



ANNUAL REPORT  
2011 - 2012

## Table of Contents

4	Introduction
6	Message From the President
9	University Achievements
9	Academic Development
19	University's National Role
25	Conferences and Initiatives
33	Community Outreach
35	Faculties' Activities
38	Institutes' and Centers' Activities
43	Miscellaneous Activities
45	Awards and Prizes
51	Publications and Research Projects
59	International and Regional Cooperation
62	Facts & Figures





## Introduction

This report aims to explore the successes and achievements of Birzeit University (BZU) have been and are recognized from various aspects: national and community roles, academic development, research, community service and outreach, awards, cultural and art activities, as well as international cooperation.

BZU's mission and vision is a tool to ensure the achievement of highest standards of academic success, as stated below:

**Mission..** Birzeit University is a Palestinian Arab institution supervised and guided by an autonomous Board of Trustees.

The university is committed to excellence and encourages creativity, ex-

perimentation, innovation, accomplishment, 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 remained committed to providing equal learning opportunities to qualified individuals and to prepare students to become good citizens active in their society and committed to its advancement and well-being.

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Dr. Khalil Hindi



I am pleased to write this brief preface to the Birzeit University Annual Media Report, which reflects our university's continuous academic progress and its leading role in the Palestinian community through centers and institutes that play a vital role and set it apart from other universities.

There isn't enough room here to enumerate all the achievements made by our university during 2011-2012, however, I will highlight some of them:

Prominent achievements in the information technology field include the inauguration of Ibn Sina School for Computer Science, where 24 professors from renowned universities worldwide teach 60 outstanding students from different Palestinian universities. Also, we launched the Ibn Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic language technologies and the Palestinian e-Government Academy, while making progress in the Arabic Language Ontology Project and holding the Fifth International Summer School in information technology.

In response to the labor market and to keep pace with scientific progress, our university is actively involved in developing new academic programs. The Faculty of Engineering is being supported by the European Union Tempus Programme to develop a master's in sustainable and quality production engineering. The Faculty of Information Technology has also received funds from Tempus to develop a master's in software engineering. Also, the Doctor of Pharmacy program launched two years ago has been fully accredited and the Department of Architectural Engineering is work-

ing on developing a bachelor's program in spatial planning engineering.

We are constantly channeling our efforts towards the development of existing facilities and launching of new ones. I am proud to announce the establishment of an educational pharmaceutical factory – the first of its kind in the entire Arab world. This factory was donated by Sameeh Darwazah, the founder and chairman of Hikma Pharmaceuticals in Jordan, and is expected to enable the university to launch a master's program in pharmaceutical industries.

The Faculty of Business and Economics has kicked off its Executive Management Education Program - the first of its kind in Palestine. The program aims to provide continuing education for executives working in the public and private sectors, as well as non-governmental institutions.

In partnership with the Bank of Palestine, the university initiated a fellowship program for academic development. This program will offer qualified professors and lecturers funding to cover academic and professional sabbaticals. Moreover, it is a long-term academic partnership that will develop on a national scale, beginning with Birzeit University, a nucleus of science and culture. The importance of this initiative is manifested in the partnership between the Palestinian private sector and academic institutions that enables sustainable development able to positively impact academia and the economy in the coming years.

The university continues to host conferences, workshops and training courses as evidenced by the large number of activities held during the year.

This Annual Media Report 2011-12 explores some of the many university activities that make us confident that we are progressing as a renowned seat of learning that makes Palestinians proud.



University achievements, 2011-2012



ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT



This year, BZU's academic advancement has been achieved through scientific research in different fields such as: information technology, engineering and business administration. Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies, in short "Sina Institute", is a newly established research institute at Birzeit University, Palestine. It aims not only to advance the Palestinian society with innovative solutions, but also to contribute to the world knowledge with state-of-art research. The institute's long term strategy is to be a world-class center of excellence in Arabic Knowledge Engineering. Also, the Palestinian e-Government academy is an output (sustainability action) for the e-Government Lifelong Learning Consortium (Pal-Gov). The Project aims to empower the Palestinian society with the know-how for implementing e-services, in particular e-government services. Other academic developments are: Ibn Sina School for Computer Science, fifth International Summer School in information technology, and summer school in architectural engineering. Moreover, several academic programs were created such as executive education program at the Business Administration Department, Dr. Pharmacist program at the Faculty of Nursing, and working on the establishment of a pharmaceutical factory at for educational purposes.

### The Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies / January 2012 (<http://sina.birzeit.edu>)

Although the institute is newly established, it is the largest research center in ICT in Palestine and among a few centers in the region specialized in Arabic Technologies. The institute has been awarded a grant from Google Int. for its research excellenc in Arabic search engines and tools. It is also the coordinator and grant holder of the EU TEMPUS grant, (PalGov Project) to establish the Palestinian e-Government Academy ([www.egovacademy.ps](http://www.egovacademy.ps)). It has recently been awarded an FP7 grant (SIERA project) as a coordinator and grant holder, in the area of multilingual and multicultural knowledge sharing. See several other ongoing projects

### The Palestinian e-Government Academy / 2012 (<http://www.egovacademy.ps/>)

The Palestinian E-Government Academy (A Project led by SINA institute at BZU, in cooperation with many Palestinian and European Universities and Ministries, funded by the EU TEMPUS Project\*) kicked off its professional and very advanced training program. This professional training program is designed to respond to the needs of Palestinian national plans dealing with the implementation of IT based solutions for E-Government. The program consists of six courses covering 300 training hours.

The Palestinian e-Government academy is an output (sustainability action) for the e-Government Lifelong Learning Consortium (Pal-Gov). The Project aims to empower the Palestinian society with the know-how for implementing e-services, in particular e-government services. The project aims at capacity building (i.e., lifelong learning) in three main areas (interoperability, security, and legal informatics), which are the main challenges when implementing e-service in general and e-Government in particular.

The Director of Sina Institute and Head of the Palestinian o e-Government Academy, Dr. Mustafa Jarrar said that the provision of electronic services diminishes the impact of Israeli checkpoints and occupation measures regarding ghettoizing the Palestinian territories and separating the West Bank and Gaza Strip. More than 70% of the Palestinians (refugees and expatriates) live around the globe, whereas the electronic services will be a bridge of communication between those living abroad and the Palestinian institutions, he added.



## Ibn Sina School for Computer Science Project

The BZU Faculty of Information Technology launched the Ibn Sina School for Computer Science Project on 20 March 2012. This Project is funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait, in cooperation with BZU Faculty of Information Technology, Project Director, Dr. Adnan Darwiche, and the Welfare Association.

The Professor of Computer Science and Project's Local Coordinator, Dr. Yousef Hassouneh said that Ibn Sina School for Computer Science is a new initiative that aims to prepare undergraduate students in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) for successful careers in computer science research. Hassouneh explained: "The project's duration is three years, structured as three summer sessions, each comprise four intensive courses. The summer session lasts for one month, followed by continuity projects that may last for several months and are supervised by the School instructors, Hassouneh added."

## Fifth International IT Summer School / July 2012

The Faculty of Information Technology at BZU concluded the first course of the fifth International IT Summer School. As usual, this International Summer School has invited local and international IT experts to lecture to senior and graduate IT students at Palestinian universities.

The first course dealt with Internet security and computer networks, addressing protocols of the Internet and multimedia used by world Internet providers, such as BGP, OSPF and SIP protocols.

The second course will start on 9 July 2012 in which Professor Paolo Bouquet and Mr. Stefano Bartolini from Italy lectured on "Semantic Web"

The Chair of the Computer Systems Engineering Department at BZU and coordinator of the Summer School, Dr. AbdelLatif Abu Issa, emphasized the school's dual importance for students, where they get exposed to new and vital IT topics, while the international professors get to know about the outstanding IT knowledge level of the Palestinian students, leading to the possibility of helping them to seek future higher studies.





## Executive Education Program

The BZU Faculty of Commerce and Economics has launched the Executive Education Program, aiming to offer a series of courses to MBA students and managers working in the private sector and other institutions.

The MBA Program Director, Dr. Grace Khoury, said that: "The public and private Palestinian institutions are facing many challenges arising from local, regional and global political, social and economic changes, as well as other confrontations evolving from the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation. These challenges impose on the Palestinian institutions the need for strategic thinking to overcome challenges by improving performance and ensuing sustainability."

## Dr. Pharmacist Program

The "Dr. Pharmacist, Pharm. D" Program at BZU has been permanently accredited by the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission at the Ministry of Higher Education. The Dr. Pharmacist Program has been



launched in 2010-2011 to be in line with the challenges facing international career development, in terms of the pharmacist's academic and practical qualifications.

The Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, Dr. Tamer Esawi, said: "The Ministry of Education has previously put a condition for permanent accreditation regarding the teaching staff, educational laboratories and training, which the Faculty has managed to fulfill." He added that the program requires a six-year study period (210 hours) in basic science, pharmacy and clinical training in hospitals.

## Pharmaceuticals Factory

BZU has announced that Mr. Samih Darwazah, the Founder and Chairman of Hikma Pharmaceuticals in Jordan, will donate the establishment of a pharmaceutical factory for educational purposes. The factory is expected to fulfill international standards and compete with outstanding factories.

The establishment of this plant concurs with the launching of a Master's Program in Pharmaceutical Engineering, to be a training platform for graduates and students of chemistry, pharmacy and chemical engineering on the best practices of pharmaceuticals industry.

BZU President Dr. Khalil Hindi stated that the pharmaceutical industry is one of the most successful indus-



tries in the Arab region, including Palestine. He added that there isn't a single Arab university that offers the Master's Program in Pharmaceutical Engineering, as the intended program at BZU, and there isn't a similar pharmaceutical plant as the one to be established at BZU, donated by Mr. Darwazah.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Samih Darwazah is one of the top hundred Arab personalities, who were able to impact their societies. He has won the highest business award in the Middle East in 2007, and was the first Arab businessman to win this award, launched by Ernst & Young for the first time in the Middle East.

### "Fellowship Program" for Academic Development / October 5, 2011

A BZU initiative that aims at sending qualified professors and lecturers to higher education institutions abroad for one semester or an academic year, in order to develop their expertise and knowledge.

Dr. Khalil Hindi said: "This initiative constitutes a milestone in the relationship between the private and public sector and academic institutions. There is no doubt that capacity building of the teaching and research staff constitutes one the crucial and vital factors in enhancing the academic level."



### SIERA: An FP7 Project in Multilingual and Multicultural Knowledge sharing Technologies.

As a coordinator and grant holder, BZU has recently launched "SIERA", a project with a budget of half a million Euros (funded by the EU FP7 program), in the field of multilingual and multicultural knowledge sharing technologies. The goal of the SIERA project is to reinforce closer and sustainable scientific cooperation between Palestinian and EU scientists in the field of multilingual and multicultural knowledge sharing technologies.

### Center for Development Studies *Conflict, Participation, and Development in Palestine*

The Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR), part of the Austrian Development Corporation, currently funds a multiyear partnership project between the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) at Birzeit University and the Department of Development Studies (DDS) at the University of Vienna.

The basis of this partnership will rest on two main components: (1) capacity building in the area of development studies and research and (2) expansion of knowledge on development issues, theories, and practices.





University achievements, 2011-2012



BZU'S NATIONAL ROLE



BZU national and societal role was mainly through the encouragement of a number of community and institutional initiatives - related to raising public awareness. During this academic year a number of these initiatives were launched and accomplished as follows:



### Palestine Archive Project, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies / August 2011

In recognition of the importance of Palestinian history and through the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies BZU sought to build a Palestine Archive by collecting a huge number of archives/ documents that are available here and there, whether inside or outside Palestine, and to work on data entry to ensure the preservation of our cultural heritage.

President Hindi said: "In such intricate circumstances, it is of vital importance to maintain, enrich and document the Palestinian narrative."



The Professor of International Relations and member of the Archive Project's committee, Dr. Roger Heacock, spoke about the archiving trends in the project, pointing out that the digital archive at BZU is open to researchers all over the world, and that the project's staff is working on expanding its domain to include all the Palestinian territories, as well as the exile."

For those interested in obtaining the classified documents, you can visit the Palestinian archive site on the following link: <http://awraq.birzeit.edu/>

## National Media Strategy Project

On 4 July 2012, the Media Development Center (MDC) at BZU launched the Palestinian National Media Strategy Project in the presence of the partner institutions.

The MDC Director, Nibal Thawabteh said that the idea of the national media strategy stemmed out of the urgent need to regulate and direct the national efforts towards media development and put down eligibility requirements.



## Leadership in Higher Education

On 28 January 2012, the Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs at BZU held a workshop entitled: "Leadership in Higher Education: The Role of the Chairperson." The workshop aimed to shed light on the role of successful leadership in achieving the goals of the academic institution on one hand, and the importance of training academic leaders (department chairpersons and deans) and providing them with the tools necessary to perform their duties to the fullest.

During the workshop, Dr. Hindi emphasized the need to support academic leaders to enhance their leadership skills in different fields, including training and professional development needed in various areas, empowering their access to international experiences and expertise, According to Dr. Hindi, this could be achieved, by holding conferences and participating in international forums, as well as expanding the jurisdiction of chairpersons and deans in terms of planning, coordination, decision-making, in addition to developing their leadership skills, involving them in programs of change and strategic planning, as well as enhancing their communication skills with the students..







## CONFERENCES AND INITIATIVES

Throughout the year 2011/2012, BZU has organized tens of different conferences for the purpose of exchanging experiences and providing research in various fields.

### Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance Conference on “Health of Palestinians Inside and Outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory”/ held on 5 - 6 March 2012

This conference was jointly organized by the Center for Research on Population and Health at FHS and the ICPH at BZU, in collaboration with the Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance, a network of Palestinian, regional and international researchers. Over 150 participants attended the conference coming from: Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Canada, Europe, Japan and the US. The event was funded by Welfare Association and Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).

### Human Dignity and the Life of the Palestinians

On 28 March 2012, the Institute of Law Initiative on Judicial Independence and Human Dignity (KARAMAH) launched its conclusive conference on Human Dignity and the Life of Palestinians.

The Conference was launched by Chief Justice Farid al Jallad, Chairman of the High Judicial Council (HJC), Dr. Khalil Hindi, President of Birzeit University (BZU), Dr. Alan Wildeman, President of the University of Windsor and Mr. Chris Greenshields, Canada’s Representative to the Palestinian Authority.

Dr. Wildeman commended the successful partnership between Windsor and BZU. “At the time KARAMAH announces the near closing of its activity, I would like to bring glad tidings of signing the Windsor-Birzeit Initiative on Dignity, which will complement KARAMAH’s action and build on the successful cooperation between Windsor and BZU.” Dr. Wildeman concluded.

Over three days, the Conference addressed the concept and applications of dignity in various areas, including law, philosophy, international studies, architecture, community health and gender. A number of highly

esteemed justices, academics, multidisciplinary researchers, representatives of justice sector components and civil society actors took part in the event. Distinguished Windsor academics and Canadian high-profile justices, who have jointly worked with KARAMAH, also participated in the Conference.

The conference was organized in partnership between the IoL and Windsor Law School, KARAMAH has benefited from financial support of the Government of Canada provided through CIDA.

### The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies / October 2011

The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies organized a two-day conference at Birzeit University entitled: “Palestinian Refugees: Different Generations but One Identity.”

The concept of the refugee, as associated with the Palestinian case, is not limited to those who were actually displaced from historical Palestine during the nakba of 1948 in addition to those driven out during the Israeli invasion of June 1967 (the naksa). Palestinian refugees include successive generations of descendants of the first refugees. Nor is one speaking of Palestinian camp residents only, since many Palestinians left these camps to reside elsewhere in countries of first asylum or emigrated and today reside in the Dias-







pora. Any serious study must also include those formally described as internally displaced, having been forbidden from returning to their original homes without being driven over the borders of the state of Israel. The conference dealt with Palestinian refugees under this broad definition, taking into account their material, social, psychological and cultural conditions in a comparative context, with the aim of identifying changes over time, and from one generation to another. Comparative studies were made between those living within and outside of refugee camps, and as between regions and countries of residence, and between Palestine and other cases in the world.

### First National Conference on e-Governance and e-Services

Under the auspices of the Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad, the Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arab Technologies at BZU held the First National Conference on e-Governance and e-Services on 27 June 2012. The conference aims to discuss issues related to e-governance and e-services, by bringing together a large number of concerned persons, legal experts and decision makers in Palestine.

On the sidelines of the conference, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed, stipulating the formation of the Palestinian e-Government Academy's board of directors, headed by the Minister of Communications and information Technology, and membership of representatives of the signatories to the MoU.

### Institute of Women's Studies Fourth Annual Conference

On 26 March 2012, the Institute for Women's Studies (IWS) in collaboration with the Institute of Law (IoL) at BZU held its fourth annual conference entitled: "Getting Right Women's Rights: Re-thinking Gender and Law in Colonial Palestine." The conference was attended by academics and researchers from America, Tunisia, Egypt and 1948 Palestine, in addition to local intellectuals. Over the past three years, the IWS annual conference has proven to be an exciting venue for critical debate and exchange amongst students, academics, government representatives, NGOs and activists from all walks of life on gender and gender justice.

### Conference on "Innovative University-Industry Partnerships"

In partnership with the British Council and the Palestinian Development and Investment Company (PADI-CO), the Department of Business Administration and Marketing at the Faculty of Commerce and Economics-BZU hosted a one-day conference entitled "Innovative University-Industry Partnerships" on 15 October 2011. The conference focused on the role of university-industry partnerships in stimulating growth and accelerating innovation. It was attended by Palestinian industrialists, domestic and foreign scholars, representatives of NGOs, Development and community-based organizations, and policy makers.

### Institute of Environmental & Water Studies Conference entitled: "Professional Environmental Education for Sustainable Development: Plugging the Hole."

The Institute of Environmental and Water Studies (IEWS) at BZU held a scientific conference entitled: "Professional Environmental Education for Sustainable Development: Plugging the Hole," on 16-17 November

2011. The conference comes as one of the activities funded by the European Union, through the Tempus Programme: "Developing a Strategic Plan for the Reform of Environmental Studies in the Higher Education System of Palestine." The conference was attended by: Minister of Education and Higher Education, Ms. Lamis Alami, BZU President, Dr. Khalil Hindi, and Vice President for Community Affairs, Dr. Munir Qazzaz, Director of the IEWS, Dr. Nidal Mahmoud, National Tempus Office Coordinator, Nedal Jayousi, and Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Ziad Mimi.

### Conference on the Status and Challenges of Nanotechnology in Palestinian Universities / December 2011

Sponsored by the Mobile Company "Jawwal," the Faculty of Science at BZU held a conference on the status and challenges of nanotechnology in Palestinian universities on 10 December 2011. It aimed to present research activities and discuss the realities and challenges of nanotechnology in Palestinian universities, as well as to raise community interest in this field. The conference included lectures and an exhibition, in addition to an open discussion on the importance of nano science and technology, and its environmental and societal dimensions. It was attended by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Adnan Yahya, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dr. Wael Karain, Vice President of the Scientific Research Council at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Ali Zeidan, Jawwal Representative, Amjad Bishtawi, and Chairman of the Conference Preparatory Committee, Dr. Talal Shahwan.

### Master Class in Particle Physics / 2012

On 5 April 2012, the Physics Department at BZU organized a full-day masterclass in particle physics. The event attracted graduate and undergraduate students majoring in physics, IT and different disciplines in engineering.

The highlight of the day was the virtual tour that students at the master class in Birzeit University took inside the ATLAS control room in the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) at the Franco-Swiss borders via a video conference. In this webcast, BZU students talked live with two of the ATLAS scientists Dr. Steven Goldfarb the Outreach & Education Coordinator at ATLAS Experiment and Dr. Sue Cheatham from McGill University who spent more than an hour of discussion and answering questions. This virtual

visit to ATLAS experiment came just few hours after the LHC new record collision energy of 8 TeV and the masterclass participants were the first to congratulate the CERN physicists on this achievement.

A recorded video of the live webcast can be viewed from the ATLAS webpage via the link: <http://atlas-live-virtual-visit.web.cern.ch/atlas-live-virtual-visit/2012/Birzeit-2012.html>

This particle physics masterclass at BZU is part of the "Physics without Frontiers" project, funded by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy, sponsored by Professor Karain in coordination with Dr. Wafaa Khater from the Physics Department at BZU.

### Faculty of Information Technology - Information Security Competency / February, 2012

On 14 February, the IT Faculty at BZU in cooperation with the IT Security C&T, and Al-Quds Open University organized an event on Information Security Competency and Career Day 2012. This event was attended by more than 250 students and faculty members from most of the Palestinian universities. The aim of this event was to provide attendees with the latest trends in information security and with the best ways to develop competency in this growing field.







University achievements, 2011-2012



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



During 2011-2012, BZU continued building strong relationships with community based organizations, both in the public and private sector, through the outreach activities of BZU centers and institutes, in terms of rendering consultative, training and research services. BZU succeeded in measuring the performance of its community institutes and centers, as reflected in the continuity of its programs/projects such as: the Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH), Center for Continuing Education (CCE) and the Institute of Law (IoL) for many years – all this confirms the importance of the role of various programs/projects in benefiting the local community programs and services.

## Activities of Faculties



### Eighth Engineering Day / April 2012

The Faculty of Engineering at BZU organized its Eighth Engineering Day on 9 April 2012. The two-day event was attended by a large number of students, faculty members, representatives of engineering companies and those interested.

The Faculty of Engineering Dean, Dr. Afif Hasan, said: "This activity represents a channel of communication between engineering/ industrial institutions and academics in terms of exchanging experiences and skills."

### Fifth IT EXPO Day / April 2012

Under the auspices of the Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Salam Fayyad, the Faculty of Information Technology at BZU held its Fifth IT EXPO Day 2012 from 9 -10 April 2012. This annual event was attended by a large number of students, faculty members, representatives of IT companies and those concerned. This IT EXPO included a display of students' innovative projects and products of the participating Palestinian technology companies, specialized seminars and job interviews.

The Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology, Dr. Ali Jaber, said that today's EXPO Day seeks to activate the partnership between the Faculty of Information Technology at BZU and Palestinian technology companies. This will create an atmosphere of competitiveness among the students to enhance their educational level, in line with the strategies and objectives of the University, he added.

### Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions / Open Day

Under the slogan: "Integrated Healthcare," The Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Professions at BZU held its open medical day on 19 April 2012. This event aimed to develop relations and communication with the students' families, Ministry of Health and health institutions, as well as civil and non-governmental organizations.

The open day included several activities: measuring blood, pulse and oxygen concentration, as well as sugar examination, eye sight tests, ECG, etc.... It also provided the attendees with nutrition, diet, and pharmaceutical instructions. The guests visited the laboratories and attended a theatrical performance, video screening and scientific health contest.

The Faculty's Dean, Dr. Tamer Esawi noted that this open day seeks to spread health awareness in the Palestinian commu-







nity, in order to promote healthy lifestyle patterns, as a key strategy to combat health problems and early detection of diseases.

### Faculty of Arts – Second Annual Open Day / April 2012

On 21 April 2012, the Faculty of Arts at BZU organized its Second Annual Open Day, sponsored by the Arab Bank. The event included a variety of cultural, academic and art activities, and was attended by old graduates and former deans, who were honored.

This year's Open Day focused on children and youth through the children's tent "I am creative," where the Hakawati told short stories, children's face drawing, clown to recreate children and educational contests targeting children.

### Faculty of Commerce & Economics – Second Open Day / April, 2012

Sponsored by the Wataniya Mobile, the Faculty of Commerce & Economics at BZU organized its Second Annual Open Day on 28 April 2012. This open day included a presentation of students' artistic talents, opening of Wataniya booth in each department, opening of the International Marketing Day and a Students' theatrical performance.

To see photos of the event, please visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.367993779902462.78252.129221627113013&type=1>

### Faculty of Commerce & Economics – 17<sup>th</sup> Career Day / April 2012

Under the auspices of the Palestinian Telecommunication Group (PALTEL), the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at BZU organized its 17th Career Day on 23 April 2012. The event was attended by representatives of companies and institutions, seeking to prepare students to join the labor market.

The Faculty's Dean, Dr. Mohamed Nasr, stated that the Career Day has become an annual festival that brings together the Faculty's graduates with representatives of companies and institutions, seeking to bridge the gap between academic education and labor market. He added: "The Faculty aims to provide students with the skills and academic knowledge necessary for their involvement in the labor market, and to develop their analytical thinking and application of appropriate tools needed by the Palestinian private sector."

### Faculty of Law and Public Administration – Fifth Career Day / April 2012

The Faculty of Law and Public Administration organized on 28 April 2011, the Career Day for its graduates under the diamond auspices of the Bank of Palestine and the silver sponsor, the Al-Ahram for Marble and Granite Company, and the gold sponsor, the Al Nasr for Engineering & Construction and Mena Investment. The event was attended by the Minister of Labor Dr. Ahmad Majdalani, Director of the General Personnel Council, Dr. Musa Abu Zaid, Director General of Administrative Affairs at the Office of the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mr. Ali Nazzal and representatives of twenty-six ministries and institutions, aiming to identify the most qualified graduates in order to recruit them.

The Dean of the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, Dr. Saleh Abdel Jawwad, emphasized the academic excellence of the Faculty's students, and their participation in extracurricular activities that support their studies and develop their culture. He added that the Faculty hosts French and foreign experts to enrich the three programs offered by the Faculty, concluding "I wish that the participating institutions will sign preliminary work agreements with the students today."

Institute of Law: series of trainings and projects:

## Activities of Institutes and Centers

### Institute of Law

The Birzeit University Institute of Law carried out tens of trainings and projects to build the capacity of the justice sector and promote the concept of good governance. The Institute's programs addressed ways to develop the capacities of those working in legislative drafting, in addition to focusing on gender. Major trainings are projects are:

- Developing curricula for training of judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and local government employees.
- KARAMAH Initiative is a four-year project implemented by the Institute of Law (IoL) at Birzeit University in partnership with the Faculty of Law at Windsor University in Canada, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Initiative on Judicial Independence and Human Dignity (KARAMAH) aims to support the rule of law and Palestinians' right to resort to a fair judicial system, by supporting the judiciary and related justice sector institutions and organizations To achieve these goals, KARAMAH carries out a number of activities, including:
  - producing informed analysis of key elements of the justice sector in Palestine as they relate to judicial independence and human dignity
  - developing and institutionalizing judicial training methodology and materials,
  - using the concept of human dignity in protecting individual and collective rights,
  - contributing to building and promoting community coalitions that further support judicial independence and human dignity,

- and consolidating planning efforts for the justice sector.
- Institutional capacity building of the Ministry of Justice, which is a Specialized Diploma, offered by the Institute of Law, aiming to offer an educational program based on providing the participants with legal knowledge and professional practical skills and values in order to help them to professionally carry out their legal tasks.
- For the second year in a row, Birzeit University's Institute of Law launched on March 2, 2013 its Specialized Professional Diploma Program in Legislative Drafting. The first of its kind in the Arab world, the diploma program is designed to provide capacity-building and enhance legislative drafting skills. A special event was held to kick off the program, attended by Vice President for Community Affairs Samia Halileh, program advisor Fawwaz Abu Zir, assistant to the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers for Legal Affairs Jamil Salem, institute Director Ghassan Faramand, and director of the institute's Legislative Assistance Department and coordinator of the Diploma Program in Legislative Drafting Mahmoud Alawneh.
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Institute of Law and the Ministry of Local Government for strengthening the foundations of good governance and the rule of law on the national and local levels.





## Center for Continuing Education

The Center for Continuing Education implemented three training programs: 1) Entrepreneurship Diploma that aims at improving the knowledge and skills of potential and existing entrepreneurs by providing them with skills and knowledge in Business Start up and Business Development techniques. 2) NGO management. 3) SERMANTEQ training program to enable the Palestinian professionals to actively participate in the management of technology- based products and services.

## Najjad Zeenni Information Technology Center of Excellence (NZITCE)

The NZITCE carried out a series of trainings in many areas, including the training of entrepreneurs on writing a business plan for their projects. Also, female and male Palestinian youth were trained on how to secure funds for their projects.

The NZITCE has implemented the Computer Clubhouses in Refugee Camps project, aiming to examine the impact of the use of information technology and communication tools on social life in marginalized areas.

## Center for Development Studies (CDS)

The CDS organized a training course for children beginners, in order to teach them basics of creating and designing computer games in according to their abilities, where the student can imagine, design and program the game so as to share it with his/her friends or upload it to a network.

### Empowering people with disabilities

This research training project is funded by the British Agency for Development and in partnership with Medical Aid for Palestinians, aiming to enable disabled persons to become key elements of change in their communities by helping them to defend their cases through national and international legal, frameworks.



### Prospects for development in the occupied territories

A research project funded by Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, which aims to put theoretical and practical alternatives in a number of development areas, enabling the Palestinian society to achieve real development based on its potential to confront the occupation and its policies. The project consists of five research papers, prepared by combining theoretical research and development experiences on one hand, and societal discussions on the other hand.

### Impact of popular resistance on Palestinian villages

A research project funded by Nova – Spain that aims to comprehend the role of popular resistance in West Bank local communities. This includes the political, economic and social effects, in terms of community participation, communication with the press and defeating the occupation.

## Institute of Environmental and Water Studies (IEWS)

The IEWS has developed a strategic plan for the reform of environmental studies in the Palestinian higher education system, aiming to assess the current situation and practices for environmental studies in higher education institutions, in order to address current problems and future challenges.

## Media Development Center (MDC)

The MDC at Birzeit University in collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundation launched the “Voice of Villages” project on 7 February 2012. MDC’s Director, Nibal Thawabteh, explained the idea of the project, which is based on cooperation with 13 local radio stations, whose representatives will be trained at MDC for four months. The training topics are: fact-finding, radio story scenario writing, radio interviewing skills and methods, as well as radio story editing. The trainees are expected to come out with a series of radio stories dealing with stories of Palestinian villages and citizen’s concerns and details of his daily life to be broadcasted in all partner radio stations.

## Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arab Technologies

Under the auspices of the Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad, the Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arab Technologies at BZU held the First National Conference on e-Governance and e-Services on 27 June 2012. The conference aims to discuss issues related to e-governance and e-services, by bringing together a large number of concerned persons, legal experts and decision makers in Palestine.

On the sidelines of the conference, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed, stipulating the formation of the Palestinian e-Government Academy’s board of directors, headed by the Minister of Communications and information Technology, and membership of representatives of the signatories to the MoU.

## Other Miscellaneous Activities

### Local Government and Civil Society Development Program

BZU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) on 30 June 2012. The MoU is part of the “Local Governance and Civil Society Development Programme (LGP).”

The purpose of this MoU is to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between BZU and GIZ-LGP in areas of mutual interest and to set the ground for initiating joint activities and programs.

The scope of cooperation includes (but not necessarily limited to): joint course development, joint training programs, summer workshops on special topics and other activities that may mutually be agreed upon. The MoU is valid for three years and can be modified at any time of mutual written consent.

## Neighborhood Initiative

An initiative led by the BZU President Dr. Khalil Hindi to outreach the surrounding community in order to create cooperation opportunities and provide services to the neighboring community.

Dr. Khalil Hindi stated: “Although the university seeks to go international, it keeps sticking to its roots and environment. This initiative aims to establish long-term relations between the university and its environment.”

## Faculty of Information Technology/New Internet Protocol IPv6

On 21 February, IT Faculty organized a workshop on Introduction to IPv6 and IPv6 standards. The workshop provided information about history of internet and IPv4, in addition to discussing the new protocol of IPv6 and IPv6 standards.





University achievements, 2011-2012



AWARDS & PRIZES

### Birzeit University ranked 1st among the Palestinian universities in the Zuhair Hijawi Award 2011

The student Saa'dia Abu Sirriyeh from the Faculty of Science at BZU majoring Chemistry ranked 1st among the Palestinian universities in the Engineer Zuhair Hijawi competition for 2011 in the field of water and environmental engineering, one of three components of the competition. Saa'dia conducted a research entitled "Green Manufacturing (environmentally friendly) for iron nano particles used as catalyst to remove ions of water dyes. Saa'dia is a senior student at the Chemistry Department, who conducted the research within a project supported financially by BZU and supervised by the professor of chemistry at BZU, Dr.Talal Shahwan.



### Dr. Rita Giacaman Received an Honorary Doctorate from the London School of Economics

The University of London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK awarded the Associate Professor of Public Health and Head of the Research and Programs Unit at the Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) - BZU an Honorary Doctorate of Science (Economics) for her outstanding contributions to research and practical applications in social sciences, health and related fields. This came during a graduation

ceremony, held by the LSE on 14 December 2011.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/newsAndMedia/news/archives/2011/12/honorarydegrees.asp>

### BZU Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 14<sup>th</sup> Creativity Forum in Alexandria

BZU ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the contest "Scientific Research by Arab Students," held at the 14<sup>th</sup> Creativity Forum, with respect to the component "Arab culture and identity in a globalized world." The event was under title: "The Role of Arab Universities in Facing Contemporary Challenges," held at the University of Alexandria in Egypt during 1-5 October 2011. The students from various Arab universities presented their scientific research, which totaled more than ninety research papers.

### BZU Ranked First and Second in Legal Research Excellence Contest

The Information Center at the Ministry of Justice announced the results of Excellence in Legal Research Contest on 7 December 2011. The competition targeted undergraduate and graduate law schools of the Palestinian universities, supported by the United Nations Development Programme.





The results showed BZU's conspicuous progress, ranking first, second and fifth, where the MA student, Ghaida' Biltaji, was awarded for her best research on "Protection of Cultural Property in Palestine." Ghaida' won a \$ 2,000 prize, offered by the Ministry of Justice, as the student Salwa Alhathwah ranked second for her research on "constitutionalism of the draft penal code," and the student Maram Nasir ranked fifth for her research on "compensation for arbitrary arrest."



### 2012 FIFA/CIES Network Prize and Special Prize Awarded to Students from Spain and Palestine

The International University Network Prize was created to acknowledge the best group project developed within the FIFA/CIES Programme in sport management. The prize-winners will now have the opportunity to travel to Switzerland and visit FIFA's "House of Football", the CIES headquarters in Neuchâtel and to present their work to the FIFA Master students.

### BZU Law Students Win a Special Award in Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

For the second time in a row, a team of BZU students from the Law Department at the Faculty of Law and Public Administration have participated in the JESSUP Public International Law Moot Court Competition. This year's Competition was held from March 25 to 31, 2012 and is usually held every spring in Washington, D.C. since 1953.

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the most prestigious international law moot court, or advocacy, competition. It is a virtual dispute between teams of participating countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. These teams prepare oral and written pleadings arguing both the applicant and respondent positions of the case in question.

In this year's contest, 500 law schools from 80 countries have participated, as thousands of law students from around the world have worked all year long on this season's Jessup Problem. They addressed the legality of destroying a cultural site, whose responsibility to represent a state after a coup d'état, identification of other states' responsibilities towards conflict areas.

### Nimeh Faris Award for excellence in the English Language and Literature June 2012

The Faculty of Arts student Shorouq Bisharat won Nimeh Faris Award for Excellence in the English Language and Literature, a symbolic award offered to an outstanding bachelor student in the English Language and Literature.

University achievements, 2011-2012



PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH





## Book Entitled “Public Health in the Arab World: Towards a Multidisciplinary Perspective.”

Dr. Abdullatif Hussein, Director of the Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) at BZU has announced the publication of the Book Entitled “Public Health in the Arab World: Towards a Multidisciplinary Perspective.” The book was published by Cambridge University Press in March 2012.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.cambridge.org/aus/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521516747>

## ICPH publishes 11 research papers

The Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University has published 11 research articles in refereed scientific journals. Moreover, two local reports have been prepared, addressing diabetes and women’s health in the Ramallah area.

Furthermore, many academics and researchers have participated in many local and international conferences, where they presented several working papers and presentations. These participations amounted to 67 events, including 34 outside Palestine.

## Teaching and learning Mathematics in Palestine Faculty of Education, Sept. 2012-August 2013.

This study highlights certain aspects of teaching and learning mathematics in Palestine (the qualifications of mathematics teachers, textbooks, creative initiatives for teaching math, etc.), in addition to some details on the educational situation in Palestine. However, it is expected to publish a book about these details, which are a good source for teaching and learning mathematics and education courses.

## Gender Equality and Development

This research report was prepared by the Birzeit University Center for Development Studies in collaboration with the World Bank, which focused on the regional challenges in the region in general and in Palestine in particular.

President Hindi said: “Birzeit University has played a developmental role through its interest to employ women in particular, contributing to the development and advancement process, despite the continued pursuit of the occupation to curb and slow down the development process.

## Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies

On 28 September 2011 the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies (IALIIS) at BZU celebrated book launches for two new publications: *Palestinian Refugees: rights, stories, and policies* and *Gaza - Palestine: out of the Margins*.

The director of IALIIS, Dr. Asem Khalil, described the first book as a collection of essays authored by current students and alumni from various graduate programs, as well as faculty members and researchers at BZU and other Palestinian universities, in addition to experts and specialists on the issue of Palestinian refugeehood.

The publication of the two books was funded by the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation, the main funder of the Unit of Forced Migration and Refugees at IALIIS. The main goals of the Unit are to provide in-depth studies in forced migration and refugee issues, provide support for researchers and graduate students concerned with conducting research in that domain, and assist professionals and decision makers to adopt knowledge-based positions in relation to Palestinian refugees and forced migration.

## Palestine Urban Geography: - Spatial Morphology through History by Salem Thawaba and Husain

Palestine experienced five different ruling regimes which left their footprints on physical spatial structure of the area affecting settlements distribution and layout. Ottoman rule, the British Mandate, Jordanian rule, Israeli occupation, and the Palestinian National Authority each ruled the area and contributed to the recent shape and physical spatial fabric of the region. This book is intended to introduce Palestine’s geography and spatial changes which took place since the middle of the 19th century. It is mainly aimed at students studying geo-politics of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, but it is hoped it will be of interest to a wider range of general readers too. The book is a combination of interrelated topics grouped into five main sections. The sections are not intended to be strongly thematic, nor strictly chronological in structure.

• **Book on Wastewater**

Dr. Nidal Mahmoud from the Institute of Environmental and Water Studies has co-authored with a group of international experts a book entitled: “Biological Wastewater Treatment: Principles, Modeling and Design”. More information about the book can be found at the website:  
The book has been highly appreciated by the worldwide academic and professional community. So far more than 1500 copies of the book have been sold, making it the third bestselling book of the International Water Association (IWA).

Institute of Law (IoL) Research Projects

• **Drafting regulations for public procurement law**

A research project carried out by the Institute of Law and ended on September 30, 2012. It aimed to improve the performance of Palestinian institutions related to the public procurement process. The strategic objective of the project is to activate the rule puff law in Palestine through the implementation of legislation, in order to push forward the legal reform process.

• **Human rights and religion in the Constitution**

A research project that involves studying different international and Arab ways used to address the role of religion in drafting of the constitution, whether this role relates to the identity of the state or the sources of legislation.Alpha

• **Developing human rights teachers’ skills in the Arab world**

A project implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of Law, aiming to develop the teaching of human rights career in the Arab world, in cooperation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. - Lund, Sweden.

Institute of Women’s Studies research projects, 2011/2012

• **Empowering local voices: gender and development forum**

The project aims to provide academic support in the field of gender in case of emergency and war. It includes a study on Palestinian women as beneficiaries and providers for relief under occupation. The project also includes the Palestinian capacity-building through the allocation of scholarships to four doctoral

candidates.

• **Rights and Development under siege: The Second Gender profile of the Palestinian occupied Territories 1999-2008.**

The project aims to issue a report that summarizes and reviews the situation of Palestinian women from 1999 and to 2008, focusing on violence, freedom of movement and safety, as well as many other issues. The Gender Dimensions of Violence in the World of Work: Situation Analysis in the occupied Palestinian territory  
The project aims to write a report that explains and measures the use of violence in the workplace in the occupied Palestinian territories.

• **Arab Family Working Group (AFWG)**

The project aims to conduct research on Arab families and youth in Egypt, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and in the Diaspora as reference to academics, policy makers, planners, non-governmental organizations and service providers.







University achievements, 2011-2012



INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL COOPERATION





## Forming research groups with international universities

The Institute of Women's Studies formed research groups, especially those related to research in the Arab family under the leadership of Professor Suad Joseph from University of California, UC Davis. The research group "tracks in the empowerment of women," in partnership with the University of Sussex and several Arab universities, led by Andrea Cornwell from the University of Sussex.

## Regional training

The Institute of Community and Public Health has participated in regional training that included many Arab countries, aiming to raise awareness regarding regular check-ups, especially to mothers and their newborns, and how to apply this system in Arab countries. The training was done by experts from the



Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in London. The Institute has supported seven specialists, resident doctors and midwives from Ramallah Hospital - Ministry of Health to participate in this training, which was conducted at the American University of Beirut.

## Cooperation Agreement with "SAP AG"

Represented by Najjad Zeenni Information Technology Center of Excellence (NZITCE), BZU signed a cooperation agreement with the German Company "SAP AG" on 11 July 2012. BZU President, Dr. Khalil Hindi, and the Director of Alliances Sales at SAP MENA LLC, Andreas Baldwin, have signed the agreement.

The agreement aims to provide BZU with the tools and resources needed to teach students how IT can empower individuals, enable integrated business processes and inspire strategic thinking. The agreement is part of SAP's globally acclaimed University Alliance Program (UAP), as it seeks to ramp up its output of graduates capable of succeeding in thriving technology sectors across the world.







# FACTS & FIGURES

## Faculties

Birzeit University has 9 faculties, including the Graduate Studies Faculty. These offer 47 BA programs for undergraduate students and 26 MA programs for graduate students.

BZU faculties are:

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

## Institutes & Centers

The university is also home to 11 specialized institutes & centers that offer semi-independent programming and enrich campus life and scholarship:

- Institute of Women's Studies
- Institute of Law
- Institute of Environmental and Water Studies
- Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies
- Institute of Community and Public Health
- Center for Development Studies
- Center for Continuing Education
- Media Development Center
- Birzeit University Testing Laboratories

- Najjad Zeenni IT Center of Excellence
- Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies.
- The Ethnographic and Art Museum.

In addition to the Virtual Gallery, which is a permanent hi tech- computer equipped space to enrich visual art experiences through non-traditional internet learning facilities.

## Enrolled students

- About 10,000 students are registered at BZU (8,465 undergraduate students, 1,388 graduate students and 152 diploma and special students).
- 64% of the student body is females and 36% are males.
- 61% the graduate studies students are females and 39% are males.
- 25,666 students had graduated from Birzeit University since 1970.
- About 2,500 students have benefited from university financial aid, which amounted to one million dinars in the 2011/2012 academic year.

## Faculty and staff members

- There are 539 faculty members and 114 researchers and teaching assistants. In addition to 503 staff members.
- 65% of full time faculty members hold a Doctorate, 41% hold a masters degree, and 3% hold bachelors degree.
- 39% of the faculty and staff are females.
- The campus includes 1,155 faculty and staff members, including senior professionals, administrators, technicians, and service workers.

## Budget

- The annual budget of the university is approximately 28 million dinars.
- The budget deficit amounts to around 4 million.
- Students' fees cover 50%-60% of the budget.

## Academic Excellence

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

### Distribution of Students by faculty and gender for the academic year 2011/2012

Faculty	Females	Males	Total
BA students	5,158	3,213	8,371
Arts	1,563	517	2,080
Business & Economics	1,164	837	2,001
Education	152	47	199
Engineering	447	872	1,319
Information Technology	272	330	602



Law & Public Administration	680	411	1,091
Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions	238	53	291
Pharm D	51	6	57
Science	591	140	731
Graduate Studies	841	541	1,382
Diploma	103	61	164
Grand Total	6,102	3,815	9,917

#### Distribution of Graduates by faculty and gender for the academic year 2011/2012

Faculty	Females	Males	Total
BA degree	1,097	695	1,792
Arts	370	125	495
Business & Economics	310	262	572
Engineering	51	137	188
Information Technology	26	44	70
Law & Public Administration	164	101	265
Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions	53	8	61
Science	123	18	141
Graduate Studies	234	143	377
Diploma	42	5	47
Grand Total	1,373	843	2,216

#### Faculty members

The number of full-time faculty members has reached (383) during the academic year 2011/2012 members, while the number of faculty members during the academic year 2010-2011 has reached (360) members, recording a 6% increase. The following table shows the distribution of faculty members by type of employment and sex:

Employment	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester			2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Full-time	107	268	375	113	268	393
Part-time	32	88	120	41	96	137
Grand Total	130	356	495	156	364	520

#### The following table shows BZU faculty members distribution by academic rank and sex:

Academic Rank	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester			2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Professor	3	18	21	2	17	19
Associate Professor	4	43	47	4	43	47
Assistant Professor	42	165	207	45	165	210
Lecturer	8	37	45	13	36	49
Teacher	82	83	175	82	103	195
Grand Total	139	356	495	156	364	520



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