



ANNUAL REPORT
2006/2007

BUILDING A BETTER PALESTINIAN FUTURE

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Preface

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 faculty's ability to combine research with instruction and public service demonstrates BZU's commitment to serving the needs of Palestinian private and public sectors.

Birzeit University is the first institution of higher education to be established in Palestine. In addition to providing students with the opportunity to realize their academic aspirations, the University encourages its students to be productive citizens and active members of their community.

The 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. The University 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, Birzeit University'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.

The University offers numerous undergraduate and post-graduate degrees through its seven faculties: Arts, Commerce and Economics, Engineering, Science, Law and Public Administration, Information Technology and Graduate Studies.

The Graduate Studies programs offer post-graduate diplomas and master's degrees in the following fields: Contemporary Arabic Studies; Arab and Muslim History; Education; Sociology; International Studies; Democracy and Human Rights; Economics; Law; Community and Public Health; Water and Environmental Engineering; Water and Environmental Sciences; Gender, Law and Development; Business Administration; Applied statistics; Scientific Computing; Urban Planning and Design; Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Geography and Mathematics.

The University also offers two High Diplomas in Primary Healthcare (Supervision and Training); and Gender, Law and Development. In addition to its academic programs, the University has a wide range of institutes, centers and programs that aim to support the community-oriented programs that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in Palestine.

Support for the University comes from numerous Palestinian, Arab and international institutions or foundations as well as from various individuals. Such support has enabled the University to continuously expand and develop.



Although many courses are taught in English, Birzeit University's official language is Arabic, The University follows the semester system, with two four-month semesters beginning in Autumn and Spring, and a shorter two-month semester in Summer.

Mission and Principles

"Birzeit University is a Palestinian Arab institution supervised by an autonomous Board of Trustees that decides its policies.

The University is committed to excellence and encourages creativity, experimentation, innovation, perfection as well as team work and democratic practices anchored in pluralism, freedom of expression and respect for others.

The University endeavors to excel in higher education, scientific research, and service to the community. Since its establishment, the University has committed itself to provide equal learning opportunities to qualified individuals and to prepare students to become good citizens active in their society and committed to its well-being/advancement/welfare.

The University provides the appropriate environment for students to develop their personalities and realize their potentials in an atmosphere that stresses the Arab-Islamic heritage open to the world."

BZU's founding principles are:

- A serious commitment to excellence for students, faculty, and staff.
- A pledge to honor justice, the pursuit of the common good and intellectual openness.
- Dedication to the development of the Palestinian community and retention of a worldly viewpoint.



A Message from the President



The Annual Report, prepared and issued by the Public Relations Office for the second year in succession, is on its way to becoming a regular feature of the University's publications and it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the staff of the PR Office on this effort. This report is different from the internal annual report which the president of the University presents to the Board of Trustees at the end of each academic year. Whereas the internal report is intended to serve evaluation and planning purposes, the present report is more of an instrument for information and promotion, which aims to acquaint the reader from within Palestinian society and abroad—hence the issuance of the report in Arabic and in English—with the University's activities and achievements, and with the challenges that it has faced during the previous academic year, in order to enhance interest in the university, garner support for its programs and activities, as well as keep those interested, including alumni and alumna well informed. Therefore, the Annual Report is, in a

sense, a public relations, communications and media instrument, without derogating from its usefulness as a reference that can potentially contribute to framing the University's plan of action. Needless to say, the Report will go through a phase of experimentation before it takes its final shape, benefitting from feedback and comments from readers regarding contents and layout design, while remaining true to the general image characterizing BZU publications.

Academic Year 2006/2007 presented the University with a set of difficult challenges, not least of which was financial. Nonetheless, it was a year rich in activities as new academic programs were introduced, further improvement of the campus grounds and facilities was accomplished, and enriched program of general lectures on campus was launched, and new avenues for reaching out to the community were charted. All this demonstrates and underlines the University's determination to fulfill its mission in spite of hardships. All this wouldn't have been achieved without the dedicated work of so many and I would like to thank the University's Faculty and Staff for their efforts and to commend them on their collective achievements. I would also like to congratulate our students who completed their studies successfully and graduated this year. A special word of thanks goes to all those who supported Birzeit University as it passed through yet another difficult year of a life that the circumstances of living under occupations have made it a life of accepting challenges and weathering them, not only academically—for this is an essential part of a university's function—but more generally in terms of safeguarding accomplishments and building on them.

Nabeel Kassis
President





The Year in Review



Towards fulfillment of its strategic plan, which sets transformation into a research-based university as one of its primary strategic goals, Birzeit University (BZU) continued to provide more facilities and financial assistance to faculty members and researchers. The academic year 2006/2007 witnessed significant research activities that led to an increase in the publication of articles in refereed scientific journals, the presentation of working papers in regional and international conferences and the publication of scientific books, studies, reports and periodicals. In addition, BZU's record of accomplishment in carrying out pure and applied research led to an increase in the number of research grants and implement development projects.

BZU's commitment to promote academic experience has continued to inspire its efforts towards development of its human and physical academic resources and to provide students with a healthy environment that stimulates learning, development, innovation, and to encourage constructive cooperation among various University units. The academic year 2006-2007 witnessed rigorous academic development, including the approval of two new academic faculties(colleges) and several new academic programs. Also, a number of existing academic programs were revised.

Recognizing that education is a universal pursuit and working to foster greater understanding between BZU's students and faculty on the one hand and the international community on the other, more collaboration between BZU and universities abroad, research centers and higher education institutions during the academic year 2006-2007 was evident(how?). Also throughout the past academic year, BZU signed international cooperation agreements, expanded the exchanges of faculty members and students, and continued to play a leading role in higher education issues on the local, regional and international levels.

BZU institutes and community centers contributed to the development of significant Palestinian policies affecting the development of the Palestinian society. The University has been at the forefront identifying the social, cultural, economic and political challenges facing the Palestinian society, and addressing them through applied research, data collection and analysis, outreach programs and public awareness. Assessment criteria for monitoring the institutes' and centers' performance are being developed.

More efforts and resources have been invested in responding to student needs at BZU. More students have been involved in on- and off-campus activities such as student council elections and cultural, athletic, arts, and voluntary community activities. The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs continued to provide social and psychological counseling for students thereby creating a tolerant, open environment on campus. Financial aid was extended to BZU students in a fair and transparent manner.

Substantial campus infrastructure has been built for the purpose of adding new teaching, research and service facilities. The construction of the new Faculty of Arts building is now complete, the Najjad Zeenni Center for Excellence in Information Technology construction project was launched and the new Physical Education Program complex was inaugurated.



Research and Publications

Overview

BZU provided services(e.g. research grants) to facilitate academic research adhering to high standards of scholarships and research grants. During the academic year 2006/2007, the university boosted(raised) the number of research grants, provided by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, up to 21 grants in comparison with 14 grants given in the academic year 2005/2006.

BZU success track in carrying out theoretical and applied scientific research resulted in an increase in the number of grants handed out for conducting scientific research and implementing development projects. During the academic year 2006/2007, BZU's academic and community outreach units received funds for 48 research and development projects, compared to 47 grants received during the academic year 2005/2006.

Throughout the academic year 2006/2007, faculty members and researchers of various faculties, community centers and institutes published a total of 240 scientific publications including articles in refereed scientific journals, working papers presented at professional conferences, as well as reports, journal articles, studies and books. In addition, 55 Master theses, covering various fields, were published.

Scientific Articles

During the academic year 2006/2007, faculty members and researchers at Birzeit University's faculties, community institutes and centers published **69** articles in refereed scientific journals, as follows: **6** by the Faculty of Engineering in the fields of mechanical, electrical and water engineering, **13** by Faculty of Arts, focusing on sociology, identity, heritage and Arabic language, **2** by the Faculty of Law & Public Administration, **15** by the Faculty of Science, **25** by the Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) and **8** by the Water & Environmental Studies Institute (WESI). **(See Appendix I on page 72).**

Working Papers

During the academic year 2006/2007, faculty members and researchers at the faculties, community institutes and centers presented **95** working papers at Regional and international conferences, as follows: **17** by the Faculty of Engineering, **10** by the Faculty of Arts, **4** by the Faculty of Commerce & Economics, **10** by the Faculty of Law & Public Administration, **2** by the Faculty of Science, **13** by the Institute of Law (IoL), **15** by ICPh, **8** by the Institute of Women Studies (IWS), **5** by the Water & Environmental Studies Institute (WESI), **3** by the Office of Planning & Development, **7** by the Media Development Center (MDC) and one paper by Birzeit University Testing Laboratories (BZUTL). **(See Table I on page 77).**

Books

During the academic year 2006/2007, various faculties, community outreach centers and institutes published 11 books in Arabic and 7 books in English in addition to contributing to 17 books (5 in Arabic and 12 in English). The publications and contributions were



as follows: the Faculty of Law & Public Administration published 4 books and provided contributions to 6 books (3 in Arabic & 3 in English); the Faculty of Arts published 4 books (2 in English & 2 in Arabic) and provided a contribution to one book in Arabic; IoL published 3 books in English; WESI published a book in English; Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies (IALIIS) published a book in English; IWS published one book in English; the Center for Development Studies published two books in Arabic; the Faculty of Engineering published 2 books and contributed to two books; and MDC published two Books in Arabic. **(See Table II for books on page 85 and Table III for Book Contributions on page 87).**

Studies, Strategic Papers, Periodicals and Reports

During the academic year 2006/2007, various faculties, community outreach centers and institutes published 16 studies, 8 reports and 6 periodicals. In addition, 10 issues of the Media Development Center's newspaper Al-Hal were published. **(See Table IV for Reports on page 90 and Table V for Studies on page 91 and Table VI for Periodicals on page 93).**

Also, the Office of Planning and Development prepared two strategic papers titled:

- 1) BZU's Strategic Plan (2007-2010) – A Draft.
- 2) Concept Paper on Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences and Faculty of Pharmacy.

Conferences

During the academic year 2006/2007, BZU faculty, staff and researchers actively participated in **73** international and regional conferences in which they presented working papers and attended **74** more conferences. **(See Table VII on page 94).**

Master Dissertations

During the academic year 2006/2007, under the supervision of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, 55 Master dissertations in both Arabic & English were published **(See Table VIII on page 98).**

Funded Research and Development Projects

During the academic year 2006/2007, as an attestation to the university achievements in research and development, various faculties and community outreach institutes and centers competed for and attained **50** research and developmental grants. Also, and in order to encourage further scientific research, the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs provided grants for **21** research projects. The following faculties, institutes, and centers have earned the following grants during the academic year 2006/2007:

The Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Office of Academic Development at The Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs:

- Faculty members development project: funded by Ford Foundation.



The Faculty of Arts

- Establishment of the Ibn Rushd Educational Development Unit: funded by Ford Foundation.

Department of Education & Psychology:

- National Identity Development among Palestinian Students in Paradoxical Socio-political Contexts: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Scientific Research in Palestinian Universities: Reality and Obstacles; a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Department of Geography:

- Geographical and Hydro Chemical Characteristics of Rain in the Governorate of Ramallah; a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Department of History & Archeology:

- Arab Women: I and the Other: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Salafist Movement in Palestine: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Islamic Awqaf in Al-Nasarah (Christian) Neighborhood in Jerusalem: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

The Faculty of Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering:

- Improving Solar Heating Systems: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- ROBO-CAR; an engineering project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Reactions in Cast Aluminum/Silica Composites and their Effect on Physical and Mechanical Properties: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Design of Smart Wheelchair for the Handicapped; an engineering project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Department of Architectural Engineering:

- Segregating Jerusalem: the Impact of Israeli Wall on Transforming Jerusalem's North West Villages' Urban Structure: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Department of Electrical Engineering:

- Seriesing IGBTs for Constructing a High Voltage Switch: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Master Program in Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture: Intercultural Dialogue (3-year Program): funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The Faculty of Information & Technology earned the following grant:

- Smart Web-based ECG System Bioengineering: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.



The Faculty of Science

Department of Biology & Biochemistry:

- Heavy Metal Levels in Animal Food Products Originating from Locally Reared Animals in Palestine: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Gene Expression and Changes in Cell-wall Enzymes from Climacteric Fruits Subjected to the Ethylene Inhibitor (1-MCP): a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Department of Chemistry:

- Search for Spectrophotometric Methods for Determination of Gaseous Environmental Pollutants: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Molecule Dynamics Docking Techniques and Minimum Energy Calculations: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.
- Copper (II) and other Transition Metals Complexes of Anti-inflammatory, Antimicrobial and Antibiotic Drugs as Mimics of Metalloproteins: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Department of Physics:

- Light Scattering from Ferroelectric Crystalline Materials using Raman Spectroscopy: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Department of Mathematics in cooperation with Department of Education and Department of Arabic Language & Literature:

- Creative Thinking: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

The Master Program in Clinical Laboratory Science:

- Prevalence and Genotyping of H. Pylori in the West Bank: a research project funded by the Office of Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies

- Establishment of the Academic Support Unit: funded by Ford Foundation.

The Institute of Community & Public Health (ICPH)

- Youth Smoking in Stressed Environments: Determinants and Resiliency: a research project funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada.
- Patient Flow and Referral System at PMRS Clinics: a research project funded by Palestinian Solidarity organization (PGS), Sweden.
- The European Value of a Quality-Adjusted Life Year (EuroVaQ): a research project funded by the European Union (EU).
- Post-partum Care in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT): a research project funded by Theodore Springman Foundation.
- Quality of Life of Palestinian Mothers in the Postpartum Period: a research project funded by the Wellcome Trust at the American University of Beirut (AUB).
- Targeting Reform, Capacity Building with a Focus on Reproductive Health; funded by Ford Foundation.
- Anemia in Children: a research project funded by Palestinian Solidarity Organization (PGS), Sweden.



- **Industrial Hazardous Solid Waste Management:** a research project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
- **Capacity Building of Rational Use of Medicine: Knowledge and Practice Affecting Mobile Teams:** a training course funded by CARE International.
- **Course on Population and Development (PAL3P203):** a training course funded by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Institute of Environmental and Water Studies (IEWS)

- **Innovative Process and Practices for Wastewater Treatment and Reuse in the Mediterranean Region (INNOVA):** a research project funded by European Commission through FP6.
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) Curriculum Development and Training in Palestine:** a development project funded by the European Commission through Tempus Program.
- **Environmental Assessment of Pollution Sources on the water environment and Palestinian livelihood in the Northern West Bank, Palestine:** a research project funded by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organization (AG-Fund) through House of Water and Environment.
- **Using Phytoremediation Techniques in Treating Groundwater Resources in Palestine:** a research project funded by the Arab Science & Technology Foundation through House of Water and Environment.

The Institute of Law (IoL)

- **The Contours of a Future State:** A four-part Compendium of Palestinian Thinking, including economy, constitutional framework, citizenship and citizen's rights, and neighbour state; funded by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator (UNSCO).
- **Legal Reform and the Process of De-colonization and State-building in Palestine;** funded by IDRC, Canada.
- **Judicial Independence and Human Dignity (JIHD)** research project, which includes four components: Judicial Independence in Palestine; Judicial Independence: a Comparative Study; Judicial Responsibility and Accountability; and Human Dignity. The research is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- **Land Administration Project,** which includes a study of land disputes and analysis of the draft land law: a development project funded by the World Bank.
- **Development of the Legislative Support Unit:** a development project funded by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation (KAS).
- **Development of the Law and Society Unit:** a development project funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

The Institute of Women Studies (IWS)

- **Pathways to Empowerment:** a grant provided by the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University and the American University of Cairo.

The Center for Continuing Education (CCE)

- **The Across Borders Program** earned the Youth Development Project: a development project funded by Save the Children Foundation and Ford Foundation.

Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies (IALIIS)

- **Refugee and International Migration Resource Unit:** a development project funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC).

- Swiss Extension Phase - a series of workshops & annual conference: a development project funded by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

Birzeit University Testing Laboratories

- A three-year training program for olive-oil testing & technical assistance to farmers: a development project funded by the Italian Cooperation Office.

The Center for Development Studies (CDS)

- UNESCO Five-Year Strategy for the Educational Sector in the Palestinian Territories: a development project funded by the UNESCO.
- Development of the UNESCO's Five-Year Educational Sector Strategy, funded by the UNESCO.

The Master Program in Democracy & Human Rights

- The Current Status of Human Rights at Palestinian Schools: a research project funded by the UNESCO.

The Virtual Gallery:

Arts in Schools Project, in cooperation with the British Council, Goethe Institute and Townhouse in Cairo; funded by Anna Lindh Foundation

Awards and Accreditations

Each year one or more of the university units, faculty members and researchers earn awards, are recognized for a distinguished work or receive accreditation for conducting an excellent work. During the academic year 2006/2007 the university community accomplished the following:

- Dr. Maher Abu-Madi was one of 25 researchers honored by the UNESCO Institute for Water Education for their role in the success of the institute, which was established 50 years ago. Dr. Abu-Madi worked as a research coordinator in the Partnership for Water Education and Research (PoWER), which includes 19 university and institute in 16 different countries.
- The Soil and Materials Laboratory at the Department of Civil Engineering was accredited by the Palestinian Standards Institution.





Teaching and Learning

Overview

The rigorous academic development activities of the academic year 2006-2007 culminated in an approval of two new faculties: the Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Professions and the Faculty of Pharmacy. In addition, new academic programs were introduced, including: Bachelor Program in Nutrition and Dietetics, Business Administration, Nursing, Mechatronics, as well as a Master Program in Applied Chemistry and Mathematics, and a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) program. In response to recent developments in various domains, several existing academic programs (BA & MA) have been revised.

In keeping with its central role of providing resources for facilitating and encouraging scientific research and independent learning, the Main University Library acquired new books, journals and electronic references in all fields.

Financial support was provided to four faculty members to pursue their graduate studies, to several academic research projects, and to a number of faculty members to attend international scientific conferences and present their working papers.

BZU aims to develop its faculty through scholarships, training, follow-up, improving the basics of teaching and learning, focusing on the student and his/her concerns in a proper environment that motivates learning, development, innovation, and encourages constructive cooperation among various University units that will eventually enhance the teaching-learning process.

The Student Body

During the academic year 2006/2007, the university provided education to **7,648** students, 53.9% of whom are female. **1,921** students enrolled in the Faculty of Arts, **1,473** in the Faculty of Commerce and Economics, **863** in the Faculty of Science, **1,192** in the Faculty of Engineering, **447** in the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, **488** in the Faculty of Information Technology, and **1,109** in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. In addition, 156 students enrolled in special and diploma programs.

By the end of the academic year 2006/2007, **1,523** students, **876** of whom are female, completed their graduation requirements. **1,099** graduated with a Bachelor degree, **363** with a Master degree and **61** with a diploma. In addition, **150** students graduated at the end of the summer semester in August, 2007.

New Appointments

During the academic year 2006-2007, BZU recruited 43 new faculty members, 46 teaching assistants and 161 support and administrative staff.



New Faculties

The plans to establish the Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences were approved by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In addition, the plans to establish the Faculty of Pharmacy were prepared by the Faculty of Science and submitted to the ministry for approval.

New Graduate Programs

- **Master Program in Geography** introduced by the Faculty of Arts.
- **Master Program in Mathematics** introduced by the Faculty of Science.
- **Master Program in Applied Chemistry** introduced by the Faculty of Science.
- **Master Program in Diplomacy** introduced by Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies (IALIIS).

New Undergraduate Programs

The **Bachelor Program in Marketing**, introduced by the Department of Business at the Faculty of Commerce and Economics, acquired the approval of the Birzeit University Academic Council and was accredited by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Bachelor Programs Submitted to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for accreditation:

Faculty	Program	Notes
Faculty of Commerce & Economics	Business Economics	Submitted for accreditation during 1st semester of 06-07
Faculty of Nursing & Allied Health Sciences	Nutrition & Dietetics	Submitted for accreditation during 1st semester of 06-07
Faculty of Nursing & Allied Health Sciences	Nursing	Submitted for accreditation during 1st semester of 06-07
Faculty of Pharmacy	Pharmacy	Submitted for accreditation during 1st semester of 06-07
Faculty of Engineering/ Department of Mechanical Engineering	Mechatronics	Submitted for accreditation during 1st semester of 06-07

Amendments on existing undergraduate and graduate academic programs:

Faculty	Program
Faculty of Science/Department of Mathematics	1) Bachelor Program in Mathematics 2) Bachelor Program in Mathematics Applied to Economics. 3) Minor in Statistics
Faculty of Science/Department of Physics	Bachelor Program (Major: Physics & Minor: Electronics.
Faculty of Commerce and Economics	1) Bachelor Program in Marketing 2) Other majors
Faculty of Arts/ Department of Languages & Translation	Minor: Translation
Faculty of Arts	Master Program in Contemporary Arab Studies
Faculty of Engineering/Department of Architectural Engineering	Masters Program in Urban Planning and Design

*The new requirements of amended programs are listed in the university catalogue and on the university website: www.birzeit.edu.



New Academic Courses and Amendments on Existing Courses

- The Arabic course ARAB239 titled "Prosody and Rhetoric" was divided into two separate courses: Prosody and Rhetoric.
- Four courses were introduced by the Master Program in Scientific Computing, namely: SCOM7342, SCOM7373, SCOMP7340, SCOMP7341.
- The Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies has introduced a new elective course: "Palestine: Past & Present."
- The Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) has revised and amended the Health Statistics courses HLTH634, HLTH723 and HLTH632 that it offers.
- The Bachelor Program in Architectural Engineering has amended the course description and requirements of several courses, and increased the number of credit hours required for graduation to become 164 credit hrs, instead of 160 credit hrs.
- Updating the Electronic Library course available through the library website by providing online tutorials.

New Units to Support Research, Training and Development

- In cooperation with American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), the Faculty of Information Technology has launched the construction of the Najad Zeenni Center of Excellence in Information Technology.
- The Lubricating Oil Testing Unit at the Birzeit University Testing Laboratories.
- The Academic Support Unit at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The unit's goal is to provide academic support for graduate students.
- The Refugee and International Migration Resource Unit at Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies.
- The Ibn Rushd Unit for Educational Development: the unit aims to support new faculty members, develop courses and assist faculties and departments in designing and developing their academic programs.

New Facilities to Support Teaching and Learning

- The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has moved to new premises that brought together into one space staff that were previously spread out, enabling synergies and increasing coherence among coworkers and providing clients with a healthy working atmosphere.
- Two drawing facilities for the Department of Architectural Engineering with modern computing equipment for using design software, particularly AutoCAD and an LCD projector for screening architectural projects.
- Faculty of Engineering contributed to equipping the General Lectures Hall (E225) by providing an LCD projector and film screening cables.
- In cooperation with GTZ, the Department of Civil Engineering obtained a collection of books and design software for the networks and stations of waste water treatment.
- Two new computer laboratories set up in the Faculty of Commerce and Economics; the first laboratory was donated by Mr. Farouk Al-Shami, Palestinian businessman, and the other was donated and installed by the Palestinian Securities Exchange for creating a model financial market environment.

- The Institute of Environmental and Water Studies set up the Water Engineering Laboratory, a new computer laboratory, and purchased new books covering the fields of water and environment.
- The Faculty of Law and Public Administration prepared plans for building and equipping the new faculty building. The construction of the new building will be fully-funded through a donation from the French government.
- The Main Library added 3,696 new books, increased the number of periodicals to 303 titles, and subscribed to eight more scientific databases. In addition, the Library upgraded the various electronic services provided to faculty members, researchers and students.
- The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has moved to new premises which brought together faculty members and staff into one workspace.

Internal Capacity Building

During the academic year 2006-2007, BZU continued to exert its efforts to improve its performance and build up the capacity and quality of its units, programs, faculty and staff. This was carried out through incessant evaluation of its existing programs and provision of a series of training courses to its faculty and staff. The capacity building efforts include:

- The Office of Academic Development oversaw the projects supported by Ford Foundation to: develop faculty members through the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, establish the Academic Support Unit at the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Ibn Rushd Center, and enhance the Virtual Gallery. It also oversaw a project funded by the Arab Student Aid International organization to support the Media Department.
- The Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs participated in workshops on "Self-Evaluation" and "Strategic Planning", conducted at the Central European University through the Accreditation Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC) of the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- The Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and the Office of Planning and Development participated in a workshop, held at the National Training Institute in Al-Birah on 8/8/2007, to discuss a comparative study on the existing organizational structures of higher education institutions of Palestine and universities in the Middle East Region, the United States and the United Kingdom, within the framework of the Tertiary Education Project (TEP) at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies conducted a SWOT analysis for the purpose of self-evaluation and drawing up a strategic plan.
- The Department of Media at the Faculty of Arts received a team of evaluators that were delegated by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- The Public Administration Department at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration in coordination with the Human Resources Department conducted an evaluation of the New Employee Orientation (NEO) activity. The recommendations of the evaluation were implemented by the Department of Human Resources.

- The Faculty of Engineering conducted an evaluation of its programs and submitted the evaluation results to Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In addition, the Faculty conducted a three-day workshop on strategic planning in which 16 faculty members have participated. Also, the Faculty designed and published a new website and printed an informational brochure.



- The Institute of Environmental and Water Studies participated in a training workshop on "Management and Treatment of Waste Water" in Poland and in a workshop on "Innovation in Education" in Holland. In addition, and through a European Union grant, two faculty members took part in training courses, first at the UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) and the second in The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden.
- The Print Journalism Unit at the Media Development Center conducted a training course for administrative assistants in various university units, who work closely with communications and media.
- The Main Library conducted two training courses on "Stress Management" and "Usage of Electronic Databases."
- The Institute of Community and Public Health conducted the following specialized training for their academic and research staff:
 - Factor Analysis Training conducted by Harry Shanon, PhD (a visiting trainer from Canada).
 - Writers Workshop (Lancet Project) conducted by Sir Iain Chalmers, PhD, and Graham Watt, PhD, (Visiting trainers from UK).

- Training Workshop for HINARI database conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Training on Outcome Mapping, held in Egypt, and attended by assistant researchers.
- Training on Population and Development: Theory and Practice, conducted by visiting trainers: Prof. Ian Timaeus, Professor of Demography, Center for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of London, and Prof. Tim Dyson, Professor of Population Studies, Development Studies Institute (Destin), London School of Economics, University of London, and Dr. Ann Scott, Office for National Statistics, UK, for BZU academics participating in the population and development course during August 20-25, 2007. This project was coordinated by ICPH and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- English Level A Course: offered as part of BZU capacity building for employees during the months of May-June 2007.
- Industrial hazardous solid waste management: in cooperation with several sectors, a much needed research on the Ramallah industries is being carried out concerning the type, legality, production, wastes, etc, of industrial waste. A training course on conducting industrial hazardous waste surveys was held for researchers in this field, and a comprehensive assessment is currently taking place.
- The Institute of Women's Studies conducted an evaluation, both internally from within the Institute and externally with the assistance of an external evaluator, of the Institute's work in general and of the Master of Arts Program in Gender and Development in particular. Following the evaluation, Institute members and outside consultants took part in a two-day strategic planning workshop. Moreover, a new system for filing and documentation was developed and introduced at the Institute through commissioning a local consultant.
- The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has been focusing on developing the bylaws and strategic plan, heading towards refining the organizational structure and objectives. On the University level, various training programs have been offered to the staff, and a staff turnover assessment was carried out. Moreover, CCE has conducted several technology training of trainers (TOT) courses in the following areas:
 - Computer Communication Networks: A training of 12 potential trainers in the field of computer communication networks using CISCO solutions. Potential trainees were selected from the Faculty of Information Technology staff, community centers (YMCA, YWCA and Sharek) and Vocational Institutes (Lutheran Vocational Institute) permitting the preparation of these community centers to join the Cisco Academy.
 - University Students Technology Training: A training of university students was conducted in the field of computer communication networks using CISCO solutions, aiming at building their capacities to meet the requirements of the local, regional and international markets.

Capacity Building Targeting Students:

Faculty/Dept./Program	Activity	Beneficiaries
Faculty of Science: Department of Mathematics	Training courses in SPSS & MATLAB (23/4/ -10/5/2007	30 students
Faculty of Science: Clinical & Laboratory Sciences Program	Training on Polymerase Chain Reaction during 1 st semester 2006/2007	10 students
Faculty of Law & Public Administration: Department of Law	Providing students with training opportunities with Arkan Project, Tanta University, Egypt and the Future Institute	7 students
	Providing training courses in civil and commercial law	3 rd year students
	Organizing a general lecture on International and Israeli Standards for Concluding Agreements by Dr. Saeb Erikat, the head of the Negotiations Affairs Unit at the PLO	BA & MA students of International Law
	Holding a Lecture on "Implementation Mechanisms of the Penal Law by Ashraf Al-Nashashibi, the Ramallah Attorney General	Students of the "Principles of Criminal Law" course
	Holding a Lecture on "Applicable Aspects in Corporate Law" by Mr. Nitham Ayoub, acting Company Comptroller	Students of "Corporate Law" Course.
Faculty of Commerce & Economics	Providing a training course on "Exchange Market Foreign Currency & Precious Metals"	11 students
	Providing a training course called "A Step Forward" in cooperation with Sharek Institute	100 students
Birzeit University Testing Laboratories	Training on lab tests using advanced devices	Students of the Master Program in Water and Environmental Sciences in and Clinical Laboratory and Medical Sciences, and chemistry students
Faculty of Arts: Department of English Language & Literature	Workshop on "Teaching Methods" in cooperation with the British Consulate	Students interested in teaching
Institute of Community and Public Health	Field visits	Workplaces of Diploma and Master students

Honoring Distinguished Students

- **Yousef Na'was Award for Creativity:** The prize committee, headed by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, set the main principles and criteria for student nominations by their faculties, as well as the criteria for selecting the award winner. Engineering student Nagham Awadallah received the award for the Academic year 2006/2007.
- **Faculty of Engineering** awarded its distinguished students during the Annual Motivation Ceremony for Scientific Innovation and Academic Development.
- **The Department of Registration and Admission at BZU** celebrated and honored the "Honor List" freshman students.



International Cooperation



"I will come back," with those words Professor Stephen Hawking addressed hundreds of Birzeit University faculty and students, many of whom could not attend his lecture on the "Origin of the Universe" due to lack of space and instead waited for hours at the entrance of the Faculty of Science to greet him, as he was ending his four-hour visit to BZU.



World famous British scientist Stephen Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University and author of best-selling A Brief History of Time, arrived to BZU at 3:00 PM on Wednesday December 13, 2006 to be welcomed by Dr. Nabeel Kassis, the BZU President accompanied by hundreds of faculty members and guests, and by thousands of students, who waited for his arrival at the entrance of the Faculty of Science- the biggest and warmest welcome ever extended to a visitor to BZU.

In recognition of the fact that knowledge and education are universal cooperative pursuits, and in commitment to fostering better understanding between BZU students and faculty and the international community, there was a considerable increase in cooperation between BZU and international universities, research centers and higher education institutions during the academic year 2006-2007.

Throughout the past academic year, BZU has managed to revive and develop many of the already signed international cooperation agreements and sign new ones, expand the exchanges of faculty members and students, and continue to play a leading role in addressing knowledge- and higher education-related issues

on the local and regional levels. Following are the highlights of the academic year 2006/2007 in the field of international cooperation:

- Dr. Nabeel Kassis, President of BZU, chaired a session at the UNESCO Conference on Higher Education, Scientific Research and Knowledge and participated in the annual meetings of the UNESCO Global Scientific Committee and the Palestinian European American Cooperation in Education (PEACE).
- Dr. Mirvat Bulbul, Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs, participated in the workshop titled: "Self-Evaluation and Strategic Planning" conducted at the Central European University through the Accreditation Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC) of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Chairperson of the Department of Architectural Engineering visited Ghent University (Belgium) during March 2007. The Faculty of Engineering at BZU and Ghent University are involved in a long-term cooperation relationship in the fields of urban planning and transportation.
- The Department of Civil Engineering participated in the 1st "Evaluation Course of the Faculties of Engineering in the Arab World" workshop sponsored by UNDP. The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Faisal Awadallah, attended the workshop held in Tunisia on 15 June 2007.
- Dr. Adel Zagha, Director of the Office of Planning and Development, presented a working paper titled: "Taxation and State Formation in Palestine, 1994-2005" at the Law and Economic Development towards Engagement in the Middle East Conference that took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 22-23/2/2007.
- Dean of Faculty of Arts, Dr. Ahmad Harb, participated in the 6th "Conference for Faculties of Arts' Deans at Arab Universities," held at Jinan University in Lebanon during 12-22 April 2007.

Cooperation Agreements

During the academic year 2006-2007, BZU concluded the following cooperation agreements:

- Dr. Nabeel Kassis, President of BZU, signed an agreement with the UNESCO which specifies the establishment of a UNESCO chair at the Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.
- On 2 July 2007, three agreements were signed with the Welfare Association specifying the establishment of the Ibn Rushd Unit at the Department of Education, supporting a

conference titled: "Edward said: Critical Accounts on Post-Modernity" and developing a science and math curricula at the Center of Continuing Education.

- On 13 January 2007, the Faculty of Engineering signed a cooperation agreement with Geo-Technical Materials Testing Center in a step towards strengthening partnerships with the private sector.
- The Faculty of Engineering signed a cooperation agreement with the Water Programme of GTZ, which aims at boosting bilateral cooperation to promote low-cost solutions to water problems for the benefit of the marginalized Palestinian rural areas.
- In cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), a three-year joint intercultural dialogue project agreement between BZU, Dortmund University in Germany and Balqaa' University in Jordan was signed.
- The Faculty of Engineering signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Rome. Through this agreement, one BZU student took part in a workshop and an engineering competition and four students participated in a planning workshop in Italy.
- The Institute of Law signed a cooperation agreement with the French Priority Solidarity



Fund that addresses six main themes: 1. Strengthening the rule of law, 2. Supporting the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, 3. Training public civil servants, 4. Developing French-Palestinian research partnerships, 5. building an extension for the IoL Building, 6. Making available French government scholarships.

- The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has signed several cooperation agreements with international and Palestinian development agencies that include the following:
- Within the framework of the "Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Program," funded by the Islamic Development Bank and managed by the UNDP, an agreement was

signed between the UNDP and the CCE to implement the capacity building component of this project.

- An agreement has been signed with Solutions for Development Consulting Company for the purpose of establishing a framework for collaboration and coordination between the two sides for the benefit of the Palestinian society with emphasis on developing the private sector.
- An agreement has been signed with American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) to conduct a professional diploma program delivered by the Psycho-social Unit at CCE for social workers who provide family counseling. The diploma is accredited by Birzeit University and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- An agreement has been signed with the World Conservation Union's West Asia/Middle East Regional Office (IUCN) to implement a conjunctive groundwater/watershed management authority to secure livelihoods in Jenin Governorate. Main activities will include water resource assessment, environmental and socio-economic impact assessments, economic analysis, development of community water projects and a plan as a model for replication in Palestine.
- The Institute of Environmental and Water Studies (IEWS) signed a contract with UNESCO's Cairo office to conduct research activities in the field of water resources and waste water during May-July 2007, and a contract was signed with UNESCO/IHE to issue the newsletter, PoWER, in addition to extending their partnership with PoWER (Partnership for Water Education and Research), based in Holland) until the end of 2007.
- The BZU Testing Laboratories has completed the implementation of the Grapes Plantation Project as stipulated in their agreement with World Vision.
- The Main Library at BZU signed a three-year cooperation agreement with Electronic Information for Libraries (Eifl) organization to access the online journal database "BioOne" and to access the services of Oxford Dictionary and Oxford Reference online.

International Cooperation

The University's **Academic and Administrative Portal, Ritaj**, in partnership with Google International, started providing a package of Internet communication services to the university community, including: email, shared calendars, instant messaging, in addition to document and spreadsheet processing through the ritaj.ps domain.

The **Office of Academic Development** participated in the following partnerships and joint programs:

- Partnership with the Middle Eastern Network of Universities in order to process mutual recognition of certificates issued by universities in the region in accordance with the Bologna Process.
- Partnership with the London School of Economics in the areas of: diplomacy, population studies, and exchange of students and staff.
- Activating academic relations with the Institute of Policy Studies in Leon and Paris, France.
- Partnership with the Committee for Development Research and Education at the Norwegian Council of Universities (NUFU) on Palestinian history, geography and urban planning.
- Through the Tempus Project, support was provided to the Water Project at the

Environmental and Water Studies Institute and to social sciences studies at Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies in partnership with the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Institute for Research on the Arab and Muslim World (IREMAN).

The **Department of Geography** at the Faculty of Arts in partnership with the Development Institute at the German University of Bergen held the 8th seminar on the Lower Jordan Basin Research Project.

In partnership with the University of Life Sciences, Norway, the **Faculty of Engineering** implemented a capacity building project in Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning.

In cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the **Master Program in Urban Planning & Design**, is running a three-year Intercultural Dialogue project jointly with Dortmund University, Germany, and Balqaa' University, Jordan.

The **Institute of Community & Public Health** participated in the following partnerships and joint programs:

- Research and PhD scholarships, in partnership with the Oslo University, Norway.
- Capacity building and training, in cooperation with the McMaster University.
- Contribution to research and teaching, in partnership with the Social Justice and Social Change Research Center at University of Western Sydney, Australia.
- Research and PhD scholarships, in partnership with the Glasgow University.
- Research and PhD scholarships, in partnership with the Universite de la Mediterranee in France.

The Institute of Environmental & Water Studies participated in the following partnerships and joint programs:

- Geographic Information System (GIS): Curriculum Development and Training in Palestine, in partnership with the European Union's Tempus Project.
- Effective Management of Treated Wastewater and its Reuse, in partnership with InWEnt, Germany.

The Institute of Women Studies participated in the following partnerships and joint programs:

- Two research projects: "Weddings and War," and "Palestinian Youth: Construction of Desires and Imaginations in Different Social Contexts," in partnership with the Arab Family Working Group (AFWG), a coalition of scholars from the University of California at Davis, the American University in Beirut (AUB) and the American University in Cairo (AUC).
- Joint collaborative research which includes global and regional partners have come together to define a new research agenda and implement different studies that emphasize and explores the concept of empowerment in different local contexts, in partnership with the International Development Studies at Sussex University, Britain, and AUC in Cairo, Egypt.

Birzeit University Testing Laboratories participated in the following partnerships and



joint programs:

- Needs of the Palestinian Health Sector and World Bank Plans in Pharmaceutical and Health Program, in partnership with the World Bank & Doctors of the World.
- Good Manufacturing Practices, in partnership with the DAI – USAID.
- Environmental & Agricultural Projects: Olive Oil Project, in partnership with the Spanish Cooperation.

The **Main Library** exchanged publications with the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and Research (France), the Center for Palestinian Studies, and Abdul-Mohsen Qattan Foundation.

Exchange Visits and Activities

The Consul General of France, Mr. Alain Remy opened the “French Morning” event at Birzeit University. The event’s activities included three sessions covering: Why Study in France?; French-Palestinian Cooperation, and Success Stories of Palestinian Students who graduated from French universities.

H.E. Gunilla Carlsson, the Swedish Minister of International Cooperation, visited the university on 22 May 2007. H.E. visited the Media Development Center and expressed support for the productive cooperation between the Institute and the Swedish Institute “Fogo.”



Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, the Special Representative of UNDP/PAPP, visited Birzeit University on 21/2/2007. He discussed with Dr. Nabeel Kassis, the University President, the areas of cooperation between the UNDP and BZU.

British Professor Robert Schofield, an internationally known expert on the quality of education, delivered a lecture on "Effective Teaching" on January 11, 2007. Professor Schofield was hosted by the Quality Assurance Unit at the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Through video conferencing, and in cooperation with the British Council, students from various BZU departments exchanged ideas with their counterparts from Jordanian universities about the ethics of using drugs during athletic competitions.

The Faculty of Arts participated in the following activities:

- The Department of English Language and Literature took part in a "Career Day" organized by the American Consulate at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.
- In coordination with the American Consulate, the Department of English Language and Literature organized a meeting for the department students with five American writers and poets.
- The Department of English Language and Literature organized a lecture on "Identity and Multi-cultural Societies in the USA," presented by Dr. Gary Weaver at the American University in Washington through video conferencing technology.
- In cooperation with Lillehammer University College (Norway), the Department of Media organized a two-week workshop on the production of documentary films. Workshop participants included nine BZU students and 8 Norwegian students.
- Dr. Othman Sharkas, spent two months at the German University of Giessen as a visiting professor. During his visit, Dr. Sharkas carried out analytical studies on soil samples for a land degradation project and delivered three lectures titled: Environmental Problems in the West Bank, Solid Waste Problems in Palestinian Central Mountains, and Land Degradation in Palestine.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies participated in the following activities:

- The Democracy and Human Rights Program organized a lecture on democracy and human rights, delivered by Dr. Iyan Guest from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. (USA).
- The Democracy and Human Rights Program organized a lecture entitled "One-State Solution" delivered by Dr. Virginia Tilley (South Africa) and Mr. Omar Barghouthi.
- The Democracy and Human Rights Program organized for 17 BZU students, both undergraduate and graduate, to participate in the 3rd Model United Nations Conference (OsnaMUN) held at Osnabrueck University in Germany.
- The Democracy and Human Rights Program organized for students enrolled in the Political science course (POLS 439) to participate in the 3rd Duisburg-Essen Model United Nations (DuEMUN) Conference was held in Germany in the period of 1 – 8 July 2007.



A delegate from the **Faculty of Law and Public Administration** undertook a study visit to Tunisia within the framework of the Arab Institute for Human Rights program to support Palestinian educators in the field of integrating human rights values in Palestinian curricula. The program is sponsored by the UNESCO.

The Institute of Community & Public Health participated in the following activities:

- Professor John Macdonald, from the Primary Health Care Social Justice and Social Change Research Center at the University of Western Sydney, Australia, joined the ICPH teaching staff and held a workshop on "public health and stress from multicultural perspectives".
- Dr. Murielle Koks-Bosch from the Netherlands joined the teaching staff at ICPH and paid several visits to ICPH alumni at their places of work.
- Prof. Harry Shannon, the Director of the Program in Occupational Health and Environmental Medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and a professor of clinical epidemiology & biostatistics conducted a specialized training on factor analysis for researchers at ICPH.
- Dr. Neil Arya, from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, joined the psychosocial health unit staff at ICPH.
- Sir Iain Chalmers, one of the founders of the Cochrane Collaboration, and Editor of the James Lind Library, held a specialized writers workshop for ICPH academics and researchers.
- Professor Graham Watt, from the General Practice & Primary Care at the University of Glasgow, participated in the writers training workshop for ICPH academics and researchers.
- Professor Will Boyce from the Social Program Evaluation Group at Queen's University, Canada, joined the psychosocial health staff at ICPH.

The Institute of Environmental & Water Studies participated in the following activities:

- In the framework of the Wadi-MENA Project, a delegate from the institute visited the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan.
- IEWS provided training on "Treatment of Waste Water through Aerobic Means" at Sana' University, Yemen.

The Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) Ambassador Dr. Michael Linhart, the Representative of Austria, Dr. Oskar Wustinger, ADA's program manager, Ms. Ruba Abu Ruqtti, and ADA's project monitoring and evaluation consultant, Dr. Mashour Abu Daka visited the **Center for Continuing Education**. The Center's management team briefed the visiting delegation on the center's programs and BITVOC activities.

The Birzeit University Testing Laboratories (BZUTL) participated in the following activities:

- Dr. Ambrogio Manenti from the World Health Organization (WHO) visited BZUTL in May 2007, where he was introduced to the work and needs of BZUTL.
- A delegation from the French Agency for Development visited BZUTL and discussed possible areas of cooperation, especially in the olive oil production sector.
- Prof. Alivea Naeus, an EU Coordinator, visited BZUTL and discussed capacity issues and

- qualifications for the implementation of olive oil projects.
- BZUTL management met with representatives of International AlterEco Co. to discuss developing the olive oil production sector in Palestine and capacity building issues.
- BZUTL management met with a World Bank delegation to discuss the Good Manufacturing Practices in Palestinian Pharmaceutical Industries Project.

The Main Library received two delegates from the Academy for Educational Development (USA) and USAID, Mrs. Eileen Stright and Mrs. Nadia Baseel, to discuss current and future cooperation.



Grants and Scholarships to Faculty, Staff & Students

BZU partially supported the participation of 20 faculty members in scientific conferences or seminars, while the participation of many others was supported by the organizers of conferences they attended.

The Academic Development Office at BZU has continued to inform the BZU community about available MA and PhD scholarships, as well as fellowships from which a considerable number of faculty members and researchers have benefited..

The Academic Development Office held four meetings between BZU faculty and staff and representatives from Fulbright Foundation, AMIDEAST and Spanish Cooperation through which available grants and scholarships for faculty members during 2007-2008 were announced and guidelines for filling out related application forms were presented.

During the Academic Year 2006/2007, the following scholarships and grants were obtained:

BZU Division	# of Faculty Members/ Students	Granting Party	Type of Scholarship
Faculty of Arts	1 faculty member	Montpelier University (France)	Short-term study visit in the field of GIS
Faculty of Engineering	2 faculty members	Gratz University (Austria)	PhD in Architectural Engineering
	3 teaching assistants	DAAD (Germany)	MSc. in Mechanical, Electrical and Architectural Engineering
	1 student	Representative Office of Switzerland	Junior & Senior year leading to BSc. in Architectural Engineering
	2 students (1 female & 1 male)	French Consulate	Course on "Creating an Energy Efficient Future" during 7-17/6/2007
	5 students	University of Rome	Workshop on "The Feast Area (water front of Sabaudia" during 26/8-8/9/2007
Master Program in Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture	3 female students	DAAD	Two-month long research visit to the University of Dortmund
Faculty of Law & Public Administration	16 students	Belgian Technical Cooperation	8 MA program in Law, 4 BA Program in Public Administration & 4 BA Program in Law
	3 faculty members	French Consulate	Research grants
Institute of Community & Public Health	1 research assistant	Palestine Solidarity Association (Sweden)	Two-week long course on epidemiology and research methods at Dept. of Public Health & Clinical Medicine, Umea University (Sweden)
	1 MA student	Faculty of Medicine at Oslo University (Norway)	Six-week long summer course on "International Community Health Accessibility, Equity and Human Rights"
Institute of Environmental & Water Studies	5 faculty members	European Union Grant	Capacity building in environmental issues at the UNESCO Institute for Water Education (IHE) and the Royal Academy for Technology in Sweden (KTH)
Institute of Law	5 faculty members	*Belgian Technical Cooperation * French Consulate *Catholic Academic Exchange Service-Germany	PhD Degree in Law
Academic Development	4 faculty members	AMIDEAST	PhD degree

Student Life at BZU



Throughout the academic year 2006-2007, the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs continued its efforts to develop its organizational structure and achieved a number of accomplishments. It has managed to enhance the involvement of the students in the democratic process of student elections as well as increasing their involvement in cultural, artistic, athletic and community (volunteer) work activities, in addition to supporting social and psychological counseling for students.

The Extra-Curricular Activities Unit has worked to improve the level of the performing arts groups, increasing the number of on-campus and outside performances. The Unit held a series of courses and festivals, issued a student magazine and other publications, and revived the publication of the Annual Yearbook, which was discontinued for several years. Moreover, student clubs at the Unit achieved several accomplishments.

As for the volunteer work program, 1649 students (females & males) participated in the program's activities, including weekly on and off-campus work, in addition to providing the local community institutions and centers with 489 students who carried out volunteer work. The program also organized the Annual International Summer Work Camp, which is



held at BZU, in which Palestinian and foreign student volunteers participated.

The Financial Aid Unit at the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs continued to extend financial aid to BZU students in a fair and transparent manner and has provided assistance to over 4,000 needy students each semester.

Student Council Elections

As an affirmation of its commitment to pluralism, individual rights and democratic values, the university held the election campaign for the Student Council for the academic year 2006-2007. The electoral campaign commenced on 29/3 and lasted till 2/4/2007, supervised by an independent election committee comprised of faculty members and students. Seven student factions competed for the 51 seats of the student general assembly, which afterwards elected the eleven-member Student Council. The competing student blocs held a debate on 3/4/2007 and the elections were held on 4/4/2007.

The percentage of voters reached a percentage of 85% of the total number of eligible student voters (6080), higher than the last year's percentage (81%) of the total number of student voters (5684), indicating a growing interest in the election process.



Student Activities

It is easy to connect with people when you need a break from your studies; you can explore your interests in numerous extracurricular activities at BZU:

- The Student Activities Office provided students with a variety of extracurricular courses in music, foreign languages, media and folk dancing. In addition, the Office helped organize painting exhibitions, photo exhibitions, and concerts.
- The Student Activities Office issued the "BZU Yearbook" in July 2007, as well as the 4th issue of "Al-Jami'ee Magazine."
- The Student Activities Office held a series of courses in: lute playing, French language for beginners and proposal writing. It also sponsored a variety of art performances:
- From 6/11 to 11/12 /2006, in cooperation with Shashat organization, the Office of Art Activities at the Dean of Student Affairs Office launched the screening of a series of documentary films in the 2nd Shashat Festival titled: "Women Cinema in Palestine."

This event comes within the context of the University's policy to support the Palestinian cinema appreciation culture. The festival included film screening of "Good Morning Qalqilya" - 26 minutes, "At the Check Point" - 5 minutes, "Until I see you" - 6 minutes, and many others.

- The "Free Day" was held in which art groups and student working teams participated, including Mawasim Theater Group, Sanabel Singing Group, Roots Group for Folkloric Dance (Dabkeh) and many others. The event took place on 8 and 29/11/2006.
- Sponsored by the Office of University Activities at the Dean of Student Affairs, the Mawasim Theater Group presented a series of performances of the play "Family Truce," which were held in various Palestinian universities in the period of 25/9-18/10/2006.
- Student Deanship at An-Najah National University organized a chess tournament on 18 April 2007 in which BZU participated and won the championship of the tournament.

Financial Assistance

In spite of the difficult economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, BZU has continued to provide full or partial scholarships for outstanding students (Dean' List students), the sons and daughters of BZU employees and faculty members and outstanding high school students, who joined the university at the start of the academic year 2006-2007. In further detail:

- During the academic year 2006-2007, BZU provided a number of scholarships through the "Student Loan Fund," which is supported by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and funded by the Saudi Committee for the Relief of Palestinian People.
- During the 2nd semester, 4098 students (1941 males & 2157 females) applied for financial aid, while the needs of around 2000 students were met through the Arab Fund.
- Aid from other sources: this aid is provided by a group of individuals and institutions, who contributed to cover fees and accommodation expenses for several students.

Volunteer Work

Within the framework of the Volunteer Work Program, sponsored by the Dean of Student Affairs Office, networking with local institutions continues to open new windows for volunteer work opportunities to Bzu students.

During the academic year 2006-2007, hundreds of university students provided thousands of volunteer work hours on campus and in the Palestinian community as highlighted below:

- External volunteer work: 489 students volunteered to work in: Abdul-Muhsen Al-Qattan Foundation, Palestinian Counseling Center, Union of Agricultural Work Committees, as well as in the olive harvest in number of villages, exhibitions, agricultural work, courses, international festivals, drawing murals and distribution of announcements.
- On campus volunteer work during holidays: 545 students helped in: weeding University lands, harvesting olives, helping to organize conferences, leveling soil and planting tress.



- On campus volunteer work during university hours: 660 students took part in a variety of activities on campus.

As an annual event, the Student Affairs Deanship at BZU invited international students to join other Birzeit University students to work on different Palestinian community projects for a period of two weeks. This year's work camp started on 26 July 2007 and lasted until 8 August 2007 in which 22 foreign students from France, United Kingdom, Turkey, Japan, Spain, Holland, United States and Italy participated. The work camp is intended to give students the opportunity to participate in volunteer agricultural, landscaping and building work.

On 22 May 2007, the Faculty of Engineering at BZU organized the "Engineering Day 2007," in which Palestinian companies participated. Also, 40 engineering students participated in the exhibition "Buildex Palestine 2007", which was held for the first time in Palestine.

The Institute of Law continues to encourage students to offer volunteer work at the library, in workshops and conferences. Ten students worked on a voluntary basis at the Montesquieu Law library during the academic year 2006/2007. Students get trained in order to provide the best services using new methods and facilities. This training is very important for the students in becoming qualified for fulfilling their service role. Birzeit University Testing Laboratories provided a number of volunteer work opportunities for the biology and chemistry students, which is intended for building their capacities through the training they get in conducting tests and using laboratory equipment.

Student Clubs

Students may take advantage of the many clubs that exist at BZU. These clubs provide students with the opportunity to meet others with similar majors or special interests. The majority of the clubs are directly related to academic programs, while others support a variety of social, cultural and artistic activities. During the academic year 2006-2007, BZU's student clubs carried out several activities:

- Ashab (Friends) Group at the Social Counseling Office at the Deanship of Student Affairs is a group of students concerned with assisting their colleagues in solving their social problems. The group distributed a questionnaire among students, aiming at examining students' abilities in planning their social and academic lives. Later, a seminar was organized to discuss the findings of the questionnaire.
- In cooperation with the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, Ashab (Friends) Group organized a three-month long course on "Women's Rights" during the 2nd semester.
- The Faculty of Law and Public Administration Club held several extra-curricular activities that included: an orientation session for freshman students, a ceremony for honoring distinguished faculty students, formed sports teams, organized trips, and held a joint "Iftar" (breaking the Ramadan fast meal) and others.
- In cooperation with the Civil Engineering Department, the Civil Engineering Club conducted a training course on "How to use the STAAD Program in Structural Analysis and Design."

- The Architectural Engineering Club organized a series of courses on “Computer-based Engineering Drawing,” as well as other software programs such as: AutoCAD, Photoshop and Max.
- The Mechanical Engineering Club and the above-mentioned engineering clubs organized several activities for the students including: recreational trips, tournaments, plays and celebration events for the graduates.



Community Outreach



Our initiatives and resources related to volunteerism, community service, service-learning and community partnerships are manifested in the nine institutes and centers at BZU, which eventually contribute to the realization of a BZU objective, exemplified in serving the community through development projects, training, applied research and other means. They also contribute to serving the University through the provision of additional financial resources and research opportunities, particularly applied research.



In order to expand and enhance community service, the University has drawn a plan to add one institute and two centers. The University is in the process of reviving the Institute of Archeology, establishing the Center for Oral History and completing the construction of the Najjad Zeenni Center of Excellence in Information Technology, scheduled to be launched in early 2008. In addition, the University has made a decision to begin the construction of a new building on campus to house two out of three centers located off-campus.

As for the content, current efforts are focused on decreasing dependence on multiple and short-term projects, and placing more emphasis on long-term programs, aiming to achieve work stability and effectiveness. Furthermore, the Office of the Vice-President for Community Outreach seeks to further benefit from the available diverse competencies that abound in the University. Also, Community Outreach encourages joint projects among the centers, institutes, faculties and departments, in addition to expanding the networking and coordination role at the societal level through civil society or government organizations. The University's contributions to the various fields of applied research and developmental work continued throughout the academic year 2006-2007 as detailed below.

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Environment & Health

BZU faculties, institutes and centers are working extensively in the areas of health and environment. Through applied research, training and public awareness, the university plays a significant role in building the capacity of the Palestinian health and environment sector, exploring new frontiers through applied and pure research and taking part in the overall development of the Palestinian society. During the academic year 2006/2007, various university divisions carried out the following activities in the area of health and environment.

Applied Research

The Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) has started the following applied research projects:

- Meeting the needs of pregnant and birthing women: the research aims at improving the quality of childbirth care by targeting poor and marginalized women who receive maternal services in local hospitals, mainly the Makassed (Augusta Victoria) Hospital in Jerusalem and the Ramallah Public Hospital.
- Child protection: a study to assess child abuse and neglect (CAN): The fieldwork was completed January 2007, and currently the team is working on analyzing the collected data.

The Birzeit University Testing Laboratories conducted the following applied research projects:

- Analysis of flour, subsidized by the Palestinian government, to investigate added minerals & vitamins.
- Development of an olive oil quality testing method.

Training

The Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) provided training on swimming pools operation and design to engineers, inspectors and university students.

The Institute for Environmental and Water Studies (IEWs), through the MEDA Project, has provided the following training courses to engineers and technicians working in the field of water and wastewater:

- Efficient Management of Reclaimed Wastewater for Agricultural Purposes
- Project Management: Technical, Financial and Institutional Aspects
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- GIS Application in Wastewater Management

- Sustainable Wastewater Treatment Plants: Planning and Design
- Operation and Maintenance of the Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment Plants

Workshops and Seminars

The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies (IALIIS) in cooperation with **IEWS** organized a lecture titled **“Conflict over Water and the Creation of a Viable State.”**

The Department of Geography at the Faculty of Arts organized a lecture titled **“Is Losing Biodiversity Worse than Climate Change?”**

The Master Program in Medical Laboratory Sciences held the following lectures:

- Recent Advances in HIV
- Indicators of Cancerous Tumors
- Colorectal Cancer (CRC)
- New Insights into Therapy for Cardio-Vascular Disorders: the Chemokine Approach

The Institute of Community and Public Health held a workshop on **medical waste management** for medical technology teachers/instructors and students from various colleges in the West Bank.

Birzeit University Testing Laboratories organized the following workshops and seminars:

- Impact of Olive Oil on Development and Economy in Society
- In cooperation with the Palestinian olive oil milling cooperatives a workshop on “Needs Assessment of the Olive Oil Sector” was held.
- In cooperation with the Welfare Association, a workshop on “Needs Assessment of the Agricultural Sector” was held.
- In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, a workshop on the “Draft Law of Medical Waste Management in Palestine” was held.

Cooperation and Coordination

Birzeit University Testing Laboratories carried out the following activities:

- Participated in a seminar on “Developing the Olive Oil Sector,” organized by USAID.
- Participated in a seminar on “Needs of the Olive Oil Sector and Means for Quality Improvement,” organized by the World Bank.
- Participated in a workshop on “Needs Assessment of the Health Sector in Palestine,” organized by the World Bank.
- Participated in two workshops “Water Desalination and Wells in the Jericho District,” organized by JICA.
- Signed a cooperation agreement with the Palestinian Water Authority on “Monitoring Underground Water in Palestine.”
- Signed a cooperation agreement with the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) on “Integrated Combat of Agricultural Pests in Green



Houses."

- Cooperated with the Ramallah Municipality on setting criteria for selecting an environmental engineer and took part in the interview process.
- Met with representatives of the Palestinian Ministry of Health to discuss pharmaceutical monitoring.
- Met with representatives of Palestinian Ministry of National Economy to discuss cooperation between the Center and the Palestinian Standards Institution, as well as quality control of mineral oils.
- Met with the Governor of Ramallah & El-Bireh to discuss joint cooperation.

Development

The Center for Development Studies held a series of seminars and workshops on development issues under the theme "Towards Development in Palestine: Activating Dialogue and Application" during 2006-2007, which included the following topics:

- "Supporting the Palestinian Institutions in Jerusalem: Realities & Horizons," held in Jerusalem on 19/5/2007.
- "Mechanisms for Supporting the Agricultural Sector: Investing in Animal Resources to Eliminate Poverty," held in Jenin City on 17/5/2007.
- "The Role of Women in Development in Palestine," held in Salfeet City on 12/5/2007.
- "Social Capital: Activating National Resources in the Palestinian Context," held in Ramallah on 10/5/2007.
- "Activating the Role of Youth: An Approach to Development," held in Gaza City on 6/5/2007.
- "International Funding: Is there a Way out?," held in Ramallah on 2/5/2007.
- "Civil Peace as Means for Development," held in Gaza City on 30/4/2007.
- "Development: Program and Applications in the 11th Government," held in Ramallah City on 28/4/2007 and in Gaza City on 23/4/2007.
- "Future of the Palestinian Airport," held in Gaza City on 28/4/2007.
- "Means for Improving Living Conditions in the Bedouin Village," held in Gaza City on 25/4/2007.
- "The Role of the Civil Society in Promoting Democracy: Needs & Priorities," held in Amman, Jordan during 6-8/2/2007, and in Gaza City on 6/2/2007.
- "The Role of Development Research in the Efficiency of Civil Society Organizations in Gaza," held in Gaza City on 2/11/2006.

Cooperation and Coordination

In cooperation with local institutions, the Sociology Department at the Faculty of Arts cooperated with the Palestinian Ministry of Planning in the preparation of the "Palestinian Three-Year Development Plan (2006-2008)".

Democracy and Human Rights

Herebelow is a table of the various activities that have been carried out by the various BZU divisions and a description of these activities:

Component	Implementing Body and Activity
Conferences	<p>The Reform & Human Rights Unit at the Center for Continuing Education organized a conference on "Lobbying & Advocacy" that was held on 27/3/2007, following the formation of the Palestinian national unity government in early 2007.</p>
	<p>The Master Program in Democracy and Human Rights organized a workshop on "Security Council: Role in Peace-Keeping, Voting Mechanisms and Decision Making Process," given by Dr. Nasser Al-Qudweh, a former PLO observer at the UN, on 20/12/2006.</p>
	<p>The Institute of Law (IoL) organized the following lectures and workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Early Elections in Palestine: A Legal Perspective," a lecture by Dr. Ahmad Al-Khalidi, Palestinian former minister of justice, on 20 December 2006 • A meeting was held to discuss mechanisms of cooperation between civil society organisations (CSOs) and IoL on the Judicial Independence and Human Integrity Project, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), represented by Mr. John Ray and Mr. Bahaa' Sa'di.
	<p>IoL and the Democracy and Human Rights Program held a lecture titled "Confronting Facts on the Two-State Solution: Time for a Democratic State Alternative?" given by Dr. Virginia Tilley & Mr. Omar Barghouti, on 2 May 2007.</p>
	<p>Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies held a lecture titled "Modeling a New Global Transition: From Democracy to Participatory Governance," given by Philip Schmitter, on 21 March 2007.</p>
Lectures & Workshops	<p>The Department of Philosophy & Cultural Studies and the Master Program in Democracy and Human Rights organized a lecture titled "A Question of a Home Country or a Question of Citizenship," given by Dr. Azmi Bshara, a former Arab member of the Israeli Knesset, and Riyad Al-Anees, a Palestinian lawyer, on 30 April 2007.</p>
	<p>The Faculty of Law & Public Administration organized the following lectures and seminars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cooperation with the Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (MUSAWA), on 22 March 2007, Mr. Abdallah Ghuzlan, a Palestinian Supreme Court judge, and Dr. Firas Milhem, a BZU faculty member who teaches constitutional law at the Department of Law gave a lecture titled "Law and the Establishment of the Constitutional Court." • A lecture titled "Activities of ICRC in the Occupied Palestinian Territories," given by Mr. Husam Shakhshir on 7/6/2007. • Workshops on: tolerance, dialogue, acceptance of the other, cultural particularity and internationalization of human rights, foreign policy of EU, role of civil society organizations in promoting civic peace and rule of law, and promoting impartiality in Palestine.
	<p>The Master Program in Democracy & Human Rights organized a workshop on "Analysis of the Current Human Rights Status in the Palestinian School System."</p>

Public Opinion Polls	<p>The Center for Development Studies conducted the following opinion polls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Elite and Public Opinion Leaders,” No. 31, on 28/2/2007. • “Mecca Agreement,” No. 30, on 27/2/2007. • “Living Conditions, Government Formation Crisis, Lawlessness, Presidential & Legislative Elections,” No. 29, on 26/12/2006. • “Internal Conditions in Palestine, Evaluation of Institutions & Leaders, Proposed Government, Elections & Political Trends, Negotiations & Peace Process, Hizballah & Hamas,” No.28, on 20/9/2006.
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Capacity Building

As part of its efforts towards development and reform of the Palestinian public and private sectors, BZU, during the academic year 2006/2007, carried out several activities that aimed at enhancing the development of public and private sectors, including research, training, assessment and policy/strategy formulation:

Research and Development

The Center for Continuing Education (CCE)

The Reform and Development Unit at CCE, through **the Public Administration and Civil Service Reform (PACSR)** project, carried out the following research and development projects:



- **Civil Society Reforms:** Through the Drivers of Change Study, this project focused at increasing awareness and understanding of political, social, economic and cultural factors that have material impact on the prospects of achieving governance reform.
- **Presidency Reforms:** This project focused on providing back-up and support to the Office of the Economic Adviser in relation to its role in aid management and to the Technical Team for Reform (TTR) in relation to security sector reform (SSR).
- **Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) Reforms:** This project focused on the development of an organizational development plan.

The Unit for Learning Innovation (ULI) and the **Business Development Unit (BDU)** at CCE conducted the following research and development projects:

- **Development of E-Enabled Curricula:** This project involves developing E-enabled science curricula for two school grades (5th and 9th) and geography curricula for one grade (7th grade). The project involves training ten school teachers on designing, developing and evaluating E-enabled courses and a research program on the role of adopting the E-enabled approach in school teaching and learning.
- **Developing National Learning Teams (LITs) at Palestinian Universities:** The project, which is implemented by the Unit for Learning Innovation at CCE, has started preparing for the implementation of a project approved by the Quality Improvement Fund to develop national learning teams that aims at building the capacity among education specialists, university faculty and school teachers to become able to train others on E-curricula development and delivery. The project is implemented by BZU, An-Najah National University, Al-Quds University and SAFAD Systems (a private company).

The Institute of Law has implemented two research projects:

- Consolidation of legislation and religious laws.
- The development of court judgements database.

Training

In cooperation with the Higher Judicial Council, the **Department of Judicial Training** at the **Institute of Law** provided training for: court judges in Palestine, members of the Public Prosecutor's Office and courts' staff. Also, a training course was held for new reconciliation judges (18) in the West Bank.

The Institute of Community and Public Health carried out the following training activities:

- A "Capacity building on the rational use of medicine: knowledge and practice affecting the mobile teams" training course for health sector providers.
- Several capacity building training courses on data analysis with a focus on reproductive health for researchers and individuals working with demographic and health survey data from various sectors in Palestine.
- A capacity building training course focused on demography and population studies for BZU academics and researchers.

- Advanced statistical analysis methods workshops for researchers and professionals working at the Ministry of Health.
- Swimming pools operation and design, medical waste management, and food sanitation and safety in restaurants training courses for various target groups including engineers, inspectors, nursing and medical technology students, as well as instructors and students depending on their fields from the various universities and colleges in the West Bank.
- Capacity building and improvement training course for midwives and nurses working in maternity wards.

The **Center for Continuing Education (CCE)** organized 29 training courses for private, public and non-governmental organizations mainly in the areas of general management, organizational development, training of trainers, strategic planning, languages, specialized computer applications and information technology. Certificates were given in various areas such as school and family counseling, supervision, management, marketing, languages, computer applications, information technology and E-curricula development.

The professional diploma programs at CCE offered a diploma in school counseling (the West Bank and Gaza Strip), a diploma in counselor supervision, a diploma in family counseling with special emphasis on child protection, a diploma in marketing and a diploma in NGO Management.

The Media Development Center (MDC) carried out the following training courses:

Unit	Training Project / Beneficiaries
Print Journalism	• "Reproductive Health" offered to 20 trainees from Hebron University and Birzeit University
	• Training course on writing in the "Voice of Women" newspaper
TV Unit	• "Media & Society" to a group of trainees who work at local radio & TV stations
	• "Cartoons" offered to 16 trainees
	• "English language course for journalists" for journalists who work in visual media
	• "Camera & Lighting" course for journalists who work in visual media
	• "Documentary Films for Youth" for journalists who work in the Pyalara Youth Media Agency
	• "Documentary Films for Producers" for journalists who work in visual media
	• "Training of Trainers" training course offered in Sweden to 10 trainers in audio, visual & printed press
	• "TV Reporting" offered to 15 journalists from Nazareth

Radio Unit	• Advanced course on “Radio Broadcasting” offered to the technical staff at local radio stations in the West Bank
	• “News editing & reporting” course offered to journalists at local radio stations in Gaza Strip
	• “Sound systems in radio stations” course offered to the technical staff at local radio stations in the West Bank
	• “Radio Reporting” course offered to reporters in local radio stations
	• “Radio Magazine Program” for local radio programs presenters
MDC Administration	• “Professional Writing” offered to MDC and BZU sta

Strategic Planning

Dr, Mohammed Abu-Zayed from the **Department of Public Administration** at the **Faculty of Law and Public Administration** represented BZU in the Assigned Committee for Drawing a Strategic Plan concerning the re-organization of local government authorities (municipalities and local councils).

The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) assisted Palestinian civil society groups in developing their strategic plans as follows:

- Helped the Society of St. Yves in developing their strategic planning process and subsequent organizational developmental needs.
- Following the organizational needs assessment study, CCE's team has started a strategic planning process for Edward Said National Conservatory of Music.
- Worked with AMAN - a coalition of institutions concerned with transparency and good governance - on reviewing their program objectives and framework as well as their strategic planning process.
- Finalized the strategic plan of Birzeit Municipality. The assessment also involved recommending the hiring of an executive manager, which was immediately implemented by the municipality.
- Conducted three workshops for the faculty members and staff of the Faculty of Engineering and the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies on drawing up strategic plans.

Public Awareness

BZU's various units organized lectures, workshops, study days and exhibitions for the purpose of increasing the public's awareness of issues of general interest. Following is a list of various activities carried out during the academic year 2006/2007.

Sponsor at BZU	Description of Activity
Administration (General Lectures Series)	Lecture: Demography and the Apartheid Wall, by Mr. Khalil Tafakji, a Palestinian expert on Israeli settlement in the West Bank Poetry readings: Nationalist poems by the famous Palestinian poet Sameeh Al-Qasem
Quality Assurance Unit	Lecture: Effective Teaching, by Professor Robert Schofield, Iowa State University
Faculty of Arts – Department of Arabic Language & Literature	Study Day: “Women and Literature,” in cooperation with Ougarit Cultural Center, and the support of the Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, Poetry readings: the Wednesday Cultural Meetings hosted poet Ribhi Mahmoud on 29/10/2006, poet Jihad Abu-Oudeh on 23/12/2006, poet Adeeb Rafeeq on 14/1/2007, and poet Abdel-Salam Musa on 7/3/2007
Education & Psychology Department	Conference: “Mental Health in Palestine: Realities & Challenges,” in cooperation with the Palestine Red Crescent Society
Sociology & Anthropology Department	Lecture: “Liberation of Minds from Dominance by Western Thought,” by Dr. Moslih Kanaaneh
Philosophy & Cultural Studies & Political Science Departments	Lecture: “Palestinian Legitimacy and Political Islam,” by Mr. Khaled Al-Hroub, a Palestinian researcher and writer
Faculty of Commerce & Economics	Study Day: the 1 st Accounting Study Day titled “Accounting Profession in Palestine: Realities and Future Prospects” was held in cooperation with Sharek Youth Forum Career Day: the 12 th Career Day, under the sponsorship of Palestinian Telecommunications Co. (Paltel Group) and participation of Palestinian companies and institutions Lecture: “Database Administration,” by Mr. Mohammed Al-Khatib Lecture: “Entrepreneurship in Business: A Success Story,” by the Palestinian businessman in US, Mr. Farouk Shami Lecture: “Palestinian Securities Exchange,” by Ms. Roqia Iran Lecture: “The Use of Real Time Information in Estimating the Phillips Curve,” by Dr. David G. Mayes, Advisor to the Board of the Bank of Finland in Helsinki Lecture: “Global Financial Imbalances” by Mr. George Abed, the head of the Palestine Monetary Authority Lecture: “Investment Mechanisms and Securities Trading,” by Dr. Samar Ayesh Lecture: “Encountering Challenges in Starting Your Own Business: a Personal Experience,” by Ms. Nisreen Musleh, Director of Ritaj Center for Administrative and Consulting Solutions

Faculty of Commerce & Economics & CCE	Conference: "Civil Service Reform and Public Financial Management in Palestine," on 27/3/3007
Faculty of Engineering	<p>Engineering Day was held on 22 May 2007.</p> <p>Lecture: "Open Source Hardware," by Eng. Jamal Al-Khatib</p> <p>Lecture: "Spatial Planning," by Prof. G. Kroes, Dr. V. Waltz & Dr. Sinemillioglu, University of Dortmund, Germany</p> <p>Lecture: "Palestinian Stone," by Eng. Shifaa' Abu-Saadeh</p> <p>Lecture: "Research Highlights in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and the future of Civil Engineering Education," by Dr. Haytham Al-Deek from the University of Florida</p> <p>Lecture: "Technology and Innovation Management," by Eng. Jameel Al-Khatib</p> <p>Lecture: "Laws and Regulations of Professional Practice," by Engineers Azmi Al-Khatib & Ahmad Al-Soudi</p> <p>Lecture: "The Role of the Palestine Standards Institution in Serving the Palestinian Economy and Consumer Protection," by Eng. Bassam Abdel-Latif</p> <p>Lecture: "Jerusalem: Palestinian Capital in View of What is Allowed, Possible and Impossible," by Dr. Jamal Amro.</p> <p>Lecture: "Active Control of Vibration," by Dr. Ahmad Abu-Haniyeh</p>
Faculty of Law and Public Administration – Law Department	Workshop: "Integrity, Transparency and Accountability" aimed at introducing a new course in cooperation with AMAN



Faculty of Science	<p>Lecture: "Functional Imaging of the Human Brain: People, Places and Things," presented by Prof. Nancy Kanwisher, from the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Massachusetts, USA</p> <p>Lecture: "Recent Results from Computational Approaches to Neurosciences," by Prof. Larry Abbott, who works at the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior, Columbia University in New York, USA</p> <p>Lecture: "Origins of the Universe," by the world-known scientist Professor Steven Hawking" on 14/12/2006</p> <p>Lecture: "The End of the Universe's Dark Ages," by Dr. Saleem Zaroubi</p> <p>Lecture: "Recent Advances in HIV" by Dr. Asaad Ramlawi</p> <p>Lecture: "Tumor Markers," by Dr. Sameer Al-Khatib</p> <p>Lecture: "Colorectal Cancer," by Dr. Yaser Abu-Safieh</p> <p>Lecture: "Malaria Immunology and epidemiology," by Prof. Eleanor Riley</p> <p>Lecture: "Marine Resources: Exploring the Envelope," by Dr. Jon Gulbrandson (Norway)</p> <p>Lecture: "Tools of Actuarial Science," by Dr. Mitchell Hubbart</p> <p>Lecture: "Multilevel evaluation of the long range interactions of N-Body Systems," by Iyad Sawan</p> <p>Lecture: "Stars and Satellites," by Prof. Dominique Ballereau, Observatoire de Paris (France)</p> <p>Lecture: "Spectrophotometric and Voltametric Determination of Nizatidine," by Dr. Raqi Shbaita</p> <p>Lecture: "Chemical Studies of Dimeric and Monomeric Flavonoids Isolated from Plants," by Dr. Saleh Rayyan</p> <p>Lecture: "Design and Synthesis of Novel Sultams, A Family of Nonnucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors. And Modeling of a Rhodium Catalyst," by Dr. Riyam Al-Kafri</p> <p>Lecture: "Vanadium Oxide Based Materials: Synthesis, Characterization, and Gas Sensing Properties," by Dr. Samar Ayesh</p>
Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies (IALIIS)	<p>Lecture: "Government of National Unity and the Political Status-Quo" by Dr. Sameer Awad, BZU</p> <p>Lecture: "Re-organization of the PLO," by Dr. Sameeh Shbeeb, BZU</p> <p>Lecture: "Mecca Agreement and the Palestinian Government of National Unity," by Mr. Hani Masri</p> <p>Lecture: "Modeling a New Global Transition: from Democracy to Participatory Governance," by Prof. Philippe Schmitter, European University Institute</p> <p>Lecture: "Conflict on Water and the Creation of a Viable State," by Dr. Abdel-Rahman Tamimi & Dr. Ziad Mimi</p>

Institute of Community & Public Health (ICPH)	<p>Lecture: "Assessment of Meat Contamination in the West Bank"</p> <p>Lecture: "The Role of Media in Health Awareness and Public Education"</p> <p>Lecture: "Iodine Deficiency Survey among Elementary School Children in Palestine"</p> <p>Lecture: "Review of school nutrition programs: Ministry of Education & Higher Education"</p> <p>Lecture: "Public Opinion Leaders' Survey: Methodology And Analysis of Results"</p> <p>Lecture: "The History Of Jerusalem: Past and Contemporary Issues"</p> <p>Lecture: "Demographic Health Surveys (DHS)"</p> <p>Lecture: "Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Palestine"</p> <p>Lecture: "Obesity, Overweight and Underweight among Palestinian Adolescents"</p> <p>Lecture: "Judaization of Jerusalem And its Effect on the Demography Of Jerusalemites"</p> <p>Lecture: "Rapid Urban Environmental Assessment for Ramallah City"</p>
ICPH & IALIIS	<p>Seminar: "Resilience," A Two-Day Seminar</p>



<p>Institute of Law</p>	<p>Conference: "The Legal Impact of the European Community Competition Rules on the MENA Legal Systems"</p> <p>Conference: "The Legislative Process in the Arab World: Opportunities and Challenges"</p> <p>Legal Encounter: "Preserving Human Rights in an Age of Counter-Terrorism," by Prof. Gearty, Director of the Centre of Human Rights Studies and professor of human rights at London University</p> <p>Legal Encounters: "Transatlantic Relations and the Middle East after the Lebanon War," by Professor Carlo Masala, Deputy Director of the Academic Research Branch, NATO Defense College</p> <p>Legal Encounters: "Tribal Law: Rule of Law and Conflict Resolution"</p> <p>Legal Encounters: "Law, Justice, and Reconciliation in the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict," by Dennis Fox, retired Professor in Legal Studies and Psychology, University of Illinois at Springfield, Illinois, USA</p> <p>Legal Encounters: "The Applicability of International Humanitarian Law in Conflict Areas: the Case of Palestine," by Dr. Liza Hajjar, Professor of Law in the University of California at St. Barbara, California, USA</p> <p>Workshop: "Reflections on the Administrative Basis of the Future Palestinian State," by Mr. Jacques Fournier, Emeritus Member of the French Council of State and Former Secretary General, France</p> <p>Workshop: "Germany's Role in the Middle East in the Context of the EU and G8 Presidency," by Dr. Ralf Brauksiepe, a parliament member from the Christian Democratic Union</p> <p>Workshop: "The Constitution of Palestine: When and How?" by Dr. Françoise Dreyfus from Sorbonne University</p> <p>Workshop: "Law Profession: Realities & Ambitions," by Mr. Ali Mohanna, Head of the Palestinian Bar Association</p> <p>Workshop: "Details of the New York Court Decision on Palestinian Monetary Authority's (PMA) Withheld Money," by the PMA Governor, Dr. George Al-Abed</p> <p>Workshop: "Legal Framework for Land Registration" in cooperation with the Palestinian NGOs Network, Gaza. This workshop is part of a World Bank project, administered by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning and Palestinian Land Authority, aiming to formulate work plans, frameworks and national land policies</p>
<p>Institute of Women's Studies (IWS)</p>	<p>Seminar: "Re-Thinking Arab and Palestinian Families: New Research Agendas and Policy Directions," in cooperation with the Arab Families Working Group</p> <p>Conference: 1st International Women Conference, in cooperation with Arab Center for Applied Social Research</p>

Media Development Center	<p>Lecture: "The Spanish Cinema: before and after the era of Franco," by Professor Merci Cole, Co-Director of The International Barcelona Festival for Women Cinema</p> <p>Encounter: Al-Jazeera Journalist Mr. Mohammed Kreishan</p> <p>Legislations: as a result of a series of workshops, the Radio Unit formulated the draft law for the Journalists' Union and proposed amendments to the Publications Law. This work was conducted in cooperation with AMAN & MIFTAH organizations</p>
BZU Library	<p>Local Exchanges: developed an exchange program with the Arab American University of Jenin</p>
The Ethnographic and Art Museum	<p>Exhibition: "Homeland Lost" by the British photographer Alan Gignoux, held in cooperation with the British Cultural Center</p> <p>Exhibition: "The Green(er) Side of the Line" by photographer Alban Biauxsat</p> <p>Exhibition: Within the framework of the Young Artist Award 2006 and in cooperation with the A. M. Qattan Foundation, held an exhibition for the young artists, Shadi Zagzoug & Fouad Ighbarieh</p> <p>Exhibition: "Re-Thinking," a unique photo exhibition by the photographer Ms. Rula Halawani, a faculty member at the Department of Media at BZU</p> <p>Exhibition: "Keep Hope Alive," is part of the olive tree campaign aimed at planting over 50,000 olive trees in the West Bank agricultural areas that were uprooted and still suffer from the practices of Israeli occupation forces</p>
Virtual Gallery	<p>Memorials: a series of activities in memory of the late artist Ismail Shammout titled "Ismail Shammout between Haven and Art"</p>

Consultancies

To fulfill the university mission, which identifies community service and development as one of its three pillars, faculties, institutes and centers at BZU provided a wide range of consultancy work to various institutions in the public and private sectors, as described below:

Birzeit University Testing Laboratories provided consultancy services to Dar Al-Shifaa' Pharmaceutical Co. in the areas of: a) Method validation of microbiological assay for pharmaceuticals, b) Method development for iron and vitamin A & D testing in fortified flour, c) Method development of sterols, triglycerides, stigmasterol and volatile halogenated solvents testing in olive oil.

The Faculty of Commerce and Economics provided the following consultancy services:

- Organizational restructuring consultancy to the National Insurance Company and Trust International Company
- Evaluating finance and taxation functions consultancy to the Paltel Group, Aqqad Group, and Investment Bank Group
- Providing an entrepreneurial training program for professional women
- Developing a medium-term financial plan for the Center for Continuing Education

The Faculty of Engineering

The Department of Civil Engineering provided the following consultancy services:

- Steel testing and wastewater survey for the Bahrain-Kuwait Hospital Project by the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR)
- Soil density testing for Musallem Hospital
- Water purification station in El-Bireh for the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- Re-use of waste water in agriculture for the House of Water & Environment

The Department of Architectural Engineering provided the following consultancy services:

- Arbitration committees for Architectural Contests and Accreditation for new Architectural Engineers to the benefit of the Engineers Union's Jerusalem Branch, municipalities and governmental agencies.
- External evaluation of architectural engineering programs in Palestine for the Accreditation Quality Assurance Commission at the Ministry of Education & Higher Education

The Department of Electrical Engineering provided the following consultancy services:

- External evaluation of engineering programs (industrial, chemical & mechanical) in Palestine for the Accreditation Quality Assurance Commission at the Ministry of Education & Higher Education

The Faculty of Law & Public Administration

The **Department of Public Administration** provided the following consultancy services:

- Child protection and means for training staff on protecting children for the Palestinian Ministry of Planning
- Development of Palestinian legislative institutions and development of skills needed to reform the Unit of Policy Analysis and General Legislations at the Palestinian Legislative Council, for Development Alternatives Inc (DAI)

The Center for Continuing Education provided the following consultancy services:

- Program evaluation, M&E, organizational development for the Palestinian Ministry of prisoners and Ex-Detainees
- Organizational needs assessment, strategic planning, marketing research, marketing development plan and development of a baseline survey for YMCA, Ramallah
- Organizational development and market research and plans for YMCA, Ramallah

- Developed a comprehensive baseline survey tools for the YMCA projects, for YMCA, Jericho
- Training on needs assessment and organizational development for the Ramallah Municipality
- Program evaluation for AMIN Media Network
- Organizational needs assessment and strategic planning for the Coalition of Human Rights Organizations
- Drafting a comprehensive participatory approach criterion for choosing women community-based organizations in Tulkarem for the purpose of working on empowering abused women, for the Women Center for Legal Aid and Counseling
- Organizational needs assessment, organizational development and strategic planning for the Women's Affairs Technical Committee
- Development of a baseline study, program evaluation and strategic planning for Madar organization
- Program evaluation for the British Council

The Institute for Community and Public Health (ICPH) provided the following consultancy services:

- Health sector consultancy focusing on non-communicable diseases for the Austrian Development Agency
- Rational use of medication and effective medications management, training and infield supervision, targeting mobile teams working in primary health care, for CARE International and ECHO
- Assessment of patients' flow and referral system at the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRC) and a study on "Anemia management in children" for PGS-Sweden.

BZU Main Library provided a consultancy service on the usage of automated systems to the Al-Haq Institute





The Campus

With around 8,000 students, studying a wide range of degree subjects, the BZU campus offers an intimate educational experience of joining a friendly and supportive learning community that helps students to develop their academic potential.

During the academic year 2006-2007, the Engineering Office continued efforts to improve the campus and added new teaching and research facilities by implementing the following projects:

- The construction of the Faculty of Arts (Aziz Shaheen) is on-going and the building is expected to be fully-operational by the 2nd semester of the academic year 2007-2008.
- Two water tanks were put in service at BZU: one is for drinking water with a capacity of 500 cubic meters and the 2nd is for toilet water use with a capacity of 2,000 cubic meters.
- On 6 December 2006, and in cooperation with the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) and with a generous contribution from Mr. Najjad Zeenni, a Palestinian businessman originally from Jaffa and a US resident, Birzeit University celebrated the launching of the construction of Najjad Zeenni Center of Excellence in Information Technology.
- On 18 November 2006, BZU celebrated the inauguration of the new Physical Education Building which includes several multi-use sports courts, fitness hall, faculty offices, changing rooms, outdoor playgrounds for: football, basketball, ping pong, handball and tennis. It was designed and implemented by Khatib-Alami Co. and the Private Contractors Co. in Nablus.
- The Jawwal Garden was completed in front of Maktoom Building.
- The Zahlan Garden was completed in front of the Faculty of Arts Building and will be planted with trees next winter.
- Walls of rocks surrounding the southern entrance of BZU were built, and bushes were planted in the upper section of the southern outer limits while the lower section will be planted in the next winter.
- The laboratory of the Master Program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences was completed in September 2007.
- The Engineering Office installed air conditioning units in the computer labs at the Faculty of Science and BZU Clinic in September 2007.

New Buildings under Construction

- New Administration Building
- Faculty of Law and Public Administration
- Center for Development Studies Building
- Annex for the Institute of Law Building
- Faculty of Nursing: completed the architectural design and detailed plans are in progress



Proposed Infrastructure Projects

- Road to the Faculty of Information Technology Building
- Electricity station (North)
- Sewage treatment station (North-West)
- Circular road surrounding the campus crossing the east and west gates to serve lands located north of the campus
- Bus station and student vehicles parking lot

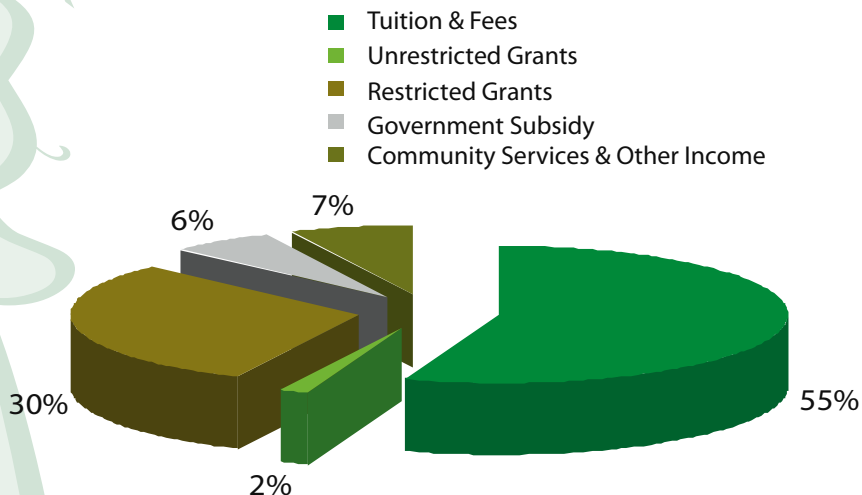
Completion of the above proposed projects depends on securing sufficient funds.

The **Office of Planning and Development** has prepared a project proposal that aims at infrastructure and campus enhancement.

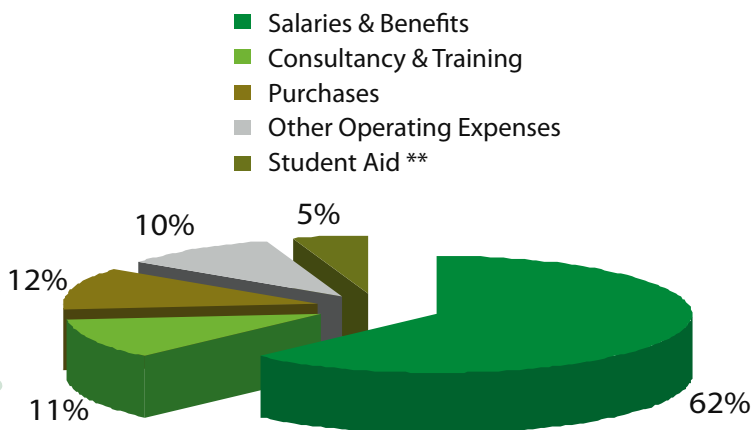


REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

Revenues * for 2006/2007



Expenditures * for 2006/2007



Notes:

* Figures for revenues and expenditures are calculated on accrual basis.

** Student Aid is allocated from the accrued tuition and fees.

Friends and Alumni

The Alumni Liaisons Unit (ALU) – a unit of the Public Relations Office at BZU strives to strengthen and develop relations between BZU and its alumni. Since its establishment, the Unit has sought to collect as much as possible contact information about the alumni in a web-based database, in order to make it convenient for the alumni to provide their information through the Internet. All alumni can now register and obtain an account at BZU's alumni site that allows them to view university newsletters and find out about alumni-related activities. The increasing number of university alumni who submit their contact information has enabled the Unit to work with university faculties and departments on holding meetings and reunions whereby the unit has sent electronic messages to the alumni informing them of the various events that took place. The Unit has assisted several departments and the Faculty of Engineering to inform their alumni of relevant reunions, which increased the number of participants. One of the significant reunions held a reunion for the first time for the BZU alumni who reside in the United Arab Emirates in June of 2007. The reunion has resulted in forming an alumni committee that will work on cooperating and liaising with the university.

The ALU seeks to invest in relations with one of the top assets of the university – its alumni. The alumni can work with the university to develop it academically and to direct it towards funding sources for development projects. On its part, the university aims to assist its alumni in continuing to pursue success in their academic and professional lives, in part through publishing job announcements on its electronic site as assistance to the alumni and connecting companies and organizations with alumni. In details:

- The Faculty of Engineering distributed a questionnaire among its graduate students to get their feedback on issues pertaining to the improvement of the Faculty's services.
- The Sociology and Anthropology Department held a meeting for its graduate students, aiming at promoting channels of communication, exchange of academic and scientific experiences between the graduates and to learn more about their professional circumstances.
- The Institute of Community and Public Health has developed a strong network as part of its ICPH Alumni Forum activities. This was feasible through updating the database for contact information, and creating an online Yahoo group that hosts analytical discussions on current public health issues and to ensure continuous communication between alumni and academics researchers.

The Alumni Liaisons Office held a career day with the Wataniya Palestine Telecom Company on 12 December 2007 in which BZU alumni were given an opportunity for an interview with company recruiters.