REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE RECTOR
THE 36TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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JUNE 2008/SIVAN 5768
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The upsurge in the University’s academic and physical development continued this year, as well. New curricula, institutes, and centers opened this year, in parallel with a growth in the number of students.

The student body of the University of Haifa numbered 17,794 in the 2007/08 academic year.
Distribution of students by degree 2008

Total number of students 17,794

- Non-academic degree: 780
- Diploma: 205
- Ph.D.: 1,022
- M.A.: 5,396
- B.A.: 10,391

Distribution of students by Faculty 2008

Students studying in double-major tracks are counted twice

- Social Sciences: 7,223
- Humanities: 5,074
- Social Welfare and Health Sciences: 3,984
- Education: 1,721
- Law: 1,446
- Science and Science Education: 592
The regular budget framework for the 2007/08 academic year totals NIS 584 million, an increase of 1% over the 2006/07 budget.

The University budget for 2007/08 presents a balanced budget after the planned actualization of the internal financing fund in the amount of NIS 30 million, excluding the cost of retired senior faculty wages.

The budget framework is based on 16,580 students (a rise of 416 students over the previous year), of whom 15,610 were Bachelor's and Master's degree students and 970 were doctoral candidates.

The income component includes the allocations from the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC), constituting 55% of the budget (compared with 58% in 2006/07).

Income from students constitutes 28% of the budget.

The balance of the income budget in the regular budget stems from yields of funds and financing, donations, miscellaneous revenue, and planned actualization of the internal financing fund.

In addition, there is income from fundraising that is not meant for the regular budget and that finances physical development, research, and scholarships. Overall, donations received in 2006/07 amounted to $15.3 million.

In the 2007/08 academic year, the wage component constituted 74% of the expense budget (similar to last year). Planned positions for 2007/08 added up to 2,065, of which 1,319 were faculty teaching positions and 746 were administrative staff and temporary positions (in all, a drop of 8 positions compared to the 2006/07 budget).

The teaching, research, and academic administrative units constitute 64% of the regular budget. The general administrative units constitute 18% of the budget, and other service units (including the Library) 12% of the budget. These units thus total 94% of the total budget.

The budget framework for 2007/08 reflects the University's coping with constraints and goals in the budget year, while continuing to maintain budgetary balance (excluding retirees’ wages).

Beyond the regular budget, there are closed budgets at the University in the amount of NIS 48 million, research budgets totaling NIS 47 million, and development budgets at a scope of NIS 51 million. In all, University activity totals some NIS 730 million.

Carmel-University of Haifa Economic Company Ltd., which operates as the University’s economic arm, continued its activity in the commercialization of knowledge from intellectual property developed at the University and strove toward advancing new ventures with commercial potential. Total income this year amounted to NIS 1.6 million.
General Goals
- Implementing the academic program and updating it.
- Initiating activities to encourage research and increase the University's share in the PBC's budgeting model for research.
- Increase the scope of scholarships for graduate students (Master's and doctoral students).
- Encourage the Faculties to initiate and submit inter-Faculty and interdisciplinary curricula.
- Expand the academic community's ties with universities in Israel and abroad.
- Improve the academic quality of Faculties and guide them in regard to the self-evaluation project.
- Improve the quality of instruction.
- Advance relations between the University and academic colleges in northern Israel.

Academic Goals
- Deploy for the second five-year program – departments, curricula, and new degrees.
- Put into effect the research-encouragement program for members of the faculty so that they can win grants from competitive research funds, publish in key international forums, and advise research students.
- Expand graduate studies and increase their relative weight among all those studying at the University.
- Arrange for setting up a School of Marine Sciences.
- Organize to contend with establishing a medical school.
- Develop international curricula for graduate degrees in English.
- Give a firm basis to inter-departmental and interdisciplinary curricula.
- Recruit superior faculty members and cultivate a young generation of researchers.
- Encourage the registration of students from all parts of the country for studies at the University of Haifa.
- Attract outstanding students to the University by means of special study tracks for such students.

New Curricula
Programs First Offered in 2007/08
- The University was granted autonomy by the Council for Higher Education to grant Master's degrees for new graduate programs.
- The Council for Higher Education approved the Faculty of Education's proposal for introducing reforms in the Faculty's curricula.
- M.A. in Educational Counseling for students at the Religious College in Bnei Braq.
- Ph.D. in Learning Disabilities.
- Ph.D. in Communication.

Curricula Awaiting Approval from the Council for Higher Education
- A single-major track in the Department of Hebrew Language, Faculty of Humanities.
- M.A. program in the Department of Human Services, Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences.
- M.A. in Mathematics Education, Faculty of Education.
- Department of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Sciences and Science Education.

Curricula Approved by the Senate
- School of Art Therapy, a joint program of the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences.
- M.A. in Nursing.
- M.A. in Mediation and Conflict Resolution, a joint program of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences.
B.A. in Cognitive Sciences.
M.A. concentration in Applied Nutrition, School of Public Health, Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences.
M.A. in Administration and Public Policy, School of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences.
Concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health, School of Public Health, Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences.

Programs in Preparation
School of Maritime Sciences.

Computer-aided Teaching
In the 2006/07 academic year, the Computer-aided Teaching Unit continued to advance online instruction through a support center, the executive arm of the Unit, with the assistance of the Computing Division. The Unit’s support staff guided and supported the academic staff in various subjects related to the integration of computerization and telecommunications into academic instruction, with the aim of furthering the quality of teaching and learning.

Most of the courses at the University offered in the course of the year a site accompanied by the HighLearn platform (a family of online Internet and computer applications designed for the purposes of furthering all aspects of teaching and learning in higher education). In all, more than 4,400 course sites went on line and were put at the disposal of 945 lecturers, hundreds of teaching assistants, and some 13,000 students.

In addition to the thousands of course sites opened, use expanded of the online teaching system for other purposes, as well; for instance, departmental forums for improving communication and ways of working between members of the faculty and students, certification examinations for research students involved in experiments with animals, research communities, and online databases. At the same time, there was a growth in the number of lecturers requesting the development of full online courses that would replace traditional instruction in the classroom with distance learning.

Throughout the year, the Computer-aided Teaching Unit’s support team provided support to thousands of lecturers and teaching assistants who asked to integrate online tools into their teaching. The Unit’s online support staff gained reinforcement in the course of 2006/07; and as part of the effort to improve the service, the Unit developed the course management and update wizard that enables updating in advance and in one stroke all the administrative factors related to the lecturer’s course sites. Simultaneously a list of advisers and new instructional film clips were developed, and they are available to lecturers and teaching assistants through the Unit’s support site: http://online.haifa.ac.il/lecturers.

The support staff continued to expand the basket of tools and aids available to the community of lecturers with online courses, with the stress put on tools that may be integrated into any learning platform. In addition to the ongoing activity with the HighLearn platform, the Unit continued its examination of innovative tools and other distance-learning systems. In this respect, two “campuses” of the Moodle platform (a freeware course-management system based on open-code software, and designed on the basis of pedagogical principles to help lecturers and teachers create effective learning communities) were opened, one for regular lecturers and the other for teachers in the External Studies Unit.

In 2006/07, the project, Furthering of Learning Technology Applications in Institutions of Higher Education, was completed. Seven University of Haifa lecturers took part in this project, in the frame of which seven projects and online sites were opened; some were even run in the course of the year for the benefit of the students and teaching staffs.
Distance-learning systems under the Unit's responsibility aided students in the course of the lecturers' strike to minimize its adverse effects; and in some of the courses, they enabled instruction to take place. With the conclusion of the strike, the Unit, acting with the agreement of the Student Union and the University Management, published a program to diminish strike damage through advance recording of lessons and making them available on course sites.

New Institutes and Centers
- Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism and Racism, in the framework of the Research Authority.
- Haifa Center for Studies of Germany and Europe, in the framework of the Research Authority.

Inter-University and International Relations
In the course of the 2006/07 academic year, agreements were signed with the following institutions:
- Aalborg University, Center for Sensory-Motor Interaction, Department of Health Sciences and Technology (Denmark)
- The Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna (Italy)
- Carleton University (Canada)
- Universidad Catolica de Temuco (Chile)
- Florida Atlantic University (USA)
- University of St. Gallen (Switzerland)
- Guizhou University (China)
- University of Iberoamericana (Mexico)
- Inca Garcilaso de la Vega University (Peru)
- University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis (France)
- Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland)
- University of Potsdam (Germany)
- University of Salerno (Italy)
- University of Trento, Faculty of Law (Italy)

Research Grants
A total of 393 research proposals were submitted in the 2006/07 academic year, of which 107 were approved. Research grants awarded totaled $11,561,472 that year, compared to $9,688,374 in 2005/06 and $4,753,595 in 2004/05 – representing a dramatic increase in sums awarded for research between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

University Press
The past year saw the publishing of seven new titles under the University of Haifa imprint, of which three were independent titles of the Press distributed by Keter Publishing. This year, the partnership with Keter strengthened and even yielded a best-seller: King Herod: A Persecuted Persecutor, by Aryeh Kasher and Eliezer Witztum. This book was also awarded the Bahat Prize for 2006. The University of Haifa Press’s partnership with Magnes Press became more firmly based, and four additional titles will soon be published, among them Yigal Burstein’s Intimate Gazes: Studies of the Art of the Cinema, which was awarded the Bahat Prize for 2007.
Physical Development

Projects Underway

Students Center Complex: This 5,300 sq. meter (gross) project is going up on the northeastern slopes of the University campus adjoining the Robin Complex. It has reached the stage of casting the second floor, covering an area of 800 sq. m., following the casting of exposed walls. Contractors for plumbing, air-conditioning, and electricity were chosen, and they have begun work. The cost of the project, which is expected to be completed in September 2009, is NIS 63 million.

In the framework of the expansion and renovation of the University Library, the construction of a new wing to the existing Library was planned, covering an area of 4,500 sq. m., as was renovation of part of the existing area, to the extent of 3,000 sq. m., at a cost of NIS 66 million. Excavation for the new wing has been completed to a depth of 14 meters, including casting of the foundations, which is in the final stages. The new building is expected to be finished in October 2009, and the renovation about a year later.

After much discussion in various University committees and in light of the recommendation of the Israel Police and the State Comptroller's Report, the University decided to proceed with the security fence surrounding the campus. It will have a length of 3,000 meters and cost NIS 4.8 million. Work on the fence is expected to end in August 2008.

The port campus will include 16 classrooms on Hanamal Street in downtown Haifa for the University's needs. The project has a budget of NIS 11 million, to be financed from joint projects of the University of Haifa and the Haifa Municipality. The building and classrooms are expected to be occupied by December 2008.

The Master Plan prepared by the late architect, Yaacov Rechter, and approved by the authorities in 1994, has mostly been exhausted, and only some 30,000 sq. m. remain for building. It may be assumed that this building reserve will be exploited in the course of the next five years, and the University will then find itself in a situation in which it has no land reserves for construction. An architectural competition was held, resulting in the selection of the architect Haim Khat to lead the preparation of a new Master Plan and Design Plan. The Follow-up Committee will work jointly with the architect to submit an initial draft of the plans to the local and district zoning committees.

Projects Planned

The program for erecting a building for the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences was updated. The building will encompass all the departments of the Faculty in an overall area of 13,000 sq. m. and at a cost of $34 million. In addition, some 7,200 sq. m. are planned to be built for parking at an added cost of $ 4 million, so that the entire project is estimated to cost $38 million.

The Deshe Café project is intended to replace the present structure, which has existed for twenty years, and to renew the Rieger Garden, which adjoins the Main Building. The area of the structure is 100 sq. m., and its estimated cost, which includes development work, stone, and lawn in an area of 1,500 sq. m., will reach NIS 2 million. Work will begin once a final reply is received from the Rieger Foundation.

The Yefe Nof Company is in the final design stages of the cable car that will connect and shorten the travel distance between Haifa's Check Post junction, the Technion, and the University. The terminus at the University will include a 200 sq. m. structure. The project is being financed by the Ministry of Transportation, and will be carried out by the Yefe Nof Company.

Projects Being Examined

The University is in the midst of preparing a program for a building for the Faculty of Law, from recognition of the importance of such a building and the Faculty's need for a building of its own in order to enable its continued academic growth and development. In due course, material will be prepared for an architects' competition in order to choose the winning design and present it to potential donors.

An initial program was prepared for a building for the Faculty of Sciences and Science Education, at a scope of 16,790 sq. m. and a cost of $42 million. In the framework of this project, there is the possibility of erecting a 4-story parking garage, with 1,200 parking places in an area covering 36,000 sq. m. at a cost of $19.4 million. Thus the total cost of this project is estimated to amount to $61.4 million.

The University of Haifa is the only university in Israel that has no swimming pool of its own for those who study and work here. For many years, the University has tried to put in a pool, but the lack of means has prevented this from happening to this very day. The project would be located adjoining the Students Center, close by the existing squash court. The University Management has decided that the moneys to be saved from canceling the physical education requirement for students will be transferred to a special fund for the purpose of a pool.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Division continues its great efforts, despite the fact that the budget for this work has constricted, in order to respond to ongoing needs in the University's buildings. It devoted most of its budget to crisis maintenance. At the same time, the division undertakes various renovations that are needed to respond to the needs of the University's academic development. In order to save on costs, the Maintenance Division also carries out projects through its maintenance people.
The main projects carried out this year were as follows: completion of a new wet lab in the Sciences compound in the Multi-Purpose Building, at a cost of NIS 150,000; stage C of the Havatzelet dormitories, which included renovation of the 5th and 6th floors, of rooms, as well as electricity, communication, and air conditioning infrastructure, and preparation of a plaza on the 5th floor, at a cost of NIS 600,000; renovation of toilets in the Hecht Museum foyer, including expanding the women's facility, adding stalls, replacing the ceramic tiles, and preparing a stall for the handicapped, among other work, at a cost of NIS 400,000; the building of a computer classroom, at a cost of NIS 300,000, that includes electricity and communication infrastructure, as well as air conditioning and furniture.

In the framework of projects now underway, the University Archive was moved to the Arts Center at a cost of NIS 300,000. The University called for bids on changing the chillers in the energy room in the Main Building; this will be a two-stage project, the first stage to be carried out this year at a cost of NIS 2.8 million; the transfer of the Continuing Education and External Studies Unit to the “700 floor” of the Main Building (formerly the location of the Archives) is being completed, at a cost of NIS 700,000; a new teachers room is being prepared as are two new classrooms in the Main Building, at a cost of NIS 392,000; the Center for Learning Disorders in the Education Complex is at the stage of detailed planning, and its cost will amount to NIS 1.1 million, funded by the Safra Foundation. Many other projects are being carried out in the area of maintenance, upgrading of facilities, and renovation in all University buildings.

Improving Processes and Organizational Efficiency

Starting with the 2007/08 academic year, two large and important divisions, Maintenance and Construction, were merged and the University Engineer put in charge of the single division. Beyond the financial saving from this merger, other goals will be achieved, among which are greater efficiency of work processes in these two divisions and an intelligent combination of the unit responsible for new construction on campus with the unit entrusted with the upkeep of structures during the design and construction of new buildings on campus. Another merger involved the tuition section for closed budgets, which is anchored in the Finance and Control Division and provides tuition-collection services to teaching units that are not in the direct academic area, such as the Continuing Education and External Studies Unit, the University’s Pre-Academic Preparatory program, the International School, and others. In the framework of saving and efficiency programs, the decision was made to merge this section into the framework of the Student Services Dept. in the Students Administration Division, which deals with collecting tuition for all academic students at the University. This improvement should lead to making processes more efficient with the forming of an orderly collection process run in one framework and under one system (Students Administration SAP), a saving in the number of employees required by the united unit, and diversification of the functions of the department's employees.

Toward the end of the 2006/07 academic year, the need to prepare a voluntary retirement program for the administrative staff was raised. The subject was scrupulously investigated by a number of external companies that professionally deal with the subject, as well as a number of organizations that have experience in implementing such a program successfully. After these examinations, it was decided to put together, with the assistance of an external company, a program that was appropriate for the University. The program will be put into operation in the course of the coming year.

Labor Relations and the Human Resources Division

In March 2007, an agreement in principle was signed that deals with improving the social rights of junior faculty members, changes in spreading out appointments, in rates of tuition refunds, and so forth. Following the signing of the agreement, negotiations continued to be held with the Junior Faculty Organization Committee until the signing of the collective agreement.

In light of the economic situation, the legal requirements are being brought up to date and new rulings were sharpened to create suitable arrangements for the hourly employment of temporary workers, to deploy for the construction of this type of employment, and to arrange for it in accordance with legal requirements. The subject was even examined by an organizational consultant, and recommendations were submitted to the University Management. A portal was developed for the purpose of shortening the process of the reporting of hourly temporary workers, transparency, and simplifying the stations of approval needed and for enabling a definition of payment dates that meet the requirements of the law.

Following publication of the recommendations of the Bachar Committee in regard to Provident Funds and a change in legislation that basically lays down the principle enabling every worker to determine the firm to which to transfer one's money and, therefore, imparts complete freedom of mobility among the different funds, aggressive competition was created among the investment firms in this field; the need was identified for workers to receive professional and objective consultation and direction by a body that would serve as the arrangements manager. This body will assist every employee by directing each worker to the best choice for that person's personal needs, will supervise the agreements, review the sums allocated and verify they have reached their destination, offer available and updated information to every worker in regard to advantages, transactions, etc. The choice of an arrangements manager was carried out in coordination and partnership with the different
organizational works committees (academic and administrative), the Finance and Control Committee, and the Human Resources Division.

The 2006/07 academic year was devoted to the subject of safety following the University’s certification for SI 18001 for Occupational Health and Safety Standard, which was obtained in November 2007. In-service courses were conducted relating to the various aspects of safety, from the responsibility of unit managers to their staff to subject courses, such as lifting loads, freeing elevators, working on high places, and fire fighting. The summary event was a study day, which over the years has become an organizational tradition, and was devoted this time to different aspects of safety.

A number of activities took place that were connected with worker’s welfare and pertained to needs and developments at this time, such as a workshop on basic concepts of the capital market, a workshop on managing the family budget, and a comprehensive program on preparing for retirement for employers who are within three years of their retirement date. The Welfare Section was partner to the assimilation of the SAP – Students Administration system; employees connected with the process received a gift and a letter of thanks. A number of festive meetings were held with the Vice President for Administration, the Academic Secretary, and the head of the Administrative Information Systems Division to sum up the subject, make clarifications, and derive lessons.

Quality Management

Ongoing quality management systems activities took place in the units in the course of the year as required by ISO 9001: 2000, and both internal and external checks were made, with satisfying results. In November 2007, a certification examination was conducted by the Israel Standards Institute for the SI 18001 - Occupational Health and Safety Standard, and the University was found fit for certification. In addition, a number of new regulations were published during the year, and existing regulations were updated and improved.

Computerization

Projects for Research and Teaching

A new computer classroom with 50 workstations was set up in Room 721 of the Main Building, a gift of the Ruhman family. Computer classroom 577 was renovated, and most of the computers were replaced and the number of workstations increased from 38 to 45, a gift of the Kahan family.

Four new computer kiosks were established: on the “4000 floor” of the Terrace Building, with 4 workstations; on the Main Building’s “600 floor” (near Café Deshe), with 5 workstations. These two computer kiosks were donated by the Student Union. Additional “kiosks” were put up in the Education Building, with 6 workstations; and in the Multi-Purpose Building, with 4 workstations.

The infrastructure for the HighLearn online course system was upgraded: computers were replaced, and the Win 2003 operating system was upgraded, as was the application system itself. Beginning with the 2007/08 academic year, an account on the UNIX operating system, with an address on the Study server, was automatically opened for every student who saw a course advisor; this account also serves as the student’s email address throughout his/her studies at the University.

A procedure was constructed for sending emails to a distribution list that included keeping attachments on a central server and connecting to it from the email address. Another server was put into operation (the Library’s old Aleph server), to serve as an alternative to the Study server for students. It was decided to allow students to have access to the Library’s databases without the need for a password-generating card for a trial period.

The following programs were upgraded in the computer classrooms: Amos 7, Mathematica 6, and Eviews 6. New versions, in addition to existing versions of the following software, were installed: Office 2007, SPSS 15, and Matlab R2007a. The Babylon 6 software was added to the Graduate Studies classroom.

The Students Assistance Center was recruited to provide support for students’ use of the SAP Portal and consultation in regard to new software and new services supplied to students in 2007/08.

As is done every year, orientation tours of the Library’s computerization were given to new students at the beginning of the academic year.

For Administration

New infrastructure was built for the purpose of separating the staff portal from the students portal.

In order to regulate the traffic load on SAP during registration, an SAP Application was purchased and assimilated. Additional systems were attached to the SSO unified identification system: Digitool for the Library (to replace the tutorial and guide system), the students portal, and the staff portal on SAP. A new infrastructure was constructed for the dormitory system that includes an Oracle Database and application.

A package was built for the distribution of Office 2007. After a distribution and assimilation pilot was run in the Computing Division and problems that showed up were resolved, the package was distributed to all units. A timetable was built for distributing updates, and the distribution to groups was carried out automatically during the night according to the timetable selected. The next morning, training sessions were held for those groups that had received the package.

For the Community as a Whole

In order to respond to the growing demands for storage area, a project began to replace the Symmetrix disk server (which has exhausted its growth capability) for a new storage system, Clarion. A SAN infrastructure was built between the two disk servers by means of a new switch that connects the two. The Library’s new Aleph server was added to the LanFree Backup application system.

Weekly meetings are held between schools in northern Israel and Jewish schools in Boston by means of videoconferencing. The Multipoint Control Unit (MCU) system was upgraded; it allows the joining of up to 8 videoconferencing systems simultaneously. The upgrading is meant to enable working with brand-new videoconferencing systems. A new RSA password-generating card was put into use.
The wireless network (WiFi) on campus was expanded, with additional access regions added: the Faculty of Law compound, study halls in the Terrace Building and the Rabin Complex, the 4th floor in the Education Faculty complex’s A building, the Institute for Information Processing and Decision-Making area, and the Library’s Media and Reserves sections. A start has been made to spread WiFi to the dormitories.

Exchange of the central communication switches with gigabit-supporting equipment is continuing. Infrastructures have been upgraded in the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. Support-staff hours have been increased for users of the Internet from home to evening hours, weekends, and eves of holidays. Consolidation and virtualization of servers have begun on the VMware server. A change-over of Novell’s Netware to Suse has begun.

The setting up of Internet sites for the administrative divisions and other bodies at the University continued. All the sites were constructed with CSS technology, and most of them with the Joomla content-management system, which enables the site owner to update content independently. As in recent years, this year, too, a special site was constructed for the University’s virtual Open House.

**Administrative Information Systems**

Computerization of additional study programs was carried out in the Students Administration system, and these were integrated into the Internet-based registration process. The following was also computerized: application of the campus system (SAP – CM) for units administered by means of closed budgets [this was for the academic side of the application and the collection of tuition, which will be integrated into the SAP tuition system]; a new application for issuing diplomas and entitlement confirmations; development of reports, correspondence, and processing for greater efficiency and improvement of activities in the Students Administration Division, the Faculties and Departments, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Graduate Studies Authority, and the Academic Planning Unit.

In the framework of portal developments, a registration system was developed for the Pre-Academic Unit and for the International School, as was a unified organization phonebook. The staff portal now enables reservations (such as for rooms for events), mail handling, securing items in research budgets, maintenance announcements, personal matters, and sick days.

Characterization and adjustment of the CRM system was undertaken for the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, development of an Email campaign, a pilot for departmental coordinators (including characterization, training, and assimilation), and the development of an interface from the SAP registration system to the CRM system.

**Students Administration**

During the 2007/08 academic year, the Students Administration Division started to accept matriculation scores of candidates directly from Ministry of Education computers. This step enabled registration through the Internet to become a complete procedure, not connected with the need for mailing out added documents (leading to registration for B.A. studies).

A computerized file-management system for candidates for graduate degrees was installed, using the Desk software program, by scanning all the candidate’s documents. Every file was given the appropriate authorizations, enabling the relevant departments and the Graduate Studies Authority to have access to the documents in the file and the opportunity to add documents, comments, and updates on the candidate’s situation. Computerized file management hastens the handling of applications and enables more efficient management of the acceptance procedure, as well as clearing away paperwork and storage areas.

**Logistics**

In the framework of the University of Haifa’s social vision, a number of steps were taken pertaining to assuring the social rights of cleaning workers employed by contractors for the University; these included changes in the contracts between the University and the contractors and intensifying supervision on the matter. There was a transition to bulk mailings that led to bringing down the cost of large quantities. Improvements were made in the array of teaching equipment in classrooms, including enlarging the installations of permanent projectors and changing faulty amplification systems in the Rabin Complex. Insurance improvements were made, among which were additions to insuring the Library’s holdings, comprehensive insurance for clinical experiments abroad, and the writing of an open policy for volunteer divers. The restaurant on the “500 floor” in the Main Building was renovated, and it began operating as a humous bar. Pictures of items needed in storage rooms were added to the catalog book, and new items/products were added in accordance with the needs and requirements of the units.

**Security and Safety**

In the framework of its social responsibility, the University took upon itself this year the issuing of a new tender for watch and security services that included the full social and other rights of workers of the security company employed on campus. Different mechanisms were laid down to preserve full compliance with labor laws and the various directives on the part of the company hiring the guards and other workers.

In light of the University’s being subject to the Israel Police, staff work was undertaken on securing the University, in the framework of which a distinction was made between a watchman and a security guard and the decision was made to place 25% of the security guards at the different watch posts on campus to strengthen security. The Security and Safety Division is in the final stages of learning the different lessons of the Second Lebanon War, among which was an upgrading of bomb shelters, preparing a place for managing emergency events, and practicing command and control systems. Cooperation with the Israel Police on all matters pertaining to advising/guiding the University on the matter of security proceeds as usual. The University’s emergency teams were prepared for the possibility of an earthquake, while at the same time an emergency scenario was prepared that details how this will be handled. Events necessitating preserving public order, security, and safety on campus were run continuously throughout the year.
At the end of 2007, the Library’s holdings included 848,223 book titles, 33,789 journal titles (of which 17,353 were electronic journals), 534 databases, 500,872 microfilm/microfiche units, 20,541 maps, 3,300 aerial photos, 10,221 video cassettes and DVD’s (more than 12,000 films), 3,721 CD’s and multimedia, 71,134 electronic reprints, 57,057 digital pictures, and 89,022 slides. In all, as of the end of September 2007, the Library’s holdings numbered 2,240,180 items.

In 2007, some 28,700 titles were added to the Library’s holdings, of which 9,909 titles were received as gifts. The electronic journals collection grew by 1,613 titles. Among the significant acquisitions were a subscription to the economic data base Compustat and the purchase of a number of digital journal archives. Hundreds of new electronic book titles were acquired, among them many reference books.

A number of large collections were obtained as gifts to the Library: the Eisenberg family collection (Indian history and culture), the collection of the late Yaacov Shimon (Middle East and Asia), the collection of the late Arieh Shachar (urban geography), and Prof. Martin Glazer (landlocked countries). These gifts helped enrich the Library’s holdings in the relevant areas for research and teaching that take place at the University.

The expansion and renovation of the Library continued; the Library’s sign project was completed, and new directional maps were affixed to improve one’s orientation in the Library. In the framework of improving quality of life in the Library, the borrowing desk and offices were renovated. Installation of a sprinkler system was begun, a project that is planned to end in 2012.

The digital preservation project and development of the digital library continued at an accelerated pace. Digitization was started of doctoral works written at the University in the 1980s, these being added to works currently being written and continually transferred to the Library in digital format. Some 10,000 objects were added to the Library’s digital picture collection, adding to the tens of thousands of items already found in the new digital media center (DMC). The center includes the digital picture collection, a selection of production files of the Haifa Municipal Theater, a collection of pictures of Crusader statuary in the Land of Israel, rare books, various documents and theses written at the University of Haifa, holdings of the Haifa Municipality’s Site Preservation Unit, plus thousands of pictures dealing with the heritage, society, and history of the Land of Israel.

Toward the beginning of the 2007/08 academic year, the Library went over to electronic mail as the exclusive channel of communication with students and staff. As a result, the population of those benefiting from the automated service for extending the time of book returns was expanded, and currently it includes all students and staff at the University of Haifa. Beginning with the start of the 2007/08 academic year, the need was canceled for the use of a password-generating card to access the University network, and thus access to information resources that the Library offers was improved.

The Library, with the aid of the Graduate Studies Authority, purchased for the entire University community a license for the Refworks program, an Internet tool for managing bibliographic citations that serves researchers as an important aid in the process of publishing articles and books. The Library handled the assimilation of the service, the preparation of guidance materials, an accompanying website, and educating users.

The Library’s thinning-out project continued in parallel with an overall inventory check of its holdings. In the framework of this project, some 10,000 volumes were transferred to the Library’s storerooms, and donations of books were made to Xiamen University (China), Rambam Hospital’s Oncology Department in Haifa, the pre-military college at Kibbutz Maagan Mikhael, and to the Israeli Foreign Ministry for a library in Portugal.

The Library’s information systems were upgraded and expanded: version 4 of Onesearch was put into operation with a Hebrew interface; data on use of the system shows a significant growth in entries and searches by both students and staff. The Digital system, named a Digital Media Center, was run successfully. The Aleph system was upgraded to version 18, and the electronic reprint system was changed to a system developed by the Library itself on the basis of Aleph. Eight film-viewing stations were upgraded in the Media Department, and the process of changing over the video collection to DVD format continued at an accelerated rate.

Work continued on the retrospective indexing project in the framework of the Index to Hebrew Periodicals, and the indexing of various journals was completed.

In the course of 2008, donations and grants were received from the University’s Friends Associations in Israel, the United States, and England, and these aided the development of the digital library, the acquisition and development of holdings, and the improvement of the Library’s computerization infrastructure.
The Friends Association Network and Fundraising

This year, as in the past, the Friends of the University of Haifa assisted the University in reaching its goals and increasing support for the centers of excellence and selected initiatives.

During this past year, several substantial donations were solicited for various academic activities, as well as for the establishment of a number of research centers. The President and the Vice President for External Affairs and Resource Development have maintained close bonds with old friends and enlarged the circle of supporters internationally. The monthly News Letter sent out to our many friends and supporters both in Israel and overseas continues to provide news and updates on developments in the University in which we all take pride.

North America
Canada
Mr. Peter L. Biro, President of the Canadian Friends of Haifa University, and Ms. Hetty Shapiro, National Executive Director, have invested tireless efforts to enlarge the Canadian family of supporters and increase major gifts to University initiatives. The Canadian Friends are rigorously promoting the Law Clinic project and have hosted a number of meetings to promote the Clinics in the professional community. This year, the Canadian Friends will join forces with the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada for a gala evening. During this event, the University of Haifa will confer an Honorary Doctorate upon the world-renowned primatologist, environmentalist, and humanitarian, Dr. Jane Goodall, in recognition of her global contribution to environmental awareness and research and, in particular, her dedication to the promotion of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding.

United States
The American Association for the University of Haifa, under the capable leadership of Dr. Lorne Buchman, President and Chair, has added a number of outstanding and talented individuals to the ASUH Board of Directors. Joining forces with the ASUH is Dr. Gail Dinter-Gottlieb, who will take on the role of Executive Director. Together with the University Management, the ASUH is rejuvenating strategies for fundraising in the United States and has developed a creative and innovative approach that will serve to fulfill the goals of the University in the coming years.

Among this year’s highlights were the inauguration ceremony for the Center for Effective Neuroscience and the Honorary Doctorate conferment upon Mrs. Audrey Gruss of New York; the moving Nazarian Family scholarship ceremony providing 119 student scholarships to honor the memory of the 119 soldiers lost in the Second Lebanon War; and the establishment of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences. This past year saw great progress in the construction and renovation of the Soraya and Younes Nazarian Library, which celebrated its official cornerstone-laying exactly a year ago in June 2007.

Latin America
Argentina
The new Friends organization, established last year, is pleased to welcome Dr. Mirta Goldstein as its new President. Together with Ms. Valeria Grimberg, Director of the Argentinean Friends, she and an outstanding group of devoted supporters are working to attract new members, encourage Argentinean students to study at the University, and create opportunities for the community to learn more about the University and the exciting initiatives underway on campus.

Brazil
Mr. Tobias Cepelovicz, President of the Brazilian Friends of the University of Haifa, and Mr. Marcelo Homburger continue to make a huge impact on contributions to the University both in monetary gifts and in visitors who personally come to see the University. With the great help of the Brazilian Friends, the University was able to upgrade computer classrooms to top-of-the-line standards, and to provide support for a number of
vital projects. The kind donations to renovate computer classrooms and purchase state-of-the-art computer hardware and software have benefited the many students who use these facilities.

**Mexico**

Mr. Isaac Fridman, President, has transformed the Mexican Friends of the University of Haifa into a strong and committed group of individuals devoted to Israel and the University of Haifa. Together with Mr. Fridman and Ms. Monica Diner, Executive Director, the Mexican Friends have provided opportunities for the community to learn more about the exciting research initiatives taking place on campus by hosting University faculty in Mexico. The Mexican Friends have also encouraged supporters to assist the University in upgrading the computer classrooms, and students at the University already are enjoying the new computer facilities made possible by these efforts.

A joint gift initiated by Mr. Fridman and Mr. Kahan has provided much needed support for the cutting-edge brain research being undertaken on campus. This generous support has provided funds for sophisticated laboratory equipment that will facilitate more advanced exploration of the brain and its mysteries. In addition to his public role with the Mexican Friends, Mr. Fridman and his family have shown a personal commitment to the University of Haifa by generously providing an outstanding gift to the University toward the establishment of the Middle East Interdisciplinary Center for Lifelong Rehabilitation Research (MICLRR). This exciting contribution will ensure research advancements that will benefit the well-being of many, both in Israel and abroad.

**EUROPE**

**Denmark**

The Danish Friends, directed by Ms. Malka Hansen, held their first public event – a symposium on the archaeological excavations on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Ohalo II. This event attracted a wide audience of supporters and interested members of Danish academia; it was attended by Israel’s Ambassador to Denmark, David Waltzer, and his wife Zipi – both graduates of the University of Haifa. A select group of University of Haifa students and faculty were welcomed by the Danish Friends; the Haifa contingent participated in a navigation course in Roskilde and experienced at first hand a number of sailing ships, including a Viking ship. These activities and others that are planned all serve to enlarge the circle of supporters in this country.

The Danish Friends are particularly excited by the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate upon Prime Minister Andres Fogh Rasmussen and take special pride in this celebration of their Prime Minister.

**England**

With the outstanding support of Mr. Michael Crystal, the British Trust has completed the rectification process. Paralleling the development of the Trust, the British Friends, under the steady direction of Lady Irene Hatter, has also seen a renaissance, thanks to the devoted efforts of Ms. Tali Sayar, Director, and Ms. Susan Coller. Together, this group of devoted individuals and the London professionals are gearing up for an exciting period in which the University of Haifa will be reintroduced to the London community through various select events and activities. The kind members of the Trust have initiated a campaign to provide scholarships to Master students of Ethiopian origin and have personally made generous gifts to ensure the success of these deserving students.

The construction of the Hatter Student Building has made great progress, and efforts are being invested in enlarging the British network of friends supporting this significant project.

**France**

The French Society of the University of Haifa continues to invest in fundraising to provide assistance to doctoral students and
students with economic hardships and to promote student involvement in community development. Meetings were held throughout the year with representatives of the Jewish community, businessmen, and other friends and donors to expand and deepen the University’s ties in France.

Germany
The German Society of the University of Haifa, under the leadership of Ms. Sonja Lahnstein, continues to raise funds and expand recognition and awareness of the University in Germany. During the past year, the tradition of festive dinners continued, hosting experts from the University and leading members of the community for informative evenings on current Middle Eastern events and the University. Funds donated during these events assist the ongoing Community Leadership Program for Arab and Jewish students. Additional donations from German donors provided assistance for the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society and for various activities carried out through the Office of the Dean of Students, such as the Otto Werner Scholarships for Arab women graduate students.

Israel
The Israeli Friends Association, headed by businessman Adi Rosenfeld, expanded its base of support of the University in Israel and abroad as influential business figures from among the leading companies in the Israeli economy became members of the Association, joining veteran friends and donors. The Association initiated wide-ranging activity in many and diverse areas. In the area of the Israeli economy, ties were formed with scores of business people, entrepreneurs, and economic companies that are among the leading in the economy. The project of befriending Business Administration students and introducing them to CEO’s continued, its objective being to expose these students to the activity of senior managers and companies in the Israeli economy. A project involving cooperation with an aid fund for young entrepreneurs is intended to bring students closer to sources of financing and support of commercial ventures.

In the area of social responsibility, the Association has been working to draw Arabs and Jews together and to cultivate excellence in education by connecting schools in the Arab sector (such as Jisr Al-Zarka, Kafr Kara, and Sakhnin) with the University Library. In the framework of this project, the Association funded the setting up of the Druze website within the Arab-Jewish Center. Similarly, the Association acts to empower students of Ethiopian origin and to place them in companies in accordance with their education when they finish their studies. In cooperation with the Dean of Students Office, the Association supports and aids needy students, lone students (those have come to Israel without their parents), and students of scanty means through scholarships and the “adopt-a-student” program.

Under the Association’s sponsorship, the hosting of diplomats and business figures on campus was expanded, to expose them to the research and diverse range of activity carried out at the University with a view toward gaining cooperation on projects. In this framework, academic relations were formed between the University of Haifa and universities in Ecuador, Slovenia, and China.

Cooperation between the Association and the various academic departments, laboratories, and research centers was also expanded. Funds were raised to aid the Department of Music, Hecht Museum, as well as to help finance symposiums and conferences.

The Association helped open doors and create further ties for the University in the United States, Canada, England, and other countries, and it worked toward obtaining donations in Israel and abroad to finance its many activities.
Aid to Students with Special Needs

This year, a number of innovations were introduced into the student dormitories: solar heat panels were replaced on the roof of the Federman dormitories, the water tank was replaced as were doors in all apartments of Bloc 1 of the Federman dormitories; access to the dormitories was improved for populations with special needs. Special marking of stairs leading to the University was undertaken for visually impaired and blind students, and lighting was improved on the approach path for the handicapped. Another Arabic-speaking social worker was added to help Arab dormitory students, who constitute some 40% of dorm residents.

Various savings and quality-of-life improvement projects were assimilated in the student dormitories: solar heat panels were replaced on the roof of the Federman dormitories, the water tank was replaced as were doors in all apartments of Bloc 1 of the Federman dormitories; access to the dormitories was improved for populations with special needs. Special marking of stairs leading to the University was undertaken for visually impaired and blind students, and lighting was improved on the approach path for the handicapped. Another Arabic-speaking social worker was added to help Arab dormitory students, who constitute some 40% of dorm residents.

Scholarships

The total amount of scholarships awarded in 2006/07 amounted to NIS 30.3 million, an increase of NIS 2.5 million over the previous academic year. Bachelor’s degree students shared NIS 10.3 million and graduate students NIS 20 million of these awards. In 2007/08, the scholarship budget amounts to NIS 29.8 million, or a decrease of NIS 0.5 million from the previous year. This resulted from a decrease in allocations for both scholarship aid to students in northern Israel and scholarships from the emergency fund that were given in 2006/07.

Beyond scholarships given in the context of the regular budget, additional awards, totaling NIS 9.5 million, were made in 2006/07 from various sources as donations and research budgets.

The Scholarship Section in the Office of the Dean of Students handed out in the course of 2006/07 a total of NIS 9,777,787.74 to 3,362 students in scholarships from various sources, including aid in the wake of the Second Lebanon War. There were 476 B.A. students who received scholarships for excellence in studies, and 1,350 Bachelor’s and Master’s degree students who received financial aid. Emergency Call-up Scholarships were given to 275 B.A. and M.A. students who served in the war in Lebanon. In addition, scholarships were awarded to 1,261 students who participated in different programs: Dean of Students Office’s Social Involvement Section, IDF voluntary work in the community, sports (for outstanding participants), research assistants.

The Graduate Studies Authority in 2006/07 granted advance studies grants to 254 doctoral candidates. There were 331 Master’s students who earned scholarships for excellence in studies or as a registration incentive. In accordance with a University Management decision, tuition scholarships and special subsistence scholarships were awarded in 2006/07 to M.A. students who studied in the Faculty of Sciences and Science Education.

The Berman Center’s Educational-Vocational Guidance Section devised a program to reduce student dropout. Recently there has been a significant increase in the number of students with learning disabilities who apply to the Berman Center to obtain consultation services in the career area. The number of job-seeking workshops was doubled. More students are turning at their own initiative to receive guidance and tools that are important for finding jobs. In the Berman Center’s Clinical Consultation Section, psychological aid was offered to students called up on emergency orders during the Second Lebanon War; this aid was given in cooperation with Natal, a professional society for treating trauma victims.

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The student body in the Pre-Academic Preparatory Unit numbers some 2,000. In addition to the regular preparatory programs, such as the day program, the program for new
immigrants, and the evening program, the Unit has adapted itself to the changing needs of Israeli society and so is active in advancing a variety of projects for various populations.

In the 2006/07 academic year, the sixth class of the pre-academic program for those with learning disabilities took place, with 52 students. In this program, the only one of its kind in Israel, students take special workshops and receive personal and group support from professional advisers. Many of the program’s graduates have been accepted into institutions of higher education, and some have attained higher than average achievements and continued their studies in departments that are in high demand at the University of Haifa.

The 2006/07 academic year also saw the third class of the preparatory program for the Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) population in Bnei Braq. Twenty female students completed the program, and all are continuing their education toward a University of Haifa Bachelor’s degree at the Haredi College in Bnei Braq in such fields as Occupational Therapy, Social Work, and Nursing (this last given by the University of Haifa). At the same time, 16 male students completed their studies in the program for Haredi men. Some of them have enrolled in the University’s School of Social Work and some are waiting for other departments that will be offered at the Haredi College. In December 2007, some 21 female students and 20 male students began their studies in the fourth class of the respective Haredi preparatory programs.

Access to higher education for the Druze population is a project offered in the framework of the Pre-Academic Preparatory Unit, and it runs in three channels:

- **Preparatory Program for Discharged Druze and Bedouin Soldiers**: Following wide-ranging activity in cooperation with the Israel Defense Forces, the Ministry of Defense and the Society for the Advancement of Education conducted this year, for the fifth time, a special preparatory program for the purpose of increasing the number of discharged Druze and Bedouin soldiers within the ranks of pre-academic studies. This year, 38 former soldiers from these sectors took part in the project.

- **Science Preparatory Program for the Druze Population**: Offered in cooperation with the Dean of Students Office and the Rich Foundation, this program was held in the summer of 2007 for honors students from the Druze sector who had been accepted into the Faculty of Sciences or the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences. The intensive studies focused on the subject departments to which the students had been accepted. The program is intended to raise the chances of these students’ success in their studies.

- **30+ Preparatory Program for Druze Women**: In the framework of this unique project, the first and only one of its kind, 15 women from the Druze sector began their studies in the 30+ program. These women’s studies were enabled, thanks to participation of the University of Haifa and the Achievements Fund, which funded their tuition. The group of women is accompanied by a multi-disciplinary staff.

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**IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION**

This year, 660 new-immigrant students are studying at the University, most of them from FSU countries and a minority of Ethiopian origin. These students receive personal handling from the Academic and Personal Aid Section in the Dean of Students Office. This includes, among others, tutorials given by students with high academic achievements, reinforcement courses, and advising, and consultation on various subjects.

The immigrant absorption program for Latin American students, which is part of the marketing plan in the Office of the Rector, dealt with 62 students this year, 40 of them studying toward the B.A., 9 toward a Master’s, and 2 toward a doctorate; 11 are in the Pre-Academic Preparatory Program. Currently there already are 20 candidates for this program for the next academic year, 9 of them on the graduate level.

The program, administered with a holistic approach, provides students with personal handling, support in integrating into student life in Israel, participation in activities with students in the International School, a 24-hour-a-day hotline, help in all arrangements needed to be made with institutions, both those within and those external to the University (e.g., the IDF, Sick Funds [HMOs], Ministry of the Interior, etc.). The program sees to it that these students are not alone for holidays, and it also attempts to help families experiencing difficulties. The needy in this group are given scholarships. The program has gradually expanded to include all new immigrants at the University. This year, for instance, it is already handling a number of immigrants from the FSU who were recruited at different fairs and absorption centers.

In the framework of social integration at the University, these students are active in the Perah project, on sports teams, and in the Student Union. Their absorption in Israel is excellent; most of them have even found temporary jobs. Project representatives maintain contact on a regular basis with institutions, representatives, and Jewish Agency emissaries abroad, as well as with absorption centers and ulpans throughout Israel.

The Berman Center and the Academic Aid Section in the Dean of Students Office have conducted follow-ups of the progress students originally from Ethiopia, who receive private consultations in regard to developing study habits and personal empowerment. The findings show improvement in grades among program participants.
The University of Haifa continues to strengthen its commitment to the subject of social responsibility through the Hub for Social Responsibility, headed by the President’s Adviser for Social Responsibility. The aim of the Hub is to assimilate social responsibility into all University activity, to position the University of Haifa as an active model of a socially responsible academic organization, and to generate steps that will advance social responsibility in the University environment and in Israeli society as a whole.

The pull of social activity at the University was manifested this year in the significant growth in the scope of this activity throughout the University, a fact that was recognized by the PBC when the University of Haifa won second place in the amount of socially responsible activity conducted by Israeli universities, following that of the much larger Tel Aviv University; so, in effect, the University of Haifa was first in relation to its size. The activities spread over many areas, from increasing access to higher education among the population of peripheral areas of the country to aiding various populations in distress with integrating into academic studies.

The highlight of the Hub’s activity is the Haifa Conference for Social Responsibility, the first of which was held in March 2007, with impressive success. The practical products of the conference constitute another aspect of its success and importance. Throughout the year, four task groups operated in the fields of health, poverty, Jewish-Arab coexistence, and coping with emergency situations. The Second Haifa Conference on Social Responsibility was held in April 2008, and it focused on narrowing social gaps, differences between the periphery and the center, and assuring the social future of the State of Israel. This year, students, too, gave expression to their involvement, setting up a task group that manifested their perception of their social role in Israel.

Along with teaching and research, the University of Haifa views itself as an integral part of the city of Haifa and, as such, initiates a variety of social projects. In this framework, and in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the Haifa Municipality, October 2007 saw the launching of the flagship project, Students Village, in the city’s Hadar neighborhood. In the framework of this project, run by the Continuing Education and External Studies Unit, 61 University of Haifa students reside in rented apartments in the Hadar neighborhood, take part in community life by initiating projects and becoming involved in the lives of families in the neighborhood, as well as in the community in general, with the purpose of motivating a process of change.

The Continuing Education and External Studies Unit this year ran a number of other educational programs: the social beginnings program and the science buds and horizon program for people with special needs. The buds program currently operates, jointly with the Ministry of Welfare, some 160 students at six focal points in northern Israel; they support very problematic families, with the goal of supplying the tools for strengthening these families. Some 50 students are in the horizons program for those with special needs, offered for the first time this year. The focus of the program’s outlook is the human being and his/her needs in the center of the educational-social relationship, which views it as society’s obligation to supply the special needs of every human being. A personal program is constructed for every student, one that enables expansion of education in different areas of interest and professional training.

The Academic Channel is the first TV channel telecast on the Internet, at the address: actv.haifa.ac.il. Founded by the University of Haifa, the Academic Channel was established with the purpose of bringing higher education to all of Israel, while placing importance on the fact that the great reservoir of knowledge in the hands of academe should also reach the community through a television channel that telecasts programs of an academic and enrichment nature. The channel is operated jointly with the Hebrew University, the Technion, Bar-Ilan University, and the Open University.

Recently a new site was launched for the Academic Channel in cooperation with the University’s Unit for Computer-aided Teaching, and it runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Parallel with the set schedule of telecasts, one can watch programs of one’s choice on the channel. The programs are divided into strips on varied subjects: society, culture and arts, economics and law, science and medicine, and
security and state that include lectures, symposiums, and panel discussions on a range of topics. In addition to the programs offered on the channel, the viewer can find on the program’s homepage information for additional reading for knowledge enrichment in the subject of the program and for use as a learning tool for students. Every day, “Academic Diary” is telecast, a program of academic news in Israel and information about new research, conferences, lectures, and new books of intellectual interest.

A number of new projects for the community took place during the year in the framework of the Office of the Dean of Students. The Academic Leadership Program for the Druze is a unique, new program that began in the present academic year with the support of the Rich Foundation. The program is intended to create and cultivate an educated leadership group among this ethnic population. Participants will receive training and be absorbed into prestigious subject departments and study tracks, with an emphasis on the needs of this population, in particular B.A. and M.A. tracks in Education, the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Law. The program is meant to bring about an educated elite cadre of graduates who will constitute a quality force motivating and leading the advancement of the Israeli Druze population and who will integrate into areas in which there is need for quality and educated professionals. This year, 25 students are taking part, and they have earned the right to the financing of their tuition; 20 of these students are pursuing a B.A. and 5 an M.A. degree. Program participants who are Bachelor’s degree students receive personal guidance and a supportive academic arrangement that is adapted to the study challenges with which they have to cope in the framework of the program and in their respective study frameworks.

Cultivating an Academic and Social Leadership Reserve in Israel. This new, special program also started this year. The Friends of Raveh Ravid Fund and the University of Haifa founded a scholarship fund for doctoral students that combines social leadership and academic excellence in peripheral settlements. The program is meant for an elite group of students in diverse areas of study. The students in the program will begin their studies toward the B.A. and continue in the program through the doctorate. Throughout their years of study, they will receive scholarships. Program participants, who come from peripheral areas, are selected by criteria based on intellectual excellence, leadership characteristics, perseverance, and contribution to society. Students in the program will receive close personal academic guidance from advisers who are on the faculty in accordance with the departments in whose framework they are studying. Furthermore, the students in the program will participate in a special leadership program and be integrated into social and community activity in the framework of community projects for up to four hours a week throughout their studies. This year, 15 students are taking part in the program.

The Arab and Jewish Community Leaders program has 44 participants this year, half of them Arab and half of them Jews. The purpose of the program is to create dialogue and multicultural social interaction between Jewish and Arab students, combined with leadership development and community activity.

The Open Apartments project, which operates in conjunction with the Bureau of Welfare of the Haifa Municipality, the Haifa-Boston Partnership, and Perah, has 32 participants this year. In exchange for receiving a scholarship and living accommodations in neighborhoods where a population with a very low socio-economic background resides, the participating students put to work their personal and academic skills, especially their social presence, on behalf of the population of the neighborhood where they are living. The students are integrated into a variety of programs that take place in the neighborhood community centers and in regional social services departments. This year, the students have been taking a special academic course, “Community Leadership—Open Apartments,” in the framework of the Dept. of Multi-disciplinary Studies. The course will earn them four academic credit points.

The Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum saw 46,940 visitors in 2006/07. In the context of the Museum’s Learning and Creative Center, 13,365 children, youths, and adults took part. A donation of the Hecht Foundation enabled the visit of 2,518 pupils from hardship regions and from special education frameworks. Thanks to a donation of the Association of Friends of the University of Haifa, children from 29 nursery schools and classrooms in Haifa neighborhoods in distress were able to come to the Museum to take part in activities. The Museum organized activities for youths at risk and participants in welfare and advancement programs.

The “Gordon Club,” an archaeological club for outstanding pupils run in the framework of Gordon College, saw 28 gifted 4th-6th graders taking part this year. Two series, in the areas of art and archaeology, were held at the Learning and Creative Center, with the participation of members of the Enosh organization from Haifa and the town of Nesher. A group of youths from this non-profit organization also came to the Museum for activities.

Creative workshops held at the Museum attracted 233 children toward the holidays. Three creative workshops that were conducted during the summer had the participation of 411 children.

Special projects at the Museum included continuation of research cooperation between the Caesarea Institute and the Department of Computer Science and the Administrative Information Systems Division, on the one hand, and ITC-irst of Trent, Italy, on the other. In the framework of this joint venture, a system was developed for supporting visitors to the Museum. Similarly the preparation and placement of an active installation in the Art Wing was completed.
Prof. Sammy Smooha, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, was named the Israel Prize Laureate in Sociology for 2008.

Prof. (Emeritus) Tuvia Ribner of the Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature was named the winner of the Israel Prize for Poetry for 2008.

Prof. (Emerita) Myriam Yardeni of the Dept. of General History won the EMET Prize (Hebrew acronym for Art, Science, and Culture) for her outstanding academic achievements in historical research and for her contribution and far-reaching influence in the field.

Prof. (Emerita) Mechal Sobel of the Dept. of General History was one of five women honored by the City of Haifa in connection with the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel for making major contributions to their fields of endeavor.

Prof. Boris Portnov of the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Management received the Sheikh Zaid Prize for Environmental Quality, awarded under the patronage of the Emir of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi.

Prof. Mordechai Alfredo Rabello of the Faculty of Law received a commendation of honor given by the President of Italy to non-citizens of Italy who have made a noteworthy contribution to advancing relations between their countries and Italy.

Prof. Marilyn Safir of the Department of Psychology was named a Distinguished Citizen of Haifa (Yakir Haifa) for 2008.

Prof. Anna Sfard of the Faculty of Education was honored by the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI), the leading body in the field, with the Hans Freudenthal Medal for 2007 for her significant contribution to mathematics teaching.

Dr. Eli Berger of the Dept. of Mathematics won the 2008 Krill Prize given by the Wolf Foundation’s Fellowship and Research Grants Committee.

Dr. Aviva Doron (retired) of the Dept. of Hebrew and Comparative Literature gained the 7th International Poetry Prize, SIAL (2007). Her book, published in Madrid under the Spanish title, El viento recuerda (The Wind Recalls), topped 407 entries from all over the world.

Dr. Oren Gazal-Ayal of the Faculty of Law earned the Zagla Prize for 2008 for the most outstanding article in Hebrew written by a young faculty member.

Dr. Uri Schattner of the School of Marine Sciences was awarded the Bentor Prize for his paper on the tectonic development of the eastern Mediterranean.

Ms. Sharon Poliakin, Chair of the Fine Arts Dept., received the Minister of Culture’s Prize for the Plastic Arts, 2007, as well as the Oscar Handler Prize given by the Kibbutz Lochamei HaGhettaot Gallery.

Ms. Lihi Chen and Mr. Shai Ignatz of the Dept. of Fine Arts were recipients of the Tel-Aviv Museum of Art’s Young Artists Heritage Fund Prize.

Mr. Shahar Ronen, a student in the Ofakim (Horizons) (B.A. Honors) Program gained the National Prize for the most outstanding composition by a B.A. student given by the Israel Society for the Advancement of Classical Studies for 2008.