

March 2013
ניסן תשע"ג

The Geography Department Newsletter

Issue 5



Foreword

The fifth issue of "On the Map" marks new initiatives in the department, including the launch of the Geography Department's alumni association, headed by Naomi Kagan, and the first annual alumni get-together and department conference (held November 29, 2012). The highlight of recent months was the publication of an assessment report by an international review committee, which heaped accolades on the department. All of this took place at the same time as the usual diverse research activity in the department, which will be covered in this issue.

After the Jewish new year, we parted ways with Menashe Zaken, a veteran on the department's administrative staff who retired. We wish Menashe a long life and much luck in all future projects he promotes in the university and outside of it.

In closing, I wish to thank Sheli Amir for her editing assistance, Miri Shmida for the graphic design, Sara Fuchs for the copy editing of "On the Map," and Deena Glickman for translating and editing the English version of the newsletter.

With best wishes,
Prof. Noam Shoval
Head, Geography Department

Alumni Get-Together & Department Conference

On November 29, 2012, the first annual Geography Department alumni get-together and department conference was held. Its topic was "Innovations in Research on Jerusalem" and it marked Prof. Shlomo Hasson's retirement from lecturing.

The day began with several tours in Jerusalem for the department alumni on a variety of topics; later in the afternoon, the conference was held in Mount Scopus's Senate Hall. Over two hundred alumni, students, and staff participated. Our thanks to Naomi Kagan (class of 1970), whose generous support made this event possible. [Continued on next page.](#)



International Monitoring Committee

Geography Department named a "leading research department, not just in Israel but in a global context" by international monitoring committee.

In May last year (2012), an international committee appointed by the Council for Higher Education visited the department while conducting an assessment of the field of geography in universities in Israel. The committee was composed of veteran and world-renowned geographers who were well-equipped to examine and evaluate each of the five geography departments at Israel's universities. The committee was headed by Prof. Patricia Gober from Arizona State University. The Council for Higher Education will publish the full report for the public in the coming months, and we will present it to you in full.

In advance of the committee's visit, the department's staff prepared a self-evaluation report including in-depth reference to many parameters in teaching and research. Preparation of the report revealed the tremendous accomplishments of the department in the field of research in recent years in a very clear and precise manner. By way of illustration, over the past five years (2007–2011), faculty procured research grants in the amount of a little over \$4 million. The department is one of the most successful in raising funds in the Faculty of Social Sciences.



The conference began at noon with a series of tours in Jerusalem. Later on, participants gathered in Senate Hall, where scholarships and prizes were awarded to students in the department (further details can be found later in the issue). Israel's new digital atlas, described in previous issues, was presented; as noted in the past, the atlas is being developed by the Geography Department through the Center for Computational Geography and the Center for Educational Technology. Afterwards, a session was held in which the faculty presented different innovations in research on Jerusalem. Following dinner, Naomi Kagan explained the idea that stands behind the establishment of an alumni association. The final session was held in honor of Prof. Shlomo Hasson on the occasion of his retirement. The session began with words from Prof. Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, in Prof. Hasson's honor. After her introduction, Prof. Amiram Gonen outlined Prof. Hasson's scientific achievements. Following that, a session focusing on geopolitical aspects of Jerusalem in the future was held. The date was a significant one: the UN's partition plan was adopted on the same evening 65 years earlier, and it was also the day on which the Palestinian Authority was granted "observer state" status.



Recently Published Research

Prof. Noam Shoval/

Tourist space-time activity in Hong Kong:
A high-resolution investigation using GPS devices

In 2008, I began to conduct joint research with Prof. Bob McKercher, a geographer from the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Over two periods of time we enlisted one thousand tourists—staying in four hotels in Hong Kong—in our study in order to understand their activities in time and space using a combination of questionnaires and precise temporal



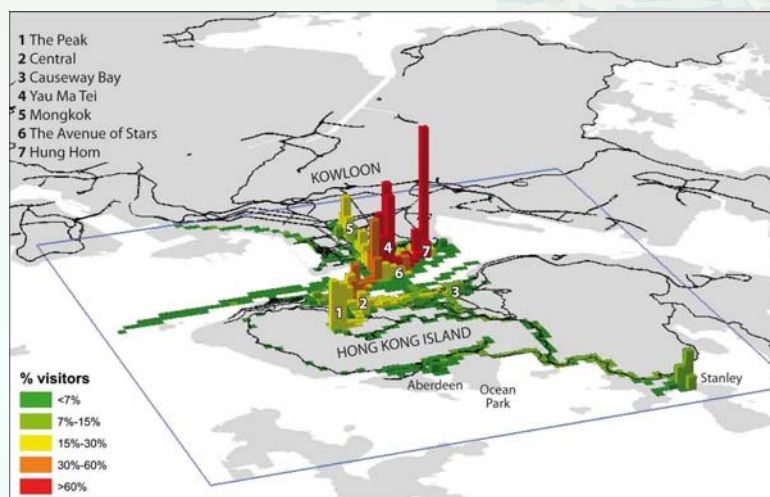
Prof. Noam Shoval

information that we received from GPS devices. Hoping to cull maximum details, we endeavored to understand the effect of the tourist's acquaintance with the destination on his or her spatial activity; the effect of the hotel's location on the tourist's activities in the city; and the effect of the weather on activities in time and space. In addition, we applied a sequence alignment method taken from the world of biochemistry in order to create a typology of tourists in Hong Kong based on their activities in time and space rather than based on an a priori division as is usually done. It should be noted that each year Hong Kong welcomes some 15 million Chinese tourists, who remain in the city at least one night, and 14 million tourists from the rest of the world, for a total of 29 million tourists staying in the city at least one night. This fact explains the great importance that the Hong Kong administration attributes to the study of tourism and the hotel industry. The goal, of course, is to better prepare and cope with the challenges that tourism to the city creates. The project is still in progress and at this stage three articles have been accepted for publication in various journals.

Shoval, N., McKercher, B., Ng, E. and Birenboim, A. (2011) Hotel Location and Tourist Activity in Cities, *Annals of Tourism Research* 38 (4) 1594-1612

McKercher, B., Shoval, N., Ng, E. and Birenboim, A. (2012) Using GPS Data to Compare First-Time and Repeat Visitors to Hong Kong, *Tourism Geographies* 14 (1) 147-161

Shoval, N., McKercher, B., Birenboim, A. and Ng, E. (accepted 19.7.2012) The Application of a Sequence Alignment Method to the Creation of Typologies of Tourist Activity in Time and Space, *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*.



Spatial patterns of tourists visiting Hong Kong for their first time

Dr. Itay Fischhendler

Using "security" jargon in sustainable development discourse

In recent years the environmental discourse has become rife with "security" jargon. For instance, many of the EU and the U.S.'s policy documents describe environmental issues as undermining regime stability, as catalysts of conflict, as contributing to economic recession, and even as decisive factors in the outbreak of wars. This study first and foremost aims to identify the reasons behind the way various agents frame environmental problems as security problems. Similarly, the study aims to reveal how agents construct security rhetoric, as opposed to political or technical rhetoric, and primarily to pinpoint the profile of the countries which tend to do so. The present study examines the case of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) and its discourse on the topic of water and energy. This is a conference that meets annually to discuss one environmental topic such as



Dr. Itay Fischhendler

Continued on next page.

desertification, climate change, and so on.

Using statistical tools, the study found that countries with high volatility in the supply and demand of energy and water will tend to frame the environmental discourse in terms of security. In these countries, non-governmental parties and international bodies are those that prefer the security rhetoric over the technical or political. It was also found that, in contrast with framing the problem as related to security, the resolutions suggested for environmental problems are primarily technical, such as demand management of desalination.

The study was not able to examine whether framing in security terms does indeed spur decision makers to open their pockets and harness additional resources to solve environmental problems.

To read more, see:

Fischhendler, I. and Katz, D. (2012). The use of “security” jargon in sustainable development discourse: Evidence from UN commission on sustainable development. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*. Available online at: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10784-012-9192-z>.

Recently Published Books

Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum on climate change and the decline of Eastern Mediterranean cultures in the tenth and eleventh centuries

Ellenblum, R. (2012). *The collapse of the Eastern Mediterranean—Climate change and the decline of the East, 950-1072*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

During the eleventh century, extreme climate events took place in the eastern Mediterranean basin, exceeding both in intensity and in frequency anything seen before or after in the region's history. In the Nile River, five-, six-, and seven-year droughts were recorded. At the peak of the period, between 1053 and 1072, there were eleven years of drought in Egypt, in contrast with the one-year drought average for each fifty-year period in the first millennium.

Severe waves of cold were registered in that century in Iran, Mesopotamia, and the Balkans, and they led to a full freezing of large rivers such as the Danube (for the first time since the fifth-century “migration of peoples”) and the Oxus River. Snow falling in Baghdad led to partial freezing of the Tigris River a number of times. Prolonged droughts were recorded in what are now Syria and Israel as well.

The extreme events caused a series of direct outcomes such as loss of crops, rise in food prices, riots, starvation, plagues, and mass death, as well as domino effects, such as the persecution of minorities and their emigration from the region and raids on the part of nomads who were forced to abandon their traditional grazing land and seek new grazing lands with increasing violence. The long-term effects of these events were also devastating: large cities and centers of learning were abandoned, agricultural areas dwindled, churches and monasteries were desolate, large bureaucracies fell, and new ethnicities infiltrated the region.

Throughout the period, Western Europe and the Atlantic Ocean experienced a warm and pleasant climate, also called the Medieval Warm Period, and the average global temperature was close to the temperatures of today. The border between the pleasant climate and the eastern Mediterranean basin was sharp and passed in an imaginary line connecting Kairouan, Rome, and the Danube's “Iron Gates.”

The recreation of the extreme events and the domino effect, presented in this book for the first time, is entirely based on written eyewitness testimony. Documentation attests to the direct connection between the climate disasters and the paucity of food and process of collapse that followed. It is difficult to find a substitute for written sources in recreating brief and extreme climate events of the past.

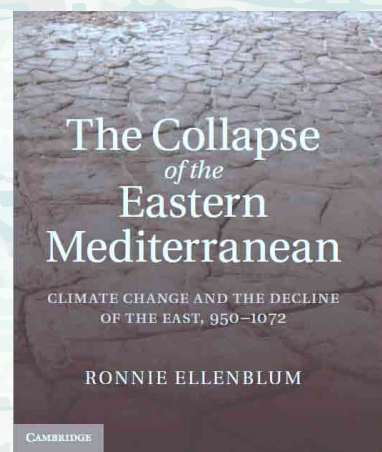
The empirical evidence presented in the book demonstrates that it was in actuality a series of brief events of this type that drove the domino effect, which had the power to affect the fates of complex civilizations.

The frequency of the events, their intensity, length, degree of continuity, and the region

in which they were found are thus no less—and perhaps even more—important than the average global temperature change. Written documents provide accurate time-space information about these events. The book shifts the historiographical discussion from the “long term” to the “medium term” (approximately one hundred years), and shows that the series of climate disasters is what led to structural and cultural changes in western Asia over 120 years. The theory raised can also be relevant for other periods of change of similar length (the transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age, for example), and the dynamic described can be relevant for understanding processes taking place today.



Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum



Book edited by Prof. Shlomo Hasson

Hasson, S. (Ed.). (2012). Designing space in Israel: The settlement and land map. Jerusalem: Keter and the JNF's Land Policy and Land Use Research Institute.

For years, the existing "division of labor" in geographical accounting troubled me. Some researchers devote much attention to political explanations; some prefer economic explanations. Lately, perhaps influenced by the social protest movement, the number of those preferring the social explanation has grown. There is no doubt that each of the explanations provides an interesting and important angle illuminating geographical reality. However, what has been missing until now, particularly in Israeli geography, is the holistic/systemic explanation that integrates all three. This is the goal of the book *Designing Space in Israel: The Settlement and Land Map*. The authors who contributed to this book trace three central mechanisms that form the space of settlement in Israel: political, economic, and social. These authors are all leading geographers in their fields of study and the chapters they contributed shed light on the activities of the various mechanisms.

The political mechanism, or state mechanism, works to form space according to the dominant values, as determined by the wishes of the public, the Knesset, and the government, and the state's character and nature. Fundamentally, this mechanism is intended to create a national home in Israel for the Jewish nation, and it acts to spread the population over the entire country. The economic mechanism, directed by market forces, reflects the activities of local forces (local supply and demand), and the activities of global agents such as world trade, technological and general developments, and economic developments in the international arena. This mechanism acts to concentrate the population in the heartland, and guarantees in this way the resources necessary for the country's existence. Alongside the state mechanism and the market mechanism acts the social mechanism, whose influence has been increasing since the eighties. This mechanism is directed by groups found on the margins of society and outside of the horizon of the planning system and established land allocation system. These groups include Arabs, the ultra-Orthodox, the national religious community living in Judea and Samaria, environmental groups, and various social movements in the field of human rights and housing rights. The social mechanism undermines the widespread model of top-down planning and presents an alternate model of bottom-up planning and action.

The book shows how these mechanisms simultaneously complement one another and clash with one another. Over the years since the establishment of the state, the power of the political system,

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Prof. Shlomo Hasson



directed from above, has weakened and its place has been taken by the economic and social forces. The social struggles are for the most part directed against the state but they miss the major agents active in the economic realm. As a result, a complex spatial situation is created, which reflects opposing trends: dispersion vs. ingathering, preferring the national group over democratic conduct, creation of wealth against its dissemination, and planning from above as opposed to social activity from below. The different chapters in the book focus in this geographical reality on the spatial-social tensions that characterize it: center-periphery, Jews-Arabs, ultra-Orthodox-secular, and settlement as opposed to ingathering to agreed-upon borders. These tensions establish an important spatial-social challenge: finding the right balance between the political mechanism and the market and social forces.

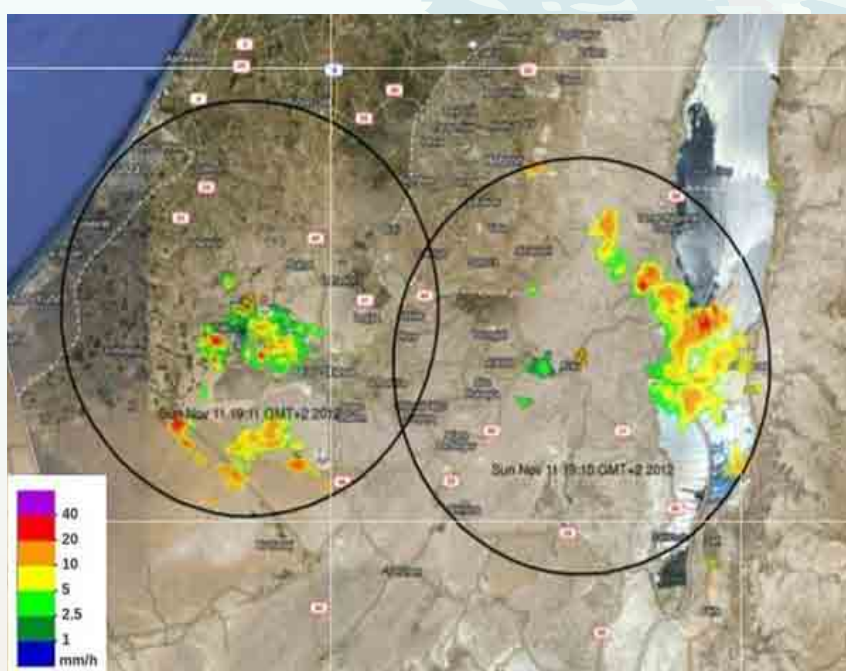
New Research Infrastructure

Two new local (x-band) radar systems for monitoring rain in real time and at high resolution were established last October in Arad and in the Gilat Research Center within the framework of Hydrometeorology Lab research headed by Prof. Efrat Morin (in cooperation with the Center for Agricultural Research—Gilat Research Center, the Dead Sea Drainage Authority, the Dead Sea and Arava Science Center, and partners from Italy). The systems will make it possible to measure rainfall at high resolutions. The research focuses on alerts before floods in the Dead Sea and the improvement of sustainable agricultural management. Radar data is available in real time (qualitative data only at this stage) through the Hydrometeorology Lab website: ([A sample picture is included Below](http://www.hydrometeorology-lab.huji.ac.il)) <http://www.hydrometeorology-lab.huji.ac.il>.

Within a different study, a dense network of rain gauges (very few similar ones exist in the world) was established. In a 4-km² area next to Kibbutz Gilad, 27 rain gauges and a disdrometer (measuring the size and speed of falling drops of rain) are positioned for a study about the small-scale spatial variance of rainfall. Students Nadav Peleg and Anton Lokshin are working on these studies.



Prof. Efrat Morin



New Research Grants

Environment and Health Fund grant for Prof. Uri Dayan for research on the connection between cardiac events and particulate matter air pollution using SHL data readings in the Tel Aviv and Haifa metropolitan areas

Air pollution whose source is in particulate matter constitutes a troubling topic for Israel. Average annual concentrations of particulate matter (PM) in the Tel Aviv and Haifa metropolitan areas are higher than those observed in the biggest cities in Europe and often exceed Israel's air quality standards. Cardiovascular morbidity is common in Israel. In 2009, more than 70,000 emergency room visits were for people aged 45 and older suffering from cardiac events. Many studies have pointed to the negative cardiovascular effect of air pollution based in particulate matter. The growing evidence demonstrates a causal relationship between exposure to particulate matter and morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular causes. Studies have pointed to the importance of determining the time of the event in order to assess risk; however, this information is not usually available. Until now, little scientific data have existed about the relationship between particulate matter air pollution and cardiac morbidity in Israel.

The research team will use a large and unique database of telemedical data in order to characterize the short-term effects of particulate matter on the cardiovascular system in two large cities in Israel. The research will presumably contribute to an improvement in our understanding of the effect of particulate matter on cardiovascular disease.



Prof. Uri Dayan

Israel Science Foundation (ISF) research grant for Prof. Rehav (Buni) Rubin on the topic of Proskynetaria from Jerusalem: Orthodox descriptions of the Holy Land in the seventeenth and eighteenth century

Holy places in Jerusalem and Israel have been portrayed in various and sundry sources, including written descriptions, paintings, maps, different works of art, and, in the modern era, pictures and films. A unique type of depiction is the group of compositions whose source is the Greek Orthodox Church, which combine a verbal description of a holy place with illustrations. These compositions were preserved in a type of small notebook, handwritten, composed between the end of the sixteenth century and the eighteenth century, when the manuscripts were replaced by printed compositions.

My research studies these manuscripts in a number of ways: First, as many manuscripts as possible, scattered in many places around the world, must be located. Secondly, their content can teach us about the different places that the Greek patriarchy in Jerusalem saw as of utmost importance and about the sightseeing paths of the pilgrims. Thirdly, they teach us about the customs of this Christian group and the places it held. Finally, the illustrations in these manuscripts are incredibly beautiful and attractive, a fact that makes the research exciting and enjoyable.



Prof. Rehav (Buni) Rubin



Proskynetarion from the Pantelimon Monastery, Athos Peninsula (1680)

Seminars and Workshops Organized by the Department's Researchers

International conference on the subject: Analyzing collapse: Destruction, abandonment, and memory

Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum was among the initiators of a large international conference occupied with analyzing cases of the collapse of civilization. The conference took place over the course of one week, during which time fascinating discussions took place at locations that had undergone events of destruction and abandonment, such as Beit She'an, Hazor, Shivta, and Nachal Lavan.

The conference was funded by the Israel Science Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Studies, and the Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center at the Hebrew University. The conference was a great success, and was attended by internationally renowned historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, and geographers such as Michael McCormick, expert in the early Middle Ages in Europe; Peter Machinist, expert in researching Nineveh; Ofer Bar-Yosef, leading global pre-historian, from Harvard University; Norman Yoffee, anthropologist and Mesopotamia researcher, from NYU; Sara Morris, researcher of Aegean Sea cultures at UCLA; Bryan Ward-Perkins, leading expert on the fall of ancient Rome, from Oxford; Hugh Kennedy, leading expert on Islam in the Middle Ages, from London; Joseph Maran, researcher of Minoan culture, from Heidelberg; and Miroslav Bárta from Prague, who conducts digs in ancient Egypt. First-class researchers came from around Israel as well: Israel Finkelstein from Tel Aviv University, who spoke about the fall of the late Bronze culture, and Margalit Finkelberg, also from Tel Aviv University, one of the foremost researchers of Homer. From Hebrew University, Michal Biran, Gideon Shelach, Yuri Pines, Nili Wazana, Sharon Zuckerman, Alex Jacobson, Gideon Avni, and Ronnie Ellenblum participated. For further details, see the conference website: <http://www.collapse.huji.ac.il>.



Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum

International workshop on the securitization of environmental discourse

In recent decades the environmental discourse—especially the discourse on water—has been inundated with security jargon. So, for example, the ramifications of climate change are described as a danger to regime stability or the global economy—and even as a catalyst of wars. The decision makers on water predict that the coming wars will be based on water and not on land or ethnicity as was the case in the past.

At the end of December 2012, a seminar initiated by Itay Fischhendler was held in Jerusalem, which examined why decision makers and researchers choose to describe a lack or excess of natural resources (like water and energy) in existential and security language and not in technical or political terms. The seminar was funded by the European Union and the Ring Foundation and was attended by approximately 50 researchers from Europe, the U.S., Asia, and the Middle East and about 15 doctoral candidates primarily from the U.S. and Europe.

The workshop highlighted the reasons for the change of the technical or political rhetoric to a security discourse. Among other things, the environmental community frames environmental problems as related to security in order to get attention and budgets from decision makers who tend to prioritize security subjects when setting the agenda. So, for instance, conflict conditions and natural disasters (such as drought) encourage securitization of the environmental discourse as is expressed in the Israeli-Palestinian water conflict or the disputes over the division of the Aral Sea in Asia. The workshop also raised the fact that the security discourse may preclude the involvement of civil society from processes of decision making and encourage conflicts between countries. Attempts to divert the discussion from security to the political arena are not always successful and the discussion becomes technical and sterile at times.

Insights from the workshop will be translated for a special issue of the journal *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* on the securitization of the water discourse.



Dr. Itay Fischhendler

Workshop on using GIS tools for historical research with a focus on historical maps

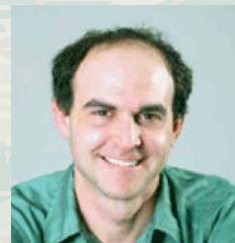
Workshop on using GIS tools for historical research with a focus on historical maps

The use of maps constitutes an inseparable part of the discipline of historical geography. The development of geographic information systems (GIS) enables today's historical geographers to conduct quantitative analyses and to analyze spatial databases and integrate different historical sources within a joint geographical system. The development of the internet in general and GIS servers on the internet in particular allows the general public to discover, analyze, and present spatial data and maps. However, maps do not present the world in an objective and complete manner. The data given in a map and its manner of presentation are dependent on the technology that was available to the creator of a map and the goals it was created for, as well as the scale and time in which the map was created. A recreation of land use and topography from historical maps should be done by the researcher while considering the subject of the map's precision and the completeness of the data that appears in it.

At the workshop, the most advanced knowledge, technology, and approaches available today for working with historical maps and historical spatial resources using GIS tools were presented. The workshop took place in mid-January 2013. The first day was held in the National Library and was devoted to lectures given by lecturers who work with integrating GIS and spatial-historical information sources. The second day took place on Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus and was devoted to experiencing and practicing select methodologies in the world of historical GIS.

Dr. Noam Levin organized the workshop, which was held under the auspices of the National Library. Two international experts on historical GIS were invited: Dr. Ian Gregory of Lancaster University in the UK and Prof. David Bodenhamer of Indiana University-Purdue University.

The Akko sheet of Jacotin's map linked to the Israel coordinates network such that the deviations in the location of approximately 50 sites can be seen.



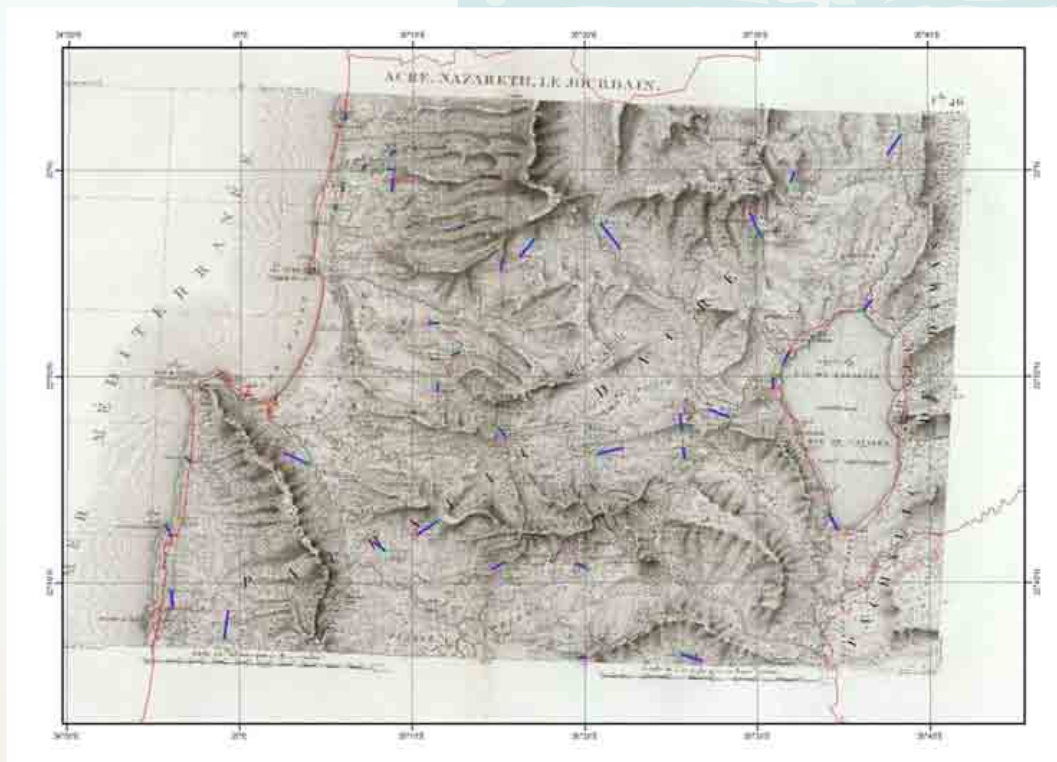
Dr. Noam Levin



Prof. David Bodenhamer



Dr. Ian Gregory



Scholarships and Awards

The Amiran Scholarships

Prof. David Amiran (1910–2003), the department's founder, bequeathed half of his estate to the Geography Department (the other half was given to the Institute of Archaeology). In his will, he asked that the profits of the fund be given each year as scholarships for advanced students in the Geography Department. This year, fellowships were given for the fifth time to two doctoral candidates and three graduate students. (The fund stands at approximately \$2 million.)

Each year, the David Amiran Scholarships are awarded to outstanding graduate students on the research track (a two-year grant of approximately 20,000 NIS per year) and doctoral candidates (a three-year grant in the amount of approximately 40,000 NIS per year). The scholarships are given to students in all research fields in geography, including physical, human, and environmental geography. The department's scholarship committee, with representation from all fields of research, determines each year's winners. The scholarships are given out each year at a joint ceremony with the Institute of Archaeology.



Prof. David Amiran
1910–2003

Shalev Bodenheimer completed his graduate degree in the program for environmental studies and is researching environmental planning and consulting. Last year, he began his doctoral studies under the guidance of Prof. Uri Dayan from the department and Dr. Itamar Lansky from Bar-Ilan University. Shalev's work focuses on characterizing the dust above the Mediterranean basin during synoptic cycles characteristic of the region, using automatic methods for synoptic classification and remote sensing for characterizing aerosols.



Shalev Bodenheimer

Adi completed her undergraduate studies last year in Jewish history and geography with honors, specializing in the Institute for Urban and Regional Studies. Over the past few months, she has been working in the Jerusalem municipality's Department of Planning Policy. As a native-born Jerusalemite, Adi is interested in the historical and renewed aspects of the city, and plans to write her master's thesis on the city and its environs.



Adi Perry

The Prof. Dov Nir Award for Outstanding Graduate Thesis

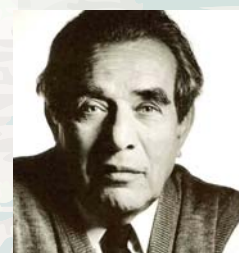
Presented to
Amit Birenboim

Amit completed his undergraduate studies in the department with honors and his graduate studies with high honors. He began his studies on the doctoral track two years ago under the guidance of Prof. Noam Shoval, and his doctoral proposal was recently approved, whereupon he progressed to the second stage of studies. His doctoral dissertation studies the urban experience of students in Jerusalem using an innovative data-collection methodology that integrates smartphones with which the participants can report on their experiences in real time. Amit is a teaching assistant in the Introduction to Urban Geography course and a research assistant in the European DESURBS project, which deals with developing tools whose goal is to create more secure environments and urban areas.

The thesis for which Amit was awarded the Prof. Dov Nir Award investigates the time-space activity of visitors in the PortAventura theme park in Spain. The data were gathered within a research project headed by Prof. Noam Shoval and Prof. Anton-Clavé of Rovira I Virgili University in Spain. Some 300 visitors to the park took part in the study, carrying GPS devices with them which documented their activities throughout their visits. The high space-time resolution of the GPS data made it possible to present the activity patterns of the visitors with great precision. The research suggests a number of explanations for the existence of these patterns, which have ramifications for the functioning of the amusement park specifically and tourist areas more generally. The results of the research were accepted in recent months for publication in the journal *Tourism Geographies*.

About the award: Prof. Dov Nir's family chose to commemorate his life by giving an annual award in the amount of \$1,000 for one outstanding graduate thesis. The department's students, and particularly those studying for advanced degrees, were very close to Prof. Nir's heart. As such, the combination of cultivating academic excellence in the department and supporting advanced students reflects his legacy well.

Selection of the winning thesis is the job of the Geography Department's scholarship committee, and the criterion for receiving the prize is the thesis's academic excellence. An additional criterion is its connection to Prof. Nir's fields of study. The award was first given at the Geography Department's annual alumni get-together and department conference on November 29, 2012.



Prof. Dov Nir
1922–2011

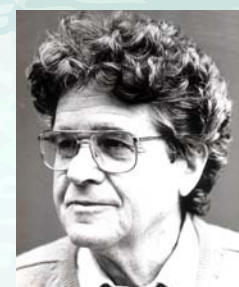


Amit Birenboim

The Prof. Asher Schick Award for Outstanding Work in Geomorphology

The Asher Schick Award was given this year to Dr. Rachel Lugasi of the Porter School of Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University, for her doctoral dissertation on the subject, "Spectral Changes in the VIS-SWIR Realm as a Tool for Monitoring Change in Soil Minerals after a Fire" under Prof. Eyal Ben-Dor.

About the award: Prof. Asher Schick's family chose to honor his legacy by giving an award in his name for outstanding doctoral or graduate work in the field of physical geography in Israel. The award is given each year within the physical geography seminar in Hebrew University's Geography Department. A special session is held in Prof. Schick's memory within the Israel Geographical Association's annual conference in which the year's winner gives a lecture. Prof. Asher Schick, a faculty member of Hebrew University's Geography Department from the sixties until his death in 2002, was one of the founders of quantitative process geomorphology in Israel and a pioneer in the understanding of the formation of floods in desert regions.



Prof. Asher Schick



Tamar Schick and
Dr. Rachel Lugasi

Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistants

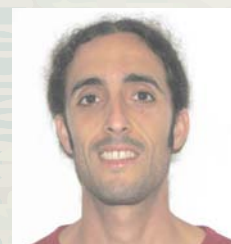
The teaching assistants (also called tutors) in the Geography Department are essential; their assistance in teaching the large introductory courses for undergraduate degrees and other courses demanding a lot of exercises, such as GIS and remote sensing courses, is crucial. Each year, the university and the department conduct a survey among the students about the teaching assistants. In order to emphasize the great importance that we attribute to the quality of the teaching, the department has decided to institute an award for teaching assistants who ranked high in the assessment survey this year.

The award was first given at the annual Geography Department alumni get-together and department conference which took place on November 29, 2012.

This year, Amit Tubi and Amir Elisha were given the award.

Amit Tubi:

I was raised on Kibbutz Ma'abarot in Emek Hefer and moved to Jerusalem when I began my studies. I studied in the Geography Department at Hebrew University for my undergraduate and graduate degrees. My doctoral research, under the guidance of Prof. Eran Feitelson, is on the way in which responses in the short period of time after droughts and floods affect the adaptation to these events in the long term, both on the intercommunity level and on the institutional level. In recent years, I have served as a teaching assistant to Prof. Uri Dayan in the course Introduction to Climatology.



Amit Tubi:

Amir Elisha:

Last semester I completed all of my responsibilities for a graduate degree in geography, specializing in the Institute for Urban and Regional Studies, except for my thesis, which I am working on at present. My thesis, under the guidance of Prof. Eran Razin, deals with the regional effects of prisons in Israel, primarily from the perspective of employees' residences, economic influences, and social influences that stem from their clearly being a facility that residents do not like in their vicinity. At the same time, I have begun to work in the private sector, developing my professional skills in urban and regional planning.

For two years, I served as the teaching assistant for the courses Introduction to GIS and Raster GIS Workshop. My experience as a teaching assistant was excellent and enriching, and contributed a great deal to my graduate studies and professional development, primarily due to Adi Ben-Nun, to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for the opportunity and the mentoring.



Amir Elisha:

Support Scholarships for Department Trips Abroad

The department received a contribution from a donor who wished to remain anonymous, whose goal is to help students in paying the expense of participating in the department's trips abroad. Beginning in the 2012–13 year, six scholarships will be given in the amount of 2,000 NIS each per year.

Undergraduate students who completed their first year with honors and graduate students are able to apply. The winners are determined by the Geography Department's scholarship committee, and the main criterion for the prize is the student's academic excellence. Another criterion is his or her social involvement and activities for the public.

This year, six scholarships for students going on trips to Rome and Barcelona were awarded during the annual Geography Department alumni get-together and department conference which took place November 29, 2012.



Tal Ulus



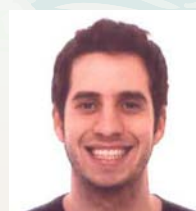
Yael Yisraeli



Omer Bab



Ifend Benny



Sagi Roitband



Arbel Ifhar

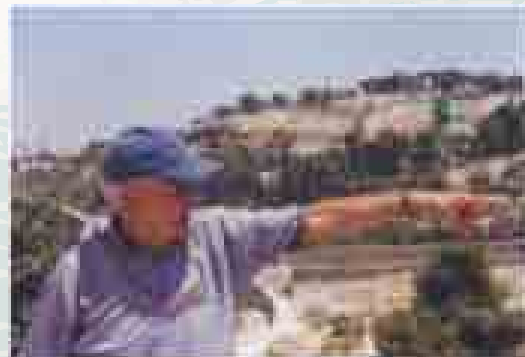
The Cavaglion Scholarship for New Immigrants

The Cavaglion family has donated a scholarship to be granted each year in memory of Mr. Riccardo (Ephraim) son of Yosef Cavaglion. The scholarship is designated for students who moved to Israel in recent years (and those from the Ethiopian community). Additional criteria are financial situation and academic performance.

The scholarship is awarded each year at the department's annual alumni meeting and seminar.

Riccardo (Ephraim) ben Yosef Cavaglion

Born in Cuneo, Italy, in 1922, Mr. Cavaglion was one of the last members of the Jewish community that immigrated from Provence. He studied accounting in his hometown and, in 1938, was persecuted under the Italian Racial Manifesto. After the Nazi invasion of Italy in 1943, Mr. Cavaglion joined an anti-Fascist partisan group. Following the war, he worked in the textile and carpet trade until 1982, remaining a Zionist activist throughout. He moved to Israel at the age of sixty and took a course for mature tour guides given by the Ministry of Tourism in Jerusalem. For twenty years, while already retired, he continued to guide Italian tourists and imparted a love of Jerusalem and Israel. He saw in his work a true mission. He passed away in Jerusalem on the 29th of Shvat, 5771 (February 2010).



Sara Taube is the recipient of the Cavaglion Scholarship, 2012

Sara moved to Israel from Uruguay through the Naale project in 2002 at the age of 16. She completed her high school studies in the Sha'ar Hanegev high school and afterwards joined the army. In 2007, she completed her military service at the Hazor Air Force base.

In 2011, Sara began an undergraduate degree in geography and political science at Hebrew University.



Sara Taube

Scholarships for Outstanding Students in the Geography Department's Geoinformatics Division

Scholarships for outstanding students in the Geography Department's Geoinformatics Division

During the Geography Department's annual alumni get-together and department conference, which took place on November 29, 2012, four scholarships for excellence, in the amount of 2,000 NIS each, were awarded to four students who finished their first-year studies with honors.



Adi Perry



Dana Nevo



Nitzan Paz



Ro'i Ivri



Harel Dan

A scholarship for excellence in the amount of 3,000 NIS was also awarded to Adi Perry, who completed her studies in the division with honors.

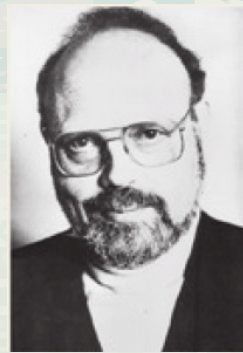
Events in the Department

Symposium in memory of Prof. Shalom Reichman held at the Beit Maierdorf Faculty Club on Mount Scopus on Sunday, November 18, 2012

The annual symposium in memory of Prof. Shalom Reichman was held in mid-November, as it is every year. This year marked 20 years from his passing. The topic of the symposium was "Geography, Law, and Computer Science: An Interdisciplinary and Intergenerational Perspective," and the speakers were Prof. Reichman's two sons. Dr. Daniel Reichman from the Weizmann Institute of Science spoke about "Computational Geography: Current and Future Aspects." In his lecture, Daniel demonstrated the contribution of computational geography to solving problems such as network planning, locating functions in space, and optimizing movement in space (the "travelling salesman problem").

Prof. Amnon Reichman from Haifa University lectured on "Law, Geography, and Everything in Between." He explained and demonstrated how there is no choice but to face the question of the boundary in law and emphasized the need of lawmakers to examine what geographers think about the concept of a boundary.

As with each year, the Reichman family, family friends, department faculty, and students—past and present—attended.



Prof. Shalom Reichman
1935–1992

The Herzl (Herzi) Halevi Prize

The Herzl (Herzi) Halevi Prize was given to Ortal Assaf this year for her seminar paper on the subject "Public Transportation and Tourism in Jerusalem," which she wrote in her third year of studies in a seminar run by Prof. Eran Feitelson and Dr. Galit Cohen-Blankshtain.

The judges' rationale for awarding the prize: Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, constitutes a national, religious, and spiritual center for the Jewish nation. This is the most sacred city for the Jewish religion, and one of the holiest cities for Christians and Muslims. The educated development of tourism in Jerusalem demands special preparation on the part of anyone wishing to realize the tourist potential that exists in the city. Without taking the necessary steps in this direction, there can be no chance of realizing the potential found in tourism. Ortal Assaf's research dealt with an important aspect of the tourist experience in Jerusalem: the ease of use of public transportation serving individual tourists.

The study's central question was To what extent does public transportation in Jerusalem serve tourist travel? The study examined the reciprocity between tourism and the transportation system necessary to reach tourist destinations in Jerusalem. The study's primary methodology was a quantitative analysis of travel data and access roads from one site to another using GIS. The data were received from the Egged bus company, the Jerusalem Transport Master Plan Team, and the university GIS. Ortal's study was well-written, used advanced geographical technology, and reached conclusions of interest both on the theoretical research and applied levels.

About the prize: Herzl (Herzi) Halevi was a student nearing the end of his undergraduate studies in the Geography Department when the Six-Day War began. Herzi enlisted in reserve duty with one of the paratrooper units and participated in the campaign to liberate Jerusalem, falling in battle. Shortly after his death his widow, Yaffa Halevi, decided, with the help of the family and friends, to commemorate his life by giving an award in his name. The prize is given each year at a ceremony that takes place around Jerusalem Day within the Geography Department's departmental seminar; it is granted to an outstanding seminar paper written within one of the undergraduate seminars.



Meet the Research Students

Ziv Rubin

Ziv Rubin is a third-year student in the direct PhD track under the guidance of Prof. Daniel Felsenstein. Ziv has an undergraduate degree in economics and geography from Tel Aviv University. He began his graduate studies in geography in 2009, specializing in urban and regional studies, and moved to the direct track a year later. His research is on "Constraints on Supply in the Residential Building Market in Israel: The Influence of the State's Ownership of Land and Regulation in the Planning Realm." Once his research proposal was accepted, he began the second stage of his doctorate. Last year, Ziv won the David Amiran Scholarship for a doctoral student. After his proposal was accepted, Ziv's scholarship was approved for the current academic year as well. Ziv serves as a teaching assistant for Prof. Daniel Felsenstein and Prof. Michael Beenstock in the Department of Economics. Most of his work is done within the SEARCH project, funded by the EU as part of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Within the project, immigration and economic ties between the EU and its neighbors are examined. Ziv has developed expertise in locating and analyzing quantitative data and using many Israeli and international statistical databases, and he has much experience in economic and geographical research both in the academic world and in the non-profit sector.



Ziv Rubin

Noa Carmon-Galanti

Having received an undergraduate degree in geography and international relations at Hebrew University, Noa is currently a graduate student in the Geography Department in the field of urban geography.

I began my academic studies after finishing my five-year military service in the Education and Youth Corps, two years of which were as the commander of the public relations troop in the Jewish Quarter. In my first year of undergraduate studies, I became enthusiastic about the core studies in geography and enjoyed the academic level and the social atmosphere in the department. Throughout my undergraduate studies, I worked as a tour guide, and upon finishing my third year I immediately began working as an assistant consultant at the president's residence.

My graduate studies took place at the same time as my full-time job on the president's consulting team and thus I was able to combine academic research and practical work, the essence of which was coordinating content and logistics of the president's tours and visits to various places in the country. The academic knowledge I had acquired over the years reinforced my ability to analyze social and spatial issues that I confronted in preparing the president's visits around the country and even abroad.

I recently submitted my thesis, written under the guidance of Prof. Noam Shoval, which deals with the development of tourism in the Nachlaot neighborhood in Jerusalem, and focuses on the question of the factors that affect the reciprocity between the daily routines of the residents and the development of tourism in the neighborhood. Researching the subject fascinated me and gave me an opportunity to delve into the chronicles of a neighborhood I was closely acquainted with as a tour guide in the city.



Noa Carmon-Galanti

Matan Singer

I am originally from Kibbutz Usha, but after five and a half years (and counting) in Jerusalem, I feel at home. My post-army trip was to Tel Aviv, as a student in the first class of Bina, a secular yeshiva. Since high school I have been an avid geography buff, and after I completed an undergraduate degree in geography and political science at Hebrew University it was clear to me that I would continue to a graduate degree, and soon to a doctorate.

Alongside my work as a teaching assistant to Prof. Ilan Salomon and tutoring in three required undergraduate courses, I am currently working on my thesis, which is occupied with the topic of opposition to the process of positioning welfare service frameworks, a phenomenon known as NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard), under the guidance of Prof. Eran Feitelson and Dr. Gillad Rosen. The paper investigates why some of the welfare services encounter resistance to their establishment while others do not. I am attempting to answer this question using, among other things, conflict theories and the term "lifestyle." The answer constitutes a theoretical innovation, as until now frameworks that do not encounter resistance have not been studied.



Matan Singer

Visitors in the Department in the 2012–13 Academic Year

Christina Cook is doing post-doctoral work in the department this year under the guidance of Prof. Eran Feitelson and Dr. Itay Fischhendler. Christina received her doctorate from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) in December 2011. Her doctorate examined the fragmentation that exists in water governance in the province of Ontario in Canada. Christina's fields of research include water security, scale and water governance, and the intersection of land management and water governance.



Christina Cook

Originally from Colonia, New Jersey, Marisa Lau has joined a department research team focusing on environmental policy. She studied at MIT and her arrival in Israel is part of a process of training her within MIT's program for international science and technology initiatives. While at the department, she is researching desalination in Israel, energy security, and reforms in the field of planning in Israel. Marisa has a graduate degree from Koç University in Istanbul on the subject of managing cultural heritage and a degree in urban planning from MIT.



Marisa Lau

Theresa Tribaldos is a doctoral candidate at ETH Zürich. She has come to the department for six months due to a research grant from Switzerland's National Science Foundation. Her doctorate is part of a greater project funded by the EU called CLICO (Climate Change, Hydro Conflicts, and Human Security). The project investigates the links between climatic, socioeconomic, and institutional factors and water-related conflict and cooperation at the local level.



Theresa Tribaldos

The Alumni Section

"There's one of us everywhere"

Nir Papai—VP and Director of the Environmental Protection Department at the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)

Nir completed his graduate degree in the Geography Department in the nineties, specializing in environmental management, planning, and policy and urban studies. Later on, he completed a second graduate degree in public policy. Nir began his professional career in a private company for program planning and management, "T.I.K. Projects," and since 1999 he has been working at the SPNI in a variety of roles. He first served as coordinator of the coastal management division, where he led a campaign for the preservation of beaches which culminated with the passing of the law for protection of the coastal environment. He then led and promoted the creation of a path around the Sea of Galilee designed to open the sea's beaches to the public and more. Since 2006 he has been director of the Environmental Protection Department and since 2011 he has served as VP of the company.

The Environmental Protection Department is the activist wing of SPNI, which uses a number of tools, primarily planning, expressed in the fact that its members serve, as do representatives of all environmental organizations, on regional and national committees. Other tools used include motivating the public, legal action, and lobbying.

The department employs a series of professionals, including many geographers, and covers a range of fields of activity beyond preservation of open areas. These include energy, with the aim of leading to the adoption of an environmental energy policy; water, with the goal of leading to the management of a sustainable water market acting to return water to nature; urban and nature planning, aiming to promote quality of urban life and guarantee a policy of concentration rather than dispersion; the sea, with the aim of finding the golden mean between the desire to use water resources and the desire to preserve them; ornithology, operating in the spirit of this year's government decision to promote a network of ornithology centers around the country; and biodiversity, which acts to combine these considerations in the decision making system in the country.

Many people are unaware that the State of Israel's land is part of the 1.6 percent of land mass defined as of paramount importance. Thus the central challenge of nature preservation in Israel is finding the golden mean between responding to conservation needs, which are primarily in areas that are open, continuous, and representative of all habitats and the great needs of development that stem from the fact that average rate of population growth is similar to that of developing countries while the quality of life is similar to that of developed countries.

In an era of specialization in narrow areas and occupation with details, the study of geography represents a different approach, one which accords with my worldview that prefers to see the greater, broader, and longer-term picture; my studies in geography serve these purposes well.



Nir Papai

Congratulations

Prof. Efrat Morin on her promotion to the rank of associate professor

To Prof. Noam Levin on receiving tenure

To Dr. Galit Cohen-Blankshtain on receiving tenure and a promotion to the rank of senior lecturer

To Ora Achituv on receiving the award for outstanding employee in the Faculty of Social Sciences



Dr. Galit Cohen-Blankshtain



Prof. Noam Levin



Prof. Efrat Morin



Ora Achituv

Life in the Department

This time, pictures from two department trips in Israel

Pictures from a regional tour to the Negev led by Prof. Rehav (Buni) Rubin and Dr. Gillad Rosen, when 32 students went on a three-day trip to the eastern Negev region.

First, a few words on the trip:

The regional tour—that is, a trip lasting a few days, focusing on a specific region and examining it from different geographical perspectives—was in the past an essential component of the department's training. Students were required to attend such trips and roamed the country from the Upper Galilee to the southern Negev. Each trip included two or even three of the department's lecturers who, one at a time, enlightened students on the different geographical aspects of the area which they toured.

Last year, the department decided to attempt to renew the study tour and 32 students went for a trip to the eastern Negev region. The trip began in Be'er Sheva, where current and historical urban views were given, and continued to Bahad City, where a discussion about the place of the army as an agent in regional development was held. At the end of the first day, the group went to Ein Yorkeam in order to assess the meaning of a water source in the desert and to briefly analyze the routes of the convoys on one side and preserving the nature and landscape on the other. We slept at the Sde Boker hostel and left in the morning to see the ancient city of Ovdad and learn about ancient agriculture. The afternoon was spent in Sde Boker as guests at the Institute for Desert Research, where we learned about modern development of alternative energy and desert agriculture. The third day was devoted to Yerucham, where we met the charismatic council head, were hosted at the Bedouin village Rachma, and learned about the Bedouin settlement near Yerucham. Finally, we visited the phosphate factory in Oron. Throughout the trip, an open and continuing discussion was held with the students in which an interdisciplinary examination of each question raised was conducted.

Alongside the learning experience, which the participating students can attest to, we as teachers thoroughly enjoyed seeing the students in the course as an active social unit. The students organized themselves in groups, prepared their own dinners, and created a wonderful atmosphere both during learning and in their free time.



Ovdad



Ein Yorkeam



Be'er Sheva, Hanesi'im Boulevard



The Negev Museum of Art
Ottoman District Officer's Residence



Yerucham

Pictures from the faculty trip to Khirbet Qeiyafa led by department alumnus Prof. Yossi Garfinkel (1982)

On Friday, May 4, 2012, the Geography Department bade farewell to Meital Shtain, who served as department coordinator for seven years (2005–2012). In the morning, we took a tour of Khirbet Qeiyafa in the Valley of Elah with Prof. Yossi Garfinkel from the Institute of Archaeology (class of 1982). We learned about the dig being conducted at the site in recent years and saw the impressive relics from the early tenth century BCE, the time of King David. We continued to Kibbutz Netiv HaLamed-Heh for lunch and parting words from Meital.

