





ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015



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# **Mission, Vision & Values**

#### **Our 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 endeavors 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.

#### **Our Vision**

Birzeit University would endeavor 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.

### **Our Values**

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

A University atmosphere based on mutual respect, academic freedom and freedom of expression:

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

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

**Civic, social and humanitarian responsibility:** Birzeit University is committed to using its creative intellectual

energies to address responsibly local and regional, thereby contributing to the development of society, environment and heritage.

The University also is committed to instilling into its students the spirit of voluntarism, service and professionalism.

**Integrity:** Birzeit University cherishes personal responsibility, integrity, impartiality, fairness, accountability and honesty, and seeks to uphold them in practice.

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

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

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





# **A Distinguished 40-Year History.. A Promising Future**

Each year we at Birzeit University pause to reflect on the impact we have had on the lives of our students, the community and the world.

Birzeit University is an exciting and rewarding community of leaders, innovators and thinkers. Every year, while full of many challenges, ends with a feeling of great achievement and 2014 was no exception.

This year, Professor Abdel Latif Abu Hijleh was named president of Birzeit University, succeeding Khalil Hindi and bringing to the post his experience as a teacher, dean, researcher and administrator.

The university once again prided itself on improving its position in the Academic Ranking of World Universities. It was rated 61-70 out of 100 universities in the region, preceding other Palestinian universities with a result of 27.1. We acknowledge that further work needs to be done to improve the university's ratings in teaching quality and overall student experience.

We celebrated new partnerships, initiatives and programs that will lead to innovations in our community.

In Birzeit University's 2014-2015 annual report, we share stories about our talented students, whom we equipped with the skills, vision and understanding to address the urgent challenges of Palestine and the world.

This Annual Report highlights the lasting contributions of just some of Birzeit University's activities and endeavors to achieve excellence in higher education. It also focuses on the creative thinking, innovation and remarkable work that is taking place at our university every day.

This Annual Report is further confirmation that now, and for the next 40 years, through our continued development of much-needed visionaries and young leaders, Birzeit will continue to answer the call of our nation and world.



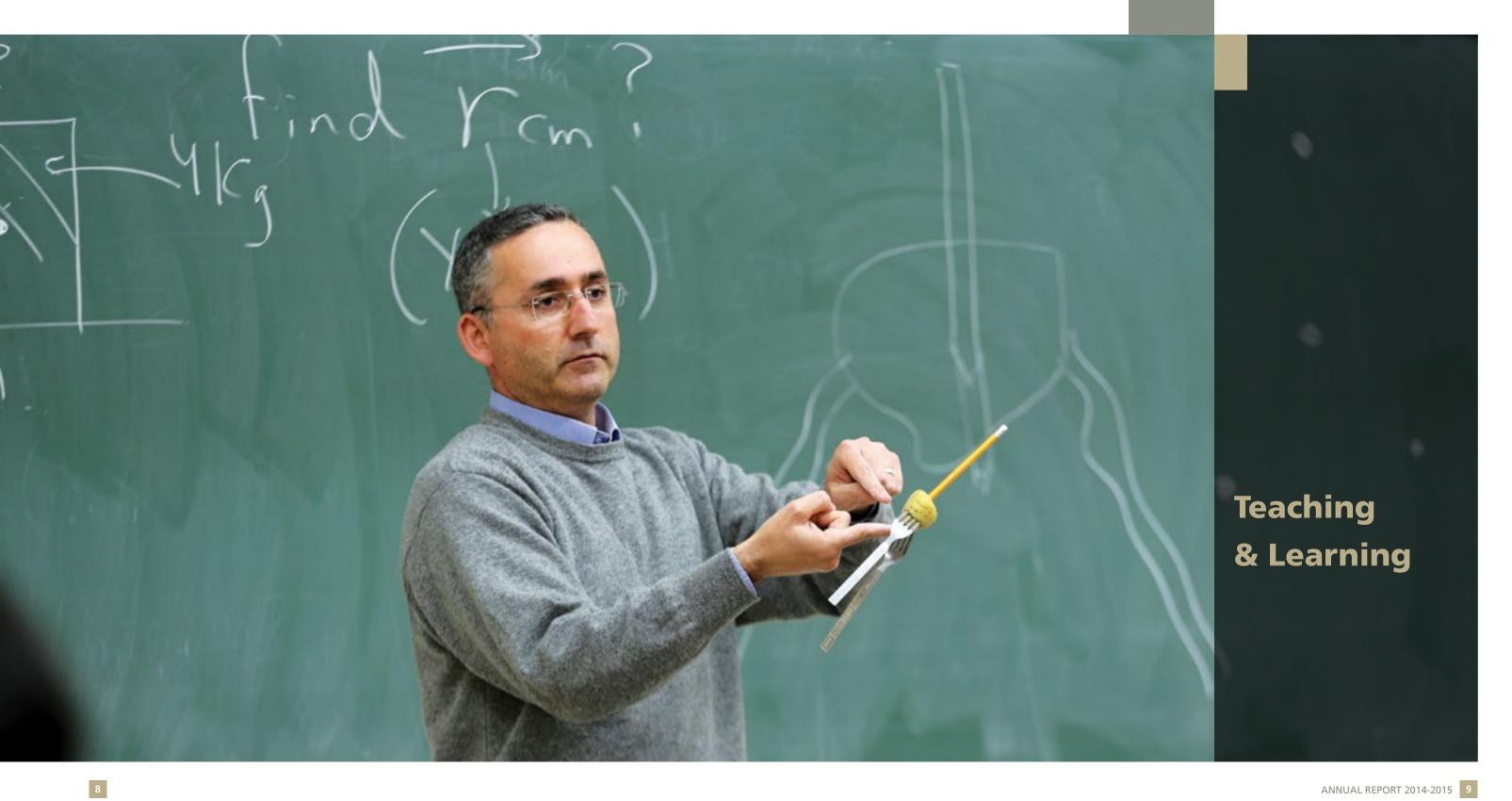
2014-15. He succeeded Khalil Hindi, who led Birzeit University since 2010.

As the new president of Birzeit University, I am full of pride and excitement for this university and the spectacular opportunities I see in the future. President Abdul Latif Abu Hijleh

Academic Affairs (1998-2009) and as Dean of the Faculty of Science (1995-1998). He also chaired the Chemistry Department (1984-1986) and has had an active teaching and research career, contributing to the development of academic courses and programs in the Department of Chemistry.

I am excited at the opportunity to lead a university with great upward momentum and through this, continue to create and deploy knowledge for the greater good. President Abdul Latif Abu Hijleh





Birzeit University is a community of highly-motivated scholars, innovators and entrepreneurs driven by an enthusiasm for excellence. We strive to extend the frontiers of knowledge and go beyond boundaries to shape the future of our students.



Birzeit University has moved up the list of the top universities in Palestine, according to a respected ranking of universities worldwide. The 2014–15 QS Rankings rated the university 61-70 in the Arab region and second in Palestine.

### **Ever Better Learning Opportunities...**

■ The University launched a doctoral program in social sciences that was accredited by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. This Program is the first of its kind in Palestine and the Arab world.

New Programs to match up students ambition, skills and job opportunities



- The University, in the academic year 2014-2015 has initiated two new bachelor's degree programs; physical education and a program in the German language which brings the total of offered undergraduate programs to 59.
- Five new master's degree programs were offered this year: in pharmaceutical industry, software engineering, production sustainability (developed in cooperation with Al-Najah University), tri-translation (also in cooperation with Al-Najah University) and Israeli Studies.
- Birzeit University has gained financial backing from the Council for Scientific Research at the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education to create a center of excellence in water studies, as part of the ministry's plan to support scientific research in Palestinian universities.
- Birzeit University's Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies, working with the Palestinian Government Media Center and in partnership with the British Council and British team support, launched on September 20, 2014 a course in "strategic communication" that was attended by nearly 30 participants from the public and private sector.

### Making a difference by building capacities

■ The university's capacity-building activities are aimed at enhancing resources and strengthening institutionbuilding for better learning and teaching.

Birzeit University's Media Development Center inaugurated its television studio and control room funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). This room is equipped with the latest techniques in written and audio visual media production that can be used in the training of media students, journalists and those enrolled in various training courses that are organized by the center throughout the year.





- With a generous contribution from Saudi Arabia of eight million US dollars, the university is constructing a student dormitory, designed with all the necessary equipment, furniture and engineering services. Funded by the World Bank, The Department of History and Archaeology has inaugurated a minor in Palestinian Archaeology to develop rural tourism in Palestine.
- A new building for the Faculty of Law and Public Administration is being constructed, after a grant of four million US dollars provided by Riad Tawfic Sadek- the Chairman of Al Habtoor Leighton Group and has a distinguished name in the Middle Eastern construction industry.

### **Workshops & Lectures**

Arabic Language and Literature Department.

■ At Birzeit University, we strive to encourage free and open discussion of our students' concerns and differences of opinion. In 2014-2015, we re-affirmed the university's commitment to inclusion and diversity. Through events, workshops, and discussions-many organized by students and faculty-the university sought to advance understanding of individual differences and prepare students for citizenship in a global and diverse world.

■ The Faculty of Art's Cultural Committee held a lecture series on orientalism and discourse analysis. It also addressed Israel's political environment after the most recent elections.



- The Faculty of Law and Public Administration organized a variety of lectures and conferences in several areas including legal theory and constitutional law, international law, humanitarian law, political law, economic development and consumer protection. The faculty tackled real challenges that impact Palestinian rights, such as political divisions between Fatah and Hamas and the application of Israeli criminal law to Palestinian prisoners. For several years, the faculty has maintained a relationship with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, arranging "Legal Encounters" to tackle major issues in law and public administration.
- A series of lectures organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs covers key social problems facing the Palestinian community. Topics addressed included drug abuse and its societal and physiological impact, honor killing, depression and the importance of psychological counseling at universities.
- Cutting edge lectures were organized to foster communication between students and prominent local and international leaders in different disciplines.
- An annual conference on the geo-strategic and political significance of the Gaza Strip was held at Birzeit University, sponsored jointly by the Institute for Palestine Studies, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University and the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza. The conference tackled changes in Gaza since the Nakba, political conditions since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, Israeli tools of domination and the modes and impact of resistance, and Gaza's economic challenges (among them the blockade) and the dilemma of post-war reconstruction.



- The Institute of Ibrahim Abu Lughod hosted unit coordinator of the Defense of Palestinian Refugee Rights Campaign at BADIL, Basem Sbeih, the Palestinian ambassador to Vietnam Sadi Tmeizi, and the Palestinian diplomat and former foreign minister Nasser al-Qidweh.
- A Strategic Communication Course was organized by Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute which allowed participants to learn from prominent leaders in the field, sharing best practices, and emphasizing the importance of operating through a strategic lens. The institute held a series of diplomatic meetings, including Fatah central committee member Nabil Shaath who spoke about the new Palestinian strategy and Nimer Rizqallah from the Russian University of Kazan Federal, who focused on economic sanctions imposed on Russia and their impact on Russia's position in the Arab world. London's King's College Professor Hans Banwan spoke about the dependency of the Gulf area and the effects of neoliberalism.
- The Institute of Community and Public Health hosted a lecture by health expert Jumana Odeh, director and founder of the Palestinian Happy Child Center. Researcher Sahar Hassan also spoke in the lecture series, focusing on maternal and child's health.
- The problem of sexual harassment and the effectiveness of the personal status law in protecting Palestinian women were discussed by the Institute of Women's Studies, which held a workshop in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Shashat to analyze the film, "Challenges Facing Palestinian Women: Perspective of Young Female Palestinians." Another workshop on the intersections between gender, race, class and colonialism was organized by the institute, in cooperation with the doctoral program in Social Sciences. Professor Nadine Naber from the University of Chicago presented the workshop.



■ Birzeit University's Center for Development Studies in cooperation with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation held a conference entitled "Alternatives to Neo-Liberal Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory – Critical Perspectives."



We open this conference in the midst of scientific and political controversies vis-à-vis the post-war situation in Gaza, in order to address the controversial prospects of a settlement and how this interacts with development formulas and existing international aid in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Former Vice President for Community Outreach Samia Halaileh



■ Birzeit University's Center for Development Studies held on a panel discussion entitled: "Development Power: Learning from the Field," to conclude the three-year project, "Conflict, Participation and Development in Palestine" which was implemented with the University of Vienna department of development studies.



■ The Faculty of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Professions responds to national and international needs and disease profiles as they emerge. The faculty continues addressing challenges faced by the health system in Palestine and the region, hosting distinguished physicians and doctors.



Students were taught the ethics of nursing in a lecture addressed by Surgical Education Coordinator at Washington University, Douglas Brown.

■ The Department of Media continued its lecture series on a wide range of contemporary issues, preparing students for a complex media environment. For example, the need for media economics was discussed by CEO of Paltel Group Ammar Aker, who spoke about the intersection between media and technology and how it is changing the media map.



Media economics is able to attract investors from inside and outside the country.

Ammar Aker, Paltel Group CEO



- The department and the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) clarified the role of public, private and civil institutions in eradicating corruption.
- A training course for journalists on social media and campaigns using social networks was held to teach participants the skills in electronic and digital media.
  - The Faculty of Business and Economics identifies contemporary needs for effective business, finance and accounting education and training for students. In 2014-2015, the faculty organized a conference covering a wide set of themes on innovation and competence-building for development. Other workshops presented innovation in accounting through dynamic public speakers.



- Students and researchers at the Faculty of Science are fascinated by every aspect of how the world works, be it elementary particles, the birth of the universe or the functioning of the brain. Through the faculty's regular lecture series and participation in national and international conferences on climate change and the high-energy accelerator and particles, students benefitted from local and international expertise.
  - An International workshop gathered scholars and historians from Palestine and the world to reread the history of cities via Waqf documents. The workshop was organized by the History and Archeology Department and in collaboration with the International Research Network in France.



- Birzeit University promotes higher education teaching excellence and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Teaching professors such as Ahmad Al Ginzara and the Faculty of Education examine effective instructional practices using digital and electronic methods aimed at improving the quality of higher education.
- The Palestinian Dutch academic cooperation program on water (PADUCO) held the first conference to discuss and explore prospects to develop the water sector in Palestine, in the presence of representatives of academic staff and researchers from Palestinian and Dutch universities in addition to various representatives of the Palestinian Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Quality Authority, the Water Sector Regulatory Council, non-governmental organizations, donors, and the private sector.





- The Scientific Research Committee at the Birzeit University Faculty of Graduate Studies held a number of workshops exploring the current conditions for scientific research and publications at Birzeit University.
- The Windsor-Birzeit Dignity Initiative, an international, interdisciplinary, multi-faceted partnership between the University of Windsor (Canada) and Birzeit University (Palestine) studied the human dignity in a lecture addressed by Raja Bahlul a former professor at the Democracy and Human Rights.

# **Visiting Professor of the Year: Stephen Chan**

Awarded the Global Development Award of the International Studies Association for his service to Africa and higher education, Chan is a professor of politics and international relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). He shared his expertise and knowledge with the students of Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute for International Studies.

reviews in the academic and specialist press, as well as over 100 journalistic feature articles. He has twice been dean of SOAS, where he also holds the chair in International Relations. He has held senior positions at other British universities and been Honorary Professor at the University of Zambia; twice Visiting Fellow at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford; and held visiting appointments at African, American, European, New Zealand, and Taiwanese universities.



### **Fellowships & Exchange Programs**

The university strives to implement its philosophy that students should not only attend lectures, but also have the opportunity to gain experience through scholarships, exchange programs and fellowships.



- Birzeit University professors Khaled Talahmeh and Hani Shtayyeh finished research visits to international universities as part of the fellowship program for academic and professional development launched by the Bank of Palestine in partnership with the Welfare Association.
- Talahmeh was on a one-year research visit to Columbia University, during which he conducted a study entitled, "Conventional bonds and Islamic bonds (sukuk): Towards a new financing system." Meanwhile, Shtayyeh, director of the Pharmaceutical Plot plant Unit, finished a two-month research visit to Ghent University in Belgium, as he participated in research and lectures on how to use modern technologies in the pharmaceutical industry.
- Furthermore, Jordan's University of Science and Technology and Birzeit University have embarked on a five-year plan to cooperate through an exchange of faculty and student programs, joint research, and the development of educational mechanisms to assist speech and hearing. The cooperation will also extend to the use of science laboratories and course development.

### **Exceptional Learners**

We are committed to improving the access of all students to inclusive and effective education.

### **Students of the Year**

Students Anas Abu Arish and Fatimah Khalil earned the Yousef Nawas Award for excelling in community service and academic excellence.

Student Eleni Mustaklem won Nimeh Faris Award for their excellence in English language and literature, an award given to the outstanding student enrolled in the BA program in English Language and Literature.

Nadia Tadros and Sarah Zahran from the Social and Behavioral Sciences department got Tawfiq Canaan Award for 2015 and 2014 for their research proposals related to Dr. Canaan's published research in the fields of history, medicine, anthropology and archeology.





### A Hub for Innovation and Entrepreneurship...



■ Birzeit University's Biology and Biochemistry department hosted the fifth symposium of the Palestinian Forum for Medical Research-2015. Two world-class researchers attended the symposium, Professor Victoria Seewaldt of Duke University in the United States discussed her research in the field of breast cancer, and Professor Rifaat Safadi, a leader in the field of hepatology and liver disease, presented his work on the impact of obesity and other effects on the development of liver disease such as fatty liver disease and cirrhosis. Many other local distinguished researches has participated in the symposium as well.

The University presented Palestine in the Arab world competition "Imagine Cup 2015" in the category of technological innovations, organized by Microsoft Corporation in the Bahraini capital- Manama.

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■ Represented by Birzeit University, Palestine won the first prize in the Arab world competition "Imagine Cup 2015," in the category of technological innovations, organized by Microsoft Corporation in the Bahraini capital Manama. The project was implemented by students Mohammad Atiq and Hassan Bakr, under the supervision of the Birzeit's Computer Engineering Professor Wasel Ghanem.

■ Three Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronic students won awards at the fourth Conference for graduate students' projects and researches, which was held at the Polytechnic University.

### Leaders in Science...

- The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering assistant professor Abual-Seaud Hanani won a Google grant of \$31,000. His winning project "Studying the impact of various Arabic dialects on the recognition of automated Arabic text". It was one of 122 projects selected out of 808 projects worldwide in the first quarter of 2015.
- The Faculty of Science joined in the three-day Science Festival in Palestine, 2014, which included activities related to physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. This was an opportunity for students to meet scientists and be exposed to critical environmental phenomena.

### Towards A World-class Humanitarian Activists...

- Two Public Administration students, Ali Diab and Abdel-Hadi Wahdan, ranked first and second respectively for the best annual research on anti-corruption in a contest held by AMAN, a Palestinian organization that fights corruption, on December 10, 2014.
- Diab's research paper is titled, "Freedom of Access to Information and its Role in Integrity, Transparency and Accountability" and Wahdan's study it on "Transparency and Integrity in the Palestinian Custom's Department."

### Technology is the means, not in the mission...

- Whether it's a course on designing cutting-edge technologies, a practicum on large-scale distance learning or an educational apps, we concentrate on using cognitive and affective technology with all its dimensions in learning.
- The computer center staff launched a mobile phone application that will serve as a communication tool for the university community, providing students with quick access to university news and other information of interest related to courses, grades, class schedules and study plans. As a result, students will be able to follow- up on their study plans and be more connected to the university's updates.
- Faculty of Graduate Studies organized workshop for faculty and students on "E-Learning as a Supportive Tool in Higher Education."



An increasing reputation for academic quality and student success has enabled Birzeit University to recruit prominent leaders in their fields.

### **Field-leading Faculty**

- BZU faculty and staff members earned recognition from national and international academic entities for their research, books publications, scholarship, and teaching, as well as for their service to their disciplines and their students.
- Upon the recommendation of the University Council and approval of its Board of Trustees, Birzeit University president Khalil Hindi announced on November 4, 2014 the best owing of the title of professor emeritus to professors Kamal Abdel-Fattah and Salim Tamari.



The Birzeit University Advancement Office, directed by Manal Issa, earned the International Award of Excellence from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), as the first professional office that won the silver rank in recognition of the qualitative impact of its work on the University that follows the international professional standards and procedures in the field.

- Birzeit University's Library Director Diana Sayej Naser was elected a member of the Advisory Board of the Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), and therefore, she became the first Arab member on that board for the term from 2015-2016.
- For the first time, Birzeit University Council and the Board of Trustees bestowed the title of professor emeritus to professors Kamal Abdel-Fattah and Salim Tamari.
- Professor Nidal Mahmoud, a faculty member at the Institute of Environmental and Water Studies, has earned the best book- selling ratio worldwide for two consecutive years (2013-2015).



■ Birzeit University Faculty of Arts dean and professor of linguistics Mahdi Arar, and professor of economics at the Faculty of Business and Economics Nidal Sabri, have won Kuwait Prize awards for 2014. The prize is bestowed by the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science to Arab scientists in the fields of basic sciences, applied sciences, economics and social sciences, arts and literature and Arab and Islamic scientific heritage.

Professor of Philosophy and Cultural Studies Sonia Nimr for winning first place in adult literature in the Arab world for her book, Wondrous Trips to Strange Places, at the 2014 International Book Fair in Sharjah, UAE.





■ Dr. Wafa Dawish, a teacher of languages and translation, published a book called "Nor done yet", published by Dar El Shorouk. The book pauses and muses on major stops along the journey of Darwish life in Palestine and abroad.



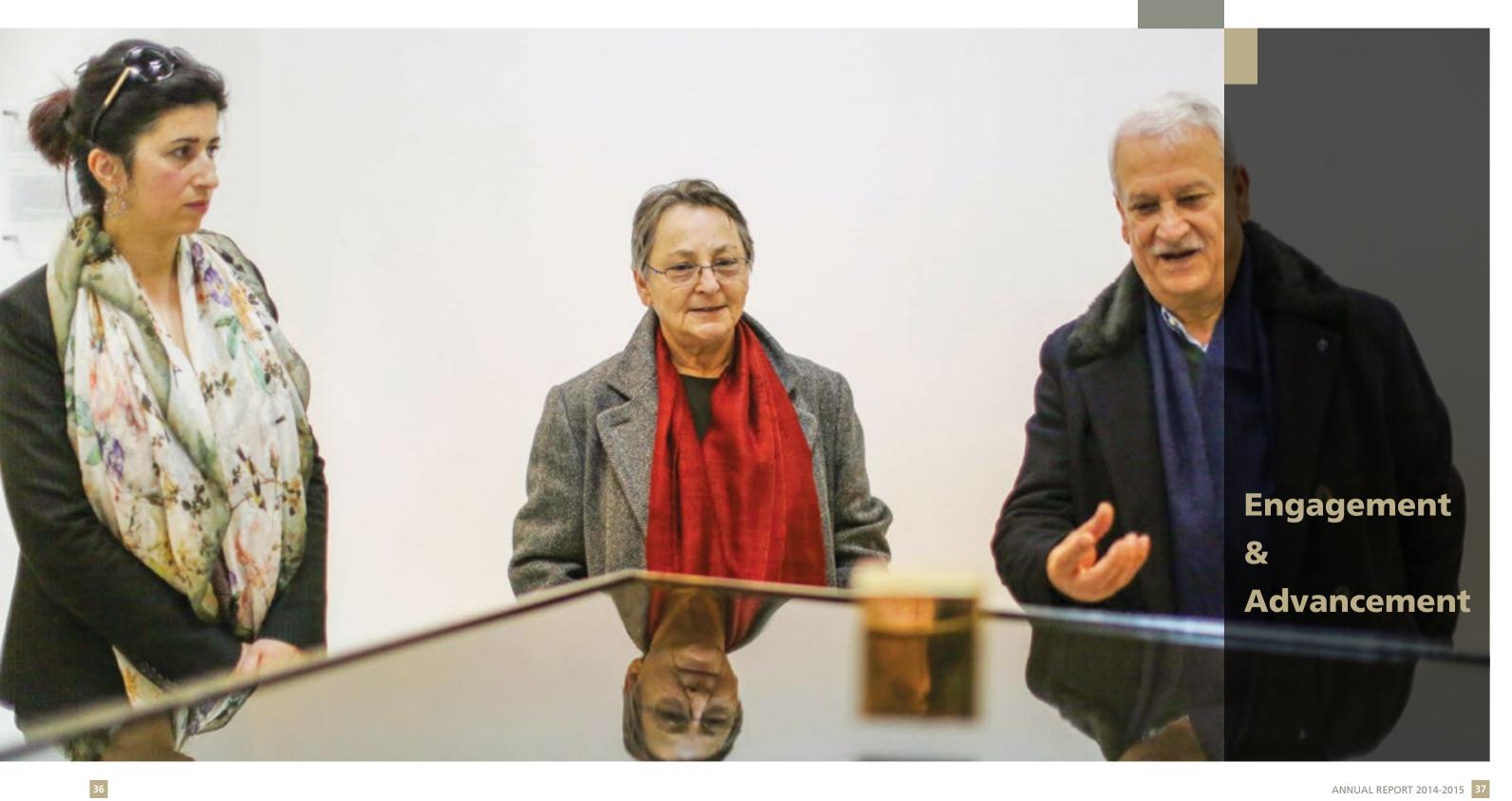
■ Professor of philosophy and cultural studies, Dr. Abdul- Rahim Al-Shaikh launched a book called "Gabi Baramki Biography and his Odyssey at Birzeit: 1929-2012". It is an autobiography that chronicles the history of an academic, cultural and political institution- Birzeit University, through the story of Gabi Baramki.

■ Civil Engineering Department emissary Abdel Monem Oudeh has received a Master's degree in honor and excellence in geomatics engineering from the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

Professor Issam Halayqa, a faculty member at History
Department has authored a book entitled "Agricultural and Household Tools in the Palestinian Arabic Dialect". Halayqa explored the names of the tools and objects in the vernacular of Palestinian Territories before the British Mandate.

### **Faculty Scholarships & Fellowships**

Birzeit University has managed to obtain two advanced "Fulbright Scholarships," which are usually granted to senior professors and researchers worldwide. The professor of philosophy and cultural studies Abdul Rahim Al-Shaikh and Dean of the Faculty of Law and Public Administration Dr. Asem Khalil won the two grants for 2015-2016.





Birzeit University continues to build relationships with the community, organizations and companies who can support Birzeit's mission of providing a quality education, strengthen opportunities for enterprise and innovation, and contribute to the growth of the local community as a whole.

### **New Initiatives & Agreements**

#### ■ University Of Queen Mary and University of London

Our international partnerships are essential in delivering our overall strategic aims through research and teaching collaborations. The University signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Queen Mary and the University of London in the fields of law and public administration. This new cooperation will focus on students internships, research and exchange programs.

#### **■** Jordan's University of Science

Jordan's University of Science and Technology and Birzeit University have embarked on a five-year plan to cooperate through an exchange of faculty and student programs, joint research, and the development of educational mechanisms to assist speech and hearing. The cooperation will also extend to the use of science laboratories and course development.

The Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Professions signed an agreement with Jordan's university aiming to cooperate through faculty and students exchange. The cooperation will also extend to the use of science laboratories.

#### **■** Granada Galilee College- Kufr Kanna

The University will be cooperating with Granada Galilee College in the Village of Kufr Kanna inside the Green Line. The agreement stipulates that Granada College represents Birzeit University inside the Green Line, and will work to attract Palestinian students to study at Birzeit University and follow up on their studies until they graduate from the university.

#### ■ Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)

Birzeit University and Palestine's Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) agreed to cooperate in research studies, public awareness through conferences, roundtable and trainings.

#### ■ Pal Pay

The university signed an agreement with PalPay for E-payment Systems to provide electronic services that will enable students to pay their tuition fees through the Internet.

#### **■ Experts Turnkey Solutions**

Birzeit University's Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology has agreed with Experts Turnkey Solutions to develop a training program for students of the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering under the supervision of the student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) at Birzeit University.

## **International Delegation Visits**

Birzeit University International invites and hosts delegations from institutions around the world that which to engage in dialogue and operations with the university. The university attracts distinguished visitors from around the world and attaches great importance to the contribution these visits make to the internationalization of the university.



An increased number of official visits from representatives from international governments were obvious during the year 2014-2015. Representatives from Switzerland, Ecuador, Germany, Poland and Egypt who discussed prospects of academic cooperation and research strategic partnerships.

Representatives of international universities, research organizations occurred, which maximized opportunities to share experiences, information and ideas and develop sustainable collaboration relationships. Some of the key visits:

Birzeit University's Faculty of Law and Public Administration held a video conference meeting with the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The meeting was held to introduce students of Birzeit University and other universities to Kennedy's academic programs for Master's and doctoral degrees, as explained by the school's registrar.



■ Director of the Surveillance Studies Centre and Professor David Lyon, Professor of Sociology and Law at Queen's University in Ontario- Canada, held a lecture series on national security surveillance of communications.



Prospects of Academic Cooperation were discussed with "Open Society Foundationan international grant making networking aims to build vibrant democracies with the attendance of Meredith Jung-En Woo, the director of the International Higher Education.



■ A U.S. delegation of Librarians and Archivists has visited Birzeit University and met with Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Adnan Yahya, Director of the university library Ms. Diana Sayej Nasir, Director of Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies Dr. Abdul-Karim al-Barghouthi and talked about the Palestinian Archive collection inside and outside Palestine.



■ Birzeit University along with presidents and rectors of European and Palestinian Universities and education ministry officials participated in the International Conference of the Palestinian-European academic cooperation (PEACE) Program, that aim to promote international cooperation between European and Palestinian universities through exchange, offering grants and academic projects.



The university's responsibilities stretch beyond academia to include social, ethical and patriotic considerations. We are continuously seeking to better integrate our sustainability efforts into our daily actions.

### **Serving the Palestinian Cause**

■ Birzeit University Student Council, in collaboration with the Association of Democratic Youth Development "Shabab" held a conference to strengthen boycott approaches against Israel, rejecting normalization and emphasizing the Palestinians legitimate right to resist, be free and their right of self-determination. Other initiatives in this regard was done by the University, such as organizing a lecture with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Palestinian Campaign for Boycott and Divestment and Sanctions Campaign (BDS), talking about the students activism in the BDS campaign.



Due to its commitment in maintaining the campus free from Israeli products, the University represented by the Public Relations Office was honored by the Boycott of Israeli Products Campaign.



Birzeit University's Right to Education (R2E) campaign organized the first-ever Right to Education tour in the United States. Ten students visited college campuses to speak about life and education under occupation.

### One Dream... One Nation

- Birzeit University has always been committed towards Palestine, specially through the hard times that Palestinians go through. Birzeit has initiated with many donation campaigns. It provided Gaza's children with schools essentials, such as copybooks, and toys to contribute in reducing the suffering of children in Gaza and the intensity of the humanitarian situation that resulted from the latest Israeli attack on Gaza Strip.
- In addition, the university launched a blood donation campaign, in collaboration with the Palestinian Blood Bank, to provide Gaza hospitals with blood.
- As part of Birzeit University's policy of attracting students from various Palestinian districts, and with the start of registration for the coming academic year, the university announced its intention to provide ten scholarships for ten Gazan students.

# For the Wellbeing of Palestine...

- The university leadership is continuously seeking to better integrate into the community. Collaborative work with local entities and businesses has always been at the core of our efforts and we aim to make a positive difference in the fields of education, health and environment.
- Birzeit University Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, alongside the Palestine Diabetes Institute, held on the occasion of World Diabetes Day free medical diabetes tests and diagnosis.



- The faculty was part in the October Campaign launched by Dunya" Women's Cancer Clinic, to promote the importance of early detection of breast tumors and to aware the university community and the Palestinian in general of breast cancer's methods of early detection.
- As part of the "Mediterranean Cultural Network to Promote Creativity in the Arts, Crafts and Design for Communities' Regeneration in Historical Cities" also known as MEDNETA, the Architectural Engineering Department, held a workshop targeting owners of pottery factories and workshops in Hebron. The participants concluded that the most important problem facing the pottery sector in Hebron is the Israeli Occupation practices which affects the import and export of raw materials.
- The Department held a preliminary meeting with craftspeople and owners of traditional industry workshops in the City of Hebron to introduce them to MEDNETA and explore ways to rehabilitate the Old City of Hebron.

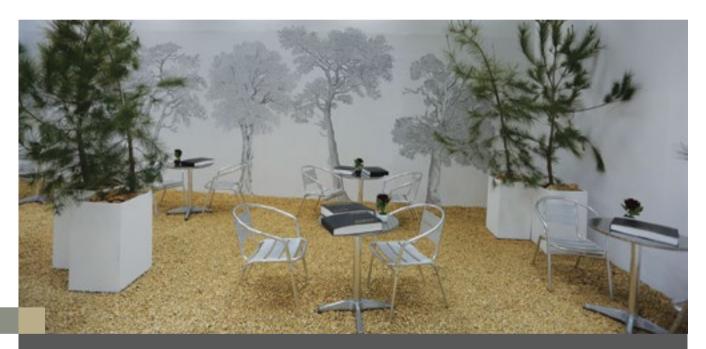
### **Collaborating for Saving the Environment to Save our Future...**

■ Birzeit University has started a new initiative to outfit the Samih Darwazeh Pharmaceutical Industries building with a solar electricity generation system, to be supplied by Synergy Company for Renewable Energy, in collaboration with Synergy Company for Renewable Energy's.

### **Saving History for Next Generations...**

A nation's devotion to preservation and care of its history may serve as a measure of its degree of civilization. The true history of any nation or state lies within its archives.

- Due to the university's strong belief of the importance of Archive and their role in reaffirming Palestine's paradoxical identity, Birzeit University participated in Qalandiya International II, under the theme "Archives, Lived and shared", as University researchers Samih Hammoudeh and Salim Tamari spoke at symposium in Mahmoud Darwish Musuem about the history of Ramallah in Ottoman times.
- Moreover, Ibrahim Abu- Lughod Institute for International Studies, in cooperation with Ramallah Municipality developed a digital archive for documents, photos, oral history, social and cultural life in Ramallah since the ottoman rule.



■ Birzeit University Museum opened a student exhibit, showing the final projects for the course Advanced Urban Design offered by the Architectural Engineering Department. The exhibit is titled "Here, in '66" and was curated by Yazid Anani. The exhibition attempts to draw attention to the social life that prevailed in Ramallah during the sixties, such as the Jordanian rule. (58,59)





We offer a wide range of programs that shape campus life and support outof-class activities.

## A pursuit towards positive, social, cultural change...

- The Cultural events organized by the university complement the wide variety of tastes in the university and Palestine in general. We consider culture a spirit nurturer, a field where students can be creative and free.
- Since it has been revived in 2008, Birzeit Nights Festival has been show casing artistic and traditional musical performances. This year, Birzeit University hosted El- Funoun Popular Dance Troupe, Baladna and the Lebanese singer Walid Tawfiq, who joined the audience via video call.



- Our cultural activities also involve performing and visual arts, as well as aspects of heritage, the sciences and sport.
- Birzeit University Deanship of Student Affairs screened the film "Forbidden Pilgrimage", which hears passionate views from Palestinian priests, a Christian tour operator and a British writer as they speak out against the obstacles facing pilgrims visiting sacred sites nowadays, particularly Bethlehem and Nazareth.

- It displayed a play called "Bosman and Lena" by Athol Fugard, which addresses injustice and the oppression of black South Africans in times of racial segregation. The play manifests rage, humor, oppression and a quest for freedom, in addition to raising questions about injustice, dignity and fairness and illustrating the oppression suffered by citizens for reasons such as race, religion and gender.
  - The university's museum opened a student exhibition entitled "If I were a Patriot?" which monitors urban environment shifts to places and buildings in Palestine. This work unveils moments in history, probing the different temporalities of the city and the social, cultural and patriotic thought that changed in the Palestinian life.



### "Architecture to Bring People & Cultures Together...

Architectural design does not solely refer to the appearance of buildings. It is more about identity and culture. Architect caries from culture to culture and influenced by a country's culture. Entitled "Athens Revisited", the Architectural Engineering Department organized an exhibition after its students' trip to Greece where they experienced different perceptions and angles of the Greek architecture and culture. The aim of the exhibition is to reshape the ideas the students' gained during visiting the architecture sights in Greece and the inspirations attained and inspired by Greek civilization and apply them on their projects.

### **Experiencing BZU...**

Our open days, career days & summer camps are a great opportunity for everyone to come and explore the University for themselves. Through these activities everybody can discover what Birzeit University has to offer, through visiting out academic departments, talk to our students and staff, view our learning facilities and get a real taste of the social life we have in the University and learn about our students capabilities.

### **Career Days**

■ Birzeit University strives to graduate students who are able to take up their role in the society and make a contribution. Therefore, the Faculty of Business and Economics it's 20th Career Day which aims to provide training and job opportunities for students in prominent companies and organizations.



### **Open Days**

- Birzeit University held the annual open day for a number of faculties: which included many cultural, academic, art and sports activities, in addition to a book exhibition held by the main library.
- The Faculty of Engineering and Technology held shows for engineering companies and offices, as well as graduate students' projects, in addition to scientific and professional seminars and an honoring ceremony for its outstanding students,
- The Faculty of Science activities included some laboratory experiments and an honorary ceremony for its distinguished students.
- The Business and Economics Faculty open day was held under the auspices of Jawwal Mobile Co., which included economic seminars and academic events, in addition to theatrical performances and entertainment, contests and awards, with the participation of different insurance companies and the Society of Consumer Protection.

■ The Faculty of Education open day was held under the title: "Education roots are bitter, but its fruits are sweet", sponsored by the Housing Bank, which included educational corners and a display for those with special needs, in addition to the exhibition for embroidery and heritage industries, as well as folk dancing and school products shows.

### **International Days**

■ Palestine and Arabic Studies Program (PAS) celebrate each year the rich diversity of cultures on our campus and in Palestine. This year's PAS International Day was titled "From Birzeit to the World" with the participation of 15 embassies of friendly countries, cultural and educational institutions and a number of ambassadors and representations of countries around the world. We, at Birzeit University seek to transfer our cultural, political and social message from Palestine to the world and learn from their experiences.

## **International Summer Work Camps 2015**



Since 1981, Birzeit University (BZU) has been organizing International Summer Work Camps, aiming to achieve BZU's mission, build generations that are open to the world, provide an opportunity for cultural exchange, introduce the Palestinian cause, and reinforce the Palestinian core values of caring, respect, peace, and acceptance of the other.

■ The International Summer Work Camps include voluntary work, visits to Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps, and other Palestinian universities. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity for foreign participants to meet Palestinian families, political and community leaders, as well as Palestinian academics.

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Throughout the years, Birzeit University has made a great progress in its mission to enable alumni-to-alumni connections and foster meaningful lasting relationship between alumni and the University.

Birzeit University's Alumni and Career services office held the 2015 Annual Alumni Reunion on Saturday with the goal of strengthening communication between the university and its graduates and fostering a sense of loyalty and belonging. The event was organized to in order to activate the partnership between the university and its graduates immersed in the local, regional and international community. The event was a part of the university's philosophy that every graduate is an envoy, a bright example, and a contributor to the development of the country.

## **Alumni Makes Significant Contributions to the Community...**

- Birzeit University has proved to be the place where alumni can make a difference in their local communities. Our Graduates have been known for their significant contributions in variety of fields.
- Amer Shomali, an architectural engineer Graduate, competed at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film traces the fortunes of 18 cows in Bethlehem-area village which became an inspiration and symbol for resistance during the first Intifada. Shomali used stop- motion animation, drawings and interviews to accomplish the documentary. The film was also screened at Abu Dhabi and Carthage film festivals. Shomali is also the author of the book "Comics," and several children's stories. He is also the founder of the animation diploma program at Birzeit University, and one of the creators of Zan Studio in Ramallah.
- Playwright Dalia Taha, an architecture graduate from birzeit university, tells in her 90-minute play, "Fireworks", the psychic damage done to children who grow up in Gaza, showing how it realy feels to live under siege and constant violence.



# **Facts and Figures**

### **Students and Enrollment:**

- **11,023** students are registered at BZU (2014-2015):
  - 9,764 undergraduates 1,168 graduates 91 diploma and special students.
- **64%** of the student body is female and **36%** is male.

  (**64.3%** of the undergraduate students and **65.3%** of the graduate students are females).
- 2,069 students graduated from Birzeit University in the academic year 2013/2014,

# **Faculty Members & Staff:**

- 617 academic staff members

  490 faculty members and 127 researchers and teaching assistants
- 30% women
- 62% of full-time faculty members are PhD holders
- **522** non-academic staff members, including senior professionals, administrators, technicians, and service workers

### **Financial Aid & Scholarships:**

Birzeit University seeks to promote higher education, even among those who may have difficulty affording it. As such, the Financial Aid Office at the Deanship of Student Affairs prepares a list of students that qualify for financial aid from among those who apply by filling out a Social Survey and submitting it to the Grants and Financial Aid Committee.

- **50%** Students Received Scholarships
- 20% Students Received Need-Based Grants
- JD 2.4 million Average Financial Aid
- 890 Students Received Aid from External Contributors

Birzeit University has bestowed 16 scholarships on Palestinian students from Israel, of which 25 were enrolled last semester. The scholarship program is part of the university's efforts to encourage Palestinians who are Israeli citizens to study at Birzeit University.

The scholarships were presented to the selected students by donors Ghazi Abu-Nahal and Walid Abdo to the students.



The university seeks to encourage 1948 Palestinian students to study at Birzeit, and their admission is based on their average in the Bagrut[Israeli] matriculation.



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