

BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

**ANNUAL
REPORT 2012-2013**

A year of excellence and achievements



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Introduction

As a Palestinian university seeking to excel in higher education, Birzeit University plays a central role in developing the most valuable national resource—namely the human element. New graduate and undergraduate programs in information technology, engineering, science, social policy, economics and management are being developed to meet this objective. BZU campus is being expanded to better equip the University to meet the growing needs of higher education in the Palestinian society. At the same time, BZU's various community Centers and Institutes continue to enhance and develop their work through intensive policy-oriented research to assist in the economic, social and human development of Palestine.

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.

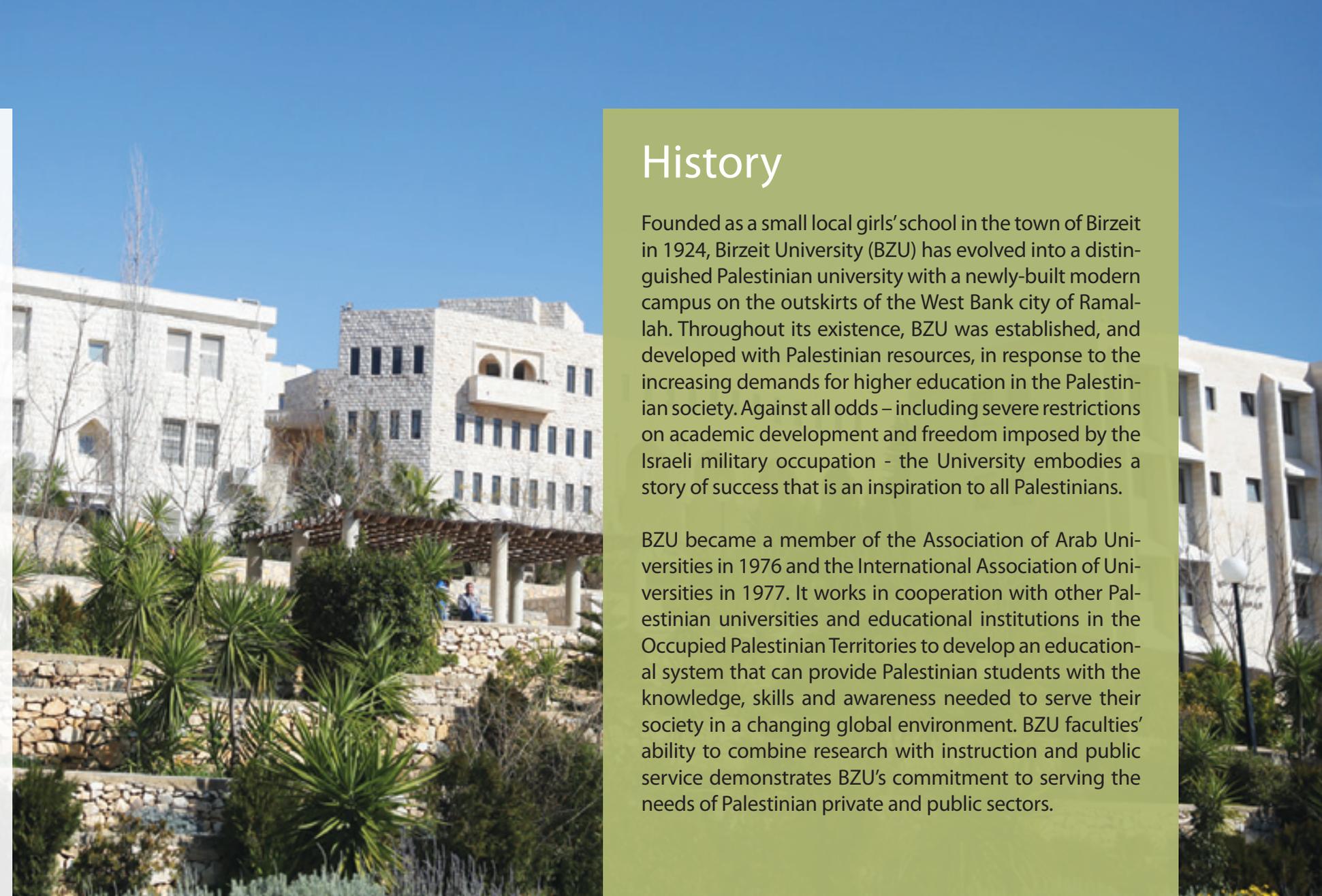
Vision

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.

History

Founded as a small local girls' school in the town of Birzeit in 1924, Birzeit University (BZU) has evolved into a distinguished Palestinian university with a newly-built modern campus on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Ramallah. Throughout its existence, BZU was established, and developed with Palestinian resources, in response to the increasing demands for higher education in the Palestinian society. Against all odds – including severe restrictions on academic development and freedom imposed by the Israeli military occupation - the University embodies a story of success that is an inspiration to all Palestinians.

BZU became a member of the Association of Arab Universities in 1976 and the International Association of Universities in 1977. It works in cooperation with other Palestinian universities and educational institutions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to develop an educational system that can provide Palestinian students with the knowledge, skills and awareness needed to serve their society in a changing global environment. BZU faculties' ability to combine research with instruction and public service demonstrates BZU's commitment to serving the needs of Palestinian private and public sectors.



Message from the President



Birzeit University has concluded its fourth decade of excellence in education, research and community outreach. In June of this year, Birzeit University joined the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative, having met the membership requirements, to become one of the 1,000 universities and institutions that represent the 120 signatories to the initiative. Consequently, Birzeit University has become one of the institutions that is committed to the ten United Nations universal principles in higher education pertaining to: the literacy fight against poverty, protection of human rights, conflict resolution, sustainable development and education for all.

This report highlights the university's international presence via its chairmanship of the Palestinian-European Academic Cooperation Program, which comprises 54 European universities and all Palestinian universities. Moreover, the Birzeit University faculty and staff have also hosted and participated in a number of international conferences, most importantly the 7th International Chemistry Conference linking industry, academics and economy.

The university has hosted Palestinian and Arab women entrepreneurs at the Arab International Women's Forum conference, held on campus on May 22, 2013. The Windsor-Birzeit Karamah Initiative through the master's program in democracy and human rights has organized a series of roundtables. Also, our faculty members have published many articles and studies in refereed scientific journals and have conducted research in various domains.

Additionally, this report sheds light on the university's achievements, including its role in community service in creating a learning environment that embraces innovation and excellence, and is manifested in its activities. The university has developed a new flavor of educational process in its teaching and training and by Launching the Cooperative Education Project (CO-OP), the first of its kind in Palestine, which is mainly a structured method of combining classroom-based education with practical work experience.

The report also addresses the university's involvement in the community and the signing of a number of agreements related to good governance, combating corruption, heritage conservation, and other community outreach projects such as the botanical garden.

Through the Alumni and Career Services Office, the university has strengthened its relationships with its alumni, and stepped up efforts to arm graduates with the necessary skills to meet labor market competitiveness. Finally, I am pleased to express my appreciation for our outstanding students who have excelled in various scientific fields and wish our university and students continuous success.



Farewell to Gabi

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.

Board of Trustees Chairman Hanna Nasir said that the university decided to name the administration building after Dr. Baramki as a small recognition of his generosity, although neither words nor buildings can express the extent of the university's gratitude.

"For many years, Dr. Gabi and I worked together by virtue of our professional and family relationships," Chairman Nasir said. "Even during the years I was deported, I was in constant contact with Gabi when

he was working in this building. This building has a special relationship with Gabi."

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi called the occasion bittersweet: sad because it reminds us of the passing of Gabi Baramki, and happy because it is a gesture of the university's deep gratitude to him. "Lucky is he or she who leaves fingerprints on the sands of life," he said. "Dr. Gabi Baramki is lucky, too, because his prints are quite clear and will go on impacting the educational sector in Palestine. He will continue to be a beacon of inspiration for all Palestinian academics, who exemplify sincerity and persistence."

Dr. Baramki was born in Jerusalem in 1929, and graduated from Birzeit College in 1946. He obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degree from the American University in Beirut and a doctorate from McGill University in Canada. Baramki joined Birzeit University in 1954, where he went on to assume many key roles.

Dr. Baramki was one of the founders of the Palestinian Council for Higher Education in 1977, and worked as a consultant in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for several years. Baramki contributed to building the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel through his voluntary work in the Steering Committee of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI). His commitment was powerful, substantial and characterized by generosity and creativity.



University Achievements, 2012-2013

As a leading Palestinian university committed to international excellence, BZU has a proud history of achievements through the creation of world changing research and inspirational teaching, as well as community service and outreach.

Birzeit University Assumes Presidency of the Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education Program



On February 21, 2013, Birzeit University took over the rotating presidency of the Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education (PEACE) Program, whose members include 54 European universities and all Palestinian universities.

During a consultative meeting held at the university, President Khalil Hindi was made the head of the PEACE Program alongside the president of the Islamic University in Gaza, Kamalin Shaath.

Birzeit University Celebrates its 38th Commencement



On June 14, 2013, Birzeit University held its 38th commencement ceremony, graduating 965 students from the Faculties of Arts, Science, Education and Graduate Studies. Moreover, 1,025 students from the faculties of Engineering, Information Technology, Law and Public Administration, Business and Economics, and Nursing and Allied Health Professions graduated on June 16, 2013.

Palestinian Digital Archive Gets First Showing



Birzeit University's Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies organized on February 20, 2013 a workshop on the Palestinian archive project supported by the BZU Academic Affairs Office and hosted by the institute.

International Studies Professor and Project Director Roger Heacock discussed the roots of the project launched two years ago. The archive will collect numerous documents and materials available at the university and elsewhere and computerize the records so as to conserve them and prevent their loss. The archived materials will assist researchers in understanding Palestinian society and the lives of Palestinians through organizational collections, private family documents, and archival materials collected by individuals.

Opening of Mohammad Masrouji Media Building at Birzeit University

On July 4, 2013, the Mohammed Masrouji Media building at Birzeit University was opened in the presence of board chairman Hanna Nasir, university president Khalil Hindi, chairman and general manager of Jerusalem Pharmaceuticals Mohammed Masrouji, members of the board of trustees and university administration, and a number of high-ranking Palestinian officials.

The six-story Masrouji media building has an area of 3,000 square meters and includes the Media Development Center and Media Department. It also consists of radio and montage (editing) studios, as well as a huge TV studio, in addition to staff offices.



Birzeit University Welcomes Incoming PAS Students

Birzeit University received on January 12, 2013 a new class of students enrolled in the Palestinian and Arab Studies Program. 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.

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

More information about the PAS program and its offerings is available at the Birzeit University website at <http://home.birzeit.edu/pas/social.html>.





Academic Development

Herebelow are the most important academic achievements throughout the academic year 2012/2013, which are milestones for further academic advancements, aiming to maintain excellence in higher education and graduate highly-qualified students able to play leadership roles in the community.

Birzeit University Launches Cooperative Education Program

Birzeit University this year launched the Cooperative Education Project (CO-OP), the first of its kind in Palestine. CO-OP is a structured method of integrating academic education with practical work experience, in which participating students both study and work in jobs related to their academic plans. This integration ensures the enhancement of the students' academic experience as well as their career development.

CO-OP will be applied in three faculties. In its pilot phase, two or three departments from each faculty will be selected: the departments of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering; the departments of Computer Science and Computer Systems Engineering at the Faculty of Information Technology; and the departments of Finance, Economics, and Business Administration at the Faculty of Commerce and Economics. Students enrolled must attend three workshops on cooperative education scheduled for the beginning of the second semester of the 2012-2013 academic year.

New Course on Planning in Palestine Links Theory and Practice

Based on a cooperation agreement with the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Architectural Engineering Department has introduced a new course entitled: "Planning in Palestine: Link between Theory and Practice." This course is part of the Palestinian-German Local Governance and Civil Society Development Programmed, which is a technical cooperation program that falls under the priority area of "Governance" of German-Palestinian development cooperation.

Birzeit University Joins the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative

Having met membership requirements, Birzeit University joined the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative to become one of its 1,000 universities and higher education institutions, representing 120 countries that are signatories to the initiative.

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi said, "With this step, our university has become one of the educational institutions supporting the ten universal principles approved by the United Nations."

Workshop Explores ABET Accreditation for Engineering, IT

The Birzeit University Engineering and Information Technology faculties organized a workshop discussing the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) on August 20, 2013.

ABET is a non-governmental organization that accredits post-secondary education programs in "applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology."





BZU's National Role

Birzeit University sustained its national and social role by encouraging a number of community and institutional initiatives related to raising public awareness. In this academic year, the following initiatives were launched and completed:

Legislative Drafting Manuals Adopted by the Palestinian Government

Based on the memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat General of the Government and the Institute of Law at Birzeit University concluded on June 10, 2010, the Palestinian government has adopted the Primary Legislation Drafting Manual (of laws) and Secondary Legislation Drafting Manual (of regulations, bylaws and regulatory decisions). These will be the official manuals to be used by line ministries and non-ministerial government bodies of the Council of Ministers in the drafting and development of primary and secondary legislation.



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 implementation of the "Heritage Preservation via Digital Media and Animation Project."

IMF Representative, Faculty Discuss Fund Policies in Palestine and Abroad



The Faculty of Business and Economics at Birzeit University held on February 26, 2013 a seminar on the International Monetary Fund's local and international role. IMF Resident Representative in the West Bank and Gaza Strip Udo Kock was the guest speaker, while chairperson of the Birzeit University Economics Department Riyad Mousa and professor of Economics Said Haifa also participated.

Representative Kock presented a historical overview of the emergence of the IMF, as well as its policies and programs internationally and locally, with an emphasis on reducing the role of government and public spending. Professor Mousa then critiqued the IMF role and policies in terms of economic theory and difficult living and economic conditions in Palestine.

Effects and Challenges of Gaza-issued Civil Law No. 4 of 2012 Discussed

As one of a series in the Birzeit Legal Encounters program, the Institute of Law at Birzeit University held in Gaza on December 4, 2012, a legal encounter on the Gaza-issued Civil Law No. 4 of 2012, delivered by Anwar Taweel, Lecturer at the University of Palestine. The legal encounter brought together a select number of lawyers, academics, and interested groups.



Law Institute and UNDP Agree on Anti-Corruption Assistance Project

Birzeit University's Institute of Law signed an agreement on May 1, 2013 with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to implement a project to build capacity on fighting corruption.

The initiative will be implemented jointly by the Institute of Law, UNDP/PAPP and EUPOL COPPS. In partnership with the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, the institute will deliver a long-term training program promoting the principles and norms of good governance, transparency, integrity and accountability. The project will consolidate anti-corruption efforts within Palestinian society, building the capacity of anti-corruption agencies, particularly PACC staff, the Anti-Corruption Prosecution team and Corruption Crimes Court judges. The agreement was signed by Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi and UNDP Special Representative in the occupied Palestinian territory Frode Muring.



Conferences & Initiatives

All the year-round, dozens of initiatives were launched and the university has hosted several conferences, aiming at strengthening the university's academic, social and national presence via the following activities:

Conference Engages Nutrition-Related Chronic Disease

On September 15-16, 2012, the Institute of Community and Public Health participated in a conference on "Nutrition-Related Chronic Diseases," attended by Palestinian and visiting experts. The conference was organized by the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in al-Bireh.

Conference Held on Teaching Foreign Language

The French Language Department and Department of Languages and Translation held a two-day conference entitled "The teaching of foreign languages for university purpose: contexts, challenges, applications. French and English."

Lecture Discusses Dignity Under Colonialism

As part of the master's program in democracy and human rights, the Windsor Karamah initiative held its first roundtable on "Dignity and knowledge in the colonial situation." Professor of international studies Majid Shehadeh, and professor of cultural studies Abdul Rahim Sheikh participated in the forum.

Israel's Attack on Palestinians in Gaza Strip Explored



Birzeit University's Faculty of Law and Public Administration held a forum on November 20, 2012 on the repercussions of Israel's recent attack on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Faculty Dean Asem Khalil moderated the forum, which featured three speakers: political science professor Saleh Abdel Jawwad, professor of international law Yaser Amouri, and professor of political science Basim Al-Zubeidi.

Third Annual BZU Science Festival Holds Closing Ceremonies



For the third year running, the Birzeit University Science Festival showcased the latest in scientific exploration in chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology. Its closing ceremonies were held on November 12, 2012 in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education, the French Cultural Center, Al-Nayzak Association and Al-Qattan Center.

Conference Held on Arabic Language in Palestinian Universities



Participants in the November 10, 2012 conference entitled "Arabic Language in Palestinian Universities: Between Reality and Ambition" indicated that the Arabic language curriculum in universities needs greater attention, particularly in light of the "information revolution." University requirements should be reviewed, they asserted, and theoretical aspects integrated in the applied side of Arabic language teaching in universities.

7th International Chemistry Conference Links Industry, Academics



Speaking at Birzeit University's 7th Annual International Chemistry Conference, Palestinian Deputy Minister of Economy Abdul Hafiz Nofal emphasized the need to prioritize national industry. "Chemistry intervenes in various walks of life," he said, "as it plays a major role in economic development - in manufacturing and in scientific and technological development."

Birzeit University's Chemistry Department in cooperation with the Palestinian Chemical Society and the General Union of Palestinian Industrialists sponsored the March 23-24, 2013 conference alongside the Palestinian National Industries Exhibition.

Poli-Sci Department Holds First Annual Conference on the Palestinian Political System

The Birzeit University Political Science Department held on April 15, 2013 its first annual conference on the Palestinian political system. In his opening address, university president Khalil Hindi emphasized the role played in local politics by the university's political scientists and expressed his hope that they will make an even greater contribution and positively impact events.



2nd Palestinian Symposium Held on Computational Linguistics and Arabic Content



The Ibn Sina Institute at the Birzeit University Faculty of Information Technology organized its Second Symposium on "Computational Linguistics and Arabic Content (iArabic'2013)" on April 20, 2013.

The symposium was held to encourage research into Arabic technologies and content at Palestinian universities, spur cooperation between researchers in information technology, linguistics, psycholinguistics, cognitive sciences, philosophy, and other disciplines, strengthen the relationship between academia and industry in developing smart language-based applications, and enable networking and cooperation on future project proposals.

3rd Karamah Initiative Holds Seminar on Dignity and Forced Migration

The "Windsor Birzeit dignity" Initiative held a seminar on dignity and forced migration, in which Dean of Faculty of Law and Public Administration Asem Khalil and history professor Rana Barakat participated.



Community Outreach

BZU organizes regular events to serve the Palestinian community in general, and the university community in particular vis-a-vis different domains: academic, health, cultural and other activities that aim at empowering the university's role in community service and outreach.

Birzeit University Hosts Festival for Freedom Award, 2012

Birzeit University hosted the Festival for Freedom Award, 2012, organized by the Ministry of Detainees' and Ex-detainees' Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. The festival was attended by Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Awards were distributed to the winners of the three competition themes (short film, newspaper article and poster).

Science and Technology Museum to Inspire Young Minds

The Birzeit University Faculty of Science launched on April 15, 2013 the Science and Technology Museum, an ambitious project that aims to introduce science and scientific thinking to Palestinian society, especially to Palestinian children, and link theory with practice. The museum's opening ceremony was attended by President Khalil Hindi, Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya, Faculty of Science Dean Wael Kerrain, and a number of faculty members, staff and students.



Faculties' Activities



Faculty of Education Holds Workshop on Science Education

As part of the activities of a project that is preparing science teachers' pre-service, funded by the Quality Improvement Fund at the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education, the university's Faculty of Education held a three-day workshop on science education. The participants were teachers of science education at the Palestinian universities of Polytechnic, Al-Quds, An-Najah and the Islamic University in Gaza via video conferencing.

Executive Education Program Graduates First Class

The Birzeit University MBA program graduated 18 students in the first course of the Executive Education program "Strategic Management."

Lecture Presents Syria Political Situation

The Political Science Department offered a lecture entitled "Bereaved Syria, who is responsible for the atrocities?" delivered by professor of Political Science Saleh Abdel Jawwad. The lecture addressed several key issues, including the historical context of the concept of conflict, definition of a massacre, number of victims in the ongoing conflict in Syria, in addition to the ideological and psychological context of these massacres, and the role of the media in promoting and nurturing the conflict.

Faculty Lectures on Gaza Aggression and Resistance

The university's Faculty of Arts held a lecture entitled: "Gaza: aggression and resistance," in which former finance minister in the Hamas government and professor at An-Najah University Omar Abdel-Raze, the president's communications and information technology adviser Sabri Saidam, and professor of sociology at Birzeit University Abaher Sakka spoke.

Guest Lecturer Addresses Bioinformatics and Genome Sciences in the Middle East

The Birzeit University Faculty of Science held a lecture entitled, "Bioinformatics and Genome Sciences in the Middle East," delivered by the director of the Center for Biotechnology Research at Palestine Polytechnic University, Yacoub Al-Ashhab. In the lecture, key opportunities and challenges were addressed such as the need for Middle East countries to catch up with the rapid growth in bioinformatics and applications underway elsewhere in the world.

Lecturer Advocates for Industry-University Collaboration

On December 18, 2012, Birzeit University's Faculty of Information Technology offered a lecture on "Industry and University Collaboration" by Salem Awadallah, Service Delivery Director and Chief Technical Officer at ASAL Technologies, a software and IT services outsourcing company in Ramallah, Palestine. Awadallah addressed the challenges the Palestinian industry sector is facing. He explored how industries and universities can engage more effectively with each other to surmount these challenges. He further investigated areas ripe for industry-academic collaboration, such as the design of an optimal plan to target specific jobs or the provision of relevant training/courses and services that can be mutually beneficial to all participants.

Workshop Presents Personality Tests, Asking "Are you Red, Blue or Green?"

The Psychology Department, supported by the Swedish organization Human factors AS, held a workshop entitled "Are you Red, Blue or Green? The Social Construction of Individual Differences." Human Factors Director Ekelund presented tests for detecting and measuring personality patterns.

Law Students Hold Mock Trial in Tenant Eviction

As part of a series of mock trials conducted by the Law Department at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, law students held a mock trial in which a party sued for tenant eviction.

Visiting Scholars Offer Workshop on Numismatics and Archaeology

Three visiting French scholars held an intensive workshop at Birzeit University on the field of archeology and the study of coins, also called numismatics. The workshop was organized by the university's Department of History and Archaeology and sponsored by the Institut Français du Proche-Orient, the French Consulate, and the École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem from December 3-7, 2012.

Mock Trial Addresses Laws on Social Conflict

The Law Department at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, in cooperation with the Judicial Council, organized a mock trial entitled, "Lawsuit for conflict and discord," in which students highlighted the importance of this topic and legal mechanisms for handling social conflict.

Study Day Held at Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

The Birzeit University Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, in cooperation with the French Institute for Near East Studies, held a study day to address research on Palestine and the Palestinians. This event is part of a series of seminars conducted within a two-year participatory research project that involves partnership between a group of researchers from Birzeit University and the institute.

Joint Study Day Addresses Palestinian Curriculum and Identity

The Birzeit Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Arab Education Council of 1948 held a study day to discuss the Palestinian curricula and challenges of identity.

Burawoy Lectures on Social Movements in the Age of Neo-liberalism

The Birzeit University Department of Sociology and Anthropology sponsored a lecture on January 15, 2013 by renowned British sociologist Michael Burawoy. The talk, entitled "Social Movements in the Age of Neoliberalism," engaged new questions that recent social movements have put to social theory.



Samaritan History, Traditions Subject of Talk

Samaritans, their history, customs and traditions were the subject of a February 27, 2013 presentation jointly sponsored by the Samaritan Myth Society and Birzeit University's Public Relations Office, Department of History and Archeology and Cultural Studies Department. Later, a film about Samaritan rituals and customs was screened, followed by questions and answers.

Round Table Reviews Role of Palestinian Student Movements, Focusing on Birzeit University

Birzeit University's student movements and their role in Palestinian history was examined critically in the fifth in a lecture series sponsored by the Faculty of Arts held on February 26, 2013.

Nursing Graduates Take Nightingale Pledge

The Birzeit University Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions held its nursing oath ceremony on June 8, 2013. The ceremony was attended by university president Khalil Hindi, vice chairman of the Board of Trustees Mamdouh Aker and dean of the faculty Tamer Essawi, as well as a number of faculty members, graduates and their parents.

9th Engineering Day Showcases Relationships Between Academia and Industry

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi, Palestinian Minister of Local Government Khaled Qawasmi and Faculty of Engineering Dean Afif Hasan opened the ninth annual Engineering Day, a two-day event featuring engineering companies and graduate student projects, seminars, and an honorary ceremony for outstanding students. The April 16, 2013 event was held under the "golden" sponsorship of the Palestine Real Estate Investment Co. (PRICO) and the "silver" sponsorship of Consolidated Contractors International Company (CCC).

3rd Annual Open Day Highlights Work of Arts Faculty

The Birzeit University Faculty of Arts organized on April 13, 2013 its third annual open day of arts and culture events, entitled "Tales of the Faculty of Arts." Faculty of Arts Dean Mehdi Arar kicked off the event, telling the audience that "the objective of this day is to establish sustainable relations with the local community and acquaint the community with the Faculty of Arts." He said that the open day was intended for the community to learn more about the faculty's departments and vision.



Guest Lecturer Nawar Shenar Discusses Applications of Mass Spectrometry



On February 26, 2013, Birzeit University's Chemistry Department sponsored a seminar on "Mass Spectrometry: A powerful analytical tool for the detection and identification of organic compounds," with Nawar Shenar as the guest speaker. Following a general introduction of the discipline, Shenar briefly presented part of her postdoctoral research work conducted through private sector clients. The research provides examples of mass spectrometry's applications in proteomics.

Masterclass in Particle Physics 2013



More than 70 high school students and undergraduate students interested in natural sciences, information technology, and various branches of engineering participated in a one-day masterclass in particle physics sponsored by Birzeit University's Physics Department.

The March 5, 2013 masterclass included lectures, hands-on sessions and a virtual visit to the ATLAS control room in the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). The masterclass was coordinated by Wafaa Khater, the local contact person for International Masterclasses organized at TU Dresden, within the framework of the International Particle Physics Outreach Group. (For more information, see <http://physicsmasterclasses.org>).

Nursing Faculty Promotes Health Education and Early Detection at 4th Open Day



Birzeit University's Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions organized an Open Medicine Day, on April 30, 2013 in order to promote interest in public health and develop relationships between students' parents and public health institutions. Faculty Dean Tamer Essawi said, "This day aims to educate and raise awareness of health issues in the Palestinian community, in order to promote proper health patterns as a key strategy for withstanding health problems and early detection of diseases."

Companies, Organizations Seek Employees at 18th Business and Economics Career Day



Birzeit University's Faculty of Business and Economics held on April 30, 2013 its 18th Career Day, sponsored by Wataniya Mobile Company. The career day brought together a large number of companies and national institutions offering job opportunities for university graduates by facilitating their job search process.

University president Khalil Hindi said in his opening address, "Birzeit University pays special attention to its relations with all national sectors, as the university must constantly interact with the community and work on developing it in order to facilitate students' transition to working life."

Planning at Heritage Sites Explored at Sweden Workshop

In cooperation with the Architectural Department and Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture master's program at Birzeit University, a workshop on planning and life at heritage sites was organized by the Urban Heritage Cluster at the Department of Conservation, University of Gothenburg, Sweden from April 29 to May 5. Eight Birzeit University students and two professors, Manal Al-Bishawi and Shadi Al-Ghadban, visited the University of Gothenburg for an intensive week of discussions on issues related to heritage conservation and urban planning practices.

Law Department Organizes 'Mock Trial' Exploring Juvenile Delinquency Law

Birzeit University's Law Department at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration conducted a mock trial on May 18, 2013. The purpose of the exercise was to train students on judicial procedures in juvenile delinquency court cases in the Palestinian areas. The Law Department regularly organizes mock trials on various topics in order to inform students about real-world situations, complement academics with experience, and graduate distinguished and competent legal experts.

Prof. Michael T. Taussig from Columbia University Addresses State Fetishism

The Birzeit University Department of Sociology and Anthropology organized a round table seminar entitled "State Fetishism," which addressed the notion of the state as a "fetishised object" in modern political and sociological thought.

Visiting Engineer Discusses Standalone PV Systems in Department Lecture

Engineer Tamer Khatib spoke at a lecture sponsored by Birzeit University's Electrical Engineering Department on February 12, 2013 on the use of electromagnetic force systems in electric power generation. Khatib reviewed the scientific and technical characteristics of electromagnetic systems, such as the emergence of solar cells and electronic circuit components, as well as methods used in the design of electromagnetic force systems and the possibility of their application in Palestine.

Lecture on Innovation in Production and Manufacturing Management



Engineer Bahij Biqawi spoke to professors and students in the Faculty of Information Technology on February 12, 2013 on the proper methods of production and manufacturing management in the field of information and communications technology.

Video Lecture Offered on Mental Health Practices



Birzeit University's Nursing Department at the Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions sponsored a lecture on mental health on March 4, 2013 that was delivered by Associate Professor of Health Hans-Peter de Ruiter via videoconference from Minnesota State University in the United States, where he teaches. The department's senior students attended the lecture on the importance of mental health and to what extent Arab and Western societies and governments are willing to accept mental health as a medical discipline.

Law Faculty to Boost Cooperation with Palestinian Bar Association



Birzeit University's Faculty of Law and Public Administration on August 22 signed an agreement with the Palestinian Bar Association that will create opportunities, both academic and practical, in legal education. According to this agreement, Birzeit University will provide specialized professors in different areas of law to participate in discussions on legal research and the training of lawyers,

University Law Faculties to Cooperate on Developing Higher Education



The Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration and the faculties of law at An-Najah University and Al-Quds University have signed an agreement to support advanced legal studies. The project will be three years long, with a budget of 1.8 million Euros, funded by the European Union. It will work towards developing a master's program in criminal law at An-Najah and Al-Quds universities, and a master's program in economic and financial law at Birzeit University.



Birzeit University Graduates 11th Class of Osool "Assets/Arab Bank" Students

Birzeit University's Faculty of Business and Economics and the Arab Bank celebrated on March 9, 2013 the graduation of the 11th class of students from the Osool Assets/Arab Bank Program, which is tailored to train Palestinian university students.

Seeking to develop students' practical experience, 29 Business and Economics students participated in the training program and became acquainted with the bank's work mechanism. Biqawi reviewed new production management techniques in the field of communications and their impact on the quality and quantity of Information production in Palestine. The students, in turn, discussed ways to apply these concepts in the Palestinian technology market.

Physics Guest Lecturer Explores Advances in Surface Plasmon Resonance Devices

On March 4, 2013, the Faculty of Science at Birzeit University sponsored a lecture by guest professor Khawla Qamhieh. The lecture focused on advances in Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) sensing devices over the last decade, as knowledge about the devices has advanced both from a fundamental physics point of view and as highly sensitive devices for optical biosensing of a large number of small biological or chemical entities in gaseous and aqueous environments.

Faculty of Science Organizes 3rd Open Day

Birzeit University's Faculty of Science organized on April 18, 2013 its third annual Open Scientific Day, sponsored by Wataniya Mobile Company. The event featured laboratory tests and a plant and flower show, as well as a variety of other activities. In his opening address, Dean Wael Kerrain said, "The Faculty of Science seeks to support scientific advancements in Palestine by intensifying extra-curricular scientific activities in schools. Many secondary schools have been invited to participate in this scientific day."

6th Technology Day at Birzeit University



Birzeit University's Faculty of Information Technology opened the 6th Annual Technology Day, sponsored by Wataniya Mobile Company, on April 3, 2013.

The ceremony was attended by Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Safa Nasser Eldin, Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya, Faculty of Information Technology Dean Ali Jaber, Wataniya Chief Executive Officer Fayez Hussein, members of the University Council, faculty members, representatives of participating companies and many university students.

Legal Encounter: Examining Legal Requirements for E-Government in Palestine with Estonia as a Model



In cooperation with the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, the Institute of Law at Birzeit University organized on April 29, 2013 a legal encounter on "The Legal Requirements for E-Government in Palestine: Lessons from Estonia." The presentation was given by Professor Katrin Nyman-Metcalf, head of the Chair of Law and Technology at Tallinn Law School, Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia. Officials, law practitioners and IT professionals attended the event.

High Blood Pressure Lecture Informs Community



Birzeit University's Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Professions and the Palestinian Ministry of Health sponsored a lecture informing of the causes and dangers of high blood pressure. The event, held on April 18, 2013, is part of the ministry's commemoration of World Health Day. This year's slogan is "Are you under pressure? Watch your blood pressure to reduce the risk of a heart attack or stroke."

Faculty of Education Holds 3rd Educational Open Day



Birzeit University's Faculty of Education held its Third Educational Open Day on April 18, 2013 under the auspices of the Arab Islamic Bank. The open day featured handicraft exhibitions, folk dances, musical videos and a book fair, and was attended by faculty members and students, as well as visiting school students.



Faculty of Business and Economics Organizes 3rd Annual Open Day



The Birzeit University Faculty of Business and Economics held its third annual open day. This year's event was held on April 27, 2013 and was entitled "Let's Build our Society, Hand in Hand." It sought to acquaint the local community, Palestinian businesses and faculty students' families with the Faculty of Business and Economics. The open day included handicrafts and heritage exhibitions, dancing and singing performances, theatrical plays, and entertainment for children, physical challenge games, and competition between faculty, students and staff, as well as contests for students' families.



Activities of Institutes and Centers



Legal and Administrative Skills Graduates First Class



The Birzeit University Institute of Law and Center for Continuing Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, celebrated the graduation of the first class of the legal and administrative skills program, which is funded by the UNDP.

Workshop Engages European Union History, Law, and Institutions

On 13 December 2012, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies, in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, organized a symposium entitled, "The European Union: History, Law and Institutions." The event was based on a course offered by the institute. Former head of the European Commission delegation in Cairo Marc Franco highlighted the dual significance of this workshop. Not only does it present crucial information on the EU, its history, institutions and countries, thus deepening Palestinians' knowledge of the EU in general, but it helps the EU understand Palestinian students' perspectives, and what they think and feel towards the EU.



"Entrepreneurship Diploma" Program Launched

Birzeit University's Center for Continuing Education launched on January 5, 2013, the "Entrepreneurship Diploma" program, which is aimed at developing knowledge, entrepreneurial skills, and positive attitudes among potential and existing entrepreneurs.

The design and implementation of this diploma program is part of the ASPIRE project, which is being implemented by the center in partnership with European and Middle Eastern universities. ASPIRE, in turn, is funded by the European Union through TEMPUS. The program is a year and a half long. During its implementation, trainees will be provided with the opportunity to train in private companies to obtain practical experience related to their fields of specialization.

Workshop Addresses Measures for Coping with Flooding in Palestine

On February 23, 2013, the Institute of Environmental and Water Studies at Birzeit University (BZU) held a workshop on measures to cope with flooding in Palestine. Institute Director Abu Madi said that the workshop is part of the university's mission to serve the community by complementing the initiatives of partner institutions that aim at reducing the negative effects of low pressure systems.

Is Science Western in Origin? Asks Visiting Lecturer



The Birzeit University Ibn Rushd Unit for Educational Development held a lecture entitled, "Is Science Western?" on April 29, 2013. The lecture was delivered by professor Chandra Raju from India, who has authored 12 books and dozens of articles, mainly on the subjects of physics, mathematics, and the history and philosophy of science.

Lecture Explores Palestinian-Russian Relations



Birzeit University's Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held on July 25, 2013 a lecture on "Russian-Palestinian relations; Russia's role in the Middle East peace process," delivered by the Palestinian ambassador to the Russian Federation Fayed Mustafa.

Ambassador Mustafa overviewed the history of Palestinian-Russian relations, starting with the year 1974, when the representative office of the Palestine Liberation Organization was opened in the Soviet Union, marking a turning point in the relationship between Palestine and what was the USSR at that time. In 1990, Palestinian representation was elevated to that of an embassy in Moscow when Russia became one of the first countries to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and supported the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Turkish Ambassador Speaks on Palestinian-Turkish Relations



On August 19, 2013, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University hosted the Turkish Ambassador to the Palestinian Authority Shaker Ozkan Turonlarn to speak on Palestinian-Turkish relations. This lecture was part of a series organized by the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies that host international diplomats and other policymakers at the university.

Media Development Center and UNESCO Hold a Conference on Media Development in Palestine



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Birzeit University Media Development Center held the National Congress for the presentation and discussion of the preliminary findings of the assessment of media development in Palestine using UNESCO's media development indicators. During the conference, video conferencing was held between Ramallah and Gaza to discuss the preliminary findings of the UNESCO project "Assessment of Media Development in Palestine using UNESCO's Media Development Indicators."

Lecture Explores Independence of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission

The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held on July 24, 2013 a lecture entitled, "Independence in the Palestinian Central Elections Commission's Work," delivered by the commission's Director of Media and Projects Department Fared Taamallah. He addressed the commission's work mechanism. "The CEC's work is based on the Palestinian Election Law and its bylaws are derived from international standards," he said.

Diplomacy Meetings Series Addresses Palestinian-Korean Relations

As part of the Diplomacy Meetings Series, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University hosted on July 3rd, 2013 Korean Ambassador to Palestine His Excellency Sung Jun Yeo to talk about the Korean experience. At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Yoe expressed his hope that Palestinians would benefit from the Korean experience in a way that would help them to deal with the Israeli occupation, internal political division and the deteriorating economic situation.

Family Guidance and Reconciliation Directors Trained

In cooperation with the High Council of Family Courts, the Birzeit University Institute of Law launched on July 2, 2013 a training course targeting directors of Family Guidance and Reconciliation Departments at the Palestin-

ian family courts. Organized with support from the Danish Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority, the training covered procedures in place at these departments over three days (August 2, 3 and 8, 2013).

Legislative Drafting Diploma Program Kicks Off Second Year

For the second year in a row, Birzeit University's Institute of Law launched on March 2, 2013 its Specialized Professional Diploma Program in Legislative Drafting. The first of its kind in the Arab world, the diploma program is designed to provide capacity building and enhance legislative drafting skills. A special event was held to kick off the program, attended by Vice President for Community Affairs Samia Halileh, program advisor Fawwaz Abu Zir, Assistant to the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers for Legal Affairs Jamil Salem, institute Director Ghassan Faramand, and director of the institute's Legislative Assistance Department and Coordinator of the Diploma Program in Legislative Drafting Mahmoud Alawneh.

Writer Hourani Reviews Syrian Politics in Conflict

Speaking at Birzeit University, author Faisal Hourani said that great powers want to prevent Syria from playing an active regional, political and strategic role in the future. The presentation was sponsored by the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies on February 13, 2013. Hourani addressed political conditions in Syria from a geo-political perspective, linking the dispute to the global conflict between the major powers, and discussing its impact on the Arab regimes.

4th Annual Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference Explores Main Health Issues

The fourth annual Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA) Conference on the “Health of Palestinians Inside and Outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory” was held in Cairo, Egypt on March 18-19, 2013. It was jointly organized by Birzeit University’s Institute of Community and Public Health and American University of Beirut’s Center for Research on Population and Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Birzeit University and Palestinian Child Club Open Amari Refugee Camp Computer Lab

Birzeit University’s Najjad Zeenni Information Technology Center of Excellence (NZITCE) and the Palestinian Child Club in the Amari Refugee Camp opened a computer lab in the camp on February 7, 2013. NZITCE has also signed an agreement with the club to provide computers, supervise training courses for the camp’s children and support the club with new trends in technology and information.

This initiative is designed to create channels of communication between Palestinian refugee camps and Birzeit University. Within the framework of the project, NZITCE will establish a network of computer clubs in refugee camps and surrounding villages.

Institute of Environmental and Water Studies Establishes Advisory Board

The Birzeit University Institute of Environmental and Water Studies held a meeting to establish an advisory coun-

cil for water and environment, and to discuss future cooperation in the water and environment sectors. The meeting brought together Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi, head of the Palestinian Water Authority Shaddad Attili, a representative of the Dutch consulate, and decision-makers in the ministries and other local institutions.

Law Institute Trains in Litigating in Family Courts

In cooperation with the High Council of Family Courts, the Institute of Law launched a three-day training course on the Litigation Process before Family Courts. The training event targeted directors of family court clerk offices. In addition to the family court administration, training will be provided in procedures of divorce and certification of succession.

Conference Explores “Between Dependence and Independence: What Future for Palestine?”

Birzeit University’s Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies held a conference entitled “Between Dependence and Independence: What Future for Palestine?” on March 9, 2013. The conference is expected to build on the findings of previous workshops held by the institute. It brought together a number of local and international experts and academics to address the complexities of Palestinian independence under Israeli occupation. Several issues were discussed including international aid, demography, water, refugees, migration and the tunnel economy in the Gaza Strip.

Legal Encounter Participants Advocate for Information Access in Palestine



The Birzeit University Institute of Law - Gaza Branch organized a legal encounter on “Rights and Freedoms: Access to Information in the Palestinian Territories” on March 5, 2013. The presentation was given by Baker Turkmani, legal advisor to the Gaza-based Office of the Coalition for Integrity and Accountability. Coordinator of the institute’s Gaza Office Lina Al-Tounisi first welcomed the audience, expressing hope that the legal encounter would contribute to promoting rights and freedoms in Palestine, most notably the right to access information.

Forum Explores New Palestine Status at United Nations



The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies sponsored a forum on December 11, 2012 exploring the significance of Palestine’s new position as a non-member state at the United Nations. In his opening address, Director Abdulkarim Barghouti emphasized the institute’s desire to engage such issues of national interest and the importance of dialogue, mutual respect for ideas, and knowledge based on information.

Workshop in Legal Research Brings Together Experts



On November 9-10, 2012, the Institute of Law at Birzeit University organized a workshop on “Planning and Doing Legal Research.” The workshop was designed to introduce relevant research methodologies as well as to enhance and upgrade skills and expertise of teaching staff and researchers at Palestinian law schools in developing research project proposals. The event was attended by professors of law and legal researchers at Birzeit, as well as law school deans from Al Quds University, An Najah National University and Palestine Ahliya University College.

Methodologies in Environmental Higher Education Explored



The Institute of Water and Environmental Studies at Birzeit University conducted a training day on “Developing a Strategic Plan for the Reform of Environmental Studies in the Higher Education System of Palestine” project, funded by the European Union.

The main aim of the project is to develop a strategic plan for reforming environmental studies in the Palestinian higher education system through development of partnerships with enterprises, on the basis of local and international practices and experience. The project will evaluate the current status and practices of environmental studies in Palestinian higher education institutes.

Lecture Explores US Presidential Elections and their Outcome

The Birzeit University Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies presented a lecture on November 6, 2012 on the US presidential elections and how they might impact the Palestinian cause. The speakers were Lourd Habash and Samir Awad, both professors in the Department of Political Science.

Conference Addresses Impact of Political Detention on Families

On November 19, 2012, representatives of more than a dozen local and international non-governmental organizations that work with Palestinian detainees and their families, in addition to the Ministry of Detainee and Ex-detainee Affairs, attended a consultative conference at Birzeit University's Institute of Community and Public Health. The conference was part of a research project on the impacts of Palestinian political detention by the Israeli military on the wives and children of detainees. The research team presented their main findings, including the results of an institutional survey with the participating organizations, and facilitated a constructive discussion with attendees.

Legal Encounter Looks at Khul' (Wife-initiated Divorce) in History

On September 11, 2012, the Birzeit University Institute of Law organized a legal encounter on Khul' [Wife-initiated Divorce] from the historical perspective of Islamic jurisprudence theories. Lena Nather from UC Berkeley School of Law and His Eminence Judge Yousef Id'eis, Chief Justice and President of the High Family Court each provided illuminating commentary.



Brainstorming Held on Religion, Human Rights in Draft Palestinian Constitution

On September 18, 2012, the Institute of Law at Birzeit University organized a brainstorming session on "Religion and Human Rights in the Draft Palestinian Constitution." In addition to a number of institute legal researchers, the session brought together former Minister of Justice Ali Khashan, and Dr. William Nassar. Khashan highlighted that the relationship between religion and the state is critical, controversial and requires in-depth examination. Nassar explained that the concept of the state is secular. The state per se cannot have a religion; it is the people and political system that have one, he said. In regards to public rights and freedoms, Nassar emphasized that Arab states have reservations about provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that violate Islamic Law. Referring to a major problem of Arab constitutions, Nassar stated that Arab legislators associate rights with obligations, and by doing so infringe on human rights.

Conference Engages Palestine Legislative Workings and Political Division

On December 4, 2012, the Institute of Law at the University of Birzeit in Ramallah organized a conference on "The Legislative Status in the Palestinian Territory and Problems of Dual Authority: Reality and Horizons," in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung foundation. The conference focused on the impact of the ongoing political division between Gaza and the West Bank on the legislative process.

Independent Commission's Role in Addressing Human Rights Discussed

Birzeit University's Institute of Law, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, organized on February 28, 2013 a legal encounter on the role of the Independence Commission of Human Rights, a semi-government institution, in addressing human rights issues in Palestine.

Guest Lecturer Addresses Rights Politics from a Feminist Perspective

On September 17, 2012, the Institute of Women's Studies launched its 2012-13 activities by hosting Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory at Jawaharlal Nehru University professor Nivedita Menon, in a seminar titled: "Rethinking Rights Politics from a Feminist Perspective." The seminar focused on two main themes, abortion and sexual violence, based on two chapters of Menon's 2004 book entitled, "Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics beyond the Law."

Speakers Debate Gaza's Tunnel Economy

The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held a workshop entitled: "Gaza's Tunnel Economy: Dependence or Independence?" The workshop is the fifth and last in a series on the "Political Economy of Dependence and Independence in Palestine." In her opening address, Vice President for Community Affairs Samia Halileh stated that this workshop series aims at provoking serious discussions on strategic issues in Palestine.

Palestinian E-Government Academy Kicks Off Professional Training Program

The Palestinian E-Government Academy, Project led by SINA institute at Birzeit University in cooperation with many Palestinian and European Universities and ministries and funded by the EU TEMPUS Project, kicked off its professional advanced training program. This training program is designed to respond to the needs of Palestinian national plans for implementing IT-based solutions for E-Government. The program consists of six courses covering 300 training hours.

The program aims at capacity building and skills development in three major areas: interoperability and interface exchange, information security, and legal informatics, which represent the cornerstones for building and implementing e-services in general, and e-Government in particular. The training material was prepared last year by Palestinian academics and experts, in cooperation with European scientists.

Legal Encounter Features Process for Joining Pension Fund

The Birzeit University Institute of Law on October 18, 2012 sponsored, alongside the Birzeit University Union of Professors and Employees, a legal encounter on "Joining the Pension Fund: Process and Procedures." The encounter focused on mechanisms for subscribing to the public pension fund, an important topic for university employees.

Center for Continuing Education Graduates Third Class of Sports Management Program

The Center for Continuing Education at Birzeit University celebrated on March 12, 2013 the graduation of its third class and the start of training for the fourth class of its sports management program. The program is implemented in partnership with the Palestinian Football Federation and the International Centre for Sports Studies, and is a joint venture with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

Women's Studies Holds 5th Annual Conference on 'Education for Liberation and Social Justice'

Observing International Women's Day, the Birzeit University Institute of Women's Studies held on March 13, 2013 its fifth annual conference on "Education for Freedom and Social Justice." The conference sought to create a space for reflection and dialogue on new ideas related to education from a gender perspective and its role in achieving freedom and social justice.

Lecture Explores Colonial Rivalries Past and Present in the Arab World

Birzeit University Professor of Geography Husain Al-Rimawi asserted that “The ‘real’ Arab Spring is when Arab countries kick out the foreign colonizer, which controls our resources and heritage.” He made the statement while giving a lecture on “Colonial Rivalry over the Arab World: Past, Present and Future Considerations,” held by the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies on March 6, 2013.

Institute of Law Trains Palestinian Parliament in Legislative Drafting and Analysis

As part of ongoing efforts to consolidate, upgrade and develop principles of good legislative drafting, the Institute of Law at Birzeit University concluded on March 25, 2013 a training course on the principles and standards of legislative drafting and analysis. Organized in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Palestinian Legislative Council, the training course included a select number of its staff and advisors. Sessions covered a number of themes combining both theory and practice, with a particular focus on analyzing certain post-2007 decree laws.

Workshop Preps Study on Media Development Standards

Birzeit University Media Development Center held a two-day training workshop on October 17-18, 2012 on “Preparing a study on media development standards in Palestine.” The workshop is part of the Palestinian Na-

tional Media Strategy Project and was conducted in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Ramallah. The Palestinian National Media Strategy Project was launched on July 4. In his opening address, Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi said he valued cooperation with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Palestinian Government Media Center, the Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate and other local partner institutions in carrying out this national project. Hindi added that the university seeks to create a framework for developing Palestinian media that prevents wasted funds and energy in scattered, duplicate or contradictory efforts. International media expert Toby Mendel conducted the training, with presentations on diverse aspects of the Palestinian media landscape given by five key speakers, Deputy Minister of Information Mahmoud Khalifah, journalist and member of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate Husam Izz Al Deen, Media Development Center at Birzeit University director Nibal Thawbteh, lecturer specialized in gender issues at Al-Quds University Nahed Abu-Tomeh, and presidential advisor on Communication Affairs Sabri Saidam. UNESCO MDI Coordinator Saorla McCabe also provided an introduction on the MDI methodology, its origins and objectives.

Professor Speaks on Rediscovering Secularism and Religiosity

The Birzeit University Institute of Women’s Studies hosted professor of international studies Majid Shehadeh for a lecture on re-rediscovering secularism and religion and what it means for Palestinians and the rest of the Arab world.

Media Development Center Concludes Radio Diction Training Course



The Birzeit University Media Development Center concluded a 30-hour training course on radio diction, in which media expert Arif Salim trained 16 participants in the foundations and principles of speaking to a radio audience.

Institute of Law Gaza Hosts Brainstorming on Religion and Rights in Draft Constitution



The Institute of Law's Gaza branch held a brainstorming session on religion and human rights in the draft Palestinian constitution, drawing on lessons from the experiences of countries that experienced the "Arab Spring." The session included various approaches to addressing the status of religion within the constitution, as well as the horizons of respect for human rights in legislation and practice in Palestine, Arab countries and other parts of the world.

Lecturer Engages Misconceptions about Arabs before Islam



As part of a series of activities on secularism and religion conducted by the Birzeit University Institute of Women's Studies, the Philosophy and Cultural Studies Department at the Faculty of Arts hosted Jamal Daher to speak on "The Arabs before Islam: a Refutation of a Prevailing Conception." He focused on how ancient and contemporary Arab researchers documented the pre-Islamic period.

Training Course Kicks Off on Family Court Trial Procedures



The Institute of Law organized a training course on "Trial Procedures before Family Courts in Palestine" for practicing and trainee lawyers in the northern and central West Bank.

Radio Story Relates Reality of Palestinian Villages



The Media Development Center concluded the project "Voice of our Villages," funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation (Germany), where 19 radio stories were broadcast on the history, culture and lives of a number of Palestinian villages. The center collaborated with 13 local radio stations in ten governorates distributed all over the north, center and south to broadcast these stories all over the country.

Symposium Addresses Religion and Human Rights in the Palestinian Draft Constitution



In cooperation with the NGO Development Centre, the Institute of Law organized on December 20, 2012 a symposium on "Religion and Human Rights in the Palestinian Draft Constitution: Lessons Learnt from Emerging Democracies in Arab Countries."

Media Development Center Forms Specialized Research Team



Media Development Center held a seminar on media research methods, after which a media research group – the first of its kind in Palestine – was formed. The seminar was supervised by visiting researcher Melinda Robbins, a professor of media theory and research at Emerson College in Boston.

Visiting Professor Moderates Roundtable “The Death of Politics in Palestine”



Birzeit University’s Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute for International Studies, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, hosted on January 16, 2013 a roundtable discussion entitled “The Death of Politics in Palestine,” moderated by visiting professor Nubar Hovsepian.

Professor of History Roger Heacock opened the discussion, welcoming Hovsepian and student and faculty member attendees. “It’s our pleasure to host Professor Hovsepian at the Abu Lughod Institute, as he’s a friend of Birzeit University and all Palestinians,” he said.

Media Development Center, Journalists Syndicate Open a Gender Unit



Birzeit University’s Media Development Center has opened a gender unit in partnership with the Journalists Syndicate. The move was announced at a March 16 consultative meeting attended by representatives of the

center and the Journalists Syndicate, who discussed a vision for the unit, which will be led by journalist Nahed Abu T’eima.

The center’s director Nibal Thawabteh said that the main objective of the unit is to strengthen the role and participation of women in the media. Syndicate representative Omar Nazzal observed that the percentage of active journalists who are female is 17.1%, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, and those members of the syndicate that are female make up about 20% of the group.

Workshop Explores European Economic & Financial Integration through the Regulatory Framework



On April 8-9, 2013, the Institute of Law at Birzeit University organized a workshop on European economic and financial integration through its regulatory framework. Palestinian and international academics were invited to join in the workshop, which brought together representatives of the Palestinian public and private sectors, as well as law students at Birzeit University.

Training Course on the Litigation Process before Family Courts



In cooperation with the High Council of Family Courts, the Institute of Law launched on June 25, 2013 a training course litigating before the family courts. Taking place over three days (June 25, 26 and 29, 2013), the

training event was offered to directors of family court clerk offices. In addition to family court administration, training will be provided on procedures of divorce and certification of succession. The training course will also include a presentation on the Family Law Court Judgements Database of the Palestinian Legal and Judicial System (AL-MUQTAFI).

Ambassador Abuznaid Lectures on Palestinian Dutch Relations

As part of a series of meetings on diplomacy, the Birzeit University Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held a lecture on Palestinian-Dutch Relations on June 20, 2013. The lecture was delivered by Palestinian Ambassador to the Netherlands Nabil Abuznaid, who described the Palestinian community in the Netherlands, which numbers about 7,000. He added that these Palestinians started working as laborers in oil factories in the Netherlands, and were unable to return to Palestine after 1967 due to the Israeli occupation.

Symposium on European Economic & Financial Integration through the Regulatory Framework

With support from the Jean Monnet Lifelong Learning Programme," the Institute of Law organized on June 17, 2013, a symposium on "European Economic & Financial Integration through the Regulatory Framework: Steering the Legal Aspects." Speakers explored how the EU model can be extended and utilized to encourage and

consolidate Arab and Arab-European economic and financial integration.

Eight experts from France, Belgium, Birzeit University and financial institutions took part in the symposium. Presentations addressed the extension of the exclusive EU common trade policy to foreign direct investment; EU investor protection after the financial crisis; required legal and structural adjustments for Palestinian-European possible aspects of cooperation; measures of the internal market in the EU; and challenges and prospects of Arab economic and financial integration. Speakers also elaborated on the role of the prospectus directive in unifying EU regulated capital markets, transparency norms of the world trade system and Free Trade Agreements, and objectives of the Palestinian Draft Law of Competition in comparison to the EU experience.

"Comprehensive School Project" Graduates 90

The Birzeit University Center for Continuing Education celebrated on June 12, 2013 the graduation of 90 participants in the Comprehensive School Project. The project worked with a number of government and United Nations schools, including four schools in Jerusalem, to provide an educational environment that helps students to build their knowledge.

Other Miscellaneous Activities



"I'm Jawwal" Agreement Renewed for Sixth Time

Birzeit University and Jawwal Company agreed to renew the joint project "I'm Jawwal" for the sixth time. The project allows for the establishment of a Jawwal booth on campus, where students of the Faculty of Business and Economics are trained in sales and marketing the company's services. Jawwal has provided students with excellent training opportunities, which led to their winning first and second prize.

Birzeit University, Ministry of Social Affairs Cooperate in Supporting Needy Students

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi and Minister of Social Affairs Majeda El-Masri signed a memorandum of understanding covering several fields, mainly the carrying out of a social survey of needy students and working together to provide them with scholarships.

Electrical and Electronics Engineers' Day Brings Together Students, Faculty

The Student Branch of the Association of Electrical and Electronics Engineers at the university organized the first event of its kind in the Palestinian universities, "IEEE Open Day," which brought together professors of the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Computer Systems Engineering, as well as students from different faculties.

Birzeit University Hosts Palestinian-American Inventor and Nuclear Scientist

As part of a lecture series on "Entrepreneurship and Leadership," Birzeit University on March 25, 2013 hosted Reyad Sawafta, the founder and chief executive officer of North Carolina-based QuarTek Corporation. QuarTek Corporation is a privately held nanotechnology company that Sawafta founded in 2004 (see <http://www.>

quartekcorp.com). He describes QuarTek as “a company dedicated to introducing innovations for the benefit of mankind.” One such innovation is the creation of products that use nanotechnology to provide safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities by converting contaminated water into safe and drinkable water.

Cornerstone Laid for Sameer Owaidah Garden

Birzeit University celebrated the laying of the foundation stone for the Sameer Owaidah Garden project on April 13, 2013. Designed by architectural engineering students, the garden is located in the area between Al Maktoum building and the Faculty of Arts and will serve as a social and cultural space for students.



Birzeit University, Paltel Group Sign Groundbreaking CO-OP Work Study Agreement

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi and Paltel CEO Ammar Aker on December 20, 2012 signed an agreement establishing a co-op education program between the two entities. The agreement establishes a university work-study program that integrates the academic curriculum with practical work experience – a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity.

Birzeit University Signs Cooperative Pact with Palestinian Ministry of Planning

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi signed a memorandum of understanding with the Minister of Planning and Administrative Development Mohammed Abu Ramadan at the ministry in Ramallah on January 28, 2013. The agreement is intended to enhance cooperation between the academic and public sectors in the field of planning. Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Afif Hasan, director of the university’s master’s program in urban planning and landscape architecture Manal Bishawi, and project manager of spatial planning at the ministry Ahmed Saleh were also in attendance.

Different Generations Attend Birzeit University Alumni Forum 2013



Birzeit University organized an alumni forum on June 29, 2013, aiming to promote the spirit of communication and affiliation and to activate its partnership with its alumni all over the world. The meeting brought together a large number of university graduates, both recent and old graduates, who exchanged their experiences and shared their memories at the university.

Welfare Association to Support Need Scholarships



As part of the Academic Excellence Program, Birzeit University signed an agreement with the Welfare Association on June 4, 2013. The program provides scholarships for outstanding needy students, covering tuition fees for undergraduate students during their four-year bachelor of the arts studies. The agreement provides for two major grants, the Munir Kaloti grant that offers 10 scholarships to students enrolled in the BA program, four of which are students from Jerusalem. The second grant, named after Hana Kaloti, provides four scholarships for students enrolled in the bachelor program, out of which one is a student from Jerusalem.

International Voluntary Work Camp Opens



The Birzeit University Deanship of Student Affairs kicked off on June 24, 2013 an international volunteer work camp. This year, 50 volunteers from different countries of the world and Palestine will volunteer for two weeks. Students from the United States, Britain, Turkey, Brazil, United Arab Emirates and Germany are participating, visiting Palestinian towns and villages to learn about Palestinian heritage, meet with Palestinian figures, and attend lectures.

Birzeit University and Qattan Foundation Sign Biodiversity Agreement



Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi and General Manager of the AM Qattan Foundation Ziad Khalaf signed an agreement on June 4, 2013 to establish a botanical garden at the university. The agreement is intended to develop and raise awareness about biodiversity in Palestine and preserving the environment, while providing botany training opportunities for university and school students with the involvement of the local community. The agreement allows for a garden that is designed to serve the Palestinian community by collecting native and imported plants and saving them from the threat of extinction.

Dance and Revelry Marks Birzeit Nights Festival 2013



The Birzeit University Student Affairs Deanship revived the 3rd Birzeit Nights Festival for two consecutive nights on June 19-20, 2013. The festival included a variety of songs and folk dances performed by three Palestinian groups: Naqsh, Roots "Juthour" and Asayel. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Bank of Palestine, United Auto Trade Company, Birzeit Pharmaceutical Company, Golden Wheat Mills, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Al-Muhtaseb Household Company, Palestine Television, Ajyal Radio Network, and Maan News. All the sponsors were recognized by Birzeit University at the event.

Project Initiates A Tree for Every Graduate



The Student Affairs Deanship launched an initiative that plants a tree for every graduate project in order to encourage tree planting, which provides a better life for coming generations and enriches the aesthetics of the university campus.

Christian Book Fair XIII A Holiday Event



The Christian Book Fair is held annually on campus on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. The exhibition included Christian books collected from Catholic, Orthodox and Evangelical churches, in addition to hymn CDs, souvenirs, gifts and free books. The participating priests called for justice, equality, reconciliation and peace in Palestine, emphasizing the role of science and culture in maintaining openness to the world and different religions.

Birzeit University Signs Cooperation Agreement with Wataniya Mobile



On February 7, 2013, Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi signed a cooperation agreement with Wataniya Mobile Company CEO Fayez Hussein. According to the agreement, Wataniya will sponsor Open Days for the faculties of Business and Economics and Science, and the Information Technology Expo, in addition to providing an in-kind contribution to the orientation program for new students. In exchange, the university will offer the company a permanent on-campus location for Wataniya Mobile to conduct customer service, marketing and product sales.



Awards & Prizes

Being a dynamic place to pursue top-level research and education, BZU has achieved a series of successes by its faculty members and students in many areas. However, it recognizes outstanding achievements of its teaching staff and graduate students. In addition to the regional and international recognition of our achievements, as listed below:

BZU Ranks Second in Beirut Human Rights Moot Court Competition

On September 21-23, 2012, a Birzeit University student team took part in the 2012 Human Rights Moot Court Competition, organized by the Arab Academic Human Rights Network (AAHRN). Upon the conclusion of the competition, AAHRN announced that the Birzeit team had won second place in the oral argument round. Law students from Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan also participated in the Moot Court Competition.

Birzeit University Ranks First Among Palestinians in World Championship IEEEExtreme

The Birzeit University student branch of the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology "IEEE" ranked first among Palestinian universities and ranked fourth among the Arab universities in the world championships, IEEEExtreme.

Students Win Grants from Hassouneh Scholarships for Academic Excellence

For the third consecutive semester, outstanding students have obtained grants and awards from donors Suhaila Mabrouk Hassouneh and Saadi Faris Hassouneh. The awards were presented by the managing director of the Gas and Equipment Factory in Abu Dhabi, Abdel Kareem Hassouneh, who donated an amount of \$150,000 to cover tuition fees for four years.

Student Takes Third at 15th Arab Creative Students Forum

Law and Public Administration student Hind Ramadan Al-Batta placed third in the scientific research contest at the 15th Arab Creative Students Forum held at Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University in Saudi Arabia on November 17-22, 2012. Over 150 students from various Arab universities participated in the forum.

Al-Batta presented a research paper entitled "The role of Palestinian universities in promoting political awareness from 1987-2012." Her research examines the role of Palestinian universities in promoting political awareness in society. The first chapter of the study discusses the complementary relationship between the role of the Palestinian universities and the students' movement, with the goal of assessing the Palestinian universities' ability to provide the appropriate democratic environment for student council elections. Al-Batta's research also explores the extracurricular activities that aim to promote political awareness among students, emphasizing the importance of the amalgamation of the universities and the students' movement in managing these activities.

Female Students Win Basketball Tournament for Third Year Running

Birzeit University team won first place in the female students' basketball tournament for the third consecutive year.

Electrical Engineering Department Places First at Arab Innovation Network Annual Conference

Birzeit University's Electrical Engineering Department won first prize in the field of Information and Communication Technology at the Arab Innovation Network Annual Conference organized by Cambridge University's Arab Innovation Network Society and held on December 4-6, 2012 in the United Arab Emirates.

Islah Jad Selected as Vera Campbell Resident Scholar



Director of the Birzeit University Women's Studies Institute, Islah Jad, was selected from among 33 competing candidates to be a 2013-2014 Vera Campbell Resident Scholar. As a result, Jad will be spending nine months at the School for Advanced Research (SAR) in the US from September 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014. The fellowship program is designed to support writing and research needs and to encourage interaction with the school's scholarly community.

Birzeit University Takes Third in Environmental Leadership Competition



Birzeit University won third place with a student rooftop cultivation project in the Middle East Environmental Leadership Program (MEELP) competition. The competition was held at An Najah National University on April 25, 2013 and more than 50 projects from different Palestinian universities were submitted.

The entry, created by chemistry students, aims to enhance rooftop cultivation by means other than soil to grow crops 20 times faster than those grown through ordinary agriculture, while using 90% less water than conventional farming.

Birzeit University Student Wins Berkeley Prize for Architectural Design



Birzeit University engineering student Faiq Mari has won second prize in the 15th Annual Berkeley Undergraduate Prize for Architectural Design Excellence. Mari is a fifth-year architectural engineering student, whose main interest is adapting private and public buildings in response to the needs of the physically disabled, as he believes in their right to a normal life, one unconstrained by buildings with set architectural designs.

Birzeit Ranks first in the Zuhair Hijjawi Award in Basic Sciences-2013



Chemistry student Rana Yagmour won the Zuhair Hijjawi Award in Basic Sciences-2013, which is dedicated to Palestinian university students. The title of the winning project was "Photo-Fenton Decolorization of Aqueous Bromophenol Blue (BPB) Catalyzed by 'Greener' Iron Nanoparticles."

Birzeit University 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 Ramallah on February 2-3, 2013. The contest involved 45 students from six Palestinian law faculties in the West Bank, including the team from Birzeit University.



Publications and Research Projects

This year, BZU has worked on supporting and following-up on research activities and projects, as the process of supporting scientific research has been institutionalized through the formation of a funding and follow-up committee for supporting scientific research at BZU. Moreover, faculty members and researchers at BZU have contributed substantially to the development of knowledge on the world scale by publishing numerous articles, working papers, reports, studies, periodicals and books., including:

Social Text Periscope Publishes Essay by Majid Shehadeh

Birzeit University is pleased to announce the online publication of the essay entitled “The Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel: Unsettling Exceptionalism” by Professor Majid Shehadeh in the journal *Social Text*. The journal has also published essays related to an academic delegation’s visit to Palestine, including to Birzeit University, in January 2012.

The article is available online at:

<http://www.socialtextjournal.org/periscope/2012/07/the-us-academic-and-cultural-boycott-of-israel-unsettling-exceptionalisms.php>

Professor Kerrain Co-authors Article on Air Pollution in Palestine

Mechanical engineering professor Mohammed Kerrain has co-authored a scientific article entitled, “Air Pollution in Palestine,” published in *Palestine This Week*.

Professor Giacaman Presents Findings of Public Health Research

In its October 8, 2012 online issue, *The Lancet*, a United Kingdom-based medical journal, published an article entitled: "Palestinian Health - Science for Accountability." The article highlights the research carried out recently on the health status of the Palestinian people, including refugees living in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It outlines three areas of the health situation of the Palestinian people. In the article, editor-in-chief of *The Lancet*, Richard Horton, commends the leadership of Professor Rita Giacaman, professor of public health at the Institute of Community and Public Health, in the conference of the Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance held in Beirut last March where the findings of 32 research studies were presented. He makes reference to the research study prepared by Giacaman and Zeina Amro that sheds light on measures of dignity among Palestinian adolescents in the context of their larger effort to better define social suffering.



Institute of Women's Studies Publishes 7th Review



Birzeit University's Institute of Women's Studies published its seventh annual review, including five research articles in Arabic and seven in English, most of which were presented at the institute's 2011 and 2012 conferences. Research topics touched on several issues, among them Palestinian law and civil society, the socioeconomic situation of Palestinian women in Jaffa, women's rights after the Oslo accords, Israel's forced displacement of Palestinians, and rights in post-colonial contexts.

Institute of Law Publishes Review of Palestinian Family Courts

In a landmark achievement, Birzeit University's Institute of Law published on February 19, 2013 a book on the family courts in Palestine. The book is one of the activities of the Building Family Courts Database project, implemented between January 2011 and January 2012 with support from the Representative Office of Denmark to the Palestinian Authority and in cooperation with the High Council of Family Courts.

The Family Courts in Palestine includes two research papers and a report. The first paper addresses the organizational structure, jurisdiction and status of ecclesiastical courts in Palestine. The other covers conflict of jurisdiction between family and regular courts. The report provides an overview of the organizational structure, formation and jurisdiction of Islamic (*Sharia*) courts, highlighting the working relationship between these courts

and Office of the Chief Justice. The publication also includes a select collection of judgments entered by the Sharia Court of Appeals in Jerusalem and Sharia Court of Nablus. Comments on these judgments are contributed by renowned lawyers, academics and retired judges with experience in personal status and gender issues.

Visiting Professor Lectures on Kidney Cancer and its Treatment

The Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University on February 16, 2013 held the seventh lecture in a series. The talk was entitled “Epidemiology of Kidney Cancer: Renal Cell Carcinoma” and was delivered by University of Florida Health Sciences Center Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology Nabih Asal. The institute’s lecture series contributes to the process of building a Palestinian health care system through a strategy that develops health services and provides health information for Palestinians.



Birzeit University to Support Undergraduate Student Research Program

The Birzeit University administration has decided to allocate part of its research budget to support undergraduate student research projects conducted under the supervision of teaching staff or mentors.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya said that the university has allocated JD 1,000 for each research project, and will annually support at least 10 high-quality student research projects originating in various faculties. “Looking to the future, the university seeks to increase the number of subsidized research projects, as we would like to hold a scientific conference for undergraduate researchers where students can present their findings by the end of next academic year.”

Book Collection Donated by Sayegh Family

Birzeit University Library has received a collection of library books donated by the family of the late Anis Sayegh. The collection contains more than 6,000 titles that cover various academic, intellectual and political topics. Library director Diana Sayej Nasir expressed her appreciation to the Sayegh family, saying, “Birzeit University considers this precious gift of books and magazines as best example of giving to the next generations.”

Kamal Shamshoum Memoirs Celebrate with Launch

On October 1, 2012, Birzeit University launched a book that reviews the history of physical education in BZU. *Forty-five years, Kamal Shamshoum and his life long career at Birzeit University College covers all aspects of sports at the university, formerly Birzeit College*, along with Kamal Shamshoum's memories of his thousands of students.

Staff Publications Exhibit Opens

Birzeit University opened a faculty and staff publications exhibit at Yusuf Ahmed Alghanem Library, the Main Library. The exhibit displays research conducted by university affiliates over the past ten years and highlights the importance of scientific research. The exhibit's opening ceremony, held on April 3, 2013, was attended by university President Khalil Hindi, Palestinian Minister of Culture Siham Barghouti, Library Director Diana Sayej, members of the University Council and researchers, faculty and staff. Nearly 450 print publications from the past decade are on display (from 2003 until 2012), including refereed articles in scientific journals.



International and Regional Cooperation

This year's international and regional cooperation has focused on receiving many delegations and visitors, participation in international and regional events, signing cooperation agreements, as listed herebelow:

Faculty of Engineering Signs Agreement with German University "Duisburg-Essen"

Faculty of Engineering Dean Afif Hasan and Professor Alexander Schmidt, Director of the "Joint Center Urban Systems" at the German University Duisburg-Essen, signed an agreement on September 24, 2012. The agreement aims to promote joint cooperation in architectural engineering and urban planning. Professor Hasan expressed his happiness with a relationship that contributes to empowering students for the labor market, building their capacities, and enhancing their expertise in urban planning. "The Faculty of Engineering is seeking to develop its relations with prestigious universities," he said, "and to develop its teaching programs in response to community needs."



Irish Academic Delegation Visits Campus

On September 18, 2012, an Irish academic delegation visited Birzeit University's main campus to discuss cooperation with Irish institutions of higher education. Members of the delegation came from Trinity College Dublin, Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin City University, and Ballyfermot College of Further Education. They met with President Khalil Hindi, Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya, and External Academic Relations Officer Dolly Kaibni-Nammour.

New British Council Director Visits Birzeit University

On Thursday October 11, 2012, the new British Council Director, Alan Smart, visited the university campus. He met with President Khalil Hindi, Dean of Graduate Studies Henry Giacaman, and External Academic Relations Officer Dolly Kaibni-Nammour.



World Vision Delegation Visits University



The US-based organization World Vision sent a delegation of local and international staff to visit the university to learn about Birzeit and its academic programs, especially the Right to Education Campaign.

Spanish Valladolid University Signs Cooperation Agreement



President Khalil Hindi, on behalf of Birzeit University, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Valladolid University in Spain, represented by professor of medicine Nejati Ja'bary, that will promote cooperation in programs of common interest.

Birzeit University Professor Gives TED Talk on Women's Participation



Birzeit University Law and Public Administration assistant professor Fida Shafi recently participated in a TEDx Annual Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain. The conference was held on December 1, 2012, and was themed "Empowering women around the Mediterranean."

German Representative Visits Birzeit University



The new head of the German Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority, diplomat Barbara Wolf, made her first official visit to Birzeit University on February 25, 2013. She was accompanied by German Cultural Officer Busch, and met with President Khalil Hindi, Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya, and Vice President for Administrative Affairs Adel Zaghera.

Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs Visits Birzeit University



Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E Professor G.L Peiris visited Birzeit University on February 25, 2013 and met with President Khalil Hindi, Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya and Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib. The attendees discussed ways of advancing educational cooperation. During the visit, the minister met with a number of students and discussed the problems they encounter, screened a documentary film showing Birzeit University's development and educational realities on the ground, and then was given a tour of the campus.

Young Arab Women Leaders Hold Regional Conference



The Arab International Women's Forum held a conference on May 22, 2013, as part of its regional initiative entitled "Young Arab Women Leaders - The Voice of the Future." The conference was hosted by Birzeit University. This landmark event, the first of the young women leaders series in 2013 and the first to be held in Palestine, followed a successful program of similar events in 2012, held in Amman Jordan, Beirut, Lebanon and Dubai, United Arab Emirates featuring eminent guest speakers and participants. Birzeit University is the site of the first gender studies center in the Arab world, established over 20 years ago.

French Consulate to Support Teaching and Research Missions



The Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration signed an agreement with the French Consulate General in Jerusalem, represented by its cultural attaché Benoit Tadie', on July 8, 2013. The agreement stipulates that the French Consulate will support teaching and research missions by French professors to the Faculty of Law and Public Administration.

Maldivian President Visits Birzeit University



Republic of Maldives President Mohamed Waheed and an accompanying delegation visited Birzeit University on June 5, 2013, and met with President Khalil Hindi, management staff, faculty members and students. Hindi briefed the guests on the university's history, faculties and offered majors, in addition to its role in community service. He emphasized the administration's interest in developing relationships with various universities around the world.

Pharmacology Cooperation Underway with Jordan University of Science and Technology



On June 8, 2013, Birzeit University signed an agreement with Jordan University of Science and Technology that lays the ground for joint cooperation in the fields of training, community service and scientific research in pharmacology. The terms of the agreement promote bilateral relations between the two universities, including joint scientific research and the exchange of information and knowledge related to pharmacology and clinical pharmacology.

Mena Apps to Launch Incubator and Investment Fund



Mena Apps signed an agreement with the university on June 15, 2013 that will launch an incubator and investment fund with capital of \$1 million. The agreement is part of Mena Apps efforts to promote investment in startups and provide funding opportunities for technology-driven business ventures giving special attention to student startups and campus enterprises.

US Delegation of Librarians, Archivists Visits University Campus



A US delegation of librarians and archivists visited Birzeit University on June 26, 2013, meeting with Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya, Library Director Diana Sayej Nasir, and Director of the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies Abdul-Karim al-Barghouthi. The librarians' and archivists' visit emerged from a conversation between librarian and archivist friends in the United States about their desire to meet their Palestinian colleagues and better understand the conditions of librarians and archivists in Palestine. The delegation is fully independent, and is not affiliated with any institution or government.

Birzeit University Participates in the 10th International Conference on "Hands-on Science"



Represented by student Hamza Kirresh, the Department of Computer Systems Engineering at Birzeit University participated in the 10th International Conference on Hands-on Science, held in Slovakia from July 1-5, 2013. Kirresh presented a paper titled, "Affordable technology-based learning in Palestine." The conference included a specialized workshop for training educators working in the field of science education aimed at hands-on activities, presenting good practices from the classroom.

Palestinian University Students Participate in Intensive Course in Italy



Birzeit University held on July 6, 2013 a graduation ceremony for participants in an intensive training course in Italy on development design and management in the Middle East, from which 18 students from nine Palestinian universities graduated. President Khalil Hindi said that this training is the fruit of cooperation between Palestinian universities and the Italian government that seeks to expand participants' knowledge of development and management concepts in Palestine.

Canadian Delegation of University Presidents and Vice-Presidents Visits Birzeit University

On July 6, 2013, Birzeit University hosted a ten-member delegation of Canadian university presidents and vice-presidents, led by Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority Katherine Verrier-Fréchette. The delegation met with President Khalil Hindi; Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib; Vice President for Academic Affairs Adnan Yahya, Vice President for Community Affairs; Samia Halileh; as well as deans of the faculties of Information Technology, Science, and Graduate Studies and External Academic Relations Officer Dolly Kaibni. Representatives from the University of Saskatchewan, Concordia University, the University of Calgary, Queen's University, Simon Fraser University, St. Francis Xavier University, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and the U-15 Group of Canadian Research Universities expressed their pleasure at being able to tour the campus.

Birzeit University and Chinese Representative to Palestine Explore Academic Cooperation

Birzeit University's president met with the representative of China to the occupied Palestinian territories on July 4, 2013. The parties discussed ways that they could cooperate on academics, particularly through an exchange of professors and students between the two countries.

Turkish Consul General Visits Birzeit University

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi met with the Turkish Consul General to the Palestinian territories Şakir Özkan Torunlar on July 3, 2013. The parties discussed academic cooperation through scholarships for university students, and encouraging academic relations with Turkish universities.

Birzeit University Welcomes Delegation from Argentina

Birzeit University received an Argentinian delegation on April 4, 2013. The guests included politicians, intellectuals, journalists and Buenos Aires Municipality officials, and met with Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib. Khatib briefed the delegation on the university's latest advancements in academic infrastructure and scientific research. He also spoke of the obstacles imposed by the Israeli occupation, which prevent Gazans from accessing their right to education in West Bank universities. Finally, he spoke of the difficulty of attracting professors from abroad due to Israeli restrictions on residency and visitor's visas.

Norwegian Academic Delegation Visits Birzeit University

A Norwegian academic delegation visited Birzeit University on March 30, 2013, meeting with Vice President for Academic Affairs and Acting President Adnan Yahya. The two parties discussed possible cooperation.

briefed the delegation on the university's latest advancements in academic infrastructure and scientific research. He also spoke of the obstacles imposed by the Israeli occupation, which prevent Gazans from accessing their right to education in West Bank universities. He also talked about the difficulty of attracting professors from abroad, as Israeli authorities often put up obstacles for residency rights and visitor's visas. A documentary film covering the university's journey over the decades was screened before the visiting delegation toured the campus.

Jordanian Ambassador Vows to Promote Academic and Media Exchanges

Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Awwad Sarhan committed his country to supporting Palestinian academic life in a February 20, 2013 visit to Birzeit University. Sarhan met with President Khalil Hindi, Media Development Center Director Nibal Thawabteh, Media Department Chairperson Ihab Bseiso, Vice President for Community Outreach Samia Halileh, Public Relations Office Deputy Director Lubna Abdel Hadi and Palestinian Journalists Syndicate leader Abdel Nasser Najjar.

Archives Project and Constitutional Law and Gender Get Boost from Danish Support

Birzeit University President Khalil Hindi signed two cooperation agreements with the Danish Representative to the Palestinian Authority Lars Adam Rehof on March 14, 2013. The first agreement will develop a Palestinian Digital Archive project, housed by the university's Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies. The

second agreement will support curriculum on the constitution and women's rights at the university's Institute of Law.

Scientist David Parnas Concludes Visit to Birzeit University

Software engineering professor David Parnas concluded a three-day visit to Birzeit University's Faculty of Information Technology on April 25, 2013. During his visit, many workshops in the field of software engineering and project management were held for the faculty's students. The workshops addressed the proper and scientific manner of software development, which is often ignored by software developers. He says that there will be more cooperation with the Faculty of Information Technology in the future to establish a master's program in software engineering.

Princeton and Birzeit Cooperate in Linguistic Science

Professor Christiane Fellbaum from Princeton University in the United States visited Birzeit University for an intensive week of research at Birzeit's Sina Institute, and to teach a course in Computational Linguistics at the Sixth International Summer School of the Faculty of Information Technology.

During her visit, Fellbaum met with researchers at Sina Institute and discussed many thoughtful ideas for building and mapping the Arabic Ontology for the English WordNet. This cooperation including Fellbaum is an

ongoing activity of the EU-FP7 SIERA project coordinated by the Sina Institute. The project aims to bridge and create further research cooperation with scientists around the world in the field of multilingual and multicultural knowledge-sharing technologies, such as multilingual search engines.

Birzeit University Students Conclude Training in Oman and Sudan

Under the supervision of the Arab Council for the Training of Students of Arab Universities, Birzeit University students Marah Khalifa and Ahmed Jaradat concluded training at the University of Nizwa in Oman, and the University of Khartoum in Sudan, respectively.



Birzeit & Social Responsibility

The pyramid of BZU social responsibility is embedded in the moral management of the university stakeholders in order to meet the best of their interests, as explained below:

- Safety Commission (CPSC).
- These new governmental bodies establish

Birzeit University and Arab Islamic Bank Establish “Charity Fund”



On September 3, 2012, Birzeit University and the Arab Islamic Bank signed an agreement to establish a Charity Fund for education. The fund’s resources are largely drawn from Islamic zakat endowments and donations, all of which are directed at supporting college students in financial need and covering specific academic development grants. The agreement was signed by President Khalil Hindi and the Deputy General Manager of AIB, Sami Saidi. President Hindi commended the bank’s social responsibility and its long-term strategy. The fund will be supervised by a committee of Fatwa and Sharia Control Board members, who will monitor the grants and scholarships according to identified standards.

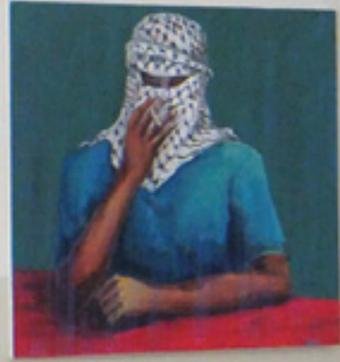
Birzeit University Community Joins Palestinian Villagers in Olive Harvest

The olive harvest campaign is a long-standing activity carried out by the university through its leadership since 1972, and achieved through partnership with student parents who apply annually for assistance from the cooperative work program.

Under the slogan “If olive trees knew who planted them, the olive oil would have become tears,” Birzeit University student, staff and faculty, among them President Khalil Hindi and his wife, joined the villagers of Aboud, Birzeit, Abu Shkhaidem, Sinjil and Kufr Ein in an olive picking campaign. The two-week campaign was supervised by the Deanship of Student Affairs and its Cooperative/Voluntary Work Program. Villagers expressed their gratitude to the university for their support and assistance. “We have become accustomed to the yearly support of this prestigious university,” one villager said.

Birzeit University, Palestine Islamic Bank Discuss Cooperation

Board chairman of the Palestine Islamic Bank Mohammed Fayez Zakarneh visited Birzeit University on April 8, 2013 to discuss areas of cooperation between the bank and the university. Attending the meeting were Vice President for Advancement Ghassan Khatib, Vice President for Financial Affairs Bishara Dabbah, and Advancement Office Director Manal Isa, as well as the bank’s Director of the Internal Audit Department Samer Mafarjeh.



Cultural & Art Activities

BZU continues to organize its art and cultural activities that polishes the university's identity and promotes the spirit of creativity and innovation among its students. Student performances in music, dance and theater, culture and arts play a leading role in Birzeit life.

Museum Opens Second Framed/Unframed Exhibition at An-Najah University

On September 4, 2012, the Birzeit University Museum opened the Framed/Unframed Exhibition – Second Edition under the title “The Changing Representations of Women in Palestinian Art Practice” at An-Najah National University. The exhibition is held with the participation of the Institute of Women’s Studies at Birzeit University alongside the Faculty of Fine Arts at An-Najah University, and was curated by Vera Tamari and Inas Yassin. “The Changing Representations of Women in Palestinian Art Practice” displays the works of 17 artists: Suleiman Mansour, Mona Hatoum, Kamel Al Mogani, Burhan Karkutli, Naji Ali, Ahlam Shibli, Mary Tuma, Amer Shomali, Raeda Sa’adeh, Jumana Abboud, Laila Al-Shawa, Samira Badran, Layan Shawabkeh, Vera Tamari, Rula Halawani, Inas Yassin and Ayman Aissa.

Deanship of Student Affairs Organizes Open Day

The Deanship of Student Affairs organized an open day for university students, including musical performances, a poetry recital, cultural competitions and sports tournaments.

Museum Opens First Student Exhibition: "This is Me, They are We, You're Here"

The first ever student exhibition at the University Museum, "This is Me, They are We, You're Here" was opened, hosting the work of 23 students from various universities and colleges. The participating students presented art that expressed objection and protest to prevailing political and social conditions. Museum director Inas Yassin said, "The main idea of the exhibition is to create space for students to present their suggestions and ideas, in the hopes of developing good artwork through the assistance and supervision of artists."

"Jericho Paths" Exhibition Opens

As part of the activities of the exhibition "Cities – Fourth Edition," Birzeit University Museum organized a cultural/artistic meeting for an elite group of artists concerned with national, cultural, artistic and historical issues pertaining to the city of Jericho, the city said to be "closest to the ground, and most distant from the sky."

Professor Giacaman Attends Yale Workshop

Bradford College at Yale University in the United States hosted Professor of Public Health Rita Giacaman from the Institute of Community and Public Health to participate in an international workshop on "Conflict, Resilience, and Health" held in October 2012 at the Yale MacMillan Center.

Jericho Gets its Turn in Cities Exhibition

On January 14, 2013, Birzeit University Museum opened the fourth installment of its exhibitions on cities, entitled "Jericho--Beyond the Celestial and the Terrestrial." The exhibit was created in consultation with Vera Tamari, founder of the Cities Exhibitions, and in partnership with the Jericho Municipality.

The exhibit is designed around a space called the "Heart," an area dedicated to presentations, talks and debates emerging out of documentary materials such as The Notebook and Jericho Walks. This space is surrounded by five works of art that transgress the stereotypical perception of Jericho. Through these activities, the museum offers opportunities for university students and lecturers, art school teachers, and the general public to utilize the "Heart" area for learning, thus affirming the museum's mission of generating alternative forms of knowledge that incubate limitless possibilities for change.



Lecture Features New Museum Display Methods in Public Spaces

As part of the British Cultural Heritage Fellowship Programme 2012-2013, and in cooperation with London University, the British Council and Heritage Without Borders, the Birzeit University Museum on April 16, 2013 held a lecture exploring new display methods in public spaces. This project is currently implemented in cooperation with Glasgow Museum, Catherine Laing, Outreach Assistant at the Open Museum and Tamara Mushasha, Project Manager at Birzeit University Museum.

Birzeit University Museum Hosts Palestinian Artist Nasser Soumi

Birzeit University Museum hosted on January 31, 2013 a lecture by installation artist Nasser Soumi about his project "Memory of Indigo." The art piece explores indigo, a plant once widespread in Palestine, particularly in Jericho, until the beginnings of the 20th century.

Artist Soumi spoke first about his relationship with the indigo plant, one that began as he stared at his uncle's picture, which was colored by natural indigo, as well as an interest in traditional Palestinian dress. He continued with readings on natural indigo and recalled meters of fabric dyed by indigo that were sold in the stores of the Old City of Jerusalem. Soumi also recalled how Palestinian houses were whitewashed with indigo to keep away vermin, as was the tradition at the time.



Films Highlight Education Struggle for Israeli Apartheid Week

The Right to Education Campaign at Birzeit University and the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy joined in the events of the internationally-observed Israeli Apartheid Week on March 12, 2013. The campaign screened documentary films illustrating a number of apartheid practices used by Israeli occupation forces against Palestinians. Produced by Palestinian director Mohammed Attar and student volunteers at the Right to Education campaign, the first film screened highlighted the Palestinian struggle to achieve education and ongoing violations committed by occupation forces against Palestinian university students.

Birzeit University Museum Exhibits Late Mustafa Hallaj Works

Birzeit University Museum, in cooperation with the Palestinian Art Court - Al Hoash, opened on May 18, 2013 an art exhibition for the late Palestinian artist Mustafa Hallāj (1938-2002), whose work substantially contributed to the emergence of resistance art landmarks. The exhibition, entitled "Diasporic Meanings," includes 40 art works by Hallaj displayed in light boxes.

New Window Opens into Palestinian Heritage with Amulets Exhibit

Birzeit University opened the Tawfiq Canaan Collection of Palestinian Amulets on April 27, 2013, seeking to provide a new opportunity for researchers to study Palestinian heritage and to train students and staff in museum practices. Museum Director Inas Yassin said that the opening of the hall is a starting point for research in tangible cultural heritage represented by the Palestinian costume collection and the collection of doctor Tawfiq Canaan, who traded amulets and talismans for his medical services and then wrote about the collection at the time of the British Mandate.

Birzeit University Hosts Lecture on Palestinian Embroidery

In cooperation with the Palestinian Heritage Foundation in the United States, Birzeit University sponsored an April 29, 2013 lecture on the history and origins of Palestinian embroidery by researcher Hanan Karaman Munayyer. Karaman talked about her support for handiwork by Arab communities, especially Palestinians, and the various types of embroidery. She said that the work was difficult, but crowned with success after years of holding large and small exhibitions all over the United States. Karaman presented a colorful slide show about her research, references, historical documents and traditional garb from various Palestinian districts. Karaman also offered signed copies of her book, "Traditional Palestinian Costume: Origins and Evolution," which is the product of more than 25 years of continuous research.

The Palestinian Heritage Foundation (<http://www.palestineheritage.org>) began its work in 1987, but was formally founded in 1992, exhibiting its collection of traditional dress from historic Palestine, Syria and other parts of the region.



Exhibition held at Birzeit University Museum during September-December 2013, which mainly includes Palestinian political posters from two private collections).

Facts & Figures, 2012-2013

Faculties

Birzeit University has nine faculties, including the Graduate Studies Faculty. These offer 46 BA programs for undergraduate students, 23 MA programs for graduate students, two diploma programs, and one program for international students.

Birzeit University's faculties are:

Faculty of Arts	Faculty of Science
Faculty of Engineering	Faculty of Business and Economics
Faculty of Education	Faculty of Information Technology
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 & 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:

- 10,005 students were registered at Birzeit University in the academic year 2012/2013 (8,466 undergraduate students, 1,390 graduate students and 152 diploma and special students).
- 63.6% of the student body is females and 36.4% are males.
- 60.8% the graduate studies students are females and 39.2% are males.

Graduated Students:

- 2,144 students graduated from Birzeit University in the academic year 2012/2013
- 27,486 students had graduated from Birzeit University from 1976 until 2013.

Scholarships & Student Financial Aid (Assistance & Exemptions):

- In the academic year 2012/2013, about 32% of the students have benefited from university financial aid, which amounted to JD 2.07 million (around \$3 million).
- More than 20% of the students have benefited from arrangements to pay tuition fees in installments.

Faculty & Staff:

- The university has 652 academic staff (538 faculty members and 114 researchers and teaching assistants). The university also has 503 non-academic staff members, including senior professionals, administrators, technicians, and service workers.
- 56% of full time faculty members hold a doctorate, 41% hold a master's degree.
- 39% of the faculty and staff are females.

Budget:

- For the academic year 2011/2012, total university expenditures were approximately JD 25 million (more than \$35 million), with a budget deficit of approximately JD 4.324 million (around \$6.1 million).
- Student fees cover 65.5% of the academic and general cost, and 52.8% of total university expenses.

Academic Excellence

- According to the statistical manual of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Birzeit University is characterized by high standards compared to other Palestinian universities, as the ratio of students to teachers is 23.3 versus 26.9 and 32.9 in other universities.
- The number of scientific publications by Birzeit University affiliates published in international refereed journals was 731 publications, versus 522 and 512 publications published by other Palestinian universities.

Student Body (enrolled students) by level/faculty and gender for the academic year 2012/2013

Level/Faculty	Female		Male		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Undergraduate Students:	5,406	64%	3,060	36%	8,466
Faculty of Arts	1,637	76%	510	24%	2,147
Faculty of Business And Economics	1,140	62%	702	38%	1,842
Faculty of Education	167	77%	49	23%	216
Faculty of Engineering	499	37%	860	63%	1,359
Faculty of Information Technology	301	48%	330	52%	631
Faculty of Law And Public Administration	734	65%	403	35%	1,137
Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy And Health Professions	358	86%	60	14%	418
Faculty of Science	570	80%	146	20%	716
Graduate Students	845	61%	545	39%	1,390
Diploma and Special Students	110	72%	42	28%	152
Total	6,361	64%	3,647	36%	10,008

Source: Institutional Research Unit (IRU 2013).

Graduated Students by level/faculty and gender for the academic year 2012/2013

Level/Faculty	Female		Male		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Undergraduate Students:	1,097	61%	695	39%	1,792
Faculty of Arts	370	75%	125	25%	495
Faculty of Business and Economics	310	54%	262	46%	572
Faculty of Engineering	51	27%	137	73%	188
Faculty of Information Technology	26	37%	44	63%	70
Faculty of Law and Public Administration	164	62%	101	38%	265
Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Professions	53	87%	8	13%	61
Faculty of Science	123	87%	18	13%	141
Graduate Students	234	62%	143	38%	377
Diploma and Minor	42	89%	5	11%	47
Total	1,373	62%	843	38%	2,216

Source: Institutional Research Unit (IRU 2013).

Faculty Members and Staff (as of Jan 2013)

	Female		Male		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Faculty Members	156	29%	382	71%	538
Of them as part-timers	42	30%	99	70%	141
Researchers and Teaching & Research Assistants	66	58%	48	42%	114
Of them as part-timers	33	73%	12	27%	45
Staff	229	46%	274	54%	503
Of them as part-timers	21	58%	15	42%	36
Total	451	39%	704	61%	1,155
Of them as part-timers	96	43%	126	57%	222

Source: Institutional Research Unit (IRU 2013).

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