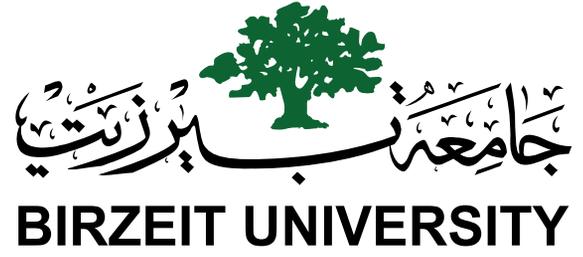




Annual Media Report

2014-2013



Annual Report  
2014-2013

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## Mission

Birzeit University an independent, not-for-profit institution of higher education overseen by an autonomous Board of Trustees. The University seeks to maintain excellence in teaching and learning, to advance knowledge through research, and to contribute to community service. It believes firmly in freedom of thought and expression, democratic practices, intellectual pluralism and civilized discourse. The University endeavours to produce leaders who hold themselves to high standards of personal integrity, and are committed to critical and innovative thinking and lifelong learning. The University strives to contribute to human civilization issuing from the Arab-Islamic heritage.

## Vision

Birzeit University would endeavour to remain the foremost Palestinian University, recognized for distinction in education, research and community service, and the institution of choice for the most promising students and academics in Palestine. The University would seek to maintain its preeminent role as a higher learning institution graduating leaders in all walks of life. The University would strive to become one of the best universities in the Arabic region in the medium term and a world-class University in the longer term.

## Values

**Excellence:** Birzeit University seeks to achieve the best in everything it does: education, research, leadership of opinion, artistic expression and community service.

**A University atmosphere based on mutual respect, academic freedom and freedom of expression:** Birzeit University seeks to treat all individuals, and for members of its community to treat each other, with respect, dignity, fairness, understanding and transparency and to celebrate differences in perspectives, beliefs, traditions and experiences; all in an atmosphere of academic freedom and freedom of expression.

**Diversity of student body:** Birzeit University seeks to have a student body that is representative of the whole of Palestine, socially, economically and geographically; and to marshal the resources needed to admit qualified students, irrespective of economic status or physical challenge.

**Civic, social and humanitarian responsibility:** Birzeit University is committed to using its creative intellectual energies to address responsibly local and regional, thereby contributing to the development of society, environment and heritage.

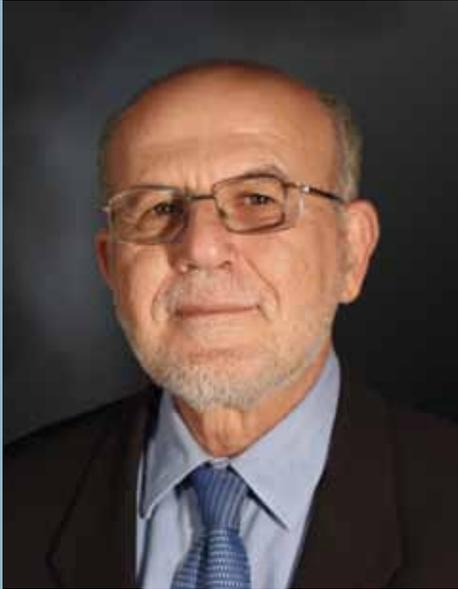
The University also is committed to instilling into its students the spirit of voluntarism, service and professionalism. **Integrity:** Birzeit University cherishes personal responsibility, integrity, impartiality, fairness, accountability and honesty, and seeks to uphold them in practice.

**Concern for the environment:** Birzeit University seeks to disseminate and promote environmental awareness and respect for nature and to ensure that this is reflected in all that it practices.

**Professional Ethics:** Birzeit University seeks to hold all members of the University community: faculty, students and workers, to the highest standards of professional ethics, and strives to instill ethical sensitivity in its students.

**Lifelong learning:** Birzeit University seeks to enable its graduates to love and celebrate life, through lifelong quest for knowledge, understanding and professional development.





## Message From the President

This academic year, the university has assertively advanced towards excellence in research, as the year witnessed remarkable successes in terms of scientific research and publications in refereed journals. This was indicated in a study prepared by the Faculty of Graduate Studies showing that the university publications were quoted 5063 times until the publication date of this report, with a difference about 500 points from the following Palestinian university. Regarding the index (H), which is universally used to measure the impact of refereed research on the scientific community, Birzeit University was rated the first locally.

To encourage university students to move towards excellence in scientific research, the university held a conference for Palestinian postgraduate research in natural and applied sciences students. The university also offered graduate students an opportunity to present their research projects to the scientific research committee in order to receive support, and also offered the opportunity to undergraduate students to present their research projects, out of its strong belief in the need to encourage and consolidate the research trends among its students.

Certain disciplines, majors and new courses have occupied important aspects. Moreover, the new unit at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration is expected to impact the advancement of scientific research in the Faculty of Law, specifically in the areas of constitutional law, as the university has partnered with European, Egyptian and local universities to work on the development of a master program in Software Engineering, which will be the first of its kind in the Middle East .

Furthermore, this academic year witnessed successes of university professors in terms of participating in research fellowships abroad, and some earned doctorate degrees in different academic fields. The university has received a number of distinguished professors in scientific fields and research preparation in all disciplines from several universities in Germany, Britain, Spain, Italy, Poland and France.

The university's national role was very active in supplying and supporting the Gazans after the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, which was manifested in launching an invitation to all academics worldwide, all Women's organizations and activists for freedom and justice to take clear stand against the obnoxious Israeli occupation.

To shed light on daily and national issues of concern and to contribute to the formation of public opinion and make recommendations to the decision-makers, the university held a number of important conferences on water and public health, human rights, international humanitarian law, planning and developing rural areas, current developments in the Palestinian economy and policies, Palestinian youth and forms of commitment and interaction in daily life, protection of heritage, problems of archeology and the Israeli violations against archaeological excavations.

Despite our contentment in these great achievements, yet we also feel sorry for the passing away of a number of university professors who, and sadness to the martyrdom of the student Saji Darwish Jarabah, who was killed by the brutal occupation forces in cold blood.

Dr. Khalil Hindi



## University Achievements

## Birzeit University Wins Several EU-Funded Tempus Grants

The Birzeit University Faculty of Information Technology won an EU-Funded Tempus grant to develop an academic program, a minor, in computer (Serious Games). In addition, the Faculty of Engineering won two EU Tempus-funded awards, the first of which is to develop a Master's of Science program in electrical engineering, and the second to develop a mechanical engineering curricula on the maintenance of vehicles entitled, "Career-Oriented Curricula Development for Road Vehicle Maintenance".

The IT fund amounts to 1.5 million Euros for a period of three years, and combines the work of seven universities: Birzeit University and Al-Quds University in Palestine; Sfax University Sousse University in Tunisia; as well as three European universities (the University of Aachen in Germany, University of Stockholm in Sweden and Utrecht University in the Netherlands).

## Friends of Birzeit University Hall Inaugerated

The Friends of Birzeit University Hall in the Mohammed Masrouji Media Building was inaugurated on February 20, 2014. The opening ceremony was attended by Palestinian businessman and head of the organization, Mohammed Masrouji, Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib, Friends of Birzeit University director Amal Ghadban, Media Development Center director Nibal Thawabteh, Friends of Birzeit University members and others from the university community.



### Birzeit University Students Invent Gilding Printer

Birzeit University Mechanical Engineering Department students have invented a new printer capable of printing in gold, or gilding, with less effort. The printer was developed as part of a graduation project that was supported by Lasermax Printing Solution.

### Birzeit University Represented on Arab Internet Governance Forum Advisory Body

The Arab Internet Governance Forum secretariat has selected Birzeit University's Senior Information Systems Auditor Hanna Kreitem to be a member of its Advisory Committee.

### Grad Student Collides with Opportunity at Geneva Physics Program

Teaching assistant and physics graduate student Suhad Daraghmah participated in an eight-week summer program held at the European organization for nuclear research, CERN, in Geneva.

Daraghmah worked on a project entitled "Measuring the asymmetry in the production of  $B_{\pm}$  in the proton-proton collisions at LHCb" in cooperation with the Large Hadron Collider b (LHCb) research group from the University of Oxford.

The CERN summer program included a series of lectures on various topics in the field of particle physics, accelerator technology and experimental high-energy physics. There was also a field trip to the LHC, an underground accelerator.

About 275 students of 80 different nationalities participated in the program, which provided an opportunity to share physics concepts with colleagues from other universities and research institutes. Moreover, the program allowed students who intend to continue with their studies to make contact with scientists from prestigious research centers.

Physics assistant professor and program contact person Wafaa Khater said that this is not the first time that outstanding students from the Birzeit University physics department have participated in this program. In 2008, physics student Arwa Bannoura spent a summer at CERN and she is now studying for her doctoral degree in the University of Wuppertal in Germany. The year before that, physics student Mohammad Hattawy participated, and he is now preparing for his doctoral degree at the University of Paris Sud in France.

The CERN annual summer program is held every summer, allowing excellent physics students to continue their learning in a hands-on-environment. Department chair and director of the master's program in physics Wafaa Khater said, "We are always proud of our female and male students."



## Birzeit University Earns 12 Erasmus Mundus Scholarships

Birzeit University has been granted a dozen scholarships that cover the tuition fees of undergraduate, master's, doctoral and post-doctoral students. These scholarships are part of the Erasmus Mundus - AVEMPACE III project, funded by the European Union.

The AVEMPACE III is one of five student exchange projects implemented by Birzeit University in the past two years. The partners in this project are a number of Palestinian Jordanian, Syrian and European universities.



## Birzeit University Celebrates 39th Commencement

On June 26, 2014, Birzeit University celebrated the graduation of a new class of students from the faculties of Graduate Studies, Business and Economics, Science, and of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, university Board of Trustees Chairman Hanna Nasir and members of the board, university President Khalil Hindi, faculty members, high-ranking officials, graduate students and their parents.



## Birzeit University Inaugurates Student Garden “Shurfa Terrace”

Birzeit University celebrated the opening of the student garden Shurfa Terrace, which is located on campus between the Al-Maktoum building and the Faculty of Arts.

The garden, donated by Palestinian businessman Samir Owaidah, was designed by the students of architecture to be an open green space for student socializing and cultural dialogue.



## Eight Students Win Membership in UNESCO Chair for Astronomy, Astrophysics and Space Physics

Engineer Dawoud Tarawa, member of the UNESCO Chair for Astronomy, Astrophysics and Space Physics in Palestine, visited Birzeit University on May 17, 2014 to deliver membership cards to eight students who were admitted to the body.

Suleiman Baraka, UNESCO chair holder from Al-Aqsa University in Gaza, met with the students by videoconference and explained to them how to participate in training courses in astronomy in neighboring countries and in Europe.

The eight students will be the founding members of the Birzeit University Astronomy Club that is being formed under the supervision of professors Wafaa Khater, Wa'el Karain and Safi Safi from the physics department.



## Former VP Becomes a Senior Member of IEEE

Adnan Yahya, a former university official, became a Senior Member of the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi recently received a congratulations letter from the President of the IEEE in the United States J. Roberto B. de Marca, in which Hindi was notified that Birzeit University former Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya had assumed a top senior/ professional rank at the IEEE this year.



## Academic Development

## Courses in Management and Strategic Planning Offered

The Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration, in cooperation with the Jerusalem Foundation for Community Development, organized two training courses for faculty students. The first course was a training of trainers, and the second addressed management and strategic planning. The courses were held over three Sundays starting January 19, 2014.



## University of Naples II to Cooperate with Birzeit University on MA Program

On March 10, 2014, Birzeit University signed an agreement with the Italian University of Naples II to develop an MA program in culture and archeology.

The signing ceremony was attended by university president Khalil Hindi, University of Naples II Professor Mario Minero, Birzeit University Vice President for Academic Affairs Henry Giacaman, Department of History and Archeology chairperson Hamed Salem and External Relations Officer Dolly Kaibni.



## Social Sciences Doctorate To Be Offered 2014-15

Birzeit University held a briefing session on March 13, 2014 on the new doctoral program in social sciences, which will be offered by the beginning of academic year 2014-2015.

The doctoral program in social sciences was accredited in 2013 by the Palestinian Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.



## Authors Donate Book Proceeds for Research Grant

Authors Farid Muna and Grace Khoury, who co-write the book «The Palestinian Executive: Leadership under Challenging Conditions», announced the allocation of a percentage of their book sales to support scientific research through the Birzeit University Faculty of Business and Economics.

The book authors signed an agreement with Birzeit University Faculty of Business and Economics Dean Mohammed Nasr, stipulating that the authors purchased 1,000 copies of the book from its publisher in 2012 for resale at a price of \$35 per copy. The expected sales will be donated to MBA and Master's of Economics students pursuing research or their graduate theses.



University's National Role

## Lecture Reviews Mechanisms of Arab Central Elections Committees

The Birzeit University Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held a lecture on “Working Mechanisms of Central Elections Committees: A Comparative Approach”. The lecture was delivered by Taleb Awad, the director of the Arab World Observatory for Democracy and Elections, on November 7, 2013.



## Agreement Signed to Preserve Digital Heritage

Birzeit University signed an agreement with the Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science on August 29 that will provide \$16,980 of funding for the implementation of the «Heritage Preservation via Digital Media and Animation Project».



## Speakers Address Gap Left by Inactive Palestinian Legislative Council

The Public Administration Department at the Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration held on January 15, 2014 a seminar entitled «The Absence of the Palestinian Legislative Council: Challenges and Opportunities». The seminar engaged the problematic impact of the absence of the parliament on politics and law in society.

The speakers addressed three main issues: is the Palestinian parliament legitimate and to what extent?, the legitimacy of the advisory workgroups that were recently formed to revitalize the Legislative Council’s work, and the legality of the “power of attorney” given by West Bank Legislative Council members to their Gazan counterparts.



## Institute of Law Trains Officials on Family Court Laws and Procedures

Working with the High Council of Family Courts, Birzeit University's Institute of Law launched on October 28, 2013 a three-day training course on Family Court Laws and Procedures. The training activity targeted legal advisors at governor's offices and was designed to consolidate coordination of family and social issues between the relevant bodies and initiate future cooperation for serving and promoting the justice sector in Palestine.

## Faculty Member Appointed Minister of Education and Higher Education

President Khalil Hindi, on behalf of the Birzeit University community, congratulated faculty member Khawla Shaksheer-Sabri on her appointment as minister of education and higher education.

Shaksheer-Sabri earned her doctorate degree in science education in 1981 from the University of Northern Colorado in the United States, and joined Birzeit University as an assistant professor during 1981-1989. Shaksheer became an associate professor of education from 1990 until 1997, and then was promoted to become professor in 1996 and chaired the Birzeit University Department of Education and Psychology for several years until 2009.

Shaksheer also headed the master's program in education and assumed the Faculty of Graduate Studies deanship from 2002 to 2003, working as a consultant for educational projects under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the United Nations Development Programme, UN Children's Fund, and ANERA and as a visiting professor at United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Shaksheer was elected as a board member of the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and supervised 50 master's theses at Birzeit University, Al-Najah University, and Al-Quds University during the period from 1981 to 2012.

Shaksheer conducted many research papers and published articles in specialized educational topics in both Arabic and English, in addition to authoring three books in Arabic. Shaksheer has currently served as member of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission since 2012.

### Birzeit University Stands in Solidarity with the Prisoners

The Birzeit University administration, Workers' Union, and students organized a sit-in on June 3, 2014 in solidarity with the prisoners in Israeli prisons and those detainees who have been on hunger strike for more than 40 days.



### Agreement Will Promote Integrity and Anti-Corruption through Education

Birzeit University's Public Administration Department signed on June 10, 2014 an agreement with Integrity Action to promote the culture of integrity and anti-corruption through education.

The agreement aims to develop cooperative working relationships between both parties by providing advanced training for Birzeit University faculty members and students on integrity and community building, holding workshops and training sessions designed to introduce the concepts of transparency, accountability, reform, anti-corruption. It will also stimulate and encourage students and faculty to conduct research on these vital issues. Moreover, Birzeit University and Integrity Action will form a joint research committee.

## Birzeit University Thanked for Israeli Product Boycott

Birzeit University Public Relations Office received on July 17, 2014 a delegation from the Boycott of Israeli Products Campaign, which included head of the Consumer Protection Association Salah Haniyeh and head of the Palestinian Federation of Paper Industries Ayman Subaih.





Conferences and Initiatives

## International Social Sciences Conference Focuses on Palestinian Youth

The Birzeit University Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, in partnership with the French Institute for Near East Studies, held a two-day conference on November 18-19, 2013 entitled, «Palestinian Youth: the Forms of Everyday Engagement»



## «Google in Birzeit» Event Introduces Services, Ambassadors

On October 2, 2013, Birzeit University organized an extra-curricular activity entitled “Google in Birzeit” to explain the Google website and its various applications and to introduce the roles played by Google “ambassadors” in Palestinian universities. University students, particularly those in the Faculty of Information Technology, attended the event.



## Engineering Professor Presents Research at International Conference

Engineering Faculty Dean Afif Hasan participated in the 9th World Congress on Engineering Education held in Beirut. The conference was organized by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations – Committee on Education in Engineering, in cooperation with the Federation of Lebanese Engineers and the Federation of Arab Engineers.

### 11th National Child Conference Seeks to Protect Children from Economic Exploitation

As part of the National Campaign on the Protection of Children from Economic Exploitation, Defence for Children International Palestine (DCI-Palestine) held the 11th National Child Conference, entitled “Protecting Childhood through Law and Social Responsibility – Stop Child Labor”, on October 24-25, 2013 at Birzeit University.



### Biology and Biochemistry Student Participates in Qatar Foundation Research Conference

Birzeit University Biology and Biochemistry Student Amani Hatem Abed participated in the Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference, held on November 24-25, 2013. Amani presented a research paper entitled: “Nutritional quality of grape leaves: a comparison between arid and temperate areas in Palestine”. The research was supervised by professor of biology and biochemistry Jamil Harb.

### Birzeit University Participates in the Second Arab Innovation Network Conference

Birzeit University engineering and science students participated in the Second Arab Innovation Network Annual Conference (AINAC 2013) held on December 6-7, 2013 at the Dead Sea, Jordan. The conference included a competition, an exhibition and a symposium.

## National Congress on Media Development in Palestine Reports UNESCO Study Results

Birzeit University's Media Development Center held a National Congress on Media Development in Palestine on December 11, 2013. Participants presented and discussed the preliminary findings of an assessment of media development in Palestine using media development indicators created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which also supported the event.



## Birzeit University Participates in a Conference on Cyber Crimes

Professor Ammar Dwaik from the Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration participated in a conference and training session on cyber crimes, organized by the European Academy of Law on November 21-22, 2013. The training session discussed the admissibility of cyber evidence in courts.

## Birzeit University Participates in the Tunisia Integrity Forum

Professor Mayyada al-Badawi of the Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration participated in the Third Tunisia Integrity Forum, organized by the United Nations Development Programme on December 4-5, 2013 in Tunisia.

The forum, entitled, “A National Strategy for the Fight against Corruption: Stimulate Synergies”, sought to strengthen dialogue and consultation on anti-corruption strategies and initiatives.

### Office of Grants and Contracts Graduates First Capacity Building Class

The Birzeit University Office of Grants and Contracts held on February 24, 2014 a graduation ceremony for participants in its “Proposal Writing for Development Projects” course. The ceremony was attended by Birzeit University president Khalil Hindi and director of the Office of Grants and Contracts Dolly Kaibni.



### Institute of Women Studies Holds Sixth Annual Conference

On the twentieth anniversary of its founding, the Birzeit University Institute of Women Studies held its sixth annual conference, “Doing Politics in Palestine: Between Alienation and Participation” on March 15, 2014 at the Said Khoury Building. This year’s conference explored political organizational forms and political activism in Palestine and the Arab World in the wake of recent socio-economic and political changes in the region.



### Birzeit Instructor in UK Develops New Modular Motor Drive for Electric Cars

Birzeit University has sent one of its academic instructors, Mahran Quraan, to pursue his PhD in Electrical Power Engineering at the University of Birmingham-UK. Quraan is working to develop a new motor drive for electrical cars. He is being supported by the Palestinian Telecommunications Group, PalTel.

### Birzeit Students Develop a Vision System for the Blind

Three students from the Department of Computer Systems Engineering developed a vision system for the blind that provides them with the opportunity to live a more normal life and move smoothly like the sighted. The students developed another system that broadcasts their location, if they are in danger. These inventions were produced under a graduation project entitled «Be Safe».

### Third Symposium on Computational Linguistics and Arabic Content (iArabic'2014) Enjoys Worldwide Participation

The Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies organized the Third Palestinian Symposium on Computational Linguistics and Arabic Content on April 12., 2014. Telecommunication and Information Technology Minister Safa' Nasser Eldin opened the symposium, alongside researchers from various Palestinian universities, institutes and companies, to discuss the latest research and projects in Arabic language technologies.

### International Conference on Rural Development Held at Birzeit University

Birzeit University's Architectural Engineering Department launched on April 28, 2014 an international scientific conference entitled, «Rural Areas: challenges and aspirations between conservatism and development». The conference is part of an academic cooperation program with Graz University of Technology in Austria, and the APPEAR project, which aims at capacity building in the field of Palestinian rural development and planning.





Community Outreach

## Faculty Activities

### Over Two Dozen Scholarships Available for European Study

Birzeit University's Faculty of Engineering on October 3, 2013 hosted project coordinator Olivier Pfeiffer from the Technical University of Berlin to talk about AVEMPACE III - ERASMUS MUNDUS, an academic scholarship seeking to broaden cooperation between European and Middle Eastern universities.



### Safety Main Topic in Electric Security Systems Lecture

In cooperation with the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECO), the Birzeit University Department of Electrical Engineering held a lecture on November 19, 2013. The lecture focused on electric security systems and their rules, and was delivered by Engineer Ali Taha from JDECO.



### Graduate Studies Workshop Engages Academic Integrity

On November 23, 2013, the Birzeit University Faculty of Graduate Studies organized a workshop on academic integrity. The workshop was intended to increase awareness of academic integrity among the faculty's students and those interested.



### Visiting Scholar Pierre Nicodeme Lectures on Analytic Combinatorics

Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Research Associate Pierre Nicodeme from the Ecole Polytechnique delivered a lecture on November 25, 2013 sponsored by the Birzeit University Mathematics Department.

### Workshop on Cultural Heritage and Conflict

The Birzeit University Department of History and Archaeology and CBRL Kenyon Institute held on January 30, 2014 a workshop on cultural heritage and conflict featuring the findings of local and international researchers.



### Birzeit University, Jordan University of Science and Technology Sign Cooperation Agreement in Nursing

A memorandum of understanding was signed on January 28, 2014 between Jordan University's Science and Technology Faculty of Nursing, represented by its dean, Arwa Ewais, and the Birzeit University Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, represented by its dean, Tamer Essawi. The event was attended by university president Khalil Hindi, Vice President for Academic Affairs Henry Giacaman and faculty members.



### Use Facebook Wisely, Advises Media Lecturer

Facebook and other social media are the results of tremendous advancements in information technology, said media researcher Mahmoud Alfataftah in a lecture offered by the Faculty of Arts on November 19, 2013. They are powerful tools that can be negative or positive depending on how they are used, he said.

## ATLAS Researcher Traces History of Higgs Boson Discovery

Visiting scholar Kate Shaw wowed listeners with her description of the discovery of the Higgs Boson particle in a lecture sponsored by the Birzeit University Physics Department on October 29, 2013.



## Architectural Engineering Wins Partnership in Hebron Arts, Crafts and Design Project

Birzeit University's Architectural Engineering Department was awarded an international project through MEDNETA, which is funded by the European Union. The ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme sponsoring the project is a cooperative effort taking place along the borders of the region.

The project will be kicked off in Athens, Greece on January 30, 2014 and will reconsider arts, crafts and buildings in historic cities in the Mediterranean basin and develop the urban environment in order to revive these activities. The two-year project includes seven educational and research institutions from Greece, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, and Tunisia, as well as Palestine, represented by Birzeit University. The project's total budget is around two million Euros, of which Birzeit University's share amounts to nearly 12%.



### Birzeit University Wins an EU-Funded Tempus Project on “Serious Games”

For the second year in a row, Birzeit University Faculty of Information Technology won a European Union-funded TEMPUS competition titled, “Serious Games: Pathway Within the Undergraduate IT Programs.” Last year’s winning project focused on developing a master’s degree in software engineering – the first of its kind in the Middle East. This year, the IT faculty was awarded a pilot project that aims to build the capacities of the four consortium universities in Tunisia and Palestine by enabling them to develop sustainable curriculum in “Serious Games.”

### Birzeit University, Bisan Systems To Train Graduates in Accounting Technology

The Faculty of Law and Public Administration signed an agreement with Bisan Systems Company to develop students’ skills to compete in the job market. The agreement was signed on December 23, 2013 by Dean Asem Khalil and Bisan Director General Michael Quffeh.



### Birzeit University Graduates New Class of Osool Students

The Faculty of Business and Economics and the Arab Bank celebrated the graduation of a new class of 45 students from the Osool program on March 17, 2014.

Osool is a training program that develops skills related to banking and finance. The program is comprised of 13 courses covering service excellence, detecting counterfeiting, forgery, and money laundering. Students from various disciplines in the Business and Economics Faculty have joined the program.

### Fifth Open Health Day Demonstrates “My Life is My Health”

The Birzeit University Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions organized on May 27, 2014 the Fifth Annual Open Health Day under the slogan «My life is my health». The event seeks to promote interest in public health and deepen relationships between students and the Ministry of Health, health institutions, civil society organizations, pharmaceutical companies, and the local community.



### Tenth Engineering Day Garner Support from Regional, Community Partners

The Birzeit University Faculty of Engineering on May 20, 2014 kicked off its tenth Engineering Day, which included exhibits by engineering companies, faculty's graduate students' projects, technical seminars, and a ceremony honoring outstanding engineering students.

The event, which was sponsored by Projacs International, BCI Company, and Royal Industrial Corporation, is intended to deepen relations with the wider community and create positive interactions with engineering companies, the Palestinian Engineers Association, and professional federations.



### Faculty of Science Open Day Targets School Students

The Birzeit University Faculty of Science organized on May 14, 2014 a science open day under the auspices of Wataniya Mobile Company. The event included various laboratory tests to introduce visitors, among them school and university students, to the activities carried out in the faculty's different laboratories.



### Political Science Department Helps Prepare Jordan Workshop

Represented by professors Ghada Almadbouh and Lourd Habash, Birzeit University's Political Science Department at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration participated along with political science faculty from U.S. universities in preparing for a specialized workshop on the events and developments in the Arab world that led to revolutions and transformations in the political systems.

### Faculty of Arts Organizes Fourth Annual Open Day

The Birzeit University Faculty of Arts organized its fourth annual Open Day entitled, “Strong Voices in Support of Comprehensive Education”. The event included a number of cultural, academic and art activities, as well as sports games devoted to those with disabilities in Palestine. It was sponsored by Diakonia.



### Sixth Annual Accounting Day Focuses on Auditing

The Accounting Department in the Birzeit University Faculty of Business and Economics organized on April 5, 2014 the Sixth Annual Accounting Day entitled, «The Auditing Career: Prospects and Challenges». The event is meant to highlight issues related to the accounting profession, its challenges and prospects for development.

## Birzeit University, Exalt Technologies to Partner in Support of IT Students

On March 17, 2014, the Computer Systems Engineering Department signed a partnership agreement with Exalt Technologies to promote cooperation and bridge the gap between academics and Palestinian market needs. The event was attended by Vice President for Academic Affairs Henry Giacaman, IT Dean Ali Jaber, Exalt Technologies CEO Mr. Tariq Ma'ayeh, Computer Systems Engineering Department Chair Iyad Tumar and many others.

## “White Coats” Celebrated in Dr. Pharmacist Graduation

The Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions held on June 2, 2014, a “white coat ceremony” for 33 third-year students in the Dr. Pharmacist program. Students donned the official professional uniform, and were given a job title to signal their practical training.



## Law and Public Administration Open Day Links Faculty with Community

The Faculty of Law and Public Administration, in partnership with the Institute of Law, organized on May 31, 2014 an Open Day under the slogan «Building a Free Future», which included a variety of cultural, academic and art activities.



## Faculty of Business and Economics Holds 4th Annual Open Day

The Faculty of Business and Economics organized on May 24, 2014 its Fourth Annual Open Day, sponsored by the Bank of Palestine and the Palestinian Education for Employment Foundation. The day of activities was intended to nurture community development and help preserve the environment, health and sustainability.

### Masterclass Offered by Graduates Engages Particle Physics

The physics department organized a 2014 masterclass in particle physics on April 15, 2014. A team of four young researchers in the field of particle physics and high-energy accelerators came from various scientific centers and universities in Europe to the Birzeit University physics department to give lectures and train students on using computer programs.

This year's masterclass was sponsored by the "Physics without Frontiers" project at the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Italy. Team leader Kate Shaw from the center was very impressed by the number of students attending the full day of class activities this year.



## Institute and Center Activities

### Center of Excellence Concludes Phase One of Video Game Design

The IT Center of Excellence has devised and begun a pilot program in digital games design that is intended to benefit university students, recent graduates, and ICT sector employees. The program is designed to help graduates and job seekers to gain skills and access work opportunities in the growing sector of video and mobile games development.

### Legal Encounter Takes on Social Media and the Line Between Freedom of Expression and Privacy

The Institute of Law in Gaza organized on October 8, 2013 a legal encounter on the issue of “Social Media between Freedom of Expression and Right to Privacy”. The event brought together media representatives, lawyers, and civil society figures.

### Lecture Explores Settler Colonialism in North America and Palestine

On October 28, 2013, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held a lecture on “Settler Colonialism in North America and Palestine”.



### Media Development Center Celebrates ‘Anti-Corruption Reporters’ Project

On November 13, 2013, the Birzeit University Media Development Center celebrated the conclusion of the project «Anti-Corruption Reporters», which was implemented in partnership with the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate and the Ministry of Justice.



### Birzeit University Won an EU-FP7 Project in ICT Industry

Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies at Birzeit University has recently won an EU-FP7 funded project, called MOSAIC, which aims to find areas of cooperation between the ICT industries in the Mediterranean and European countries, and prepare them to participate in EU funding programs, such as Horizon 2020.

### Lecture Examines Palestinian Electoral System

Birzeit University's Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies organized a December 10, 2013 lecture on the effects of the electoral system on the Palestinian political regime. Adnan Odeh, author of the book "The Palestinian Electoral System and its Effects on the Political and Factional System" spoke at the lecture on its premise that the electoral system does not directly affect the political system, but rather through political parties.

### Lancet, Birzeit Cooperation Celebrates Four-Year Anniversary

Representing the Institute of Community and Public Health, public health professor Rita Giacaman participated in the fifth anniversary celebration of the Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance recently held in the United Kingdom.

### Center for Development Studies Concludes Project on Empowering Those with Disabilities

The Centre for Development Studies held a conference on February 17, 2014 to finalize discussion on a project that seeks to empower those with disabilities in claiming their rights and entitlements.



### Media Development Center Announces 2014 Training Strategy

Birzeit University's Media Development Center announced the schedule for its 2014 training courses, which will be held at its headquarters in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and in the city of Nazareth.

This year's training programs will teach skills related to all fields of media work in radio, television, print media, social media, research and media policies, and issues related to gender in media.

## Workshop Discusses “Migration and International Politics”

On February 5, 2014, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held a workshop featuring students, faculty and professionals entitled: “Migration and International Politics”. The event was based on a seminar course offered this semester by the institute and six students presented their research for comment by outside experts.



## Center for Continuing Education Graduates Fourth Sports Management Class

The Birzeit University Center for Continuing Education celebrated on March 18, 2014 the graduation of the fourth class of its sports management program. The program is implemented by the center in partnership with the Palestine Football Federation, the international football association, FIFA, and its academic arm, the International Centre for Sport Studies (CIES).



## Media Development Center Joins Jeddah Asia Media Summit

The Birzeit University Media Development Center participated in the 11th Asia Media Summit, organized by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

## Media Development Center Invites AREACORE Membership

On May 6, 2014, the Birzeit University Media Development Center called on professors and researchers of media and communication in the Palestinian territories to join the Arab European Association for Communication and Media Researchers (AREACORE), based in Berlin.

## Sina Institute Deploys SMART Multilingual Guide in Bethlehem

Sina Institute at Birzeit University, with the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP) and University of Trento from Italy through its spin-off company OKKAM s.r.l, have deployed an innovative and pioneering electronic tourist guide for heritage sites in Bethlehem, using QR technologies. The initiative is part of the EU FP7 funded SIERA project.

The goal of the initiative is to enhance the experience of Palestine's visitors and celebrate the cultural heritage of Bethlehem City through the innovative use of smartphones and tablets.

### Institute of Women's Studies Urgent Call

As we write this statement, 25 days after the brutal incursion on Gaza, over 1,400 innocent civilian women, men and children have been butchered by Israel's war machine and much more are threatened with death. The call for raping Palestinian women by a so-called Bar-Illan University Arabic literature professor teaches us, once again, that Israeli "scholars" and "academic institutions" are an organic and integral part of the Zionist colonial project. Also, a parliament member, who happens to be a woman, is advocating the killing of all Palestinian women, a rabbi calls for mass murder of Palestinians while taking foreskins as trophies, and rape references on banners and images (a woman covered from her head to her waist, while indecent from the waist down is presented with a very provocative statement) in their neighborhoods, promoting rape culture, or misogyny at least.

"We, at the Institute of Women's Studies at Birzeit University, call on all scholars of the world, all women's organizations, all who fight for freedom and justice to take a clear stand against this racist state's continuous war crimes, genocidal acts, and violent rape culture. Stand against settler colonialism that one of its manifestations is this despicable sexist colonial view. Stand by resistance to the occupation, joining the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) of these "academic institutions" as means to show your solidarity with the Palestinian cause against ever increasing levels of unfathomable violence. We call on you to:

1. Boycott all Israeli "academic institutions" for a constellation of reasons not the least of which are their built-in violent sexism and racism – reflecting the Zionist scheme as a whole.
2. Mainstream the culture of resistance to all forms of normalization, especially cultural normalization.
3. Denounce the Zionist "scholars" that disseminated the severe sexist comments and racist and orientalist view of Palestinians for their words preach hatred and violence.
4. Condemn the Zionist "academic institutions" that have clearly fostered this colonial genocide by embracing support for their "scholars'" sexist views, defending their belligerent racism, and essentially advocating and encouraging violence.
5. Expose and denounce the advisory role of Zionist "scholars" in the most immoral practices committed against the Palestinian people.
6. Counter colonialism with anti-colonial reasoning because the colonial view and sexism are only manifestations of colonialism".

## Miscellaneous Activities

### Administration Building Named After the Late Dr. Gabi Baramki

On September 31, 2013, Birzeit University named its administration building for the late Dr. Gabi Baramki, in gratitude for his service to the community. The ceremony marked the anniversary of Baramki's death and was attended by university students and staff, as well as friends and family of the deceased.

### 19th Career Day Connects Companies and Students

The Faculty of Business and Economics organized on June 3, 2014 the 19th Annual Career Day, inviting companies and potential employers on campus to give faculty graduates an opportunity to explore job opportunities and facilitate their job hunting.



### Educational Development Unit Offers “Introduction to University Education”

The Ibn Rushd Unit for Educational Development at Birzeit University held on November 12, 2013 a workshop entitled, “Introduction to University Education», the first of a series of workshops to be held this academic year.

### Prisoners’ Rights Top “Right to Education Week”

A workshop on administrative detention and education inside prisons was held on November 11, 2013 to kick off this year’s Right to Education Week. Head of the Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association Addameer Sahar Francis and former detainee Esmat Mansour spoke at the workshop.



## Entrepreneur Farouk Shami Shares Success Story

“Education, ethics and perseverance”. This was how entrepreneur Farouk Shami summed up his keys to success in a lecture held on December 24, 2013 at Birzeit University. In his talk, entitled: «Success is not a coincidence; it is science, diligence and a Palestinian heart”, Shami presented the challenges and obstacles he faced during his journey to being a successful businessman in the United States.



## Businessman Sameer Owaidah Describes Keys to Success

“Practicing business ethics, avoiding corruption, seizing opportunities at the right time, following adventures and hard work». These are the tenets that Palestinian businessman Sameer Owaidah say led to his success.

Owaidah spoke about his journey to owning a multi-national construction machinery company in a lecture entitled, «Time, Place and I», attended by Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi and faculty members and students.





Awards and Prizes

## Birzeit University Takes the Lead in Annual Xtreme Competition

Birzeit University won first place among Palestinian competitors, second place among Arab competitors and placed 65th internationally in the annual IEEEEXTREME competition, held by the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology, IEEE, based in the U.S..

IEEEExtreme is a global challenge in which teams of IEEE Student members, supported by an IEEE Student Branch, advised and proctored by an IEEE member; compete in a 24-hour time span against each other to solve a set of programming problems.



## Student Wins Omrania Award for Excellence in Architectural Design 2013

Architectural Engineering student Renall Elghoul won the 6th Omrania Award for Excellence in Architectural Design 2013. The award honors distinguished architectural graduation projects by students from universities throughout the Arab world.

## Birzeit University Student Ranks Second in the Anti-Corruption Research Competition 2013

Public administration student Ikhlas Yousef Salim won second place for Best Research on Integrity and Accountability in the fight against corruption competition of 2013. Ikhlas' research is entitled, «The integrity and transparency system of public shareholding companies that deal with the government».

The award was made on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Corruption, organized by AMAN Coalition for Accountability and Integrity on December 4, 2013.

## Birzeit Student Places Second in Arab Research and Studies

Graduate law student Renad Hasan Abdallah won second place in the Arab Research and Studies competition in Cairo for her research paper entitled, «Administrative Control in Case of Emergency: a comparative study between the Palestinian and Egyptian legal systems».

## Law Department Team Wins National Moot Court Competition

Birzeit University's Law Department team took first place in the national rounds of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held in Jericho on February 8-9, 2014.

The Birzeit University team represented Palestine in the International Jessup Competition for international law to take place in Washington in April 2014. In Jericho, the Birzeit team competed against five other university teams: those of An-Najah, Al-Quds, the Arab-American of Jenin, Al-Ahlieh in Bethlehem and Hebron.



## Birzeit University Honors Winners of «Best Business Plan» Contest

The Birzeit University Najjad Zeenni Information Technology Center of Excellence organized on February 25, 2014 a competition for the best business plan for a local pilot project. The contest took place on campus, as part of the Empowerment of Future Entrepreneurs project, funded by the Dutch organization, Spark. The project will enable ambitious graduates to play a role in the economic development process and alleviating youth unemployment.

## Birzeit University Ranks First among Arab Countries in Washington International Law Competition

The Faculty of Law and Public Administration team ranked 44th internationally and first among Arab countries in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held recently in Washington, DC. The team was comprised of three students from the Law Department - Areej Rajaby, Celine Asmar and Mira Araj - and supervised by law faculty members Renad Abdullah and Yaser Amoury.

## Birzeit University Represents Palestine in Vienna International Commercial Arbitration Competition

A team of students from the Birzeit University Law Department participated for the first time in the International Commercial Arbitration Competition in Vienna, held from April 10-17, 2014. The contest is organized by William C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and a selection of European and American universities.

## Birzeit University Holds First LEGO Robotics Competition

Najjad Zeenni Information Technology Center of Excellence (NZITCE) and Shuhub Association for Excellence in Science and Education held the First LEGO Robotics Competition on April 15, 2014.

The contest focused on «natural disasters», such as earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, storms, fires and how to deal with the problems caused by these disasters. The participating teams demonstrated a sporting spirit and created a warm atmosphere during the competition.



## Birzeit University Awarded Top Three Places in Tom Kay Contest

Birzeit University won the top three places in the Tom Kay annual competition for free architectural drawing in 2014, organized by the Palestinian Centre for Architectural Conservation/Riwaq. The jury consisted of Sameh Abboushi, Yara Bamiah and Ada Kay. Sophomore student Mehran Abu al-Hummos ranked first, followed by senior Mahmoud Tayseer al-Jamal who won second place, while third place was taken by freshman student Raghad Saqf al-Hate.

The award honors the spirit of the late British engineer architect Tom Kay, who visited the university several times, and worked as a visiting professor at the Department of Architectural Engineering.

## Birzeit Grad Wins Informatics Award for Arabic Website

The search engine «Yourwa» has won the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award for the best Arabic website for 2013. «Yourwa» is a search engine created by Birzeit University graduate Yousuf Ali Salehi.

The annual Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award is awarded to the best informatics websites and smart applications. Informatics is a broad field related to computing applications and how they operate in social fields. This year 5,907 applicants submitted entries, out of which 2,017 were accepted and five sites and three smart applications selected to win the contest.



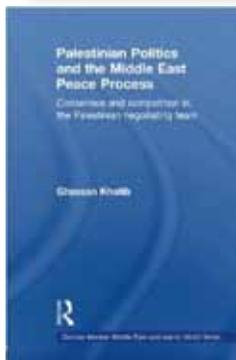
## Publications and Research Projects



### Samia Khoury Publishes Biography

“Reflections from Palestine” tells the story of life under occupation. It is a story that Khoury, who celebrated her 80th birthday on the day of the book launch, has told for many years. The book opens at the outset of the 1967 War and describes the relentless series of temporary measures that became the binding, suffocating reality of occupation following the Oslo Accords.

Khoury explains the wide-ranging social and political problems facing Palestinians through the sweet and sorrowful experiences of family and community life under occupation.



### Khatib Book on Peace Process Published in Arabic

Birzeit University’s Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib recently celebrated the Arabic release of his book, «Palestinian Politics and the Middle East Peace Process: Consensus and Contradiction among the Palestinian Negotiators». The book, originally published in English by Routledge, was translated by the Institute for Palestine Studies. The analysis discusses the various rounds of the Middle East peace process and the influences on the Palestinian negotiating delegation during the talks.

### New Book on Domestic and International Arbitration Published

The Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration held a book launching ceremony on March 15, 2014. «Domestic and International Arbitration under the Palestinian Arbitration Act No. (3) of 2000: A Comparative Study» was written by law professor Yousef Shendi. It is the first book published by the faculty as part of a curriculum, thus advancing legal education in Palestine and the Arab world.



### Institute of Law, Palestinian Legislative Council Jointly Publish Legislative Guide

As part of its efforts to promote the rule of law, develop Palestinian legal structures, and consolidate technical and procedural tools of lawmaking process, the Birzeit University Institute of Law has published a “Procedure Guide to the Legislative Process at the Palestine Legislative Council” in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

The guide is the first of its kind in Palestine and casts light on the legislative process, in line with the Palestinian legal framework. It combines both relevant legal procedures and practical applications of the lawmaking process within the PLC.

## New Book Explores Media Techniques of Muslim Brotherhood and al-Jazeera

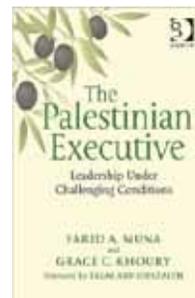
The Arab Institute for Research and Publishing in Beirut has published a new book by Birzeit University Media Department lecturer Walid Shurafa. "From Discourse Power to Power of Discourse" includes an analysis of communications of the Muslim Brotherhood and Al-Jazeera satellite channel during the recent series of upheavals in the Arab world, the Arab Spring.



## Two Works Published by Birzeit University Affiliates

### The Palestinian Executive

The Palestinian Executive: Leadership Under Challenging Conditions by Farid A. Muna and Grace C. Khoury is an indispensable book for CEOs, business leaders, and human rights professionals who are responsible for recruiting, motivating, and developing their current and future managers.



### Management and Organizational Behavior in an Arab Context

Scheduled for release in January 2014, Management and Organizational Behavior in an Arab Context presents teaching cases emphasizing positive and negative experiences on a variety of management topics. The authors of the 423 page book are Grace C. Khoury of Birzeit University and Maria C. Khoury, an independent researcher.



## Study Launched on Obstacles to Women's Labor Participation

On October 30, 2013, the Center for Development Studies and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) held a workshop to launch the study, «The Obstacles to Women's Participation in the Labor Market and Entrepreneurship in the Occupied Palestinian Territories». Vice President for Community Outreach Samia Hlaileh emphasized the importance of partnership between the YWCA Federation - Palestine and Birzeit University.



## Birzeit University Scientific Publications Rank First among Palestinian Universities

Refereed publications of Birzeit University have achieved the highest number of citations and H indexing among local universities, found a special study carried out by the Deanship of Graduate Studies.

## Tabar and Al-Azzeh Publish “Palestinian Popular Resistance under Occupation”

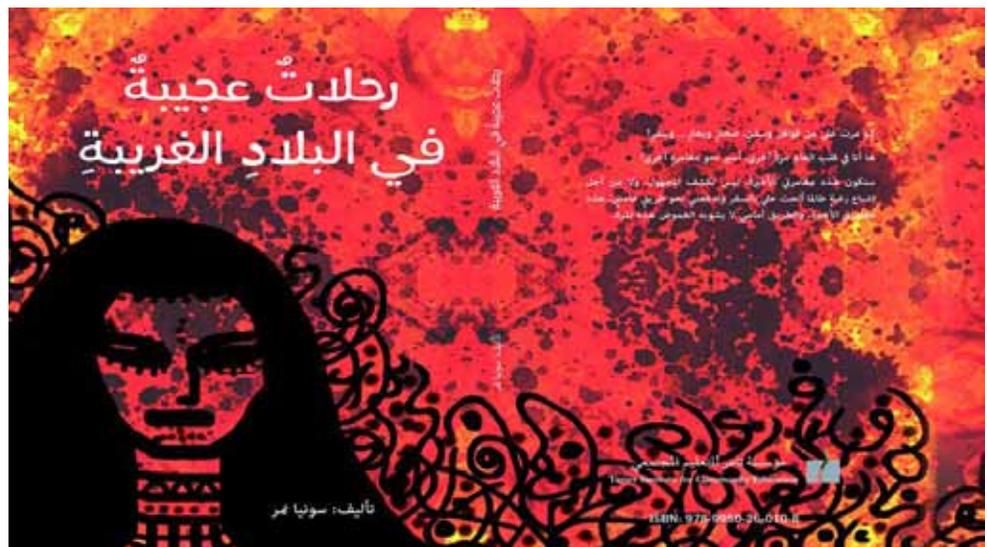
The Institute for Palestine Studies has published the book *Palestinian Popular Resistance under Occupation: A Critical and Analytical Reading*, written by Birzeit University faculty members Linda Tabar and Alaa' Al-Azzeh.

The book, in Arabic, sheds light on the historical context that produced the Palestinian uprisings, and describes the material factors and relationships that contributed to forming those experiences. The book also illustrates the events and how they are related to realities on the ground and the prospects of reconsidering them and the cultural, social and political dimensions of national liberation.



## Children’s Book by Professor Makes International Honors List

The International Board on Books for Young People has announced the listing of the book “Wondrous Trips to Strange Places” by Birzeit University professor of philosophy and cultural studies Sonia Nimr on its honor list. The list is issued by the group every two years, and includes 150 authors, painters and translators of children’s and young teens’ books worldwide.



## Media Development Center Launches Media Study Based on UNESCO Indicators

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Birzeit University Media Development Center launched the findings of a joint study, «Assessment of Media Developments in Palestine», on June 18, 2014. The study was based on UNESCO's internationally-endorsed media development indicators. This is the third such assessment to be completed in the Arab region and follows studies in Egypt and Tunisia.



## Birzeit University Launches Two Books with Signing Ceremony

On June 7, 2014, the Law Department at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration organized a launch and signing ceremony by authors Asem Khalil and the Rashad twins. Legislation Law and Law of Liberty: Is Democracy an Alternative to the Rule of Law? was published by the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy (Muwaten) in 128 pages. Author Khalil addresses topics like constitutionalism, national identity, liberalism and Arab revolutions, trying to link the concept of liberty to the constitution.

The second book launched, Palestine Between the State Constitution and the Need for a National Charter: Strategic Approaches to the Palestinian Political System, was co-authored by Khalil with Khalil and Twam Rashad and published by the Palestinian Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies (Masarat) in 95 pages. The book discusses the writing of the Palestinian constitution and its impact on the National Charter of the PLO.





International and Regional Cooperation

## Education Team Visits Leicester University

A Faculty of Education delegation participated in a study visit to Leicester University in the UK. The delegation consisted of Acting Dean Hasan Abdelkareem, Project Coordinator Anwar Abdel Razeq, former project coordinator Mousa Khalidi, professor Ahmad Iftaiha and Kholoud Issa.



## Irish Academics, Officials Visit Birzeit University

A high-ranking Irish delegation visited Birzeit University on November 12, 2013. The delegation consisted of experts in various fields from the University of Dublin, Senator Marie Louise, and parliamentarian Maureen O'Sullivan. The aim of the visit was to explore the educational realities on the ground and to learn about the academic programs.



## SIDA Continues Support for Birzeit University Media Development Center

The Swedish International Development Agency will continue to fund the Birzeit University Media Development Center, according to an agreement signed on January 21, 2014.

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi and the Consul General of the Kingdom of Sweden Axel Wernhoff signed the agreement, launching a joint project entitled: «Towards a promising future and democratic environment for the Palestinian media: national media strategy and capacity building».

## Polish Representative Visits Birzeit University

The Representative of Poland to the Palestinian Authority Aleksandra Bukowska - McCabe visited Birzeit University on May 24, 2014. Bukowska met with the Vice President for Academic Affairs Henry Giacaman, Faculty of Law and Public Administration dean Asem Khalil and chair of the Political Science Department Abdul Rahman Al-Haj Ibrahim. Both sides discussed spheres of academic cooperation.



## Estonian Professor Visits Sina Institute, Faculties to Discuss Cooperation

Katrin Nyman-Metcalf, chair of the Law and Technology Department at the Faculty of Law in Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia and consultant at the Estonian e-Governance Academy, visited Sina Institute and Birzeit University Faculty of Law on March 5, 2014 to discuss possibilities for cooperation.

## Professor Visits from Singapore's Nanyang Technological University to Discuss Cooperation

On June 4, 2014, Birzeit University president Khalil Hindi met with Professor Zaher Joudeh from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and discussed possibilities for academic cooperation.



## JICA Days at Birzeit University Highlight Japanese Support

The Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) launched two days of events at Birzeit University on January 28, 2014, featuring an exhibit of JICA projects in Palestine, a photo gallery, a cultural zone for grants/scholarships to universities in Japan, and a series of lectures and seminars.



## Confucius Institute Chief Visits New Branch at Birzeit University

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi met with the Director-General of Hanban and Chief Executive of the Confucius Institute Headquarters Ms. Xu Lin on October 22, 2013.

Ms. Lin emphasized China's and the Institute's interest in the Palestinian cause, pointing out that it is high time to strengthen relations between the two countries and get to know other cultures. She added, «We can start with small steps towards the establishment of a new branch of Confucius Institute, by offering Chinese language courses on the basis of an exchange of professors, and then move to offering a Bachelor's Program in the Chinese language at a later stage». Lin also expressed readiness to receive Birzeit professors in China and to train them to teach the Chinese language at Birzeit University - a milestone for the establishment of the Confucius Institute in the coming years.

## Birzeit University Participates in the Euro-Mediterranean University International Summer School

Birzeit University staff and students participated in this year's annual gathering at Manouba University International Summer School, which was held August 18-24, 2013 in the Tunisian city of Carthage. The summer event addressed «Human rights and democratic transition between hopes and risks» and was attended by 130 participants including professors, researchers and students representing more than 25 universities from all parts of the world.

## Dr. Candia Morgan Visits Birzeit University

As part of the International Partnership and Mobility Competition 2012, funded by the British Academy, Candia Morgan from the Institute of Education at the University of London visited Birzeit University from September 27 to October 2, 2013. This visit is part of the «Analyzing the Palestinian School Mathematics Textbooks: A Multimodal (Multi-Semiotic) Perspective» project.

## Chinese Ambassador, Academic Delegation Opens Door to Academic Cooperation

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi received on November 29, 2013 the Chinese Ambassador to Palestine Liu Aizhong to discuss academic cooperation. Hindi briefed the Chinese ambassador on the university and its academic programs, emphasizing the need to strengthen academic relations between Birzeit University and Chinese universities, and the importance of academic and student exchange.

## Finnish Guest Syksy Räsänen Gives Physics Colloquium on Gravity Waves

Professor Syksy Räsänen from the University of Helsinki and the Helsinki Institute of Physics in Finland visited the Department of Physics at Birzeit University on Wednesday April 16, 2014 and gave a colloquium titled “Gravity Waves: A Message From the First Second of the Universe”.



## Mexican Ambassador Visits Birzeit University

Birzeit University received on April 9, 2014 the Mexican representative to the Palestinian Authority, Ambassador Sergio Sierra Bernal, to discuss possible cooperation between Birzeit University and Mexican universities.

## First Palestinian Water Forum Invites Dutch-Palestinian Cooperation

The Institute of Environmental and Water Studies held on May 28, 2014 the first Palestinian Water Forum, under the title «The Water and Energy Nexus». The forum was attended by chairman of the Energy Authority Omar Kittaneh, head of the Palestinian Mission in The Netherlands Nabil Abu-Znaid, as well as representatives of the Palestinian and Dutch water and energy sectors.



## Oman Journalist Association Delegation Visits Birzeit University

A delegation from the Oman Journalist Association visited Birzeit University on October 23, 2013 to learn more about the university's academic programs and challenges.



## Architectural Engineering Workshop in Jifna Village

Students from Birzeit University and the University of Graz in Austria participated in a joint workshop in the village of Jifna, exploring ways of improving the rural environment. The workshop was part of capacity building in rural development project implemented by the Architectural Engineering Department in cooperation with the University of Graz's Institute of Urban Planning.

## French Cultural Attaché Visits Birzeit University

The French Consulate's Cultural Attaché in Jerusalem Augustin Favereau accompanied by the Educational Cooperation Attaché Marie-Claude Messenger visited Birzeit University on October 7, 2013. They met with University President Khalil Hindi, External Academic Relations Officer Dolly Kaibni, and Chairperson of the French Language Department Basma Al-Omari. The parties discussed ways to strengthen cultural cooperation between the university and the French Consulate.



## Birzeit University, Grand Challenges Canada Explore Cooperating on Health

The Chief Executive Officer of Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) Peter Singer visited Birzeit University on November 25, 2013. Singer met with faculty members to introduce GCC's programs and the nature of projects funded through submission of proposals.

## Birzeit University Partners with Dutch Universities on Water Innovation

Birzeit University is one of five Palestinian universities included in a new agreement on water signed in Bethlehem on December 7, 2014 by Dutch and Palestinian officials. The agreement will join the efforts of Dutch and Palestinian institutions of higher learning in efforts to explore new fields in water development and management.

## Professor AlMadbouh Lectures at Hong Kong Research Center

Birzeit University political science professor Ghada alMadbouh was invited by the International Affairs Research Centre at the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies - Chinese University of Hong Kong to lecture on January 9, 2014 about the Arab Spring and its effect on Palestinian politics.

## Luxembourg Minister of Foreign Affairs Meets Birzeit President and Students

Luxembourg Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean Asselborn visited Birzeit University on March 22, 2014, and met with President Khalil Hindi, Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib and a number of Birzeit University students.



## Serbian Delegation Discussed Cooperation with Birzeit University

A Serbian delegation headed by Palestinian Consul in Serbia Talal al-Zaq visited Birzeit University on June 24, 2014 to explore spheres of cooperation. The delegation met with Vice-President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib.

The delegation included the head of the Aranđelovac City Parliament Nicholas Obradovich and its deputy mayor Demetria Jovanovic, accompanied by the mayor of Birzeit municipality Haseeb Kaileh and a number of municipality members.



## Birzeit University Receives New International Students

Birzeit University received on June 11, 2014 a new class of students enrolled in the Palestinian and Arab Studies Program (PAS). The PAS program offers international students the opportunity to combine study of the Arabic language with social science courses about Palestine and the Arab world.

Eighty students from various countries are enrolled in this semester's PAS program. The new students were given a tour of the campus to allow them to get acquainted with its faculties, facilities, institutes and centers.

## Birzeit University President, Bulgarian Representative Discuss Cooperation

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi received on June 10, 2014 Bulgaria's representative to the Palestinian National Authority Svilen Bozhanov. The meeting was attended by Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib, external academic relations officer Dolly Kaibni and professor of engineering Shadi Ghadban. The two parties discussed opportunities for cooperation and prospects for building fruitful academic partnerships.



Birzeit & Social Responsibility

## 245 Scholarships Distributed Through Student Council Projects

As one of the projects of the Birzeit University Student Council, the university's grants and financial aid committee distributed 245 scholarships to needy students for the 2013-14 academic year 2013-2014

## Textbook Lending Service Aids Students for Sixth Year

The Student Affairs Deanship via the Voluntary Work Program is offering used textbook lending for the sixth consecutive year to allow students to offset educational costs.



## Birzeit University, Cairo University Host Workshop on MSc in Software Engineering

Birzeit University with Cairo University organized a five-day workshop in Sharm el-Sheikh on the Masters of Science in software engineering. This master's program is funded by the European Union project, Tempus, which will develop a joint MSc in software engineering over three years.





Cultural & Art Activities

## 14th Christian Book Fair Opens at Birzeit University

On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, the 14th Christian Book Fair was opened in the Birzeit University Faculty of Engineering building on January 4, 2014.



## University Museum Features Six Decades of Political Posters

Birzeit University Museum between October 12-December 30, 2013 held an art exhibition of more than 140 original political posters on Palestine. These unique posters, produced between 1949 and 2000, were taken from the special collections of George Michael Al-Ama and Saleh Abdul-Jawwad.



## Birzeit University Organizes First Student Film Festival

Three films were screened at the first Birzeit University film festival. The Birzeit University Deanship of Student Affairs organized on November 16, 2013 the viewing of «Salt of this Sea,» «Over my Dead Body» and «Charles Holmes 2».

## Cultural Program Explores Palestinian Displacement

On November 14, 2013, the Birzeit University Museum, in cooperation with Al Phoenix Center in Dheisheh Camp, held a cultural program entitled “Gestures of Return” to examine questions around Palestinian displacement.



## Film “Nahr al-Bared” Screened Showing Camp Conflict

The Cinema Club at Birzeit University Deanship of Student Affairs and the Palestine Arab Studies program presented the film, «Nahr al-Bared», directed by Sandra Madi. The film describes the five-year conflict that erupted between the Lebanese Armed Forces and a previously-unknown Islamist fundamentalist group called Fatah al-Islam inside Nahr al-Bared, a Palestinian refugee camp 16 km north of Tripoli in Lebanon

## Anis and Yousef Sayegh Book Exhibition Opens

The Anis and Yousef Sayegh Book Exhibition, which holds collections recently donated to Birzeit University by the Sayegh family, opened on campus on January 20, 2014. «The library has been continuously making every effort to remain a haven for all researchers and seekers of knowledge», said Library Director Diana Sayej Nasir. “Today, our library stands at the forefront of Palestinian university libraries and includes vessels of thought and treasures of literature, as well as incubators for science, culture and the arts”.





Facts & Figures, 2013-2014

### Birzeit University's faculties are:

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Engineering and Technology
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Business and Economics
- Faculty of Law and Public Administration
- Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health
- Faculty of Graduate Studies

### Institutes & Centers

The university is also home to 11 specialized institutes and centers. The institutes offer graduate programs and conduct academic and applied research, and the centers offer training and conduct applied research.

The institutes and centers are:

- Institute of Community and Public Health
- Institute of Environmental and Water Studies
- Institute of Law
- Institute of Women's Studies
- Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies
- Birzeit University Testing Laboratories
- Center for Continuing Education
- Center for Development Studies
- Media Development Center
- Najjad Zeenni IT Center of Excellence
- Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies

### Libraries & Museums

Birzeit University includes one main library and three branch libraries: the Institute of Law Library, Institute of Woman Studies Library and the Library of Said Khoury Building for Development Studies.

The campus also houses the Birzeit University Museum.

### Enrolled Students:

- 10,100 students were registered at Birzeit University in the academic year 2013/2014 (8,730 undergraduate students, 1,250 graduate students and 109 diploma and special students).
- 64.3% of the student body is female.

### Faculty & Staff:

- The university has 575 academic staff (538 faculty members and 114 researchers and teaching assistants). The university also has 510 non-academic staff members, including senior professionals, administrators, technicians, and service workers.





**Public Relations Office, Birzeit University**

P.O.Box 14, Birzeit, Palestine,

TeleFax: +972 2 2982059

[pr@birzeit.edu](mailto:pr@birzeit.edu)

[www.birzeit.edu](http://www.birzeit.edu)

