



Beit Berl College Newsletter November 2014



Dear Friends,



We are pleased to present to you our November 2014 newsletter, now in a new and improved format. Our academic year started on October 26th with remarkable growth in the number of students in all of the faculties, and the campus is bustling with activity. The Council for Higher Education has recently approved Beit Berl College to be budgeted on the same 5-year system as Israel's universities. This opens new opportunities to develop and build on our strengths in the fields of education, society and culture and the arts. Here is a little bit about what has been happening at Beit Berl College during the past several months. We look forward to keeping in touch and to hearing from you.

Prof. Tamar Ariav
President

Dr. Gabriel Klasmer appointed Dean of Faculty of Arts - Hamidrasha



The artist Dr. Gabriel Klasmer will head the Faculty of Arts starting January 2015, replacing Doron Rabina, who served as Dean during the past six years. Klasmer, born in Israel in 1950, has been working, exhibiting and teaching since the 1980's. He has exhibited in numerous galleries around the world and has been awarded

numerous prizes for his work. He comes to the College after two decades in London, where he taught at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Beit Berl Prof. Michal Naaman wins Israel Prize for Fine Arts

Painter and Hamidrasha lecturer Prof. Michal Naaman is the 2014 Israel Prize laureate for fine arts. Naaman, a graduate of Hamidrasha, was influenced in her work by artist Raffi Lavie and conceptual art.

She has been teaching art at Hamidrasha since the late 70's. The Israel Prize Committee said "Professor Naaman is a ground-breaking artist in the field of post conceptual art."



In honor of this achievement, a special exhibition

of her work held at Hayarkon 19, Hamidrasha's gallery in Tel Aviv, curated by Boaz Arad. The exhibition was opened with a gala event on Nov. 25th and will be on exhibit until Dec. 16th, 2014.

Beit Berl College co-organizes Conference in Krakow on Israel's Polish Legacy

A delegation from Beit Berl College headed by college president Prof. Tamar Ariav, went to Krakow in October to participate in a conference at the Pedagogical University of Krakow and the opening of an exhibition at the Jewish Cultural Center.

The conference was organized jointly by members of faculty at the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the Jagiellonian University and Beit Berl College. Prof. Łukasz Tomasz Sroka organized the conference on behalf of the Pedagogical University of Krakow, and Dr. Batya

Brutin organized it on behalf of Beit Berl College, and also curated the exhibition.

The conference focused on the role of Polish Jews who immigrated to Israel in the establishment of the state and their contribution to society. It was attended by faculty and students.

The exhibition described the waves of immigration from Poland to Israel and significant personalities among them, who later influenced Israeli society.



Prof. Ariav held meetings with Vice-Rector Prof. Kazimierz Karolczak to discuss further collaboration between the Pedagogical University of Krakow and Beit Berl College. Prof. Michal Śliwa, Rector of the Pedagogical University of Krakow, described the meetings as "very constructive, and we look forward to expanding our ties in the near future".

Conference looks at development of Arab society in Israel and its barriers

A conference, entitled "Society in search of a compass," focusing on the development of Arab society in Israel and the barriers it faces, was organized by the Academic Institute for Arab Teacher Training at Beit Berl College at the end of May.

The discussion, with leading Arab academics as well as leaders of the Arab community in Israel in the fields of education, economy and politics, touched upon the subjects of education and culture, women's mobility in Arab society, economy and political leadership.

The conference, mediated by broadcast journalist Ms. Eman Kassem-Sliman, included four sessions and panels.

The event began with a lecture by Prof. Aziz Haidar from the Truman Institute, and a panel about Arab women's struggle for public and political leadership, with Dr. Suhad Nashef from the Oranim College of Education and Ms. Maysam Jaljuli from the Abraham Fund.

The second panel examined "Arab society between unity and attempted dissolution," with the participation of Dr. Kussai Haj Yihya and Dr. Johnnie Mansour from the Arab Institute at Beit Berl, Dr. Atallah Kopti from the Academic Arab College of Education in Haifa and Atty. Ali Rafe'.

The third panel focused on the functioning of the economy in the Arab community and included Aiman Saif, the Director of the Authority for the Economic Development of the Minorities Sector at the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, Jafar Farah, Director of the Mossawa Center – the Advocacy Center for Arabs in Israel, and Tarek Awad, an entrepreneur and businessman.

The session also dealt with "Education in the Arab sector – between government responsibility and the responsibility of the Arab municipalities." Among the speakers were MK Amram Mitzna, chairman of the Knesset education committee, and Dr. Ramzi Halabi.

The conference closed with a panel about the gap between society's needs and implementation by the political leaders in the Knesset and the municipalities. It featured MK Ibrahim Sarsur, MK Ahmad Tibi, and MK Issawi Frej. At the end of the interesting discussions, key recommendations were drafted to implement the ideas raised at the conference.

Israeli Social Enterprise Research Center conducts seminar

The Israeli Social Enterprise Research Center at Beit Berl College, headed by Dr. Dan Koren, held a seminar at the end of May with the participation of lecturers from the field of social businesses including Dr. Yuval Dror, Omri Boral, Vicky Bar from Minga – The Social Business Arena, Dr. Mike Naftali, chairman and founder of Topaz – Leading Social Innovations, Doron Zektzer from Tav Tov – the first social mall, and Tal Ronen, joint founding CEO of the Yehuda Kahane Center (YKC) for Reboot and Prosperity, a pioneer of coaching in Israel, and an expert on the transformation of large systems.

Artist Tsibi Geva will represent Israel at the Venice Biennale 2015



Tsibi Geva, a lecturer at Hamidrasha School of Art and professor of art at Haifa University, was selected by the Ministry of Culture to represent Israel at the Venice Biennale in 2015.

New group of ultra-orthodox students join track in educational counseling

A new group of ultra-orthodox ("Haredi") women have joined the educational counseling graduate program for the 2014-2015 school year. The students are studying in a separate track that meets the specific needs of the Haredi population.

The college also offers a study track for students from the Haredi sector with teaching certificates, to supplement their studies towards a B.Ed. degree. Some of these students take extra courses and are certified to work with at-risk youth.

These programs dovetail with a national plan to encourage the Haredi population to acquire academic degrees and find its place in the national workforce.

Film department at Hamidrasha admitted to CILECT

The film department at the Faculty of Arts - Hamidrasha has been admitted as a member of the International Association of Cinema and Television Schools, CILECT (Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinéma et de Télévision). Confirmation of the decision was announced in October at the organization's annual conference in California, which was attended by Dr. Noemi Schory, head of the film department.

CILECT is an international professional organization with 160 member schools from 60 countries. Membership in the organization will open the door to the participation of our graduates' films in important professional events and facilitate the promotion of joint projects with schools abroad.

Lecturers attend IPSCAN conference on prevention of child abuse and neglect



Prof. Shlomo Romi and Dr. Emmanuel Grupper, lecturers at Beit Berl College's youth-at-risk program, attended the 2014 conference of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect in Nagoya, Japan in September. This was an opportunity to forge new ties with experts from all over the world and especially Japan, with the hope of opening new

opportunities for future academic collaboration in the future.

New project involves Beit Berl students in community work

Forty students have begun volunteering in the nearby Jewish and Arab cities of Kfar Saba and Tira as part of a new project for involvement of students from both sectors. The program was initiated by the Dean of Students, Dr. Yaakov Tepler.

Students will earn credit hours for work with senior citizens, youth-at-risk and other municipal frameworks, but unlike previous projects, they are also required to participate in a course that will provide an academic and peer-learning framework.

Dr. Uzi Sasson, coordinator of the project, said "We initially planned a pilot project for forty students, and the turnout was overwhelming – we had more volunteers than we could cope with. We are now relatively confident that we can expand this project to include up to 400 students within a few years".

Hamidrasha introduces Master's program in Art Therapy - MAAT

A new graduate program at the Faculty of Art - Hamidrasha is under way this year, awarding a Master of Art in Art Therapy (MAAT).

The three-year program includes two years of academic coursework and a third year of practical training in a variety of locations with different populations – the school system, mental health facilities, jails, geriatric facilities, and more.

"Database of Memories" of Residents of Israel is launched

Beit Berl College's national oral and material history archive, The Database of Memories, was inaugurated in June at the opening of the exhibit "Medicine and Health of Past Days" at Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba. Over the last years, college

lecturers Dr. Boaz Lev-Tov and Dr. Kussai Haj Yihya, in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair for Multiculturalism in Teacher Education, have developed a program for teaching contemporary history to Arab and Jewish students together. Based on teaching students to become gatherers of oral histories and the objects of daily living, it introduces the contemporary history of the region by focusing on the history of everyday life: where people worked, the tools they used, the food they ate, the medical care they received or created for themselves. By sharing the stories and the history of the two communities, students learn the complex realities of one another's life in a narrative framework. The new database, which gathers and catalogues these original materials, creates a valuable resource for the study of the History of Everyday Life of all populations of Israel over the last 150 years.

Dr. Dalit Atrakchi, Secretary General of the Israeli Commission for UNESCO, which supports the project, Dr. Orna Atar-Katz, Chief Supervisor

for History at the Ministry of Education, and BBC lecturer, Dr. Ofra Tene, addressed members of the board, faculty, administration and students from the college, along with hospital staff and public, who gathered to honor the day-to-day history of the "ordinary people" of our region.



Upcoming Conferences at Beit Berl

January 7-8, 2015

Not in My Back Yard (NIMBY):

Inter-Cultural Inclusion in Educational Systems and in Society

A joint initiative of a consortium of three colleges: Beit Berl College, Rhode Island College and Oranim Academic College of Education. The conference will take place at Beit Berl (January 7th) and at Oranim (January 8th).

March 23-24, 2015

Educating the Net Generation: Political and Cultural Aspects

A joint initiative of Beit Berl College and Ludwigsburg University of Education (Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg) in Germany. The conference will include one day of lectures, and the second day will be devoted to workshops.

May 18, 2015

Relationships

An interdisciplinary conference organized by the Faculty of Society and Culture.

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