



BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter Issued by Birzeit University, Occupied West Bank, October 1983, Vol.II, No.2



Dr. Sa'di El Faqih and
Dr. Baramki award diplomas.



Department of Biology graduates with
Department chairman Dr. Riyad Mifleh.

Graduation Ceremony Held

On August 12, 1983, Birzeit University held a brief solemn ceremony in which 178 students graduated. Dr. Sa'di El Faqih, Acting Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Gabi Baramki, Vice-President of the University, awarded the certificates. A larger public ceremony scheduled two weeks earlier was cancelled, due to the tragic fatal shootings of three students at Hebron University in the West Bank on July 26.

Of the total number of certificates awarded, there were 85 Bachelor of Arts degrees in the Faculty of Arts, 39 Bachelor of Science degrees in the Faculty of Science, 49 Bachelor of Arts degrees in the Faculty of Commerce and Economics and five Masters of Arts degrees in Education. The Faculty of Engineering will graduate its first class next year.

A graduating senior, Suhair Fayez Khalil Abdulnur, was the first student to graduate with high distinction since Birzeit awarded its first bachelors' degrees in 1976. She received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in mathematics.

Seven other students graduated with distinction: Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud Musleh (Arabic Language and Literature); Waleed Mahmoud Hussein Al-Khoul (Biology and Biochemistry); Asteropi Yani Lazaros Ardizoghlu (Teaching English as a Foreign Language); Fuad Hussein Mohammed Abu Kweik (Teaching English as a Foreign Language); Amal Mahmoud Ismail Amireh (English Literature); Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamaydeh (English Literature); and Sophia Yani Lazaros Ardizoghlu (Biology and Biochemistry).

From the Vice-President...

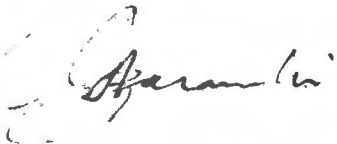
Dear colleagues and friends,

Birzeit University completed its 1982/83 academic year on schedule, a "normality" we have not been able to enjoy for several years, and one which enabled us to make a number of gains in our academic and institutional development.

This past year, our faculties and departments were able to reorganize curricula and create new programs. Research projects were initiated and we advanced our academic and research ties with other institutions. Our students were able to enjoy art exhibits, lectures and sports events. We began our new academic year by hosting our first international symposium, in cooperation with the University of Durham and Amsterdam University.

It is deeply troubling that our last academic year ended with mass arrests of students on July 27 and a series of harsh prison sentences. We ask for the help of our friends everywhere to defend our students and see that this year finds these students where they belong -- in the classroom.

Sincerely,



G.A. Baramki
Vice-President

MAILING LIST UPDATE

The Birzeit Public Relations Office is in the process of computerizing and updating its mailing list. Please send any change of addresses to:

Birzeit University
Public Relations
Birzeit, West Bank



Photo credit, Al Fajr

(press conference from left to right) Student Council President Nayef Sweitat, Dr. Gabi Baramki, Albert Aghazarian, attorney Lea Tsemel.

PRESS CONFERENCE PROTESTS ARRESTS

Birzeit University held a press conference on August 8 in Jerusalem to protest the mass arrests of Birzeit students on July 27 and the harsh and excessive prison terms levied against ten students to date for allegedly participating in a demonstration protesting the killing of three students at Hebron University on July 26.

Dr. Gabi Baramki, Vice-President of Birzeit University noted: "The harsh measures taken by the military authorities against our students in the last week seem designed not to punish specific offences, but to strip our young people of hope and create a generation of despair. While I am confident that these measures will ultimately not be successful, I fear our young people will pay a terrible and heart-breaking price if such policies continue."

In court sessions on August 3 and 7, nine students received prison terms of 1½ years and one student a sentence of two years. The Jerusalem Post of August 3 called these sentences "among the harshest ever handed down by a military court in the territories for an offence of this nature."

SWISS "AMIS" BUILD TIES

A successful April 23-30 speaking tour of Switzerland by Albert Aghazarian, Assistant to the Vice-President for Public Relations, took Mr. Aghazarian to Geneva, Zurich, Lausanne, and Freiburg for public lectures and private meetings on the condition of higher education in the occupied territories.

The tour, co-sponsored by the Association des Amis de Birzeit and the Institute Universitaire des Etudes de Developpement, culminated a series of contacts aimed at developing ties between Birzeit University and Swiss academics and institutions. In August 1981, a three-member Swiss delegation visited Birzeit. Throughout the 1981-82 academic year, which was marked by a series of military-ordered closures of Birzeit, Swiss colleagues worked to publicize and protest the closures. In May of 1982, three members of the Sanabel musical troupe toured Switzerland, and in August 1982, an eighteen-member Swiss delegation visited Birzeit during its third closure of the academic year.

The Association des Amis de Birzeit was formally founded in September 1982, with

the following officers: Genevieve Laplanche, President; Professor Faoue Mellah, Vice-President, and Professor Cyrus Mechkat, Treasurer.

The Association is exploring a number of avenues of cooperation with Birzeit, including offering a scholarship to a Birzeit graduate, helping to establish contacts with Swiss developmental organizations and developing a framework for the exchange of research of a developmental nature. The Association has also expressed interest in assisting with a project to landscape the new campus.

During his visit, Mr. Aghazarian also met with the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Geneva, which expressed interest in participating in the development of Birzeit both academically and in terms of the development of facilities and construction. The Faculty of Architecture also extended an invitation to Birzeit to join the International Bartlett Summer Group, a consortium of universities doing research on built environments.

INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMPS

Four international work camps drew over 160 students to Birzeit University last summer. Their activities included community work, meetings and discussions with Birzeit students and tours of the area.

Students from Belgium, Holland, Denmark, the U.S., Britain, Germany and Norway attended the four camp sessions, which ran from July 17-27, July 30-August 11, August 14-26, and August 29-September 10. The camps are administered by the Office of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the Birzeit Student Council.

Computer Center Launched

An HP-3000 series 40 computer was installed in the new campus (Science Building) in July. The multi-language computer has one megabyte of memory, a disc drive of 120 megabyte capacity, a line printer which prints 4000 lines per minute and eight televideo terminals. It will serve administrative, instructional and research purposes.

The staff of the new computer center is: Toula Serna (Director); Shukry Abdallah (Programmer), Issa Sleibi (Programmer) and Ghada Ghanayem (Operator/Secretary).

BIRZEIT-PARIS VII COOPERATION GROWS

Academic exchange between Birzeit and Paris VII universities was strengthened by a series of visits during the spring semester. Dr. Jean Luc-Dallemagne, Vice-President for International Relations at Paris VII University, visited Birzeit from March 16-19 to discuss implementation of the formal long-term exchange agreement concluded between the two institutions.

Dr. Dallemagne held a series of intensive discussions with administrators, deans and heads of departments, to explore possibilities for academic exchange and mutual research. He also visited Bethlehem University and Al Najah National University to further his understanding of the situation of higher education in the West Bank.

As part of the two universities' cooperation, Dr. Ramzi Sansour, head of Birzeit's new Center for Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, visited environmental and toxicological laboratories in France in May and June in a trip arranged by Paris VII University. At Paris VII, he visited the

laboratories of Professor Madame Puiseux Dao. In addition, he visited laboratories at the Fernand Vidal Hospital in Paris, the Ville Juif Hospital, the University of Bordeaux, the University of Paris Sud (Orsay), the Metz Laboratory and the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart. Dr. Sansour's trip was designed to survey current environmental research, with collaborative research envisaged at a later stage.

A scientific team from Paris VII spent the week of June 16-23 in a visit to Birzeit. The group, which consisted of Professor Lucho Benedetti, Professor and Mrs. Jean-Pierre Coulaud and Professor A. Gerard Saimot, held in-depth meetings with Biology Department faculty, the staff of the Community Health Program, and administrators, to discuss forms of cooperation. The two universities have agreed to cooperate in the establishment of a diarrhea laboratory at Birzeit, as well as to faculty exchanges of biologists to promote joint research on the inborn errors of metabolism.

art exhibits

A spring semester series of art exhibits, mounted by the Arts Committee of the Student Council and the Student Affairs Office, featured the work of five local artists. The artists also held discussions with students to explain their themes and techniques. The artists exhibited were:

* Jack Kaplanian (March 15-22). Mr. Kaplanian, born in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem and a graduate of Birzeit College, presented a series of drawings and etchings on a wide-range of themes.

* Hiam Abbaas (April 7-April 14). Ms. Abbaas, a photographer from Deir Hanna in the Galilee, is a staff member in the Student Affairs Office. She gave students tours of her photo exhibit to demonstrate how photographic techniques can be used to make artistic statements.

* Mohammed Hammoudi (April 18-22). Mr. Hammoudi's paintings used vivid colors to portray scenes of Palestinian life.

* Awad Abu 'Armaneh (May 11-21). Mr. 'Armaneh is a painter from Rafah trained in Alexandria.

* Khader Abu Amad (May 23-27). A painter from the Ramallah district, Khader Abu Amad's paintings explored the daily life of the Palestinian people, their hardships and hopes.

GUEST LECTURERS

* Professor Ivan Soll (Philosophy Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison) gave an April 14 seminar on "Self-Deception in Freud and Sartre," at the invitation of Birzeit's Philosophy Program. Professor Soll is the author of Introduction to Hegel's Metaphysics, as well as numerous articles on various philosophical issues.

* Professor Eric Hobsbawm (Professor of Economic and Social History at Birkbeck College, University of London) delivered lectures on "Marx: After 100 Years" and "History of Social Movements" during an April 19-29 visit to Birzeit University. Hobsbawm, whose visit was sponsored by the British Friends of Birzeit University, was hosted at Birzeit by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He also visited other universities and institutions in the area. Hobsbawm is the author of Primitive Rebels (1959), The Age of Revolution (1962), Industry and Empire (1968) and The Age of Capital (1975), among other works.

* Professor Dorothy Hodgkin (Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oxford), during an April 24- May 1 visit to Birzeit University, lectured on the X-ray crystallographic analysis of the structure of molecules and on the structure of insulin, in two seminars sponsored by the Chemistry Department. Professor Hodgkin, holder of the 1964 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, visited other universities in the West Bank to discuss chemistry research and curriculum.

* Professor Naseer Aruri (Department of Political Science, Southeastern Massachusetts University) gave a May 12 lecture on "Current U.S. Policy in the Middle East." Professor Aruri is the current President of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) and a frequent speaker on campuses throughout the U.S.

* Professor Ilse Kohler-Rollofson, Egyptologist, at the invitation of the Department of Archaeology, delivered

a June 1 lecture entitled "A Donkey in Jenin," reporting on the excavation in October 1982 of an Early Bronze Age skeleton, the most complete equid skeleton found to date in Palestine.

* Professor Rudolf Peters (Director, Dutch Cairo Institute), lectured on "Stereotypes of Arabs in the West" in a June 9 seminar sponsored by the Department of Middle East Studies.

dabke festival



Dabke

A dabke festival drew hundreds of spectators to watch eight local dabke groups perform the national Palestinian folk-dance on an outdoor stage at Birzeit on the afternoon of May 23.

The festival, co-sponsored by the Arts Committee of the Student Council and the Student Affairs Office, awarded prizes as follows:

*First prize to the Popular Folk Group from Ramallah

*Second prize to the Bireh Youth Institution dabke group from El Bireh

*Third prize to the Ghassan Kanafani troupe from Bethlehem University

VISITORS

* A factfinding mission of mayors from Danish municipalities visited Birzeit on March 3 to discuss the situation of higher education in the West Bank. The group, which included the mayors of Gladsaxe, Radhuset and Copenhagen, met with administrators and toured the new campus.

* A Canadian parliamentary delegation visited Birzeit on April 5. The group, which was sponsored by the Canada Arab Parliamentary Association, held discussions with faculty and administrators, as well as briefly addressing a student gathering.

* An interdenominational delegation of American clergy, co-sponsored by the Middle East Council of Churches, held a series of discussions with Birzeit academics on April 12 as part of a factfinding mission to the area.

* Thirty students from Wooster College in Ohio were hosted by the Student Affairs Office and the Student Council for an April 13 visit to the university. The students held informal discussions to share their experience of university life. Two lively basketball games, organized by Birzeit's Physical Education Department, drew a crowd of spectators. The Wooster students also attended a performance of Sanabel, Birzeit's student musical troupe.

* Faculty and students from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary visited Birzeit on April 20. They toured the old campus and met with Birzeit faculty members for an exchange of views.

* A 20-member delegation from the international YWCA visited Birzeit on April 27 as part of a factfinding mission mandated by the YWCA to investigate the situation in the area. The group, which included the world president of the YWCA and a number of other officers of the organization, met with administrators and faculty members.



Birzeit Student Council member Ghassan Jarrar receives Durham Student Council seal from Brendon Russell.

durham delegation

An eleven-member delegation from the University of Durham (Britain) visited Birzeit University from June 21-27. The group represented the Durham-Birzeit Studentship Fund, a trust fund established in 1983 to enable students from Birzeit to study at Durham for periods of up to one year.

Faculty members Dr. Gerald Brooke (Chemistry), Hanan Dabbagh (Arabic), Dr. Robert Drewett (Psychology), Dr. Pandelis Glavanis (Sociology), Dr. Richard Lawless (Assistant Director, Middle East Centre) and Reverend Ian Palmer (Chaplain) and Durham students Janet Anderson, Neil Hicks, Susan Kellett, Roger Owen and Brendon Russell, held a series of discussions with the administration, faculty, and the Birzeit Student Council, to generate plans for academic cooperation and faculty and student exchanges.

In a press conference upon their return, the group stressed that academic freedom in the occupied territories was inseparable from the "wider abuse of civil liberties" and especially protested the "constant harassment of students," the authorities' pressure against foreign lecturers, the "undermining of health and medical facilities" and the policy of disrupting Palestinian civil institutions.

Birzeit Abroad

* Dr. Dennis Jonnes (English Department) delivered a paper on "Innocence and Authority: Father-Daughter Relationships in the Domestic Drama from Lillo to Strindberg" at the Conference on Comparative Drama, held at the American University in Cairo from March 7-8.

* Professors Hisham Jabber and Omar El Qadi (Faculty of Commerce and Economics) visited Geneva and Vienna in August to submit a commissioned study on "Industrial Development in the West Bank and Gaza" to officials of the United Nations Industrial Development Association. The study was accepted and will be published by UNIDA.

* Professor Violet Long (English Department) attended an international conference on TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) in Athens from April 22-24.

* Dr. Rita Giacaman (Biology Department and Community Health Program) attended a June 6-11 conference on "Survey Research in the Arab World." She made a presentation to the conference on "Application of Survey Research to Policy and Planning."

* Dr. Simon Kuttab (Chemistry Department) attended the First Cyprus Conference on New Methods of Drug Research. The conference, held April 17-23 in Limassol, Cyprus, brought together 150 participants from around the world to discuss new methodology and approaches to a rational basis for drug design and to explore leads for a new drug prototype.

* Dr. Tomis Kapitan (Philosophy and Cultural Studies Program) lectured at the University of Wisconsin on March 23 on "Threat to West Bank Universities."

* Dr. Clare Brandabur (Cultural Studies) participated in an international conference entitled "Common Differences: Third World Women and Feminist Perspectives," held at the University of Illinois from April 9-13.

* Dr. Kamal Abdul Fattah (Middle East Studies) spent July-September at the University of Tubingen in Germany working on the Tubingen Atlas of the Near East, a projected 15-volume atlas in German and English begun in 1969. The atlas, funded by the German government's research foundation, involves 300 German scholars and four non-German academics. Dr. Abdul Fattah's topographic map of agricultural land patterns in the Levant will be published in 1986.

special seminars

* The English Department has begun a series of monthly seminars designed to increase intra-departmental discussion on matters of academic interest. On March 21, Helen Hawari discussed Threshold, the textbook used in Birzeit's intensive English program; on April 11, Izzat Ghazzawi spoke on literature teaching at the university level, and on May 17, Steve Skelley lectured on current trends in literary criticism.

* The Department of Sociology and Anthropology has initiated a lecture series on current issues and research in the discipline. The first lecture of the series was April 16, when Saleh Abdul Jawad (Middle East Studies) presented a paper on "Labor Patterns in the West Bank and Gaza."

* The Department of Archaeology and the Philosophy held a joint seminar on May 24 to discuss "Epistemology in Archaeology: How do we know the past?"

teacher training

At the request of the Lutheran Church Education Department, Kamal Shamsoum, director of Birzeit's Physical Education program, supervised a 16-week course in the spring semester to expose 12 West Bank physical education instructors to modern teaching and training techniques in the field. Participants in the course received certificates from Birzeit University after passing an examination.

math workshop



The Department of Education and Psychology hosted a workshop for mathematics teachers in West Bank preparatory schools from August 10-September 8. The workshop was held in cooperation with the British Council to develop skills in the teaching of mathematics.

dental unit

The Birzeit Women's Charitable Society, in cooperation with Birzeit University's Community Health Program, held the official opening of their new dental unit on September 22. The unit will be part of the medical clinic which was established in Birzeit in 1971 to serve Birzeit itself and 23 of the surrounding villages. The unit's goal is to develop a preventative dental program and to research dental problems amongst the population. It will offer low-cost dental care and be free to children under 12 years.

new telescope

A new six-inch astronomical reflecting telescope was installed in the Science Building in May for the use of students and faculty. The telescope was a gift from friends of the University in Kuwait.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM HELD

Scholars from Europe and the U.S. joined West Bank and Gaza academics and researchers at the International Symposium on Rural Society in the Middle East, held at Birzeit University October 6-8, 1983.

The symposium, jointly sponsored by the University of Durham, Amsterdam University and Birzeit University is the second of a series of symposia planned to examine issues concerning agrarian relations in the Middle East.

Sessions focused on theoretical issues in the study of agrarian society; issues in the study of nomads; the debate on proletarianization; issues in the rural development of Palestine and women in the rural Middle East. Papers were delivered by Sami Zubeida (Birkbeck College, University of London), Pandelis and Kathy Glavanis (Durham and Birzeit Universities respectively), Zulkuf Aydin (Goldsmith College, London), Elizabeth Taylor (University of

Manchester), Nicolas Kielstra (University of Amsterdam), Robert Fernea (University of Texas), Sarah Graham-Brown (Middle East magazine), Alex Pollock (Arab Thought Forum), Hussain Barghouti (Birzeit University), Rita Giacaman (Birzeit University), William Harris (Johns Hopkins University), Salim Tamari (Birzeit University), Deniz Kandiyoti (Richmond College), Motaka Matakura (Museum of Ethnology, Tokyo), and Annelies Moor (University of Amsterdam). Elizabeth Fernea screened her documentary film, "Women Under Siege."

Conference participants issued a public statement protesting the Israeli authorities' barring entry to the country of Anne Scott, a British researcher scheduled to deliver a paper at the conference.

Conference papers will be published at a later date. The third international symposium is planned to be held two years hence at Birzeit University.