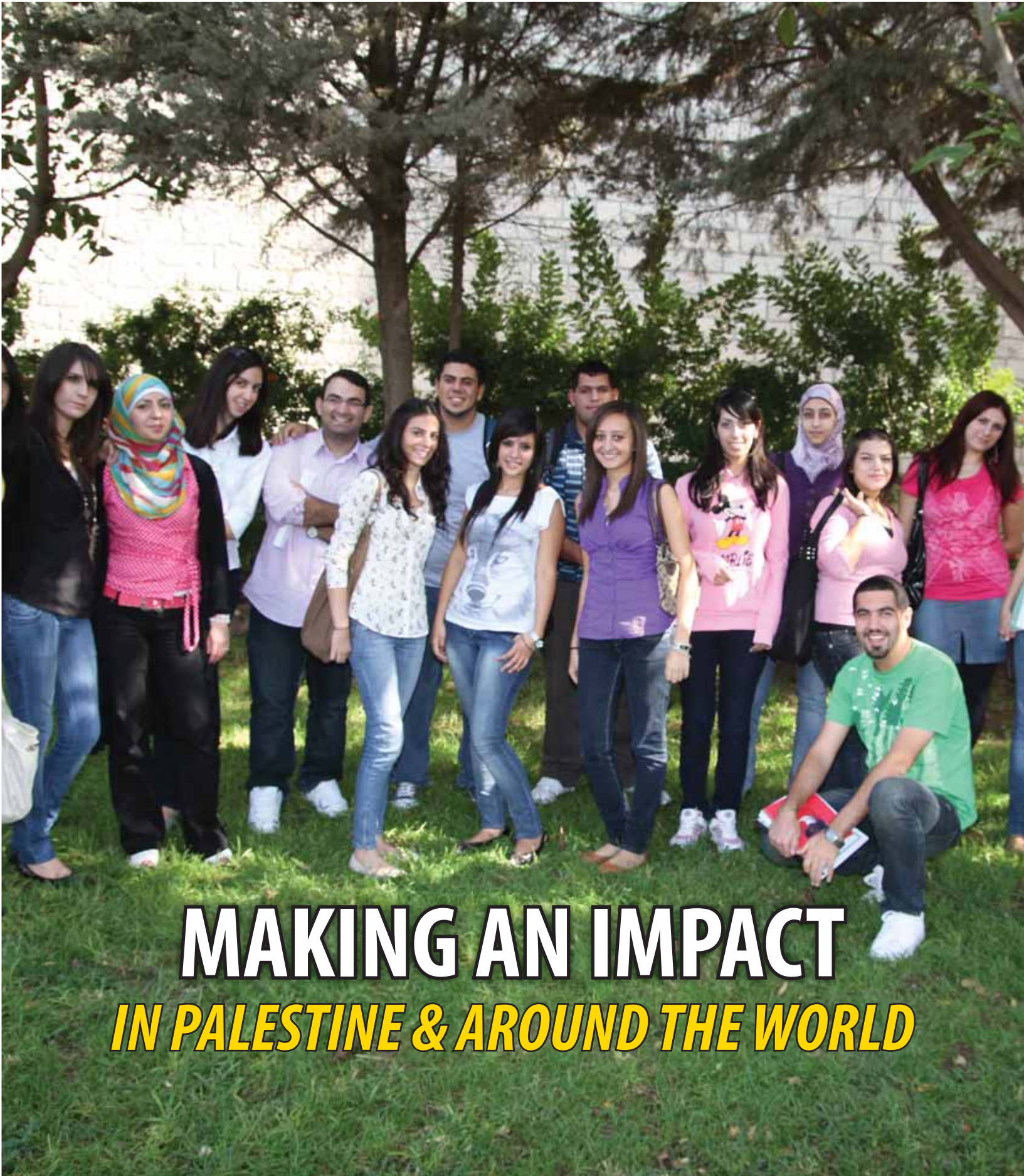


Bethlehem University

Bethlehem University News - Volume 20 Issue No. 1 2011-2012

IN THE HOLY LAND



MAKING AN IMPACT
IN PALESTINE & AROUND THE WORLD



A Message from the Vice Chancellor

Dear Alumni and Friends of Bethlehem University,

Bethlehem University is educating leaders for the new Palestine. As we embark on a new academic year, it is a good time to reflect on how you have helped Bethlehem University make great strides in the service of the people of Palestine as the only Catholic Christian university in the Holy Land open to students of all faith traditions.

In this issue you will read about some graduates of Bethlehem University and their positive impact on the world around us. Your support of Bethlehem University truly has a multiplier effect. For instance, Mr. Zoughbi Zoughbi '85 received the World Vision International Peace Building Award in recognition of his work in founding the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Center in Bethlehem. You will also read about Ms. Rima Canawati '86 having received the International Service Human Rights Award for her advocacy in support of people with special needs, especially in Palestine.

Building a sustainable society in the Holy Land means that careers and employment opportunities are vital. The mission of Bethlehem University calls our students to be people of moral principles in their service of the common good of society. When I see our students participate in the annual Career Day, engage in Community Volunteer Service, and learn real-life professional skills in their internship programs, I know that we are fulfilling our mission. In this magazine you'll read about the 17th Career Day and the involvement of some of our graduates such as Mr. Hani Imam '77, Mr. Issa Qassis '84 and Mr. Salim Hodali '05 who continue to "give back" in support of the next generation of Bethlehem University students.

I am delighted each time I see more and more teachers, students, and parents of students in the local schools coming to Bethlehem University to participate in our comprehensive "Enhancing Primary and Secondary Education in Palestine" project. In addition to completing a new campus facility to support this project, our faculty members are making great strides in enhancing the primary and secondary school systems, advancing principles of democracy and human rights, and supporting the professional development of teachers in the schools.

With your prayers, financial support, and expressions of solidarity from around the globe, Bethlehem University, your university in the Holy Land, continues to move ahead in the service of God's people, preparing the next generation of leaders who are creative and critical in their service of the people of Palestine. Thank you for your support – for without you, and the grace of God, we would not be able to do what we do! God bless you always!

Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD
Vice Chancellor



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Bethlehem University in Figures 2010 - 2011

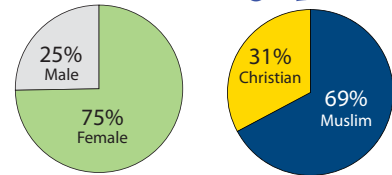
Student enrollment:

Master's Degree: 80
 Higher Diploma: 122
 Professional Diploma: 57
 Baccalaureate: 2,704
 Diploma: 108
Total Student Enrollment: 3,071

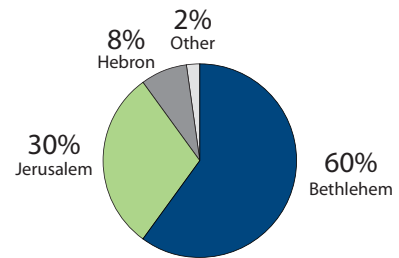
Faculty and staff: 308

Academic: 115, Adm/Support: 97,
 Service: 61, Sub Contracted: 35
 Female: 133, Male: 175

Student Demographics

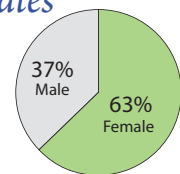


Student Home Locations

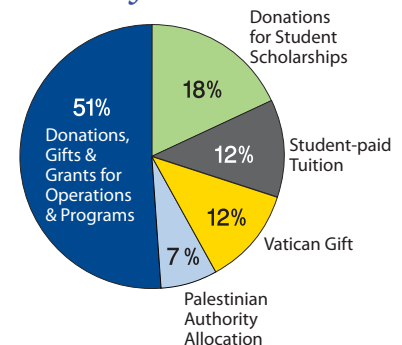


Total Graduates

Male: 4,800
 Female: 8,173



Sources of Income





**We're Changing the World
- One Person at a Time -**

Sir John McGuckin

Mentoring & Internship Program

Fostering Careers & Leadership

Leading to a Hopeful Arab Summer!

Michael Abu Mohor, Accounting Major, Bethlehem University '11, in his internship office, pictured with Michael and Karen Hall, his hosts and mentors.



"During my internship, my English language skills improved and I learned about a new business sector; the insurance field. I am now more confident as I begin my first job here in Palestine with an insurance company." Michael Abu Mohor.

Amal Al Bandak, Hotel Management Major, Bethlehem University '11, in her internship office at the Roncho Bernardo Inn, San Diego, pictured with Ede and Chuck Radloff, her hosts and mentors.



"As a hotel management major I benefited from the professional atmosphere at the Inn. I gathered many new ideas which I can use for my future career." Amal Al Bandak

"It's a haven," Nancy Lee said of Bethlehem University when she and her husband Fred visited during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2010.

The Lee's are among a number of members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre opening their hearts and homes – and places of work – to welcome Bethlehem University students during the summer for a six to eight week career-focused mentoring and internship program.

"I hope I can be a benefit to my homeland," said Rasha Mukaker, a third year Accounting Major who is looking forward to bringing back to her classmates the knowledge and skills she learned during her summer internship in Stockton, California with the Lee's.

Rasha, one of more than 20 Bethlehem University students participated in the Sir John McGuckin Mentoring and Internship Program that exposes them to hands-on real-world business and professional experiences. The students are also welcomed into the homes and hearts of generously committed friends of Bethlehem University in the United States, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Italy, Belgium, and The Netherlands. This is where the real mentoring and learning happens – "keeping hope alive" in practical and sustainable ways one student at a time!

"They are beautiful and talented

young people. I am confident that they will significantly improve life for others in their homeland," said Dr. Samir Abu Ghazaleh, who together with his wife Mary have welcomed Marlena Abu Aita and Salam Gareeb, two nursing students who did their internship at the Sioux Falls Surgical Hospital and at the Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

J. Scott Scherer, Lady Liz Smith-Chavez and her husband Alfred hosted Richard al Sadi and Loujine Khouri, Accounting students at Bethlehem University in 2011. They followed on the generous initiative in 2010 of Sir Charles and Lady Ede Radloff who pioneered the mentoring and internship program in the southern California area with Hotel Management student Amal Al Bandak.

"Last summer, Amal was a delight and this year Loujine also serves as an excellent example of the quality of Bethlehem University students. She is an impressive representative of the people of Palestine. Members of the Western Lieutenancy who have had the opportunity to be acquainted with Loujine feel blessed with the opportunity to 'rub shoulders' with this impressive young Palestinian student from Bethlehem University," commented Chuck Radloff.

During the summer of 2011, Michael and Karen Hall visited Michael Abu Mohor, their 2010



Loujine Khouri, Accounting Major, Bethlehem University '12 with her hosts and mentors, Fred and Liz Chavez, and supporters from the Western Lieutenancy.

Accounting student intern, in Bethlehem. Nadin Abu Jildeh and Salah Handal, 2010 Accounting student interns who were with Albert and Lily Hazbun and Jose Lopez in northern California, note how they have been forever changed by this opportunity – and are eager to put their skills into practice in the Palestinian workforce.

Nael Hashweh, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Rotana Hotels located throughout the Middle East, has eight Hotel Management students doing their internships in the Rotana Hotels in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. “We’ve hired Bethlehem University graduates in the past as managers and senior administrators. I am delighted to extend this opportunity to welcome student interns also,” Nael commented during a recent visit to Bethlehem.

Named after the former lieutenant of the Northwestern Lieutenancy who mentored young people in their lives and careers, the Sir John H. McGuckin Mentoring and Internship Program was established in 2010 with the endorsement of Cardinal Foley, Grand Master of the Equestrian Order, and generous support of the Northwestern and Western Lieutenancies of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

The program has its origin with the summer 2006 internship program pioneered by Cor Jan van Heesewijk and with the support

of Lt. Godfried Prieckaerts and The Netherlands Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order. Elias Mukarker and Manual Rofa of the class of 2007 participated in an internship program at INHOLLAND University. Elias has since completed his Masters in Business Administration and is now beginning his second year as a teacher at the Shucri Ibrahim Dabdoub Faculty of Business at Bethlehem University – an example of the positive multiplier effect of this program!

With the dedication of Lady Mary O’Brien, Lieutenant of the Northwestern Lieutenancy, and additional funding support from an Italian Ministry of Youth grant, Mr. Philip Daoud, Ms. Haneen Musleh, and Ms. Raneen AlArja continue to expand and enhance this career-focused aspect of the Alumni Office at Bethlehem University.

Mentoring a student on a professional, personal, and spiritual level has a profoundly positive impact on the student, the host/mentor, and the larger community: a true “multiplier effect” that is tremendously valuable and life-sustaining. We are looking for career and family hosts in Europe, the States, and the Gulf. Your financial support of this project is deeply appreciated and welcomed. To learn more about the John McGuckin Mentoring and Internship Program, please contact us at: internships@bethlehem.edu

Nadine Abu Jildeh, Accounting Major, Bethlehem University '11 with her hosts and mentors, Albert and Lily Hazbun at the Bethlehem Association Conference.



“Through my work with the town community center, I learned the importance of rules and effective communication. I also learned what an important role marketing plays in business.”
Nadine Abu Jildeh

Rasha Mukarker, Accounting Major, Bethlehem University '12 with Brother Jack, Nancy and Fred Lee.



Rasha Mukarker, Accounting Major, Bethlehem University '12 with Dr. Hamid and Fatima Shirvani during a visit to California State University Stanislaus.



To learn more about the John McGuckin Mentoring and Internship Program, please contact us at: internships@bethlehem.edu



From left to right: Jacob Imam, Mr. Nabil El-Mufdi, Abu El-Walid Dajani, Ms. Susie Imam, and Mr. Hani Imam '77.



Mr. Hani Imam '77 (left) enjoys a discussion with former classmate Mr. Nabil El-Mufdi '77, Director of the Institute of Hotel Management & Tourism (right).

Hani Imam '77 Establishes Scholarship to Honor Mentor

During April 2011, Bethlehem University welcomed special guests and friends of the university, Abu El Walid Dajani, founder and former Director of the Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism, Mr. Hani Imam '77, his wife Ms. Susie Imam and son, Jacob.

An alumnus of the very first Bethlehem University graduating class, Mr. Imam toured the grounds of his alma mater while showing his family the place where he began his successful academic and professional career. A.E. Dajani stated "When Hani came to my office for an interview, I was not sure if he would pass it or not. But he did great in his interview so I decided to give him a chance. Now he is a great example of a Palestinian ambassador. I am very proud of

what he has become." Mr. Imam, an entrepreneur and owner of Imam Management Consulting, resides with his family in Washington State. He gives credit for his success to his experiences at Bethlehem University, stating that dedicated faculty, namely A.E. Walid Dajani, helped to give him the opportunities he needed to launch his career and pursue his dreams. The Imam's recently established the Abu El-Walid Dajani Endowed Scholarship at Bethlehem University, in order to honor Mr. Imam's mentor and to give back to his alma mater, enabling students to make their own dreams come true.

Mr. Nabil Mufdi '75, Director of the Institute for Hotel Management and Tourism, is enthusiastic about the scholarship

established by his former classmate, "Hani is a good friend and colleague and Mr. Dajani is a wonderful teacher. Both are close to my heart," he says.

The Imam family toured the new additions to the university while Mr. Imam reminisced with fellow alumni, Bethlehem University officials and staff and of course, Mr. Dajani. Ranjana Dissi '12, the first recipient of the scholarship says, "It is a great honor for me to be awarded a scholarship named after Abu El Walid, who did wonderful things for the university. I really enjoyed listening to Mr. Hani Imam's advice and stories. This encourages me to do better in my studies and become like Mr. Imam."

Meet Rima Canawati '86

Disability Rights Advocate



Ms. Canawati enjoys time with a child at one of the day care centers.

Ms. Rima Canawati '86 is a pioneer who has dedicated her life to encouraging and supporting the disabled community in Palestine.

Those close to her describe her passion for treating the disabled with respect and compassion. A tireless advocate who herself has visual impairment, Ms. Canawati has lobbied the Palestinian government for

implementation of a national policy on inclusive education, and improved education, health and development services for vulnerable people and those with disabilities. Thanks to her efforts, many children with disabilities are now able to attend integrated educational institutions. As Director of Program Development at the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, Ms. Canawati has developed different community programs targeting people with disabilities - in the fields of inclusive education, rehabilitation including outreach services, vocational training, psychosocial intervention and vision rehabilitation from an inclusive development approach - focusing on capacity building and empowerment of people with disabilities and their families as self advocates. She is a member

of the Palestinian Higher Council for the Affairs of People with Disabilities, a steering committee member of the Disability Monitor Initiative in the Middle East, a member of CBM-EMR Regional Advisory Committee, country representative in the Eccumenical Disability Advocates Network of the World Council of Churches - Middle East, and Deputy Chair of the West Asia Regional Committee of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment.

Bethlehem University is proud of Ms. Canawati and her achievements, including being awarded the 2009 International Service Human Rights award for her years of professional and academic contributions to the field of human rights of people with disabilities.

Cultural Exchange Program in New York



Bethlehem University student Tariq Shahwan '12 traveled to New York as part of the NESAs (Near East and South Asia)

Undergraduate Exchange one-year program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The NESAs program provides opportunities for young college students to travel abroad and take part in student life in the United States.

Tariq studied at State University of New York (SUNY), where he took 30 hours of courses, mostly related his major in Computer Science. The program also included an 80-hour internship at the Bank of Richmondville in Albany, New York, as assistant to Mr. Said Yassin, the Director

of IT Operations. This hands-on experience enabled Tariq to apply and develop his IT skills as he prepared reports on daily maintenance operations for the FDIC. While studying Tariq also served as an officer of the International Students Club at SUNY.

Tariq feels his experience with the latest banking technology greatly enhanced his education at Bethlehem University. Tariq continues to work closely with the university staff to develop his academic and future career path.

Honoring Heritage Forging in New Future

NOUR
(9) print
design

45 Years



“We’ve progressed from aligning moveable letters and operating a 1919 manual printing press to electronic graphic design and state-of-the-art mass-production presses, but we still value customer service and quality in our work” notes David Nour, a 1995 graduate of Bethlehem University, who, together with his wife, Selina, a 1998 graduate of Bethlehem University, own and operate the Nour Design & Print Company in Beit Jala, Palestine.

In the early 1950’s the Salesian Religious Order installed the first printing press in the Bethlehem area. A young man at the time, David’s father, Bishara Nour, did all he could to learn the trade and in 1966 he opened his own printing business in Bethlehem. Today, David and Selina run the business with eight employees and they serve a local clientele of non-profits and for-profit organizations as well as international clients such as Aid to the Church in Need, UK; Friends of the Holy Land, UK; EOHSJ, England and Wales; EOHSJ, Western USA; and Transformational Business Network-UK.

For more than 8 years, the Nour’s have designed and printed the Bethlehem University News – and we are delighted!



Mr. Zoughbi Zoughbi accepts award from Mr. Alex Snary, National Director of World Vision for Jerusalem-West Bank/Gaza.

Zoughbi Zoughbi '85:



Building Peace in Palestine

More than 300 local and international dignitaries gathered at the Wi’am Center to honor Mr. Zoughbi Zoughbi '85, recipient of the 2010 World Vision International Peace Building Award. Notable attendees included Abdul Al-Fatah Hamail, the Governor of Bethlehem, and Alex Snary, National Director of World Vision for Jerusalem-West Bank-Gaza.

Mr. Zoughbi founded the Wi’am Center in 1994 after completing his Masters in Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. The Center is common ground for people to come together to engage in peaceful conflict resolution and nonviolent resistance strategies. It also serves as a community center for sustainable development, empowerment, and hope through

vocational training, recreational activities, and cultural exchanges. It is closely tied to Bethlehem University, serving as an internship and community service placement center for students and staffed by several Bethlehem University graduates.

“Mr. Zoughbi’s work in promoting restorative justice locally, regionally, and internationally inspires hope for a better future for us all,” said Brother Jack Curran, Vice President of Development at Bethlehem University. Mr. Philip Daoud, Communications and Alumni Relations Manager at Bethlehem University, echoed the University’s pride, “We have long recognized Zoughbi as a conflict transformational leader in Palestinian society.”



Brother Peter Bray (right) and other community leaders listen intently to opening remarks at the Christian-Muslim relations conference.

Christian & Muslim Conference

Draws Participants from Around the World

“Violence, Nonviolence and Religion” was the focus of the third international religious conference organized by the Religious Studies Department at Bethlehem University in February 2011.

The conference drew academics, clergy and practitioners from around the world who specialize in the fields of social sciences, politics, and religious studies.

In addition to many influential religious leaders and academics from the Bethlehem and Jerusalem community, participants hailed from several well-known academic institutions: St. Mary’s University College (London); Georgetown University (Washington, DC); Wadham College (Oxford, U.K.); California State University (Santa Barbara); and Princeton (New Jersey), to name just a few.

The conference focused on building upon Christian-Muslim relations, rather than hammering

out theological issues of religious dialogue, said Fr. Jamal Khader, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies. He emphasized the great need for Christians and Muslims to study and discuss the issues that influence how they interact with each other, for example the use of holy texts to inform opinions on relations. The series of lectures in the conference reflected this theme and offered different points of view.

That perspective struck a chord for Rosemary, a graduate student of inter-religious dialogue who traveled to the conference from the University of Leuven (Brussels). She felt particularly moved by the talk given by Dr. Rusmir Mahmutćehajić, Professor of Applied Physics and Islamic Phenomenology at the University of Sarajevo, who spoke of “knowing the other in pluralistic societies,” especially considering the difficult background in the Balkan region. She reflected that it is important

for people of faith to more carefully internalize the spirit of their faiths in order to become carriers of peace.

“Violence and mercy cannot exist together,” added Mahmoud El Habash, Minister of Religious Affairs of the Palestinian Authority, who was one of many speakers who emphasized the need for people to engage in nonviolent activity and dialogue.

Bethlehem University consistently encourages inter-religious dialogue in an effort to promote understanding and respect in Palestine and beyond. All students at Bethlehem University are required in their fourth year to participate in an interreligious course which presents the history, beliefs, moral precepts, feasts and rituals of Christianity and Islam, with the aim of reaching a deeper appreciation of their roles in contemporary society.



“It’s an honor for me to be a member of the Board of Trustees of Bethlehem University. I know first hand of the quality of the education and dedicated character of their students and graduates.”

Mr. Hashem Shawa, Chairman and General Manager of the Bank of Palestine.



Bethlehem Graduates

Find Opportunities

with **Bank of Palestine**

For Mr. Issa Qassis '84, a road that began at Bethlehem University led him far away and back again to where he started as a Business graduate.

After graduation, Mr. Qassis sought employment in Abu Dhabi, where he put his new skills and knowledge base to work as an accountant and public relations officer in the petrol industry before moving on to serve in the prestigious U.A.E. Rosary School, as financial manager. Meanwhile he continued to work as an accountant, working seventeen hours most days due to his strong desire to succeed. Mr. Qassis left the area in 1991, after the Gulf War, to work in the Bethlehem banking sector.

Mr. Qassis' ambitions led him towards an upper management position in 2000 at the Bank of Palestine, where the father of six has since been employed. Around that time the bank was seeking and hiring talented leadership, moving forward “like a missile,” he said. He attributes his and the bank's success to strong foundations and great management, led by Bank of Palestine CEO, Mr. Hashem Shawa, and the support of his talented staff of 34 employees,

28 of whom are Bethlehem University graduates.

“Bethlehem University graduates have strong ethical and professional standards plus good English language capabilities,” said Mr. Salim Hodali '05, Public Relations Officer at the Bank of Palestine, where manager Mr. Qassis credits Mr. Hodali as a contributor to the bank's success in reaching goals and serving the community.

Mr. Qassis has fond memories of Career Days past, reminiscing on how he and his classmates took responsibility for the operation of their booth, where they procured, marketed, and sold apparel, as part of their academic training. He recalls a wily teacher who would quietly prowl around the students' booths, taking notes on their performance and even taking items in order to teach inattentive students a lesson.

Mr. Hodali also fondly remembers his Career Days as a student and as a representative of the Bank

of Palestine at Career Day 2010. Mr. Hodali, who was officially hired by phone during his honeymoon, attributes his sense of discipline and professionalism to world-class faculty members at Bethlehem University, whom he credits for helping him through the challenging courses and life decisions he had to make. Today he has extensive knowledge of great community projects and community development loans the Bank of Palestine provides, such as supporting Bethlehem University projects, and offering special services such as student loans and green loans, which aid local homeowners in building environmentally friendly homes.

“When hired at the bank, I began as a teller, which is a high-pressure job that tests your mettle and ability to take on more responsibility,” Mr. Hodali said. “My background helped me overcome my obstacles because I learned that a positive attitude compels you to persist and succeed.”

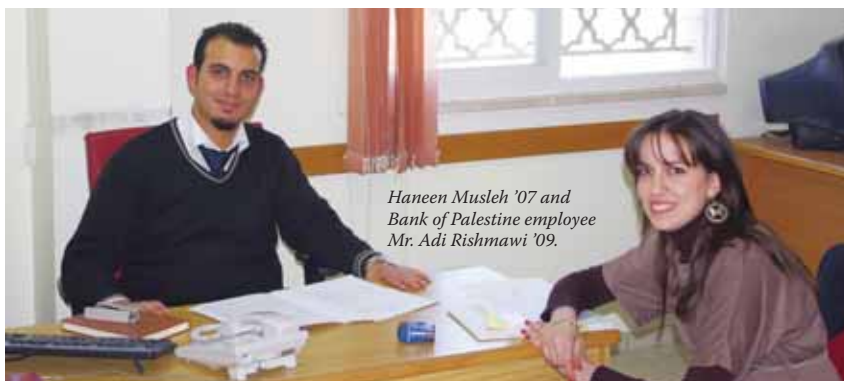
Alumni Feedback



Bethlehem University graduates working in the Bank of Palestine - Bethlehem Branch pose with manager Mr. Issa Qassis '84.



*Mr. Issa Qassis '84
Bank of Palestine
Bethlehem Branch Manager*



*Haneen Musleh '07 and
Bank of Palestine employee
Mr. Adi Rishmawi '09.*



*Mr. Salim Hodali '05.
Public Relations Officer at
the Bank of Palestine*

Ms. Haneen Musleh '07:

As the Alumni Relations Officer, my visit to the Bethlehem branch of the Bank of Palestine was an informative and exciting experience as I was able to meet many of our graduates who are working there. The spirit of enthusiasm the graduates have for Bethlehem University was remarkable as was their enthusiasm for the newly established Alumni Relations Office. There was a very palpable sense that graduates want to keep in contact with their alma mater.

Mr. Adi Rishmawi '09:

I work as a marketing and point of sale officer. I think a great idea is for the Alumni Office to begin a donation program where alumni like me can make donations which can help support a students study fees.

Mr. Micheal Awwad '09:

I am a bank teller at the Bank of Palestine. I find that the coursework I took at Bethlehem University was really useful for my work and I would encourage the university to continue to add even more practical coursework offerings.



Brother Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor, addresses HCEF Conference.

Holy Land

Christian Ecumenical Foundation

Recognizes

Bethlehem University

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) honored Bethlehem University with the 2010 Living Stones Solidarity Award, noting the university's achievement of "its primary mission of the betterment of the lives of Palestinians and Christians at large" through education, advocacy, and solidarity initiatives.

The award was presented at the 12th annual HCEF Conference in Bethesda, Maryland, declaring that through Bethlehem University's "emphasis on excellence in its educational and mentoring programs... prepares its students to be leaders in society. Through quality higher education it becomes a center for advancement and knowledge for the people of Palestine."

The award most importantly recognizes how the university has

“loved, supported, and stood in solidarity with Christians in Palestine for 37 years”

said Brother Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University.

Additionally, the award highlights Bethlehem University's leadership in advocating for the rights of others, as was the case in 2009 when Berlanty Azzam, a Bethlehem University student, was stopped at a checkpoint and expelled from the university by the Israeli military. Bethlehem University officials subsequently travelled to Ms.

Azzam's hometown in Gaza, where they held a graduation ceremony to present her with the degree she had earned.

Ms. Azzam "puts a very human face on a complex political issue that says, 'it's not all about politics; it's about real human beings,'" said Brother Jack Curran, Vice President of Development for Bethlehem University.



Mr. Rateb Rabie, President of the HCEF (right) and Fr. Drew Christiansen (left) present Br. Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor (middle), the 2010 Living Stones Solidarity Award.

We want to know what matters to YOU!

Are you interested in particular aspects and stories about Bethlehem University and its faculty, staff or students? Bethlehem University News is all about sharing the news that best shows what we are achieving through our partnership with you.

Talk Back

Contact our Communications Office (info@bethlehem.edu) to give us your feedback.

Bethlehem University Seniors
Get Career Advice



Career

Day

Gives



Students

a Boost

Bethlehem University students meet
with potential employers



Here at Bethlehem University, we are working ardently to support students and alumni as they shape their career paths and future livelihoods. As stated recently by a visiting professor who also served as president of three universities, it is unfair to ask students to invest four years of their time and then not find work when they graduate and become job seekers. To that end, Bethlehem University holds annual Career Days, which bring potential employers together with seniors and graduates, who come prepared to ask questions and be asked questions while taking the chance to explore employment opportunities.

Career Days are only part of the student services offered by Bethlehem University. The Alumni Relations Office offers services such as workshops that teach students to develop their CV writing, interview, and public speaking skills. Also available are consultations where students are matched with appropriate scholarships and internships, both

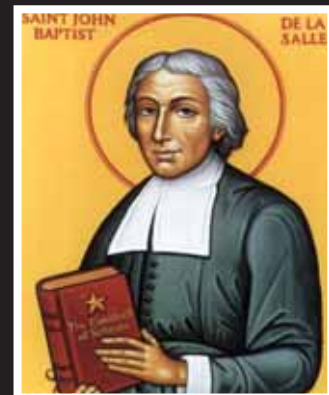
local and international, which help students in their career paths.

Sponsored by the Arab Bank, the 17th Career Day, now an annual event, took place in where more than 50 employers from the private, public, business, health, hospitality, and education sectors set up booths for students to visit, present their CVs, and be interviewed for possible employment. Representatives noted a marked improvement in CV skills compared to last year, a testament to Bethlehem University's commitment to career development and counseling. Bethlehem University graduates form a large sector of the local professional work force, such as the U.S. based Deloitte auditing firm, which employs seven Bethlehem University graduates: Lauren Naji Abu Saad '09, Wisam Atta Qaymary '08, George Issa Abu Farha '07, Anton Issa Naber '04, Issam Adnan Jaffal '04, Mohammad Omar al-Batnij '03, and Hagob Harout Banian '92.

Mission Statement

Bethlehem University is a Catholic co-educational institution in the Lasallian tradition whose mission is to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine and to serve them in its role as a center for the advancement, sharing and use of knowledge.

The University emphasizes excellence in academic programs and the development of students as committed people prepared to assume leading positions in society. The University aspires to foster shared values, moral principles and a dedication to serving the common good.



Human Rights Education Workshop Helps Educators to Model Democracy

“The best way to understand human rights is to exercise them,” says Huda Musleh, Education Lecturer at Bethlehem University, adding that schools and teachers need to understand the issues, such as human rights principles, that affect our lives. “Their daily practices affect the well-being of the children throughout teaching/learning methodologies, classroom management, learning experiences and communications,” explains Mr. Rizek Sleibi, the Dean of Faculty of Education.

Bethlehem University held the “Human Rights in Education” workshop to train 70 local teachers and 40 education majors

to incorporate human rights practices into the classroom routine and lesson plan. The workshop, organized through the “Quality of Education for All Through Partnership,” project, was made possible through support from the Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura, a Spanish NGO and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Teachers can create a democratic

environment providing opportunities and practical tools for students to express their opinions, think critically, raise questions and negotiate during disagreement. Ms. Nidal Abu-Sada, a teacher at the Roman Catholic Secondary School - Beit Sahour says, “[After experiencing the new methodology] I will manage my classroom in a human rights friendly environment in order to teach my students what their rights are.”



Education Project Transforming Palestine

In late 2010, Bethlehem University inaugurated a four-year Education Project, which includes the expansion of the Education Building and enhancing the quality of education in over one hundred primary and secondary schools serving over 10,000 students. It will promote education for gender equity, human rights, democracy, cultural identity and diversity, and environmental protectionism, through introduction of effective technology and media, collaborative networks, and effective learning and teaching skills.

The Zurub Teachers’ Resource Center at the Faculty of Education

is another feature that provides comprehensive educational resources and teaching practice. It also serves as a link between programs run by the Faculty of Education, and non-governmental and governmental educational institutions. Satellite versions of the center, equipped with teaching resources and computers, have been established in each partner school as “...focal point[s] between Bethlehem University, local schools and institutions,” explains Bethlehem University Dean of the Faculty of Education, Mr. Rizek Sleibi.

The inauguration and blessing ceremony for the new project

and its future home was held on 30 November 2010. This expansion has been made possible by generous funding from the Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura (FPSC); Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional. para el Desarrollo (AECID); USAID/ American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA); and the German Lieutenancy of Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and the Church of the Archdiocese of Cologne. Additional organizations and individuals will be recognized for their generous contributions with donor appreciation plaques throughout the building.

Center for Teaching Excellence

Bethlehem University was pleased to be the recipient of an AMEDEAST grant to establish the Center for Teaching Excellence, funded by USAID and the Open Society Institute (OSI) and administered by the Palestinian Faculty Development Program (PFDP). The Center will have joint activities with Al Najah University, Nablus and two US universities: Portland State University and Northwestern University.

Dr. Rabab Tamish, Center Director, explains that the Center will support staff and faculty creating a supportive and professional environment for faculty in order to enrich

their teaching methods and research projects. The launching ceremony was held at the university in March, 2011.

The program is currently at the needs assessment and research stage, which will help ascertain the current levels of support for faculty development, teaching methodology, and scholarship of teaching at the university. The results will help the staff to form a plan development of the center. Staff participation in meetings, conferences and workshops will also help to form the strategic plan for the center, which will incorporate international best practices within the Palestinian context.

Rizek Sleibi, Dean of the Faculty of Education (right) with Enrico Rodriguez of FPSC.



Bishop Marcuso with Macarena Cotello of FPSC & Spanish Consulate Representative.

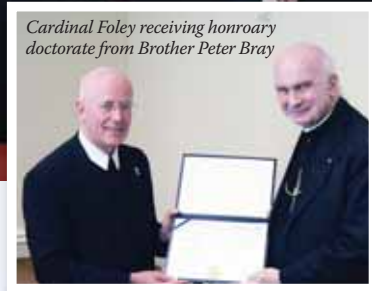


From left to right: Br. Robert Smith, Academic Vice President, Br. Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor, Fr. Jamal Khader, Dean of Faculty of Arts, His Beatitude Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, and Bishop Marcuso of Nazareth.





left to right: Mr. Robert Sims, Msgr. Hans Brouwers, Cardinal Foley, Brother Peter Bray, Brother Jack Curran



Cardinal Foley receiving honorary doctorate from Brother Peter Bray

Cardinal John Patrick Foley

Awarded for Devotion to Bethlehem University & Work in Holy Land

“The commitment of Cardinal Foley to the Church is unsurpassed,” said Br. Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University. “His encouragement of pilgrimages to the Holy Land has enabled thousands to deepen their faith in God, through the grace of the Holy Spirit.”

Bethlehem University presented a Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa, to Cardinal John Patrick

Foley, the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a longtime supporter of Bethlehem University and tireless advocate for the people of God and the Catholic Church throughout the world, and especially in the Holy Land. The ceremony was held in Philadelphia, PA. In 2007 His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed Cardinal Foley as the Grand Master of the

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which he led until his resignation due to illness this February.

Cardinal Foley has significantly enhanced efforts of the Order in providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the various initiatives of the Lieutenancies of the Equestrian Order to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Workshop Renews Commitment to Innovative Teaching



Ms. Rima Dabdoub prepares for a lecture.

Last spring, Ms. Rima Dabdoub, Bethlehem University English instructor, was chosen to take part in a Teachers of English to Speakers of Foreign Languages (TESOL) training workshop during March, at Georgetown

University, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The TESOL convention offers a wide range of educational opportunities, interactive discussions/forums, plenary sessions, hands-on workshops, latest tech-based resources for language teaching and classroom learning.

“As educators we need to equip ourselves with flexibility tools that are needed to improve the teaching of English in the 21st century,” Ms. Dabdoub said, adding that the workshop and visits to the U.S. capital-area school and university classrooms allowed her “to learn about new resources, and [be] introduced to

innovative, successful approaches and techniques to be applied in the classroom.”

Ms. Dabdoub brings a wealth of knowledge and innovation to the region, for example participating in the Palestinian Faculty Development Program’s Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (SET), and being selected to be a master trainer of instructors in areas such as course design, teaching methodology, and comparative trends in higher education.

Bethlehem University is proud to have this dedicated and dynamic teacher as part of its faculty.



Ms. Samar Al-Araj gives her acceptance speech of the AMIDEAST PFDD award

Director of Athletics

Rises to the Top with Teaching Excellence Award

Samar Al-Araj Mousa credits her mother as the inspiration that set her on the path to achieve excellence and fight adversity through a nontraditional career.

The Director of the Athletics Department has taught at Bethlehem University for nearly 25 years and is the 2010 recipient of the esteemed AMIDEAST Palestinian Faculty Development Program Teaching Excellence Award, which seeks to promote the expansion, retention, and professional development of promising academics who are teaching in the social sciences and humanities.

“Creating a competitive environment full of respect and understanding, teaching people the team spirit, and making them more cooperative”

were her primary motives for studying physical education and pursuing a career in a male-dominated field, she said. She has been successful in educating and empowering Middle Eastern women in athletics in Palestine and the Arab world, as a former head of the Palestinian Sports Federation and founder of the first Palestinian National Women’s Soccer Team.

Bethlehem University is proud to attract and retain award-winning teachers and is the only Palestinian university whose faculty consistently wins this award. Past winners are:

- Dr. Fadi Kattan, Dean of Business Administration and Chairperson of Accounting (2009)
- * Ms. Etaf Maqbul, Faculty of Nursing (2008)
- * Dr. Qustandi Shomali, Professor of Arabic (2007).



“Words are not enough to express how thankful I am for the scholarship you are giving me to follow my dreams and complete my education. I will do my best not to fail you and fail my society,” says Suha Konkar, a 19 year old a second year Accounting student at Bethlehem University and recipient of an OliveAid Scholarship.

Wishing to engage more benefactors from the UK, in 2008 the Friends of Bethlehem University in the UK (FoBU-UK) established the OliveAid project. Donors ‘purchase’ a tree for £25, half of the gift supports scholarships at Bethlehem University while the Institute for Community Partnership at Bethlehem University uses the other half to plant and nurture an olive tree. “It’s a great way to encourage economic growth with the sacred olive tree while also investing in the education of the next generation of Palestinian leaders at Bethlehem University,” said Brother Jack Curran, Vice President for Development.

Thanks to the leadership of Roy Putt and FoBU-UK, more than 3,000 olive trees have been planted along with funds for two scholarships for four years plus the beginnings of an endowed perpetual scholarship are being considered! For more information, visit <http://oliveaid.com/>

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9 December 2009 – 26 May 2011

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