacy gift ever received by an institution in the State of Israel – \$400 million to be invested in our endowment fund for perpetuity. The annual income generated by this donation will allow us to enlarge our campus and invest in cutting-edge scientific projects and in the brightest scientists and scholars.

In recognition of their magnanimity, an honorary doctorate will be conferred upon their daughter, Ellen Marcus, during the Board of Governors Meeting. Ellen is the executor of the Marcus estate and was instrumental in her parents' decision to bequeath this generous gift to BGU. She has followed in her parents' footsteps and, over the years, has become increasingly involved in the governance of our fine institution.

The current edition of the President's Report, like this year's Board of Governors Meeting, places the spotlight on our extraordinary students and alumni, featuring their unique paths and contributions to the Negev community and Israeli society. I am certain that their stories will warm your hearts, while inspiring and solidifying your support for our tremendous work and impact.

Thank you for your devoted friendship. Without you, we would never have realized our vision.

Prof. Rivka Carmi

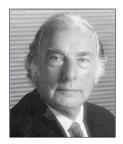
Senior Administration



Alexander M. Goren Chairman of the Board of Governors



Roy J. Zuckerberg Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Governors



Robert H. Arnow Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Governors



Adv. Asher Heled Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Rivka Carmi President



Prof. Zvi HaCohen Rector



Prof. Dan Blumberg Vice-President and Dean for Research & Development



David Bareket Vice-President and Director-General



Prof. Steve Rosen Vice-President for External Affairs



Prof. Avishay Goldberg Deputy-Rector



Prof. Amos Katz Dean - Faculty of Health Sciences



Prof. Jiwchar Ganor Dean - Faculty of Natural Sciences



Prof. Joseph Kost Dean - Faculty of Engineering Sciences



Prof. Chaim (Harvey) Hames Dean - Pinchas Sapir Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Prof. Oded Lowengart Dean - Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management



Prof. Boris Zaltzman Director - Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research



Prof. Nadav Shashar Academic Director Eilat Campus



Prof. Ohad Birk Director - National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev



Prof. Yuval Golan Director - Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology



Prof. Limor Aharonson-Daniel Vice-Rector for International Academic Affairs



Prof. Gad Rabinovich Vice-Rector



Dr. Paula Kabalo Director - Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel & Zionism



Prof. Angel Porgador Deputy Vice-President and Dean for R&D



Prof. Michal Shapira Dean - Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies



Prof. Iris Shai Presidential Adviser on the Advancement of Women in Academia



Prof. Moshe Kaspi Dean of Students

BGU by the Numbers

BGU by the Numbers

We are moving forward with plans and work on the expansion of the University to the North Campus, while also preparing for the IDF's move to the south. We expect to enroll up to 4,000 additional students from the IDF and related population growth in the region and anticipate hiring 60 new academic faculty members in fields required by these students, specifically in technology-related areas, along with commensurate administrative and technical staff.

Even before the IDF's move south, and counter to declining enrollment at higher education institutions globally, the number of students applying to and enrolling at BGU continued to grow this year. We saw an increase of 5% in undergraduate enrollment, as well as in applications. BGU added 42 new junior and senior faculty members this year. About 40% of the new hires are women.

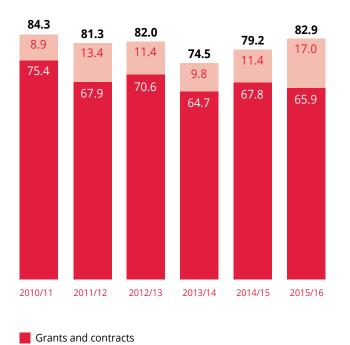
Distribution of Students by Faculty and Degrees 2015–2017

							TOTA	L 19,277
Total	6,178	2,651	5,724	2,851	2,397	246	129	25
Certificate	300							
Non-Degree Teaching	147	69	229	21	30	4		
Post-Doc	53	98 69	56 229	30 21	4	36	2	
Ph.D.	447	272	315	219	71	104	127	
Master's	1,385	237	821	545	1,230	107		25
Bachelor's	3,897	1,987	4,378	2,074	1,064			
2015-16							ΤΟΤΑ	L 19,378
Total	5,909	2,847	5,844	2,785	2,482	269	125	24
Teaching Certificate	297							
Non-Degree	150	111	197	14	26	4		
Post-Doc	45	97	53	20	3	43	4	
Ph.D.	463	284	340	243	70	125	121	
Master's	1,240	264	816	521	1,319	97		24
Bachelor's	3,775	2,098	4,503	2,023	1,064			
2016-17		Sciences	0 0		Management	Studies	School	Institute
	Humanities and Social	Natural	Engineering	Health	Business and	Desert	Graduate	Ben [.] Gurior

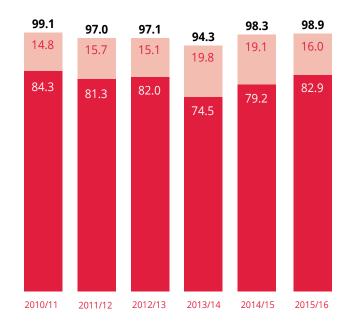
Please note: The student numbers include all students studying at BGU in Beer-Sheva, Sede Boqer, and Eilat in both degree and non-degree programs. Not all totals add up because there are students enrolled in multiple faculties or pursuing multiple degrees. The above figures refer to first semester only.

We remain focused on our mission to help new generations of students and researchers fulfill their potential and harness their skills and knowledge towards making an impact.

TOTAL EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING (\$US M)



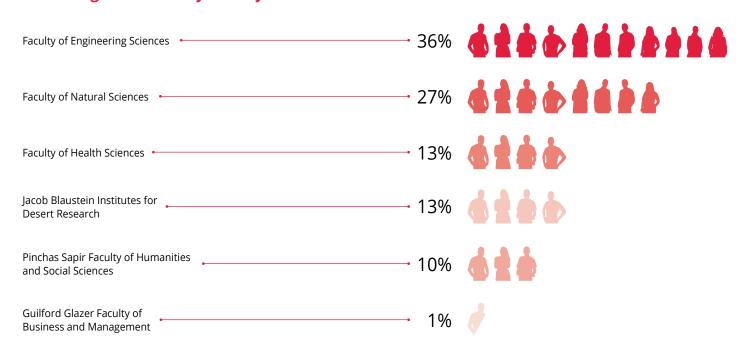
TOTAL INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH (\$US M)



Total external research funding
 BGU research funding

Percentage of Grants by Faculty 2015/16

Other sources



BGU by the Numbers

University Operating Budget

	2014/2015		20		015/2016		2016/2017			
	NIS M	\$ M	%	NIS M	\$ M	%	NIS M	\$ M	%	% change
INCOME										
Planning & Budgeting							·			
Committee	867.0	240.8	71.9%	882.5	226.3	72.2%	909.6	236.2	72.9%	3.1%
Tuition and Dorms	200.4	55.7	16.6%	204.1	52.3	16.7%	202.3	52.6	16.2%	-0.9%
Contributions	12.6	3.5	1.0%	13.7	3.5	1.1%	13.5	3.5	1.1%	-1.5%
Endowment Funds	50.0	13.9	4.1%	50.0	12.8	4.1%	50.0	13.0	4.0%	0.0%
Other Income	60.9	16.9	5.1%	69.3	17.8	5.7%	69.6	18.1	5.6%	0.4%
Transfer from Funds	14.8	4.1	1.2%	3.3	0.8	0.3%	2.8	0.7	0.2%	-14.1%
TOTAL	1,205.7	334.9	100.0%	1,222.9	313.6	100.0%	1,247.8	324.1	100.0%	2.0%
EXPENDITURE										
Salaries	888.4	246.8	73.7%	907.8	232.8	74.2%	919.7	238.9	73.7%	1.3%
Fellowships & Student										
Assistance	70.4	19.5	5.8%	70.1	18.0	5.7%	73.1	19.0	5.9%	4.3%
Teaching & Research										
Expenses	44.0	12.2	3.6%	43.7	11.2	3.6%	46.6	12.1	3.7%	6.5%
Institutes & Research										
Centers	43.8	12.2	3.6%	39.2	10.1	3.2%	39.4	10.2	3.2%	0.6%
Computer Expenses	11.9	3.3	1.0%	13.4	3.4	1.1%	15.0	3.9	1.2%	11.9%
Library Expenses	25.7	7.1	2.1%	28.3	7.3	2.3%	29.5	7.7	2.4%	4.2%
Administration	28.2	7.8	2.3%	28.8	7.4	2.4%	31.5	8.2	2.5%	9.4%
Maintenance	84.9	23.6	7.0%	83.7	21.5	6.8%	85.8	22.3	6.9%	2.5%
Financing	8.5	2.4	0.7%	7.8	2.0	0.6%	7.2	1.9	0.6%	-7.7%
TOTAL	1,205.7	334.9	100.0%	1,222.9	313.6	100.0%	1,247.8	324.1	100.0%	2.0%
NIS/\$ exchange rate:	3.60			3.90			3.85			-1.3%
Higher Education Budgeting Index	126.5			127.2			126.5			



2016/17 Overall University Budget (NIS Thousands in Current Prices)

	Operating Budget	Research Budget	Development Budget	Special Programs	Total Budget
Expenditures	1,247,830	298,000	121,373	126,520	1,793,723
Income	1,247,830	298,000	121,373	131,478	1,798,681

Our Worldwide Family of Associates at Work 2015/16 Year-End Figures

	Total
Contributions Received	\$202,368,085
Interest Income from Endowments	\$8,935,190
Endowment Fund Balance (as of 30/9/16)	\$404,258,064

Notes: Contribution figures are gross and do not reflect local fund-raising charges | Contribution figures include \$161.8 million received from the Marcus Estate | All figures are approximate due to fluctuating exchange and interest rates | Endowment balance includes \$125.6 million in the Marcus Fund and approximately \$42.95 million in endowment funds held in the U.S. by and on behalf of AABGU (The figure does not include approximately \$19.2 million in trust funds held by and on behalf of AABGU.) | 2015/16 interest income was calculated at approximately 3.0%. The figure above represents only the income distributed on endowments held in Israel.

Building Opportunities for Future Generations

Work on the North Campus projects, where future generations of BGU students and scientists will live, study, and work, has begun. We have begun working on the North Campus project, where future generations of BGU students and scientists will live, study, and work. At this stage, our focus is on preparing the basic infrastructure, energy center, and the utilities tunnel system connecting the buildings. Preparatory work for the first construction project on the North Campus, the Undergraduate Village, is underway. The complex, with 574 apartments in 14 buildings, will house 1,000 students.





In today's rapidly changing world, a modern university's infrastructure platform must allow for constantly evolving technologies and malleable spaces that can be used and reconfigured as needs change. We are ensuring that the University is prepared. At the same time, we are continually improving and upgrading our existing facilities. This year we focused on upgrading classrooms and multimedia equipment, as well as improving the accessibility of all campus facilities.

The Advanced Technologies Park (ATP) continues to flourish. The first two buildings are fully occupied, and construction of a hotel and the third and fourth buildings has begun.

Completed this Year

- Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Institute for Social Leadership Building
- Guzik Family Building for Biotechnology Engineering
- Carole and Marcus Weinstein Software and Information Systems Engineering and Cyber Security Building
- Jusidman Science Center for Youth Building at BGU, supported by the Rashi Foundation
- Renovation of two sections of the Zlotowski Dormitory Complex
- The North Campus utilities relocation

Under Construction

 Murray H. Shusterman Gate of Knowledge



← The Jusidman Science Center for Youth Building

Work to Begin Soon

- Lorry I. Lokey Chemistry Building
- Graduate Student Dormitories
- Medical Simulation and Classroom Building, to house the Field Family Foundation Medical Simulation Center
- Undergraduate Village on the North Campus
- BGU-Soroka Joint Research Building supported by the Adelis Foundation
- Sports and Recreation Center expansions
- Energy center

Future Projects

- A new building for the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism and a new home for the Ben-Gurion Archives
- Renovations of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Building
- A new plaza between the Lorry I. Lokey Chemistry Building and the Guzik Family Building for Biotechnology Engineering
- Homeland Security Institute
- Structural Engineering building
- University Art Gallery
- Library for Engineering and Natural Sciences
- Health Sciences Research Laboratories
 Building
- International Conference Center
- Classroom building
- Generic labs building
- Additional cyber security research building



↑ The Carole and Marcus Weinstein Software and Information Systems Engineering and Cyber Security Building



PATENT

BGN TECHNOLOGIES FILED 1000 PATENTS

We actively foster, encourage, and train our remarkable students and faculty to be innovators. Innovation is Israel's main national resource. The nation is ranked 3rd out of 140 countries, according to a World Economic Forum index of innovation and technology. The hi-tech industry in Israel employs 10% of all workers and produces 15% of the GDP and 50% of Israel's exports.*

An unprecedented ecosystem of technology innovation and business collaboration is booming in the country's cyber-technology capital, Beer-Sheva, and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is at its heart. BGU's top-notch academic programs and multidisciplinary centers educate tomorrow's researchers and entrepreneurs, and a range of University programs and market-oriented organizations are in place to help them develop and bring their ideas to fruition. A recent LinkedIn analysis, for example, revealed that BGU faculty members and alumni have established 338 hi-tech companies. It is not surprising that BGU has been ranked, for three years running, among the top 100 universities worldwide granted US patents.

BG Negev Technologies Ltd. (BGN)

develops and manages BGU's ties with the business world, linking research with industry, creating joint research centers, licensing BGU technologies, and investing in start-ups, incubators, and accelerators. It recently filed for its 1,000th patent in the University's name and already has 800 registered patents. It has been involved in the establishment of over 100 companies.



BGN has taken a leading role in the creation of the vibrant hi-tech ecosystem surrounding the University, through the establishment of the **Advanced Technologies Park** (ATP) adjacent to the Marcus Family Campus, providing an ideal setting for collaborations between the University and industry. Just three years ago there were about 100 hi-tech employees in Beer-Sheva; today there are over 2,000, and their number is expected to grow to more than 7,000 in the next seven years.

Two technology incubators located at the ATP were co-created by BGN: Israel's first cyber-security incubator, JVP Cyber Labs, and the country's first renewable energy incubator, Capital Nature. This is not all: BGU isn't just providing the space, the connections, and the knowledge to accomplish breakthroughs: we actively foster, encourage, and train our remarkable students and faculty to be innovators. Just this past year, 1,200 BGU engineering students presented 550 final

*Avi Hasson, Chief Scientist's Report, Chairperson of the Innovation Committee, Ministry of Economy, submitted to the Prime Minister in June 2016





OF ISRAEL'S EXPORTS ARE FROM THE HI-TECH INDUSTRY

5 COMPANIES

launched through the first cycle of the Inno-Negev Accelerator with total investments of approximately

In 2016 BGN Technologies and the Bengis Center jointly established the University's main innovation center, BGU Innovation Labs

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1 OUT OF 10 ISRAELIS WORKS

IN THE HI-TECH INDUSTRY

projects in 11 fields. Imagine the potential impact these young engineers could have with the right support.

A range of University initiatives, most notably the **Bengis Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation** at the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, ensure that the next generation of business leaders, scientists, and entrepreneurs have all the tools they need to succeed, by offering unique educational programs, activities, services, and collaborative initiatives.

BGU and **Google** continue to collaborate on the **Innovation in the Public Sector** program, encouraging students to think innvatively to solve society's problems.

In 2016 BGN Technologies and the Bengis Center jointly established the University's main innovation center, **BGU Innovation Labs**. Located in WeWork Beer-Sheva at the ATP, the Labs provide support to BGU students and alumni working on business enterprises. 35 groups are presently advancing their ventures with the support of mentors, weekly lectures, and other services provided by the Bengis Center.

The Inno-Negev Accelerator Program,

launched in 2016, provides support and tools to start-up groups in the pre-seed stage. At the end of the first cycle, five companies were launched with total investments of approximately \$3.4 M.

338

hi-tech companies established by BGU faculty members and alumni

15

Generating Opportunities for Generations

There is the first flush of challenge. The rush of adrenaline as you strive to create something that has not existed before. The fire that keeps you up at night dreaming and planning. The drive to make an edifice of higher education rise from a distant town in the desert. It is a success in which the first generation of BGU researchers and its founders can justifiably take great pride.

The founding generation was not afraid to take risks and to create schools and programs that broke the mold. They established strong foundations for a university that is always striving upwards and outwards. The founding generation was not afraid to take risks and to create schools and programs that broke the mold. Those were, no doubt, heady days.

A new generation has arisen on their shoulders, reaching ever higher, thinking bigger, dreaming, and making that dream



a reality. Some literally grew up in the University's classrooms and corridors.

As they matured, so did the University. Just as their unique personalities began to shine through, the University's personality began to shine through.

This was a pioneering university, one that wholeheartedly embraced the pioneering spirit of the founders of the State of Israel and strove to push the frontiers. It was a warm and welcoming mother, offering an affectionate embrace and constant encouragement. It was a university with a medical school that placed the patient first, rather than the disease. It has turned out doctors who care, who look their patients in the eye and see them.

It was a university that was not content to idly stand by as its nearest neighbors struggled to adjust to a new life in a new country, having left everything behind to start all over again in Israel. It was a university with the foresight to send its "children," its brightest and most dedicated students, out to lend a hand and a smile, day in and day out, to those very neighborhoods – to inspire, to encourage and to provide a little relief. And it succeeded – year after year, decade after decade. Some of the students now active in the Lillian and Larry Goodman Open Apartments Program were themselves inspired as children by successive generations of students living in their neighborhood; inspired to dream bigger, to feel a trickle of self-confidence begin to rise and say, "I, too, can do this."



 ↑ Community Action Unit, 1980s
 Photo: Frank D. Smith

← Good Deeds Day at BGU's Eilat Campus

It was a university that opened its doors to the youth of Beer-Sheva, offering an alternate future. It was a university that opened its doors to the youth of Beer-Sheva, offering an alternate future exceeding the expectations of any desert town. Knowing that if it offered a glimpse of the marvels, of the gems of knowledge that resided within it, there would be a chance that these young children would be inspired; knowing that opportunities were hard to come by if you were growing up in the Negev and that it was up to the University to share its light. For years, high-school students traipsed through the campus, finding a corner here or a book on a library shelf there. And when thousands came through in a steady stream, the need for a permanent home for these transient pupils became paramount and the Jusidman Science Center for Youth was established in a prominent location on campus, proudly overlooking the main gate.

It is a university generous of spirit that knows that keeping all of its treasures to itself is a disservice to the world. A university that opens its doors to students from around the world, imparting its unique knowledge to them, and bidding them to go forth and implement it, in order to make the world a more progressive and enlightened place. And sometimes one of those who came from afar is inspired to stay and to make a home and a life among Israel's diverse population.

We invite you to peruse the pages of this publication and meet these generations of students, whose lives have been intertwined with the University's existence, and who have been instrumental in transforming the Negev and generating exceptional opportunities for its residents.





"The ATP ... bridges the passion and drive of students at the beginning of their careers and the companies and problems that are waiting for solutions."

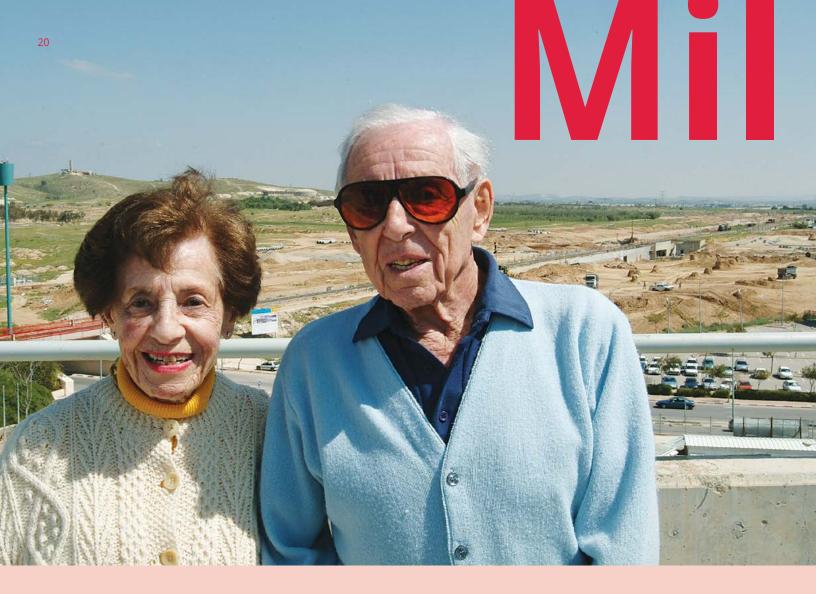


Benerations

Ziv Ofek

Ziv grew up in Kiryat Gat and came to Beer-Sheva to study Industrial Engineering and Management at BGU. Although he initially dreamed of landing a job in Tel Aviv or somewhere even more glamorous, he was hired by one of the very few hi-tech start-ups active in Beer-Sheva at the time and never left. Even while running dbMotion, an international company that developed a highly successful platform for clinical information integration and interoperability, Ziv remained in Beer-Sheva and insisted, when selling it to Allscripts for \$235 M, that the company remain here.

A visionary medical IT entrepreneur, Ziv most recently founded CDI-Negev, a non-profit Center for Digital Innovation established in collaboration with BGU. "There was no doubt in my mind," he says, "that if I wanted to found an initiative involving people, then it should be in Beer-Sheva, and there was no doubt that it should be at the University. That is why I approached Prof. Rivka Carmi first." He explains, "I believe that we have just begun to take advantage of the University's true potential. The bridge to the ATP is not just a piece of real estate: there is something symbolic about it. It bridges the passion and drive of students at the beginning of their careers and the companies and problems that are waiting for solutions."



↑ The late Dr. Howard and Lottie Marcus

Longtime friends, the late **Dr. Howard and Lottie Marcus** bequeathed a legacy gift of \$400 million to Ben-Gurion University. This is the largest bequest ever made to an Israeli university and believed to be the most generous donation to any institution in the State of Israel. The funds will more than double the University's existing endowment, ensuring future generations a wealth of opportunities for all times.

estones

Together with the entire nation, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev mourned the passing of **President Shimon Peres**, protégé of David Ben-Gurion and a partner in his vision of developing the Negev, Doctor of Philosophy Honoris Causa of the University, and recipient of its Ben-Gurion Leadership Award.

BGU launched its **2020 Vision 50**th **Anniversary Campaign** at the opening plenary session of last year's Board of Governors Meeting. The Campaign's main goal is to raise \$500 million to enable the University to accommodate 4,000 additional students and double the size of its campus in Beer-Sheva.

BGUSAT, Israeli academia's first nanosatellite, was successfully launched into space in February 2017 to conduct BGU scientific missions. It is the result of a joint five-year project between BGU, Israel Aerospace Industries, and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space, for which Rachel and Max Javit provided significant funding.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev placed among the **top 1.5% of universities** ranked by the **Center for World University Rankings**.



← President Shimon
 Peres received Ben-Gurion
 University's Leadership Award
 in 2014

↓ Installation of BGU's Satellite Ground-Receiving Station



ACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL INSTITUTE FOR SO



↑ Dean Prof. Oded Lowengart, Beer-Sheva Mayor Ruvik Danilovich, Morton L. Mandel, and President Prof. Rivka Carmi at the dedication of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Institute for Social Leadership Building

Physical Development

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Institute for Social Leadership Building was dedicated in October, in the presence of Morton L. Mandel, thanks to support from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation.

The Jusidman Science Center for Youth Building, where various veteran and new outreach programs attended by some 10,000 school children will be centered, was dedicated in April 2017. The building is the outcome of a collaboration between the Jusidman Family, the Rashi Foundation, the Beer-Sheva Municipality, and the Ministry of Education.

BGU dedicated the Carole and Marcus Weinstein Software and Information Systems Engineering and Cyber Security Building. The **Murray H. Shusterman Gate of Knowledge**, built thanks to the generosity of **Murray Shusterman** z"l (Philadelphia, PA), is nearing completion.

Construction of the **Guzik Family Building for Biotechnology Engineering** is close to completion thanks to the support of Dr. Nahum Guzik of Mountain View, CA.

Catherine Faust-Tobiasse of France has generously donated the sculpture *The Acrobats/Les Saltimbanques*, by her late father, world-renowned artist Theo Tobiasse. Her choice of BGU as the permanent home for this modern art masterpiece reflects her father's deep attachment to his Israeli roots, as well as his passion for technology and innovative thinking. The sculpture now graces the garden next to the Abraham Ben David Ohayon Behavioral Sciences Complex.

Academic and Research Activities

The Michel Halpérin Memorial Research Prize Endowment Fund was established in memory of the late Michel Halpérin of Switzerland. It will support the Halpérin Prize for Research on the Ethics of Law and Governance and Human Rights. The prize will be awarded at an annual lecture in memory of Michel Halpérin to be held at the Board of Governors Meeting.

The Milton and Frimette Snow Charitable Foundation, based in Toronto, Canada, with fellow Torontonian Barry Lipson, are supporting the Neuroimaging Laboratory, led by Prof. Ilan Dinstein of the Department of Psychology, in loving memory of Milton Snow.



← A delegation from
 St. Boniface Hospital in
 Winnipeg, Canada, visited
 BGU to mark a new research
 partnership
 Photo: Shay Shmueli



↑ Theo Tobiasse's sculpture The Acrobats/Les Saltimbanques was donated by his daughter, Catherine Faust-Tobiasse

The **Wolfson Foundation of the UK** has generously agreed to support the new Single Cell Analysis research facility for the study of nanoscale phenotypic variation across domains of life, with emphasis on young researchers. The Wolfson Foundation will provide state-of-the-art equipment to serve a large number of potential users to promote cutting-edge research at BGU.

The generous estate gift of **Dr. Harold Hamer** of New York, NY, will establish a multiple myeloma research laboratory, named after its benefactor, and headed by Prof. Angel Porgador and Dr. Roi Gazit. Yvonne Koshland z"l (Berkeley, CA) and Phlyssa Koshland, the wife and daughter of the late Daniel E. Koshland Jr., generously supported the Koshland Initiative in Desert Architecture and Environmental Planning. This project, led by Prof. David Pearlmutter of the Bona Terra Department of Man in the Desert, enables graduate students to pursue innovative research to benefit desert communities in Israel and abroad.

The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation (Baltimore, MD), together with Elizabeth and Arthur Roswell (Bridgewater, NJ), have generously provided funding to the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research to support ongoing development and the recruitment of new faculty at the Institutes.

New Academic Collaborations

Research Without Borders, a partnership and research collaboration between Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and St. Boniface Hospital in Canada was launched with a fundraising goal of \$10 million. Fundraising is being stewarded by Larry Vickar of Winnipeg, Canada.



"Every schoolchild in Beer-Sheva knows the University – from the gifted to those who struggle."



















Senerations

Dr. Heftzi Zohar

When Heftzi Zohar, an inveterate optimist who grew up practically next door to Ben-Gurion University, completed her Ph.D. in life sciences at BGU, she found herself at a crossroads and decided to dedicate herself to the world of education, as her way of changing the world for the better. She trained at the Mandel Leadership Institute in Jerusalem and returned to Beer-Sheva with the mission to help Beer-Sheva's students realize their potential and be the very best they can be.

She began by running the Maof School for Excellence and soon thereafter joined Beer-Sheva's energetic Mayor Ruvik Danilovich and his team, as Deputy Mayor in charge of education. "Everything begins and ends with education," she says. "My own scientific education gave me so many important tools, such as curiosity, creativity, the ability to question, and the need to understand, and the drive for excellence! Our society needs inspiring, trailblazing leaders."

Ben-Gurion University is a crucial resource – the "southern star" in Dr. Zohar's words – for Beer-Sheva and the Negev as a whole. "The University contributes to the realization of David Ben-Gurion's vision of transforming the Negev into a beacon of excellence and action in all areas, not just science. With its remarkable human resources, excellence in research, and community outreach, the University generates opportunities for everyone throughout the region. The developments in this area are exponential: take, for example, all the joint programs and collaborations like the Jusidman Science Center for Youth, the Ilan Ramon Center, the Marie Curie Program, and more... Every schoolchild in Beer-Sheva knows the University – from the gifted to those who struggle – thanks to the remarkable collaborations centered around BGU."

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and **PayPal** announced a new partnership to conduct joint research and development.

BGU and **Assuta Medical Centers**, Israel's largest private hospital organization, signed a historic affiliation agreement, opening up new paths in the clinical training of doctors and health professionals at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

BGU and the **University of Mumbai** signed two memoranda of understanding, as well as an agreement to establish a joint Ph.D. program, during a visit to India led by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin.

↓ NTU Singapore and BGU signed a partnership agreement to collaborate on finding ways to counter cyber threats at Cybertech Tel Aviv 2017

Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and Ben-Gurion University signed a joint research agreement to find innovative ways to counter cyber threats.



A new collaboration agreement was signed between BGU's Faculty of Health Sciences and **Azerbaijan Medical University**.

New Academic Chairs

The Carole Weinstein Chair in Information Systems Engineering was established thanks to the generosity of Carole and Marcus Weinstein of Richmond, VA.

The Dr. Raquel H. Newman Career Development Chair in Environmental Hydrology and Microbiology was established through the generosity of Raquel Newman of San Francisco, CA.

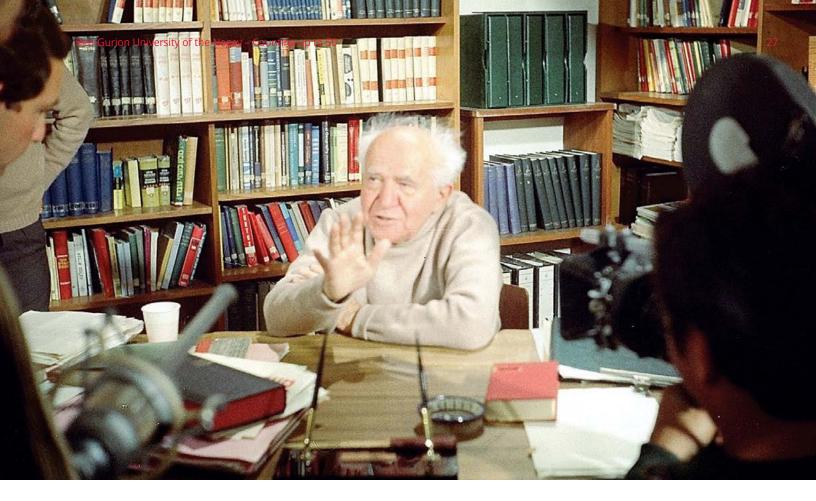
The **Michael Feige Career Development Chair in Israeli Society** was established by the American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The **Michel Halpérin Chair in Law and Governance** will be established to commemorate the late Michel Halpérin.

New Scholarship Funds

Julia Gauchman and Family (Chicago, IL) have generously established the Prof. Hillel Gauchman Memorial Scholarship Fund in Mathematics in memory of Julia's beloved late husband Prof. Hillel Gauchman z"l. Ph.D. student Nadav Meir is the inaugural recipient of the scholarship, awarded in January 2017.

The Feil Family Foundation (New York, NY) added significantly to the Feil Family Foundation MD/PHD Fellowship Endowment Fund. This gift will strengthen this prestigious program as part of a strategic planning process at the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School and the Faculty of Health Sciences.



Prof. Allen Greenberger of Chicago, IL, left a significant legacy gift to the University which will support the **Allen Greenberger Memorial Scholarship in History**; the **Alice and Harold Greenberger Memorial Scholarship**; the Lester Greenberger **Memorial Scholarship in Business**; and the **Barbara Beechler Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics**.

Frieda Podell of Dresher, PA, left a significant legacy gift, which will support the Edwin and Frieda Podell Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Other Notable Bequests

Helen Nichunsky of Los Angeles, CA, left an extraordinary legacy gift which will support research and students.

A floor in the Brain Research Center is to be named for **Dr. David Cos Eisenstein** of Los Angeles, CA, in appreciation of his remarkable legacy gift to the University.

The generous bequest of **Joyce L. Winfield** of Ridge, NY, will support innovative research at the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research.

New Academic Programs

The Center for Israel Studies, a new initiative supported by the Azrieli Foundation, was formally launched at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism on BGU's Sede Boqer Campus.

A new Master's track in **Community Clinical Pharmacy and Regulatory Management** in the School of Pharmacy has been approved by the Council for Higher Education.

The Toby Mower Curriculum for the Prevention and Treatment of Addiction concluded a three-month-long course for nurses.

A new dual degree in **Mechanical Engineering and Computer and Electrical Engineering** was recently approved.

A new Health Technology Management and Evaluation study track was launched in the Department of Health Systems Management. ↑ A new documentary about David Ben-Gurion, using rediscovered footage from David Perlov's lost film "42:6" (1970), was screened at the dedication of the Center for Israel Studies at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism.

Photo: Malcolm Stewart, 1968. Courtesy of Go2Films



↑ The Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research Administration Building, co-designed by Prof. Isaac (Sakis) Meir, recipient of the 2016 Green Building Leadership Award The Office of International Academic Affairs held the first **Summer Program in Data Mining and Business Intelligence**.

The Department of Management opened three new study tracks in **Sports Business Management; Logistics Management;** and **Information Technologies.**

The **Social Leadership MBA Program** at the Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management opened a specialized track for directors.

Honors Bestowed by BGU

Julio María Sanguinetti, former President of Uruguay, received the Ben-Gurion Leadership Award from BGU Rector Prof. Zvi HaCohen in a ceremony held in Buenos Aires in October 2016.

BGU awarded the **2016 William Berelson Prize** for the Promotion of Jewish-Arab Understanding in Memory of Yitzhak Rabin to the NGO **AJEEC-NISPED** (The Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation – Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development).

Odelia Karmi was awarded the **Spitzer Prize** by the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work, for her professional excellence in social welfare.

Excellence Recognized

The Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management has broken into the 2016 Corporate Knights Better World MBA Ranking, the only Israeli institution to do so.

BGU President, **Prof. Rivka Carmi**, and **Prof. Ron Dagan** from the Faculty of Health Sciences, received the Beer-Sheva municipality's **Distinguished Citizen Award** for 2017.

BGU Rector, **Prof. Zvi HaCohen**, received an honorary doctorate from **Babeș-Bolyai University** in his hometown of Cluj, Romania.

The Israeli Green Building Council bestowed its **2016 Green Building Leadership Award** on **Prof. Isaac (Sakis) Meir** of the Bona Terra Department of Man in the Desert.

Prof. Haviva Pedaya from the Department of Jewish History and head of The J. R. Elyachar Center for Studies in Sephardi Heritage, has been appointed a **member of the Council for Higher Education**.

Dr. Kobi Gal of the Department of Information Systems Engineering was awarded the prestigious **EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Fellowship.**

Prof. Frederic Libersat from the Department of Life Sciences and the Zlotowski Center for Neuroscience received a prestigious grant from the **National Geographic Society**. He is the first BGU researcher to receive such a grant.

Prof. Taleb Mokari from the Department of Chemistry and the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology received an **ERC Proof of Concept Grant**.

Dr. Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, incumbent of the Rosen Family Career Development Chair in Judaic Studies in the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought, was elected to the **Israel Young Academy** of the **Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities**.

Dr. Leeat Granek, a member of the Department of Public Health, won the **Sigmund Koch Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology** bestowed by the American Psychological Association.

Prof. Eduardo Guendelman of the Department of Physics has been elected Israel's representative to the **Cantata Cost Action**.

Prof. (Emeritus) Miriam Cohen, former Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, was named a **2017 Fellow of the American Mathematical Society**.

Prof. Yael Edan of the Department of Industrial Engineering was recognized by the Butler Center for Leadership Excellence at Purdue University as a Distinguished Woman Scholar. **Dr. Yonatan Dubi** of the Department of Chemistry was awarded the **2017 Krill Prize** from the Wolf Foundation.

Prof. (Emeritus) David Faiman, who served as founding Director of the Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Center, received the **David Ben-Gurion Award** at a ceremony held in Tel Aviv in November 2016.

Dr. Neta Sal-Man of the Shraga Segal Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics was invited to join the inaugural **Young Researchers Forum** of the Natural Sciences Division of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Prof. Doron Pappo, from the Department of Chemistry, received the **2016 Israel Chemical Society Outstanding Young Scientist Prize**. ↓ Dr. Maya Bar Sadan, winner of the Wolf
 Foundation's Krill Prize for
 2016, speaks at *TheMarker*'s
 Conference on Economy and
 Society, co-organized by BGU









"When you get up in the morning knowing that everyone wants you to succeed, it really makes a difference."











Senerations

Col. Dr. Avraham Yitzhak

When his medical studies in Ethiopia were disrupted by civil war, Avraham Yitzhak joined his family in Israel and within a year was back on track at the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School, thanks to his own hard work and the support of people who believed in him. There is no doubt that Ben-Gurion University is for him a special place: "My teachers' and professors' sincere desire to help stood out for me throughout my studies. When you get up in the morning knowing that everyone wants you to succeed, it really makes a difference."

Since obtaining his medical degree, Dr. Yitzhak has served in the IDF's Medical Corps (with a few breaks for surgical residencies and further studies in medical management, all at BGU). He is head of the IDF's trauma division, where he led several humanitarian missions abroad, including to Haiti and Nepal. He was recently appointed Chief Medical Officer for the IDF's Southern Command, with the rank of full Colonel.

Dr. Yitzhak is the first doctor of Ethiopian descent to graduate in Israel and the first to hold the rank of Colonel. He has never stopped aspiring and aiming higher: "My father taught me that physical possessions can be taken away from you, but your education is yours forever. This is why I work so hard and keep on striving to improve myself."

Prof. (Emeritus) Herzl Aharoni of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was named a Fellow of both the **American Optical Society** and the **South African Institute of Electrical Engineers.**

Prof. Galit Nimrod of the Department of Communication Studies was elected a **Fellow of the Academy of Leisure Sciences**.

Prof. Amir Sagi, member of NIBN and the Department of Life Sciences, is the Crustacean Society's **2016 Excellence in Research Award** recipient.

↓ The BGU community celebrated Hapoel Beer-Sheva Football Club's first national championship in 40 years Dr. Moshe Elkabets of the Shraga Segal Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics was awarded the Teva Founders Prize and Research Grant.



Prof. Louisa Meshi of the Department of Materials Engineering has been named **Chair of the Commission on Electron Crystallography** of the International Union of Crystallography.

Prof. Ronen Brafman from the Department of Computer Science has been elected a **Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence**.

Student Awards and Achievements

BGU's iGEM student team took home a gold medal in its category at the **iGEM Giant Jamboree** held in late October at MIT in Cambridge, MA, for the project PlastiCure-BGU. The team was also nominated for Best Environmental Project, Best Poster, and Best Applied Design.

Hagit Grushka-Cohen, a graduate student in Information Systems Engineering was awarded the IBM Ph.D. Fellowship.

Dr. Rambabu Dandela, a PBC post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Chemistry and NIBN, was selected for a prestigious **Ramanujan Fellowship**.

Information Systems Engineering students **Dor Matzafi** and **Boris Eliashiv** and their advisor, **Dr. Meirav Taieb-Maimon**, won first prize in a competition run by **Milbat** to develop products to improve the quality of life of the elderly and disabled.

Mahdi Halabi, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Materials Engineering, was awarded the Lev Margulis Prize from the Israel Society for Microscopy.



Six BGU students were among the recipients of awards from the **Daughters for Life Foundation**, presented in memory of Foundation President Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish's three daughters, who were tragically killed in Gaza.

A student team from BGU, supported by **CABGU Quebec**, placed second out of 12 teams from around the world at the **Engineering Commerce Case Competition** held at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.

Fourth-year chemical engineering student **Gilad Belkin** and his team presented their idea to **Merck**, after co-winning the company's first hackathon in Israel. Their invention, Dropit, can instantly turn smartphones into allergen testers.

Geological and Environmental Sciences graduate **Yoav Gross** will pursue a Master's degree at Exeter College, University of Oxford, with a Rivka Carmi Scholarship, sponsored by the **Ben-Gurion University Foundation** in the UK. BGU graduate **Yael Vitelson** has been selected as the 2016–17 **Sam Zuckerberg Scholarship** recipient to attend Oxford Brookes University, where she will study Human Resource Management.

Dina Begun, a Master's student in Geological and Environmental Sciences, received a prestigious **Ilan Ramon Fund Scholarship** to attend the **International Space University**'s 29th annual Space Studies Program at the Technion. BGU alumnus, **Gedi Minster**, Mechanical Eng. 2013, was also accepted to the program.

Aviv Lee Cohen-Zada, a doctoral student at the Earth and Planetary Image Facility in the Department of Geography and Environmental Development, has been awarded one of two Ramon Scholarships from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space.

Shai Miselman, a graduate student in the Department of Education, took first prize in the Arditi Foundation Writing Competition. ↑ BGU's iGEM student team celebrates its gold medal at the iGEM Giant Jamboree at MIT



↑ Team Mish Mash from the Jusidman Science Center for Youth took second place in the FIRST Tech Challenge, a national robotics competition **Dr. Nabih Bashir**, a recent graduate of the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought, received a two-year **Zvi Yanai Fellowship** to complete a book project.

A high-school student team from the Jusidman Science Center for Youth took second place in the Israeli event of the robotics FIRST Tech Challenge.

Leading Entrepreneurship and Innovation

BGU hosted the **Third Global Entrepreneurship and Innovation Conference** in collaboration with **Jilin University**. The two universities established a joint entrepreneurship and innovation center last year. Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, a public agency, and CyberSpark, a nonprofit private organization focused on the promotion of Beer-Sheva's cybersecurity ecosystem, in which BGU is a partner, signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on cybersecurity research.

BGU and the **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** jointly launched **Xact Medical**, a new company seeking to commercialize the Fast Intelligent Needle Delivery (FIND) system.

SET BGU, a student-initiated conference focusing on entrepreneurship, hosted 30 industrial engineering and management students from 13 different countries over the summer.

Enzootic Ltd., an agro-biotech company developing a platform for crustacean aquaculture co-founded by Department of Life Sciences member **Prof. Amir Sagi** in 2012, won the best AgTech company competition at the 4th AgriVest meeting at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

BGU spin-off **Secret Double Octopus**, based on the research of **Prof. Shlomi Dolev** and **Dr. Shimrit Tzur-David** from the Department of Computer Science, raised \$6 million to introduce a new method of encrypting information.

DiaCardio Ltd., a medical start-up originating at BGU, has obtained **FDA and CE approval** for marketing its LVivo SG product.

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Technology Accelerator



 \uparrow Inno-Negev, BGU's technology accelerator at the ATP

← Jim Breslauer speaks at NexTech Beer-Sheva, the International Advanced Technology Conference

CyberTech, the second largest cyber event in the world, in partnership with BGU, was held for the fourth time in Tel Aviv, as well as Singapore, Europe, and LA.

BGU was the academic partner of the **International BrainTech Conference**, the largest in the world, held in Tel Aviv in March.

Inno-Negev, BGU's technology accelerator located within WeWork at the ATP, concluded its second cycle in January 2017.

NexTech Beer-Sheva, a conference focusing on Future Technologies co-hosted by BGU, was held at the ATP in November. **CyberSpark** held the world's first Global Workshop on Cyber Security in Future Health Care in December.

The "Students Think Innovation 2.0" competition was held at **Google**'s Tel Aviv offices. This was the third round of the **Innovation in the Public Sector** program, a collaboration between BGU, Google, and the Digital Israel Initiative.

The app **SayVU**, which began as a BGU student project for the **Google** program, was deployed as part of the security initiatives at the **2016 Rio Olympics**.





"Somehow BGU succeeds in creating an environment that is much more than just academic. Studying here inspired us all to keep pushing ourselves and aspiring to succeed."









Senerations

Zana Family

The founders of BGU probably had the Zana family in mind when they envisioned an institution of learning that would bring opportunities to the residents of the Negev. Menani and Denis came to Israel in 1965 from Tunisia, and struggled to raise their family of eight children. "It was a different time," explains Ani Lev, the eldest: "we saw the University across the road and it seemed a distant citadel, an unachievable dream."

Denis made sure her children studied hard though and eventually, six of the eight studied at BGU and went on to generate opportunities for others. Ani completed several degrees while working full time at the University and today manages its Executive MBA program. Sabrina Cassuto participated in the Open Apartments Program for three years while studying physiotherapy and is now a project coordinator at the Israel Cancer Association. Yossi Zana had Perach tutors as a child and was a tutor himself. He followed his heart to Brazil and is now a professor of neuroscience in Sao Paulo. Yael Maliach studied industrial engineering at BGU and now works for Bank Leumi. Ben Ziv studied for an MBA at BGU's Eilat campus and now works as an operations manager at Afcon. The youngest, Yuval Zana, studied life sciences at BGU and later came back for an MBA. Today he is a project manager at the Digital Israel Initiative Headquarters at the Ministry for Social Equality. Ani's daughter Natali Lemberg is an MBA graduate of BGU as well.

When Sabrina thinks back to her time here she says "I don't think it would have been the same anywhere else. Somehow BGU succeeds in creating an environment that is much more than just academic; there's a social and family-like atmosphere that's incredibly positive and encouraging. Studying here inspired us all to keep pushing ourselves and aspiring to succeed."

New and Noteworthy

 \rightarrow President Prof. Rivka Carmi and Ellen Marcus (right) meet Pope Francis at the Vatican



Local, Regional and International Impact

The Beer-Sheva Writers House will be established thanks to the generous support and vision of Toni Young (New York, NY) and will become a vibrant, multidisciplinary and multi-language cultural hub, providing programming for local communities in cooperation with the City of Beer-Sheva. The space, an old Islamic courthouse, is currently being prepared for extensive restoration.

25 graduate students from China and India participated in a unique **summer program on sustainable agricultural solutions** in desert environments at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research in Sede Boqer. For the third consecutive year, 50 Chinese students visited Sede Boqer as part of the **Glazer-BGU Israel Studies Seminar for Chinese Students**, hosted by the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, at the initiative and with the support of the **Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation**.

President **Prof. Rivka Carmi** led a delegation of researchers, Board of Governors, and AABGU officials to the **Vatican**. Prof. Carmi, Prof. Chaim Hames, and Dr. Michal Bar-Asher Siegal met with Cardinals Kurt Koch and Jean-Louis Pierre Tauran to discuss further collaboration.





 \uparrow Site of the future Beer-Sheva Writers House in the Old City

Shaked Cohen, Linoy Amira, and Roi Peleg, students in the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work, initiated a project providing individual and group guidance to the mentally disabled, helping them navigate bureaucratic procedures for receiving government aid. The program was so successful that it was assimilated into the Eilat Mental Health Clinic's work procedures.

BGU hosted the national **Green Campus Convention** in collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

BGU was the academic partner for the influential Israel Conference on Economy and Society led by economic magazine, *TheMarker*, in Beer-Sheva in November 2016.

↑ Participants of the Glazer-BGU Israel Studies Seminar for Chinese Students visit Ben-Gurion's home at Kibbutz Sede Boger

International Affairs



"Internationalization at Home" will foster a more global atmosphere for the benefit of all BGU students. The internationalization of higher education seems only natural as globalization grows in every domain. While Stanley Ginsburg and Ira Ingerman envisioned the creation of a unique immersive study-abroad program nearly 20 years ago, current trends in international academic affairs offer a much broader interpretation of the term. BGU's Office of International Academic Affairs has devoted the last year to reassessing its integration of international, intercultural, and global aspects into BGU's academic program. This process is led by Prof. Limor Aharonson-Daniel, who was appointed Vice-Rector for International Academic Affairs in April 2016. Together with the Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program (OSP) and the Office of International Academic Affairs (OIAA), much thought and effort have been invested in redefining goals, aims, and policies for promoting mobility and academic collaborations.

In addition to the successful, ongoing summer courses and a variety of Englishlanguage programs offered on the Sede Boqer Campus, a decision has been made to significantly increase the number of courses taught in English throughout the University. This process, implemented in collaboration with faculty deans and academic leadership, will offer a wider selection of courses to OSP students. Termed "Internationalization at Home," the project will foster a more global atmosphere for the benefit of all BGU students, better preparing our graduates for integration into modern society.

The Office is also responsible for securing contracts for academic collaborations with institutions worldwide. The number of new contracts has increased significantly in the past year, and the director of the Office for the European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (ERASMUS+) Israel reported that Ben-Gurion University is one of the most successful Israeli institutions in the program. Collaborations with the Advanced Technologies Park adjacent to the University and with other previously

↑ International students shelter from Beer-Sheva's summer sun



underutilized assets, such as the Eilat Campus, are our goals for development in the coming year, as well as collaborations with short-term programs, such as Academic Birthright, other study abroad programs, and faculty-led courses.

We also strive to create an international ambiance in the dorms, where we are about to launch the "dorm ambassador" program, in collaboration with the Student Union, recruiting Israeli students who will "adopt" international students and invite them to social and family functions. We also aspire to increase the number of scholarships available for student exchanges, enabling a greater number of BGU students to study abroad, while drawing more international students to BGU.



↑ Students from the International Summer Course in Data Mining and Business Intelligence on a visit to the ATP

↑ International students at the closing ceremony of the Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Summer Program Generations

Rachel Gur-Arie

Rachel Gur-Arie came to Ben-Gurion University from Phoenix, Arizona, on a Fulbright scholarship to carry out research in public health. She thought it would be an opportunity to connect with her Israeli relatives and experience Israel for a while, but her year abroad ended up being the precursor to a deeper commitment. Rachel fell in love with BGU and the Negev the moment she arrived: "I became a Zionist and I truly believe in the mission to bring equal health opportunities to the periphery." She decided to make it her home and recently made Aliyah, becoming a full-fledged Israeli citizen.

Rachel returned to BGU for a Ph.D. in Health Systems Management and is studying perceptions of flu vaccine effectiveness among healthcare workers at the Soroka University Medical Center. "I am challenged in ways that are not necessarily academic," she says. "I love the challenge of learning within a different culture, of actually experiencing global health as part of my work."

"This is a remarkable opportunity. I get incredible support here, there is amazing access to data, and there is an openness here to working at the intersection of science and society, policy and law, that I haven't seen elsewhere. I know that this will allow me to do so much once I graduate."



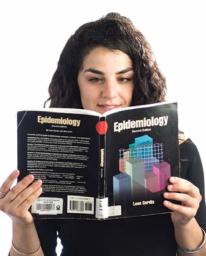








"I love the challenge of learning within a different culture, of actually experiencing global health."















↑ Children playing in Deichmann Plaza, next to the Community Action Department

Over the past two years the Rothschild Cube's "social simulator" has provided training in the values, skills, and tools essential to social activism.

Community Action Department

The Community Action Department (CAD) operates a wide range of programs seeking to strengthen the connection between the University community and the residents of the Negev and to reduce social gaps and increase social awareness and empathy.

In addition to ongoing activities involving over 400 students, the Department aims to make the campus accessible to populations that have little access to academia, enabling visits to campus by over 10,000 adults and children annually.

The Lillian and Larry Goodman Open Apartments Program (OAP) fosters a sense of communal responsibility within Beer-Sheva's older neighborhoods. The program includes a multidisciplinary community theater project led by social activist and artist Zamira Ron, some 100 enrichment courses a year, the adoption of 80 families, and many other events, including a Purim party and a Passover house painting drive. For the first time this year, University employees took part in the Passover painting drive – together with some 700 BGU student volunteers.

New academic courses: Prof. Michal Krumer-Nevo taught students in the OAP a course on the subject of poverty. The 120 students participating in the Keren Moshe Leadership Training Program, who receive a substantial scholarship through the generosity of the Halpérin family of Switzerland, attended a course on Israeli society.

To Know, a program for autistic and mentally disabled adults, offered courses in geography, medicine, economics, and management to 42 participants. The Kidma program enabled 300 adults to make up for lost educational opportunities by offering introductory courses taught by students from the Keren Moshe Leadership Training Program. Programs for adults wishing to obtain a high-school matriculation certificate have been running at the Department since its founding. This year there were around 100 participants.

Community Outreach

This year another unprecedented program was launched: the Israel Prison Service allowed thirteen prisoners to come to campus once a week for four months to take part in the Windows onto Campus Dreams program, where they got a taste of a variety of disciplines.

The HaBarvaz Theater Group continues its activities. Teenagers rehearse at the University and invite friends and family to an end-of-year performance. This year the Department will also host a youth theater festival at "Chan Hashayarot," between Sede Boqer and Mizpe Ramon.

Over the past two years, the Rothschild Cube – Center for Effective Social Action, a joint initiative of the Rothschild Caesarea Foundation and BGU, has drawn a variety of audiences to campus. At the heart of the Cube is an interactive "social simulator" encouraging social action by providing training in the values, skills, and tools essential to social activists. More than 7,000 people from all sectors public, business, and non-profit – have participated in its activities to date. One such project is a social welfare accelerator in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and IDC Israel, as part of a national initiative seeking to increase volunteerism.

The Cube also operates the Machar Project – a profitable social venture – as part of an innovative pilot, in partnership with JDC Israel Tevet, mentors, students, and five factories in the south of the country.



Perach

Two new projects were launched this year: 120 female BGU students participated in the "She Tech" Project, a science mentorship program for female highschool students in collaboration with the National Union of Israeli Students. The program aims to raise awareness to a variety of scientific disciplines and professions among female students, while helping them overcome barriers such as social inequities, the lack of role models, and the necessary financial investment. ↑ Perach mentor and pupil celebrate Hanukkah with archery practice

Community Outreach

80% of Perach mentors expressed a desire to mentor again.

"Everyone Needs a Friend" – a new mentorship program for Perach pupils from Arab elementary schools – seeks to deepen the relationship between mentor and child, facilitating an enriching, emotionally-based dialogue, in addition to academic learning. The program is supported by the Yad Hanadiv Foundation.

In a study conducted by Dr. Rinat Michael of Beit Berl Academic College, in which she followed 1,815 Perach mentors, the mentors remarked that Perach's main contribution to their lives was their conviction of the need for social and educational projects, as well as the development of their own sense of contribution to society and to the community. 80% of the mentors expressed a desire to mentor again.

Alumni Association

The Alumni Association's database numbers approximately 120,000 graduates. The Association is in contact with more than 40,000 alumni on a monthly basis through newsletters in collaboration with the Dean of Students Office and the Lauder Employment Center. In addition, dozens of employers, including those situated at the ATP, offer positions for graduates via a Facebook group open exclusively to BGU alumni. Academic departments interested in marketing graduate programs have successfully done so by using the alumni database. Understanding that our graduates' strongest connection is with the department in which they studied, we initiated joint activities with academic departments in order to establish departmental alumni groups.

The Association's Volunteer Mentoring Project is a new initiative that allows alumni to share their personal and professional experience, knowledge, and insights with future graduates.

The Alumni Association strives to encourage entrepreneurship among graduates as well. The second cohort of the University's Inno-Negev Accelerator Program was offered exclusively to University students and graduates.

The University recently developed another framework – Start Negev – which seeks to empower students and graduates who wish to grow as entrepreneurs, but have not yet formulated a concept or put together a team.



← Students Naama Sapir and Boaz Barzilay founded I Love BASH, offering guided tours of Beer-Sheva's Old City

 ↓ Student volunteers and residents plant a community garden during one of the Student Union's Street Makeover (Osim Rehov) events to beautify the older neighborhoods surrounding the University Photo: Boris Rozenberg

The Center for Pre-Academic Studies

The Center runs a range of programs to help students acclimate to university life: approximately 300 students study in the preparatory tracks, and about 65% of them are subsequently accepted for undergraduate studies at BGU. Two unique preparatory tracks were recently launched: From Achievements to Hi-Tech supports students from weak socioeconomic backgrounds in their pursuit of studies in the fields of science and technology; and a dedicated program for the Negev's Bedouin population, supported by the Ministry of Health, offers preparatory studies for a nursing degree.

In addition, each year around 1,000 students take refresher or prerequisite courses prior to commencing regular academic studies at the University. The Path to Academia Program is geared toward candidates who already hold a high-school matriculation certificate, and offers a course whose grade replaces the psychometric (college entrance) exam score.











"I never thought of studying anywhere else. The student experience here is unique."









Generations

Chen Koren

Chen Koren was one of the children who benefitted from BGU's outreach programs. As a high-school student, Chen spent every Friday at Ben-Gurion University, sampling a variety of courses through the Access to Higher Education Program. The experience gave her confidence and helped her find her passion. "I studied computer programming in high school, but realized that I felt much more connected to biological systems and life sciences."

There was never any question in Chen's mind as to where she would go to university. "I never thought of studying anywhere else," she says. "The student experience here is unique. Besides, I practically grew up on Campus: My mother works at the University and it has always been a central part of our lives."

Today Chen is a first-year student in the Department of Life Sciences and is excited about the opportunities open to her: "I love my courses in zoology and cell biology, and know that the possibilities are endless." For now, like many BGU students, Chen is involved in community outreach as a volunteer for Beer-Sheva Loves Animals, a rescue program that helps abandoned animals find new homes.

Campus Life

50

1,127 students received scholarships on the basis of socioeconomic need and performed voluntary community service.

Dean of Students Office

The Unit for Psychological Services and Educational and Career Guidance held a seminar on suicide prevention, as well as meetings with psychologists following the terrorist attack in which Dr. Michael Feige was killed. The Unit contributes to the program for dropout prevention by offering short-term psychotherapy. Likewise, psychodynamic therapy was made available to Arab students in Arabic, and a clinical psychologist was hired to provide counselling in English.

1,127 students received scholarships on the basis of socio-economic need and performed voluntary community service totaling 44,904 hours. 190 Bedouin students received scholarships. The Support Center for Students with Special Needs expanded its services. Additional equipment adapted to the needs of students with disabilities was purchased. The Re'im Project, an individual Perach mentoring program providing social and academic assistance to students with disabilities, ran for the second year.

An Accessibility Day was organized jointly with the Make the Campus Accessible student group. Training days on the subject of "accessible service" were held for Student Affairs coordinators and a pilot support group for the visually impaired was launched.

Programs for Arab students continued to expand: the Dean of Students website was translated into Arabic. Tours for high-school students from Arab schools were held. The 60 students registered with the Robert H. Arnow Student Center for Bedouin Women hold a weekly workshop in spoken Hebrew, as well as an informal English conversation meeting.

The University runs a Diagnostic Unit for Learning Disabilities for Hebrew speakers and has just opened a dedicated Diagnostic Center for Arabic speakers, in response to the urgent need to establish such a center in the South.

The Debate Club took first place in the Big Brother contest held at the University of Haifa and won the national title in the competition held at the Hebrew University

↓ Josh Arnow visits the Robert H. Arnow Student Center for Bedouin Women Photo: Shaked Ben Sadeh





↑ Purim was celebrated on campus with much exuberance of Jerusalem; this was the first time a twowoman team took the national title. At the European Championship in Warsaw, two BGU speakers qualified for the semifinals. The Red Sea Open, an international debate competition organized by BGU and hosted by the Eilat campus, was held for the seventh year in a row.

The preparatory program aiming to reduce dropout rates in engineering was expanded to additional departments, with 410 students enrolled in total.

Activities at the Center for Career Development, in conjunction with the Lauder Employment Center, sought to market the Center to students, alumni, faculty, and staff. 144 individual career counseling sessions and 30 career workshops were organized. Companies and organizations presented their professional activities in 20 spotlight sessions.

A Career Center for Arab Society was established in cooperation with Kav Mashve, offering a program preparing Arab students for entry into the labor market.

Student Union

The Student Union has increased its outreach to thousands of students through a wide range of activities: from the Negative Cinema to Studio POSITIVE, offering a variety of unique exercise classes. From cultural events such as parties, concerts, and festivals to promoting academic assistance and resources, the Student Union offers its services to all students, including those coming from abroad.

This year, the Union strengthened its connection with international students, through such diverse programs as International Week, International Fair, Israel Talks, Friday night dinners, and many more. The Union's International Affairs Office offers many services in order to enhance the orientation and integration of international students on campus.

The Student Union continues to emphasize the connection between the students and the city of Beer-Sheva and its residents through the traditional "Osim Rehov" (Street Makeover) project and other communal programs.

Campus Life

↑ Visitors climb to the observatory on the roof of the Sacta-Rashi Building for Physics during the annual event honoring the memory of Col. Ilan Ramon and the STS-107 Crew and Assaf Ramon in January 2017

Zalman Aranne Central Library

One of the Library's challenges is to identify changing teaching and research needs and to develop its resources accordingly. This year emphasis was placed on the acquisition of eBook packages, including archives, scanned primary sources, databases, and digital learning/work tools.

A new contract was signed between the University and the Ex Libris Group for the acquisition of the ALMA system, which signifies a move to working on the Cloud.

Computing

The University's Division of Computing and Information Systems established a portal for commercial scientific programs based on VDI technology, with Mathematica, Statistica, Matlab, SPSS, and Amos now accessible through the portal.

A solution was offered to researchers requiring supercomputing abilities with high storage capacities (hundreds of terabytes), backup functions, and high input-output speeds, by way of advanced storage and software systems produced by IBM.

A single identification web portal for students has been set into operation, offering access to a number of student



← Students from BGU's Eilat Campus study dolphins at the Red Sea

BGU was ranked the 81st most sustainable university in the world and the first among Israeli institutions.

applications (e-mail, Moodle, academic video server, and a system for viewing examination booklets).

In the framework of the University's internationalization, an English-language application system has been developed for bachelor's and master's degrees.

An automated payment system has been put into place, enabling clients to purchase various services over the Internet using a credit card.

Green Campus

BGU was ranked the 81st most sustainable university in the world and the first among Israeli institutions, according to the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking.

Each year BGU offers some 500 courses with an environmental focus. This year, for the first time, a MOOC (Massive Open On-line Course) on sustainability using the EdEx platform was launched. Green Campus offers annual grants for socio-environmental projects implemented on campus or in the community.

Three initiatives were selected this year: the construction of a path through the ancient carved rocks in Ramat Negev, together with Jewish and Bedouin sixthgrade students; a community warehouse that lends gardening tools; and a project documenting and enhancing the Marcus Family Campus environment for birds. Nesting chambers and feeders were placed throughout the campus and signs were installed identifying the most common bird species on campus. Senerations

Michael Dakhis, Tamara & Shimon Sytnyakovsky

BGU generates not only opportunities, but also blessings of another sort. Tamara and Shimon Sytnyakovsky met as students at BGU; it wasn't by chance, but rather as a result of some subtle matchmaking by Tamara's father, Michael Dakhis. Tamara's family came to Beer-Sheva from Moscow in 1990, when she was 16 years old. Shimon also came to Israel from the former Soviet Union at around the same time and began his studies at BGU almost immediately. He started in the pre-academic program and continued straight through to a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Management with deferred military service.

Michael, who worked in the University's Department of Organization and Management, recognized Shimon's kindness. He asked his daughter Tamara to stop by his office at the Tuviyahu Campus to pick up a book one day, when Shimon was working there part-time as a student. The rest is history.

Tamara says, "I always knew I would go to university, but Ben-Gurion was much more than that. I felt at home from the very first day. Here we became part of Israeli society. How could such a big place full of concrete be so warm and welcoming? We even had our wedding photos taken here, because this is the place that brought us together."

Since graduating, Shimon has served in the IDF and is now a base commander with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Tamara got a degree in Library Science and returned to BGU as a reference librarian at the Medical Library. Her father, Michael, retired in 2014.





Alumni Recognition Awards

BGU makes an impact every single day, both locally and globally, through each of its graduates. With close to 120,000 alumni, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev makes an impact every single day, both locally and globally, through each of its graduates. Some of them have made the most of the opportunities offered by the University and have gone on to give back to society.

This year, for the second time, BGU presented Alumni Recognition Awards to prominent alumni who have made important, singular contributions to society, economy, culture, and science, whether in Israel or abroad. The recipients of the Alumni Recognition Awards for 2017 are:

Dr. Muhammad Al-Nabari, Ph.D. in Chemistry. Head of the Hura local council and committed social activist.

Col. Dr. Tarif Bader, graduate of the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School and the Department of Health Systems Management. Surgeon General, Medical Corps, Israel Defense Forces, pediatrician, and humanitarian. Maj. Gen. (res.) Orna Barbivai, B.A. in Behavioral Sciences. Former head of the IDF Manpower Directorate and first woman to hold the rank of Major General in the IDF, currently leads non-profit organizations.

Prof. Ami Moyal, Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering. President of Afeka Academic College of Engineering, scientific innovator, and educational leader.

Dana Porter Rubinshtein, B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering and Management. Co-founder & CMO of Inception VR, hi-tech entrepreneur, and role model for women.

Dr. Yair Schindel, graduate of the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School. Hi-tech and social entrepreneur, former director of the Digital Israel Initiative at the Ministry for Social Equality.

Dr. Heftzi Zohar, Ph.D. in Life Sciences. Deputy Mayor of Beer-Sheva responsible for education and welfare; innovator in the fields of science and education.



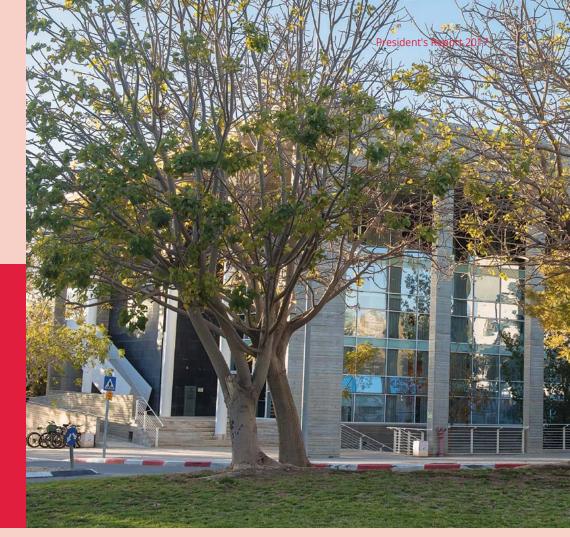
↓ L-R: Dana Porter
 Rubinshtein, Maj. Gen. (res.)
 Orna Barbivai, Prof. Ami Moyal,
 Dr. Muhammad Al-Nabari,
 Col. Dr. Tarif Bader, Dr. Yair
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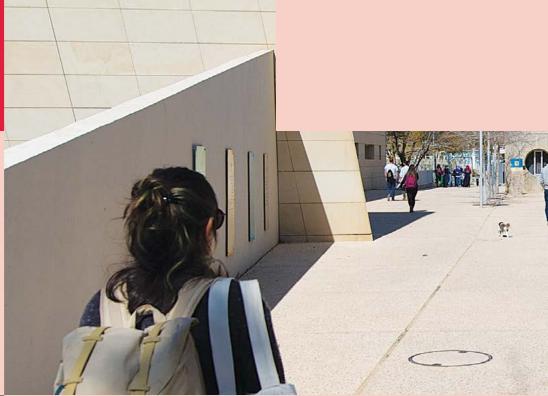
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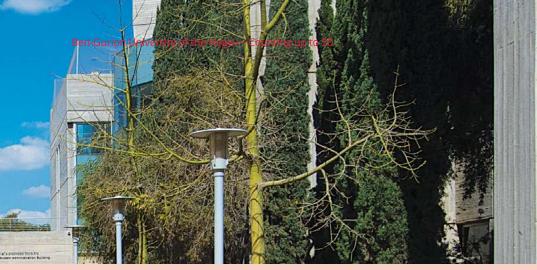
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