



BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter Issued by Birzeit University, Occupied Palestine, July 1992, No. 22

BIRZEIT BACK - BUT ONLY HALF!

Birzeit faculty and students returned to the new campus of the University on 29 April – but according to a "gradual" timetable imposed by the military authorities after over four years of closure. Students from the Faculties of Science and Engineering were permitted on the new campus, but students from the Faculties of Arts and Commerce were banned until 1 October. On 28 June, the military governor of Ramallah informed the University that all students were now allowed on the new campus. The old campus has not been allowed to re-open.

Opening On the Installment Plan

Dr. **Gabi Baramki**, Vice-President of the University commented to the Newsletter: "It is difficult to accept that the last university allowed to re-open is the one that is forced to re-open only partially, despite the fact that the other five universities have been functioning smoothly and without incident. We told Israeli Defense Minister Arens in our meeting of April 19 that universities should not be open in installments. **We are an integrated academic community** and our goal is to remove tensions and impediments to learning rather than reinforce them by dividing the student body."

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Student scrutinizes map of new campus



University administrators also noted that the closure of the University was cruelly prolonged after an Israeli pledge to re-open the universities "gradually" in May 1990. University spokesperson **Albert Aghazarian** emphasized that during the years of closure, "education itself was criminalized. **We hope that education will no longer be a criminal activity.**"

Loss and Renewal

The renewal of academic life was at the center of the agenda as Birzeit moved back to campus. "**We have lost many of our traditions**, both academically and culturally," commented Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. **Henry Jaqaman**. "We have become accustomed to doing without such important matters as library use and academic advising, to name only two examples. Indeed, very few of our students even knew how to get around the campus during the first week."

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letter from the vice-president

Dear friends and colleagues,

In March 1988, when Birzeit University held an international conference on Twenty Years of Occupation, the University was closed by military order. At the time, we did not imagine that we would be banned from campus until shortly before the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Israeli military occupation, on 5 June 1992.

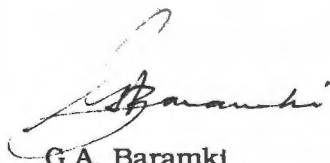
Should I conclude that we were short-sighted? I think not. Instead, two comments come to mind.

First our life as a University has been in the hands of an arbitrary power which has little or no regard for education: the sad proof is in the enormous damage done to our institution over the past four years, in the grudging and partial re-opening and in the checkpoints and other harassments that have faced our students and faculty since April.

Second, I find that the survival of our University perhaps rests on our misguided optimism, our ability to continue to function when circumstances dictate impossibility. It is significant that, after a few months of closure, we launched a successful international conference and after almost five years of closure, Birzeit held or co-sponsored the two important conferences described in this Newsletter. The mind of the University stayed alive and alert.

We return to campus, then, battered but resolute. Two new programs, Technical Assistance and Continuing Education, seek to address the pressing economic needs of individuals and society. A new Mediterranean Studies Unit opens a new avenue for academic research. While it would be foolish to ignore our many losses - academic, financial and institutional - the mission of the University remains viable and vibrant.

Sincerely,



G.A. Baramki
Vice-President

BODY AND SOUL Students Return to Campus

"Our main aim is to rebuild what the closure has destroyed," said Student Council representative Ra'id Al Saadaq, describing the active program of student activities launched in the first two weeks of the University's re-opening.

Get-acquainted parties, book exhibits, a sale of inexpensive school supplies, and cultural events were featured, as the new campus awakened to life again. "We also took the new students on tours," Ra'id explained. For many students who enrolled during the four years of closure, taking their first University classes in rented rooms in Ramallah, the sight of the new campus was particularly moving. "There's a whole building for the library," exclaimed Randa, a first-year commerce student. During the closure, the library consisted of a one-room office with a reserve shelf, a few current periodicals and a table for resolute readers.

Army checkpoints erected at the gate of the new campus deflated student euphoria. "It was infuriating," said Ra'id, "like an ugly reminder of our life under occupation." Other problems faced by the students include the army's banning of the Faculties of Art and Commerce from returning to campus. "Many students have classes in Ramallah, the new campus, and Birzeit town. "We spend all our time travelling," one student complained. Financial difficulties also beset many students due to the sharp decline in the West
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**School
Supplies
On Sale**





University official questions soldier at checkpoint.

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Bank and Gaza economy and the Student Council is working to assist needy students.

"Our aim is to build unity between the students and to allow for everyone to participate," said Ra'id, explaining that the present Student Council, decimated by deportations and the arrests of student leaders during the past four years, plans to expand to include all student groups in a new leadership until student elections are held in the autumn of 1992.

During the closure, the Council was active in hosting international student groups and explaining the problems of Palestinian students to international visitors.

The Kamal Nasir Hall on the new campus was standing room only for the first cultural performances of the season by the Sharaf Al Tibi and Funuun Shabiya dance troupes. The former group was named after the first Birzeit University student killed by army gunfire in December 1984. Lectures, plays and other events will be scheduled over the summer.

"We want to put the soul back into the body," said Ra'id, summing up student efforts to reinvigorate campus life. With four years already lost, students are determined not to lose more time in bringing a rich and diverse student life back to campus.

Army Checkpoints Raise Tension

Students and faculty returning to the new campus were greeted with an all-too-familiar sight: army checkpoints erected at the gate of the new campus; soldiers checking identity cards, and long lines of traffic. The day the University was slated to return to campus, there were three checkpoints on the road from Ramalah to Birzeit.

Checkpoints were also erected on 5 May, 6 May, 8 May and 11 May, either stopping students upon their exit or entrance to campus, or barring entry from the town of Birzeit, where many students reside and where there are several off-campus facilities.

When University officials' attempts to tell the officers in charge that such checkpoints were provocative and should be removed were unsuccessful, the Director of Public Relations, Albert Aghazarian, sent an emergency letter to Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens. In a 19 April meeting with Defense Minister Arens, University officials had previously warned that such checkpoints and the stopping of teachers and students by soldiers only create unnecessary pressure.

The letter reiterated that these negative actions "can only produce friction and block the smooth re-opening of the University." Aghazarian affirmed: "The University is committed to the arduous task of reconstructing and rebuilding its academic life in a proper university atmosphere and hopes that the right of education will be respected and ensured."

THE FRANKISH WARS

Seven hundred years after the European Crusaders left Palestine, Palestinian and local scholars gathered in Jerusalem to assess their influence in a University-sponsored international conference on "**The Frankish Wars and Their Influence on Palestine.**" "The dialogue between our own researchers and first-rate European scholars was very enriching," remarked fourth-year history student **Abdelhalim Abu Shasmiyyeh**. Scholars from Germany, France, Scotland, England and the United States joined local scholars in a three-day exploration of the interaction between the Crusaders and the native population and culture in Palestine, focusing on such topics as Arabic literature on the Crusades, the long-term consequences of the Crusades on both rims of the Mediterranean and the theory and practice of **Jihad**.

The conference was sponsored by the University's Department of History, Geography and Political Science and funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which maintained its commitment to the project throughout the delay caused by the Gulf War. In the opening address, Dr. **Gabi Baranki**, Vice-President of the University, noted the many problems caused by the continued closure of the University and the value of academic exchange in breaking the University's isolation. History Department Chairman Dr. **Khalil Athamina** welcomed the assembly.

History lecturer Dr. **Roger Heacock**, a member of the Organizing Committee of the Conference, told the Newsletter that the conference aimed at "an integrated approach, combining scholarly presentations and discussion with visits to sites," including a one-day trip led by Birzeit ge-

ographer Dr. **Kamal Abdul Fattah** to Crusader and Islamic sites throughout the country. "These lectures and visits pointed out the present threats to valuable historical and archeological remains and the need for protection and restoration of many sites," Heacock remarked.

Fourth-year history major **Zahyye Hussein** noted that, for her, the conference "led to the welcome discovery that European scholars are seriously studying such questions as the true meaning of "jihad" and ideas of Islamic justice. The visits to the sites, for example medieval Christian sites in the Old City, also opened new horizons."

International scholars participating in the conference included **Carole Hillnebrand** (University of Edinburgh), **Edgard Weber** (University of Toulouse), Lutz Richter-Bernburg (American University in Cairo), **R.G. Khoury** (University of Heidelberg), **Lawrence Conrad** (Wellcome Institute, London), **Stefan Wild** (Bonn University), **Denys Pringle** (University of Edinburgh), **D.S. Richards** (Oxford University) and **Mahmud Ibrahim** (California State Polytechnic University). Two papers by scholars at Basra and Mosul universities in Iraq were also prepared especially for the conference and will be included in the published proceedings.

Birzeit University academics delivering papers at the conference included **Naji Abdul Jabbar** (Dean, Faculty of Arts) on "The Recoding of Historical Events in Arabic Poetry During the Frankish Wars," **Khalil Athamina** (History) on "Non-Military Relations Between Muslims and Crusaders," **Roger Heacock** (History) on "The Frankish Wars and the Rise of the West" and **Adel Manna'** (History) on "The Return of the Franks' to Jerusalem and Acre in the Eighteenth Century." Other local scholars were **Jabir Khadir** (An Najah National University) on "The Crusader Occupation of Palestine as Mirrored in Egyptian and Syrian Poetry" and **Muhammed Sadeq** (researcher, Khan Yunis) on "Crusader Architecture in Gaza and Its Influence on Islamic Architecture."

Birzeit University plans to publish the conference's papers in their original languages, while the **Revue d'etudes palestiniennes** in Paris will publish a selection in French.

What does discourse analysis have to say about Palestine?

A 9-11 April 1992 conference in Amsterdam, co-sponsored by the **University of Amsterdam's Program of Discourse Studies and Birzeit University's Department of English**, offered several rewarding answers. Scholars from Holland, the United States and the Occupied Territories examined how Palestinians are represented and represent themselves in twenty-six papers exploring subjects from tourist postcards of Palestine to Palestinian graffiti, from Israeli frontier art to political thrillers and from the writings of Palestinian prisoners to representations of Palestinian women. A keynote address by Professor **Edward Said** drew an enlarged audience to hear a piercing critique of the limits of the Western liberal tradition and a call for a "new universality" in the discourse of human rights.

erary Discourse of Palestinian Political Prisoners" and Queens College sociologist **Yerach Gover**'s examination of "The Palestinian Arab as a 'Moral Other' in Israeli Hebrew Literature."

But scholars also "read" other objects. Professor **Susan Slyomovics**, Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature at Brown University, explored the transformation of a Palestinian village into an Israeli artists' colony. Birzeit English lecturer **Lamis Abu Nahleh** focused on graffiti and Birzeit archaeologist **Hamad Salem** discussed paradigms of biblical archaeology.

Representations of Palestinian women attracted the interest of a number of conference participants. **Sharif Kanaana**, an anthropologist from Birzeit University, examined the role of women in intifada legends, while **Sarah Graham-Brown** looked at "Women and National Struggle: Image and Symbol." Amsterdam University student

DISCOURSE & PALESTINE

The conference opened with two speeches that underlay its special significance. The opening address, by Dr. **Nicolaas H. Blegman**, Director-General of International Cooperation at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the official cooperation agreement between Birzeit and Amsterdam universities, signed in 1985. He noted that "the Arab and Islamic world is now Terra Incognita to most Dutch students" and called for ways to bridge "our mutual misunderstanding." "The world community has a special responsibility with regard to the Occupied Territories," Blegman affirmed, stressing the importance of preserving and developing Palestinian cultural identity. "A message read from the exiled President of Birzeit University, Dr. Hanna Nasir, highlighted one such measure: the closure of Birzeit University. "The conference comes as a challenge to the closure," Dr. Nasir wrote. "It is a clear indication of the support and the courage of the University of Amsterdam."

Presentations at the conference examined texts, as in Birzeit University lecturer Dr. **Ilham Abu Ghazaleh**'s study of "The Outside World in the Lit

Maja van der Velden, an exchange student at Birzeit in 1991-1992, presented her research on Palestinian women writers in the Occupied Territories. Art historian **Vera Tamari** and **Penny Johnson** of Birzeit University discussed representations of Palestinian women in Palestinian art under occupation. Art under occupation was also examined by Birzeit graduate **Ibrahim Bardawil** and **Mark Taylor**.

At the conference's concluding session, **Ilham Abu Ghazaleh** offered Birzeit University's warmest appreciation for the work of **Toine van Teeffelen** and the other Dutch colleagues who made the conference possible and successful. Participants also signed a statement of protest over the continued closure of Birzeit University, which was dispatched to the Dutch Foreign Ministry, and other relevant parties. The organizing committee of Birzeit and Amsterdam staff are already planning to continue the "discourse" by publishing the proceedings and by holding another conference in the coming year.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS: TORTURE IS THE ISSUE

1991 Statistics Show No Improvement

As the 1991-1992 academic year draws to a close, the human rights situation for Birzeit staff and students showed no improvement. Not only did the University community suffer the impact of prolonged curfews and vigilante-style settler attacks in the Ramallah-Bireh area through the winter semester, but the number of people detained in 1991 was almost identical to 1990 statistics: **in 1991, 130 University students and staff entered Israeli prisons and detention camps, one less than in 1990.**

Of the 1991 detainees, **25% were placed under administrative detention** (detention without charge or trial). Another 37% were eventually released without charge after days, weeks, or in some cases, months in prison. 38% of the University detainees were sentenced or are awaiting trial at the end of the academic year.

The University's situation is not unique. A series of human rights reports in 1991 confirmed severe violations of the rights of Palestinians under occupation, and in particular focused on the issue of torture and maltreatment under interrogation, an issue that has long concerned the University. In March 1991, the Israeli human rights organization **B'Tselem** released its report on **The Interrogation of Palestinians During the Intifada: Illtreatment, "Moderate Physical Pressure", or Torture?** and updated the report a year later. The report, based on 41 in-depth interviews, showed that "a number of interrogation methods are routinely used that are prohibited by international declarations against torture," and cites the prolonged period of incommunicado detention without access to a lawyer, the wide powers given the General Security Services (GSS) without public accountability and scrutiny and the difficulty of challenging confessions in court as the context in which the maltreatment and torture of detainees goes unchecked.

The **Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC)** released a study in December 1991 which documented beyond doubt the **use of electric shock by Israeli interrogators** in eight cases in the Hebron region. The PHRIC report stated that

some detainees had been "subjected to electric shocks of ranging intensity that were applied by thin wires attached to their heads, necks, arms, legs and genitals..."

Al Haq, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, issued a February 1992 update based on its Torture Project survey of several hundred former prisoners. The report found that **an overwhelming 98.7% of former detainees report being beaten**; 91.5% report "position abuse" (handcuffing a detainee in a difficult position and leaving him/her for prolonged periods of time); 34.2 % report being deprived of sleep "for periods of time ranging from one day to more than one week," while another 46.6 percent were subjected to isolation. Other common tactics include "enclosure in a small space" and "extended exposure to extreme cold (freezing) temperatures while wearing minimal clothing."

The experience of Birzeit students and staff confirm Al Haq's findings. In February 1992, **Birzeit student Amin Amin was hospitalized after nine days of around-the-clock interrogation** where he was deprived of food and sleep, beaten, hooded and handcuffed, and exposed to severe cold. Similar circumstances had led to the death of Jerusalem resident Mustafa Akkawi under interrogation in Hebron prison the previous month, after Akkawi was returned to interrogation despite his visibly poor condition when he appeared before a military judge.

The **U.S. State Department Country Report on Human Rights**, in its section on "Israel and the Occupied Territories, cites the "detailed, credible reports on torture, abuse and mistreatment of Palestinian detainees" published by Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups.

To obtain the reports, write: **Al Haq, POB 1413, Ramallah, B'Tselem, 18 Karen Hayesod Street, Jerusalem 92149, and PHRIC POB 20479, Jerusalem.**

URGENT: STOP THE EXPULSIONS!



When the Israeli authorities served deportation orders against twelve Palestinians last January, Birzeit University discovered it faced the loss of a long-time member of the University community, librarian Omar Assaf, as well as fourth-year student Ali Fares Khatib. Omar and Ali are currently in prison while lawyers attempt to halt the deportations; the effect of Omar's deportation on the University offers a small glimpse of the cruel disruption of lives, families and the community resulting from Israel's illegal practice of expulsion.

Omar is responsible for the Arabic language classification at the University's 95,000 volume library. A Library administrator notes that Omar, who has worked at the Library since 1983, would be a big loss: "His is a difficult job, that requires special skills and training. Omar, who is married and has three young daughters, has been active in the University's staff union, and is highly-respected by his colleagues. "It will be difficult to replace Omar's good relations with all the staff. He is one of the best employees we ever had." But of course much more is at stake. Omar's wife Na'ima, says: **"The decision to expel my husband is a death sentence, because exile is a slow death."**

In the wake of the deportation orders, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 726, which "strongly condemns" the deportations and "affirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention": Article 49 of the Convention forbids deportations. In the wake of the Israeli elections, the High Court postponed its decision on the appeal of the deportees, in consideration of a possible change in policy. **Now is the time to speak out against expulsions.**

MISSING PERSONS IN GAZA

At a 19 June press conference held by the Council for Higher Education, Dr. Gabi Baramki, Chairman of the Council, issued a "Missing Persons Alert," noting that "in the last weeks, since the closure of Gaza by the military authorities on 24 May 1992, hundreds of our students and a number of our faculty have "disappeared" from our institutions. As the 1991-1992 academic year draws to a close, students from Gaza are denied the opportunity to complete their studies for this year."

Even before the closure of Gaza, residents required a permit to leave Gaza and a permit to stay in the West Bank. At this writing, Gazans under the age of 25 - virtually the entire student population - are almost certain to be denied a permit to leave for purposes of continuing their education in West Bank universities. About 280 students from Gaza currently study in Birzeit University, and several hundred in other West Bank universities. Faculty members from Gaza also experience great difficulties in acquiring permits to allow them to continue their teaching responsibilities in the West Bank.

"Gaza students and faculty are not pariahs," Dr. Baramki affirmed, "but rather an integral part of the Palestinian community." The Council for Higher Education has demanded that university education should be open and unobstructed for all students, including students from Gaza.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AT BZU?

To find out more about human rights at Birzeit University, subscribe to the **Birzeit Human Rights Record**, a bimonthly bulletin from the Birzeit Human Rights Action Project. Includes detailed descriptions of cases, up-to-date information on harassments of the University, and statistics. Write to the Human Rights Action Project, Public Relations Office, Birzeit University. A small donation would be appreciated to cover mailing costs.

BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY AND THE PEACE PROCESS

Academics' Role Under Occupation Multifaceted

When Birzeit faculty and students switch on the world news these days, familiar faces often appear on the screen. From Madrid to Moscow, from Washington to Tokyo, Birzeit academics have been prominent members of the Palestinian delegations to the bilateral and multilateral talks in the on-going Middle East peace process. As the Madrid Peace Conference convened in October 1991, a cartoon in a local newspaper had one Birzeit student saying to another: "No classes today. The physics professor is gone. The engineering teacher is absent. And the English lecturer is also away."

The joke humorously underlines the importance of Palestinian universities under occupation as reservoirs of human resources, developed over the harsh years of military occupation when lack of economic and professional opportunity, instability and military restrictions have driven many professionals and experts abroad. The absence of a public sector has further curtailed the opportunities for professional careers. The development of the universities served to counter this brain drain.

Thus, in the absence of professional diplomats and politicians, academics in the Occupied Palestinian Territories had an important role to play. "In the absence of a civil service", negotiator Dr. **Nabil Kassis** explains, "one turns to the existing institutions and draws on their resources. This is not the first or the last time Birzeit academics will be called upon for community service."

Dr. **Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi**, former Dean of Arts and current Associate Professor of English, has become internationally known for her articulate presentation of Palestinian reality and aspirations. Ashrawi serves as Official Spokesperson for the Palestinian Delegation and on the advisory team to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. On the 14-person negotiating delegation to the bilaterals are Dr. **Abdul Rahman Hamad** (Engineering), Dr. **Suad**



Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi

Amiry (Architecture), **Ghassan Khatib** (Cultural Studies), Dr. **Nabil Kassis** (Physics) and Dr. **Hasan Abu Libdeh** (Mathematics) > Dr. **Nazmi Jubeh** (History) serves as an advisor to the delegation.

Birzeit academics involved in the regional working groups of the multilateral talks include Dr. **Gabi Baramki** (Vice-President; Head of the Palestinian delegation to the Steering Group), Dr. **Salim Tamari** (Sociology; Steering Group and Refugee Working Group); Dr. **Said Haifa** (Economics; Economic Development Working Group); and **Mohammed Said** (Community Health Unit; Environment Working Group).

Other Birzeit scholars have been active writing on the important questions raised by the peace process, commenting for local papers or publishing studies and monographs. The Summer 1992 issue of **Dirasaat Filistiniyya** (Palestinian Studies) features a roundtable discussion with Birzeit academics **George Giacaman**, **Ali Jarbawi** and **Riyad Al Malki**, among others. Dr. Al Malki, in particular, has been a major critical voice in community debates and discussions on the peace process.

In sum, the role of an academic under occupation is not and cannot be restricted to narrow specialization. "While the taking on of these roles can temporarily remove needed personnel from the University," states Kassis, "there is benefit to Birzeit University in exposing our most important resource -- our human assets."

**IN MEMORIAM:
ALBERT E. GLOCK
(1925-1992)**



The tragic and cruel death of long-time Birzeit University faculty member, Dr. Albert E. Glock, the Head of the University's Center for Palestinian Archaeology, has deeply saddened the University community. On 19 January 1992, Dr. Glock was shot and killed by an unknown assailant near the town of Birzeit. That day, the University's Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire University, issued a statement strongly denouncing this "criminal, cowardly act." It was quickly joined by condemnations from the Faculty Union and Student Council.

The colleagues and students of Al Glock during his sixteen years at Birzeit University mourn him deeply. His vision and commitment, always accompanied by exacting scholarship, taught new approaches to the archaeology of Palestine. The Center that he founded is committed to the continued exploration of the frontiers that Al devoted his life to mapping. The deepest condolences of the entire University are extended to his wife Lois, also a dedicated teacher at the University, his daughter, and his three sons.

Many members of the University community were prevented from attending Al's funeral in Jerusalem and his burial in Ramallah, due to a curfew placed on the town of Ramallah on 22 January, adding another cruel restriction to the tragedy that community was facing. The University held another memorial service for Professor Glock on 23 April. The University also fears that no proper investigation will take place, due to the prevalent state of lawlessness in the Occupied Territories. The military authorities have signally failed to take up their duties under the Fourth Geneva Convention to protect the population under occupation; the army, for example, took over two hours to arrive at the scene of the crime.

Al was born in Gifford, Idaho in 1925, but spent much of his professional life in Palestine. In 1970, he became a research professor at the Albright Archaeological Institute in Jerusalem and was Director of the Albright from 1977-1981, remaining a research associate until his death. He began teaching at Birzeit University in 1976, where he was instrumental in building the Department of Archaeology, and subsequently founded the Center for Palestinian Archaeology. As Dr. Gabi Baramki, Vice-President of the University wrote: "Al Glock's life exemplifies values that the University cherishes: critical inquiry, dedicated scholarship, cultural understanding and a universal vision. We will serve his memory best by continuing to uphold these values."

BIRZEIT IN THE COMMUNITY

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Skill-oriented learning for a viable economic future sums up the goal of the newly-established Continuing Education Department, headed by **Haifa Baramki**. "We want to open new horizons for people," explained Baramki, "to upgrade skills and to update information." The Department will serve as a community-oriented training center, drawing on the human and material resources of the University to provide workshops, training courses, and non-formal participatory training to meet the challenges of a changing work environment.

The Department has already held a series of computer courses on subjects from word-processing to new programs for electrical engineers and physicists. On 29 May, a training course began in Gaza in cooperation with Gaza's Association of Engineers to upgrade maintenance skills for TV/VCR technicians. "We always try to involve a third party," notes Ms. Baramki. The Department is engaged in on-going consultation with local institutions and a 3-6 June seminar was held with the Association of Engineers and local industrialists to determine training needs. Other upcoming courses include a course for health workers, in cooperation with the Union of Medical Relief Committees and an English for Specific Purposes course for employees of a local pharmaceutical company. The Department affirms a special emphasis on the training of women and identifies women in small businesses, cooperatives and in the social services as a target group.

A team from the American University of Cairo will visit in the summer to conduct a feasibility study on the institutionalization of continuing education. The Department will also be responsible for the University's **International Summer Program, held this year from 20 July -28 August** and is studying ways to expand Arabic instruction for non-native speakers on a year-round basis. The program currently features courses in intensive Arabic, intermediate Arabic, Palestinian society and the Palestine problem.

Water Analysis Lab in Gaza

The **Center for Environmental Health and Occupational Safety** plans to open a branch water analysis laboratory in Gaza, under an agreement concluded in May with the **Gaza Environment Program**, headed by Dr. Akram Mattar. The lab will monitor water quality in the Gaza Strip, with the goal of protecting the health of consumers. Gaza's water supply has been plagued with increasingly serious problems of contamination by sewage and other pollutants as well as an alarming increase in salinity, due to the lowering of the water table... Dr. **Ramzi Sansour**, Head of Birzeit's Center, explained that Birzeit will serve as a reference lab and will be responsible for scientific supervision, while the administration will be undertaken by the Gaza program.

The Center is also committed to a feasibility study for a long-term environmental survey of the West Bank, in cooperation with the International Development and Research Center (IDRC) of Canada and other groups. This summer, the Center will open two agricultural counseling centers in the Jordan Valley as part of its **"Safe Use of Pesticides Project."** The centers will offer training to farmers in the correct use of pesticides and dispense educational material. The Project also contacts residue analysis and quality control analysis. "West Bank farmers purchase at least 1261 tons of pesticides per year," remarked Sansour. "It is an usually high amount and our job is to advise farmers what is necessary and safe for both them and the consumer."

Playing Now....

BIRZEIT ON VIDEO

A 45-minute documentary on the re-opening of Birzeit University is available from the Public Relations Office. The film, made by Business Administration lecturer Saro Nakeshian and student Samir Rentisi, documents University life during the closure and the first days of re-opening. It will be available on VHS/PAL 1/2" video.

Research for Economic Development

Birzeit economists have been actively assisting the creation of new industries and businesses in the Occupied Territories. Department of Commerce faculty member **Alex Kuttab** recently completed a feasibility study for a stone-cutting factory and **Naser Tahboub** prepared a study for a bakery on the behest of the United Nations Development Program. Both studies were conducted under the aegis of the University's new Technical Unit for Consultation, coordinated by **Audeh Zaghmouri**, which aim to connect university research to the community's economic needs. Kuttab and Tahboub also conducted training sessions for UNWRA staff member in accounting and financial management skills, in cooperation with the Unit and the Continuing Education Department.

Dr. **Samir Hazboun**, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics, notes that the Unit has also recently undertaken a market survey on plastic products for agricultural purposes, a study for the Red Crescent in Nablus on the economic feasibility of establishing an institution for the handicapped, and a training course for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on marketing and management.

Julie Christie in front of closed campus



Grant for Mediterranean Studies

A new Mediterranean Studies Unit, approved by the Council for Higher Education in 1992, aims to promote interdisciplinary research on questions related to the Mediterranean Basin and Palestine's role within it in the past and present.

"It is a relatively unexplored dimension," explained History lecturer Dr. **Roger Heacock**, one of the initiators of the Unit. "Like other Arab and Islamic countries, Palestine is geographically situated within this zone and shares in various aspects of its history, social structure, ecology, and culture."

The program recently received a grant from the European Community of 280,000 ECUs over the next three years. The Unit will include a research and teaching component," noted Dr. **Salim Tamari**. Our research thrust is towards comparative studies, with an emphasis on southern European and North African studies, as well as Ottoman history. Teaching will crossreference with social science and humanities departments at the university. We hope to evolve into graduate studies, and to introduce the teaching of Mediterranean languages, such as Spanish, Italian, French, Greek and Turkish." Plans for the initial period include a biannual newsletter, developing contacts with other institutes, research and the provision of services to researchers. The program is currently under the supervision of the Research Center, headed by Dr. **Ali Jarbawi**.

PERFORMERS SUPPORT PALESTINIAN EDUCATION

At a 10 February press conference, British performing artists spoke out against Israel's harassment of Palestinian education and the closure of Birzeit University. The conference came at the end of a tour facilitated by the World University Service in London. Artists included Julie Christie, Charlotte Cornwell, Simon Fanshawe, John Gillet, Kirsty McColl, Andy de la Tour and Richard Wilson. They also met with Palestinian musicians and performers, and visited institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

TWO MAJOR BUILDINGS NEAR COMPLETION

"We have had our share of problems," noted Michel Sifri, head of the University's Engineering Office, which supervises the construction on Birzeit's new campus. Since the breaking of ground for two new buildings, the Faculty of Commerce Building, and the Student Union, events, from the closure of the University to the collapse of the Jordanian dinar, in which construction costs are fixed, made progress both slow and painful.



Student Union Building

Yet two floors of the 4250 square meter Commerce building will be in use by the end of the summer, and at least one floor of the 4500 meter Student Union building will be open in the near future.

Opening two floors of the Commerce building will give the University eleven new large classrooms (50 square meters each), 2 small classrooms (30 square meters each) and twenty-three faculty offices. "The University has also become more sensitive to the problems of the handicapped," Sifri noted, explaining modifications in the design of the building to make it more accessible and usable for students in wheelchairs or with other disabilities.

The additional space is crucial when the 1992-93 academic year begins, and students and teachers from the Faculties of Arts and Commerce return

Commerce Building



to campus. Currently, plans for the Student Union building include opening a new 500-seat cafeteria and fully-equipped kitchen as soon as possible, as the two smaller cafeterias on campus will not be able to accommodate the demand. The Student Union, which includes an internal courtyard, will supply a sorely-needed requisite for student life: places to congregate, whether to talk or study, including wide terraces, a large student lounge, a comfortable reading room, a music room, Student Council offices and offices for student services and programs.

"Finances, finances, finances," answers Sifri on the largest impediment to the University's building plans. A Physical Education building and a Fine Arts building/Museum complex are still on the drawing board. Landscaping is a priority, insists Sifri. "We have all these buildings which need to be tied together through landscaping." An initial plan drawn up by the Aga Khan foundation will be supplemented by suggestions from a University committee.

Another new project under study is a Rainwater Utilization Project, for maximum use of the region's scarce resource, water. The University already has a model sewage treatment plant which recycles waste water for irrigation. A study for utilization of the surface run-off from rainfall has been completed. "It is a long-term project," Sifri said, "but one that will save both money and water."

GUEST LECTURES: EDWARD SAID AT BIRZEIT

* **Edward Said**, Parr Professor of Comparative Literature at Columbia University, met with faculty and students on 20 June to discuss aspects of **Culture and Imperialism**, the topic of a upcoming book by Professor Said. The talk was co-sponsored by the Center for Study and Documentation of Palestinian Society and the Department of Cultural Studies. Said, noting that it was his "first lecture in Palestine," introduced the themes of his new book, stressing the imperial invention of the geography of a subject land and the psychology of a subject people.

Said urged a deepened understanding of the history of imperialism and decolonization, including the cultural dimension, and addressed a series of wide-ranging questions and comments from the audience. Professor Said and his family toured the new campus of the University and discussed the problems and prospects for the University with members of the Board of Trustees, faculty and students.

* **Dr. Saul Slapikoff**, a biologist from Tufts University, was a guest researcher at the Center for Environmental Health and Occupational Safety from January - April 1992. The visit was part of the Twin Cities Project, linking the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts to the West Bank towns of Ramallah and El Bireh.

* The Mathematics Department hosted a February 1992 seminar with Dr. **Chandler Davis** of the University of Toronto, who discussed "The Rotation of Eigenvectors by a Perturbation."

* Professor **Frederic James** of the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva lectured on "Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Theory" in a April 23 seminar sponsored by the Department of Physics.



UNION NEWS

Elections for the Union of Faculty and Employees at the University, conducted in July 1991, resulted in a nine-person executive headed by **Dr. Faisal Awadallah** of the Department of Civil Engineering. Dr. Awadallah told the Newsletter that the new Union initially focused on an "effective media campaign to reopen the University" and still considers relations with academic and human rights institutions a priority, in order to safeguard the reopening of the rest of the University faculties and prevent further closures. "We appeal to our fellow academics, and the international community as a whole, to intervene to prevent the occupation authorities from interfering in our University's internal affairs."

During the past year, the Union has led a struggle against the continuing depreciation of the purchasing power of the faculty and employee salaries, which stands roughly at one-third of what it was eight years ago, due to persistent inflation and the decline of the Jordanian dinar, which has lost more than 50% of its exchange value. "These economic problems spur a negative brain-drain from the University," Awdallah commented. "Even though the Union has won some salary increases this year, we believe further gains are essential for the staff and for the well-being of the University."

birzeit abroad

- * Dr. **Rita Giacaman** (Community Health) discussed "Strategies for Improving the Status of Women: Focus on Health" at a seminar held at the University of Western Cape in South Africa from 4-7 May 1992 and sponsored by the International Council of Adult Education. Dr. Giacaman also had the opportunity to visit trade unions and other grassroots organizations.
- * In October 1991, Dr. **Musa Budeiri** (Cultural Studies) delivered a presentation at a conference in Athens on "Causes of the Development of Stalinism in the Soviet Union."
- * The Council for Higher Education delegated **Is-lah Jad** (Cultural Studies) to participate in a seminar on education in the Occupied Territories, held in Paris in March 1992.
- * At an international conference on Yemeni architecture, held at the University of Aden from 17-19 December, Dr. **Shadi Ghadban** (Architecture) delivered a paper on "Yemeni Buildings and Foundations for Future Development." Dr. Ghadban also lectured at the University of Sanaa during his stay. In November 1991, Dr. Ghadban and **Nihad Mughanni** attended a study week at Tishrin University in Latakia, Syria where Dr. Ghadban discussed "Economic Housing and Factors in Design."
- * **Nihad Mughanni** (Architecture) participated in a October 1991 conference at the Milan Polytechnic on land use on the Mediterranean shore. He delivered a paper on "The Development of Land Use and Architectural Planning in the Occupied Arab Lands."
- * **Mahmoud Abdul Fattah** (Languages, Translation Program) delivered a paper on "Semantic Intermediacy as Manifested in the Translation of Modal Verbs from Arabic to English and Vice-versa" at an International Conference on Translation and Technology, held at Yarmouk University from 13-16 April 1992.
- * Dr. **George Giacaman** (Cultural Studies) presented a paper on "Democracy and Civil Society" at a conference on Democracy and Political Change in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the Soviet Union, held in Athens in April 1992 and sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.
- * Drs. **Said Zedani** (Cultural Studies), **Lisa Tara-ki** (Sociology) and **Aziz Haidar** (Sociology) participated in a 22-24 November 1991 seminar in Cairo on human rights in the Arab world.
- * Management skills, personnel administration and financial management were skills studied by staff members **Riyad Bishara** (Office of the Vice-President for Financial Affairs) and **Afif Hassan** (Personnel) at a series of workshops held at the American University of Cairo from March-May 1992.
- * During a April 1992 conference at the University of Texas, Dr. **Salim Tamari** gave a public lecture on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and possibilities for peace.
- * During a December 1991 research visit to Amsterdam University, Dr. **Nidal Sabri** (Commerce) studied the "Stabilization of Stock Markets: The Case of the Amsterdam Exchange."
- * Dr. **Samir Hazboun** gave a working paper on "Economic Cooperation among Middle Eastern States" at a April 7-14 1992 conference in Brussels organized by the European Community and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.
- * Dr. **Najeh Jisrawi** (Physics) attended the Spring College on Superconductivity at the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy during June 1992.
- * Dr. **Gabi Baramki** (Vice-President) gave the keynote lecture at the annual meeting of the British Middle East Studies Society (BRISMES), held in Cambridge on November 1992. Dr. Baramki addressed "Aspects of Palestinian Life Under Military Occupation: Special Focus on Education and Development."
- * **Ghassan Abbas** (Physics) participated in a workshop on Computational Physics held at Yarmouk University from 10-22 January 1992 and sponsored by the Department of Physics at Yarmouk and the Arab Atomic Energy Commission.

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publications

Ziad Abu Amr (Cultural Studies), "The American Approach on the Case of Palestine," *Dirisaat Filistinyya*, Winter, 1991/1992, in Arabic.

Mona Audeh, "The Experience of Disabled Organizing," Community Health Unit, Birzeit University, 1992. -----, "Attitudes of Men and Women Towards Disability," Community Health Unit, Birzeit University, 1992 (in Arabic).

Ahmad Baker, "Gender, Urban-Rural-Camp, Self Scores of Palestinian Children in the Occupied Territories," *Journal of Psychology*, Washington, Heldref Publications, 1992.

Azmi Bishara (Cultural Studies), "Palestine in the New Order," *Middle East Report*, Washington, March/April 1992.

Rita Giacaman, Kate Locke and **Hala Salem**, "Report on Geriatric Institutions in the Occupied Territories," Community Health Unit, Birzeit University, 1991.

Rita Giacaman with Nahida Al Arja, "Survey of the Disabled in Nahalin," Caritas Baby Hospital, Bethlehem, 1992.

Aziz Haidar (Sociology), "Impact of the Intifada on Palestinians in Israel," *International Journal of the Sociology of Law*, No. 19, October 1991.

_____, "The Palestinians and the Peace Process," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Washington, D.C., Vol. 21, Fall 1991.

_____, "The Arabs in the Histadrut," *Sh'uun Filistinyya*, 221/222, in Arabic.

_____, "Israeli Public Opinion During the Intifada," *Al Mustaqbal Al Arabi*, No. 151, September 1991, in Arabic.

Samir Hazboun, "Belt Jibrin Camp: A Socio-Economic Survey." Working Paper No. 6, Afaq Filistinyya, Research Center, Birzeit University, February 1992. (in Arabic).

D. H.E. Gross, A.R. Deangelis, **H.R. Jaqaman** (Physics), Panjical and R. Heck, "Intermittency in the Multi-fragmentation of Hot Nuclei," *Physical Review Letter* 68 (1992), pp. 146-149

A.H. Leila (Chemistry), "1,2 Dimethylenecyclopentane as a Trapping Reagent for the Determination of Sulphur Dioxide", *Afinidad*, Spanish Chemical Society, 433, 199, 199 (1991).

_____, and N.S. Isaacs, "The Effect of Pressure on Swern-Moffatt Oxidations", *Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry*, 4, 639 (1991).

Ali Jarbawi and **Roger Heacock** (History), "Winds of War, Winds of Peace: The Palestinian Strategy Debate," *Middle East Report*, Washington, March/April 1992.

-----, "Palestinians: Between Interest and Indifference," *New Outlook*, Tel Aviv, May/June 1992.

Islah Jad, "Le Enseignement Scholaire Palestienne dan la territoire occupe," *Revue d'etudes Palestiennes*, Paris, Summer 1992.

Mahmoud Miari (Sociology), "Workers and Work Conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Under Occupation," *Shu'un Filistinyya*, Winter 1991-1992.

Nidal Sabri, "Budget Analysis of a Palestinian Family," *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Belmont, Massachusetts, Winter 1992.

_____, "The Role of the Management Accountant in Preparing Feasibility Studies," *Management Accountant*, May 1991.

Edward Sader (Physics), "RF-Magnetron Sputtered LaAlO₃ Buffer Layers for High Te Superconductors," *Superconductor Science and Technology*, 4, p. 371 (1991).

Adnan Yahya (Electrical Engineering), "Local Considerations in Computer Science Curricula Development," *Proceedings of the ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education Symposium SIGCSE92*, Kansas City, Missouri, March 5-7, 1992, pp. 123-129.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMPS

The 1992 International Summer Camps at Birzeit University, featuring voluntary work, lectures and cultural events and fieldtrips will be held as follows:

Session I: 14-27 August

Session II: 31 August-13 September

For more information, contact SUMMER CAMPS, Office of Student Affairs, Birzeit University.

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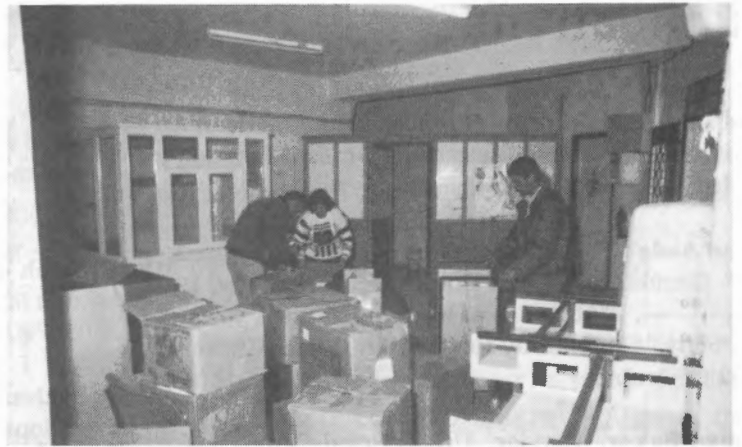
Dr. Jaqaman, himself a physicist, noted that many faculty members, especially scientists "have **lost five years of their research life,**" while the University itself has lost thousands of potential students. Current enrollment for this semester stands at 1800 students: university administrators are facing a "**huge problem in scheduling**" in the next academic year, when over 90% of the students will be in the first or second years.

During the closure, academic development and new programs were virtually frozen. Dr. Jaqaman notes that **the University is already re-activating its plans for possible graduate programs,** as well as undergraduate programs that need further development, like computer science and physical education. "But with the re-opening only partial, the University is still scattered." Dr. Jaqaman pointed out. "Not all students and staff have adequate facilities. "

Back to the Library

The Yusef Ahmed Al Ghanim Library has buzzed with life every since the first day the campus reopened. "**Library use is very heavy,**" commented Head Librarian **Afaf Harb.** The library is opening an extra hour each day to try to accommodate users. Although students were taught the mandatory library skills course during the closure, coping with a real library can be baffling, and the reference librarian is very busy handling student requests.

"Our aim is to serve the community," said Harb, but the effects of closure and financial problems combine to make our work more difficult." There has been a freeze on new acquisitions since 1988, although the library recently surveyed academic departments to determine what back issues of periodicals are needed in order to select a list for purchase. "We are preparing a plan for library development, in technical and human resources," remarked Harb. "We want to upgrade the qualifications of our staff and to employ appropriate new technologies to make the library serve users in a better way."



Unpacking the library

With all the problems and challenges, Birzeit faculty and students are definitely glad to be back on campus. "I have a place where students can come and consult me," said mathematics lecturer Dr. **Carmela Armanios.** "During the closure, I used to have to solve mathematical problems while sitting in my car."

(Birzeit Abroad, - continued from page 14)

* During a three-month research visit (August-October 1991) to the Max Planck Institut for Quantenoptik in Munich, Dr. **Yusef Salamin** (Physics) conducted research on "Cavity-induced level shifts in rubidium Rydberg states."

* Dr. **Edward Sader** (Physics) recently returned from a year-long leave spent as a guest researcher at the research and development laboratories of the Siemen Corporation in Munich, Germany. Dr. Sader's visit was sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt * Scholarship.

* Librarian **Diana Sayej** participated in a course on "Library Staff Management and Development," held in May 1992 in Hove/Brighton, England.

* **Albert Aghazarian** (Public Relations) visited Canadian universities, development agencies and other institutions in a 26 May - 7 June trip sponsored by Medical Aid for Palestine (MAP). He met with administrators at Carleton University to discuss effective implementation of a cooperation agreement between Birzeit and Carleton universities.

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