



focus on

Bar-Ilan

Winter 5768



The great task before a university is the enhancement of scientific knowledge and the preparation of the next generation of leadership. The Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University seeks to secure financial support from donors in order to further the academic programs, research activities, and future growth of the University.

In this Issue:

Nano is big at BIU
Returning Scientists
Advancing Israel's cause

Dear Friends,

Today, as Canadian Jewry prepares to celebrate the first 60 years of the modern State of Israel's, the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University look to the future to prepare for its next 60 years!

Bar-Ilan University earnestly believes that Israel's future, like its past, is deeply rooted in the strength of its Jewish identity and heritage. Whether studying science, social work, law or education, each and every Bar-Ilan student completes a Minor Degree in BIU's Jewish Studies program. Experiencing the richness of Jewish values, history and traditions first hand, Bar-Ilan students learn tolerance for all Jews, no matter their level of observance.

Committed to the Jewish State, BIU continues to follow the Zionist tradition of building a strong Jewish state through its people. By taking a leadership role among Israel's universities, BIU is setting out to recruit 50 Israeli experimental scientists currently working abroad. That's no less than 50% of the total number of academic leaders being sought by the Israeli government over the next five years!

Aligned with a Zionist vision of the future, the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University are proud to support BIU in improving not only the quality of life for all humankind, but in safeguarding the future of the State of Israel and the entire Jewish people.

I sincerely thank you for your past and present partnership and support of Bar-Ilan University, and I invite you to join us in taking the next step towards realizing the Bar-Ilan dream.

B'Shalom,

Gabi Weisfeld
President, Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University





BESA VISITS CANADA

Professor Efraim Inbar, Director of The Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, was in Montreal in early November to brief community leaders on current security and strategic issues facing Israel.



Senator Leo Kolber, Amos Sochaczewski and Prof. Inbar

The BESA Center, which is affiliated with the Political Sciences department at Bar-Ilan University, seeks to contribute to the advancement of Middle East peace and security by conducting policy-relevant research on strategic subjects, particularly as they relate to the national security and foreign policy of Israel. Thomas O. Hecht, a Canadian Jewish community leader, founded the Center in 1991.



Marcel Adams, Senator Leo Kolber, Norman Sternthal and Stanley Plotnick



Norman Sternthal, Marcel Adams, Prof. Inbar, Eytan Bensoussan and Adela Bensoussan



Prof. Inbar together with hosts, Tom and Riva Hecht



Dafna Izraeli z"l

GENDER STUDIES NEWLY NAMED

Israel's only graduate program in Gender & Women's studies has been renamed in memory of its founder

The Dafna Izraeli Center in Gender and Women's Studies at Bar-Ilan University, established in loving tribute to the memory of a true woman of valor, embraces a mission which it is uniquely qualified to pursue.

The Dafna Izraeli Center provides scholars and students with a base from which to pursue academic research and the critical re-examination of accumulated knowledge from a gender perspective, and to apply its findings to the betterment of women in contemporary society – all this within a vibrant interdisciplinary framework which recognizes the importance of creating a synergy between Jewish traditions and feminist values.

Bar-Ilan University is in a unique position to address these issues in a way that respects Jewish traditions while recognizing the impact of one of the most important social revolutions of our time. The University's proven track record as an institution whose scholars are equipped to grapple with issues stemming from the challenges to halacha with academic integrity and sensitivity to social issues makes Bar-Ilan the ideal home for The Dafna Izraeli Center.

Scientific Research and Innovative Programs



“SMALL WORLD” A BIG DEAL AT BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY!

In a relatively short period of time, Israel has become known as a global leader in high-tech and scientific research and development, and Bar-Ilan University is at the forefront of these exciting innovations.

With our new US\$130 million Nanotechnology Institute, Bar-Ilan University leads the way for nanoscience-based research. BIU's flagship program is nestled firmly within six Centers for Excellence in Materials (the backbone of nanotech research and development), Medicine, Energy, Cleantech, Photonics and Magnetics.

Now ranked number three in the world, and number one in Israel, for citations in advanced nanomaterials research, BIU is shrinking dimensions and growing expectations! From tiny medical devices that patrol the bloodstream diagnosing illness, dispensing medication and performing surgery, to particle-sized “cameras” circling the Earth transmitting real-time data to weather stations around the globe, nanoscience at BIU holds the promise of a better future.

The Nanotechnology Institute acts as a lightning rod for multi-disciplinary discovery, as top experimentalists and theoreticians from around the world are recruited to join the University's outstanding nanoscience-based research groups. The Institute provides a framework for meaningful collaboration between researchers, while at the same time providing a significant push toward the achievement of urgent goals of medical, environmental and social concern.

Designated as the European Union's Marie Curie Training Site for Novel Fabrication Methods for Nanoscale Materials, BIU is currently home to 20 nano-based research groups that have made sweeping advances in many areas, including innovative materials design, “green” chemistry for clean energy production, optics, magnetism and biomedicine.

At BIU, we believe in the hidden potential of the Nano-world to dramatically improve the quality of all human life and we have faith in a universal truth: that when you want to create something truly big, sometimes you have to start small. Very small.

RETURNING SCIENTISTS

Israel is keenly aware of the need for a concerted, national plan to stem the “brain drain” and bring Israeli academic leaders back home. Committed to the future of Israel, BIU embodies Zionist traditions - placing Jewish people at the heart of an independent and vibrant Jewish state.

In taking a leadership role among Israel's universities, BIU is setting out to recruit 50 Israeli experimental scientists currently working abroad. **That's no less than 50% of the total number of academic leaders that the Israeli government has sought to absorb nationwide over the next five years!**

To accomplish this goal, BIU is leveraging funding from various sources to provide competitive absorption packages required to attract top researchers. This strategy has had some outstanding successes to date! Two of our most promising new recruits are Dr. Edward A. Stern and Dr. Ehud Banin.



Dr. Edward A. Stern



Dr. Ehud Banin

Dr. Stern held positions at both the Department of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He is a world-leading scientist in the study of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases.

Dr. Banin is a Fulbright scholar who has received several prestigious awards. Coming to BIU from the University of Washington, Dr. Banin specializes in microbiology and nano-scale methods to combat health problems related to bacterial infection.

With the addition of several other up-and-coming world-class science superstars, the future of Israel and BIU has never looked brighter!

WEISFELD SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEDICATION

The Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work was dedicated at the Board of Trustees meeting. Bar-Ilan University's School of Social Work is internationally recognized as a leading academic center for the education of Israel's future social workers, as well as a major engine for promoting solutions for Israeli and global social issues.



Gabi Weisfeld surrounded by the Alone High School Choir that performed at the Dedication Ceremony.

Gabi Weisfeld enjoys the dedication ceremony with Prof. Moshe Kaveh, President of Bar-Ilan University, on her left and Canadian Ambassador Jon Allen on her right.

Prof. Itzhaky Haya and students, Merav Solomon and Adi Kochav together with Gabi Weisfeld at the dedication ceremony of the Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work

THE NORMAN AND JOHANNE STERNTHAL "TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL" PROGRAM

The Institute for Advanced Torah Studies was dedicated at the Board of Trustees Meeting with a beautiful ceremony on Yom Yerushalayim. The dedication included greetings by Rabbi Dr. Daniel Sperber, Divrei Torah and a festive reception.



From Left, Rabbi Dr. Daniel Sperber, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Norman Sternthal and Dr. Mordechai Katz, Chairman of the Global Board of Trustees.

Norman Sternthal celebrating with Family and Friends at the Dedication Ceremony "Torat Eretz Yisrael" Program.

From Left, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Norman Sternthal and Rabbi Karpol Bender.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY HONOURS MIRA KOSCHITZKY & GABI WEISFELD

On the evening of September 6, 2007, over 150 people gathered at the home of Michael and Marsha Lax to honour the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University's Immediate Past President, Mira Koschitzky, and National President, Gabi Weisfeld, for their dedication and commitment to Bar-Ilan University, the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Prof. Moshe Kaveh, President of Bar-Ilan was a special guest at the event and spoke of the accomplishments of both women and of Bar-Ilan University.



FRIEDLAND DOCTORAL CEREMONY

Patricia Friedland was awarded an Honourary Doctorate from Bar-Ilan University in recognition for her long-standing commitment to the Toronto Jewish Community and her ongoing support to the State of Israel. Patty was among a distinguished group of philanthropists and dignitaries.

Left: Patty Friedland and Joseph Menes, Rector



Allan & Patty Friedland, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, Gabi Weisfeld and Norman Sternthal



Allan & Patty Friedland and Gita Nagel



Gabi Weisfeld presents "Original Prayer for the State of Israel" to Patty Friedland



Prof. Gerald Steinberg

ADVANCING ISRAEL'S CAUSE

Public Diplomacy Conflict Management and Negotiations

“Public Diplomacy is an interdisciplinary specialty that uses psychology, sociology, communications studies and international law, among other disciplines, to deal with our opponents’ efforts to manipulate the media and public opinion – particularly against Israel, the US and other democracies.”

The war in Lebanon and the scathing international media blitz against Israel underscored the necessity of defending our country, not only by military means, but also in the diplomatic arena. In the US public diplomacy is a well-recognized tool used to defend American policy and objectives. While Americans are leaders in training experts in public diplomacy, Israel is only now beginning to realize the crucial need to educate people in this field. Bar-Ilan University is the first university in Israel that recognized the need for a Public Diplomacy program which is a specialization track within the Interdisciplinary Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation, in coordination with the Department of Political Studies, Division of Journalism and Communication Studies, the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies, and other programs.

“Public Diplomacy is an interdisciplinary specialty that uses psychology, sociology, communications studies and international law, among other disciplines, to deal with the efforts to manipulate the media and public opinion – particularly against Israel, the US and other democracies,” explains Prof. Gerald Steinberg, who is also a Senior Research Associate at Bar-Ilan’s BESA Center, as well as Director of the Conflict Management and Negotiation program, and head of the NGO Monitor project. “Public Diplomacy is the primary means of restoring the missing context, by demonstrating the legitimacy of military actions in response to terrorism and diplomacy,” he adds.

“When Israeli professors were attacked through academic boycotts, we were successful in defeating them, using the techniques of public diplomacy,” says Prof. Steinberg, who is a key member of Bar-Ilan’s International Advisory Board for Academic Freedom (IAB). Explaining another instance of how public diplomacy works, Prof. Steinberg adds, “Palestinians are successful at manipulating the media and human rights NGOs through rewriting history and portraying themselves as victims and Israelis as ‘war criminals’. In this way they achieve their goals by garnering international support, pushing Israelis towards isolation and demonization. Public diplomacy trains people to articulately and effectively defeat this virulent form of political warfare.”

One of Israel’s most highly-quoted experts consulted by the media for his political opinions during the Second Lebanon War, Prof. Steinberg is an experienced practitioner of the art of public diplomacy. Prof. Steinberg specializes in Middle East diplomatic and security issues, with an emphasis on arms control and CBMs, Middle East peace efforts; Israeli foreign and security policy, and the US-Israeli relationship. He is also a consultant to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Security Council, has spoken at OSCE Mediterranean Seminars, and participates in a number of the track-two workshops on Middle East Arms Control and Regional Security.



Joseph Shier generously supported *The Program in Public Diplomacy* at Bar-Ilan University, in honour of his father, Milton’s Shier’s 90th Birthday.



DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP OF EXCELLENCE

Fastest Growing PhD program in Israel

Bar-Ilan University's Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence Program represents a crucial first step in our efforts to stem Israel's "brian drain". Through nurturing local and immigrant talent to pursue their doctoral training right here on campus we are helping create a viable infrastructure for encouraging young scientists and scholars to remain in Israel. As Doctoral Fellows of Excellence they forge valuable ties with their Israeli mentors and colleagues and invigorate study and research which will, in turn, contribute to an increasingly fertile environment for scientific and academic progress in the Jewish State. This program provides a solid base, which can then be further enriched by implementing additional initiative that specifically target post doctoral candidates and returning scientists.

Supporting the Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence Program allows our students to devote their full energies to their academic studies within the defined four-year time frame. The program makes this financially possible. In recent years, a majority of PhDs receiving their degrees with distinction have been Doctoral Fellows of Excellence.



At the Annual Arnold and Leona Finkler Memorial Lecture, Patty and Allan Friedland and Gabi Weisfeld welcome Guest Speaker and Doctoral Fellowship Of Excellence Recipient, David Leitner.

DISABLED STUDENTS

Since its establishment in 1982, the Social Action Unit has assisted thousands of BIU students with hearing and sight impairments, severe learning difficulties such as dyslexia, physical disabilities, and emotional problems. By enabling these students to maximize their academic achievement, the Unit is bridging gaps in Israeli society. This is a prime example of making higher education accessible to all sectors, including challenged individuals. Bar-Ilan is unique in providing its special needs students with the technical support, practical assistance, and educational and social guidance needed to earn degrees and pursue careers of choice. In keeping with the Bar-Ilan philosophy, these students are provided with the essential services to achieve full independence, thus enabling them to complete their academic requirements on equal standing with their peers, and to achieve full integration into Israeli society.

Education for All, has been offering the severely special needs student significant assistance for over 20 years. The program offers mentor-tutors who are at least one year ahead of the special needs student they will mentor, and share the same course of study.



BIU awarded a \$1000 grant to every one of its students who took part in the Lebanon War.



Prof. Moshe Kaveh visits the Regev Family.

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSING SOLDIERS

Eldad Regev, an IDF reserve soldiers captured during Hezbollah's ambush on their border patrol, is a student in Bar-Ilan University's Pre-Academic Training Program. We pray for the safe return of Eldad Regev, of Kiryat Motzkin, his comrade Ehud Goldwasser, of Nahariya, and Gilad Shalit, who is being held captive in Gaza.

Dear Regev Family, as Canadians prepare to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary, we want to reaffirm our support for your family. Our thoughts are with you and your cherished Eldad. You are not alone.

We are often reminded that Eldad should be amongst his friends, enjoying football, listening to his favorite music and pursuing his usual Law studies amongst his classmates at Bar-Ilan University. We continue to feel a deep sorrow over the terrible circumstances that are keeping him away from you and his promising future, but we stand firmly proud of him and in his debt for performing his duty to our Homeland.

Looking ahead to Israel's future, we pray for the quick and safe return of Eldad Regev and those other brave soldiers who have struggled and sacrificed to safeguard our nation.

On behalf of your Canadian friends of Bar-Ilan University, our thoughts are with you.

Please add your signature to this letter by visiting our website www.cfbiu.org or by calling 1-888-248-2720.

Stay Connected

If you wish to be regularly informed about events locally or on campus, we would be pleased to add your name to our contact list. As well you can receive Bar-Ilan University's weekly Parashat Hashavuah in English by e-mail, or fax. Please contact your local Canadian Friends office.

Tribute Cards

To recognize the special events in the lives of your family and friends send customized Bar-Ilan University Tribute Cards or Certificates. Mazel Tov greetings for engagement... marriage... new baby... graduation... special birthday... anniversary... Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Wishes for a speedy recovery and memorials or yartzheit for loved ones.

Personalized cards \$18 8 ½ X 11 Certificate \$100 Large Certificates \$180
Just call your local Canadian Friends office to send a card (VISA and Mastercard accepted).

Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University Privacy Statement

Any personal information gathered by Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University will only be used by our organization in a manner consistent with Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University Privacy Policy and for the purpose of providing you with Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University information.

1750 Steeles Avenue West
Suite 214
Concord, ON L4K 2L7
admin@cfbiu.org

6900 Decarie Boulevard
Suite 3255
Montreal, QC H3X 2T8
montreal@cfbiu.org

3495 Cambie Street
Suite 124
Vancouver, BC V5R 4R3

Call us Toll Free 1-888-248-2720 or visit us at www.cfbiu.org