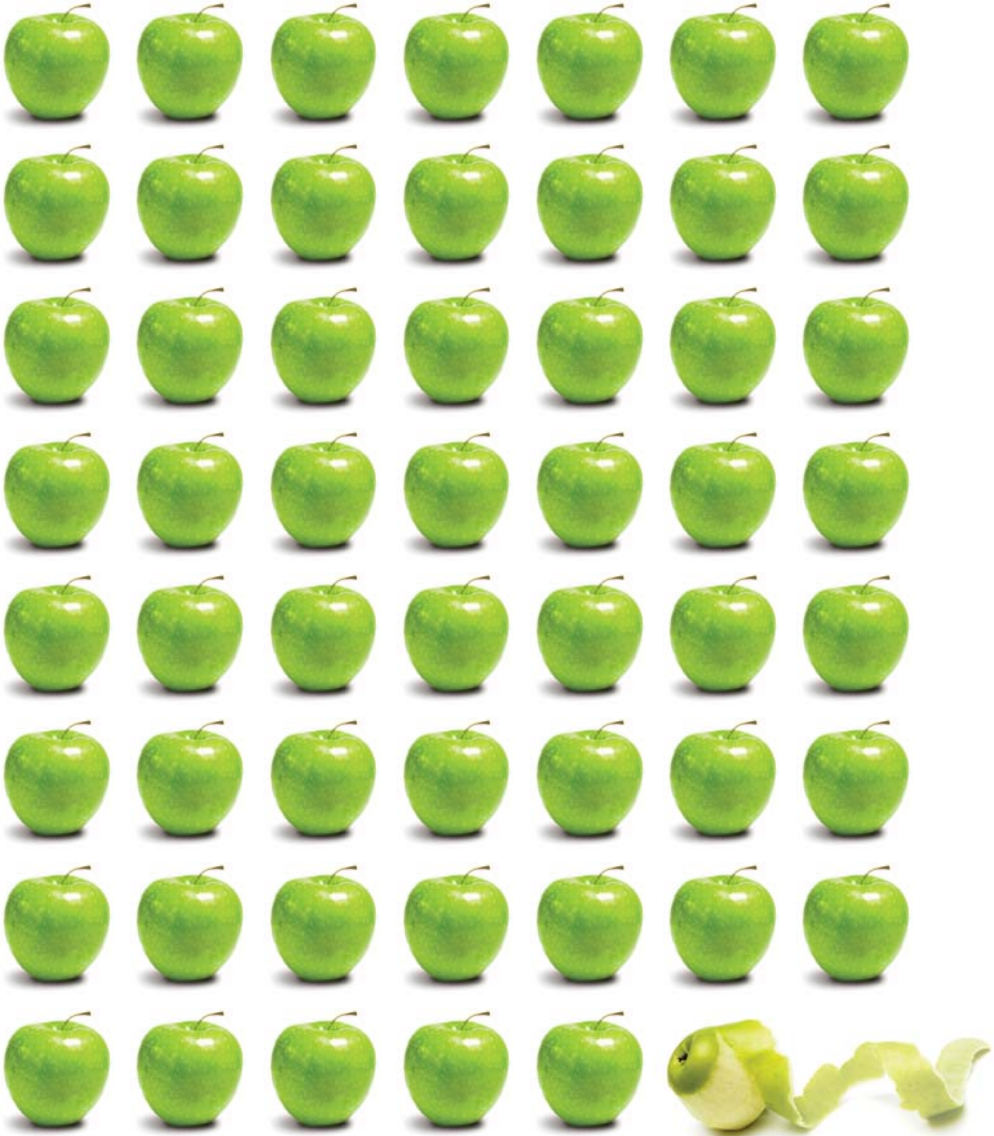




S H A N A T O V A



Celebrating our 55th Anniversary...



Dear Friends,

The New Year 5770 is a special one for Bar-Ilan University, as we celebrate a milestone – our 55th anniversary.

Since our establishment in 1955, our crowning achievement has been our hallmark fusion of the spiritual with the scientific, allowing us to produce new generations of scholars who are imbued with the skills to forge the future while firmly instilled with the values of their past.

At Bar-Ilan University, we have now undertaken a new, bold mission to “be the best” in science, in Jewish enrichment, and in service to the community. And we are well on our way to achieving this lofty goal.

On the scientific front, we are leading a national initiative to absorb 50 returning scientists in an effort to combat Israel’s “brain drain”. We have already welcomed more than half of them, attracting brilliant minds by providing them with the most modern and cutting-edge research facilities in existence today.

With the largest faculty of Jewish studies in the world, we are well suited to be “the best” in Jewish enrichment. We are striving to accomplish this through special endeavors such as the Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies’ groundbreaking Reshit Program for shared Torah learning, and Bar-Ilan’s one-of-a-kind Basic Jewish Studies Program – required studies for all students.

Lastly, we are placing special emphasis on providing important services to the community through our Legal Clinics (a pre-requisite for a Law degree), free Optometry examinations, a Psychology clinic open to the public-at-large, and other initiatives, as we aim to become the State of Israel’s most influential and socially committed institution of higher education – “the best in community service”.

As we welcome a new year and move forward in our mission to “be the best”, I am proud to share with you 55 of the many reasons we take great pride in our university. Each of these “apples” is an example of the “fruits” of our endeavors, together with you, to be at the forefront of Torah U’Maddah, and excellence in higher education in the State of Israel.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year, and pray for the safe and speedy return of our kidnapped soldier, Gilad Shalit.

Sincerely,

Prof. Moshe Kaveh
President



Graduates: Over 7,400 students graduated in 2008-9 from the University and its four regional colleges, accounting for the highest number of graduates in the nation.



Anti-Terrorism: Prof. Sarit Kraus, of the Department of Computer Science and the Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center, received a special citation from the L.A. World Airports Police Division for her system enabling police to catch drug smugglers, criminals, and potential terrorists at LAX.



Student Services: Call the University 24 hours a day! The University expanded student services through its new Student Information Center, wireless communications network (“wi-fi”), and digitized files.



Alumni: Bar-Ilan University alumni constitute 25% of all of Israel's university degree graduates, according to the Council for Higher Education.



Nano: We're leading the way in Nano Materials, developing nano-sized “bullets” that seek out and destroy cancerous cells and diagnostic tools for early detection of genetic diseases. *Science Citations Index* ranks us as #3 in the world and #1 in Israel in advanced materials research publications.



Outreach: Students and faculty initiated a number of diverse programs designed to assist citizens of southern Israel who were affected by Operation Cast Lead.



Torah and Science: The Jesselson Institute of Advanced Torah Studies launched a new series called “Nitzotzot” (“Sparks”), in which presidential doctoral students and scientists present scholarly research, with a halachic discussion ensuing.



Education: The new Jim Joseph Building for Jewish Education and Values, to be dedicated next month, will house the School of Education – the largest in the country – and our Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora.



Exchange: This summer BIU hosted three PhD researchers in Chemistry, Computer Science, and Economics as part of a new student/faculty exchange program with MIT.



Children: The Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre is now fully operational, serving our students on campus and enabling them to pursue their education while their infants and toddlers are being well cared for.



Academic Excellence: Four young researchers were awarded the Alon Fellowship for 2010-2012: Dr. Avraham Doron, General History; Dr. Miriam Biton, Law; Dr. Gal Chechik, Brain Research; Dr. Avi Schmidman, Literature of the Jewish People.



Conferences: The newly-established Dr. Naim Dangoor Program for Universal Monotheism hosted two major international conferences which focused on "Ethics" and "Asia".



Archaeology: Prof. Aren Maeir, of the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, and his international team have uncovered a Philistine Temple in their excavations at the biblical city "Gath of the Philistines", the home of Goliath.



Diplomats: Ambassadors and senior diplomats from scores of countries attended BIU's newly-initiated "Ambassadors' Forum", an Israel current events roundtable.



Jewish Literacy: Bar-Ilan is the *only* value-driven university which strengthens Jewish knowledge, identity, and enrichment for 16,000 students through a mandatory 25% Basic Jewish Studies component above and beyond the credits needed to earn a degree in a specific major.



Israeli Economy: More than 400 people, including senior executives in Israeli industry and the financial sphere, attended a special conference on the Israeli Economy in the Shadow of the Global Economic Crisis.



Brain Gain: Leading a national initiative, the University has now recruited more than half (27) of the 50 experimental scientists it pledged to bring back from abroad.



Olympics: Within three months, seventeen-year-old Itamar Hasson, a candidate for a B.Sc. in Mathematics, earned a gold medal in the Physics Olympics in Mexico, and a silver medal in a similar competition in Thailand.



Summer Camp: Forty-seven outstanding ninth graders from Israel's peripheries enrolled in a new BIU summer camp conducted entirely in English and offering courses in nanotechnology, brain sciences, robotics, astronomy, music, and English literature.



Anniversary: The eleventh cycle of 150 doctoral fellows of excellence will begin in the 2009-10 academic year. The pioneering program – the first of its kind in the State of Israel – grants four-year scholarships and full tuition. Approximately 55 million dollars have been invested in the program since its inception.



Medical: Bar-Ilan researchers developed a medical device enabling doctors to monitor, in real time, tissue viability in patients who are hospitalized in intensive care units or under surgical procedures. The rights to the device were recently purchased by Critisense.



Grants: Researchers in the Bar-Ilan Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA) collectively increased their grant money – by nearly 30% – from \$3.8M in 2007 to \$4.9M in 2008. BIU has won a prestigious Legacy Foundation Grant for returning scientist Dr. Shai Ben-Aroya, of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, for 2009-10.



Women Empowerment: Fifty influential Bar-Ilan University female alumni returned to their alma mater to participate in a panel discussion marking International Women's Day.



Landmark Speech: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu brought international recognition and prestige to Bar-Ilan University and its Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, which he chose as the location of his first major policy address since assuming office.



Crossword Galore: The University made the big Time[s] with its inclusion in The New York Times' world-famous crossword puzzle, which featured a clue: "Like Bar-Ilan University". The answer: "Israeli".



Book Awards: The Association for Jewish Studies bestowed its first Jordan Schnitzer Book Award upon Dr. Elisheva Baumgarten, of the Koschitzky Department of Jewish History and the Gender Studies Program, for her book *Mothers and Children: Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe*; Prof. Avraham Faust, incoming Chairman of the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, received two prestigious awards for his book *Israel's Ethnogenesis: Settlement, Interaction, Expansion and Resistance*; Dr. Aliza Lavie, of the Department of Political Science, received a National Jewish Book Award from the U.S. Jewish Book Council for *A Jewish Woman's Prayer Book*.



Prizes: Prof. Zeev Zalevsky, of the School of Engineering, won the 2009 Julodan Prize for Contribution to Medicine for his research in optics. The Krill Prize for Excellence in Scientific Research was awarded to Dr. Ido Dagan, of the Department of Computer Science. The Zeltner Prize for the Most Outstanding Junior Legal Scholar in Israel was awarded to Dr. Yuval Feldman, of the Faculty of Law. Prof. Betty Olivero, of the Department of Music, received the 2009 Prize for Creativity in Music from the Ministry of Culture and Sport.



Cancer Research: The Cancer, AIDS and Immunology Research (C.A.I.R.) Institute honored Dr. David Sidransky, a pioneer in the molecular genetic detection of cancer.



Women's Advocacy: The Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Women initiated a revolutionary amendment to the Spousal Property Relations Law passed by the Knesset. In certain cases, the amendment allows for division of property prior to a *get*.



Public Health: A new Master's Program in Public Health and Administration is training medical professionals in the many different factors involved in successful health care.



New Programs: Additional new programs being offered or to be introduced by the University include Contemporary Middle East (MA); Shiite Islam and Revolutionary Iran (MA); Financial Mathematics (MA); Music Technology (BA); Industrial Management (MA); Hebrew Sign Language (BA); Western and Eastern Asia Studies (Interdisciplinary BA); Logistics Management (MA); Drama and Literature as Sources of Healing (MA); Asian Comparative Culture and Literature (MA); Hebrew Language Editing (MA); Landscape and Cultural Landmark Preservation (MA).



Rhetoric: The University's Debating Society was invited to participate in the prestigious World University Debating Championship held this year in Ireland.



Social Work: A special collaborative program between the city of Petach Tikva and the Weisfeld School of Social Work is helping to create awareness of the needs of the physically challenged and strengthen their accessibility to public facilities.



Psychology: Bar-Ilan University's psychology clinics service the public-at-large and enable graduate students in the department to complete their mandatory internships within the framework of the clinics.



Leaders: Our nearly 100,000 alumni hold key positions in business, government, defense, education, hi-tech, law, and academia.



Unique: Bar-Ilan is the only university in the State of Israel offering interdisciplinary programs in Hermeneutics (MA, PhD), Conflict Management and Negotiation (MA, PhD), Science, Technology and Society (MA, PhD), Gender Studies (MA, PhD), and programs in Translation and Interpreting Studies (BA, MA, PhD), Information Science (BA, MA, PhD), Biophysics (BSc, MSc, PhD), and Logistics (MA, PhD).



Law: Now celebrating its 40th anniversary, the Faculty of Law has taken first place three years in a row (2007-2009) in the Israeli Bar Exam. In addition to its commitment to excellence, the Faculty is also strongly committed to social responsibility, being the only law faculty in the country requiring its students to participate in legal aid clinics as an integral part of their legal education.



Grant Leader: While Bar-Ilan submitted “only” 14% of grant proposals from Israel to the Junior European Research Council, the University “won” 22% of the number of grants and 26% of all the funding received by Israel’s universities, amounting to millions of dollars.



Returning Scientists: During the 2009-10 academic year Bar-Ilan is absorbing brilliant minds from Harvard, MIT, Stanford, Cal Tech, the University of California, University of Illinois (Urbana), and the University of British Columbia in Canada.



Jewish Content: BIU is home to the largest Faculty of Jewish Studies in the world – and offers over 1,800 Judaism-related courses throughout its six faculties and regional colleges.



Beauty: Our campus in Ramat Gan has been named the most beautiful by the Council for a Beautiful Israel.



Communications: BIU is in the process of establishing a new School of Communications which will emphasize public diplomacy and Israel advocacy.



Delegation: The Weisfeld School of Social Work hosted delegations from the University of Southern California and the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, briefing them on social work in the military.



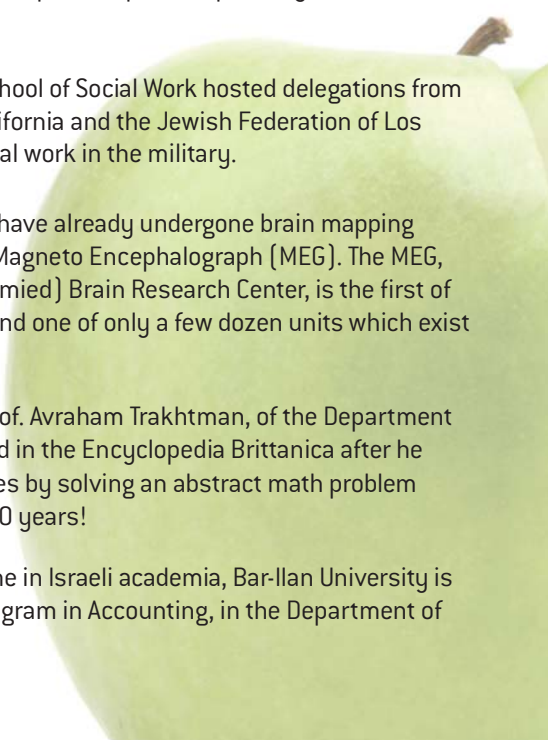
Mapping: Eighteen patients have already undergone brain mapping before surgery through BIU’s Magneto Encephalograph (MEG). The MEG, housed in the Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center, is the first of its kind in the State of Israel, and one of only a few dozen units which exist throughout the world.



Road Map: A biography of Prof. Avraham Trakhtman, of the Department of Mathematics, was published in the Encyclopedia Britannica after he grabbed international headlines by solving an abstract math problem which befuddled experts for 40 years!



Accounting: For the first time in Israeli academia, Bar-Ilan University is opening a Master’s degree program in Accounting, in the Department of Economics.





Robots: Prof. Gal Kaminka (Dept. of Computer Science and Gonda (Goldschmied) Brain Research Center) and Dr. Eli Kolberg (School of Engineering) led Israel's first delegation to the RoboCup soccer tournament for robots, held this year in Austria.



Accomplished: Dr. Eli Porat is the youngest professor at Bar-Ilan. The 30-year-old computer whiz received his doctorate at the "ripe old age" of 21!



Wise: A 77-year-old student proved it's never too late to learn by earning his doctorate in Hebrew literature in June!



Workshop: This month the Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials is organizing a workshop in Nano Photonics and Bio-Engineering for graduate students and faculty of the Institute.



Young Researchers: The Junior European Research Council for young, promising researchers awarded generous grants to Dr. Haim Cohen (Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences) and Prof. Yehuda Lindell (Dept. of Computer Science).



Enrichment: Some of the country's leading experts and most respected authors will serve as guest lecturers for The Brookdale Program, which is offering an exciting array of new enrichment courses for those over the age of 50.



Beginning: The Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies is advancing Jewish unity through its Reshit ("Beginning") Program, engaging religious and secular students in dialogue while enhancing their awareness of the significance of Jewish texts and tradition.



Social Responsibility: A group of researchers from BIU's Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials and Faculty of Law is examining the safety and environmental impact of nanomaterials in order to develop regulatory policies that will allow mankind to benefit from nanomaterials without creating undue risk to the consumer or the environment.



International Prestige: A panel of international experts declared the joint BIU/Weizmann Institute Scientific Archaeology Program as worthy of expansion and emulation by other universities. The Program combines traditional site archaeological excavation with rigorous scientific and instrumental analysis of artifacts, making BIU one of the most prestigious archaeological centers in the world.