The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Inspiring a Nation*

The President’s Report 2007/2008
פריגת ישראלי
הממשלת העברית

קדמה, דבר
באנשלום
(19.8.48)

לכתב
ànhלת האנציקלופדיה העברית,
ירוחם

אזכור

המשהדה עדכ בبسيطתה בידם כח, תמרז, תש"ח, בשלום
הארכיון העברית וחברת רכיבת אונמה התחלフル

א. משכלה ישראל ערביה – העיר ירושלים הקתת רוחות
המורxFD לחרות, להרבון ולרקבת לכל הארץ ר醫生 ערביה.

ב. הלכה ערבית המשרדה, כי על האנציקלופדיה העברית
לרשויות ו,:,ו,ת ו,ה בתיו ירושלים שגרו בהודיק מצרים
מרצד של ארץ-ישראל רשם מדרים ישראל.

ג. משכלה ישראל שלישית כל עליה ערביה לקיבוץ האוגר
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ד. ברכו העצ現場 נהנה של האנציקלופדיה העברית בברירה
הנט ברודן ו,ו,ר,ו,ו,מש,ה המשרדה והобыти לא רחוק
בכל ארצות תבל לבאר עליה האנציקלופדיה במלוא
המקידת.
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Inspiring a Nation

Translation of an excerpt from the letter from David Ben-Gurion to the administration of the Hebrew University, recognizing its central importance to the nascent State of Israel.

a) The Government of Israel resolves that in the future, as in the past, the city of Jerusalem shall be the religious, cultural and scientific centre of the entire country and of the Jewish people.

b) The Government therefore resolves that it is incumbent upon the Hebrew University to continue its activities and to develop them in Jerusalem, as a central scientific institution of Palestine and the State of Israel.

c) The Government of Israel will extend to the University all assistance possible for its maintenance, development and the expansion of its work.

d) In view of the lofty mission to be performed by the Hebrew University in the life of the Jewish people and its cultural development, the Provisional Government calls upon Jews throughout the world to come to the aid of the University in the fulfillment of its tasks.
Dear Governor

The past two years have been extremely difficult for the Hebrew University — and higher education in Israel in general — as the result of budget cuts, lack of clear government policy, political intervention and rising costs. Furthermore, the 2006/2007 academic year was marred by the student strike in the second semester. This academic year too has been severely disrupted, in this case by the faculty members’ lengthy strike in support of their union’s just demand for compensation for the attrition of their salaries in comparison to employees in similar sectors of the economy. While understanding their grievances, the University administration did have reservations about some of the protest measures taken by faculty members.

The 90-day strike ended with a settlement that provided substantial salary increases for the faculty. The school year resumed, but with a major disruption to its schedule that required extending the second semester well into the summer. This rescheduling has created severe financial hardship for many students who usually work during the summer in order to cover their tuition fees and other expenses. Clearly, this means that we must increase student assistance. We are focusing much effort on raising additional funds for this purpose and turn to our friends for their support.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, it is imperative that the Hebrew University not abandon its commitment to its long-term goals. The Hebrew University is well-placed among the leading universities in the world, but it must strive to be on the shortlist of the very best. I believe that despite the limitations of Israel’s size and resources we have the ability to meet this goal. The Hebrew University educated the leadership of the various facets of Israeli society, be it the three branches of government, the health and education systems, the economy, culture, the media, civil society, diplomacy, the environment, the defense services or high-tech. No less important, the Hebrew University provided these sectors with the standards, the know-how and sometimes even the answers to the essential questions underlying their development. In this year’s President’s Report, you will meet some of these impressive people, all of them alumni of the Hebrew University and all testifying — as do I, a fellow alumnus — that the University was the starting point of their paths to achievement.

Indeed, we are confident that our students of today will go on to set new standards of leadership. Based on its past experience and though facing many challenges and difficulties in the present, the Hebrew University can look confidently into a brilliant future.

“I firmly believe that, provided we maintain our commitment and given the appropriate resources, the Hebrew University could be one of the best 20 universities in the world.”
Hebrew University alumni have had a major influence on all areas of Israeli society. In these pages, a selection of leading alumni reflect on the Hebrew University’s impact on Israel and on their own lives, and share their hopes and aspirations for the University in the future.
Jerusalemite Gal Bligh enrolled at the Hebrew University following five years' military service as an IDF intelligence officer. He participates in a joint project of the Department of Psychology and the Child Psychological Services, working with children from families in crisis. "It's a big brother program with a psychological orientation that gives me invaluable hands-on experience," says 28-year-old Bligh, who previously taught philosophy to third graders through the Philosophy for Children joint program of the School of Education and the Department of Philosophy. "Studying philosophy as well as psychology has exposed me to a humanistic approach that enriches me as a person and — I hope — as a future therapist."

Applying to the Hebrew University and being accepted by the Department of Psychology was a profoundly moving experience for me. I came from Binyamina, a provincial town in the 1960s, and I was a "country boy".

Although Jerusalem was also quite provincial at that time, the Givat Ram campus was an oasis — magical, exciting, and enlightening. I discovered a new world to which I had never been exposed, neither through the sporadic radio news broadcasts nor the stolid newspapers dealing with global issues and national politics.

At the University, I met people who would become an inseparable part of my life, including my wife of 38 years. I met people from foreign countries, I was exposed to new challenges and I learned to confront tasks that required me to develop analytical abilities and quickness of thought.

The magic of this experience has not faded. Givat Ram was not just a place to learn: it was the starting point for a new lifestyle featuring an openness to new ideas, opinions and patterns of thinking, and a code of behavior that was not the norm back home. I will never forget the excitement of my first lecture by Professor Nathan Rotem in the Department of Philosophy, nor my nervousness during my first lecture by Professor Yeshaiahu Leibowitz, who taught a physiology course in the Department of Psychology.

I spent a lot of time at the University. During my undergraduate studies, I attended lectures in many departments — education, political science, even economics — and later completed my legal studies there. Indeed, my subsequent career was shaped and cemented at the University.

There is no university in the world like the Hebrew University. There is only one Hebrew University, and it is here in Jerusalem. The finest minds have been cultivated on its campuses, and the abilities that led this country to success and prosperity were nurtured there.

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There is no university in the world like the Hebrew University. There is only one Hebrew University, and it is here in Jerusalem. The finest minds have been cultivated on its campuses, and the abilities that led this country to success and prosperity were nurtured there. The University is a hothouse for excellence, and plays a crucial role in the development of an open, tolerant culture. It is the basis for the growth, development and achievement on which the future of the State of Israel depends.

Gal Bligh
Third-year undergraduate, Psychology & Philosophy

Jerusalemite Gal Bligh enrolled at the Hebrew University following five years' military service as an IDF intelligence officer. He participates in a joint project of the Department of Psychology and the Child Psychological Services, working with children from families in crisis. "It's a big brother program with a psychological orientation that gives me invaluable hands-on experience," says 28-year-old Bligh, who previously taught philosophy to third graders through the Philosophy for Children joint program of the School of Education and the Department of Philosophy. "Studying philosophy as well as psychology has exposed me to a humanistic approach that enriches me as a person and — I hope — as a future therapist."
A student in the LL.B. / M.B.A. joint program who served as an officer in the Israel Air Force, Shay Yanovsky received his LL.B. last year, is currently completing his M.B.A. and recently began his master's in law, specializing in high-tech intellectual property. He is a coordinator and teaching assistant at the University’s Clinical Legal Education Center, which runs 11 clinics for disadvantaged sectors of the community. “My work with disaffected youth through the Center’s courses has changed my entire learning experience and perspective,” says 28-year-old Yanovsky. “I can’t think of anything more powerful and satisfying than using the knowledge and tools I have acquired in academia to advance social justice.”
Studying philosophy at the Hebrew University in the 1980s was an amazing intellectual adventure. Not only was I privileged to have wonderful teachers, including the late Professor Yeshaiahu Leibowitz, but I also benefited from their wisdom in welcoming my tendency to debate them incessantly at every turn. During my master's studies, some of them even encouraged me to publish my first academic articles and my first book, Invitation to Philosophy, which immediately became a bestseller. That I finally learned how to learn — having been thrown out of high school by teachers who were intolerant of my endless philosophical debates — was mainly thanks to these Hebrew University teachers. I completed my B.A. and M.A. degrees (with honors) during the 1980s, and then earned my Ph.D. in Philosophy at Tel Aviv University.

My life and that of my extended family are inextricably tied to the Hebrew University. As a student, I taught philosophy at the University’s Joseph Meyerhoff Youth Center for Advanced Studies. Good fortune led me to meet Gila Kanfi, my future wife, who was then a student at the University’s Faculty of Law and today is a judge in the Jerusalem District Court. My aunts, two of my sisters and my late mother count among University alumnae, and Professor Noam Nisan of the Benin School of Engineering and Computer Science is my brother-in-law. Several Steinitz family members were among the first researchers at the Faculty of Science — the University’s H. Steinitz Marine Biological Laboratory in Eilat, today part of the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences, was named after one of them.

Our first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, noted presciently in the 1950s that Israel must compensate for its enormous quantitative inferiority vis-à-vis its hostile neighborhood by means of a significant qualitative edge. Clearly this edge is needed today — not just in order to enhance Israel’s national security, but also to bolster its economic growth and to attract Jewish immigration. It is time to understand that there can be no qualitative superiority without an excellent system of higher education as exemplified by the continuation of the Hebrew University’s pivotal role in Israel’s scientific and intellectual life.
Major-General Ido Nehushtan

Commander-in-Chief, Israel Air Force
B.Sc., Mathematics & Computer Science, 1990

I was born, raised and educated in Jerusalem so my choice of the Hebrew University was a given. In fact, I knew the Givat Ram campus from my school days at the Hebrew University Secondary School, so it was like coming home.

I began my degree studies in 1986 after several years of experience as a pilot and officer in the Israel Air Force (IAF); my last position was second-in-command of an F-16 squadron. Although my 11 years of military service included a highly intensive and demanding professional education, it had been a long time since I was in a classroom. Thus, as a 29-year-old father of two, I became a mathematics and computer science student.

Today, as I assume command of the IAF, I view my time at the University not only as an intellectual exercise focused on short-term achievements, but primarily as shaping my personal development. I may well have forgotten specific formulae and proofs, but the personal “toolbox” of skills I acquired at the University remains — a serious approach, always getting to the root of a problem, the ability to analyze complex issues, a comprehensive overview, appreciating the importance of exact data, and high norms and standards.

As one whose concerns include national security, I believe that higher education is vital to the State of Israel. Since its establishment, Israel has had a clear advantage: its human capital. This wealth of brainpower can flourish only under optimal conditions: a world-class scientific infrastructure, academic institutions that set and implement high standards, and an education system that provides the basic tools. Indeed, the IAF too has adopted this approach by including full academic studies within the framework of its flight school.

As the first university of the Yishuv, the Hebrew University has played a vital role in maintaining and developing this key national resource. Indeed, it has proven its capabilities; it counts many officers among its alumni and it is a leader in special programs in cooperation with the defense establishment. Foremost among these is the flagship Talpiot IDF cadets program at the Hebrew University which educates especially talented students — their contribution to the state’s security is priceless.

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Gavriel Smith
Second-year undergraduate, Computer Science & Mathematics and Amirim honors program

The son of mathematics teachers — one American and one British — Gavriel Smith was born in Jerusalem and grew up in Rehovot. Although his choice of studies seems natural, he did his matriculation in English and music as well as math and physics. After serving in military intelligence, he was attracted to the Hebrew University by its reputation for excellence. Smith, 24, who works part-time in high-tech, won a merit-based scholarship and is a winner of the Rector’s prize. “I have enjoyed the challenges offered by my studies at the University,” he says. “I anticipate continuing my education for a master’s degree in either math or computer science.”
Jerusalem-born Daphna Gross-Manos grew up in Tivon. Following high school, she participated in a leadership development program and then served as a social welfare officer in the IDF. Voluntary work with at-risk girls, she says, “reinforced my decision to study social work.” A winner of the Rector’s and Dean’s prizes, 25-year-old Gross-Manos was awarded the University’s Lachman-Davis Prize for Social Work for her community organization project with downtown Jerusalem merchants. She currently heads the social work students’ student council, which is active in the campaign for refugees from Darfur. “I plan on continuing my work for social change,” she says. “Continuing for a master’s degree would definitely advance my goals.”

Dr. Yitzhak Kadman

Founder & Executive Director, The National Council for the Child
Former Faculty Member, Baerwald School of Social Work & Social Welfare

My choice of social work stemmed from the perception that it was the right approach to effect social change and achieve social justice — perhaps even to attain tikkun olam (repairing the world). As a student, I valued the Baerwald School’s integration of knowledge and theoretical studies with practical work, and the direct encounter with the real world through trying to solve social problems.

I was profoundly influenced by professors Jona Rosenfeld and Abraham Doron, both Israel Prize laureates, whom I consider to be mentors and colleagues. Beyond the educational experience, I had the opportunity to become personally involved in social change, the highpoint being our (successful) student-led “revolution” to introduce a practical training program in social policy. Also involved in the School’s student council, which I chaired during my second year, I initiated the first association of all social work students at Israeli universities, an organization with a deep commitment to social issues.

I held several positions in the Ministry of Social Welfare and served as President and Secretary-General (elect) of the Israel Association of Social Workers before doing my Ph.D. in Social Policy at Brandeis University. On returning to Israel, I taught social work at the Hebrew University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. As Executive Director of the National Council for the Child for the past two decades, I have worked to bring the issue of children, their rights and their wellbeing to the fore of Israel’s public, media and political agendas.

My experience at the Hebrew University taught me to appreciate knowledge, information, data and research as tools for social change and as a foundation for power in the positive sense. I believe that the University’s primary contributions to date are in enhancing knowledge, research, publications, the training of professionals and academic prestige in Israel and abroad.

There remains, however, a great divide between these accomplishments and active involvement and influence in policy and practice, particularly in the social domain. My vision for the Hebrew University is for its increased social involvement through research or practice; through influencing national and local government policy; and through a greater openness towards providing opportunities for Israel’s distressed and excluded populations.

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Daphna Gross-Manos
Third-year undergraduate, Social Work

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Dafna Dolinko, 22, immigrated to Israel from New York as a child and attended Jerusalem’s Pelech Religious High School for Girls. She spent one year of her national service working with new immigrants, and a second year in Kiev, teaching Hebrew and Jewish studies. Dolinko is a Dean’s List student, a winner of the Rector’s and Dean’s prizes and was awarded the Prof. Stern Prize for students of history of the Jewish people. “My studies allow me to integrate my two interests — Jewish education in Israel and the Diaspora and research on the Jews of the USSR,” she says. “I am continuing to learn Russian towards this end.”

Third-year undergraduate, History of the Jewish People & History

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Israel Ambassador to the United States
Former Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel
B.A., History of the Jewish People & Islamic Studies, 1985

Studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was not just a privilege for me but also the most natural course due to my family’s personal connection to the University. My mother, Ra’anana, was a professor in the Department of Classics and, from an early age, I understood the special value my family placed on the institution. I followed my three siblings and their spouses when I began my studies, together with my wife, at the Hebrew University. My choice of studies reflected my interest in the Jewish people and my desire to better understand the region surrounding the Jewish State. It appears that my work experience has been the logical outcome of these studies. From Jewish education through service in the Israeli government to my work at the Jewish Agency for Israel and on to Washington, D.C. as Israel’s Ambassador to the United States — I have continued on the path that I began at the Hebrew University.

Born in a divided Jerusalem to a family of lovers of and fighters for Jerusalem, no gift could have been more valuable to me than to be one of the first students to return to the Hebrew University’s historic campus on Mount Scopus.

One cannot speak of Israel’s achievements without thinking of the Hebrew University. It was this University that laid the foundation for Israel’s entire academic development, its scientific knowledge and research capacity. Every aspect of Israel’s growth has benefited from the University’s immense contribution. Indeed, the University’s decision to teach only in Hebrew played a vital role in the most fascinating revolution — that of transforming the ancient language of the Bible into the living mother tongue of millions of Jews in Israel.

Israel needs the Hebrew University to continue to contribute both its soul and its brainpower to the advancement of the State and its people. The Hebrew University can and should continue to grow and serve as an engine of excellence for Israel and as the academic center for the Jewish people.

I wish the Hebrew University mazal tov on the 90th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stones on Mount Scopus.
Concerned about peace since her childhood, Haifa-born Rotem Tal, 24, chose her majors at the Hebrew University accordingly. "I have a strong feeling of vocation, of a first priority mission," says Tal, a Dean's List student who has participated in Jewish-Arab encounter projects. "I believe in a better future for the Middle East and for this, education is essential: we have to know the 'other'. Until now, I have been working on the personal, micro, level. The tools I am acquiring at the University — critical thinking, theory, historical perspective — will help me to work for these goals on the macro level as well."

Second-year undergraduate, International Relations & Middle Eastern Studies
 Rotem Tal
 I had only been living in Israel for a few months, my Hebrew was far from impressive, and I was having a hard time understanding an international relations course being taught by the legendary ex-military intelligence chief Professor Yehoshofat Harkabi. To my immense good fortune, however, I noticed a beautiful, flame-haired young American student near the front of the room who was effortlessly noting down the key points. That was 25 years and three magnificent children ago; so the greatest debt I owe the Hebrew University, and its greatest impact on my life, is that it was the place where I met my wife Lisa.

The Hebrew University was central to my making a life in Israel because it was my landing point here, and that landing was soft and nurturing: I immigrated to Israel from England as a relatively clueless, 20-year-old Zionist, and the Mount Scopus campus was my first home, where I learned the language, made my first friends and, prompted by my teachers, began to properly use my brain. It was my introduction to the entire complex Israeli experience — to our politics and history, coexistence with Arabs and among different streams of Judaism, culture, even bureaucracy. It served as my initial survival guide for the career in Israeli journalism that I began while still at the University.

For me at the time, and in my intermittent interactions since, the Hebrew University has symbolized a striving for excellence and a commitment to the maximizing of its students’ potential. As a consequence, it continues to produce national leaders in almost every field. It needs to keep doing so — to attract and retain the best and the brightest from Israel and the Diaspora — for we can thrive as a nation only if we can make the most of our prime natural resource: brainpower.

As a university, it has always been committed to furthering the frontiers of human knowledge. But the Hebrew University also must continue to serve as a national moral compass, setting standards of propriety and emphasizing and cherishing exemplary values — a centerpiece of our ever-more challenging aspiration to serve as a light unto the nations.
Yeela Porat
Third-year undergraduate, Political Science & International Relations

Born in Israel, 24-year-old Yeela Porat grew up in California and returned to Israel in the realization that this is her home. As a lieutenant in the IDF’s Education Corps, she created and applied leadership development programs for commanders. Porat’s decision to study political science stems from her vision of “Israel’s potential, as a young democracy, to create a more just and tolerant society. Political science offers both the philosophic background for exploring desirable futures and the practical aspects of politics and global contexts,” she says. “I plan to continue my studies at the Hebrew University in the field of conflict management and mediation, in order to strengthen social solidarity in Israel.”

Shlomit Amichai
Director-General, Ministry of Education
B.A., History of the Jewish People & Political Science, 1979

I grew up in Jerusalem and, shortly after completing my military service in 1964, enrolled in Jewish history studies at the Hebrew University. I was familiar with various aspects of Jewish history due to my experience as a youth movement counselor so this seemed the natural choice. However, for balance, I also studied international relations and political science. My teachers included leading scholars, among them this year’s Israel Prize winner, Professor Zeev Sternhell. These teachers inspired in me a love of knowledge and equipped me with the skills required for objective study and analysis.

I married during my first year of studies but actually completed my B.A. degree — thanks to the understanding shown towards me by the University — only after my four children had grown. After the Yom Kipur War, my belief in the importance of student volunteerism led me to head the student counselors’ team at the Dean of Students Office, juggling my time between meeting students’ needs and raising my family. Undoubtedly, my own experiences as a student — the inspiring faculty and the wonderful atmosphere that pervaded the lawns and classrooms of the Givat Ram campus — have influenced my work.

In 1977, I joined the Ministry of Education, working in a number of positions that capitalized on the skills I had gained at the Dean of Students Office, and leading up to my appointment as Director-General in 1999. Two years later I left the Ministry for a senior position at JDC-Israel; in 2007 I was asked to return to my former position.

As Director-General of the Ministry of Education, I am deeply concerned about the repercussions of the shrinking number of University faculty positions and lack of research funds — I am likewise concerned that the Hebrew University will find it difficult to instill in its students the all-important values and tools that I was so fortunate to receive. I hope and believe that despite these difficulties, the University will continue in the path it has created during its 90 years, conducting itself with integrity and pride, maintaining its high levels of creativity and innovative research and serving as a light unto institutions across Israel.

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“I undoubtly, my own experiences as a student — the inspiring faculty and the wonderful atmosphere that pervaded the lawns and classrooms of the Givat Ram campus — have influenced my work.”
After graduating from high school in Saint Petersburg, Russia, Stas Sokolinski immigrated to Israel on his own and served three years in an IDF combat unit. He has been on the Dean's List of both the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Jerusalem School of Business Administration and has won scholarships for honors students in accounting, including one from the Harry Simons' Endowment Foundation. Sokolinski, 25, has worked throughout his studies and is now a teaching assistant in economics. “I see my future in finance and plan to continue for my master’s degree at the Hebrew University,” he says. “The Department of Economics here is one of the best in the world.”

As a Jerusalemite, it was only natural for me to choose to enroll at the Hebrew University. I decided to study economics and business administration as I thought these were the fields most suited to me — and, looking back over my career, it appears that it was the correct choice.

I was particularly influenced during my undergraduate studies by the late Professor Dan Patinkin, and by professors Nissan Liviatan and Michael Bruno, all of the Department of Economics; and, during my M.B.A. studies, by Professor Haim Ben-Shahar. What I gained from my studies at the Hebrew University was the ability to analyze subjects from a broad perspective and to examine the whole picture — not just the individual components — before making a decision.

During my years at the Givat Ram campus, I was a member of the University's basketball team. However, between my studies and working as a truck driver to pay for my education, I had little time for extracurricular student activities.

After I completed my M.B.A. degree, I found work at the Israel Ministry of Finance, serving in a number of positions. These included Economic Advisor at the Israel Embassy in Washington, D.C. in the 1970s during the period leading up to the Camp David Accords, and Accountant-General from 1979-1985. Following my employment in the public sector, I served as chairman of Paz Oil Company and as chairman and/or director of several other major Israeli industrial and commercial corporations. Since 1996, I have been Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. and its major subsidiaries in the United States, the United Kingdom and Israel. Within my various public activities, I am a Governor of the Hebrew University and serve as Chairman of its Board of Managers.

In my view, the graduates of the Hebrew University have made, and continue to make, major contributions to the State of Israel in many fields, including state-building, the economy, politics, diplomacy, the law and science. The Hebrew University’s role in the future is, I believe, to actively pursue excellence, and serve as a center of excellence in teaching and research across a broad range of fields.

Stas Sokolinski
Third-year undergraduate, Economics & Accounting
After graduating from high school in Saint Petersburg, Russia, Stas Sokolinski immigrated to Israel on his own and served three years in an IDF combat unit. He has been on the Dean’s List of both the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Jerusalem School of Business Administration and has won scholarships for honors students in accounting, including one from the Harry Simons’ Endowment Foundation. Sokolinski, 25, has worked throughout his studies and is now a teaching assistant in economics. “I see my future in finance and plan to continue for my master’s degree at the Hebrew University,” he says. “The Department of Economics here is one of the best in the world.”

Eitan Raff
Chairman, Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M.
Chairman, Board of Managers of the Hebrew University
M.B.A., 1968

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Dr. Giora Yaron

Founder of Several Multinational High-Tech Companies & Company Chairman
Chairman, Yissum Technology Transfer Company of the Hebrew University
Ph.D., Applied Physics, 1978

I was born at Kibbutz Manara and raised in Rehovot. After serving three intensive years in the IDF’s Golani Brigade, I registered in 1969 for my bachelor’s degree studies in physics and mathematics at the Hebrew University. This, in retrospect, was a life-changing event for me. While the courses were extremely demanding, they provided a solid understanding of the physics and mathematics that are the essential “toolbox” for solving the new challenges in today’s fast-developing, increasingly competitive, global technological environment.

Following my graduation, I was accepted to work at Hughes Aircraft Research Laboratories, one of the more prestigious industrial research labs in the US. This paved the way for my entrance into the high-tech industrial world. Later, while working at National Semiconductors, a leading company in the field at the time, I was influential in the establishment by the company of a significant facility in Israel which focused on designing and manufacturing the world’s first 64-bit microprocessor — at its peak, the company employed some 1,500 staff. The presence of National Semiconductors and a few other large multinational American corporations provided the infrastructure for the development of Israel’s high-tech industry.

Indeed, it enabled my colleagues in the high-tech industry and me to participate in founding several thousand startups. I was fortunate to be a founder of more than a handful, three of which were sold to multinational corporations. This same infrastructure provided the foundation for companies such as Mercury Interactive which I served as Chairman and which was acquired by HP for $4.5 billion.

The Hebrew University has played a pivotal role in my own education as well as that of many other leaders in today’s high-tech industry. The drive for excellence, which is integral to the Hebrew University’s DNA, has given us the tools that are essential for competing in today’s markets.

It is this industrial backbone that has enabled Israel’s economy to prosper in good as well as in difficult economic times. As manufacturing and high-tech jobs migrate to Asia, it is essential that the Hebrew University — along with its new graduates entering our industry — continues to strive for excellence.

Yuval Simons

Second-year undergraduate, Physics and Amirim Honors Program

Yuval Simons of Karmiel has been interested in science since childhood. This led him to attend the Israel Arts and Science Academy high school in Jerusalem, where he studied physics, computer science and history. After his military service, during which he won an award for building a software system, 24-year-old Simons studied Mandarin Chinese and toured China. Currently a research assistant and the physics students’ representative in the Student Union, Simons is not yet sure about future specialization. “A B.Sc. in physics is like reading a Chinese menu,” he says. “You study for three years just to understand your choices. Only then can you choose.”

“The drive for excellence, which is integral to the Hebrew University’s DNA, has given us the tools that are essential for competing in today’s markets.”
As a child, Montreal-born Jonathan Isenberg dreamed of becoming a doctor. He immigrated to Israel with his family at age four, and excelled in math and sciences at school in Karmiel in northern Israel. He received his B.Med.Sc. in 2006 and, as a participant in the IDF’s Atidim academic reserve program, he completed — with distinction — the IDF officers’ course last October. “I am particularly interested in nephrology and endocrinology,” says 23-year-old Isenberg, who has consistently made Dean’s List. “I hope to apply my serious attitude and ‘open heart and mind’ for learning to become an important contributor in my field.”

Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef
Director-General, Hadassah University Medical Center
M.D., 1980 | Former Member, Faculty of Medicine

“I have become increasingly aware — and appreciative — of the importance of the collaboration between Hadassah and the Hebrew University, which is essential for the future of both institutions and especially for the future of Jerusalem.”

I grew up in Jerusalem’s Katamon neighborhood, one of four children of a Moroccan-born father and an Israeli-born mother. After military service, I chose to study medicine at the Hebrew University, knowing that it would lead to a profession that suited my personality and would allow me to help people.

During the Yom Kippur War, in which I fought and my brother was killed, the Hebrew University offered endless assistance to student soldiers. I especially remember the late Professor Rami Rahaminoff traveling to Sinai weekly to lecture medical students serving there. During my clinical rotations, I was exposed to a variety of specialties and physicians, with professors Marcel Elakim, Nathan Saltz and Joseph Schenker playing an important role in my future decisions.

The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School — the best medical school in Israel — gave me excellent tools which enabled me to choose a specialization and gain acceptance at the prestigious residency program in obstetrics and gynecology at Hadassah- Ein Kerem. I subsequently worked there as a senior physician in gynecological oncology and also taught at the Faculty of Medicine, reaching the rank of associate professor.

I switched to medical administration some 15 years ago and have served as Director-General of the Hadassah University Medical Center since 2001. During this time I have become increasingly aware — and appreciative — of the importance of the collaboration between Hadassah and the Hebrew University, which is essential for the future of both institutions and especially for the future of Jerusalem. Together, we are building Jerusalem’s first biotechnology park on the Ein Kerem campus, and also promoting the establishment of a national center for brain imaging, which we hope will lay the foundation for a joint Hebrew University-Hadassah research center.

The Hebrew University is one of Jerusalem’s most important assets. It plays a vital role in attracting young and educated people to Jerusalem, thus developing and strengthening the city. I am convinced that just as the University advanced higher education and Israel’s scientific infrastructure even before the founding of the State, it will continue to set the standards for excellence and lead Israel scientific endeavors to new heights. As the Director-General of Hadassah, I am proud to be a partner of the Hebrew University.

Jonathan Isenberg
Fifth-year medical student

As a child, Montreal-born Jonathan Isenberg dreamed of becoming a doctor. He immigrated to Israel with his family at age four, and excelled in math and sciences at school in Karmiel in northern Israel. He received his B.Med.Sc. in 2006 and, as a participant in the IDF’s Atidim academic reserve program, he completed — with distinction — the IDF officers’ course last October. “I am particularly interested in nephrology and endocrinology,” says 23-year-old Isenberg, who has consistently made Dean’s List. “I hope to apply my serious attitude and ‘open heart and mind’ for learning to become an important contributor in my field.”

“I have become increasingly aware — and appreciative — of the importance of the collaboration between Hadassah and the Hebrew University, which is essential for the future of both institutions and especially for the future of Jerusalem.”
British-born Ravit Shaw, 24, grew up in Rosh Pina, served in the Education Corps during her military service and also volunteered preparing learning-disabled teens for matriculation exams. Shaw’s busy schedule includes extra-curricular work in the laboratory of Dr. Eran Meshorer of the Department of Genetics. “Working with Dr. Meshorer has given me the opportunity to do cutting-edge stem cell research,” says Shaw, who was awarded the Dean’s prize this year. “While we learn theory in the classroom, I gain practical experience and exposure to research techniques in the lab. I am very interested in clinical research and see my future in either brain research or genetic therapy.”

Dr. Miriam Haran
Lecturer, Ono Academic College
Former Director-General, Ministry of the Environment
B.Sc., Chemistry, 1972

My years at the Hebrew University had a significant impact on my professional life, motivating me to expand my areas of interest, piquing my curiosity about new ideas and technologies and spurring me to strive for excellence and contribute to society. I was greatly influenced by Professor Israel Agranat of the Institute of Chemistry — teacher, research advisor and mentor, he has been a role model throughout my career.

After completing my undergraduate degree, I earned my Ph.D. at Brandeis University and returned to lecture at the Hebrew University. I went back to the US to pursue my research at Rutgers University and became involved in the then relatively new field of environmental studies as an assistant to the director of the Center for Applied Studies of the Environment at Hunter College (CUNY). On returning to Israel, I was appointed Deputy Chief Scientist of the Ministry of the Environment, going on to serve as its Chief Scientist, Deputy Director-General and Director-General. Currently I head the Ono Academic College’s M.B.A. environmental management track. I also serve as Chair of the Environmental Committee of the IUC Tel-Aviv-Los Angeles Partnership and as a member of the Israeli Presidential Task Force for Promoting the Environment in Israel.

The Hebrew University traditionally encourages its graduates to be active in shaping Israeli society; many are leading scientists or serve in significant public positions, influencing the realms of politics, the economy, science, diplomacy, law and education. My fellow alumni in chemistry are at the forefront of academic research; in top positions at companies such as the Israel Electric Corporation, Teva Pharmaceuticals and Intel; and leaders of the public sector in crucial areas such as improving Israel’s science education.

The Hebrew University must maintain its position as the best in Israel and as a world leader. It should continue to promote excellence by accepting highly qualified and motivated students and educating them to take part in shaping Israeli society. Effective government is essential for Israel’s future; it requires competent, dedicated, professional executives and managers. I believe that the Hebrew University is the best-suited academic institute to provide Israel’s future leadership.

“The Hebrew University should continue to promote excellence by accepting highly qualified and motivated students and educating them to take part in shaping Israeli society.”

Ravit Shaw
Second-year undergraduate, Chemistry & Biology and Amirim Honors Program

British-born Ravit Shaw, 24, grew up in Rosh Pina, served in the Education Corps during her military service and also volunteered preparing learning-disabled teens for matriculation exams. Shaw’s busy schedule includes extra-curricular work in the laboratory of Dr. Eran Meshorer of the Department of Genetics. “Working with Dr. Meshorer has given me the opportunity to do cutting-edge stem cell research,” says Shaw, who was awarded the Dean’s prize this year. “While we learn theory in the classroom, I gain practical experience and exposure to research techniques in the lab. I am very interested in clinical research and see my future in either brain research or genetic therapy.”
Jerusalemite Hanna Tzuker-Seltzer, 32, wrote and directed her first film in high school. After military service, she studied film and television at Hadassah College Jerusalem, winning two prizes for her film *Tamarie's Wedding Gown*. “I was attracted to literature because it allows greater depth than a film script. I am particularly interested in how relationships between center and periphery are reflected in Israeli poetry and prose,” she says. While at the Hebrew University, Tzuker-Seltzer has published two short stories and won the Harry Hershon Literary Prize. Next year, she will begin the joint doctoral program in Hebrew Literature at the University of California, Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union.

In the early 1950s the Hebrew University was identified with the monumental, Catholic building called Terra Sancta whose broad steps teemed with students, lecturers and auditors. The recently arrived survivors were easily identifiable. They were conspicuous in their dress, posture and gaze.

On those steps I first met the poet Dan Pagis, later a professor of Medieval Hebrew poetry, and Benjamin Hushovski (Harshav), then a teaching assistant and later a professor of literature. The survivors brought harsh life experience with them, many languages, bourgeois manners and apprehension about the future. They were ambitious and diligent in their studies.

Among my teachers were Dov Sadan (Yiddish), Hugo Bergman (philosophy), Gershon Scholem (Jewish mysticism), Simon Halkin (Hebrew literature) and Leah Goldberg (comparative literature). All had an active affinity with literary activity. I was at the start of my path as a writer — groping, testing my voice, stumbling, trying to stand on my own feet. It was hard for me to connect the world from which I came — the ghetto, the camps and the forests — with the young world pulsing with activity, and not only in the large halls of Terra Sancta.

Leah Goldberg was first to notice my writing, and conversations with her in Rehavia, in Café Hermon, were illuminating. Hugo Bergmann, Kafka’s friend, opened the gates of Prague and Kafka to me. Thirstily I drank in his “From Kierkegaard to Buber” lectures.

In time my teachers became friends. Dov Sadan’s comments were always indirect, perhaps to avoid injuring me. Gershon Scholem formulated his words directly and with measured sympathy. Leah Goldberg spoke to me as a poet.

My struggles to express myself in those years were difficult, and my failures many. My teachers’ demands were severe. A single misplaced word would receive comment, though always accompanied by knowledge, enlightening examples and warmth. Rarely does a young writer encounter such teachers.

**Hanna Tauker-Seltzer**

Third-year undergraduate, Hebrew Literature (Creative Writing track)

Jerusalemite Hanna Tauker-Seltzer, 32, wrote and directed her first film in high school. After military service, she studied film and television at Hadassah College Jerusalem, winning two prizes for her film *Tamarie’s Wedding Gown*. “I was attracted to literature because it allows greater depth than a film script. I am particularly interested in how relationships between center and periphery are reflected in Israeli poetry and prose,” she says. While at the Hebrew University, Tauker-Seltzer has published two short stories and won the Harry Hershon Literary Prize. Next year, she will begin the joint doctoral program in Hebrew Literature at the University of California, Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union.
Leaders & Laureates

We salute our faculty and alumni for their leadership and achievements

9 Supreme Court Justices // 25 Members of Knesset & 6 Cabinet Ministers // 6 Nobel Laureates // 12 Wolf Prize Laureates // 237 Israel Prize Laureates
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>M. K. Goldstein</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Israel Prize, Nobel Prize in Chemistry</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>M. K. Dror</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Israel Prize, Nobel Prize in Physics</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>Prof. Israel Meir</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Israel Prize</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>Prof. Zevulahu Gurtin</td>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>Israel Prize</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<td>Prof. Ben-Zion Landsman</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Israel Prize</td>
<td>1978</td>
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<td>Exact Sciences</td>
<td>Israel Prize, Nobel Prize in Economics</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>Prof. David Bial</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Israel Prize</td>
<td>1995</td>
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[Leaders & Laureates](#)
1981
Prof. Meir J. Kister, Arabic Language & Middle Eastern Studies
Prof. Joram Lindenstrauss, Mathematics

1982
Yehuda Amichai, Hebrew Poetry
Prof. Ruth Amiran, Land of Israel Studies*
Prof. Roberta Bach, Demography
Prof. Joshua Jortnez, Chemistry

1983
Aharon Appelfeld, Literature*
Prof. Saul Friedlander, History
Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, Special Contribution to Society

1984
Prof. Aron (Afred) Bondi, Agriculture
Prof. Shlomo Rabinovich, Agriculture

1985
Prof. Joshua Blau, Hebrew Language & Linguistics
Prof. Henry N. Neufeld, Medicine

1986
Prof. Michael Evenari, Lifetime Achievement in Desert Research

1987
Prof. Ezra Zion, Melamed, Bible Studies
Prof. Menahem Yaari, Economics

1988
Prof. Nathan Goldblum, Life Sciences
Prof. Moshe Goshen-Gottstein, Hebrew Language & General Linguistics
Haim Gouri, Hebrew Poetry*

1989
Prof. Haim Harari, Exact Sciences*
Prof. Elihu Katz, Social Sciences
Prof. Samuel Warszaw, Hebrew Literature
Prof. Israel Yelin, Hebrew Language

1990
Prof. Shmuel Agnon, Exact Sciences
Prof. Dan Frohman, Exact Sciences
Prof. Moshe Altbauer, Humanities
Prof. Hami Ben-Artzi, Jewish Studies
Prof. Mordechai Ben-Porat, Special Contribution to Society
Prof. Naama Feinerman-Dohan, Land of Israel Studies
Prof. Moshe Landau, Law
Prof. Alexander Levitakis, Life Sciences
Prof. Moshe Physis, Life Sciences
Prof. Nathan Spiegel, Humanities
Prof. Meir Weiss, Jewish Studies
Prof. Zvi Ya'ovitz, Humanities*

1991
Prof. Moshe Lissak, Social Sciences

1992
Prof. Shlomo Alexander, Exact Sciences
Prof. Yechezkel Ariel, History
Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher, Hebrew Language & Jewish Languages
Prof. Itiel Fursteinberg, Exact Sciences
Prof. Gideon Goldenberg, Hebrew Language & General Linguistics
Prof. Yehoshafat Harari, Political Science
Prof. Hava Lazarov-Valdman, History
Prof. Dan Minor, Hebrew Literature
Prof. Gershon Shaked, Hebrew Literature

1993
Prof. Joseph Dan, Jewish Thought
Prof. Rachel Englander, Law
Prof. Jacob Sussman, Talmud
Prof. Shmuel Talmon, Biblical Research
Prof. Itzhak Zamir, Law

1994
Prof. Yehuda Bauer, History of the Jewish People
Prof. Yehudith Birc, Agriculture
Prof. Tzvi Dothan, Archaeology
Prof. Shlomo Ben-Arieh, Geography
Prof. Haim Gouri, Hebrew Poetry*

1995
Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Political Science
Prof. Moshe Barasch, History of Art
Prof. Ian Chet, Agriculture
Prof. Marcel Dubois, Special Contribution to the State
Prof. Moshe Plasmeny, Middle Eastern Studies
Prof. Shimon Sandbank, Literary Translation
Prof. Mer Shmanger, Special Contribution to the State
Prof. Chloè Shminkel, Jewish Languages
Prof. Yechezkel Stein, Medicine

1996
Prof. Joseph Dan, Jewish Thought
Prof. Rachel Englander, Law
Prof. Jacob Sussman, Talmud
Prof. Shmuel Talmon, Biblical Research
Prof. Itzhak Zamir, Law

1997
Prof. Shlomo Barasch, History of Art
Prof. Yehuda Bauer, History of the Jewish People
Prof. Yehudith Birc, Agriculture
Prof. Tzvi Dothan, Archaeology
Prof. Shlomo Ben-Arieh, Geography
Prof. Haim Gouri, Hebrew Poetry*

1998
Prof. Yehuda Bauer, History of the Jewish People
Prof. Yehudith Birc, Agriculture
Prof. Tzvi Dothan, Archaeology

1999
Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Arieh, Geography
Prof. Haim Cedar, Biology

2000
Prof. Aharon Barasch, History of Art
Prof. Aron Diner, Middle Eastern Studies
Prof. Boaz Porat, History of Art
Prof. Aryeh Shachar, Geography
Prof. Avraham Steinberg, Rabbinic Literature

2001
Prof. Avraham H. Balov, Agriculture
Prof. Eli Hurwitz, Lifetime Achievement
Prof. Shmuel Sarna, Land of Israel Studies
Prof. Ilan Wilner, Chemistry

2002
Prof. Aharon H. Balov, Agriculture
Elie Hurwitz, Lifetime Achievement
Prof. Shmuel Sarna, Land of Israel Studies
Prof. Ilan Wilner, Chemistry

2003
Aharon Amir, Hebrew Translation*
Prof. Menahem Amir, Criminology
Osnat Cohen, Lifetime Achievement
Prof. Avraham Grossman, Jewish History
Prof. Israel Tobi-Shima, Talmud

2004
Prof. Menahem Bialik, Literature
Prof. Abraham Diron, Social Work

2005
Prof. Avraham H. Balov, Agriculture
Prof. Nachum Dov, Jewish Studies
Prof. Dora Kapelushnik, Linguistics
Prof. Jacob Landau, Middle Eastern Studies
Shmuel Shemesh, Lifetime Achievement*

2006
Prof. Shlomo Altmann, Education
Prof. Nachum Kedar, Agriculture
Prof. Ruth Lapidoth, Law
Prof. Zvi Rapoport, Chemistry

2007
Nahum Barnea, Communications*
Prof. Amnon Cohen, Land of Israel Studies
Prof. Nissan Levitan, Economics
Prof. Shalom Schwartz, Psychology
Prof. Zvi Salingar, Biology
Prof. Alice Shabtai, Lifetime Achievement

2008
Prof. Yoav Alon, Mathematics*
Prof. Zeev Sternhell, Political Science

*alumnus only
Dr. Dan Tchernov, who joined the Hebrew University in 2004, exemplifies recently absorbed young researchers. Based at the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in Eilat, he studies the impact of environmental change on coral reefs and their potential use in “early-warning systems”. Tchernov, whose research has been published in the prestigious journal Science, focuses on two apparently contradictory aspects of coral reef biogeography: a reef’s ability to withstand millions of years of climate changes as opposed to the widespread mortality of coral during the past 30 years. In one recent project, he showed that the lipid composition of symbiotic algae within coral tissue plays a key role in determining the extent of the thermal stress that underlies the recent phenomenon of coral bleaching. His findings elucidate coral bleaching and offer a potential means to predict thermal sensitivity.

Hebrew University researchers are currently engaged in 4,428 research projects, of which 1,300 began this year, reports the Authority for Research and Development (ARID). They win one-third of all competitive grants in Israel and conduct one-third of civilian research, including 60 percent in medicine and 70 percent in microbiology. Nearly 30 percent of research conducted at the Hebrew University is eventually commercialized within the high-tech industry.

In the 2006/2007 academic year, $107 million was budgeted for research via the ARID (see Table 4, page 54). Just over 40 percent of funding ($44 million) came from Israeli sources, with the Israel Science Foundation continuing as the main source; $17 million was budgeted for over 450 projects. These included the Morasha program, in cooperation with the Legacy Heritage Fund, to support the absorption of new faculty members, and two projects in converging technologies. The University’s Yissum technology transfer company provided $9.6 million.

Of the $27 million allocated from internal funds, $1.2 million was for areas earmarked by donors, including the Lejwa Trust for Biochemical Research, the Ring Family Foundation for Atmospheric and Global Change Studies, the Julius Oppenheimer Fund, the David and Betty Feffer Gift for Treatment of Neurodegenerative Diseases and the Alberto Moscona, Landrooski and Sidney Edelstein funds. The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust provided $1.1 million for laboratory refurbishment and $1.24 million for laboratories for new faculty members. The Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation contributed some $1.1 million for special projects and three new researchers, and continued its support of the Interdisciplinary Center for Neural Computation. Research in applied science was bolstered by an anonymous donation to the University and Yissum of $3.25 million over three years. Funding from Johnson & Johnson, with matching grants from internal funds, was allocated to innovative and breakthrough scientific research. A total of $859,000 was allocated to applied research at early stages of development. Support of $843,000 was allocated to several interdisciplinary centers, including the Harvey M. Krueger Family Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, the Interdisciplinary Center for Representations of Groups in Mathematics, the Center for the Study of Islam in Memory of Nehemia Lenzion, the new Center for the Study of Philanthropy in Israel and the Gilo Center for Citizenship, Democracy and Civic Education.

During 2006/2007, University researchers were awarded over $17.5 million in grants from US sources, $7.5 million of which was for new projects, including three USRAID projects with partners in Jordan, South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia. The National Institutes of Health provided nearly $1.7 million via partnerships with US institutions, though one researcher received a direct grant for a study of programmed cell death, a fundamental biological phenomenon of bacterial communication. Grants were also received from the Human Frontiers in Science Program, the Israel Cancer Research Fund and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The European Union was the source of $11.5 million for 159 projects during 2006/2007, of which $6 million was designated for final-round projects of the Sixth Framework Research Program (FP6). Among the 165 Hebrew University applications for FP7 funding submitted in spring 2007 were 22 proposals for the European Research Council’s prestigious young investigator program — six young researchers were awarded almost $10 million in five-year individual grants at the end of 2007, representing a significant success rate. Researchers continue to submit proposals to FP7 and, to date, 23 have received $9.2 million in funding.

Grants from German agencies amounted to $7.4 million in 2006/2007 for 32 projects. Main sources of funding are the Minerva Foundation which supports 16 active centers at the Hebrew University, the German-Israel Project Coordination (DIP), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the German-Israeli Foundation of Research and Development (GIF).
Student Life

Student enrollment levels this year stood at 11,676 undergraduates, 6,532 master’s students, 2,644 doctoral candidates and 280 postdoctoral students. An additional 1,879 students are enrolled at the Rothberg International School, the Joseph Safdie Center for Pre-Academic Studies and in non-academic courses, with a University-wide enrollment of almost 25,000.

As soon as the faculty strike ended, the University notified students of the new schedule for the academic year. The first semester officially began on January 20, 2008 and ended on April 4, while the second semester began on May 11 and will end on August 4. The 2008/2009 academic year will commence on November 2, 2008. In addition, courses are being held on Fridays and Sunday mornings; pass grades or exemptions will not be allowed.

In light of the strike’s impact on the students, the University instituted several measures, including financial relief by allowing students to remain in student housing over the summer without payment. Various deadlines were extended significantly, including those for course selection, conditional registration for master’s programs, and submitting scholarship applications and seminar papers. Students were also permitted to defer their studies until the 2008/2009 academic year — in most cases without a financial penalty.

In recognition of its social involvement activities, the Dean of Students Office received additional funding from the Council in recognition of its social involvement activities, the Dean of Students Office received additional funding from the Council for next year include a revamping of the undergraduate one-year program (OYP) with academic supervision by the heads of master’s programs; the opening of a joint master’s degree program in Jewish education and teaching Hebrew as a second language; the development of individual tracks for master’s students, and professional guidance.

This year, the Dean of Students Office introduced a coordinator for Arab students into its services. Many Arab students at the University come from a different educational system and, in the case of those from more conservative backgrounds, may be overwhelmed by the transition to the liberal campus environment. The coordinator, a graduate of the Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare where he was an outstanding student, surveyed the needs of the University’s Arab students and has started meeting regularly with first-year students to help them adapt to their new surroundings by airing their feelings and setting realistic expectations.

Also new this year on three campuses is the Tinnokia, a babysitting service where students can leave their infants aged 2-10 months while they are in class. The service operates daily until 6:30 pm.

In recognition of its social involvement activities, the Dean of Students Office received additional funding from the Council of Higher Education’s Planning and Budgeting Committee. The Dean’s office issued a call to students for social action initiatives and a faculty advisory committee selected 12 projects. Each project is coordinated by a student who receives a scholarship and professional guidance.

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In recognition of its social involvement activities, the Dean of Students Office received additional funding from the Council of Higher Education’s Planning and Budgeting Committee. The Dean’s office issued a call to students for social action initiatives and a faculty advisory committee selected 12 projects. Each project is coordinated by a student who receives a scholarship and professional guidance.

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A new feature on the Jerusalem skyline — and a substantial benefit for students — is the Scopus Student Village on the Mount Scopus campus, which was completed last year. All nine buildings are now fully occupied, with 1,621 students housed in its ultra-modern apartments. Also at Mount Scopus, the entrance floor of the Bernard M. and Louis M. Bloomfield Library Building is undergoing a comprehensive transformation to become the Bierot and Agnes Ginges – Australia Library Information Centre. The redesigned 3,000 sq.m. space will comprise a state-of-the-art center, including 100 computer terminals, individual and group learning spaces, plus connections for laptops. Construction began this year of the distinctive new gateway to the Mount Scopus campus, which is a gift of Honorary Chairman of the Board of Governors Alex Grass. The project, to be completed by June 2009, will also alleviate chronic traffic-flow obstructions and security issues. The second stage of the Theodore N. and Annette M. Lerner Family Indoor Sports Complex, due to open in October 2008, will provide additional workout areas and locker rooms.

At the Edmond J. Safra Campus at Givat Ram, construction of the new Rotberg Family Complex, which will house the Selim and Rachel Benin School of Engineering and Computer Science, will commence in September 2008 with completion scheduled for March 2011. The 16,000 sq.m., three-wing Complex will include computer laboratories and classrooms, offices, seminar rooms, and a 250-seat auditorium. The expansion of the Safra campus sports complex of the Howard and Mary Edith Cosell Association for Physical Education, Leisure and Health Promotion will be completed this summer. The 2,000 sq.m. addition includes state-of-the-art workout rooms, new locker rooms, and a restaurant. Also at the Safra campus, a comprehensive renovation of the main buildings housing the IDF’s Talpilot military/academic program at the Hebrew University is being planned. The project, a gift of Rhonda and Harry Triguboff, includes upgraded laboratories and classrooms and is due to be completed by March 2009.

At the Ein Kerem medical campus, construction of the first stage of the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), which includes construction of the six-story frame and completion of the top two floors of the Octav and Marcia Botnar Building is due to be completed this July. A top priority of the University, further funds are required to complete this essential building, and to renovate and equip the remaining IMR facilities. The completion of two new floors for the Bella and Harry Waxner Building for Dental Medicine was marked in December 2007 during the Alpha Omega Fraternity’s centennial conference. These floors comprise teaching and research laboratories, clinical facilities and a 250-seat auditorium, plus a bridge that links the Faculty of Dental Medicine with the Faculty of Medicine. The Stanley B. Prusiner Medical Information Center at the Faculty of Medicine, now operating for one year, has proven a great success with students and faculty alike.

At Rehovot, a substantive campus-wide building project aims to adapt the Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences — to be named in honor of Robert H. Smith later this year — to its new, integrative paradigm whose basis is the provision of healthy food in a sustainable way for the world’s growing population. The renovation and expansion by 1,000 sq.m. of the Arievitch Building for Animal Sciences is in advanced planning stages, with the two-year project scheduled to begin this July. Plans for two new buildings — for the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources in Agriculture and a teaching laboratory center — will be finalized by June 2009. In addition, the Fribourg Building of the Institute of Biochemistry, Food Science and Nutrition will be renovated. A planned expansion of the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine, funded by the Koret Foundation, will include the addition of two floors.

The ongoing maintenance of buildings and campus infrastructure remains a major concern, with the budget cuts of the past five years allowing only essential work. Clearly, a general fund must be established for campus maintenance. This would include installing air-conditioning systems in all classrooms, a goal that can only be partially met at present.

The new Scopus Student Village comprises nine buildings of ultra-modern apartments

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The new Scopus Student Village comprises nine buildings of ultra-modern apartments
In fall 2006, fundraising began for the silent phase of a new Campaign. This new fundraising effort builds on the success of the "Campaign for the Hebrew University" which, from 1997 through 2006, successfully raised over $1 billion for vital projects. The completed campaign — whose success is a tribute to the efforts of the University’s Friends associations led by Campaign Co-chairs Barbara Mandel and Harvey Krueger — enabled the University to prevail through difficult financial times, including government budget cuts and heightened security needs.

At the forefront of the new Campaign, led by Barbara Mandel and Michael Federmann, is support for innovative approaches that are essential for the University’s ongoing pursuit of academic excellence. While the new Campaign encompasses a wide variety of capital and academic projects across the breadth of disciplines at the Hebrew University and seeks to build endowments to guarantee success into the future, the following flagship projects exemplify the future of research and teaching at the University.

Based on the understanding that interdisciplinary research holds the key to future breakthroughs, the Faculty of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Quality Sciences has undergone a reorganization that will enable it to better serve its mission of helping to provide sufficient nourishing food to an increasing world population with minimal harm to the environment. This new vision combines disparate departments and schools into four central units bolstered by four interdisciplinary research centers.

At the Faculty of Medicine, the fledgling Institute for Medical Research harnesses the research power of a community of top scientists to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to biomedical research. This new approach stems from the knowledge that the complex nature of modern disease requires equally complex approaches to developing cures. Not only will this reorganization enable new directions in basic research as the first step towards treatment and prevention, but the influx of young talent and the bolstering of the research infrastructure — equipment and laboratory space — will further assist researchers in their mission to uncover innovative biomedical solutions to today’s most pressing health challenges.

The Hebrew University neuroscience community has a glorious history, and many members of the current faculty are among the best in the world in their areas of interest. According to an international committee of experts, the field of neuroscience at the Hebrew University will be ranked among the top five in the world, given sufficient investment in additional human and physical resources. With this in mind, the University seeks to create a center to focus and spearhead all brain science research across the University. The anticipated outcome of this effort is an outstanding, interdisciplinary institution in Israel which would serve as a leader of the international scientific community in breaking down barriers in understanding the brain, and training the next generation of neuroscientists to seek new research frontiers for the benefit of humanity.

Study of the humanities, much as in the sciences, is undergoing a sea-change as walls between disparate subjects are breached to enable innovative and increasingly comprehensive approaches to teaching and research among humanistic disciplines. In recognition of this new reality, the Faculty of Humanities at the Hebrew University, which comprises numerous world-renowned experts and is ranked a top faculty in Israel, will establish a new Center of Excellence in the Humanities. This prestigious center will attract brilliant students and leading young scholars from around the world, providing the most outstanding students with sufficient funding to allow them to focus fully on their studies — a situation largely unheard of at the graduate and postdoctoral levels today.

At the core of this University-wide innovation and scholarship is a crucial mission: to attract and support the next generation of brilliant scientists and intellectuals. The Hebrew University faces intense competition from some of the world’s best universities who are vying to absorb outstanding young Israeli scholars; indeed, recent figures show a dangerous brain drain in Israeli academia. There can be no more important mission for the future of education and of the country than that of ensuring that Israel retains its best and brightest young minds.

Strides in all University endeavors have been and continue to be possible thanks to the help of the University’s Friends associations worldwide. The efforts and activities of our Friends assure the University a high profile and mobilize generous support. For this enduring friendship, the Hebrew University community — and the State of Israel — is eternally grateful.
Forging Our Future

22 Outstanding
New Faculty Members
Despite the ongoing reductions in government funding, the University ended the 2006/2007 fiscal year with a balanced budget for the tenth consecutive year. This is a significant achievement when taking into account that, in the past six years, the direct contribution of the government to the University’s operating budget has been reduced by over 24%. Moreover, the University also has had to shoulder further, and unexpected, financial burdens resulting from changes in government policy. These include a requirement — from which the University was previously exempt — to pay municipal property taxes for all University campuses and buildings, and covering the cost increases of budget items whose prices have risen but are only partly covered by government funding.

In light of the drop in government funding, the University has continued to implement various cost-saving measures, including staff cuts and reductions in expenses. Each year, however, the damage caused by such measures becomes increasingly evident: in the levels of academic and administrative services provided to students and faculty members and in the maintenance of campuses and physical infrastructure. The most significant impact is on the University’s ability to offer student support and provide the basic equipment and infrastructure that are crucial to maintaining high research standards.

A contributing factor in achieving a balanced operational budget in 2006/2007 was the sale of University-owned real estate that had significantly appreciated in value. However, this is clearly unreliable and undesirable as a long-term strategy. The University can neither make more staff cuts nor reduce maintenance costs. Additional budgetary support from both the government and the Friends associations is essential.

The Shochat Committee’s in-depth examination of Israel’s higher education system was previously regarded as the key to creating a new vision and increasing budgetary allocations to Israel’s universities. However, the report was presented almost one year ago and, for overtly political reasons, has yet to be discussed. Clearly, this stalemate on solving the crisis in higher education can only make the Hebrew University’s role more difficult as it seeks to grapple with the impact of the budget cuts.

In reviewing the University’s financial activity on these pages, we relate to its operating results. The figures presented cover all University operations and budgets. Budgets are divided into two categories: annual budgets comprise the regular budget (see Table 3 for details of regular budget implementation) and the closed budget of several specific operations such as the Rothberg International School and the Saltiel Center for Pre-Academic Studies. Multi-year budgets include the research, development and special budgets.

Financial reports for these multi-year budgets are generally represented on the basis of cash flow.

The tables on these pages (all figures are in US $) cover financial operations in 2006/2007, in comparison to the previous year.

Tables 1 and 2 cover overall operations in expenditure and income for the 2005/2006-2006/2007 period, showing the division of financial operations between various budgets. In 2006/2007, 67% of all financial operations were within the regular budget (Table 2), 13% within closed and special budgets, 16% within the research budget, and 4% within the development budget.

It should be noted that in 2006/2007, 67% of the University’s overall expenditure was on salaries and pensions (Table 1), 8% on scholarships, 6% on acquisitions such as books, basic equipment and computers, and 22% on other expenditures such as maintenance and utilities.

The University’s overall income in 2006/2007 comprised 43% from government funding through the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education, 11% from tuition fees; 15% from the Friends organizations; 2% from Endowment Funds; and 29% from other sources (approximately 16% of which came from research-funding agencies).
**TABLE 1**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Pensions</td>
<td>367 (64%)</td>
<td>340 (66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>32 (6%)</td>
<td>25 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>44 (8%)</td>
<td>40 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>126 (21%)</td>
<td>109 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>569 (100%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>514 (100%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government (PBC)</td>
<td>249 (43%)</td>
<td>236 (43%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Fees</td>
<td>62 (11%)</td>
<td>61 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>577 (100%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>522 (100%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**TABLE 2**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Pensions</td>
<td>380 (67%)</td>
<td>346 (67%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>78 (13%)</td>
<td>73 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Budget</td>
<td>91 (16%)</td>
<td>80 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>569 (100%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>514 (100%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Budget*</td>
<td>381 (66%)</td>
<td>347 (66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed &amp; Special Budgets</td>
<td>84 (15%)</td>
<td>74 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>577 (100%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>522 (100%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**TABLE 3**


These tables show the implementation of the regular budget according to the University’s areas of academic and administrative activities. Within academic activities, only direct expenditures are included. Central expenditures for these units (mainly pension and severance payments, and physical maintenance costs) are included in the ‘Central Costs & Administrative Units’ column.

**Table 3A Overall Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Pensions</td>
<td>60.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>26.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3B Experimental Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>42.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>46.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 4
Research Budget According to Groups (in US $ thousands)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Group 1: Faculty of Science, School of Engineering &amp; Computer Science</th>
<th>Group 2: Faculty of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Dental Medicine</th>
<th>Group 3: Faculty of Humanities, School of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Environmental Quality Sciences</th>
<th>Group 4: Faculty of Agricultural, Food &amp; Environmental Quality Sciences</th>
<th>Group 5: Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Social Work &amp; Social Welfare</th>
<th>Group 6: Faculty of Law, Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, others**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002/2003</td>
<td>39,560</td>
<td>31,665</td>
<td>11,859</td>
<td>14,360</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003/2004</td>
<td>37,781</td>
<td>27,427</td>
<td>13,553</td>
<td>12,793</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004/2005</td>
<td>32,796</td>
<td>23,470</td>
<td>11,072</td>
<td>10,549</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>2,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/2006</td>
<td>32,796</td>
<td>23,470</td>
<td>11,072</td>
<td>10,549</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>2,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/2007</td>
<td>31,022</td>
<td>20,061</td>
<td>9,793</td>
<td>10,419</td>
<td>5,852</td>
<td>2,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>106,919</td>
<td>88,304</td>
<td>39,560</td>
<td>52,903</td>
<td>26,452</td>
<td>8,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on planned budgets; figures calculated at rate of exchange on September 30, 2007.

**Faculty of Law only from 2005/6

### Table 5
University Endowment Funds, Growth and Income (in US $ millions)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Assets of Endowment Funds</th>
<th>Net Profit</th>
<th>Net Profit (as %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996/1997</td>
<td>268.1</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997/1998</td>
<td>272.9</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998/1999</td>
<td>279.0</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999/2000</td>
<td>313.3</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000/2001</td>
<td>282.6</td>
<td>-18.0</td>
<td>-6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001/2002</td>
<td>280.7</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002/2003</td>
<td>294.3</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003/2004</td>
<td>308.6</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004/2005</td>
<td>328.0</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/2006</td>
<td>347.8</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/2007</td>
<td>394.3</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The dollar values above are translated from the amount shown in the University's books in New Israeli Shekels at the rate of exchange on the day of transaction.

### Table 6
Amounts Received from Friends Organizations 2006/2007 (in US $ thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Income</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Special &amp; Research Budgets</th>
<th>Development &amp; Other Budgets</th>
<th>Endowment Funds in Israel</th>
<th>Total Income</th>
<th>As Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>17,089</td>
<td>17,752</td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td>1,076</td>
<td>38,562</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>7,576</td>
<td>5,003</td>
<td>1,076</td>
<td>13,889</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>7,224</td>
<td>3,414</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10,649</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>4,097</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>4,663</td>
<td>9,687</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>6,183</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>6,735</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>1,217</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>3,215</td>
<td>5,692</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>2,430</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>26,566</td>
<td>41,031</td>
<td>9,856</td>
<td>10,191</td>
<td>87,644</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Prof. Yoram Bilu, Blavatika Korem, Co-Chairs, Authority for Research Students
Prof. Carl Posy, Academic Director, National Library of Israel

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