



BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter issued by Birzeit University, Occupied Palestine, June 1994, No.25

THE TWO WORLDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

At the end of the first semester, Majed, a 19-year-old first-year student in electrical engineering from Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, had a firm sense of accomplishment. He had done well in his courses, learned new skills, and adjusted well to University life. He was even enjoying his cultural studies class on ancient philosophy and his English language class much more than he had expected. He got in the taxi to Gaza already anticipating the second semester.

But the second semester began without Majed. Like other students from Gaza, Majed is banned from leaving Gaza in the wake of a new and even more restrictive closure order by the Israeli authorities in the wake of the 25 February massacre in Hebron. Majed spent the next three months at home, frustrated, restless and angry. Ancient philosophy and computer circuits seem far away. In late May, he was among the fortunate group of students accorded permits (at least fourteen Birzeit University students were denied permits). He registered for the summer session with a feeling of unease: his right to education was subject to an arbitrary process beyond his control.

For other students who were more fortunate and returned to campus on 16 March, several weeks behind schedule due to the prolonged curfew in most parts of the West Bank, the "other" world of insecurity and arbitrary harassment continues to affect them on campus. Birzeit University exists two worlds. A lively and successful first semester witnessed a flowering of public lectures, seminars and conferences and a development of new academic programs geared to new possibilities for the future. The second semester opens minus almost 20% of the student body from Gaza and the city of Hebron. Campus life and study continue to be marred by detentions of student and staff, which reached 62 in the first semester alone. While both Palestinians and the world at large anticipate peace in the Middle East, Palestinians under occupation live another, harsher reality, where familiarity does not breed content. For students and faculty at Birzeit University, normal academic life is a goal that continues to be obstructed and the right to education is a basic pre-requisite that still needs to be defended.



UPDATE

* On June 25, the Minister of Education for the newly-formed Palestinian National Authority, Mr. Yasser Amr, paid his first visit to Birzeit University. He was warmly received by University President Dr. Hanna Nasir and other University officials who briefed him on the University's current programs and future plans.

* On June 27, in a ceremony at the French Consulate in Jerusalem, President Dr. Hanna Nasir and His Excellency Jean de Glinasty, Consul-General of France, signed a major cooperation agreement in support of the University's new Law Center. The two sides stressed the key role of the Center in developing Palestinian law and the legal profession. (see p. 12)

In This Issue....

Graduate Studies	p.3
Student Enrollment	p.4
State of Science	p.6
Academic Exchange	p.7
Whither Palestine?	p.8
Research Center	p.11
Law Center	p.12
Discourse at Birzeit	p.13

letter from the president

Dear friends and colleagues,

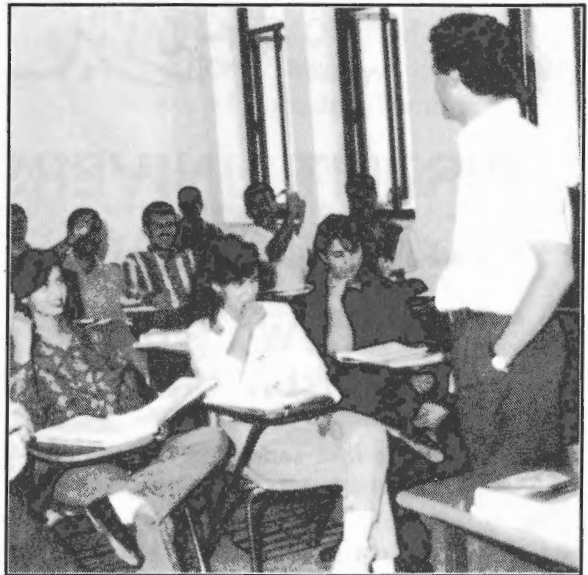
I am confident that the almost 800 new students who entered the University this autumn, are now part of the Birzeit experience, with its key aspects of academic challenge, personal development, community service and collegiality. In the last two decades, our enrollment has increased almost ten-fold.

Twenty years ago we were a two-year junior college with a strong academic program in limited areas; today we are a four-year university with strong academic program in four developed faculties of Science, Arts, Engineering, and Commerce and Economics.

And, of great importance, we serve a student body from all parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and from all sectors of Palestinian society. Reviewing our increasingly high levels of research and academic exchange, I feel sure that Birzeit University is an institution ready for the challenges of a new century.

"Just give us a chance." This motto could serve for Birzeit University. Give us a modicum of stability, a near normal working environment, and the time and security to employ our excellent human resources, and we can work wonders. The stimulating conferences, colloquia and public lectures held at Birzeit University this academic year attest to the present contribution the University is making both to Palestinian academic life and to informed public discussion on issues of concern to our community.

Tragically, as our students were returning to classes after the semester break, Israeli gunfire shattered the peace of morning prayers at the Al Ibrahimiya mosque in Hebron and Palestinian worshippers were massacred. There are no words to express the grief and outrage felt by our University com-



Math class

munity and the Palestinian people as a whole at these brutal murders. But there must be words and actions to change the reality that caused this horrible loss of life. Here, I believe intellectuals have a special responsibility to look more deeply and speak out more thoughtfully and consistently on the pressing question of the illegal Israeli settlements that threaten, both on a daily basis and in the long-term, to end any possibility a genuine peace based on reciprocity, equality and justice.

Sincerely,

Hanna Nasir
President

NEWSLETTER ON E-MAIL

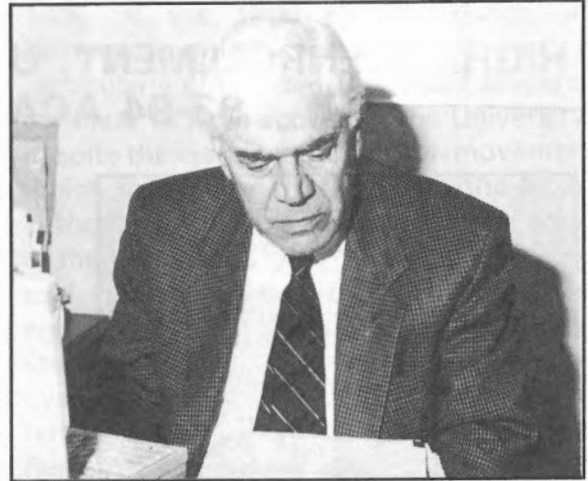
Our readership with access to E-mail can now receive the Newsletter through E-mail! Just send an E-mail message with your address to pnews@ee.birzeit.edu and the Newsletter, as well as human rights alerts and related materials, will be Emailed to you promptly.

AT LONG LAST... GRADUATE STUDIES

Throughout the over long four years when Birzeit University was closed by military order, from 1988-92, a determined committee of faculty members met irregularly to continue their mandate to develop plans for graduate education at Birzeit University. At the time, the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Nabil Kassis, commented: "it's a little bit like moving desk chairs on the Titanic."

When the University returned to campus, the feasibility of graduate education became an important focus. After over a year of work by a faculty committee headed by Vice-President Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod, the Birzeit University Council has recently approved general regulations, purpose and structure for graduate education at Birzeit University and plans are underway for at least two graduate programs. Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod explained the motivation for developing graduate education: "Palestinian society today needs a higher level of competence and specialization, which is achievable only through education at the graduate level. We cannot depend on the achievements of other societies; we Palestinians need to generate our own specialists on the ground."

The new University policy for developing graduate education, Abu Lughod notes, allows programs in fields which are identified as a clear priority and where the University has the present capability. All faculties of the University have been invited to submit plans for graduate education in their respective areas of competence. Two proposals, for masters' degrees in International Studies and in Education, have been fully developed. The University previously conducted a modest master's program in education from 1979-1981, which was subsequently frozen until



Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod

a general framework was established. "We have a desperate need for qualified teachers," Abu Lughod noted, "and we have the human resources in place at the University."

Dr. Othman Abu Libdeh, Chair of the Department of Education and Psychology, told the Newsletter that faculty members in his Department are working long hours to prepare for a master's program in Education to begin next year. "We believe this program is important for our society; education has been neglected for far too long. A master's program will allow us to develop vital and much needed skills in curriculum development, teaching methodologies, and school supervision and administration, among other important topics. We are building our program through systematic discussion combining the priorities of the community with what we are qualified to do."

Commenting on the rationale for International Studies, Abu Lughod said: "We are on the verge of new developments in Palestinian governance; the University is capable of training foreign service officers, experts and other personnel for this new era."

The University's approach to graduate programs will be inter-disciplinary, noted Abu Lughod: "It is not feasible to run these
(continued on page 5)

HIGHEST ENROLLMENT, UPSWING IN ACTIVITIES MARK 93-94 ACADEMIC YEAR



New Commerce Building welcomes new students

When Birzeit University launched its new academic year on 4 October, 792 new first-year students from all areas of the West Bank and Gaza joined returning students on the University's handsome hill-top campus to make up a student body of 2906, the highest student enrollment in University history. Enrollment in the last academic year numbered 2412.

If the 1993-94 academic year has been marked by high student enrollment, it has also been characterized by rich variety of academic lectures, public events, and exhibits. One and a half years since the University re-opened after a lengthy military-ordered closure, campus life is not only returning to normal, but developing in new directions.

In the first month of the new semester alone, the campus hosted such activities as the "Days of Architecture," which brought noted local and guest architects to lecture and attend an impressive student exhibit and the opening of the University's **Sheikh Abdul Rahman Bin Ali Jarisi Commerce building**. The latter event was accompanied by a stimulating forum chaired by Birzeit University Vice-President Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod, to discuss the

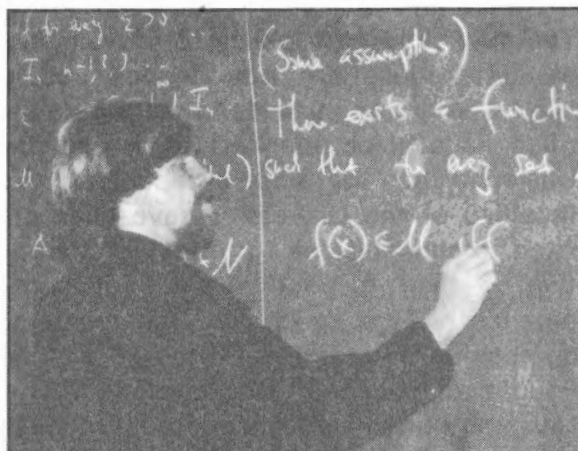
future of the University. Public lectures and faculty seminars by scholars and public figures such as Dr. Hisham Sharabi of Georgetown University and Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, also opened the new academic year and enlivened the atmosphere.

Lecture Series

A number of academic departments held guest and public lecture series during the first semester. The **Department of Biology and Biochemistry** hosted a series which included guest lecturers Dr. Ata Abdel Latif of the Medical College of Georgia and Dr. Mahmoud Abu Hadid of the Roswell Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York. The **Department of Arab Language and Literature** launched a year-long cultural program of monthly seminars and roundtables. Among the public activities of the **Department of English** was a 21 October poetry reading by two distinguished poets and lecturers at Concordia College in Montreal, **Dr. John Asfour and Dr Garry Geddes**. At the event, Birzeit lecturer Izzat Ghazzawi also read from his writings.

New Programs, New Events

New initiatives at the University brought new topics to be examined and debated.



Guest math lecture

The University's new Law Center held a day-long seminar on the state of the legal profession in Palestine, attended by many local lawyers and jurists. The Committee for Women's Studies held a 15 January seminar entitled "What Do We Know About Palestinian Women?" where the data on women included in a recent household survey on living conditions in Gaza, the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem was analyzed by participating researchers Rima Hamami and Salim Tamari.

Who Are the New Students?

The Registrar reports that, of the 792 new first-year students, the largest number, comprising 258, are enrollment in the Faculty of Engineering, with 176 in Arts, 168 in Commerce and 150 in Science. Forty other students are admitted to the University but not yet to a specific faculty. Yearly guidelines for student admission are set by the Admissions Committee, in conjunction with the University Council, which sets the minimum academic qualification for each Faculty based on the physical and personnel facilities of the University and University needs.



Women students' basketball team

The new students come from all areas of the West Bank and Gaza. One hundred and twelve new students come from Gaza,

14% of the total new students, an increase from last year. The University is particularly concerned that Gaza students continue to have access to the University, despite the many restrictions on movement which they currently face from the Israeli authorities. Students come from all areas of the West Bank from Hebron in the south to Jerusalem to Jenin and Tulkarem in the north. Two hundred and ninety new students are female or 36.6%. In the over-all student body, 978 students are female, or 34%. At present, the Registrar's Office is engaged in a program of visiting girls' schools to encourage students to consider University education.

During the second semester, total enrollment increased to 2931. "With each increase in the student body," remarked University President Dr. Hanna Nasir, "we take on a new challenge to develop our human and physical resources to improve our University and our society."

(continued from page 3)

programs in one department alone. We need to combine specialists from different areas and maximize the use of existing resources." The University hopes also to draw on Palestinian expertise from outside the Occupied Territories, and to upgrade key facilities, particularly the library. Graduate studies will also improve the quality of undergraduate education by upgrading research and library facilities.

Evaluation of graduate programs needs careful consideration. "We need an inter-university mechanism through our Council for Higher Education," Abu-Lughod said. "In addition, periodic visits of international consultants would be helpful in this transitional phase to ensure universal standards of teaching and research. Our aim is to produce high-level manpower to run the affairs of an advanced state, to compete on an international level. Graduate education can have a tremendous impact, not only on our own institution, but on the society as a whole."

STATE OF SCIENCE AT BIRZEIT

Interview: Dr. Abdul Salam Abdul Ghani,
Dean of Science



Dr. Abdul Salam Abdul Ghani

Three years ago, the University's Faculty of Science was finally able to purchase laboratory equipment for work with radioactive materials. After some delay, Birzeit scientists received the necessary permits from the Israeli military authorities to work with these materials. However, the machinery today lies idle -- the University has not been able to secure a license to purchase radioactive material.

When Dean of Science Dr. Abdul Salam Abdul Ghani recounted the above story of the obvious obstacles and difficulties faced by Birzeit scientists to the Newsletter, he did not draw the obvious conclusions: "We can't give up and say 'we're a special case, we're under occupation.' We can conduct successful scientific research. My message is that research is possible at Birzeit University."

The Faculty of Science has recently published a booklet "Faculty Members in Profile: Publications and Current Fields of Research" that gives some positive proof to Dr. Abdul Ghani's message. Despite the obstacles, Birzeit scientists have continued, and in fact increased, their scholarly publications utilizing scientific research conducted both abroad in Birzeit

laboratories. Another publication in press from the Faculty of Science will list faculty publications where the work was conducted entirely or in part at the University.

"Our main problem is equipment and instrumentation," Abdul Ghani explained. "We face a series of other problems as well, including a heavy teaching load, the interruptions of curfew and closure, and inadequate library facilities." The Research Committee of the Faculty of Science has managed to acquire a small budget from the University for start-up funds for individual researchers, and is proposing a research appointment in each department that can be used for load reductions for faculty members. "We can't afford the system in some American universities where researchers teach only one course," Abdul Ghani noted. "But we can lighten the load to some extent."

The Faculty of Science has drawn up proposals for heavy equipment and for expansion of facilities, including a herbarium, a zoological museum, electronic and mechanical workshops, and expanded computer lab facilities. The Faculty has also encouraged Birzeit scientists to form research groups to better utilize existing facilities. Abdul Ghani belongs to one such group, along with fellow biologists Dr. Riyadh Amin and Dr. Nabil Nahhas. The group's on-going research focuses on herbal medicine and its medical application in diseases such as epilepsy, diabetes and hypertension. The group is also presently engaged in joint research with Department of Chemistry faculty member Dr. Abdul Latif Abu Hijleh on the anti-diabetic and anti-epileptic effects of copper complexes.

"There are some problems we can only solve when we institute graduate studies," Dr. Abdul Ghani affirmed. "We can then balance research and teaching in a more productive way." Until that time, the Faculty of Science is committed to promoting scientific research at Birzeit University "by any means necessary."

ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

* A delegation from the Delft University of Technology, consisting of J.E. Hoogenboom from the University Council, P. Althuis from the Center of International Cooperation, and B. Hendriksen visited Birzeit University on 29 and 30 November to discuss avenues of cooperation. Previously, six Birzeit engineering students spent an exciting and productive semester at Delft. The group met with engineering faculty, as well as other University officials.

* Birzeit and Bergen universities signed a memorandum of intent during a visit to Birzeit of an academic delegation from Bergen. On 7 December, the two sides signed a memorandum affirming the intent of the two universities to develop academic cooperation and exchange between faculty members and student. The memorandum noted that a general agreement of cooperation may be signed after a visit of a Birzeit University delegation to the University of Bergen. During the course of a May 23-25 visit to Bergen, a University delegation, including Dr. Gabi Baramki, Dr. Riyad Amin, Dr. Lily Faidi and Dr. Abdul Salam Abdul Ghani confirmed the agreement, which was duly signed. On May 26, the delegation met with officials at the University of Oslo and signed a cooperation agreement with that institution.

* In May, the Committee for Women's Studies at Birzeit University welcomed Carleton University colleagues Dr. Gillian Walker and Dr. Heather Jon Maroney for a round of intensive discussions to plan a November 1994 international workshop in conjunction with the Committee's initial collaborative research project on Palestinian women in society. The visit also strengthened the cooperation agreement signed between Birzeit University and Carleton University in Canada.

* On November 11, the Minister of Research and Higher Education of the French government, Monsieur Francois Fillon, headed a French delegation for a productive working meeting at Birzeit University with representatives of the Council for Higher Education and Palestinian universities. The Palestinian side briefed the French group on the current state of Palestinian higher education. Participants explored further avenues to enhance cooperation between Palestinian and French universities. Over the years, Birzeit University has developed a number of links with French institutions, and is marking the tenth anniversary of its cooperation agreement with Montpellier University. Recently, Dr. Gabi Baramki, on behalf of Birzeit University, signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Aix-en-Provence.

On behalf of the University, Dr. Baramki also signed cooperation agreements with the University of Liege in Belgium and Deakin University in Australia. Dr. Baramki visited Australia in October 1993 and delivered a paper on "Universal Standards and Human Rights in the Middle East" at the Australian Middle East Studies Association.



Dr. Gabi Baramki signs agreement with Deakin University.

WHITHER PALESTINE?: JOINT CONFERENCE EXAMINES CHALLENGES OF NEW ERA

Only a week after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Accord in Cairo on 4 May, a three-day conference opened at Birzeit University that drew together scholars and experts from local and international institutions for an intensive discussion of the problems and prospects facing Palestinian society in the emerging new era. The conference, entitled "Al Mushtama' Filistini: Illa 'Ein?" (Whither Palestine?) was sponsored by Birzeit University, the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine in Washington, D.C., and the Gaza Cultural Center and was held from 12-15 May 1994. Its proceedings will be published in Arabic during the summer of 1994.



Dr. Hisham Sharabi, Albert Aghazarian, Rawiya Shawwa, Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod

Throughout the academic year, the University campus has witnessed lectures and seminars analyzing the fast-breaking developments in Palestinian politics, economy and society, including a 17 December study day on "The Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles: Current and Future Trends," a faculty seminar series, and several lectures sponsored by the Student Council. The Newsletter asked Vice-President Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod, one of the initiators of the study day and the May conference, how he saw the role of the University in addressing such urgent public issues.

Dr. Abu Lughod replied: "The University is an important part of the institutional structure of society. It is affected and participates in events in public life. The single most significant public event of the last period has been the processing of reaching a settlement with Israel through a negotiating process. This mode of interaction was both new and controversial. It is the responsibility of the university to evaluate and to clarify issues

concerning this very significant development in an atmosphere of academic freedom and mutual respect."

In the opening banquet of the conference, held in Jerusalem, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation, called for informed and democratic national dialogue to address the pressing challenges of the new era, including the serious limitations of the agreements themselves, which exclude such key issues as settlements and Jerusalem. Renowned poet Fadwa Toquan gave a moving reading from her work.

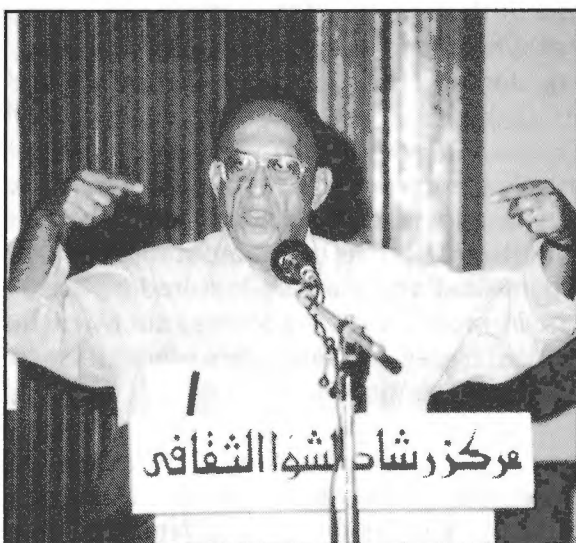
Keynote addresses at the first session urged the audience of academics, students and the public at large to address the urgent issues of the day through careful analysis, democratic dialogue, and informed and united action. Dr. Hisham Sharabi, Director of the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, affirmed that "the key to changing the situation today is in the hands of the Palestinian people."



Zahera Kamal



Khalil Toufakji on settlements



Dr. Fuad Moughrabi

Calling for meeting the new challenge with democracy and political exchange, Sharabi stressed the importance of free and democratic elections, even to a limited authority. The alternative, Sharabi warned, is a patriarchal and repressive state and society.

Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod noted that Palestinians today had "the second opportunity to build a state on Palestinian land." Palestinian society faces the challenge of transforming "authority into sovereignty," Abu Lughod stressed, after noting the limitations and difficulties of the present period.

Speaking on behalf of the Gaza Cultural Center, Rawiya Shawa urged a frank and honest dialogue among all sectors of society and with the Palestinian leadership, noting that such discussion was an important goal of the Gaza Cultural Center. The Gaza Cultural Center hosted the third day of the conference in Gaza city, thus giving an opportunity for more Gaza residents to participate in the discussion. The current restrictions on movement imposed by the Israeli authorities present formidable obstacles for Gaza residents wishing to attend academic activities in the West Bank.

During the conference, participants in six sessions discussed such vital topics as "New Political Frameworks," "Beyond the West Bank and Gaza: The Other Palestinians," "The Relation Between the PLO and Elected Bodies," "Political Parties and Pluralism," "The Future of Jerusalem" and "The Relationship Between the National Authority and Civil Society," among other important topics. A session on "Women and Political Participation" offered a searching examination of the present limits and future possibilities for a political role for Palestinian women. Themes running throughout the conference included the importance of developing the institutions of civil society and strengthening democracy and pluralism.
(continued on page 10)

"How Shall I Speak About Palestine?"

During the 17 December 1993 study day on the Declaration of Principles, Dr. Ahmed Harb, Head of the Department of English, addressed the "Cultural Implications of the Declaration of Principles." Dr. Harb, a literary scholar and teacher, is also a novelist currently working on the third novel in a trilogy. The Newsletter asked Dr. Harb to explain his view that the new era contains the seeds of a cultural crisis:



Dr. Ahmed Harb

"One of the first reactions to the Declaration of Principles is that it does not deal with the Palestinian issue in its totality. By focusing on Gaza and Jericho, it deals with a fragment of a fragment. Palestinian national culture was historically based on the idea of the totality of the Palestinian cause in opposition to the Zionist challenge. The idea of wholeness keep Palestinians together, although geographically fragmented in Lebanon, Jordan, the Occupied Territories and elsewhere.

"The danger imbedded in the Declaration of Principles is a fragmentation of this identity. With the passage of time political fragmentation can lead to cultural disunity and fragmentation. What will bring Palestinians together after the implementation of the Declaration of Principles? Regional geographic identifications are also fostered by Israeli policy, whether in the notion of Gaza-Jericho, or in more specific policies, such as the closure of Jerusalem. Today, the yellow license plates of Jerusalem distinguish a Palestinian in Jerusalem from a Palestinian in nearby Ramallah.

"The aesthetics of Palestinian literature have been largely derived from the Palestinian causes; other issues have been neglected. This is easy to understand when the challenge has been our own survival. Now, we face a problem, as if we are waking from a dream to a new reality. Perhaps every Palestinian writer is schizophrenic, split between his political and creative commitments. I feel this in my own writing. I can't remain isolated from the world around me. At the same time, there is a divide between the political and the artistic truth about my subject: Palestinians and Palestine. How shall I speak about Palestine, in the old terms or the new?"

(continued from page 9)

Participants in the sessions included: Dr. Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi, Raja Shehadeh, Dr. Samir Abdullah, Raji Sourani, Taysir Aruri, Dr. Mamdouh Aker, Dr. Elie Zureik, Dr. Mohammed Jadallah, Dr. Mohammed Shadid, Dr. George Giacaman, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, Dr. Riyadh Al Malki, Dr. Manuel Hassassian, Dr. Sahar Khalifeh, Dr. Zahera Kamal, Islah Jad, Dr. Hisham Sharabi, Mohammed Miari, Dr. Ziad Abu Amr, Dr. Khalil Shaqaqi, Dr. Ghassan Faramand, Sheikh Mahmoud Al Zuhur, Yunis Al Jarro,

Dr. Miriam Miari, Dr. Fuad Moughrabi, Khalil Toufakji, Ibrahim Dakkak and Dr. Nazmi Joubeh.

In closing remarks appropriate to a conference that had brought together local and international Palestinian scholars, Dr. Gabi Baramki of Birzeit University stressed the importance of further exchange and called for the return of Palestinian intellectuals, professionals, and scientists to assist in the building of a new Palestine.

NEW FROM THE RESEARCH CENTER

**Preliminary Vision of a Palestinian
Education System**
Dr. Fathiyeh Nasru
November 1993
(in English)

"This timely publication of this substantial paper provides us with the opportunity of understanding how a leading Palestinian educationalist envisions the education system necessary for the emergent Palestinian state."

-- Educational Network, #14, Feb. 1994

In a 96-page study, Dr. Fahtiyeh Nasru, of the University's Department of Education and Psychology, proposes preliminary features a Palestinian philosophy of education and analyzes the key concepts of national education and pluralism in light of the features of Palestinian society. Dr. Nasru takes as the starting point for her analysis the November 1988 Palestinian Declaration of Independence.

Proceedings of Conference
**"The Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles:
Present and Future Trends"**
(in Arabic)

Proceedings from a 17 December 1993 Study Day at Birzeit University on the implications of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel on 13 September 1993. Included in the publication are presentations by Ibrahim Abu Lughod, Ali Jarbawi, Khalil Shaqqa, Riyad Al Malki, Raja Shehadeh, Ziad Abu Amr, Ahmad Harb, Salim Tamari, Ibrahim Daqqaq, Nabil Kassis and Azmi Bishara.

The two publications may be ordered from the Center for Research and Documentation on Palestinian Society at the University's address.

GRANT FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

In a November 6 ceremony at the University, the Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr. Emmanuel Marin, announced an emergency grant of 18 million ECUs, or approximately \$15 million, to Palestinian institutions of higher education. The grant, which commenced in January 1994, will give vital support to Palestinian universities and community colleges for one year.

Dr. Bajhat Sabri, the head of the Council for Higher Education, the administrator of the grant, thanked the European Commission and pointed to the imperative of restructuring Palestinian society for the coming century.

Dr. Hanna Nasir, President of Birzeit University, also thanked the EC and noted: "If we are to survive within the context of a highly competitive world market, we cannot simply stand still. The present higher educational system is inadequate. We must move into new areas that provide us with expertise for the next century. Without this commitment for the future, the university system is doomed to be a costly manufacturer for unemployment." Dr. Nasir urged continued support for Palestinian higher education.

DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS

To receive updates on human rights issues at Birzeit University and the bi-monthly BIRZEIT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, contact the Human Rights Action Project at the University's address.

DISCOURSE AT BIRZEIT

What can and cannot be said about Palestine? Who has "permission to narrate" the story of Palestine? In a new course sponsored by the Committee for Discourse Analysis at Birzeit University and taught by Dr. Toine van Teffelen of the University of Amsterdam, Birzeit students are exploring these and other questions through the theoretical approach and techniques developed in discourse analysis.

The University's Committee of Discourse Analysis plans to offer both credit and community outreach courses under a three-year program of curriculum development and academic exchange sponsored by Medcampus, a wide-ranging project of the European Commission that links universities throughout the region.

Dr. Sharif Kanaaneh, the Chair of the Committee for Discourse Analysis, explained the background to the new program: "The Committee has its roots in our preparation for the "Discourse and Palestine" conference, co-sponsored by Birzeit and Amsterdam universities and held in the spring of 1992. Today, the Committee is an interdisciplinary group of faculty members, from linguistics, cultural studies, anthropology, English and Arabic, that will guide the three-year program of courses and other related activities, including writing manuals, collecting readings and developing visual materials."

Dr. Kanaaneh, an anthropologist whose own research focuses on Palestinian folklore and folk expression, stressed that discourse analysis is an approach that can be used in many fields, and thus an interdisciplinary team is appropriate. He envisions an eventual master's degree at Birzeit University in Communication and Discourse Analysis.

During the second semester, in addition to Dr. van Teffelen's course, Palestinian filmmaker Eli Suleiman offered a community

outreach course in visual discourse. In November 1993, the Committee hosted a short course on discourse analysis given by Dr. Tuen Van Dijk of Amsterdam University.

BARAMKI HONORED FOR SERVICE TO PALESTINIAN EDUCATION

At a 27 January ceremony at the French Consulate in Jerusalem, the Consul-General of France, H.E. Jean de Glinasty presented Dr. Gabi Baramki of Birzeit University, and Mr. Khalil Mahshi of the Friends Schools in Ramallah, with awards honoring their service to Palestinian education. The Ministry of National Education in France has officially named Dr. Baramki as an "Officer des Palmes Academiques" and Mr. Mahshi as a "Chevalier des Palmes Academiques." They are the first Palestinian educators to receive such a honor from the French government.

During the ceremony, Dr. Baramki expressed his appreciation for the "lifeline" of international cooperation extended by the French government and French educational institutions in supporting Palestinian education. He noted: "I find it appropriate that this award recalls a palm tree... Just as the palm tree does not flourish alone, a person working in education needs to cooperate with others to bear fruit... this award honors that collaborative enterprise to develop our educational institutions and serve our Palestinian community even under the most adverse circumstances."

Dr. Baramki is currently on a sabbatical year and has travelled extensively on behalf of the University, promoting international academic exchange and cooperation.



FRENCH SUPPORT LAW CENTER



Minister Rossinot (center) and French delegation

On 28 May, Birzeit University officials welcomed Minister Andre Rossinot, the Minister of Civil Service of the French Government for a meeting to discuss French commitments to support the newly-established Law Center at the University. Minister Rossinot was accompanied by Professor Maus, the Director of the International School for Public Administration in Paris, and French consular officials.

The French delegation met with Board of Trustees members Dr. Anton Tarazi and Mr. Ibrahim Dakkak, in addition to University administrators, including Vice-President Dr. Ibrahim Abu Lughod and Assistant Director of the Law Center Dr. Ghassan Faramand.

Dr. Camille Mansour, Professor of Political Science and International Law at Paris I University, will be on campus in the next academic year to direct Birzeit University's new Law Center. The first year of the Law Center promises to be a busy one, as projects in teaching, documentation and training will be initiated, with the goal of serving and upgrading Palestinian legal professionals to meet new challenges.

Earlier in May Dr. Mansour and Dr. Faramand, along with University officials,

had met Professor Yves Shmail and French consular officials. "The discussions were fruitful," reported Dr. Faramand. "We highly appreciate French assistance in such vital areas as staff, book acquisition, equipment, and other infrastructural matters at the critical take-off point for our Center." The Center has also undertaken projects in cooperation with the Paris Bar Association, including two seminars scheduled for September 1994, in which French legal experts will present topics on administrative law and international commercial contracts.

During an earlier visit to France in January, Dr. Faramand met with officials of several French universities and research institutes.

DR. HANNA NASIR AT IAU CONFERENCE

Birzeit University President Dr. Hanna Nasir participated in the regional meeting of the International Association of Universities, which took place at the University of Nankai, China from 24-26 May 1994. The conference focused on the theme "Migration of Brains: International Cooperation and the Mobility of Highly-Qualified Manpower."

Dr. Nasir joined University presidents and officials from the U.S., Europe, China, Japan and India, among others, in a fruitful interchange. He delivered a paper on "Policies for International Cooperation: Keeping a Balance with the National Interest." Dr. Nasir noted that "the 'donation' of fully-trained and internationally-qualified human resources from poor to rich nations is part of a vicious circle of negative development", and suggested more equitable and rational international and national policies." He stressed the role of universities as key producers of highly-qualified human resources and proposed a multi-faceted approach to the creation of indigenous scientific and technical capabilities.

New Issue of Afaq Filistiniyyah

**TOPICS IN PALESTINIAN SOCIETY
ADDRESSED**

In a new issue of Birzeit University's research review, *Afaq Filistiniyyah* ("Palestinian Currents"), articles and reviews by local and international scholars, in English and Arabic, examine such diverse topics as the status of Palestinian children, crusader history, the emerging international system and issues of democracy and the peace process.

Dr. Said Zeedani, the current editor of *Afaq Filistiniyyah* and an Associate Professor of Cultural Studies and Philosophy, explained the editorial policy of *Afaq*: "Our research journal has a broad mandate. It is not just about research on Palestine in a limited sense, nor does it specialize solely in politics and history. We want to include a whole range of topics and perspectives on issues relevant to Palestine and the Arab world."

"Our aim is to expose our different audiences to important ideas and trends affecting Palestinian society: to expose non-Palestinians to what is written in Arabic in Palestine and to expose Palestinians here to what is written in English or Hebrew," Zeedani said, adding that *Afaq* places a special emphasis on book reviews. "For the first time, we aim to have a high-quality research journal in the Occupied Territories. If this effort succeeds, the rewards in stimulating critical research here will be tremendous. There is a tendency to supply and demand research; our aim is to encourage evaluation and critical thought."

SUBSCRIBE: \$20 per year.

CONTRIBUTE: Manuscripts may be submitted to Dr. Said Zeedani, E-mail address: afaq@birzeit.edu.

Afaq Filistiniyyah: Issue 7

In English

Edward Said "The Real Cultural and Political Meaning of Palestine"

Rex Brynen "Conflict and Conflict Resolution in the Emerging International System"

Elia Zureik "Palestine's Unfinished Rebellions" (Review Essay)

Plus reviews by Roger Heacock on *The Sealed Room* (Raja Shehadeh)

and Linda Ammons on *The Rural Middle East* (eds. Kathy and Pandelis Glavanis)

In Arabic

Mohammed Haj Yahya, "The Problem of Child Abuse"

Mohsen Yusef "Religious Map of the Inhabitants of Palestine During the Crusader Occupation"

Ahmad Bakr "Self Esteem among Palestinian Children in the West Bank and Gaza"

Said Zedani: "Democracy and the Concept of the Transitional Phase"

Plus reviews by George Giacaman on *The Women Are Marching* (Phillipa Strum), Sharif Kanaana on *The Expulsion of Palestinians* (Nureddin Masalha), Ahmed Bakr on *No Place to Be a Child* (Garbarino, Kostelny and Dubrow), Bernard Sabella on *Palestinian Society in Gaza, West Bank and Arab Jerusalem* (Heiberg and Ovensen).

NEW FROM MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES..

**The Frankish Wars and Their
Influence on Palestine**

Edited by Khalil Athamina and Roger Heacock

Selected papers from a March 1992 international conference in Jerusalem include contributions by Stefan Wild, Denys Pringle, Carole Hillenbrand, D.S. Richards, Roger Heacock, Khalil Athamina and Ra'if Khoury. To order send \$10 (including postage) to Mediterranean Studies at the University's address.

publications

Abdul Salam Abdul Ghani, Abdul Latif Abuhijleh, Nabeel Nahas and Riyad Amin (Biology and Biochemistry, Chemistry), "The hypoglycemic effect of copper (II) complexes," *Proceedings of the Latin-American Inorganic Chemistry Meeting (LAICH)*, p. 1242, September 1993, Santiago, Spain.

Abdul Latif Abuhijleh (Chemistry), "Mononuclear copper (II) complexes catalyzed oxidation of TMPD and O-phenylene-diamine and oxygen insertion in the O-Phenylene-diamine/PH₃P/Copper II catalyst system," *Proceedings of the Latin-American Chemistry Meeting (LAICM)*, p. 1237, September 1993, Santiago, Spain.

_____ and Clifton Woods, "Characterization and catecholase - mimetic behavior of imidazole adducts of copper(II) valproate, crystal structure of the 2-methylimidazole adduct," *Inorganica Chimica Acta* 209, 187-193, 1993.

Ahmed Baker (Education and Psychology) and Nadera Kevorkian, "Differential Effects on Traumatized Households," *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, Plenum Press, New York, forthcoming.

Rita Giacaman (Community Health) and Penny Johnson (Public Relations), "Searching for Strategies: The Palestinian Women's Movement in the New Era," *Middle East Report*, No. 186, January-February 1994, Washington, D.C.

Ahmed Harb (English), "Death, Rebirth and the Mother Symbol: A Jungian Analysis of Ghassan Kanafani's *All That Remains*," *Arab Studies Quarterly*, forthcoming.

_____, "Conradian Influence on Salih's *Season of Migration to the North*: The Case of *The Secret Sharer*," *The Toronto Review of Contemporary Writing Abroad*, Toronto, forthcoming.

Mazen Hamad (Chemistry), "Binding of the ferric uptake regulation repressor protein (Fur) to Mn(II), Fe(II), Co(II) and Cu(II) ions as co-repressors," *Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry*, 50, 193-210, 1993.

Eileen Kuttub (Sociology), "Palestinian Women in the Intifada: Fighting on Two Fronts," *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Spring 1993.

H.H. Nijm (Mechanical Engineering) and S.M. Batill, "Experimental modelling of the flow field about cylinders with surface perturbation," *Engineering Turbulence Modelling and Experiments 2*, ed. Rodi and Martelli, pp. 561-570, Elsevier, 1993, Amsterdam.

_____, J.Nash, W. Cooper, and V. Nee, "Oil Spill Recovery Technology," *Proceedings of Second World Renewable Energy Congress*, 1992, Reading, U.K.

_____, Nebres J.V. and S.M. Batill, "Flow around a cylinder with Helical surface perturbations," *Flow Visualization VI*, Taneda Editions, Hemisphere, 1992, Washington, D.C.

Edward Sader (Physics), "Improvement of the crystallinity of RF-magnetron-sputtered LaAlO₃ layers on silicon (100)," *Superconductivity Science and Technology*, 6, 547-548, 1993.

Y.I. Salamin (Physics), "On the Dirac equation with anomalous magnetic moment term and a plane electromagnetic field," *Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and General*, 26, 6067-6071m 1993.

A. Yahya (Electrical Engineering), "On the Problems of Information Technology Management in Developing Nations," *Proceedings of Conference of the ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Personnel Research ACM SIGCPR*, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., April 1-3, 1993.

_____, J.A. Fernadnze and J. Minker, "Ordered Model Trees, a Normal Form for Disjunctive Deductive Databases," University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, Technical Report number UMIACS-TR-93-63 and University of Maryland Computer Science Department Technical Report number CS-TR-3103, 1993. Accepted for publication in the *Journal of Automated Reasoning*, 1994.

Fernandez, J.A., J. Minker and _____, "Computing Perfect and Stable Model Trees Using Ordered Model Trees," University of Maryland Technical Report number UMIACS-TR-93-136 and CS-TR-3195, 1993. Accepted for Publication to the *Journal of Computational Intelligence*, 1994.

_____, "Towards a Viable Computer Industry in Developing Nations: The West Bank Case," *Proceedings of the International Federation of Information Processing, 13th World Computer Congress*, IFIP Congress '94, Hamburg, Germany.

PAS ON CAMPUS

New on campus this academic year is the Palestine and Arabic Studies Program, which offers international students an opportunity to study at Birzeit for a semester or throughout the entire year. The University's International Summer Program, now looking forward to its tenth year, has successfully offered six-week summer sessions for international students combining intensive study of Arabic, sociology and literature courses, and a program of extracurricular activities and field trips.

PAS students on campus numbered thirty in the first semester and twenty-two in the second semester, reports PAS coordinator Hilary Rentisi. Students came to Birzeit from a wide range of countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, Britain, Morocco, Venezuela, Sweden, Canada and Puerto Rico. During the second semester, a student exchange with Amsterdam University placed two Birzeit students in Amsterdam, while two Dutch students were welcomed to Birzeit.

The study of Arabic is at the center of the PAS curriculum, with courses in both colloquial and standard Arabic, in small classes tailored to the students' level as assessed in placement exams. Courses in Palestinian society and literature are also offered, as is a course in Palestinian Women in Society. Several graduate students are also working on special topics through research tutorials.

"Students adjust very well," commented Hilary Rentisi, "even those who arrived during the curfew used the time to do a lot of reading. We offer orientation programs and do our best to meet students needs and questions. Many of the female students are living in the dormitory and enjoy getting to know Birzeit students. In our first year, we are not completely institutionalized, but we are pleased students are enjoying PAS and benefitting academically and culturally."

IN MEMORIAM

Rami Ghazzawi
Basima Shehadeh Tamimi

The Birzeit University community reacted with grief and protest to two tragic deaths of family members of University staff. On 16 November 1993, an Israeli soldier shot and killed 15-year-old Rami Ghazzawi, the son of faculty member Izzat Ghazzawi. Rami was killed on the grounds of his school in the West Bank town of Bireh. In a press statement, the University said: "Schools should not be hunting grounds for soldiers and Palestinian students have a right to protection and security... we will always keep a place for Rami in our hearts, as we struggle to achieve the human and national rights of all Palestinian children."

The Birzeit University community also extended its deepest condolences to Dr. Samir Shehadeh, on the tragic death of his wife Basima Shehadeh Tamimi. Basima, 44-years old and the mother of five children, died on 5 December 1993 of a ruptured aneurism in her brain, in the wake of an incident outside Ramallah Military Court where she was roughly treated by an Israeli female soldier and fell, hitting her head. Basima had been the victim of a previous rupture several weeks before, and was attempting to attend the court hearing of her son, Nizar, a Birzeit University student. In a statement, the University urged an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Basima's death and pointed out that "the Israeli army's commonplace cruelty and humiliation of the Palestinian civilian population is itself a subject for serious investigation."

BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

**Publisher: Public Relations Office
Editor: Penny Johnson
Photos: Yasser Darwish**