

BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY NEWS

A Letter from the Vice Chancellor

Warmest greetings from Bethlehem University in the Holy Land!

On 27 and 28 June, another successful academic year came to a close with 710 students graduating from Bethlehem University! I am always very pleased to be involved in the ceremony where students receive their diplomas. To see students celebrate this achievement is a great joy, and I am deeply grateful to all who make this possible. Backed by your financial support, we witness the success of the graduating students in meeting the high standards set by our faculty. What a blessing they are to the Palestinian society! Thank you for your generous support!

The Summer Session courses are now being offered, and the new academic year begins in mid-August, which will mark the 40th anniversary of the 1973 founding of Bethlehem University as the first university in Palestine. Yes, 40 years of Knowledge, Empowerment, and Liberation!

There is a lot to celebrate and there are also many new opportunities on the horizon.

We are in the process of finalizing our strategic plan and the related comprehensive facilities master plan for the coming years. I have recently returned from the first-ever meeting of all the Boards involved with Bethlehem University. This was held in Rome and included members of the Board of Regents, Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board, all of whom were focused on exploring the best direction in which Bethlehem University could develop. Among our first projects is the re-development of our current Library in new and exciting ways to be the intellectual hub of Bethlehem University – a \$2 million initiative for which we are seeking gifts and grants to enhance student learning.

You are aware that Brother Jack Curran is returning to the USA in August of this year. I thank Brother Jack for his 10 years of service as our Vice President for Development. We will miss Brother Jack's commitment to continuously improve Bethlehem University and his endless efforts to find ways to fund the wonderful work being done here. He will be returning to New York, where he will serve as Vice President for Mission at Manhattan College. Thank you, Brother Jack!

We are fortunate to have Brother Stephen Tuohy, FSC, as our new Vice President for Development. We welcome Brother Stephen, who brings with him significant international experience. He worked for nine years in the Brothers' Generalate in Rome, seeking funds to support the Lasallian works around the world. Welcome, Brother Stephen!

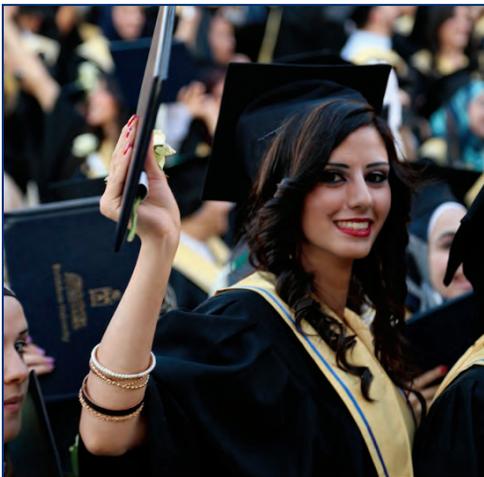
Together and by association with you, our benefactors and graduates, for some 40 years Bethlehem University has been blessed with tremendous success and support. We will celebrate the journey during this 40th Jubilee year as we renew our pledge and re-dedicate ourselves to finding ever better ways to be of service to the Palestinian people. Thank you for your steadfast support of Bethlehem University! Without you and God's grace, we could not accomplish the good that we experience.

With great appreciation,

Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD
Vice Chancellor



Students in the Social Work program make a pledge to serve their communities with dignity and respect.



A Bethlehem University student celebrates after receiving her diploma during the commencement ceremony 27 June 2013.



Welcome Brother Stephen Tuohy, Bethlehem University's new Vice President for Development



*Vice Chancellor
Brother Peter Bray*

Rebirth of a Campus Landmark

Bethlehem University recently launched a \$2 million fundraising effort to transform one of the oldest buildings on campus, the Library, into the intellectual hub of campus life for students, faculty, and alumni.

Originally designed by architect Francesco Montana in 1977, the five-story stone building at the University's main gate currently serves as a library, audiovisual center, storage facility, digital media center, and Turathuna, our Palestinian cultural heritage center.

Having completed hundreds of hours of consultation among the University community, with the design assistance of Graham Ormsby of Diverse Concept, Bethlehem University seeks to renovate the present Library to serve as the intellectual hub of campus. In addition to housing over 80,000 titles and enhancing its digital and on-line academic learning resources, the re-engineered Library, measuring 3,357 m² (11,105 ft²), will feature study lounges for individuals and groups, meeting spaces, a cafe, theater, recording studio, and an outdoor courtyard. This truly inviting space will be wired with state-of-the-art technology available and accessible to all students, including students with disabilities and special learning needs.

The rebirth of this architecturally significant structure is a key component of the future vision of Bethlehem University. For the past four decades, Bethlehem University in the Holy Land has excelled as a leader in higher education in a troubled land, earning international recognition for the caliber of its students, faculty, programs, and alumni while demonstrating a strong commitment to the well-being of its community. The Library re-engineering is the first step in the next phase of the development of Bethlehem University, leading us forward with growth, innovation, prestige and results.

To take a virtual tour of the renovated library, go to www.bethlehem.edu/new-library.



Ahead Associates and Diverse Concepts are assisting Bethlehem University to create a facilities master plan that is in keeping with our strategic vision and goals.



Bethlehem University plans to renovate the Library as the information and technology hub of the University.

Make a Gift!

You can support this effort to usher in a new era of collaborative learning at Bethlehem University. A number of naming and recognition opportunities are still available for various spaces and areas in the re-engineered Library. For more information, e-mail Ms. Jamie Monk, Development Officer, at jmonk@bethlehem.edu or call [in the United States] (202)526-6098.

Thank you for your kind consideration of a generous gift to support Bethlehem University! Your gift is vital to ensure the future of Bethlehem University. Giving to Bethlehem University is your opportunity to enable the young people of Palestine to find personal and professional success – crucial for the development and stability of the region.



Left, top: The renovation plans of the Library's ground floor call for a café, exhibition display, and reception area with computers, printers and study space.

Left, bottom: The renovation plan of lower level of the Library includes a theater, recording studio, and media center.

Right, top: The Library will be wired with state-of-the-art technology.

Right, bottom: Study pods will enrich academic life by providing space for collaboration.

Bethlehem University Students Preparing for Strong Careers

Sir John McGuckin Mentoring and Internship Program Participants Arrive in the United States

Summer 2013 will see 10 Bethlehem University students (a record high number!) in California, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Washington DC, Arizona, Kansas, Illinois, and Washington state for a six-week McGuckin Mentoring and Internship Program.

Catholic Charities USA and Georgetown University generously and graciously made arrangements for both the work placement sites as well as for the housing accommodations for these 10 students.

Established in 2010 in honor of a former Lieutenant of the USA Northwestern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ), this year's program is supported by gifts from the Grand Magisterium in the Vatican, USA Northwestern Lieutenancy, the Canadian Atlantic Lieutenancy, CNEWA-USA, CNEWA-Canada, Pontifical Mission for Palestine, the Italian Ministry for Youth, and a number of private donors, including Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tan of Vancouver, Canada.

The McGuckin student interns are sharing their experiences this summer through a blog – posting about their internship experience, sharing photos and stories of their host families, and reflecting on local events and cultural experiences. Please visit the blog, which is updated twice weekly: www.bethlehemblog.org. Check back for information about local events with McGuckin student interns in your area!

Visit our website to read about the McGuckin student internship program and previous participants: www.bethlehem.edu/mcguckin.



Bethlehem University student interns in New York City with His Excellency Dr. Riyad Mansour, Ambassador, Palestinian Mission to the UN; and Mr. Joseph Cornelius Donnelly, Permanent Delegate to the UN, CARITAS Internationalis. **Student interns, front row, from left to right:** Nagib Kasbary (Business Administration, '13), internship: Catholic Charities of California; Mirna Nassar (Accounting, '14), internship: Catholic Charities of Des Moines, Iowa; Areej Masoud (Religious Studies, '13), internship: Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas; Dima Al Mukarker (Accounting, '14), internship: Coastal Environmental Systems of Seattle; Yara Al Adili (Business Administration, '14), internship: Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas; Tina Juejaat (Accounting, '13), internship: Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona; Hussam Al-Joulani (Accounting, '13), internship: Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies; Bahaa Nairoukh (Accounting, '13), internship: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse. **Back row, from left to right:** John Bader (Accounting, '13), internship: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago; Fadi Saleh (Computer Information Systems, '13), internship: Catholic Charities Diocese of Youngstown.



Brother Jack Curran, Vice President for Development at Bethlehem University, was welcomed by Father Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA (seated left), and spoke to employees of Catholic Charities USA about the work of Bethlehem University before introducing the students.



His Eminence Cardinal Theodore McCarrick joined Bethlehem University student interns and Catholic Charities USA leadership for lunch.

Fourth International Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations

“Religion and State: From Theocracy to Secularism, and In-Between”

Wednesday-Friday, 2-4 October 2013

The Department of Religious Studies at Bethlehem University invites you to attend its Fourth International Conference on Christian-Muslim Relations, entitled “**Religion and State: From Theocracy to Secularism, and In-Between**,” 2-4 October 2013. This Conference, building on the three previous International Conferences on Christian-Muslim Relations, is a major international event that provides a forum for students, faculty and practitioners from around the world, who are in the fields of religion, conflict resolution, international relations, journalism, and public policy, to explore significant factors involving the role of religion, in particular Christian-Muslim relations, in our lives locally and globally.

The last decade witnessed a radical change in the relationship between religion and state in many parts of the world. The “Arab Spring” poses the question again: what role has religion in public life? “Secular” countries are speaking now about a new approach, “Laïcité positive.” New regimes in the Middle East have re-introduced political Islam in public life, where the main battlefield is the new constitutions of those countries. What is the role of religion? Can a religious majority impose its vision for the future of the countries? Are Western countries really secular? Or does religion continue to influence political options?

Presentations from scholars will provide insight and inspiration that may prompt renewed efforts and actions toward peace and justice, such as: Irene Brennan from England on “Different Models of the Use of Religion in Public Life. Praising Allah/Glorifying God: Developing forms of spirituality for work in Justice and Peace”; Prof. Sebastian Kim of York St. John University, UK on “Christianity and Islam in the Public Sphere: The Role of Public Theology in Contemporary Society”; and Rémi Caucanas from France on “Islam in Europe between Fear and Dialogue.”

To register for the conference or request more information, contact Fr. Jamal Khader, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, at jkhader@bethlehem.edu or (+970) 569762220.



www.bethlehem.edu/rels



www.bethlehem.edu/40Years

Celebrating 40 years of Knowledge, Empowerment, and Liberation

2013-2014: The 40th Jubilee Year

Events held at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday-Friday, 2-4 October 2013

“Religion and State: From Theocracy to Secularism, and In-Between”
Fourth Annual Conference on Christian – Muslim Relations

Sunday, 6 October 2013

Liturgy and Ceremony to Open the 40th Jubilee Year

Thursday, 10 October 2013

40 Years of Service Picture Exhibit

Sunday, 3 November 2013

40th Jubilee Celebration Dinner
Sponsored by the Bethlehem University
Foundation Board of Directors
*Saint Francis Hall, Franciscan Monastery,
Washington, DC*

Friday, 6 December 2013

Special Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Tuesday, 24 December 2013

Christmas Midnight Mass

Thursday, 15 May 2014

De La Salle Day Celebration

Thursday, 12 June 2014

Special Graduation Ceremony

Sunday, 28 September 2014

Closing Ceremony of the 40th Jubilee Year