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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

22





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FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I write this, I am filled with excitement to be meeting face to face with everyone at the Board of Governors after a three-year hiatus!

Over the past year the University kept moving forward at an incredible pace in implementing the Strategic Plan presented two years ago at our first virtual board meeting. Having fulfilled many of the plan's stated goals, we had an opportunity to pause and ask, who is Ben-Gurion University of the Negev at age 52? How has our DNA evolved since our modest beginnings in Beit Hias? How has over half a century of development influenced our mission?

We used "branding" as a tool to dissect these questions. Branding is often confused with marketing changes in logos, but for us "branding" was an opportunity to expose the culture of our university. We engaged hundreds of academic and administrative staff, students, and supporters, exploring their individual experience in the BGU mission.

We discovered that the BGU DNA encodes common values which arise from our unique vantage point in the Negev desert, and that this unique point of view is what sparks our creativity, motivates our journey to understanding, and enables us to achieve the remarkable. Our unconventional perspectives are at once geographic, multicultural, and cross-disciplinary, and this leads us on both a personal and collective journey to change the world.

We do this in the spirit of David Ben-Gurion, who believed in limitless possibilities. We do this by going boldly, by daring to actively seek out new challenges. We do this by cultivating a spirit of entrepreneurship that permeates our campuses.

We do this by expanding opportunities, by embracing our diversity as a lever to enhance our excellence and our integrity. We do this together, as our true superpower is in the collective connections of faculty, staff, students, and partners, all working for a greater purpose.

And we do this in the Israeli spirit of innovation, striving to extend the Negev's potential and our startup spirit throughout the world. Indeed, this spirit is one of the reasons that the world is increasingly coming to us to learn from our experience. For 50 years we've been studying how to live in our desert and finding answers to real-world problems. That experience has made us a key destination for universities, industries, and policy makers alike, grappling with the issues of climate change and sustainability.

For example, last July we had the honor of hosting H.E. Mariam Almheiri, the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Food and Water Security, at the University dedication of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Food Security in the Desert. I led delegations to Morocco and to the UAE, where we signed MoUs with several universities. Numerous other visits to the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research in our Sde Boker Campus and to the School of Sustainability and Climate Change in the Marcus Family Campus have cemented our leading position in these critical fields. Delegations from Europe and Asia continue to flock to our cybersecurity center to learn and to build collaborations. And our entrepreneurship center, Yazamut 360°, is recognized not only as the premier such center in Israel; it is leading courses as universities from around the world line up to learn "our secrets."

David Ben-Gurion was Israel's first entrepreneur, and it behooves us to continue to move boldly to ensure that his startup, the State of Israel, continues to thrive. BGU continues to be a beacon lighting the way forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Chamovitz'.

Prof. Daniel Chamovitz

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS



I am very glad that we will finally be seeing one another in person at our 52nd annual Board of Governors Meeting – our first physical meeting after two years of living with the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting will be all the more sweet because of the time that has passed since we were last together.

In spite of the pandemic, and perhaps even because of it, we have redoubled our efforts to strengthen and expand our community during this time. We kept in touch through virtual get-togethers and continued to work on behalf of BGU in a host of innovative ways of being in a world circumscribed by circumstances. One such initiative came from BGU President, Prof. Daniel Chamovitz, who initiated a quarterly meeting of the “Officers Forum,” which includes the chairs and vice chairs of BOG committees. This has, of course, helped us keep abreast of developments at the University, but also provided an opportunity for the Board to become more involved in strategic planning for the University’s future and problem solving in the present. The combined experience in business, finance, and public work that these “officers” bring to the table is invaluable to our mission to transform BGU into Israel’s leading academic institution, and the long history of support for and engagement with the University that many of these officers contribute provides further nuance, depth, and hindsight.

Another pandemic-era initiative is the Global Development Committee, led by former A4BGU President Toni Young. The committee brings together the leaders of our global associates organizations to formulate a meticulous long-term strategy for meeting our strategic goals. I am pleased to be working together with this remarkable cadre of leaders around the world and congratulate our newest associates organizations on their accomplishments in developing and growing their national

networks. This is no small feat, considering the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic. We are also working at expanding the BGU community in Israel, reaching out to alumni and past donors who can be partners in our journey. I look forward to meeting everyone and working together to advance our goals.

As you will read in this Report, the University has been busy implementing various aspects of its Strategic Plan for the future – reducing red tape, developing and implementing strategies to reduce global warming, preparing for the relocation of the IDF’s advanced technology units to the South, a branding campaign, and much more. Several major building projects have concluded this year, including the Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism Building and the Ben-Gurion Archives in Sde Boker; the Student Village on the North Campus; and the Medical Simulation and Classroom building housing the Field Family Foundation Medical Simulation Center, which has already begun transforming the training of healthcare professionals in Israel. The continued physical development of the University, and particularly the North Campus, is vital to our strategic goal of conducting cutting-edge research and providing state-of-the-art education that makes a difference in the world. This cannot be achieved without your help and support.

On behalf of the entire Ben-Gurion University community, I would like to thank each and every one of our friends and supporters for their efforts on the University’s behalf. This is important work and we are lucky to have you on board.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lloyd Goldman'.

Yours in friendship,
Lloyd Goldman

OUR PURPOSE

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev embraces the **endless potential** we have as individuals and as a commonality to adapt and to thrive in changing environments. Inspired by our location in the desert, we aim to discover, to create, and to develop solutions to dynamic challenges, to pose questions that have yet to be asked, and to push beyond the boundaries of the accepted and possible.

We believe that our **vantage point** in Israel's Negev desert grants us a unique point of view, which sparks our creativity, motivates our journey to understanding, and enables us to achieve the remarkable.

We believe that **bridging disciplines and cultures** is critical to the success of research and scholarship.

We believe in the delight of exploration, the culture of collaboration, and the cultivation of original ideas.

We invite you to set aside existing paradigms and view the world from our **unconventional perspective**.

In the pioneering spirit of David Ben-Gurion, we encourage you to adopt our expansive point of view and see the extraordinary power emerging from the desert – for Israel, and for the world.



OUR VALUES

\ **EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE**

We believe in infinite possibilities; that curiosity, imagination, and flexibility are key to creating knowledge and impact.

\ **EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY**

We hold ourselves to the highest standards – in the scientific, academic, and interpersonal realms.

\ **THE POWER OF TOGETHER**

We all – faculty, staff, students, and partners – embrace the power of together, seek out connections and see ourselves as working together for a larger, collective purpose.

\ **EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES**

By embracing our diversity, by promoting an inclusive and equitable environment, we spark a new reality where excellence is enhanced.

\ **GO BOLDLY**

We dare to actively seek out new challenges and cultivate a spirit of entrepreneurship to do what has never been attempted before.

\ **THE ISRAELI SPIRIT**

We are proud to be a central force for innovation in Israel, and we strive to extend the Negev's potential and our startup spirit throughout the world.



STRATEGIZING FOR THE FUTURE

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Upon assuming the reins of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, I quickly realized the place to begin was with an in-depth strategic process, through which we identified existing strengths that can be maximized to successfully achieve our goals: to become one of the world's most outstanding universities and Israel's leading university in terms of research, teaching, and contribution to society. We are leveraging the power and perspectives of the Negev, along with the University's trademark problem-solving, application-oriented research approach, to tackle today's global challenges.

The strategic plan that emerged from that process contains concrete recommendations which we have been implementing over the past two years. For example, we established new administrative units to support the recruitment of excellent young faculty members and quality cutting-edge teaching; we are continuing to streamline administrative processes and reduce red-tape; and we completed a comprehensive and eye-opening re-branding process that articulated what differentiates BGU: Our uncommon perspectives – grounded in our unique location and history – generate remarkable results, discoveries, and impact.

THE SCHOOL FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In the 2021 President's Report, we announced the implementation of one of the strategic plan's key recommendations: leveraging our 50 years of experience living and conducting research in the desert through the founding of the School for Sustainability and Climate Change (SSCC). Over the past year, the SSCC – the first

such multidisciplinary framework in Israel – has become a reality, with programs, students, scholarships, and unprecedented international research collaborations such as an historic agreement with Morocco's Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.

The SSCC, with over 150 affiliated senior faculty members, now offers an environmental studies minor in five different tracks: Natural Sciences, Sustainability, Nature Conservation, Environmental Policy and Management, and Renewable Natural Resources. We are also working to open several new degrees, including an English-language BSc at Sde Boker and MSc and MA degrees in Sustainability. We established the Moshe Mirilashvili Research Center for Food Security in the Desert under the auspices of the School, hosted a conference on the effects of extreme weather conditions on public health, held consultations with government officials, and are reaching out to the public with podcasts and public seminars on the environment and sustainability.

And we are practicing what we preach: BGU's investment committee has begun to invest in ESG funds to align the University's investment policy with its commitment to sustainability.

BGU has also been a "Green Campus" for over a decade, working to reduce the University's environmental impact. We have redoubled these efforts since the establishment of the SSCC, working to ensure that the University uses its resources more sustainably: we are taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in different areas of activity, and to change the way the BGU community consumes resources and produces waste.





↑ *The Medical Simulation and Classroom Building, completed this year*

THE NEXT STEP: THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

The University's strategic plan identifies the most crucial means of achieving its goal to become a premier research institution: The recruitment of outstanding researchers, while nurturing and retaining them and our existing faculty members. This is no small feat, as the most promising candidates are sought out by top institutions worldwide. To attract the best and brightest to the Negev, BGU must shine above the rest. It must have state-of-the-art research facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. We must offer each researcher the facilities and tools to advance in their field and have the human resources required to support their efforts and staff their labs.

In February this year, the University's Global Development Committee, headed by Toni Young, former A4BGU President, officially embarked on a major undertaking to enable BGU to achieve these goals and become a talent magnet and an institution with far-reaching global impact. This committee will translate the strategic plan into a fundraising campaign and then lead it.

The comprehensive, strategic, 10-year, global campaign, which will be formally launched in 2023, will bring the entire BGU community together, uniting academic leadership and professionals at the University and our associates organizations with our volunteer leaders, supporters, alumni, and new friends to realize our shared goals and build the best BGU possible. Our worldwide associates organizations will play a key role in the campaign's success, as will each and every donor and BGU supporter.

This campaign is critical to BGU's advancement and to ensuring the sustainable future of the University. Together, we can raise the funds needed to enable BGU to realize its potential and achieve its goals and leverage the power of the Negev for the benefit of Israel and the world.

Stay tuned for more details about the campaign.

MILESTONES

NOTEWORTHY NEWS FROM BGU



↑ *Emergency medicine students training in the newly opened Medical Simulation and Classroom Building*

➤ *Move-in day at the Student Village on the North Campus*

➔ *The renovated Gabriel and Angel Tamman Gate*

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Around 500 students moved into the new 14-building Student Village at the beginning of the academic school year. The first buildings completed on the North Campus, these new full-service state-of-the-art dorms will eventually provide 1,000 students with options ranging from studio apartments to married student housing.

Classes are already being held in the Medical Simulation and Classroom Building, while the Field Family Foundation Medical Simulation Center that forms its core is being equipped.

The Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism Building and the Ben-Gurion Archives in Sde Boker will be dedicated during the 52nd Annual Board of Governors Meeting in May.



The newly refurbished Gabriel and Angel Tamman Gate at the Marcus Family Campus was unveiled in a moving ceremony that paid tribute to the late Gabriel Tamman of Geneva, Switzerland. Many members of the Tamman family attended the event on Ben-Gurion Day, November 11th.



HONORS BESTOWED

Ben-Gurion Day 2021 concluded with the conferment ceremony of the Ben-Gurion Award upon ten individuals or organizations, in the presence of President of Israel Isaac Herzog and his wife, Michal Herzog. The honorees are: Dr. Efrat Bron-Harlev, Adv. Mina Kalman-Haddad, Reda Masarwa, Prof. Yosef Mizrahi, Shuli Moalem-Refaeli, Prof. Bracha Rager, Dr. Ron Sabar, Gabriel Tamman, z"l, Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Yadlin, and The Beersheba Theater.

The 2021 Israeli Hope Prize for contributions to strengthening diversity and cohesion in Israeli society, an initiative of Israel's tenth president, Reuven Rivlin, was awarded to the "Spoken Yerushalmit" community, a language exchange initiative with over 2,000 participants from all walks of life and sectors throughout Jerusalem.

Ben-Gurion University President Prof. Daniel Chamovitz is the 2021 Laureate of the Sylvan Adams Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Prize for Education.

↑ Recipients of the 2021 Ben-Gurion Award with President Prof. Chamovitz and Rector Prof. Hames. Photo: Shay Shmueli

MILESTONES

NOTEWORTHY NEWS FROM BGU

➔ Faculty and staff members of the Azrieli National Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research

⬇ The Fujitsu Cybersecurity Center of Excellence in Israel



RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD

The Fujitsu Cybersecurity Center of Excellence in Israel was established at BGU's Advanced Technologies Park. Japanese IT multinational Fujitsu Limited and BGN Technologies, BGU's technology transfer company, signed a three-year comprehensive joint research agreement

to develop technologies and solutions to contribute to the realization of safe, real-world applications of AI and machine learning technologies.

The National Autism Research Centre of Israel, a unique collaboration between scientists from BGU and clinicians from Soroka University Medical Center, received a NIS 40 million donation from the Azrieli Foundation. The center, originally established by the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology, is dedicated to translational research that will revolutionize diagnostic techniques and interventions for autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions. It was renamed The Azrieli National Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research in honor of this generous donation.

BGU and Soroka University Medical Center were also awarded NIS 10.8 million over four years to create **The Lab Pre-acceleration Program** by a new Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology grant program encouraging entrepreneurship. The BGU/Soroka partnership, to be led by Yazamut 360°, the University's entrepreneurship center, will support applied basic research in its early stages.

In September, a year after the signing of the Abraham Accords, BGU and **Université Internationale de Rabat** in Morocco signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on research and education. The signing ceremony was conducted via Zoom.

In October, BGU and **Mohammed VI Polytechnic University** in Morocco signed an MoU to collaborate on scientific research projects, in addition to student and faculty exchange programs, with a focus on sustainability issues. The partnership is supported by global companies ICL (Israel) and OCP (Morocco).

A delegation from Mohammed VI Polytechnic University made a reciprocal visit in late March.

Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's leading emergency medical response organization, and BGU signed an academic affiliation agreement in February. MDA paramedics will train at BGU's new medical simulation center and participate in joint research.



↑ MDA CEO Eli Bean and President Prof. Chamovitz at the signing of the affiliation agreement

← Signing ceremony of MoU with Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Morocco. Photo: Lina Elmouaaouy

MILESTONES

NOTEWORTHY NEWS FROM BGU

→ *Dedication ceremony of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Food Security in the Desert. L-R: UAE Ambassador H.E. Mohamed Al Khaja, Dr. Michael Mirilashvili, Prof. Daniel Chamovitz and UAE Minister of State for Food & Water Security H.E. Mariam Almheiri*

→ *Prof. Noam Weisbrod, BIDR Director, walks with President Reuven Rivlin in Sde Boker. Photo: Shlomi Znati*



FROM THE DESERT TO THE WORLD

BGU's new interdisciplinary School of Sustainability and Climate Change (SSCC) enrolled its first students at the beginning of this academic school year.

Prof. Yaron Ziv, head of the SSCC, participated in the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow as part of the Israeli delegation. He returned with a renewed sense of urgency: "For the sake of our children's future, we must rein in global warming. Otherwise, Planet Earth will be in grave danger," he warns.

BGU established the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Food Security in the Desert, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Michael Mirilashvili, President and CEO of Watergen and Vertical Field. The new Center will be created in Sde Boker at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) within the framework of the School for Sustainability and Climate Change.

President of Israel Reuven Rivlin and President of Germany Frank Walter Steinmeier visited the BIDR in Sde Boker in July to hear about BGU's research in the areas of desertification, sustainability, and climate change.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEGEV

The Writers' House in Honor of Amos Oz - the literary and cultural center of the Heksherim Research Institute for Jewish and Israeli Literature and Culture - was inaugurated in June 2021 in the presence of Toni Young and members of the Oz family. The transformation of the historic building in Beer-Sheva's Old City was made possible by a major gift from Toni Young and a significant investment of NIS 4.5 million from Mifal HaPais.

Prof. Sarab Abu-Rabia Queder was appointed to the new post of Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion in June. A member

of the Department of Education, Prof. Abu-Rabia Queder is the first Arab woman from the Negev promoted to professor at BGU.

A new occupational therapy program received approval by the Council for Higher Education. There is a severe shortage of occupational therapists all around the country, but especially in the South. The new Department of Occupational Therapy will open in the Recanati School for Community Health Professions in time for the 2022-2023 academic school year.



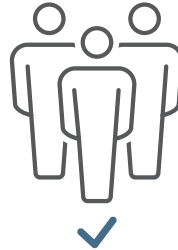
↑ The Writers' House in Honor of Amos Oz in downtown Beer-Sheva

← Prof. Sarab Abu-Rabia Queder, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, at the opening of the academic school year

The background features a large orange triangle on the left side, with a grey diagonal bar intersecting it. Below the orange triangle is a darker orange trapezoidal shape. The bottom left corner is a light grey area, also intersected by a grey diagonal bar.

REPORTS

THE YEAR AT BGU FROM
OUR VICE PRESIDENTS



DAVID BAREKET

VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL

With the pandemic continuing into this year, the University took a range of actions to protect the BGU community's health while continuing teaching and research activity. The Human Resources Division, for example, adapted by switching to partial remote work, all the while responding to the special needs of staff members during this trying period.

The Operations Division and the Construction and Maintenance Division adapted 105 classrooms and seminar rooms for hybrid teaching by installing advanced multimedia equipment that enables both in-class and remote learning, at a total investment of NIS 5 million. Furthermore, as part of the regular upkeep of teaching facilities, the multimedia systems of 40 additional classrooms were upgraded. A dedicated staff member was hired to maintain these multimedia systems, to ensure a high level of service.

The Operations Division coordinated the University's emergency response array, including preparing procedures and disseminating instructions for dealing with the pandemic, managing a coronavirus motel for those requiring isolation, conducting epidemiological investigations, and running rapid testing and immunization centers on campus.

Over the past year, the University completed the adaptation of all buildings for accessibility to people

with disabilities – a NIS 28 million project. This multi-year project included changing the signage on all campuses, converting restrooms, and installing elevators and lifts, acoustic ceilings, and accessible computer terminals, as well as seating areas, benches, and water fountains.

105 CLASSROOMS AND SEMINAR ROOMS WERE ADAPTED FOR HYBRID TEACHING BY INSTALLING ADVANCED MULTIMEDIA EQUIPMENT THAT ENABLES BOTH IN-CLASS AND REMOTE LEARNING

Despite the disruptions of the coronavirus pandemic, the physical development of the University continued as scheduled and the new Student Village, encompassing 14 buildings with a total area of 32,600 square meters, was completed. Students moved into eight buildings in the first stage. We were thrilled by the high demand

Student Village



14
buildings



950
beds



32,600
sq. meters



← The Medical Simulation and Classroom Building

for this project, which can be attributed to the high construction standards, size, and furnishings of its apartments. The Village also includes a guest house for University visitors that will open later this year.

Work on the Medical Simulation and Classroom Building, still awaiting a named donor, was completed in February. The building provides 11 sorely needed new classrooms and auditoriums, as well as a home for the one-of-a-kind Field Family Foundation Medical Simulation Center, which will serve students in all healthcare professions. The 5,200 square meter building and its simulation equipment cost NIS 80 million.

Construction of the 3,300 square meter Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism Building and the Ben-Gurion Archive at Sde Boker was recently completed, at a total cost of NIS 48 million. A substantial part of the building will

house the David Ben-Gurion Archive, along with a visitors center to serve the thousands of groups and individuals who visit annually.

As part of its long-term strategic plan, the University focused on upgrading its digital systems over the past year. This included considerable investments in skilled professional human resources and the purchase of systems and software. These steps precipitated an organizational change in the Technologies, Innovation, and Digital (TID) Division, to adapt it to the challenges and tasks ahead. The digital transformation led by the Division is synchronized with the strategic plan and will increase the University's attraction to both students and faculty.

DESPITE THE DISRUPTIONS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY CONTINUED AS SCHEDULED

Strengthening the TID Division ensured its ability to respond to the demands of remote teaching and contributed significantly to BGU's ability to continue teaching and holding exams during periods when our students were learning from home. The Division completed the development of several IT systems over the past year, including a system for donor affairs, a research portal an admissions and marketing system, and a new online examination and grades management system.

Completed this year

- Medical Simulation and Classroom Building
- The Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism Building and the Ben-Gurion Archives in Sde Boker
- Student Village on the North Campus

- Renovation of the Gabriel and Angel Tamman Gate
- Fira and Efim Guzik Plaza
- Research labs in the basement of the Guzik Family Building for Biotechnology Engineering

Under construction

- Sylvan Adams Sports Centre expansion
- North Campus utilities tunnels and underground infrastructure
- North Campus Energy Center

- BGU-Soroka Joint Research Building supported by the Adelis Foundation
- Renovation of the Ilanot Gate

Work to begin soon

- Drahi Innovation and Entrepreneurship Building, North Campus

In planning

- Guzik Cultural Center, North Campus



← The first move-in day at the Student Village on North Campus

↓ The Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism Building and the Ben-Gurion Archive at Sde Boker



In accordance with the instructions of the University's Executive Committee, a budget was submitted based on a detailed work plan encompassing all University administrative units. The Budgeting and Economic Planning Division adjusted the budget to allow for new needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, such as the move to remote learning, as well as to implement savings wherever possible.

The Finance Division, which is responsible for procurement, accounting, and financing, continued operating smoothly despite local and global supply disruptions over the past year. Its procurement system was able to meet ongoing research and teaching demands and dealt successfully with issues of scarcity and transportation difficulties.

- Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation Future Technologies Building, North Campus
- Computer Science Building, North Campus
- Ernest Scheller, Jr. Gate of Innovation, North Campus

Future projects

- Civil and Environmental Engineering Building
- Health Sciences research laboratories building



As a key partner in the University's strategic plan, the Finance Division also played an important role in streamlining and reducing administrative burdens. Together with members of the academic and administrative staff, the Division's staff participated in a range of brainstorming teams, where they are developing advanced information systems and improving work processes.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the University was able to maintain its financial stability in 2021 thanks to its prudent and responsible management. Financial assets were managed in accordance with the policy set by the Investments Committee and returns have been the highest in history.



PROF. CHAIM HAMES RECTOR

WE HAVE CONTINUED WITH OUR GOAL OF ATTRACTING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN ALL FIELDS AND PROVIDING THEM WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART LABS AND EQUIPMENT SO THAT THEY CAN PERFORM CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

The coronavirus still has us in its grip and continues to affect our community, students and lecturers alike. The roll-out of the vaccines and their high uptake enabled us to bring our students back to campus in the Spring, though many preferred to remain at home and study using our newly installed hybrid classrooms. It was only really with the start of the Autumn term last October that the campus came back to life in a manner resembling pre-corona times. For most of the semester, close to 20,000 students filled the classrooms, corridors, teaching labs, libraries, and cafeterias as we all rediscovered the joys of central elements of academic life that cannot take place online. Omicron has proven to be disruptive and again, it is unclear what the future holds. We know how to do things online, but our students are paying a heavy price and miss out on the more informal, yet crucially important and significant aspects of academia.

Coronavirus aside, we have continued with our goal of attracting the best and brightest young researchers in all fields and providing them with state-of-the-art labs

↓ Studying in the
Zlotowski Student Center



and equipment so that they can perform cutting-edge research. Our Office for New Academic Faculty provides them with support and aid that gives them peace of mind so that they can concentrate on their research and teaching. We have also revamped our mentoring program for new faculty so that it can be more effective in guiding them as they take their first steps as independent academics. The mentors are handpicked and partake in a course which creates an esprit-de-corps that makes the process itself more rewarding for both the mentor and the new researcher.

Over the course of this year, we created a new unit in the Rector's Office, which is devoted to interdisciplinary research and teaching, which will oversee the newly



← Life Sciences Research Day

established School for Sustainability and Climate Change, the revamped School of Brain Sciences and Cognition, and the much-changed Program for Statistics and Data Analysis. This new unit allows us to break down administrative and academic barriers and encourage researchers from diverse departments and faculties to cooperate in teaching programs, graduate supervision, and research projects.

AT BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV WE THRIVE ON CHALLENGES. OUR UNIQUE ISRAELI SPIRIT AND ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON GOAL ALLOW US TO DO INCREDIBLE THINGS

Teaching is an essential part of our job description and one way for our faculty to attract the best and brightest graduate students. Hence, developing interesting courses using new technologies, having the tools to be innovative and getting students involved in the learning process are essential skills for our lecturers. Very quickly, given

the circumstances, the Unit for Improving the Quality of Teaching and Learning, under the directorship of Dr. Michal Erez, developed high-quality tutorials for online teaching and, in general, has done a stellar job in providing our teaching staff with the feedback they need to improve their teaching. However, I felt that we needed to send a clearer message to the BGU community about the importance of teaching, and to this end, I appointed a Pro-Rector for Teaching, Prof. Timor Melamed from the School of Electrical Engineering. Together with the Unit's staff, Prof. Melamed has taken on overall responsibility for teaching quality and students' satisfaction surveys, as well as coordination with the faculties and lecturers. Most academic departments now have a teaching coordinator who is engaged with the Unit and is responsible for arranging activities within the department focused on the quality of teaching. There is also a more structured mentorship process in place for lecturers experiencing problems with their teaching.

We are learning to live with the coronavirus. While the last two years have shown that we can keep the University functioning, the frequent changes necessitated by the peaks and troughs of the pandemic have made any long-term planning challenging. Yet, at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev we thrive on challenges. Our unique Israeli spirit and ability to work together toward a common goal allow us to do incredible things and I am sure that the coming year will be a great example of that.

\\ New Undergraduate Programs:

- Statistics and Data Analysis
- Cultural Resources Management – A dual faculty program between the Dept. of the Arts and the Dept. of Management
- Algo-trading
- Dual Computer Science and Humanities & Social Sciences
- Dual Computer Science and Life Sciences
- Dual Life Sciences and Geography – focusing on human interactions with the environment



\\ New Graduate Degree Programs:

- Master's degree in Health Systems Management in Eilat - for mid-career doctors and dentists
- Master's degree in Environmental Physics and Solar Energy at the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies



Photo: Avivit Isaacson



PROF. LIMOR AHARONSON-DANIEL

VICE PRESIDENT FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The Office of the Vice President for Global Engagement is responsible for formulating and executing the University's internationalization strategy. This is one aspect of the University's strategic plan to become one of the world's leading academic institutions. Naturally, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has disrupted and complicated much of our work. There were few academic delegation visits in the past two years and we have postponed most of the short international summer programs. Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, in contrast, were allowed into Israel, but the relevant administrative procedures have been challenging. The past year has not been easy, yet it was an excellent year in terms of transformation and growth, precisely because the pandemic forced us to change perspective. This change in perspective is evident in several aspects of our work:

MARKETING

Our international marketing is managed by BGU International, in collaboration with the University's Marketing Unit, yet separately, because of the different language, messages and needs of overseas audiences. After adapting this new perspective, we came to the realization that it was better to focus on strengthening our ties with existing partners in the established markets, rather than search for new collaborations. Therefore, we held a series of (virtual) meetings with my counterparts in

US institutions and promoted new agreements on student exchanges with some. Another change forced upon us by the pandemic was ending our traditional student fairs and replacing them with digital marketing.

THE PAST YEAR HAS NOT BEEN EASY, YET IT WAS AN EXCELLENT YEAR IN TERMS OF TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH, PRECISELY BECAUSE THE PANDEMIC FORCED US TO CHANGE PERSPECTIVE

Online marketing, in fact, has made the A4BGU student recruitment office obsolete, and this year we transferred all student recruitment activities, with the exception of the Medical School for International Health, to BGU International. Over the past year, with the aid of new online platforms and with help from the Council for Higher Education, various embassies, government ministries, and organizations like Masa, we have held dozens of webinars with different geographic and disciplinary emphases, in various languages and locations all over the world, introducing BGU to prospective international students. BGU Prof. Louisa Meshi volunteered to liaison with the Russian speaking world and opened up new opportunities to recruit outstanding students, some of whom can utilize Masa scholarships for their studies.



← International students orientation.
Photo: Diego Mittelberg

The Abraham Accords have also opened up new worlds and we were able, between lockdowns, to visit and sign significant collaboration agreements in Morocco and the United Arab Emirates. Some of these collaborations dovetail with collaborations in R&D as well.

We have decided to focus on raising the quality of applicants from India (which already sends hundreds of doctoral and postdoctoral students to BGU). For that purpose, we have contracted a local PR company, and a year of working together has led to thousands of mentions and articles about research at BGU in the Indian press. We expect to begin reaping the fruits of these efforts within a year or two.

THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS HAVE ALSO OPENED UP NEW WORLDS AND WE WERE ABLE, BETWEEN LOCKDOWNS, TO VISIT AND SIGN SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS IN MOROCCO AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

We have produced a number of videos presenting campus life and Beer-Sheva through the eyes of a young student. These are different from the videos aimed at our older crowd of supporters and use up-to-date youth language and culture to introduce student life, campus culture, the dormitories, BGU moments and more.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CURRICULA

Beyond attracting overseas students, the internationalization of the University requires the integration of various multicultural international dimensions for the benefit of Israeli students who do not study abroad. Both goals are served by English language programs. Several years ago, the Faculty of Natural Sciences began teaching graduate level courses in English whenever there was an international student in the class, thereby exposing all its students to aspects of internationalization. The Faculty of Engineering Sciences joined about two years ago, and opened new tracks in English, such as the master's degree in mechatronics, which is attracting Chinese students, with two leading partner institutions in China. This year we have also inaugurated a master's degree in African Studies, supported by a generous donation that will allow us to accept students from Africa and send our students on exchange programs to Africa. This program has become an instant success.

We are also working on reopening the English language Middle East Studies master's program, another program that both takes advantage of and reinforces our geographic advantage and areas of expertise. The program will allow us to strengthen our ties to new partners in Morocco and the UAE.



↑ Virtual signing of the MoU between the International University of Rabat (Morocco) and BGU. L-R: Prof. Limor Aharonson-Daniel, Prof. Daniel Chamovitz, and Prof. Chaim Hames



↑ International Exchange Program showcase for BGU students, December 2021

GLOBAL ATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY, COMBINED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BGU'S NEW SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, HIGHLIGHT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH AT OUR INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS IN SDE BOKER

Global attention to the environment and sustainability, combined with the establishment of BGU's new School of Sustainability and Climate Change, highlight the opportunities for studies and research at our international campus in Sde Boker. What we still lack, and hope to report on next year, is a full English language undergraduate degree program. We plan to open a multi-disciplinary degree program that includes a pre-med segment, thereby allowing its graduates to go on to study at our Medical School for International Health.

WELCOME CENTER

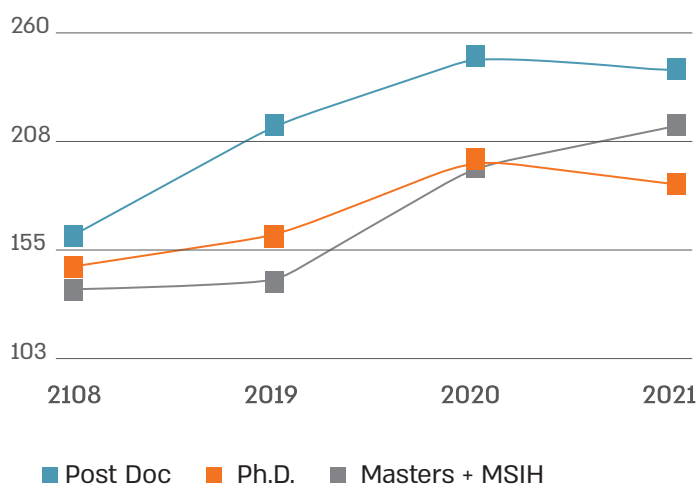
One outcome of the strategic process on campus and the push to cut red tape was the recognition that we need a single central unit to guide international students from the moment they are accepted, to their arrival and through to their graduation. The establishment of such a center was approved this year and a team led by Ernst & Young worked on its characterization and organizational structure. A physical space has been allocated and we are awaiting final approval to hire a director.

NUMBERS

The number of international students at BGU has been rising over the past few years and has now stabilized at around 1,000. It decreased slightly this past year, which is understandable given mobility issues associated with the coronavirus pandemic. The greatest impact on enrollment was our closure for the summer, which prevented hundreds of students from coming to BGU.

As can be seen in the graph, we are trending upwards, surpassing the goals we set in our multi-year strategic plan for promoting internationalization.

Number of International Students





PROF. RAZ JELINEK

VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Research and Development Authority at BGU encourages and supports researchers in securing research funding. Over the past year we were successful in increasing the scope of competitive grants received by 7% as compared with the previous year. The University's strategic plan challenges us to attract more young researchers to launch their careers here at BGU, and the growth in competitive grants is a strong signal to them that BGU is on the rise.

BGU won 101 individual researcher grants from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF), a considerable increase over previous years, and we continue to rank third nationally in ISF grants. BGU also received 12 New-Faculty Equipment Grants from the ISF, which bodes well for attracting rising stars.

OVER THE PAST YEAR WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN INCREASING THE SCOPE OF COMPETITIVE GRANTS RECEIVED BY 7% AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Five researchers received grants from the NIH in the US, totaling about USD 2 million. Other notable grants secured this year include NIS 12 million for developing an applied research center dedicated to promoting education and learning, awarded to Prof. Adam Lefstein.



↑ The Annual Meeting of the Israel Physical Society at BGU



35 NIS million spent on advanced scientific equipment, including a cryo-EM Microscope, XRD and XPS, and more



7% increase in funding received through competitive grants

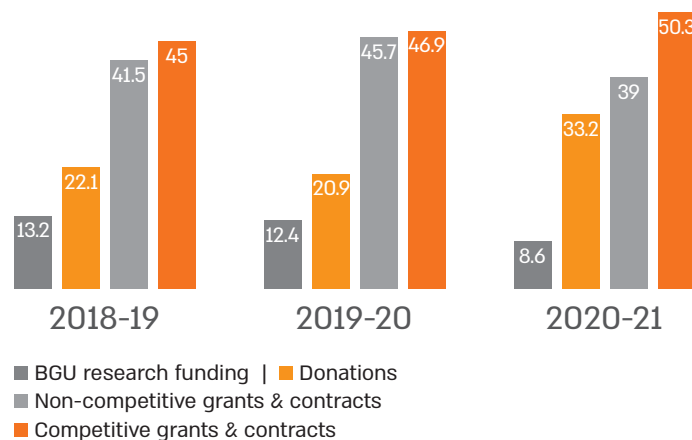


← Outstanding students and researchers were recognized at BGU's first Research Fest. L-R back row: Oz Shoham, Shiri Hefetz, Dr. Yoav Green, Oren Lavi; front row: Dr. Karjule Neeta, guest of honor Lucien Yehuda Bronicki, Prof. Daniel Chamovitz, and Prof. Raz Jelinek

This year is the final year of the Horizon 2020 program – the biggest EU research and innovation program ever, with nearly €80 billion in funding over seven years (2014 to 2020). BGU was awarded a total of €45.9 million through 72 separate grants, including 19 ERC grants, over the course of this program.

Overall, this year saw a growth of 2% in new contracts and supplements to existing grants, despite a decrease of some 15% in government research contracts (due to the lack of a government budget). BGU's Cybersecurity Research Center received a contract extension for

— Total Investment in Research (USD M) —



Figures are based on full amounts of research grants or donor commitments and not payments received.



21

new faculty absorption packages at a total of NIS 11,109,100



31%

success rate in ISF grant submission (higher than national average)

2022, with an increase of about NIS 5 million to its budget. And finally, research funding from contributions increased dramatically, primarily thanks to the generous grant for the Azrieli National Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research.

RESEARCH FUNDING FROM CONTRIBUTIONS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY, PRIMARILY THANKS TO THE GENEROUS GRANT FOR THE AZRIELI NATIONAL CENTER FOR AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

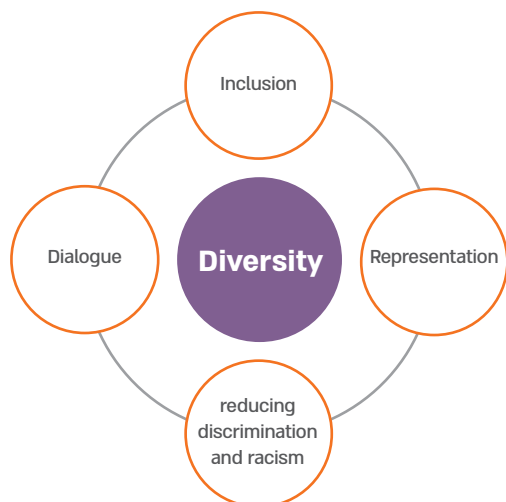
The R&D Authority inaugurated an annual "Research Fest," held in November 2021. This year's topic was "Energy and Sustainability" and featured guest lectures by Lucien Yehuda Bronicki, co-founder of Ormat Industries, and the CEO of GenCell Ltd. The University also established the Center for Research on Energy and Sustainability with the support of Mr. Bronicki.



PROF. SARAB ABU-RABIA QUEDER

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion at BGU was created in 2021 and is headed by Prof. Sarab Abu-Rabia Queder. The Office is guided by the principle that four components are vital for the promotion of diversity and inclusion at BGU: Representation, inclusion, dialogue, and reducing discrimination and racism.



REPRESENTATION

The goal is to increase the number of enrolled students from underrepresented groups, especially in desirable tracks (and primarily students from Bedouin and Ethiopian origin communities).

A steering committee for the Ethiopian community headed by Prof. Yifat Miller and guided by Prof. Abu Rabia-Queder was established. The committee decided to work on branding and marketing the support package BGU already offers students of Ethiopian origin. It is also preparing a proposal for an alternative admissions track based on Feuerstein's LPAD dynamic assessment.

For Bedouins from the south in STEM fields: BGU is expecting to enroll some 80 Bedouin high school graduates from Rahat in a year-long preparatory program with the goal of reducing the initial disadvantages with which such students usually enter academia. These students will also learn about the various fields of study offered at the University and meet with Jewish students to increase their interactions with the student body.

To increase the representation of first-generation women doctoral students, we are working to prepare them for academic careers and increase their chances of obtaining academic appointments. We plan to offer a workshop (for course credit) that provides an academic toolkit.

A program to reduce dropout rates among disadvantaged students from the social and geographical periphery was established. The program is presently recruiting departmental mentors who will receive specialized training to identify students who might benefit from mentorship.



← *Ahalan Wa Sahlan welcome event in November for first-year Arab students*

→ *High school students from Rahat visit labs on campus*

↓ *Prof. Halleli Pinson, Presidential Advisor on Gender Equity, at an event promoting the University as a safe space*

The mentors will identify disadvantaged students and coordinate the necessary assistance and support offered by the Office of the Dean of Students to prevent dropout.

INCLUSION

Our second goal is to transform the BGU campus into a more inclusive space and reduce the sense of alienation experienced by students from diverse backgrounds. We organized several activities aimed at specific audiences:

- We held a welcome (*Ahalan Wa Sahlan*) event in November 2021 for first-year Arab students, where they met Arab faculty members and received information about the various services offered by the University.
- We held several events in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Members of the academic and administrative staff attended a lecture on the special needs of this population, the Diller Family Center was illuminated in purple, and banners with messages to raise awareness were hung throughout the Marcus Family Campus.
- A festive Iftar dinner for Arab faculty members with top university administration was held in April.
- A meeting with representatives of the LGBTQ community on campus was held, where students spoke of their specific needs and obstacles. We held several lectures and seminars to increase awareness of LGBTQ needs in June.



A steering committee was created to organize an annual workshop for first-year students who are the first in their families to enroll in an institution of higher education. Such students often suffer from alienation and feelings of inadequacy in academia and drop out at higher rates. This annual workshop will provide tools and guidance, identify psychological needs, and increase their sense of belonging to the academic world. It will empower them and increase their ability to persevere in their studies. The goal is to eventually transform these students into mentors for other new students, in exchange for scholarships (we are exploring possibilities for funding from the Israel Young Academy).



THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY ACTION

The Department of Community Action, established in 1974, promotes the involvement of the University, its staff, and its students in effective social action and initiatives, with the goal of reducing inequality in the Negev and Israeli society as a whole. It aims to achieve this by providing assistance to Negev populations in the areas of education and welfare; developing students' awareness and skills as future leaders; improving access to the University for underprivileged populations; promoting meaningful discussion of social action; and helping students financially.

The Department launched two new programs this year: **Lapid**, where over 130 students are helping school children catch up with classes and education lost to the coronavirus pandemic; and **Speaking Hebrew at BGU**, providing basic daily-use Hebrew lessons for women from the unrecognized Bedouin village A-Zarnoug.

DIVERSITY

Five diversity supervisors were appointed to increase diversity in each faculty, and two training sessions for departmental diversity representatives were held. A proposal was submitted for faculty training on cultural competence and teaching in diverse classrooms.

REDUCING DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

An institutional response to reduce discrimination and racism and deal with crisis situations is being formalized, including the establishment of an emergency response forum and workshops for dealing with crisis situations.

A proposal was submitted to the senior administration to establish a committee for addressing complaints about racism and discrimination (by both students and University staff). A conference on this subject was held in conjunction with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in March.

Finally, a survey was conducted in January regarding cases of discrimination and racism on campus (in collaboration with the Campus Against Racism Forum).

PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND LIVING TOGETHER

A proposal for the establishment of a unit to promote living together was submitted in February. Courses on Arab-Jewish dialogue are also being planned.



500

active students



14

programs



50,000

student hours dedicated to the population of Beer-Sheva and the Negev



5,700

student hours dedicated to developing social responsibility and leadership skills

Rothschild Cube - Center for Effective Social Action



500

participants in Cube activities



2

accelerators for social initiatives



PROF. DAN BLUMBERG

VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Office of the Vice President for Regional and Industrial Development, led by Prof. Dan Blumberg, is charged with advancing and securing BGU's strategic role at the heart of the flourishing technological, scientific, and social ecosystem in Beer-Sheva and the Negev as a whole, with an emphasis on innovation. The Office is also responsible for multi-sector collaborations that advance the University, the city of Beer-Sheva and the Negev.

ONCE THE IDF'S TECHNOLOGICAL UNITS COMPLETE THEIR MOVE TO THE SOUTH, ENROLLMENT WILL GROW BY AT LEAST 1,500 STUDENTS. THE UNIVERSITY NEEDS TO PREPARE FOR THIS INCREASE BOTH PHYSICALLY AND ACADEMICALLY

Over the past year, we have strengthened our collaborations with key partners in government and across the region, with a focus on our collaboration with the Ministry of Defense regarding the IDF's move to the south. Later this year, an entire unit from the IDF's Telecommunications Division will be moving into the Advanced Technologies Park (ATP) adjacent to the University. At the same time, a new campus that will house the IDF's pre-military intelligence courses will open next to the University in the Ramot neighborhood.

The Digital C4i (command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence) campus next to the ATP will be completed in 2024, and the intelligence campus just to the north of Beer-Sheva is scheduled to open in 2027. We are brainstorming with each of these units to formulate dedicated study programs for their soldiers and have been holding dedicated showcases for soldiers in those units. The expectation is that once the IDF's technological units complete their move to the south, enrollment will grow by at least 1,500 students. The University needs to prepare for this increase both physically and academically, with new construction and the recruitment of new faculty members.

We also host campus visits from various technology units and are involved in exposing high school students to STEM disciplines and programs at BGU.

Furthermore, the Office plays an active role in advancing the establishment of the Beer-Sheva Innovation District in collaboration with our key partners: the Beer-Sheva Municipality, Soroka University Medical Center, the Ministry of Defense, the National Economic Council at the Prime Minister's Office, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Our efforts are guided by Joint-ELKA, which mediates the various interests of the partners and assists in formulating the principles of partnership. We

→ View of the
Advanced Technologies
Park across from the
Marcus Family Campus



meet frequently in various working groups and forums addressing the three core foci of the Innovation District: Desertech, Digital Health and Cybersecurity. The purpose is to assess the requirements for creating a fertile, interesting, and challenging platform in these areas and to promote work plans that will lead to prosperity, economic and social growth, and collaborations. We are also involved in the physical design of the district, aiming to create a vibrant active area that will attract large and small businesses, startups and various ventures, and create jobs, develop human capital, and more.

The plans for the Innovation District and the IDF's move to the south are closely interconnected, and as a result, on November 14, 2021, the government passed Resolution No. 625, which sets out the actions to be taken to provide extra support for the IDF's move to the south. One part of this Resolution allocates funds for the establishment of a joint R&D center for the University and the Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure at the Ministry of Defense; support for the establishment of an urban development laboratory in collaboration with MIT; and a Desertech center. Desertech is being promoted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. In collaboration with the Merage Foundation and the Israel Innovation Institute, we are increasing public awareness of this topic, and creating connections and collaborations with organizations from both academia and the worlds of industry and hi-tech. For example, this year we

held academic collaborations and joint workshops with universities from the United Arab Emirates, the International University of Rabat in Morocco, and others.

THE THREE CORE FOCI OF THE INNOVATION DISTRICT: DESERTECH, DIGITAL HEALTH AND CYBERSECURITY

The Office also works to promote ties with industry in the Negev, including ICL, Netafim, IAI, Rafael, and Elbit, in order to develop the economy in the Negev and strengthen the University's contributions to global innovation, the Israeli economy and job creation.



BGU was ranked

44 >

in Pitchbook's 2021 Top 50 ranking of universities graduating successful entrepreneur company founders from its undergraduate programs. Up two places from last year.



314 >

founders whose companies have raised a total of



> \$8.3 billion*

* According to Pitchbook

BGN TECHNOLOGIES

BGU's technology transfer company, BGN Technologies, promotes applied research collaboration between BGU researchers and industry, and protects and commercializes BGU inventions through patent prosecution, licensing agreements and the establishment of startups based on BGU technology.

2021 was BGN's busiest year ever:

▲ **133**

industry-sponsored
research agreements signed

▲ **31**

Israel Innovation Authority
projects approved

▲ **63**

new patent
applications submitted

▲ **9**

new startups established
based on BGU technologies

BGN led the formation of a bi-national consortium in the field of cybersecurity and energy which won funding from the prestigious Israel-US BIRD Foundation. This follows on the heels of another successful consortium in the field of water and energy which received BIRD funding in the previous year. **Voyage81**, a BGU startup specializing in AI-based computational imaging was acquired by the US-based cosmetics company and global beauty brand **Il Makiage** for an estimated USD 40 million.

YAZAMUT 360°

Yazamut 360° is the University's entrepreneurship center, established with the goal of offering students, researchers, and staff innovative learning experiences and ensuring they have the skillset necessary for success in today's rapidly changing environments.

Yazamut 360°'s **Oasis** program, in collaboration with BGN Technologies and Soroka University Medical Center's new innovation center, developed the **Lab Pre-Acceleration** program focusing on use-oriented research and facilitating links between physicians and researchers. The program won first place and NIS 10.8 million in funding in a tender by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The **Negev Prime** e-commerce program also expanded, thanks to support from the Mack Ness Fund, Bank Hapoalim, Yelin Lapidot Ltd., and Eldan Transportation Ltd..

LEADERS (Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Academic Development) is a year-long, highly selective



↑ Opening session of the Oasis Accelerator

undergraduate course for credit, offering 30 outstanding undergraduates from a wide array of disciplines both knowledge of and experience in the process of launching a startup. The program recently expanded its collaboration with Brown University's Prime program through joint training and networking sessions.

In October 2021, Yazamut 360° won first prize among 66 universities for encouraging "Outstanding Student Engagement & Leadership" at the annual conference of the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers in Higher Education.

Yazamut 360° in Numbers



6

programs



180

participants in
the Oasis
Demo Day



65

new ventures
& startups
established



\$11M

raised by
Yazamut 360° startups



7,000

student members
of entrepreneurial
communities



JEFF KAYE

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Shortly after becoming BGU President, Prof. Daniel Chamovitz initiated an in-depth strategic process aimed at developing a roadmap for the University's advancement in the coming years. The resulting strategic plan, **BGU Beyond 50**, articulates the University's defined goal: "to become one of the world's most outstanding universities and Israel's leading university in terms of research, teaching, and contribution to society" and a strategy to achieve it: "the recruitment of outstanding researchers to the University, while nurturing and retaining them and our existing faculty members."

Knowing that the efforts of the Division of Public Affairs and Resource Development would be critical in the ability to execute the strategic plan, for the past year, the Division has been laying the necessary groundwork. We have formed an excellent team and all the components are in place to ensure that BGU has the resources needed to realize its full potential.

One of the most important components is the Global Development Committee headed by Toni Young. The committee was established in 2021 to further collaboration between the University's associates organizations to achieve BGU's fundraising goals. The committee is putting the final touches on a global resource development plan, which will guide the division's fundraising efforts for the next decade.

THIS PLAN WILL ENABLE US TO LAUNCH A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN THE LIKES OF WHICH BGU HAS NOT SEEN BEFORE – A MAJOR, 10-YEAR, STRATEGIC, GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

This plan will enable us to launch a fundraising campaign the likes of which BGU has not seen before – a major, 10-year, strategic, global campaign that will involve all of our worldwide associates organizations, friends, and supporters, and many new ones. This campaign will provide the means to put BGU's strategic plan into action.

The global resource development plan focuses on three important areas, which the division has already started to advance:

TRANSLATING THE STRATEGIC PLAN INTO A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

BGU Beyond 50 provides an excellent framework for our fundraising efforts, but we must closely examine the plan and understand the actual cost of achieving each of the plan's objectives. This information will serve as the basis for both translating the strategic plan into a fundraising campaign, and establishing the campaign's global structure, leadership, and goals – critical actions that will contribute to a successful campaign.



← Dedication of the Gabriel and Angel Tamman Gate, Ben-Gurion Day 2021. L-R: Jeff Kaye, Joseph Tamman and David Tamman

DEVELOPING THE NORTH CAMPUS

The North Campus is an amazing blessing. No other Israeli university has the luxury of an unspoiled, undeveloped nearby plot of land at its disposal – an area that will allow growth in numbers and expansion into new domains. However, the development of the new campus, along with our physical development plans for the Eilat and Sde Boker campuses, represent a daunting challenge, as the funds required are significant.

ENGAGING WITH OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Our community of supporters means the world to us. We want to get to know you, engage you, and share our pride in BGU with you. We also want to build relationships with new friends and supporters and expand our global network of BGU advocates who are both knowledgeable and passionate about the University.

NO OTHER ISRAELI UNIVERSITY HAS THE LUXURY OF AN UNSPOILED, UNDEVELOPED NEARBY PLOT OF LAND AT ITS DISPOSAL – AN AREA THAT WILL ALLOW GROWTH IN NUMBERS AND EXPANSION INTO NEW DOMAINS

This year, we launched the **Halutz Initiative for Global Leadership**, an immersive program that turns BGU and the Negev into a platform for understanding today's global challenges and becoming part of the needed solutions. We launched this flagship program with an outstanding cohort of participants who are committed to Israel but new to BGU. In this immersive program, the participants gain knowledge and become vehicles for change. Our new partners build networks of support for BGU research and activities, while helping build a better world. We're looking forward to investing in new experiences and avenues of engagement and welcoming more people to the University family.



← The Halutz Initiative's first cohort spent a week in the Negev in March



THINGS ARE HAPPENING – YOU CAN FEEL IT IN THE AIR. WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR FRIENDS AND A SOLID PLAN IN PLACE, WE'RE ADVANCING TOWARD OUR GOAL

It's an exciting time to be at BGU. Things are happening – you can feel it in the air. With the support of our friends and a solid plan in place, we're advancing toward our goal. Together, we are building the best BGU possible – an institution that educates the leaders of tomorrow and

provides solutions to today's global challenges and those on the horizon. We're glad to have you by our side as we do so.

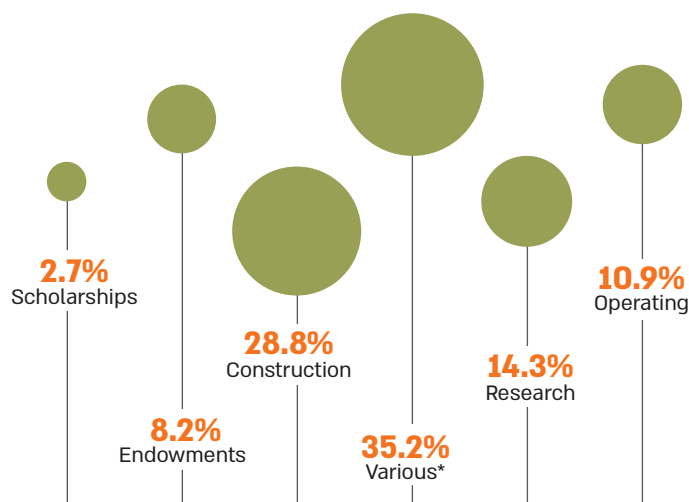
I encourage you to visit the University and meet our researchers, see our students, and experience the Beer-Sheva spirit and BGU energy yourself. If I can be of any assistance to you or answer any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly at jeffkaye@bgu.ac.il.

OUR WORLDWIDE FAMILY OF ASSOCIATES AT WORK 2020/21 YEAR-END FIGURES

	Total
Contributions Received	\$45,034,693
Interest Income from Endowments	\$29,088,809
Endowment Fund Balance (as of 30/9/2021)	\$922,585,827

Notes: Contribution figures are gross and do not reflect local fundraising charges | All figures are approximate due to fluctuating exchange and interest rates | Endowment balance includes \$548.6 million in the Marcus Fund and approximately \$65.9 million in endowment funds held in the US by and on behalf of A4BGU. (The figure does not include approximately \$28.0 million in trust funds held by and on behalf of A4BGU.) | 2020/21 interest income figure above represents the income distributed on endowments held in Israel (3%); \$18.73 million income released from the Marcus Fund; and \$1.60 million (4%) income released on endowment funds held in the US by and on behalf of A4BGU.

DESIGNATION OF DONATIONS



* Various: Leadership training; community involvement; support for certain centers/institutes; fellowships and scholarships outside the operating budget; faculty development; special projects; pending designation.

BGU IN NUMBERS

DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BY FACULTY AND DEGREE, 2020 – 2022*

	Humanities and Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Engineering Sciences	Health Sciences	Business and Management	Desert Studies	Kreitman Graduate School	Ben-Gurion Research Institute	Interdisciplinary Studies Unit**
2021-2022									
Bachelor's	3321	2208	5186	2239	1217				402
Master's	646	332	977	786	868	81		19	23
PhD	502	312	416	260	52	109	60		18
Postdoctoral	88	104	55	31	2	63	6		2
Non-Degree	153	2	143	15	19	2			
Teaching Certificate	125								
Total	5217	2986	6681	3289	2158	252	66	19	445
									TOTAL 21,113
									ACTUAL TOTAL*** 19,897

	Humanities and Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Engineering Sciences	Health Sciences	Business and Management	Desert Studies	Kreitman Graduate School	Ben-Gurion Research Institute	Brain Sciences School
2020-2021									
Bachelor's	3465	2305	5313	2285	1231				266
Master's	1181	360	1084	805	974	92		21	23
PhD	493	299	426	252	50	109	71		20
Postdoctoral	93	111	62	32	2	64	13		2
Non-Degree	163	3	139	13	25	3			
Teaching Certificate	141								
Total	5419	3067	6912	3322	2282	263	84	21	311
									TOTAL 21,681
									ACTUAL TOTAL*** 20,642

Notes

* Student numbers include students studying at BGU in Beer-Sheva, Sde Boker, and Eilat, in both degree and non-degree programs. They do not include international students, students in academic prep courses, the Air Force pilot program, and auditors. The above figures refer to first semester only.

** The Interdisciplinary Studies Unit, established in 2021, is the administrative unit overseeing students enrolled in interdisciplinary schools and programs, including the School of Brain Sciences and Cognition and the School of Sustainability and Climate Change.

*** Actual number of students enrolled does not match total, because there are students enrolled in multiple faculties or pursuing multiple degrees.

2021/22 OVERALL UNIVERSITY BUDGET (NIS/USD THOUSANDS IN CURRENT PRICES)

	Operating Budget		Research Budget		Development Budget		Special Programs		Total Budget	
	NIS	USD	NIS	USD	NIS	USD	NIS	USD	NIS	USD
Expenditure	1,387,266	420,384	260,000	78,788	221,743	67,195	128,879	39,054	1,997,888	605,421
Income	1,387,266	420,384	260,000	78,788	221,743	67,195	131,630	39,888	2,000,639	606,254

UNIVERSITY OPERATING BUDGET (NIS/USD MILLIONS)

	2020-2021			2021-2022			% change
	NIS m	USD m	%	NIS m	USD m	%	
INCOME							
Planning & Budgeting Committee	1,009.7	288.5	75.5%	1,049.9	318.2	75.7%	4.0%
Tuition and Dorms	211.6	60.5	15.8%	218.5	66.2	15.7%	3.2%
Contributions	12.4	3.5	0.9%	1.9	0.6	0.1%	-84.8%
Endowment Funds	40.0	11.4	3.0%	52.9	16.0	3.8%	32.1%
Other Income	62.3	17.8	4.7%	61.5	18.6	4.4%	-1.3%
Transfer from Funds	1.7	0.5	0.1%	2.7	0.8	0.2%	53.1%
TOTAL	1,337.8	382.2	100%	1,387.3	420.4	100.0%	3.7%
EXPENDITURE							
Salaries	982.0	280.6	73.4%	995.6	301.7	71.8%	1.4%
Fellowships & Student Assistance	89.7	25.6	6.7%	90.0	27.3	6.5%	0.4%
Teaching & Research Expenses	52.3	14.9	3.9%	59.9	18.2	4.3%	14.6%
Institute & Research Centers	39.1	11.2	2.9%	52.8	16.0	3.8%	34.9%
Computer Expenses	19.4	5.5	1.4%	22.3	6.8	1.6%	15.2%
Library Expenses	28.2	8.1	2.1%	26.9	8.2	1.9%	-4.5%
Administration	24.6	7.0	1.8%	29.1	8.8	2.1%	17.9%
Maintenance	93.4	26.7	7.0%	94.1	28.5	6.8%	0.8%
Financing	9.0	2.6	0.7%	16.4	5.0	1.2%	82.3%
TOTAL	1,337.8	382.2	100%	1,387.3	420.4	100.0%	3.7%
NIS/USD exchange rate:	3.50			3.30			
Higher education budgeting index	137.3			138.24			

BGU WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

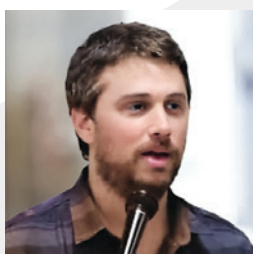
Recruitment and retention of the best and brightest young researchers is a vital part of our efforts to become a leading global institution. This year, BGU welcomes more than 20 promising new faculty members who are certain to introduce new perspectives and approaches and contribute to our impact across disciplines and fields of study.



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and Information Systems
Engineering



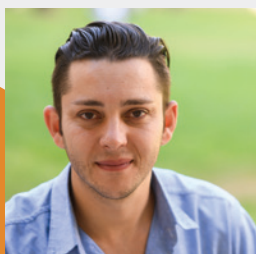
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Archeology and the Ancient
Near East



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DR. DAVID CORWIN
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DR. DEAN DORON
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**"I'M ESPECIALLY LOOKING FORWARD
TO MEETING AND WORKING WITH
STUDENTS FULL OF CURIOSITY AND
PASSION FOR RESEARCH."**

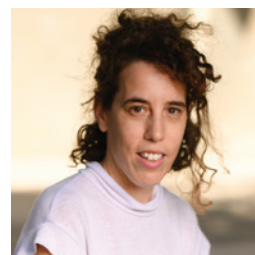
DR. DEAN DORON

**"I CHOSE TO COME TO BGU BECAUSE
OF THE PEOPLE I'VE MET HERE,
AND OF COURSE, BECAUSE OF
THE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT I'VE
RECEIVED TO SET UP MY RESEARCH
LAB."**

DR. ALEX BRODSKY



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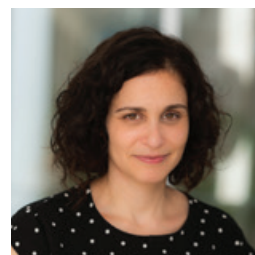
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**"THERE IS ROOM
TO GROW
AT BGU."**

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DR. IRIS GROSSMAN-HAHAM
Department of Life Sciences

**"I HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT THE
NEGEV, THE LEAST POPULATED PART
OF THE COUNTRY, IS WHERE MY
PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION IN MY
OWN FIELD OF EXPERTISE CAN HAVE
THE LARGEST IMPACT."**

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**"I CAME TO BGU AS A KREITMAN
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW AND
IMMEDIATELY FELL IN LOVE WITH
THE UNIQUE, HOMELY ENVIRONMENT
AT THE THRIVING DEPARTMENT, AND
ESPECIALLY WITH ITS PEOPLE."**

DR. MICHAL BIRKENFELD

**"WE ARE PRESENTLY TRYING TO
ESTABLISH ISRAEL'S FIRST PROGRAM
IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS AND
DIGITAL HEALTH, AND I AM PLEASED
TO BE A PART OF THESE EFFORTS."**

DR. NOAM BARDA



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**Meet our new faculty
here >>**



FAREWELL TO DAVID BAREKET

A LEADER POWERED BY PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE

Later this summer we bid farewell to our long-serving Vice President and Director-General, David Bareket, who has led from behind the scenes in a life devoted to the greater good.

When David Bareket joined the staff of BGU as a comptroller in 1989, the University had just experienced its worst financial crisis ever. The fledgling university had just 6,000 students and resources were scarce. Thirty odd years later, BGU has tripled its enrollment and is the most financially secure institution of higher education in the country, thanks in no small part to his careful stewardship.

During his more than three decades at BGU, Bareket has been guided by two main principles: putting the right people in the right positions; and details matter. As director-general, his purview extends from ensuring the smooth operation of everything from groundskeeping to the most advanced IT systems, to overseeing large-scale long-term projects like

the North Campus, and maintaining a balanced budget that provides the funding necessary for teaching and research – from physical spaces and multimillion dollar lab equipment to paperclips.

Bareket has lived a life of service from the days of his mandatory military service as a combat pilot in the Israeli Air Force. In fact, for most of his military service he was stationed at the Hatzerim air force base, just outside of Beer-Sheva. His experience as an air force officer has likely shaped how he sees his role today: "We are like the army quartermaster; our job is to support the frontlines of research and teaching; to help deans, department heads, and researchers succeed – within the limits of the resources at our disposal."

He recounted how, early on in his career at BGU, a researcher in the humanities asked for approval to spend 200\$ on a fountain pen, with the argument that the pen was his working tool. "I like fountain pens too," Bareket gestured to the ink pot on his desk, "but I buy them for myself."

WE ARE LIKE THE ARMY QUARTERMASTER; OUR JOB IS TO SUPPORT THE FRONTLINES OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

After his military service, Bareket got a degree in economics and accounting, and has held the University to account ever since - first as its comptroller and then as Deputy Director-General for Finance, and from 2003, as Director-General. He was appointed Vice President in 2007.

Bareket's first assignment at BGU was to put its finances in order: The executive committee had basically replaced the entire finance division and hired Bareket, together with Dr. Israel German, to rebuild the university's financial administration during a period of runaway inflation: "It was a real challenge," he recalls.

"The most important aspect of the process [of extricating the University from its financial straits and setting it up for success] was getting the right people to lead processes, set up the required budgetary and financial oversights, develop computerized systems to support the oversight and, especially, to change organizational culture and ensure that the University operate within the confines of available resources – or, in other words, to strictly control the money

faucet... Once this was done, we needed to increase the University's income by increasing student enrollment and conducting more research with more measurable publications, so as to receive more state funding. And stabilizing and developing the University's finances led to an increase in donations, since donors prefer to give to institutions that are managed responsibly and successfully."

"We were fortunate too," he recalls. Thanks to the mass wave of immigration in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse in the early 1990s, the number of researchers and students grew dramatically within a few years, and a new president, Prof. Avishay Braverman, was elected to office at BGU. "Braverman had a grand plan for BGU's growth," Bareket says, and he set in motion a period of expansion and growth.

Prof. Rivka Carmi, who succeeded Braverman as president, continued shepherding the University's growth with the founding of the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev at BGU and the opening of the Advanced Technologies Park next door. Prof. Daniel Chamovitz is the third president Bareket has worked with. "I didn't expect this to happen," he says, "but am grateful for the trust he has put in me."

Even though BGU is no longer that small scruffy upstart that Bareket encountered when he first arrived, it is still characterized by the feeling of community, of family, and by the dedication of everyone involved to its mission. This is one of the things that make BGU special in his eyes. Bareket's personal motto – "It's all about the people" – perfectly encapsulates his feelings about the University and,

→ David Bareket with President Prof. Rivka Carmi and BGU staff at the University's 40th anniversary celebrations



just as importantly, his approach to management: Fostering human resources, hiring the right people and placing them in the right positions, giving them space to thrive and be their best – this is what drives success and makes working at BGU so rewarding.

For example, he recalls his secretary from the old campus in Beit Hias, whom he drove to the hospital when her water broke and recounts with fatherly pride the progress of her career in the University's administration through to a master's degree and a position as the head administrator of a key unit.

When we asked what he saw as his greatest accomplishment, he replied: "I am most proud of the management team I built, which runs the University today. They do a great job driving it forward. I don't mean just my deputy directors, but everyone, down to department heads. An organization is successful thanks to its people."

As a firsthand witness and active participant in many of the most crucial moments in BGU's trajectory, Bareket can also testify to the importance of working together toward common goals: "An important part of our story is the close collaboration between the University and the Beer-Sheva

Municipality. Some of the biggest projects we have undertaken have been in partnership with the city."

One such collaboration was the development of the Advanced Technologies Park (ATP) across the train tracks from the University, a joint undertaking with the Municipality under Mayor Ruvik Danilovich and private industry. "Braverman had vision; and he understood the need to develop a hi-tech industry in Beer-Sheva, so as to keep our graduates in the South" explains Bareket, "and I feel privileged to have been part of the team that made this happen."

The ATP was originally intended to cover 60 acres, Bareket recounts, but the University and the Beer-Sheva Municipality agreed to relinquish half of the land to the IDF for its C4i technology campus. "We realized that the proximity of the IDF was important," he explains. "Now we have an entire innovation ecosystem surrounding the University."

BGU's most daring and most important undertaking in recent decades, according to Bareket, was to lease the land for the North Campus from the Israel Land Authority – which means that there is now ample room for the University to grow into for the foreseeable future – some 25 acres in total. "The



JUST THE KIND OF PERSON YOU WANT AT THE HELM

Long after completing his compulsory military service, Major (res.) David Bareket continued as a reserve duty flight instructor at the Air Force Academy. There, he logged hundreds of flights with air force cadets teaching them how to fly fighter jets. Most were routine, until one day, one flight wasn't.

Takeoff was normal and they ascended to 2,000 feet (about twice the height of the Empire State Building). Suddenly, with no warning whatsoever, the cockpit canopy blew completely off. Howling wind

rushed in, ripping Major Bareket's helmet off his head and out of the plane – rendering him unable to communicate, not with air traffic control, not with the trainee. Oh, and incidentally, the wind dislocated his shoulder.

So, what did he do? Did he panic? Of course not. Did he eject and let his plane crash into the ground? "That would have been irresponsible with such an expensive plane," he dryly explained. Seeing that the stick was still responsive, Bareket calmly brought them in for a safe landing.

land had been set aside for the University's growth early on," he notes, "but we had to lay claim to it. Had we not done that in time, the North Campus would by now be an extension of the Ramot neighborhood and we would have had nowhere to go. And we got it at a bargain price."

Leaving what he sees as his life's work is bitter-sweet for Bareket: "We are among the handful of institutions in Israel which do important work and enjoy widespread consensus about their significance. We are a world-class power in research, and that is nothing to sneeze at. BGU is situated in the Negev rather than the center of the country, yet we are measured by the exact same criteria as universities in the center. We don't receive preferential treatment. What we have accomplished is despite these disadvantages," he emphasizes.

Indeed, BGU's greatest strength, according to Bareket, is its location in the Negev. As a large comprehensive university, and the only university in the Negev, it has an important role in developing the Negev and Israel's south as a whole, with all that implies. And thanks to both luck and foresight, BGU now has the means to make good on its promise: one of the largest hospitals in the country is right next door, and the ATP, the train station, the IDF bases, and the future innovation district are all nearby. "These advantages attract faculty who are also excited by the challenges of our mission. And no less importantly – devoted supporters who share our vision and believe in our ability to bring it to life," he explains.

Bareket is leaving the University well prepared to further expand its vision and scope. "I hope the stability of the last three decades continues," he says. "I wish for the North Campus to be filled with new buildings and academic endeavors, and we continue to



↑ David Bareket visits a campus building site with donors Carole and Marcus Weinstein

drive the development of the Negev. Our responsible fiscal policy and financial stability facilitate trust and make possible ambitious projects like building the North Campus. We have the resources thanks to the generosity of our donors, and we owe it to them too to be responsible with their money."

WE ARE AMONG THE HANDFUL OF INSTITUTIONS IN ISRAEL WHICH DO IMPORTANT WORK AND ENJOY WIDESPREAD CONSENSUS ABOUT THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

In keeping with a man who has devoted his life to the service of others, plans for the future after retirement are somewhat vague. Bareket says he looks forward to just taking a break and enjoying life with his seven grandchildren. He would like to certify as a yacht skipper and return to flying, do some travelling, embracing whatever comes along.

Of course, he won't be abandoning us entirely, remaining on the Board of Governors. His final promise epitomizes his career serving the University and its community: "Whatever the University needs, I will be happy to be of service."



David Bareket served under three BGU presidents (L-R): Prof. Avishay Braverman, Prof. Rivka Carmi, and Prof. Daniel Chamovitz

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2021-2022

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We are grateful for your generosity and support of the BGU mission. Together, everything is possible!

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<https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/associates/Pages/donor-recognition.aspx>

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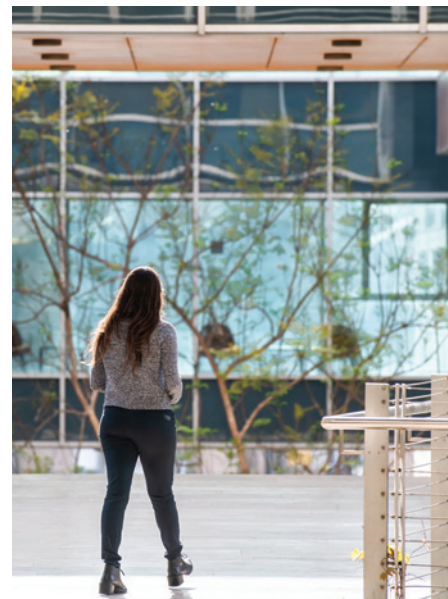
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The Fira and Efrim Guzik Plaza was planted this year

