



**Bethlehem University**

## *Library Update*

**2007-2008**



# **“READING AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE SERVICE OF EVERYONE”**

The month of April is the month when Books and Reading are given a special focus to promote the value of reading and the acquisition of knowledge from books and other resources. We all know that in this digital age, the modern library is no longer a “book-printed collection” only. Books and printed materials are now wedded to their partners online – all information that comes to us electronically – everything that science and technology have given birth to.

A three-day event— from 10 - 12 April 2008—to underscore the importance and relevance of reading in a world dominated by advance technology started off with the opening of the Book Fair/Technology exhibition by Brother Robert Smith, FSC, PhD, Interim Vice Chancellor, on the Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

On the same day, at 10:30 am, a conference convoking academic librarians from the West Bank with Bethlehem University faculty, students, and guest-librarians from public and community libraries took place at Furno Hall in the Millennium Building. Brother Robert Smith, gave his powerful, incisive opening remarks ( see page 2) reinforcing the importance of re-orienting reading and technology toward the common good, raising two concerns: promotion of “information/computer literacy” but at the same time safeguarding the kind of information that is received; the second concern refers to access whereby Brother Robert

asked the following questions: “Who has access and how do they gain access? If information is power, how do we empower those with no power, no access, few resources, and little opportunity to avail themselves of the world of books and technology?”

Aside from the keynote speech by Mellie Brodeth, Library Director on “Reading, Technology and Change in Academic Libraries”, two very important interventions are worth highlighting, the power point presentations of Prof. Qustandi Shomali on “E-Learning at Bethlehem University” and Mrs. Diana Sayej-Nasser, Library Director of Bir Zeit University, on “Promoting, Managing and Marketing E-Resources in Higher Education Institutions: a Case Study”. The Library Administrative Team led by Francis Sleibi and joined in by Rebecca Calaor, Vera Koussa and Hala Marzouka had done a comprehensive and practical presentation of the history, advantages and uses of automation in the Bethlehem University Library. After lunch at the Institute of Hotel Management, the conference participants went back to work at Furno Hall. The discussion period opened the session of questions, clarifications and suggestions for improvement in the implementation of automation in libraries.

**Continued on page 5 .....**



**Br. Robert Smith, FSC, PhD, Interim Vice Chancellor (during the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony —10 April 2008)**



**Mrs. Diana Sayej—Library Director of Bir Zeit University giving her presentation.**



**Prof. Qustandi Shomali –Arabic Department– Bethlehem University– showing his PowerPoint presentation on E-learning.**

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## **Opening Hours**

The library is open on class days from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM as well as on official make-up days announced by the Administration.

It is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and university holidays.

## **New at BU Library !!!**

JSTOR which includes 1,856,206 full-length articles across 47 disciplines. There are 1,387,437 book reviews in JSTOR. The oldest content in the JSTOR archive was published in 1665. This is attained through the MI-CAD Program Grant facilitated by Mr. Andrea Merli.



## OPENING REMARKS OF BROTHER ROBERT SMITH, FSC, PH.D., INTERIM VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE BOOK-TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS' CONFERENCE, 10 APRIL 2008

I am old. Some would say old-fashioned.

I like a book. I like it in my hands, I like to touch it, to feel it. I sometimes even like to smell it...if it is old, or newly printed. I like to read. I like words. I love to read and I really enjoy a sentence well constructed.

At one time in my life I was an editor and I still cannot read something without paying attention to details, to words, to phrases, to grammar... a characteristic that my students did not always appreciate or value!

What is the last book you read? What is the last book you recommended to a friend that he or she read it because it was "so good?" What you read, says a lot about you. Why you read also says a lot about you.

The last book I read was Khaled Hosseini's A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS, and this after devouring his earlier best seller THE KITE RUNNER, which is now a film. These two novels, which capture something of the history and culture of the Afghan people, were written by a man trained as a medical doctor whose family fled his native land as refugees. The two books have sold millions of copies over just the past few years and have been translated into a dozen or more languages. Talk about the power of the written word to educate, to transform, to move us into a world not our own!

What was the last book that really inspired you? That really energized you? That really moved you? That was so good you HAD to tell others about it and urge them to read it?

Of course, I also read newspapers and journals, and read things that are related to being an academic administrator of a Palestinian university.

I love visiting bookstores and libraries—although I know I do not get into our own university library nearly as often as I should.

I also often feel the same way as one of my doctoral professors who described his sense of wanting to "curse his finitude" when he walked into a library... knowing there was so much he desired to read and to know, but realizing in a life time there is only so much one can do.

But books are just part of the story! Every library now provides many other means of personal enjoyment, learning, and expanding our personal, social, and academic horizons.

Two weeks ago we had a mid-year Bethlehem University graduation in the lower level of our library building. We marked the completion of a bachelor's degree program in Occupational Therapy of a dozen students from Gaza who to this day have never set foot on this campus. They were accepted into our O.T. program five years ago, but due to travel restrictions never physically came to Bethlehem. However, due to the marvels of technology—and the dedication of many people here and in Gaza—we were able to deliver a full BA program across the land...or, as we know we are capable of doing, across the globe.

Also within the past two weeks, a group of students here at Bethlehem University who are part of a research exchange program with students at a German university have met each other, presented and critiqued each other's papers, and have engaged in spirited discussions...all via video conferencing. In June the German delegation will come here for face-to-face meetings for a week, and our students, along with faculty, will travel to Germany in Octo-



ber to complete the circle. The marvels of technology, in service of learning!

The theme of this three-day conference is "Reading and Technology at the Service of Everyone." The gift of our libraries—schools, universities, and community libraries—is that they open up a world to us, without us ever having to leave our home! Books do this and have for hundreds of years; in relatively speaking much more recent time, television, videos, audio, CDs, DVDs, iPods, networking, surfing the net, google-ing, LCD projectors, digital media, memory sticks, Power Point, and on and on have enabled us to do things that not one of us could have imagined even two or three or decades ago!

Our own Audio-Visual Center (with Francis and George) and our Digital Media Center (with Mike and Minerva) provide extraordinary and exciting and creative ways to learn, to integrate technology into the classroom, and to engage and empower the local community through programs of outreach and service.

Perhaps more striking is the way technology has assisted those with learning disabilities or physical challenges to not be left behind.

*Continued on Page 5 .....*





## TAKE NOTE...

- \* Teachers and Staff can now renew their books by simply presenting their university ID at the Circulation Desk. Your LLT representative has worked this out for you!
- \* University graduates are welcome to use our resources and facilities upon payment of an annual fee – you're most welcome "back home"!
- \* **E-Turathuna** is featured on the University's Intranet and presents a series of Palestinian heritage items to students and faculty. This is an ongoing online project prepared by the curator of Turathuna, Mary Morcos-van Teeffelen upon the advise of the Special Committee members composed of Ms. Violet Lama, Ms. Samar Ghattas and Ms. Nadira Al-Araj.

## STUDENT WORKFORCE

During Spring 2008, a total of 32 student-assistants helped in the University Library, 15 of whom were Community Service Students. Thirty-two seems easy to say but in the day-to-day running of the Library, it is a stronghold of "miracles". Our young and vibrant student-assistants were everywhere, especially where they were most needed: Archives, Arabic Technical Services, AV Center, Circulation/Control, English Technical Services, Library Director & Secretary's Office, Periodicals, Reference, Turathuna.

**Thank you for your fine service!**

**Congratulations** – "Mabrouk" to our graduates

Sana' Shreim (Social Work, '08) and Marwa Ayyad (English, '08) !!! Keep up the good work and the "B.U. torch of excellence burning".



## Circulation Statistics, 2007 – 2008

L.C.Class	Summer			Fall			Spring		
	Arabic	English	Total	Arabic	English	Total	Arabic	English	Total
A	0	0	0	5	4	9	3	1	4
B	496	7	503	1427	101	1528	1358	87	1445
C	0	0	0	9	2	11	9	4	13
D	83	9	9	824	62	886	1029	78	1107
E-F	6	4	10	28	1	29	7	8	15
G	12	0	12	121	39	160	140	38	178
H	216	31	247	1295	368	1663	1439	184	1623
J	16	1	17	180	55	235	112	23	135
K	0	0	0	9	5	14	14	4	18
L	201	17	218	1199	118	1317	1331	143	1474
M	5	0	5	13	12	25	11	18	29
N	1	7	8	57	5	62	56	7	63
P	829	69	898	2641	891	3532	2612	865	3477
Q	31	55	86	121	275	396	150	424	574
R	22	67	89	224	398	622	199	504	703
S	0	4	4	13	8	21	19	7	26
T	29	12	41	108	108	216	63	104	167
U	0	1	1	6	0	6	6	0	6
V	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Z	0	0	0	3	2	5	8	4	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>2231</b>	<b>8283</b>	<b>2425</b>	<b>10737</b>	<b>8566</b>	<b>2503</b>	<b>11069</b>
<b>Daily Average</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>150</b>



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CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION  
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DANDIS BOOKSHOP  
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### WISH LIST

The Library appeals to our generous donors –for the following needs:

- \*A portable barcode reader to be used for our book inventory
- \*A color printer for the Archives section of the Library

Any "Good Samaritan" on the way to Bethlehem ?!

.....continued from page 1

# “READING AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE SERVICE OF EVERYONE”

There were calls for organizing a workshop in the future where librarians can further share experiences, resources and expertise.

On Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, the book fair and technology exhibition went on for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day with the most number of visitors coming. BU faculty purchasing books for their departments; in the afternoon, the winners of the Painting Contest organized by Turathuna Center for Palestinian Heritage, were feted.

Brother Robert Smith once again graced the occasion with his inspiring words, giving out the prizes and certificate to the winners of the contest in two categories: two from Bethlehem University and four students from St. Joseph, Terra Sancta and SOS schools.

Saturday was the last day of the fair/exhibition and among several visitors who came were three classes of about 50 students led by their teachers from the Rosary School. All in all, the three-day event can be looked at as a success especially in reinforcing the importance of reading good books as well as raising awareness in the responsibility we all have in harnessing the positive fruits we reap from technology.

## On Giving

**You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.**

**And there are those who have little and give it all.**

**See first that you yourself deserve to be a giver, and instrument of giving.**

**From Khalil Gibran, “The Prophet”,  
(pp. 29;31)**

.....continued from page 2

## Opening remarks...

Those who might in the past been left out because of a hearing or visual impairment are now able to more fully engage in educational pursuits, just as they are more fully integrated members of their communities.

Of course, with all these advantages, there come responsibilities. I name but two: how can we ourselves, and how can we help others especially in the context of a school setting, become “information literate?” How do we distinguish good from bad, accurate from inaccurate, fact from propaganda when with the click of a mouse we can have literally 10,000 or more “sources” of information at our finger tips, and have it in seconds? Simply because we google something and find a source or a resource does not and cannot pre-

sume its legitimacy. Hence, how to help educate for information literacy?

My second concern has to do with access. Who has access and how do they gain access? If information is power, how do we empower those with no power, no access, few resources, and little opportunity to avail themselves of the world of books and technology? This is a challenge across the world, but perhaps most acute in places where poverty, weak or non-existent infrastructure, great physical distance, or political instability exist.

A quick glance at several sources puts the Palestinian literacy rate at anywhere between 70% - 92%. I find this really quite remarkable, given the history of this occupied land. At the same time, there are sometimes wide disparities between males and females, younger generations and older, and between and across social, economic, and geographic

groups. This remains for us all a challenge.

While there are many things that need to be done to attain higher and more consistent literacy rates among all Palestinians, one thing I am sure of is that such will not happen without schools and without libraries, both of which exist in order to provide opportunities for “reading and technology at the service of everyone!”

Let me end by thanking our Bethlehem University library team—each of them and all of them together—and in particular the Director of our Library Dr. Mellie Brodeth. They have been working on this for months and months and I am grateful for their creativity, inspiration, and dedication in making this day, and these three days, a reality.

And, to our guests, welcome to Bethlehem University. Feel at home; we are delighted you are with us!

God bless you and God bless this conference!

Shukran!

## Feast of St. John Baptist De La Salle

Every year, Bethlehem University celebrates the feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers, on 15 May. This year was the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Day. There were 37 members of the University who were honored and recognized, and among them we would like to warmly congratulate:

- \* the former Library Director, Ms. Elsa Hazboun (now Director of Personnel Management), for her 30 years of dedication and commitment to the educational mission of Bethlehem University;
- \* Mr. Anan Hamad, Instructor of Library/Information Science for his five years of teaching and service to the academic community.

Last but not least, to Brother Neil Kieffe, FSC, our best wishes and prayers of thanksgiving for his 50 years' anniversary as De La Salle Christian Brother.

**MABROUK TO ALL !!!**

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Bethlehem University Library is to serve the academic community of students, administration, faculty and staff by providing materials, resources, services, and facilities to meet curriculum related needs. The library pursues this mission through acquiring, organizing, and maintaining the requisite information resources, equipment, and materials in various formats, by providing production of audiovisual materials, and by creating an environment conducive to learning. The library makes its resources and services available to visiting researchers and Bethlehem University graduates. The library serves as a vital component of the educational mission of the University.



#### The Last Word (from the Library Director)

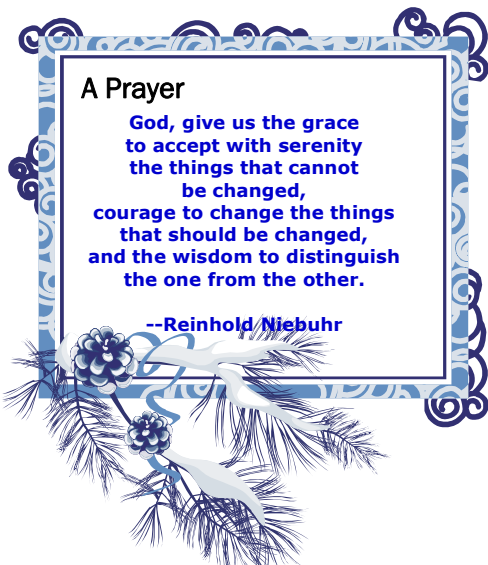
The year 2007 - 2008 has been an exciting academic year, perhaps challenging is the right word for those of us in the Library. In the beginning, I was the only new staff in the Library when I came in, but in a few weeks' time (in September 2007), someone newer came to join us. With Elsa Hazboun, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, we had to recruit the new secretary to the Library Director and were fortunate to hire one from an interesting list of BU graduates. So there were twelve of us forming the Library Team to serve some 300 administrators, faculty members and staff as well as 2,788 students. With the Mission Statement guiding us, we went through a series of meetings; first internally, then we reached out to the campus. The Library Liaison Team meetings linked us with the various departments and faculties. Service, service, quality service was uppermost in our thoughts and efforts. And we believe that service goes with dedication and hard work. This was further reinforced when we dared to undertake a three-day event in April which is featured in this issue of the newsletter. I have only gratitude and admiration for each of my colleagues in the Library who all stood up to the challenge.

But this year has also been like an emotional roller coaster ride in coming face to face with illness and death. I need to say it here because the persons who left us, one with terminal cancer, Brother Daniel Casey, our Vice Chancellor, who is in Rhode Island, USA has left a painful, haunting void, still difficult to accept. Sadly and very unfortunately, two Christian Brothers left us for good: in December 2007, Brother Fergus McArdle, former Academic Vice President, passed away in Dublin, Ireland because of malignant brain tumour; and most recently, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, the stunning, numbing news that Brother Vincent Malham, former President-Vice Chancellor (1997-2005) died in a tragic car accident in Louisiana, USA. These are men of God who blazed the trail ahead of us, unselfishly serving God and their fellowmen and women with dedication and love. They have accepted God's call and challenge – and they have conquered. We who are left behind – following their footsteps - pledge our loyalty and commitment to the joint educational mission of Bethlehem University, the only Catholic and La Sallian University in the Holy Land.

#### A Prayer

God, give us the grace  
to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot  
be changed,  
courage to change the things  
that should be changed,  
and the wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.

--Reinhold Niebuhr



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