

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
جامعة بن غوريون في النقب
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023





04

From the
President

05

From the
Chairman

06

North Campus
Rising

08

**NOTEWORTHY
NEWS**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

18

REPORTS

19

Prof. Chaim Hames
Rector

22

Tal Ben-Haim
Director-General

25

Prof. Dan Blumberg
VP for Regional & Industrial
Development

28

Prof. Limor Aharonson-Daniel
VP for Global Engagement

32

Prof. Raz Jelinek
VP and Dean for Research
& Development

34

Prof. Sarab Abu-Rabia Queder
VP for Diversity & Inclusion

37

Jeff Kaye, VP for Public Affairs
& Resource Development

40

BGU IN FACTS
AND FIGURES

41

Senior
Administration

42

BGU
in Numbers

44

New Faculty
Members

46

Donor
Recognition

48

Board
of Governors

51

Associates
Organizations



from THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As I embark upon my second term as President of this esteemed institution, I cannot help but reflect upon the many accomplishments that we have achieved together. It is a moment to look back with pride, but more importantly, to look forward with optimism at the challenges that await us.

Allow me to share a story about one of our own researchers, Benjamin Palmer of the Department of Chemistry. Ben's recruitment to BGU was one of my first missions as President, and I am proud to say that he was the first to receive the coveted title of "Presidential Recruit" (in his case, the Nahum Guzik Presidential Recruit). Ben's groundbreaking research into how animals can become "invisible" to predators has earned him international recognition and millions of dollars in external competitive funding. In February, his research even graced the cover of *Science* - the first time BGU has achieved this honor!

But Ben is not alone in his excellence. Through our "Presidential Recruit" mechanism, we have been able to attract several outstanding researchers to BGU who would have otherwise gone elsewhere. Our commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed, and our young researchers in all faculties are increasingly gaining international recognition. This emphasis on excellent recruits, together with the huge investments that we have made in research infrastructures over the past few years, has enabled BGU to garner an increased portion of the Israel Council for Higher Education's research budget.

As a university, we have set supra-disciplinarity as a strategy, and our successes in areas such as the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change, the Azrieli National Autism Research Center, and the Prof. Vladimir Zelman, MD. PhD Inter-Disciplinary Center of Brain Sciences, show that we can achieve great impact when we break down barriers between disciplines. With this approach we unleash innovation attuned to the needs of a new generation of independent, forward-thinking students, and researchers who refuse to be defined by a single discipline.

We are committed to being a university that provides a world-class education while having a social conscience, and we remain dedicated to developing the ecosystems of Beer-

Sheva and the Negev. It is our goal to make a Ben-Gurion University education accessible to all those who seek it, particularly those from our region.

Of course, there is much work yet to be done. We must reaffirm our commitment to undergraduate education and embrace new pedagogical paradigms that will enable our students to thrive. We must continue to remove barriers between fields and provide our students with the finest education available from Israel's brightest academics. We must also reaffirm our commitment to educating the health providers of the Negev, physicians, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and public health experts, who play a vital role in ensuring the health and well-being of our community.

As we move forward, we are mindful of the evolving political and social situation in Israel. Academic freedom is a prerequisite for excellence, and it thrives in strong democracies. As a pluralistic community, we have members who support every political party in the Knesset, and we hold differing, sometimes opposing, opinions on many issues. However, we are united in our commitment to upholding Israel's Declaration of Independence, which clearly states that the State of Israel "*will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture...*"

We are proud to bear the name of our first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, and we remain faithful to the liberal democratic principles of the declaration he read on May 14, 1948. We have much to be proud of, but there is still much to do. I am confident that together, we can face the challenges that lie ahead with optimism and determination.

Prof. Daniel Chamovitz



from **THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Dear Friends,

After two years of the coronavirus pandemic, it was great to see everyone at last year's fantastic Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. I look forward to this year's meeting, where you will learn about even more opportunities to contribute your expertise and get involved throughout the year.

The Board of Governor's Officers Forum, composed of vice chairs, has been meeting regularly with President Daniel Chamovitz. We are grateful for their involvement, caring and interest. They provide invaluable advice and insights based on their broad range of experience and expertise.

At the same time, the Global Development Committee, led by former A4BGU President Toni Young, has been bringing together leaders of our global associates organizations to formulate a meticulous long-term strategy for meeting our strategic goals by expanding the global BGU community and reaching out to alums, past donors and new friends who can be partners in our journey.

Our efforts to enlist more Israeli friends and get them more involved in promoting the University is a long process, but we are already beginning to see results. For example, a group of influential leaders from across Israeli society and industry visited the Marcus Family Campus and the Advanced Technologies Park in Beer-Sheva as guests of President Chamovitz and were incredibly impressed. As a result, many have expressed interest in continuing their involvement with BGU, and some will join the BOG.

The Board plays a vital role in supporting, promoting, and facilitating the well-being and growth of the University. Our committees, in particular, provide oversight, expertise and invaluable insights that we take very seriously. At this year's BOG meeting, we will relaunch three committees that will hold their inaugural meetings: Diversity and Inclusion, Student Affairs, and Campus Development. We thank all our friends who have agreed to serve as members of those committees.

We invite and encourage all members of the BOG to attend the committee meetings during the first day of the BOG meeting to learn more, become involved and contribute. The sessions will be open to all interested. The committees will subsequently meet periodically throughout the year.

The world is facing challenging times, and Israel is no exception. The country is also facing internal challenges, making your support more critical than ever. A strong academia is vital to a healthy, inclusive and robust society. BGU advances research, innovation and creativity and is a significant force for building inclusive, diverse and knowledgeable communities that can respond to humanity's challenges. By collaborating with BGU to uphold universal democratic values and protect academic freedom and freedom of speech, you can help ensure a strong future for us all.

We are grateful to all our friends, supporters and partners. Thank you for standing by us and for everything you do.

Yours in friendship,
Lloyd Goldman

NORTH CAMPUS RISING FROM the DUNES

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has beautiful campuses in three Negev locations: Beer-Sheva, Sde Boker, and Eilat. All three campuses are bursting with creative energy and drive and have tremendous impact on the wellbeing of their local and regional communities.

Our vision, as laid out in President Chamovitz's strategic plan *BGU Beyond 50*, is to be more; to become "one of the most outstanding universities in the world and the leading university in Israel: in research, teaching and contribution to society."

Yet, a shortage of space – lab space, classrooms, office space – currently hinders our ability to recruit the additional top-notch faculty members and students who will help us realize this vision.

Central to the University's strategy for growth is strengthening our connections with key IDF (Israel Defense Forces) technology units – in intelligence, communications and cybersecurity. Over a decade of planning and collaboration are finally paying off, as the first of several IDF schools and specialized units have relocated to the University's Advanced Technologies Park and the surrounding areas. The University is preparing a range of specialized programs for these elite soldiers who will significantly boost enrollment.

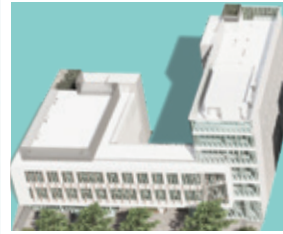
Unique in the Israeli academic landscape, the University has ample land adjacent to the Marcus Family Campus in Beer-Sheva in which to expand. The North Campus will enable us to double our footprint in Beer-Sheva over the next decade.

We are now hard at work designing and preparing the infrastructure for a slew of state-of-the-art facilities – fully equipped classrooms and auditoriums, teaching and research labs, public spaces, and much more – to meet the needs of our current and future students and researchers, while facilitating the innovation required to meet today's challenges and those on the horizon.

The Student Village is already up and running, and several more key buildings will be taking shape in the near future.

1

*Diane and Guilford
Galazer Foundation Future
Technologies Building*



2

*Drahi Innovation &
Entrepreneurship
Building*

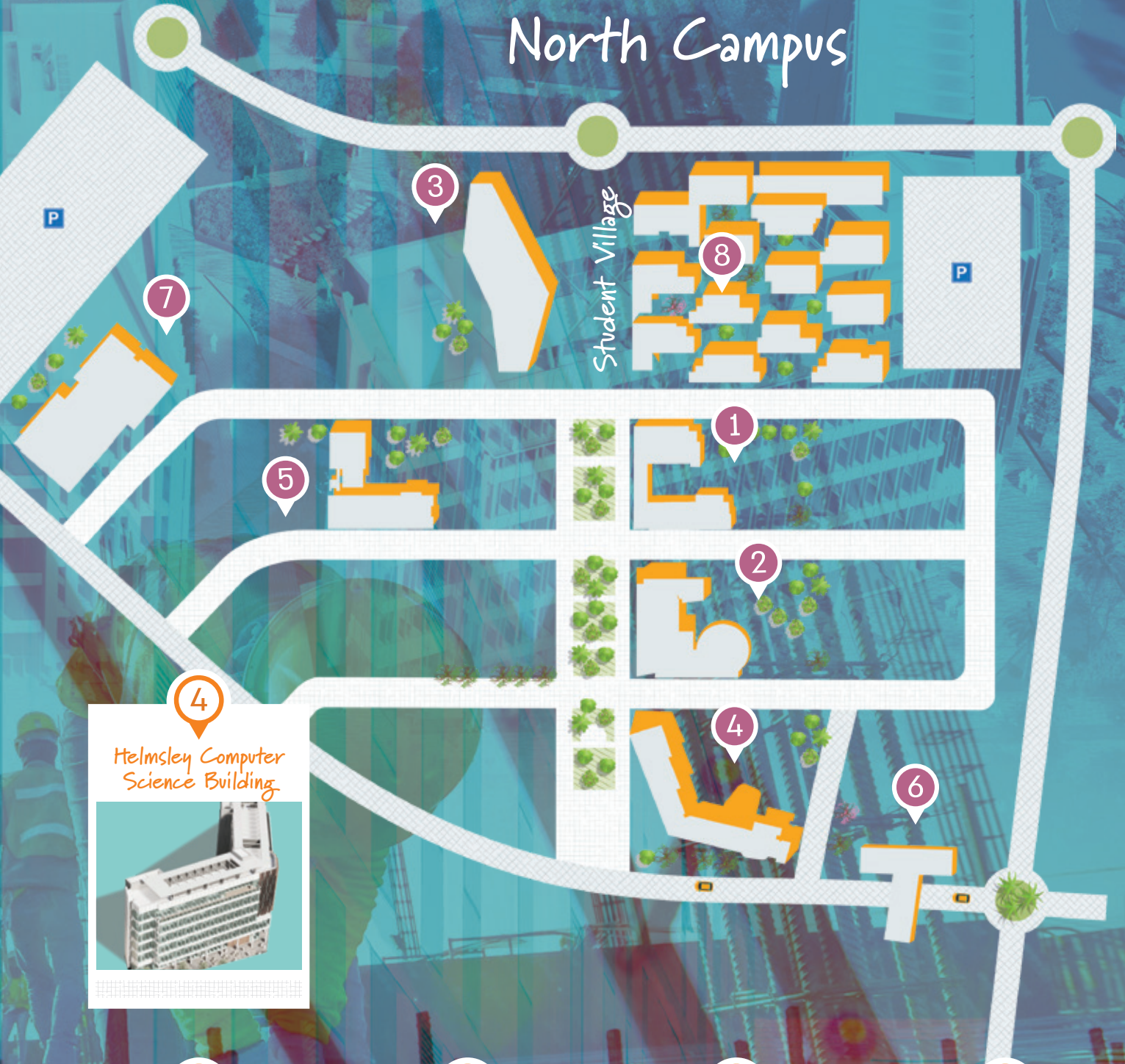


3

Cultural Center



North Campus



4
Helmsley Computer Science Building

5
Civil and Environmental Engineering Building

6
Ernest Scheller, Jr. Gate of Innovation

7
Infrastructure Center

8
Student Village Buildings

- Ellen S. Marcus House
- Beit Mark
- Joyce & Irving Goldman Foundation House
- Robert Arnow House

NOTEWORTHY NEWS



NOTEWORTHY NEWS **EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED**



BLUMBERG HEADS ISRAEL SPACE AGENCY

Vice President for Regional and Industrial Development, Prof. Dan Blumberg, was appointed Chairman of the Israel Space Agency (ISA) in July. As Chairman of the ISA he initiates, leads and coordinates civilian space activity in Israel. Blumberg also heads BGU's Earth and Planetary Image Lab, one of NASA's regional laboratories, and led the development and launch of the BGUSAT nanosatellite in 2017.

ENTIN-WOHLMAN ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY

Prof. Ora Entin-Wohlman of the Department of Physics was elected to the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, joining three other BGU professors.

ROSENTAL WINS FALLING WALLS PRIZE

Dr. Benyamin Rosental of the Shraga Segal Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics received a Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year Award in November for his work on translating medical tools for ecological needs, including the development of tools for stem cell-based therapy for corals.

BAR-GERA APPOINTED CHIEF SCIENTIST OF NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Prof. Hillel Bar-Gera of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management was appointed Chief Scientist of Israel's National Road Safety Authority.

AL-KRENAWI NAMED AMONG TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL SOCIAL WORK RESEARCHERS

Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi was named one of the top 10 most influential researchers in the world in the field of social work by a team of researchers at the University of Pennsylvania.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS **PHYSICAL** and **ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT**

→ The visitors center at the Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel & Zionism Building and the Ben-Gurion Archives in Sde Boker

↓ Students moving Ben-Gurion Archives documents into their new home



BEN-GURION ARCHIVES OPENS

The Ben-Gurion Archives has reopened in the state-of-the-art Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Building on the Sde Boker campus. The Archive, which houses an extensive collection of materials written by and about Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, is jointly operated by BGU and the Ben-Gurion Heritage Center, and includes items formerly kept by the IDF and State Archives. The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism and the Azrieli Center for Israel Studies also moved into the new building.

→ L-R: Beer-Sheva Mayor Ruvik Danilovich, former IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi, President Chamovitz, and Gav-Yam Dir.-Gen. Avi Jacobovitz cut the ribbon for the IDF's new Software and Cyber Security School at the ATP. Photo: IDF Spokesperson's Unit



IDF OPENS SOFTWARE AND CYBER SCHOOL IN NEGEV

The state-of-the-art IDF Communications Branch School for Software and Cyber Security was dedicated this August at the Advanced Technologies Park (ATP). The move will advance collaboration between the IDF school, BGU and the hi-tech companies in the ATP. Some 1,000 soldiers were transferred to Beer-Sheva as part of the move.

MOMENTUM PROGRAM INAUGURATED

BGU launched a new program aimed at facilitating the successful integration of Bedouin students at the University. Select high school graduates from Rahat who excel in math participate in this year-long preparatory program which emphasizes Hebrew language and learning skills.

UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES RUSSIAN LANGUAGE PREP YEAR PROGRAM

The University launched the "Aliyah to Academia" program in November to meet the needs of Russian-speaking immigrants who came to the country in the last year. The program provides 1,000 hours of Hebrew instruction, as well as six academic courses in Russian that will count toward their undergraduate degrees. The program – a collaboration of the World Jewish Congress, KKL-JNF (Keren Kayemet LeYisrael) and the Nadav Foundation – is run by Prof. Louisa Meshi, the Rector's advisor on new immigrants and a member of the Dept. of Materials Engineering.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ESTABLISHED

The University launched a new School of Education, bringing together three separate programs under one roof: The Department of Education, the Unit for the Promotion of Professionalism in Education and the Program for Science and Technology Education. The new school promises to advance research, and increase synergy in teaching.

SYLVAN ADAMS SPORT CENTER TO OPEN

A long-awaited upgrade to BGU's sports facilities will be celebrated at the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Sylvan Adams Sports Center during the 53rd annual Board of Governors Meeting in May.



← Inaugural cohort of the Aliyah to Academia program.
Photo: Tal Refaeli

NOTEWORTHY NEWS **HONORS BESTOWED**



FORMER IDF CHIEF OF STAFF KOCHAVI AMONG RECIPIENTS OF BEN-GURION AWARD

The University bestowed the 2022 Ben-Gurion Award upon former IDF Chief of Staff Lt-Gen Aviv Kochavi, along with six other recipients, on Ben-Gurion Day. Kochavi has been instrumental in the IDF's move to the Negev. Other recipients included Lester Crown, philanthropist and businessperson; Hanna Rado, a social and business entrepreneur; Eran Doron, head of the Ramat Negev Regional Council; Prof. Nachum Finger, former BGU Rector; Gila Bellaish, an educator; and BGU alumnus Prof. Alon Chen, President of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

↑ *Recipients of the
2022 Ben-Gurion Award*

→ *Dr. Ursula von
der Leyen receives
an honorary PhD
from President Prof.
Chamovitz and Rector
Prof. Hames*



EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

European Commission President Dr. Ursula von der Leyen received an honorary doctorate in June in recognition of her efforts to combat

climate change, fight antisemitism, and improve women's and gay rights, and build a more inclusive democratic society.

→ *The Sami Michael Prize award ceremony at the Writer's House. Photo: Diego Mittelberg*

↘ *Rector Prof. Chaim Hames (L) with the Ladislaus Laszt Ecumenical and Social Concern Award honorees*



SAMI MICHAEL PRIZE AWARDED AT WRITERS' HOUSE

The Sami Michael Prize for Equality and Social Justice was awarded to Dr. Dov Khenin, Naama Katiee, and David Mizrahi in December. The annual prize, a collaboration between the Sami Michael Foundation, the Herzog Institute, BGU's Heksherim Institute and the Writers' House in honor of Amos Oz, honors those who contribute to an equitable and just society.



LADISLAUS LASZT ECUMENICAL AWARDS GO TO ACTIVISTS IN ISRAEL

The University bestowed the 2022 Ladislaus Laszt Ecumenical and Social Concern Awards upon activists in Israel with a strong commitment to societal reform and interreligious dialogue: Brother Olivier from the Abu Ghosh Benedictine Monastery, the Negev Interreligious Initiative, and Ms. Yisca Harani.

UC BERKELEY PROFESSOR RECEIVES INAUGURAL ZUCKERBERG WATER PRIZE

Prof. Ashok Gadgil, professor of civil and environmental engineering at UC Berkeley, received the inaugural Zuckerberg Water Prize this spring for his lasting global impact in the field of water. The award was granted during the first biannual International Water Summit held at BGU.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS **RESEARCH** on **CAMPUS AND BEYOND**

→ *Members of the University's delegation to Ecuador with hosts. Photo: BGU Spokesperson, Shmuel Dovrat*



NEW COLLABORATION TAKES OFF WITH RESEARCH STATION IN GALAPAGOS

An 18-member delegation, led by President Chamovitz, Rector Prof. Chaim Hames, and Prof. Sigal Abramovich of the Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences, travelled to Ecuador and the Galapagos to advance research collaborations in the fields of sustainability. The visit, reciprocating the visit of a delegation from Universidad San Francisco de Quito last year, was supported through the generosity of Helen Deller, former Ambassador of Ecuador in Israel.

CLALIT HMO SIGNS JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY

Israel's largest HMO, Clalit Health Services, and the University have signed an agreement to carry out joint research for the benefit of Israeli society. Under the agreement, the two will jointly supervise students in related research and provide mutual access to data and information for research purposes..

BGU TO OPEN RESEARCH STATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Ashkelon Municipality and the University signed an agreement to establish a marine research station in Ashkelon, where the municipality and BGU scientists will explore issues such as seawater desalination, global warming and anthropogenic changes in Israel's territorial waters.



← Leadership of BGU, NJIT and A4BGU at the inauguration of the Institute for Future Technologies. Photo: Peter Labrozzi, NJIT

BGU AND NJIT UNVEIL INSTITUTE FOR FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

BGU and The New Jersey Institute of Technology officially opened their joint Institute of Future Technologies in New Jersey in September. The Institute will offer joint graduate degrees, support for ideation-stage startups and combined faculty appointments in fields such as artificial intelligence, civil engineering and cybersecurity.

TECH GIANT LENOVO OPENS RESEARCH CENTER AT BGU

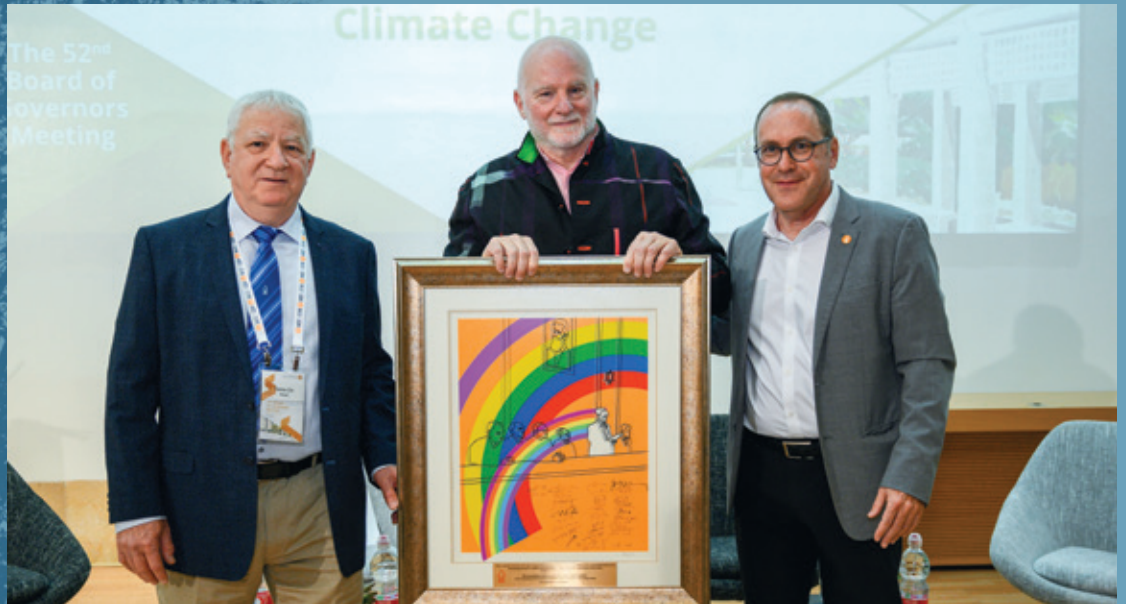
Lenovo, a global technology manufacturer, launched the Lenovo Cyber Security Innovation Center in collaboration with BGU's Cyber Security Research Center at the Advanced Technologies Park.



↑ Launch of the Lenovo Cyber Innovation Center. February 2023

NOTEWORTHY NEWS a **SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY**

→ Naming Ceremony of the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change at the 52nd Board of Governor's Meeting. Pictured (l-r): Head of the School, Prof. Yaron Ziv, Michael Sonnenfeldt and President Prof. Daniel Chamovitz



\$20 MILLION TO BE DONATED TO SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Goldman Sonnenfeldt Foundation has pledged \$20 million to BGU's interdisciplinary climate change school,

which was renamed the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change. This gift will enable the seamless integration of novel approaches to education, research and outreach as the world's environmental needs evolve.

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

The University's Executive Committee has decided to stop investing in companies that produce oil and coal and move those investments and all future investments into alternative energies and investment vehicles governed by ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) principles.

TRANSITIONING TO PAPERLESS EXAMS

Following successful pilot runs, over 100 end-of-term exams were conducted digitally in an effort to reduce the consumption of paper on campus. Over 240 kgs of wood were saved from just one final exam in Intro to Psychology. The move was initiated by concerned students and spearheaded by Green Campus.



ISRAEL'S CLIMATE CONFERENCE AT BGU

Ben-Gurion University was proud to be the academic partner and host of the Israel Climate Change Conference in conjunction with the Israel Climate Forum, an initiative of the President of the State of Israel. Some 500 leaders, including President Yitzhak Herzog, Minister for the Environment Idit Silman, Dr. Dov Khenin, Chairman of the Israel Climate Forum, and Michael Sonnenfeldt, debated challenges and possible solutions.

SOLAR POWER TO REDUCE UNIVERSITY'S ENERGY COSTS

The Marcus Family Campus will soon derive a portion of its energy from solar power. Solar panels were installed on the roofs of three buildings on the campus at a cost of NIS 2 million, which the University expects to recoup in energy cost savings over the next few years.

↑ *Solar panels were installed in November*

REPORTS



Prof. **CHAIM HAMES** RECTOR



SNIPPETS FROM THE RECTOR'S DIARY

2 March 2022

Driving back from a visit to our Sde Boker Campus, I wait impatiently for a phone call which will inform me of the results of the voting and whether I have been elected by the Senate for a second term as Rector of the University. I went to Sde Boker to see an exhibition on the effects of climate change on glaciers in Europe based on photographs taken from the same place almost a hundred years ago and recently. The exhibition fits in well with our goal to make BGU a leader in research and finding solutions for sustainability and climate change and the photos of then and now are shocking and provide much food for thought.

I am delighted to learn that most of the Senate thinks that I have done a good job over the past almost four years and has re-elected me for a second (and last) term.

23 May 2022

Always expect the unexpected! Two student organizations holding demonstrations at the same time on campus – what could go wrong? University campuses, by their very nature, have tended to be the place where future politicians and leaders learn the tools of their trade, and in my opinion, this should be encouraged – if the regulations governing political and public activity on campus are followed. We want vibrant and engaged campuses and both staff and students

should be informed and involved with issues concerning broader society. So, two requests for two opposing demonstrations on the same day, same place and the same time. After much consideration and consultation, it is decided to allow both events to take place.

The demonstrations are well attended and though there is much shouting and disagreement between the sides, the hour ends peacefully and all sides return to class together. Our strength lies in our ability to contain opposing views, and I will continue to defend the right to demonstrate on campus.

14 June 2022

Being Rector sometimes has its upsides. Today, we had the pleasure of giving an honorary doctorate to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Although a logistical nightmare, the whole event went off very well and her speech delivered in the Senate made headlines in Israel and abroad. She spoke very movingly about the Holocaust, antisemitism and Israel and delivered a strong statement about the illegitimate Russian invasion of Ukraine. I had the opportunity for a little private small talk and asked her whether the European Commission would decide in favor of the Ukrainian petition to join the EU. Surprisingly, she answered my question, and I got advance notice of the decision that would be made public at the end of that week.



↑ *Conferment of doctoral degrees upon graduates of the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies. June 2022*

19 June 2022

A moment for celebration. After almost two years of thought, formulation, reformulation, alterations and suggestions, refinement, discussion and persuasion, the University Senate finally voted to adopt the new bylaws dealing with hiring, promotion and tenure. While the democratic principles that underly our university governance made the process a long and arduous one, at the end of the day, these new bylaws, reflecting the academic excellence we want to achieve, belong to us all.

28 June 2022

The last official academic event of the year but perhaps the most important: the PhD degree granting ceremony celebrating our 288 new doctors of philosophy, many of whom will devote their lives to teaching and research for the betterment of humanity. This ceremony is a culmination of faculty and departmental graduation ceremonies held over the past week. Many of the new PhD recipients come to the stage to receive their diploma together with their children.

In the few seconds I have with each recipient as we shake hands (no coronavirus issues thank goodness),

I try and learn something about them and their plans. Their academic supervisors have clearly done a great job and I am very grateful.

A challenging but exciting academic year has come to an end.

3 August 2022

On the train back to Beer-Sheva after an interesting day at IDF command headquarters in central Tel Aviv. The University leadership was hosted by the general in charge of military intelligence in the house used by David Ben-Gurion when he was both Prime Minister and Defense Minister. The day was intended to strengthen ties with the intelligence units that will be moving to the south over the coming years and will, hopefully, become part of our ecosystem, both in research and in teaching.

21 September 2022

I just spent four intense days in New York at the A4BGU annual meeting, the first in-person meeting since the coronavirus. It was good to reconnect in person with our American colleagues and friends, and also to take part in the launch of our new academic cooperation with

the New Jersey Institute of Technology. If all goes well, researchers and students from BGU will be spending time there with their counterparts, working on joint projects mainly in hi-tech. It is a new adventure for us, and we will see how it develops.



↑ *Medical School for International Health Class of 2026 Physicians' Oath Ceremony, September 2022*

21 December 2022

A visit to the enormous sand pile that will eventually be the North Campus. The 1.2 km of tunnels which will connect all the buildings with the Energy Center are almost complete and the work on the first three buildings has started. The North Campus will take 30 years to complete, but it is where the future growth of the University lies, and it is very exciting to be involved in the early stages of planning and development. I look forward to watching how the campus develops over the coming decades.

20 January 2023

The final day of the first semester of the 2023 academic year and exams will be starting next week. Our attention is elsewhere as the new government embarks on legislation that many feel could undermine our democracy. I am concerned about its negative impact on Israeli academia and our University if it goes through. We need to do our utmost to protect academic freedom so that we can continue to do cutting-edge research and teach without fear of external intervention and the suppression of free speech. The next months are not going to be easy for any of us.

NEW SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

We are happy to report that as part of the implementation of the President's strategic plan we have established several interdisciplinary academic units that will both facilitate innovative cross-disciplinary collaborations and streamline administrative processes and costs. Four new schools were established over the past couple of years and are all offering degree programs this academic year:

The Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change, an interfaculty entity under the auspices of the Interdisciplinary Studies Unit at the Rector's Office, brings together some 135 faculty members from all our campuses and faculties.

The School of Brain Sciences and Cognition, another interfaculty school with some 70 faculty members from 18 different academic departments, covering every aspect of the brain, from the molecular and cellular levels to behavior and cognition.



The School of Bio-Medical Sciences, a multidisciplinary school bringing together all lab-based medical research at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The School of Education, bringing together various University units and programs related to education to encourage research excellence through collaborations and interdisciplinary perspectives.

We have also launched several new degree programs, including an interfaculty program in data science, several new tracks in environmental sciences, a PhD in civil engineering, a global health track in health systems management, a bio-physics master's track in life sciences, a European studies undergraduate program, a PhD in gender studies, an entrepreneurial leadership program, and more.



TAL BEN-HAIM

DIRECTOR-GENERAL



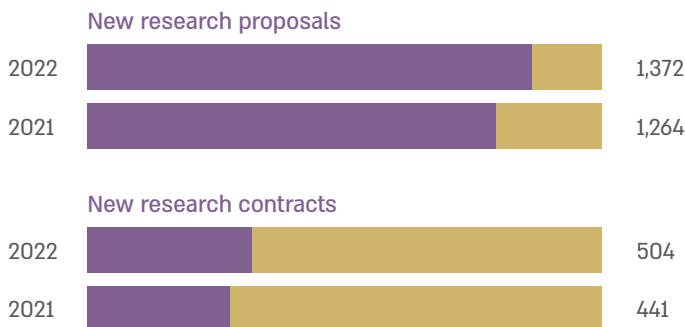
The core goal of the Director-General's office is to help chart BGU's path toward being one of the best universities in the world – a focus set by President Daniel Chamovitz. The past year since stepping into the role of my predecessor, David Bareket, has been a busy year of progress; we managed to keep the budget balanced and increase revenue streams so that we can realize this critical vision.

Two factors that determine the portion of our budget received from the government are our enrollment and research output. While BGU has experienced a decline in students, the University has seen a spike in its research output. So, while fewer students translates to less money from the Planning and Budgeting Committee of Israel's Council for Higher Education, the latter means increased funding that could ultimately keep the University in the green.

If we move quickly, we will see growth this year. We have put together a multi-pronged plan for success, including an integrated and aggressive marketing plan to encourage registration; created new attractive programs and services for students and researchers, including for soldiers and students from abroad; invested in improving a sense of security for students; and helped researchers receive grants to maximize their research options and outputs.

At the same time, BGU has launched an aggressive global campaign to raise \$100 million annually through philanthropy. We also plan to merge the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev and BGN Technologies to achieve new investment in the biotech area. We will also increase investments in startups in general. Finally, we plan to leverage the University's real estate assets, as well as creatively and effectively invest the University's funds.

Research Funding Growth



Over the past year, the physical development of the University continued – we are watching our dreams become a reality with every brick.

In May, the cornerstone was laid for a new, 3,800-square-meter, translational medical research building that will bring together BGU scientists and clinicians from Soroka University Medical Center. The building is being built on the Soroka campus, adjacent to the Faculty of Health Sciences, thanks to the support of the Adelis Foundation and named after its founder André Cohen Deloro.



↑ The University's U-Tel reopened in the new Student Village on North Campus. Pictured: President Prof. Daniel Chamovitz and Director-General Tal Ben-Haim

The Sylvan Adams Sports Center expansion should be completed this summer. The new center will be transformed by additional indoor swimming pools, a new cycling room and upgraded grounds and facilities, providing the student body and local community with a state-of-the-art fitness experience.

WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER A MULTI-PRONGED PLAN FOR SUCCESS, INCLUDING AN INTEGRATED AND AGGRESSIVE MARKETING PLAN TO ENCOURAGE REGISTRATION

At the same time, we have continued both groundwork and construction on the North Campus, enabling the expansion of existing disciplines and the establishment of new ones in line with national needs. Its 57 acres will allow us to accommodate a larger student body and an influx of soldiers and their families whose new bases are quickly moving to the region. We have already secured funding for several North Campus buildings, which is crucial to advancing our goals.

As part of its long-term strategic plan, the University focused on upgrading its digital systems. The

Technologies, Innovation and Digital (TID) Division expanded its BGI (business intelligence) System to student management, using it to improve student registration.

The University's Moodle learning platform moved to the cloud, improving response times, system availability, backup and security. We also rolled out TomaGrade, which allows professors to check exams and papers anywhere at any given moment. Finally, we launched a new multitouch, cloud-based digital marketing system to optimize and manage applicants' experiences.

The Operations Division focused on upgrading the living experience for BGU students. The Student Village on the North Campus is now at 97% occupancy, and we are currently housing information and communication technology soldier-students in a dedicated dormitory. Concurrently, we worked to improve dining experience at the Marcus Family Campus: over the summer, the central dining hall and its kitchens were renovated, with new furniture and an expanded menu.

The Operations Division added dozens of new seating areas, swings, sunshades, and bicycle and motorcycle racks throughout our campuses. A new outdoor fitness

→ *Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the André Deloro Medical Research Institute in May 2022*

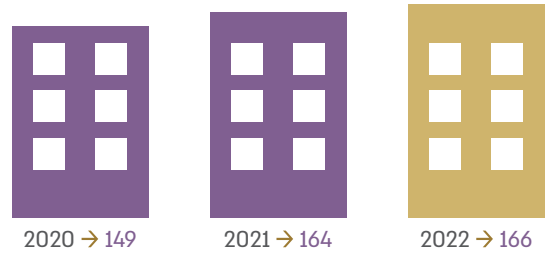


facility was installed in the Udi Garden. Finally, a NIS 1.5 million upgrade of the multimedia systems in the Gershon Cherni Classroom and Cultural Complex to improve students' learning experiences was completed.

THE STUDENT VILLAGE ON THE NORTH CAMPUS IS NOW AT 97% OCCUPANCY

The Human Resources Division offered several professional development opportunities, investing in ensuring our staff is the best it can be. Fifteen administrative department heads participated in one course, while 16 junior-level administrators participated in another. In addition, some 655 employees participated

Occupied Buildings across all Campuses*



* including dormitories

in 54 workshops on the University's values and branding, ensuring everyone knows what we stand for and how to speak about our inspiring institution.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Completed this year

- Renovation of the Ilanot Gate

Under construction

- Sylvan Adams Sports Center expansion
- North Campus utilities tunnels and underground infrastructure
- North Campus Infrastructure Center
- André Deloro Medical Research Institute – joint BGU-Soroka translational research building

In planning

- Drahi Innovation & Entrepreneurship Building, North Campus
- Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation Future Technologies Building, North Campus
- Helmsley Computer Science Building, North Campus
- Ernest Scheller, Jr. Gate of Innovation, North Campus

Future projects

- Civil and Environmental Engineering Building



Prof. DAN BLUMBERG VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



The Office of the Vice President for Regional and Industrial Development is charged with advancing and securing BGU's strategic role at the heart of the flourishing technological, scientific, and social ecosystem in Beer-Sheva and the Negev. The Office is also responsible for multi-sector collaborations that advance the University, the city of Beer-Sheva and the Negev.

In 2022, the Office focused on three primary goals: charting a plan for the Beer-Sheva Innovation District; promoting further cooperation with Israel Defense Force units moving south; and developing the regional ecosystem.

Government resolution No. 625, which supports the Beer-Sheva Innovation District, was passed on November 14, 2021. To promote the growth of this district, the Regional and Industrial Development Office is hosting bi-monthly meetings with core partners. These include the Beer-Sheva Municipality and Soroka University Medical Center.

The goal is to hasten physical development plans, establish joint research programs and strengthen the ecosystem in general. Considerable progress has been made in all these areas.

First, a team of architects is pursuing the subject of "placemaking" on Ben-Gurion Blvd. A separate team of architects is designing an innovation building that will be used by the innovation district administration and be available for use by the public, including entrepreneurs and startups.

BGU, together with its strategic partners and other relevant players, went on a fact-finding tour abroad with the support of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Division for the Promotion of Personnel in Public Service and the National Economic Council of the Prime Minister's Office with the aim of learning about innovation districts in the United States. The team learned much about the role of universities as an engine of growth.

This year we responded to a number of significant calls to strengthen the city and the region in general: The first was an invitation from the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) to apply for a sum of NIS 25 million to



↑ Prof. Yuval Elovici, Col. Eran Niv, head of the IDF's Communications Branch, and Prof. Dan Blumberg at BGU's Cyber Security Research Center, headed by Elovici

establish a corporation whose purpose is to empower the city and the innovation district by creating a platform to promote and improve research technologies and attract large companies to the area. The corporation will be spearheaded by BGU in collaboration with Soroka University Medical Center, the Merage Foundation Israel, Elbit Systems, and Dell, and will be called Synergy 7.

Likewise, the Israel Innovation Authority established a special track for the city of Beer-Sheva to strengthen its status as a knowledge-intensive industrial center in the Israeli ecosystem. The track focuses on fortifying the city's research and development infrastructure, strengthening the local entrepreneurship ecosystem, and stimulating the arrival of large hi-tech companies to the area.

BGU also applied for a grant to operate an innovative laboratory for the examination and promotion of spatial, regional and urban issues using advanced technological

tools. The lab will involve public participation and be a collaboration between the innovation district in Beer-Sheva, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the IDF's technology units in the area.

BGU'S EXPERTISE IN CYBERSECURITY ATTRACTED NEW MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES TO MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH BGU

We applied for and already received two additional grants: a call for cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote joint research with universities abroad and a call from the Ministry of Environmental Protection to establish a DeserTech knowledge center. The latter will provide the infrastructure in Israel and worldwide for vital, innovative applied on climate change, with a focus on the desert environment.

Yazamut 360°

Yazamut empowers students, researchers and staff from every faculty and discipline to address the challenges most important to them and their communities by providing the skills and support to develop new startups



↑ Dr. Shimrit Maman of BGU's Earth and Planetary Image Facility with students from the "Space Gurion" community at Yazamut 360°

and run them. Programs include leadership training, a unique student-led venture capital firm, a business accelerator, management courses and innovation training with Google.

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS:



120+
participants in
Negev Prime
E-commerce
program



2
Yazamut alumni
chosen as promising
leaders by "Forbes
30 Under 30"



2
exits by
Yazamut startups



\$17 million
raised by
Yazamut startups



8,000
BGU students
engaged in Yazamut
activities

BGN TECHNOLOGIES



As the University's technology transfer company, BGN Technologies serves as the bridge between BGU and industry. It promotes applied research collaboration between BGU researchers and companies and protects and commercializes BGU inventions through patent prosecution, licensing agreements, and the establishment of startups based on BGU intellectual property.

2022 was marked by an upturn in the number of new inventions generated by BGU researchers. More than 100 new patent disclosures were filed in fields ranging from agriculture and biotech to artificial intelligence and robotics. BGN's business development team initiated and participated in a wide range of events promoting BGU's capabilities in homeland security, agriculture, food tech, biopharma, sustainable materials, cybersecurity, medical devices and more.

BGU's world-renowned expertise in cybersecurity attracted new multinational companies from the US, Europe and Asia to enter into multi-million dollar research projects with BGU researchers last year.

Moreover, BGN renewed its research collaboration with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and introduced a new program named KidStart, which brings

together teams of researchers, students and clinicians from the two institutions to define and develop new medical devices for pediatric applications. The 40+ participants created eight projects and received preliminary funding to develop prototypes, with the most promising projects set to be awarded more significant grants to help them become viable startups in the coming years.

BGN was part of successful collaborations for winning Israeli government tenders in 2022: BGN was part of a consortium selected by the Israel Innovation Authority to establish a new technological incubator for startup companies in the field of health tech. In addition, BGN, Soroka University Medical Center, Dell, Elbit and the Merage Foundation Israel won a tender to create new infrastructure to support technological entrepreneurship in Beer-Sheva.

Finally, BGN continues to fulfill its role in realizing BGU's vision to promote entrepreneurship among its faculty, with seven new startups established in 2022 and more on the way. One of the startup companies established by BGU over a decade ago, CartiHeal, whose technology for the regeneration of bone cartilage using coral transplants is based on an invention by Prof. Razi Vago, made headlines when it was acquired by medical device company Bioventus for \$500 million.

Furthermore, in 2022, we established a joint bachelor's degree program for instructors at the IDF Communications Branch School for Software and Cyber Security, which has moved to the ATP next door. About 25 instructors have begun the program.

Finally, we hosted a 24-hour joint hackathon with BGU students and soldiers from the IDF Communications Branch and met with several groups of high school students interested in enrolling in a joint military-academic program at the University.

↓ L-R: Prof. Dan Blumberg, NASA astronaut Randolph J. Bresnik, President Chamovitz, Orna Saban, Ramon Foundation Chairman, and Gil Doron, Ramon Foundation Dir-Gen. Photo: Office of the VP for Regional and Industrial Development





Photo: Avivit Isaacson

Prof. LIMOR AHARONSON-DANIEL VICE PRESIDENT FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



The Office of the Vice President for Global Engagement is responsible for formulating and setting policy for BGU's internationalization. Under the Office, *BGU International* supports the University's international academic affairs strategy. This is one aspect of the University's strategic plan to become one of the world's leading academic institutions, a plan set in motion a decade ago.

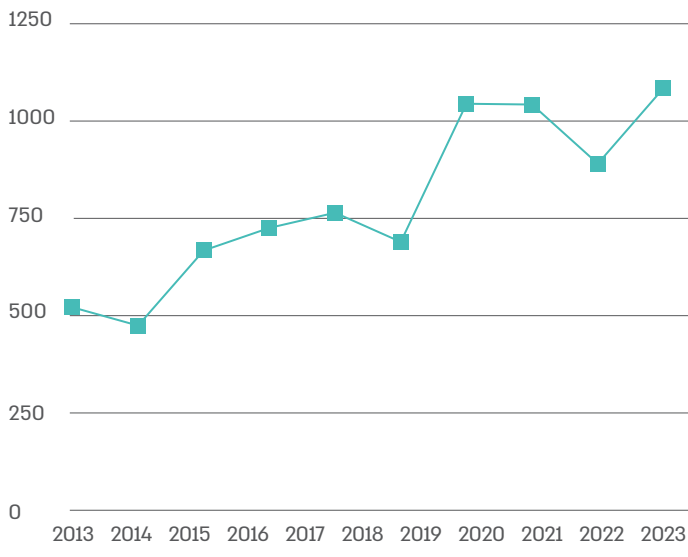
To reach this goal, BGU has had to strengthen its English infrastructure in all University systems and documents,

enrich course offerings in English, and integrate an intercultural dimension into those courses.

The first two years of this decade were marred by the COVID-19 pandemic, which changed the face of higher education in general and international education in particular. Summer programs were canceled, peer visits were postponed. At BGU, we used the time to rethink our strategy. Several insights gained during the pandemic will guide us in the upcoming years.

Despite the restrictions on air travel, quarantines, and other challenges during the pandemic, a greater number of students came to BGU to participate in long-term programs. In 2022, we had the highest ever number of international master's and PhD students.

A decade of international students at BGU (2013-2023)



IN 2022, WE HAD THE HIGHEST EVER NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S AND PHD STUDENTS.

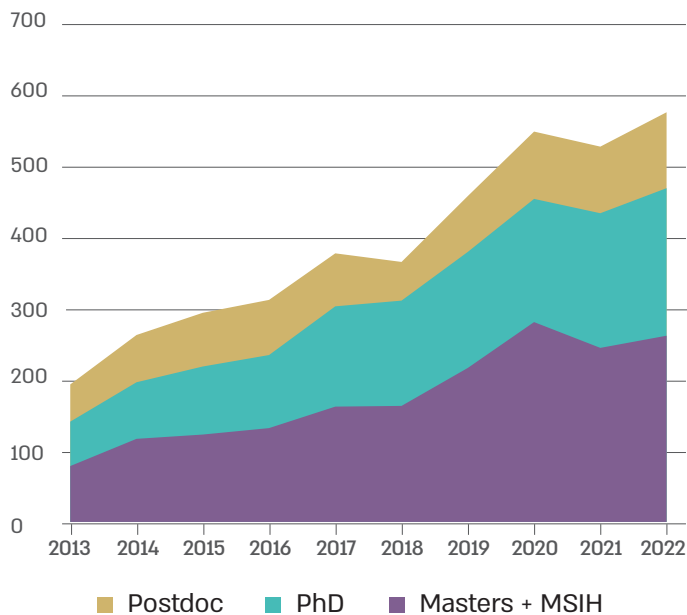
Global engagement is an ongoing process, meaning that the results are not immediately or directly evident.

From 2017, Israel's Council of Higher Education (CHE) budgeting committee designated a budget for internationalization of the Israeli higher education system based on key performance indicators. We were able to secure funds based on a detailed annual strategic and performance plan and used them to create new activities and programs. Unfortunately, the CHE announced that, in the future, it will be reallocating this funding to



← 2022 International summer courses graduation ceremony

A decade of research students at BGU



other fields, and thus, BGU will have to find alternative resources to continue our growth in this area.

While our growth has been exponential in advanced studies, we still have a way to go with our undergraduate international programs. Until now, we have only been able to offer a full undergraduate degree program in English literature and linguistics, though we do have

a number of summer, semester-long and year abroad programs for the undergraduate community. We recently submitted a request to approve a new international undergraduate program in sustainable agriculture, which we plan to open for the 2024 academic year.

Our ability to develop new programs relies largely on collaboration between faculty deans and heads of schools. Regular meetings are held with the deans to discuss policy for growth and challenges related to international students and programs. The deans are very supportive of global engagement and interested in the internationalization of their faculties, and these meetings have contributed significantly to our development in 2022.

2022 PROGRAMS

As the Vice President of Global Engagement, my challenge is to continue to develop meaningful strategic ties to leverage the University's excellence and increase its impact worldwide. Below are a few examples of our achievements in 2022:

Ten students from Oxford University and six from MIT did their academic internships at BGU labs in the summer of 2022.

The first chemistry master's degree students from the University of Edinburgh arrived for a year of research at BGU, based on an existing agreement between the two universities. We envision that this program has the potential to bring excellent PhD students from the UK to BGU.



← *Closing ceremony of the 2022 international summer programs*

We also received students from leading universities around the world – Oxford University, University of Southern California, Lund University, University of Rennes 1 and more – for our “sandwich doctorate” program, which has been supported by the CHE internationalization budget. The hope is that students who spend a year in a BGU lab will want to come back for postdoctoral work. Even if not, the joint research and publications produced by such collaborations are of value.

THE BGU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BODY IS COMPRISED OF STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES. THE LARGEST SUBGROUP IS GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM INDIA.

The BGU-NJIT (New Jersey Institute of Technology) Institute for Future Technologies program was inaugurated in March 2022 and brought together 24 pairs of researchers from the two universities for joint research projects. Some of these are already slated to secure binational research funding.

The Abraham Accords created opportunities for academic collaborations in Morocco. Four doctoral students from two universities in Morocco with whom

we recently signed agreements attended our summer courses in 2022. We are also discussing joint study programs and research exchanges for 2023.

I have faith that our collaboration with Moroccan partners will become fruitful and enduring cooperations. For example, in October 2023 we will be re-opening our international master’s program in Middle Eastern Studies. This program will include a joint course with the International University of Rabat.

In 2022, we decided to increase mobility with countries outside the European Union (where EU grants support mobility). To do so, we launched the VP for Global Engagement Fund, which supports student mobility globally. For example, it is currently supporting a BGU master’s student for a semester at Stanford University. It has funded multiple undergraduates in student exchanges, and as long as funds suffice, it will also support outstanding international students attending BGU non-degree programs in 2023.

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

The BGU international student body is comprised of students from more than 70 countries. The largest subgroup is graduate research students from India. The



← BGU Strikers cricket team.
Photo: Satish Nadawale

↓ One of many, an academic delegation from the University of Seoul visited in January

Indian community is active in organizing celebrations of Indian holidays, such as Holi and Diwali, and even initiated a national cricket league where our team, the BGU Strikers, are the reigning champions.

WHILE OUR GROWTH HAS BEEN EXPONENTIAL IN ADVANCED STUDIES, WE STILL HAVE A WAY TO GO WITH OUR UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS.

I concluded my first term as Vice President for Global Engagement in December 2022. These have been challenging, but very gratifying, years. During this time, the number of international masters' students doubled, and the number of international doctoral and postdoctoral fellows grew by 50%.

Our partnerships today are more substantial and meaningful. Our goals and path to achieving them are clearer. All of this could not have been possible without an amazing team of talented women. I am thankful for the privilege to build and to continue to be working with BGU International, the devoted team headed by Dr. Stavi Baram that executes BGU's internationalization strategy.



Looking ahead, we will soon open BGU's Welcome Center to meet the needs expressed by international students and researchers during the President's BGYou strategic consultations. The Center will provide a one-stop-shop for all administrative issues related to international students and researchers, setting new standards for BGU.



**Prof. RAZ
JELINEK** VICE PRESIDENT
AND DEAN FOR
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT



The Office of the Vice President and Dean for Research and Development is responsible for managing and developing all research activities at BGU. The main goal is to encourage and promote cutting-edge research based on the proven capabilities and expertise of our scholars and scientists. The Research and Development Authority facilitates this by supporting researchers in securing funding and managing their research budgets.

As part of the efforts to advance BGU to the forefront of research institutions worldwide, the Office of the Vice President and Dean for R&D has been supporting

supra-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research initiatives and programs. We have held a number of short two-day retreats on various subjects – such as energy sustainability and digital humanities – in order to stimulate new ideas and create research communities.

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN FOR R&D HAS BEEN SUPPORTING SUPRA-DISCIPLINARY AND INTER-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

In January, we held the second annual BGU Research Fest. The highlight of the event was the inauguration of the Manya Igel BGU-FOR (Food systems, One health, and Resilience) Research Center, under the leadership of Prof. Dorit Nitzan, a former head of Emergency Services for the World Health Organization. This initiative, made possible by the estate of the late Manya Igel, will explore the connections and impact of food and ecosystems on nutrition quality, equity and security, the molecular factors contributing to food systems and health, and the relationship between food systems, human and animal health, and resilience in the face of global emergencies.

Finally, we also invested NIS 30 million in new faculty absorption packages to ensure that we are able to attract and retain the best and brightest young faculty members.



↑ *Women in Science Day, February*



Dr. Yair Hartman



Prof. Jennifer Oser



Prof. Itzik Mizrahi



Prof. Ehud Meron

NOTABLE GRANTS

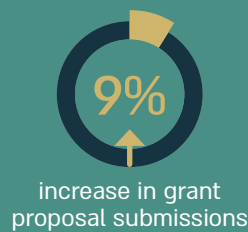
Prof. Jennifer Oser of the Dept. of Politics and Government, and Dr. Yair Hartman of the Dept. of Mathematics received highly competitive Starting Grants from the European Research Council (ERC).

The grant provides € 1.5 million over five years, with an additional € 1 million for startup costs.

Prof. Itzik Mizrahi of the Dept. of Life Sciences was one of just 55 researchers to receive an ERC Proof of Concept Grant to develop probiotics targeting cellulose, a main component of dietary fiber. Mizrahi was also one of three winners in the research track of the inaugural Climate Solutions Prize granted by JNF Canada, KKL-JNF Israel and Start-Up Nation Central. He won for his efforts to engineer cows' microbiome to reduce the amount of methane they produce.

Prof. Ehud Meron of the Alexandre Yersin Dept. of Solar Energy and Environmental Physics and research partners from Utrecht, Leiden and Edinburgh universities received an ERC Synergy Grant of €10 million euros for a multidisciplinary project studying whether and how tipping points in ecosystems can be prevented.

17
Ministry of Energy grants
with an **86%**
success rate



72 ISF
(Israel Science Foundation)
grants
totaling NIS **70** million



Total Investment in Research (US\$ M)

	Competitive grants & contracts	Non-competitive grants & contracts	Donations	BGU research funding
2019/20	46.9	45.7	20.9	12.4
2020/21	50.1	39.0	33.2	8.6
2021/22	50.7	44.2	25.0	14.5

Figures are based on full amounts of research grants or donor commitments and not payments received.



**Prof. SARAB
ABU-RABIA
QUEDER** VICE PRESIDENT
FOR DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION



The Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion was created in 2021. The Office is guided by the principle that the University is not only responsible for producing academic knowledge and disseminating it to the world, but also for shaping the values of the graduates that we produce. Our goal is to shape students who are committed to social justice and gender equity and who are cognizant of the struggle against injustice, racism and discrimination.

THE OFFICE IS GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE UNIVERSITY IS NOT ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE AND DISSEMINATING IT TO THE WORLD, BUT ALSO FOR SHAPING THE VALUES OF THE GRADUATES THAT WE PRODUCE

Improving diversity on campus means uniting diverse groups, such as Arabs and Jews, and creating opportunities for partnership and collaborations between them. It means developing opportunities for those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and education systems to succeed in higher education. It also means forging an inclusive institutional climate that celebrates diversity of language, culture and narrative and fosters the potential to excel by creating a sense of belonging on campus. Studies have shown that feelings of belonging improve the achievements of both male and female students and faculty on college campuses.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2022:

Admissions: BGU has adopted an alternative admission process for students of Ethiopian origin with the aim of increasing representation.

First-Generation Women Doctoral Students: BGU has developed a program to support first-generation women doctoral students in and outside of the classroom, including a series of workshops to help them adjust to academia. The goal is to increase their chances of completing their degrees and securing academic appointments.

Evaluating Diversity: The University produced its first ever diversity report, which revealed that many populations are still underrepresented on campus. To address this, we are developing alternative acceptance tracks, mainly for first generation students.

Likewise, we conducted a survey on experiences of racism and discrimination on campus. We learned that students want and are willing to participate in meetings to help bridge divides and build a more shared campus life. Both Jews and Arabs said that relations became more polarized following security incidents and expressed willingness to connect through institutional activities.

Education for Inclusion: Professional development workshops and lectures were held for academic staff on designing inclusive classes. Similarly, departmental mentors were selected and trained to identify students



← Jewish-Arab dialogue circle as part of the Let's Talk event. Photo: Irit Berezin

↓ A prospective student speaks at the launch of the Momentum Program for Bedouin high school students who excel in math

from underrepresented communities who are at risk of dropping out and help them persevere.

At the same time, a committee was established to manage complaints about discrimination and racism. The committee is working on developing a course to train faculty and raise their awareness of these issues. We have already piloted a training program on dealing with crisis situations for employees of the Security Department. It was so successful that it will now be integrated into their regular training schedule.

Finally, a conference on ultra-Orthodox integration into academia is being planned.

Celebrating Differences: Events marking diverse holidays and days of commemoration were held, including Ethiopian Eid al-Sijd, Muslim Ramadan, International Women's Day, and more.

We held a conference to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and are organizing a conference for 2023 focused on racism in the healthcare system that will be aimed at students and staff in the Faculty of Health Sciences.



Strengthening Dialogue in Daily Life: Where Do We Go from Here? The Living Together Program was launched to promote dialogue and rapprochement between diverse groups on campus. The program uses existing platforms and creates new ones to help make the issue of a shared life part of the University's DNA. As part of the program, a two-credit interfaculty course introducing minority groups in Israeli society is being developed. It will be offered as part of the humanities and social sciences requirements for students in engineering and natural sciences.

THE LIVING TOGETHER PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE AND RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN DIVERSE GROUPS ON CAMPUS

A new series of podcasts is being developed in collaboration with BGU Radio showcasing unheard voices on campus.

We are offering guided educational tours for University staff and students to get to know people who are different from them in their home environments, and we are developing diversity workshops for learning about Israeli society for student leaders in collaboration with the Student Union.

Fifty Jewish and Arab students were selected to study Arabic and Hebrew together, in collaboration with the Maayan Bamidbar Program. Academic departments were called upon to encourage research initiatives based on collaborations between Jews and Arabs.

Finally, the Let's Talk event held in 2022 kicked off what will be a year of Jewish-Arab dialogue through a series of events, including an ongoing dialogue group for students who are interested in discussing the value of and efforts required to build a shared campus life. The program is expected to culminate in a big event during the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, which takes place on May 21st this year.



← Graduation of the 9th cohort of the Windows onto Campus Dreams program



COMMUNITY ACTION DEPARTMENT

Each year, around 400 students donate their time and skills through the Community Action Department to effect change for some of the most underprivileged members of the Beer-Sheva community.

About 800 residents of Beer-Sheva and its environs – including new immigrants, Bedouins, prisoners, individuals with mental illness and others – participate in Community Action Department programs providing the opportunity to attend classes and learn basic subjects.

Around 15 prisoners studied on campus for about four

months through the Windows onto Campus Dreams program and were exposed to subjects ranging from geography to robotics. An ongoing program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities offered some 62 participants classes in geography, medicine, politics, government and, beginning this year, communications.

Finally, the Lillian and Larry Goodman Open Apartments Program provides select students rent-free housing in exchange for community service in some of Beer-Sheva's most challenging neighborhoods. The students provide services to the community, such as mentoring and after-school programming, holiday gatherings, community theater and home repairs. In our unique community theater program, neighborhood residents and students collaborated in producing plays and other performances centered on immigration.



JEFF KAYE

VICE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT



BGU Beyond 50, the strategic plan initiated by the President and adopted by the University in 2020, provides a roadmap for BGU's advancement. The plan articulates the University's goal of becoming one of the world's most outstanding universities and Israel's leading university in terms of research, teaching and contribution to society, alongside a strategy to achieve it.

The Division of Public Affairs and Resource Development is responsible for raising the public awareness and financial support needed to enable BGU to execute its strategic plan, accomplish its goals and realize its vast potential. However, the Division's approach to fulfilling its responsibilities is deeply affected by the world around us.

We are living in turbulent times. Weighty global challenges like climate change often seem insurmountable. Extreme events like war and natural disasters have devastating consequences, causing tremendous hardship and loss. Yet, Ben-Gurion University is a truly bright spot in today's world. The University is an agent of change; an engine for good, growth and social mobility; and a positive force locally in Beer-Sheva and further afield, across the Negev, Israel and the world.

The University continually promotes research and teaching excellence and seeks to expand its areas of expertise to increase its impact and improve the world. Our values guide our efforts, reflect our optimism, and can serve as a rallying point in these turbulent times. We believe that everything is possible, and

that curiosity, imagination and flexibility are the key to creating knowledge and impact. We dare to go boldly, actively seeking out new challenges, and expanding opportunities by embracing diversity. We exemplify the Israeli spirit and strive to be a central force for innovation in Israel. We value excellence, integrity and the power of being together, seeking out connections and working together for a greater, collective purpose.

And so, BGU is part of the solution, and as such, offers people around the world a way to be part of the solution, too.

People around the globe from diverse cultures with different perspectives and a shared desire to make a difference can get behind BGU and work together with us to address the issues most concerning to them, be they climate change, poverty, healthcare or social inequity. Joining forces in this way can be extremely powerful and meaningful in its own right. It also has a multiplying effect, promoting goodwill on a larger scale and creating global strength and momentum.

Over the years, BGU has been blessed to form partnerships with extraordinary individuals and institutions. The University has a strong network of associate organizations committed to advancing the University by promoting awareness and support worldwide. The BGU family continuously grows, reflecting expanding interest in our institution and its great potential.



↑ Dedication of the Dov Chernichovsky Auditorium



↑ Launch of the Aliyah to Academia Program, with Dr. Yuri Kanner, Vice President of the World Jewish Congress (R)

This interest is exemplified in the growth of the Halutz Initiative for Global Leadership. This immersive program turns BGU and the Negev into a platform for understanding today's global challenges and becoming part of the solutions. This year, we welcomed our second Halutz cohort, a fantastic group of 15 participants from 7 countries, who will become vehicles for change through this program. In the years to come, each of our new partners will forge new networks of support for BGU research and activities while helping build a better world.

BGU IS PART OF THE SOLUTION, AND AS SUCH, OFFERS PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD A WAY TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, TOO

But to fulfill our dreams for the University and become the best BGU possible, we will need to expand our global network of friends and supporters further. We must seek partnerships with more people and institutions around the globe who understand the strategic importance of BGU for the future of Israel and the world.

Our success in realizing BGU's potential will depend on the commitment of our long-time supporters – families and individuals who played an instrumental role in BGU's establishment and whose second and third generations continue to help the University thrive today – as well as new connections with people who aren't yet familiar with us or live in regions where we don't have an associates organization. Likewise, our success will rely on the involvement of philanthropists and foundations with an

illustrious history of giving, as well as people new to the world of philanthropy, who will come to see BGU as a vehicle for more significant personal impact, a means of fulfilling cherished values, and a way of working toward a more critical, collective purpose.

These partnerships will emerge from the strong foundation created by our worldwide associates organizations who actively raise awareness of BGU among new audiences and long-time friends in their communities by hosting events and activities. They are also those we rely on to raise funds by developing and maintaining close relationships with our current and future supporters. This year, the Division of Public Affairs and Resource Development has worked closely with our associates organizations and bolstered their efforts.

The Global Development Committee, headed by Toni Young, is also critical to our efforts to welcome new people to the BGU family and raise additional funds on behalf of the University. Established in 2021, the Committee furthers collaboration between our associates organizations to achieve BGU's fundraising goals. Under Toni's leadership, the committee prepared a global resource development plan focused on three areas:

1. Translating the strategic plan into a fundraising campaign.
2. Developing the North Campus, Sde Boker, and Eilat campuses.
3. Engaging with our current and future friends and supporters.



← Our Canadian friends at the dedication of the Cyndi and Max Mintzberg Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism Building and the Ben-Gurion Archives during the 52nd annual Board of Governors meeting

The Committee also held several well-attended and inspiring Global Campaign Summits last year to strategize and plan a 10-year global fundraising campaign to raise the funds needed to implement BGU's strategic plan.

Over the last few years, we have laid the groundwork for this significant undertaking critical to BGU's growth and development. We have an excellent team of lay and professional leaders at the helm of the Global Campaign, each of whom is invested in its success as a vehicle for BGU's success. In addition, we have begun to build partnerships and person-to-person connections

that bring expertise, know-how, vision, and creativity together with financial resources, passion and a desire to make a difference.

I invite you to join us and become part of the solution. Explore the many meaningful opportunities BGU offers. Visit the University and meet our researchers, see our students and experience the Beer-Sheva spirit and BGU energy yourself. I'm confident you'll be impressed and inspired by what you see.

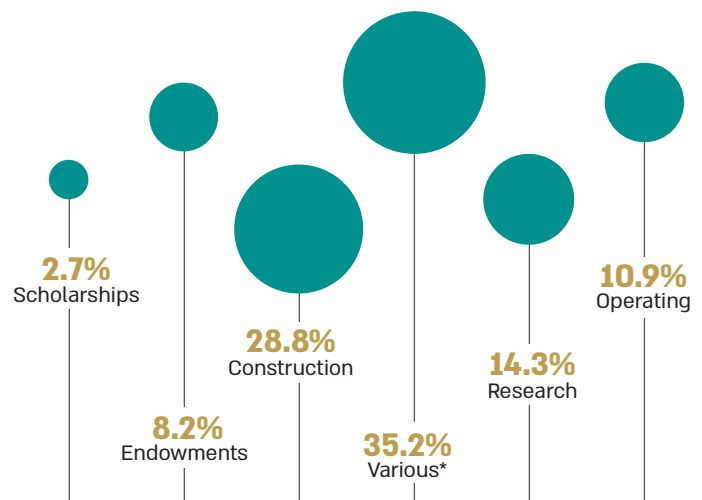
If I can assist you in planning a visit or answer any questions you might have about BGU, please feel free to reach out to me directly at jeffkaye@bgu.ac.il.

OUR WORLDWIDE FAMILY OF ASSOCIATES AT WORK 2021/22 YEAR-END FIGURES


	Total
Contributions Received	\$47,630,509
Interest Income from Endowments	\$30,326,539
Endowment Fund Balance (as of 30/9/2022)	\$776,734,768

1. Contribution figures are gross and do not reflect local fundraising charges.
2. All figures are approximate due to fluctuating exchange and interest rates.
3. Endowment balance includes \$448.0 million in the Marcus Fund and approximately \$54.9 million in endowment funds held in the U.S. by and on behalf of A4BGU. (The figure does not include approximately \$22.5 million in trust funds held by and on behalf of A4BGU.)
4. 2021/22 income distribution figure above represents the income distributed on endowments held in Israel (3.5%); \$19.63 million income released from the Marcus Fund; and \$1.74 million (4%) income released on endowment funds held in the U.S. by and on behalf of A4BGU.

DESIGNATION OF DONATIONS



* Various: Leadership training; community involvement; support for certain centers/institutes; fellowships and scholarships outside the operating budget; faculty development; special projects; pending designation.



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Figures



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BGU in NUMBERS

DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BY FACULTY AND DEGREE, 2021-2023*

	Humanities and Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Engineering Sciences	Health Sciences	Business and Management	Desert Studies	Kreitman Graduate School	Ben-Gurion Research Institute	Interdisciplinary Studies Unit**	Total for degree level
2022-2023										
Bachelor's	3,081	2,203	5,149	2,168	1,155	0	0	0	487	13,091
Master's	1,070	307	895	712	576	88	0	23	12	3,683
PhD	492	324	414	268	53	111	52	0	11	1,725
Postdoc	82	111	64	37	4	72	5	0	0	375
Non-Degree	116	4	206	17	21	4	0	1	0	369
Teaching Certificate	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	109
Total	4,844	2,937	6,634	3,142	1,805	267	57	24	510	19,352

ENROLLMENT* 19,046**

	Humanities and Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Engineering Sciences	Health Sciences	Business and Management	Desert Studies	Kreitman Graduate School	Ben-Gurion Research Institute	Interdisciplinary Studies Unit**	Total for degree level
2021-2022										
Bachelor's	3,321	2,243	5,286	2,139	1,217	0	0	0	402	13,419
Master's	1,142	332	977	786	868	81	0	19	23	4,228
PhD	502	312	416	260	52	109	60	0	18	1,729
Postdoc	88	104	55	31	2	63	6	0	2	351
Non-Degree	153	2	143	15	19	2	0	0	0	334
Teaching Certificate	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125
Total	5,217	2,986	6,781	3,189	2,158	252	66	19	445	20,186

ENROLLMENT* 19,897**

Notes

* Student numbers include students studying at BGU in Beer-Sheva, Sde Boker, and Eilat, in both degree and non-degree programs. They do not include international students, students in pre-academic prep courses, the Air Force pilot program, and auditors. The above figures refer to first semester only.

** The Interdisciplinary Studies Unit oversees students enrolled in interdisciplinary schools and programs, including the School of Brain Sciences and Cognition and the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change.

*** Actual number of students enrolled does not match total, because there are students enrolled in multiple faculties or pursuing multiple degrees.

2022/23 OVERALL UNIVERSITY BUDGET (NIS/USD THOUSANDS IN CURRENT PRICES)

	Operating Budget		Research Budget		Development Budget		Special Programs		Total Budget	
	NIS	USD	NIS	USD	NIS	USD	NIS	USD	NIS	USD
Expenditure	1,397,487	408,622	280,000	81,871	193,471	56,570	149,769	43,792	2,020,727	590,856
Income	1,397,487	408,622	280,000	81,871	193,471	56,570	155,533	45,477	2,026,491	592,541

UNIVERSITY OPERATING BUDGET (NIS/USD MILLIONS)

	2021-2022			2022-2023			% change
	NIS m	USD m	%	NIS m	USD m	%	
INCOME							
CHE Planning & Budgeting Committee	1,049.9	318.2	75.7%	1,050.4	307.1	75.2%	0.0%
Tuition and dorms	218.5	66.2	15.7%	214.9	62.8	15.4%	-1.6%
Contributions	1.9	0.6	0.1%	1.5	0.4	0.1%	-20.5%
Endowment funds	52.9	16.0	3.8%	61.1	17.9	4.4%	15.7%
Other income	61.5	18.6	4.4%	61.9	18.1	4.4%	0.7%
Transfer from funds	2.7	0.8	0.2%	7.7	2.2	0.6%	187.9%
TOTAL	1,387.3	420.4	100.0%	1,397.5	408.6	100.0%	0.7%
EXPENDITURE							
Salaries	995.6	301.7	71.8%	1,009.4	295.1	72.2%	1.4%
Fellowships & student assistance	90.0	27.3	6.5%	90.0	26.3	6.4%	0.0%
Teaching & research	59.9	18.2	4.3%	57.4	16.8	4.1%	-4.2%
Institutes & research centers	52.8	16.0	3.8%	53.4	15.6	3.8%	1.2%
Computing	22.3	6.8	1.6%	23.8	7.0	1.7%	6.7%
Library expenses	26.9	8.2	1.9%	27.1	7.9	1.9%	0.5%
Administration	29.1	8.8	2.1%	32.3	9.5	2.3%	11.3%
Maintenance	94.1	28.5	6.8%	98.5	28.8	7.1%	4.7%
Financing	16.4	5.0	1.2%	5.5	1.6	0.4%	-66.4%
TOTAL	1,387.3	420.4	100.0%	1,397.5	408.6	100.0%	0.7%
NIS/USD exchange rate:	3.30			3.42			
Higer education budgeting index	138.24			138.24			

BGU WELCOMES STELLAR CROP ^{of} NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

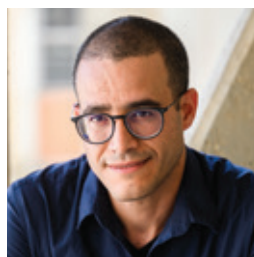
Recruitment and retention of the best and brightest young researchers is a vital part of our efforts to become a leading global institution. This year we welcome some 30 outstanding new faculty members, and we look forward to their breakthroughs and scientific advances.



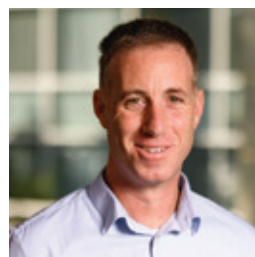
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*Experiments always reveal
something more complex and
interesting than the initial
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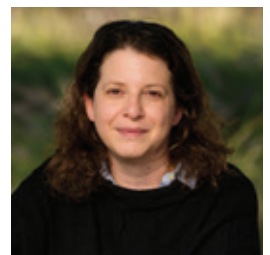
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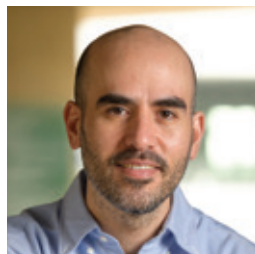
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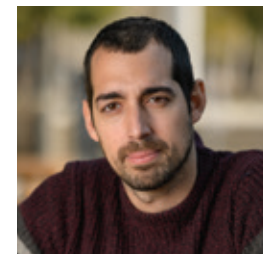
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you makes you stronger" is
simply not true. Stress events
affect us all, and we need to
be aware of their impact

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