



## FLORIDA-ISRAEL INSTITUTE

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### 2005-2006 Annual Report

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006



Dr. Daniel Rieger (BCC)



Dr. Zvi Roth (FAU)

## 1. Event Highlights (July 2005 – June 2006)

- August 2005: The two FII co-Directors Ms. Nancy Rosen and Dr. Daniel Rieger plan the 2005-2006 FII Lecture Series.
- August 2005: FII scholarship awards for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 are announced.
- September 9, 2005: Dr. Zvi Roth (Professor of Electrical Engineering, Florida Atlantic University) is appointed Interim co-Director of the Florida-Israel Institute, replacing Ms. Nancy Rosen.
- Initial Organization (September-October 2005): Meetings with: Ms. Nancy Rosen (former FII Director) – Transfer of the FII Davie Campus office and update on all on-going projects and earlier commitments, Drs. Tony Lombardo and Abhi Pandya (FAU) – to define Dr. Roth’s mission, Dr. Daniel Rieger (BCC FII co-Director) and Dr. David Moore (BCC, International Programs) – to define the FAU-BCC collaboration, Dr. Yitschak Ben-Gad (Israel Consul General) – first contact with the consulate, Drs. Ken Jessell and John Idiculla – to define the FII budget for 2005-2006.
- Meeting of the Academic Advisory Board (10/14/05): Operating Budget reviewed and shaped to include the committee recommendations; Tuition-Exemption Scholarship committee formed; Israeli Film Series approved and budgeted; Lecture Series planned by Ms. Rosen and Dr. Rieger approved and budgeted.
- FII Earmark Grant Proposal Submitted (10/27/05): Priority Florida-Israel collaboration areas defined.
- FII Lecture Series commences (11/9/05).
- FII Board of Directors Pre-Meeting at FAU: Present: Herb Swarzman (President of the Board), Rep. Adam Hasner, Matt Levin (AIPAC), Drs. Lawrence Davenport, Larry Lemanski, Tony Lombardo, Howard Hanson, Zvi Roth (FAU). Also: Camille Colley and Tom Barlow (FAU) and Daniel Rieger

(BCC). Rep. Hasner proposed to champion a \$200K legislative 2006-2007 budget request for the FII.

- Palm Beach Legislative Delegation Public Hearing (11/22/05): FII legislative budget request presented by Tom Barlow and distributed to the delegation.
- Tuition-Exemption Scholarships Committee Meeting (12/13/05): New written guidelines adopted.
- First Research-Oriented Visit of Israeli Faculty (Dr. Igor Verner of the Technion, Science Education Department) on 12/15-12/18/05: Research meeting with Dr. Nancy Romance (FAU), seminar at the Mathematics department regarding development of Calculus courses with Engineering Applications.
- Spring 2006 FII Scholarships (Late December 2005 – Early January 2006): Scholarships awarded, notifications sent to the schools financial aid officers, 2004-2005 scholarship report to the State filed. The actual Spring 2006 scholarship winners list deviated significantly from the list finalized in August 2005.
- Dr. Roth's Israel Visit (1/11/06-1/22/06): Research collaboration exploratory meetings at the Israel Electric Company, Enterprise Florida Israel office, Technion, Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University, Holon Institute of Technology and the Weizmann Research Institute.
- Broward Legislative Delegation Public Hearing (1/18/06): Dr. Daniel Rieger presented the FII 2006-2007 Budget request. Proper forms were sent in early January to Rep. Hasner's office. Senator Nan Rich agreed to champion the legislative request in the Florida Senate.
- FII Israeli Film/Lecture Monthly Series Commences (2/11-12/06): Hosting Israeli Director Dan Katzir with two movies; Mr. Katzir met with FAU students of the DeSantis Center for Motion Picture Industry Studies at the FAU College of Business.
- First Follow-Up to Dr. Roth's Israel Visit: Visit of Dr. Benjamin Arazi (Ben Gurion University, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department) on 2/21-22/06: Meetings with Drs. Carl Berkowitz (CITSS), John Sullivan

(ICLAD), Bill Rhodes (ITC), Cryptography seminar at Mathematics Department, Dr. Arazi's proposals related to RFID applications are being pursued.

- February 2006: A \$200,000 legislative request for the Florida-Israel Institute is included on the FAU List of Priority Requests for 2006-2007.
- First Meeting FII Directors – Dr. Larry Calderon (BCC President) on 3/20/06 to discuss the 2006-2007 legislative request, the forming of the FII Board of Directors and release time for Dr. Rieger.
- Academic Advisory Board Meeting on 3/31/06 to approve the new Scholarship rules, FII Mission Statement and to discuss the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 budgets and a plan for Israel Studies Certificate Program.
- March – May 2006: Florida Legislative Session: Funding for the Florida-Israel Institute is passed by the Florida House of Representative, approved at the House-Senate Conference and approved by Governor Bush.
- April 2006: Summer 2006 FII Scholarships awarded.
- April 2006: Upon solicitation through the FAU Division of Research FII submits a white paper to the US DOE National Nuclear Safety Authority about US-Israel Collaboration on Ports Security Research.
- May 2006: Dr. Roth's second Israel visit, devoted mostly to promotion of the NNSA proposed activity on Ports Security. Meetings at Elta, Rafael, Elbit, Technion, Tel Aviv University. Dr. Roth also attended the Agritech 2007 Exhibition exploring means for FL-Israel Agriculture collaboration. Another meeting at Tel Aviv University (with Dr. Abraham Katzir) explored possible collaboration regarding monitoring of water resources.
- June 26, 2006: Special meeting of the FII Academic Advisory Board to budget the 2006-2007 \$200,000 allocation.
- June 2006: Dr. Rieger attends the Israel Studies Association annual meeting in Bunff.

## **2. Administration of the Florida-Israel Institute**

- 1) The executive duties of the Institute are performed by two co-directors, one from BCC and the other from FAU.
- 2) The BCC co-Director reports to the BCC Associate Vice President for International Education who reports to the BCC President.
- 3) The FAU co-Director reports to the FAU Director of International Programs who reports to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies who reports to the FAU Provost.
- 4) In the last decade the FAU co-Director Ms. Nancy Rosen, who has been full-time employed by FAU, assumed the role of an “Executive Director”. This year marked a change of the FAU leadership of the FII. Ms. Rosen has been transferred to other duties, and Dr. Zvi Roth (a FAU Professor of Electrical Engineering) was appointed “Interim co-Director” on a half-time appointment.
- 5) Transfer of duties from Ms. Rosen to Dr. Roth was smooth. The BCC co-Director Dr. Rieger has been on sabbatical leave during the Fall semester of 2005. This did not prevent him and Dr. Roth to maintain regular weekly meetings.
- 6) Two bodies has governed the operation of the Florida-Israel Institute. One is a Board of Directors (consisting of prominent community leaders, academic and industry leaders and renowned international educators) and the other is an Academic Advisory Board (consisting primarily of FAU and BCC faculty).
- 7) The Board of Directors has not convened in recent memory. An ad-hoc meeting called by the Board President Herb Swarzman of several remaining members, future members and FAU and BCC administrators was convened at FAU on 11/15/05 to rectify the situation.
- 8) The 11/15/06 meeting has two important outcomes: It was agreed to enhance the FII budget through the Florida Legislature and a restructuring + rebuilding of the Board was set as a goal for the coming year.
- 9) The Florida-Israel Institute Academic Advisory Board (AAB) was created in Spring 2005 (at the directive of the FAU Director of International Programs). It had its first meeting in May 2005.
- 10) During 2005-2006 the AAB met three times – Fall semester meeting at 10/15/05, Spring semester meeting on 3/31/06 and a special budget discussion meeting on

6/26/06. All meeting were well attended (almost by all listed members) and several important resolutions have passed. Refer to Appendix B for detailed membership list and minutes of the meetings.

11) Refer to Section 4 (below) for a summary of the AAB achievements.

### **3. Florida-Israel Institute Budget**

Refer to Appendix A for detailed budget explanations, decisions and expenditures. This section focuses only on higher-level observations regarding the 2005-2006 Budget.

- 1) The leadership transition (on the FAU side of the FII) necessitated several budget decisions, outlined in Appendix A, related to payments to the outgoing Director during the entire 2005-2006 budget year.
- 2) In previous years the \$83,000 total funding to the FII, provided from the FAU and BCC general funds, was adequate to provide salary and benefits to the full-time executive director, leaving about \$20,000 as an operational budget.
- 3) The operational budget for 2005-2006 was sufficient for either hiring an administrative assistant or to sponsor FII expenses (trips, faculty exchange etc) but not both. The co-Directors opted for using the budget to promote FII projects.
- 4) Clerical support, on a part-time / overload basis was provided courtesy of the FAU International Programs office. The remaining clerical work (flyers for events, accounting, maintenance of scholarship students files) were done in part by the Directors themselves.
- 5) During the Spring 2006 and Summer 2006 part of the fiscal year, Dr. Rieger has had no release time for the FII administrative duties. He continued to teach a full-time load. Dr. Roth was able to buy-out 50% of his time, thus reducing his teaching and research responsibilities in half, and securing partial summer 2006 salary.
- 6) Obviously, the above arrangements could not possibly be repeated in subsequent years. Thanks to the 2007 Legislative appropriation to the FII, better release time arrangements for the Directors became possible, as well as the hiring of a full-time executive secretary.

- 7) The \$200,000 2006-2007 budget for the FII freed up the hosting institutes (FAU and BCC) to use their prior \$83,000 funding of the FII for other academic purposes.
- 8) Appendix A contains the detailed management of the 2005-2006 Budget, the budget request for 2006-2007 and the detailed budgeting of the \$200,000 2006-2007 budget.

#### **4. The Florida-Israel Institute Academic Advisory Board**

Refer to Appendix B for the board membership list. Minutes of the three AAB meetings (10/15/05, 3/31/06 and 6/26/06) are available electronically.

##### Achievements

- 1) Regular (once per semester) meetings for the Board have been established, alternating meeting locations between BCC and FAU.
- 2) AAB meetings were always well attended.
- 3) The AAB oversaw the FII 2005-2006 budget and was involved in chartering directions for the projects expenses (i.e. how much to spend on faculty travel to Israel, selection criteria, how much to budget for the lecture and film series etc).
- 4) The lack of State-mandated written guidelines for scholarship awards was noted and steps were taken to rectify the situation. See item 5 below.
- 5) The AAB created a FII Scholarships Committee. The committee met, developed detailed written guidelines, the document was subsequently presented to the board and got adopted. See section 5 (below) and Appendix C.
- 6) The AAB decided to follow up on its May 2005 meeting resolution of setting up an Israeli Film Series and fund the project. The monthly Israeli Film and Lecture series commenced in February 2006. See Section 7 (below) and Appendix E.
- 7) A notable resolution of the AAB was to create and budget a joint FAU-BCC Israel Studies Certificate Program. A planning committee was formed (consisting of Drs. Berger and Ruthenberg (FAU) and Drs. Godby and Appelbaum (BCC). The committee reports back to the AAB forum.
- 8) The AAB in its special 6/26/06 meeting was actively involved in budgeting the FII 2006-2007 Budget.

##### Future Challenges:

1) Adding a student member to the AAB, to represent the group of Israeli students that receive scholarships from the FII.

## **5. The Florida-Israel Institute Scholarship Program**

### Past Practices:

- 1) Non-uniform awards: Some Israeli students got more credits, other got less.
- 2) No published written criteria for the scholarships.
- 3) Even though all students must file affidavits of economic self-sufficiency (to receive F1 or J1 visa), some need-base considerations were used in previous years awards (based on personal acquaintance of the FII Executive Directors with many of the Israeli students recipients).
- 4) Scholarships intended for Summer semesters were used in Spring and Fall semesters, to accommodate as many Israeli students.
- 5) Scholarships used to be awarded for the entire academic year (Fall and Spring), conditioned on the students' maintaining a good GPA. That created severe logistic problems, as Spring semester award notifications to the various schools financial aid officers had to be made while not all grade reports were yet available.

### Achievements:

- 1) See Appendix C for the posted written guidelines prepared by the FII AAB. These are posted on the FII web page.
- 2) Scholarships are now awarded each semester separately, including the summer semesters.
- 3) All scholarships are uniform.
- 4) All applicants are ranked every semester. Freed up scholarship credits can now be awarded to ranked runner-ups.
- 5) The awards are merit-base, with strong emphasis put on academic achievements and community service. No need-base considerations are taken.

### Down Sides:

- 1) The total number of award recipients is now smaller, compared to past years, with each winner receiving a full-time scholarship. Many applicants left out from the winners list have complained of severe financial hardships.



2) The uniform selection process is considerably more impersonal, compared to previous years. It may hurt the “Home Away from Home” atmosphere that the previous FII Director has tried hard to create.

3) It is yet to be seen whether or not the quality of community service performed by the award winners improve or became degraded due to the new way of awarding the scholarships.

#### Future Challenges:

1) Add a student member to the AAB to serve as voice to the community of Israeli students competing for the award.

2) The selection process needs to be critically monitored, assessed and corrected to assure that it is fair.

3) The number of Israeli students studying in Florida has been steadily increasing. Winning the FII scholarships has become more and more competitive.

4) So far the FII scholarships have not been used as an active tool to promote research projects brokered by the FII. This has to change.

### **6. The Florida-Israel Institute Lecture Series**

1) The 2005-2006 FII Lecture Series (in terms of committed list of speakers, lecture topics and tentative dates) was all worked out during the Summer of 2005. What was left out of the planning were the venues for the lectures.

2) In the first work meeting between Drs. Roth and Rieger it was decided to honor the full planned series, subject to date modifications due to venue-availability constraints.

3) See Appendix D for the lectures and added research seminars list. Detailed flyers of each event, including presentations abstracts and speakers bio, are all available electronically.

4) If a “Lecture Series” is often called so if a brochure containing all the lecture dates, speakers, presentation titles and lecture venues can be fixed at the beginning of the year. With such a restrictive meaning the 2005-2006 FII lectures were not exactly a Series. Creating a true Lecture Series is a future challenge.

5) Most lectures were well attended. Noteworthy is the Jewish Demography lecture that was attended by more than 200 people.

## **7. The Florida-Israel Institute Israeli Film Series**

1) A key idea in creating the FII Israeli Film Series was to combine in each event a lecture prior to the film and a discussion after the film to cover in depth one or more aspects of the complex Israeli society.

2) The target audience is the American English-speaking South Florida community.

3) FII was fortunate to recruit top-notch Israeli Film experts (Dr. Miri Talmon and Prof. Nava Dushi) to plan every aspect of the Series operation.

4) Both program directors spend significant amount of their time in Israel. Their available schedule complement nicely and always allowed one or the other to be available to lecture.

5) See Appendix E for the list of films screened. All were very carefully selected with a blend of about 2:1 fiction films vs. documentaries. Flyers of each film are available electronically.

6) The series grand opening was on the weekend of 2/11/06, hosting the young Israeli Director Dan Katzir, featuring two of his documentary films. In addition Mr. Katzir has met with students of the FAU College of Business DeSantis Center for Motion Industry Studies.

7) The series became an instant success with the 169 seats hall filling up almost to capacity.

8) It was decided strategically to continue the series through the Summer months. It continued to be successful, showing how much demand is there for such cultural events all year long.

9) The FII Israeli Film Series has been viewed as an important academic building block towards the creation of a comprehensive Israel Studies program.

10) Running a Film Series can be expensive, as each film carries between \$200-800 royalty per screening (even if the set up is academic and no admission fee is charged). Clearly the FII budget can only provide for a Boca Raton based series limited to one film per month. Any expansions to more South Florida regions necessitate the finding of co-sponsors.

#### Future Challenges:

- 1) Need to find a larger auditorium suitable for film screening. None is available on the FAU grounds.
- 2) In the Series flyers there is a need to commit in advance to the lecture topics which accompany each film.
- 3) Most of the community people who attend the film series are still ignorant with regards to what the FII is and what else does it do – need to create newsletters to be distributed prior to each film.
- 4) Providing security to all FII public events is an extra expense necessity. The film series is now so visible that extra security precautions are to be exercised.
- 5) Move the series times from Saturday nights to Sunday afternoons. More generally – FII formal events can no longer be held on Sabbaths and Jewish religious holidays.

### **8. Florida-Israel Research Collaboration**

- 1) The October 2005 draft of an Earmark Grant Proposal created the first focused look at the issue of what research areas are to be pursued by the FII. Clearly some areas (such as Agriculture and Homeland Security) are equally important to both states.
- 2) Dr. Roth's first visit to Israel in January 2006 "shot in many directions" (in terms of Science and Technology Research areas). Many new starts emerged but without clear follow-up directions.
- 3) Dr. Roth's second visit to Israel in May 2006 focused on specific research directions (Port Security, Agriculture, Water Monitoring and Mathematics Education). This visit influenced 2006-2007 budget decisions shown at the last document of Appendix A.

#### Future Challenges:

- 1) Keep track of each research project by means of short summaries, updated frequently, outlining the key players, the objectives, the current status of research and the next short-term plans.
- 2) Create the mechanism by which some of the FII Board of Directors members become more involved in one or two of the project (each).

## **APPENDIX A: BUDGET DOCUMENTS**

### **The Florida-Israel Institute 2005-2006 Budget**

#### **Abstract**

The operating expenses budget of the Florida-Israel Institute (FII) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year is \$24,715, and not \$35,656 as was mistakenly announced in the FII Academic Advisory Board meeting on 10/14/05. The FII Foundation accounts balance at the beginning of 2005-2006 was \$8,527.40 (and not \$16,000 as reported in the board meeting). Both accounting errors were created by wrong interpretation of available data in the accounts ledgers. This document provides the budget history, budgeting rationale as was worked out at the advisory board meeting, budget ramifications necessitated by the above discrepancies and the balances as of 3/30/06.

#### **The Original 2005-2006 FII Budget**

In recent years FII has been jointly and equally funded by FAU and BCC. The FII funding for the 2005-2006 FY by FAU was \$41,890 and by BCC \$41,891 creating a total budget for the 2005-2006 FY of \$83,781.

Budget plan submitted by Nancy Rosen (former FII co-Director) consisted of three budget categories:

Salaries and Benefits	\$59,048
OPS	\$7,000
EXP	\$17,733

#### **The FII Accounts and their Available Initial Balances**

FII has two GTAIDS accounts:

D03100: This is the main operating FII account and the main focus of this document. As of 10/17/05 the account showed a negative Salaries and Benefits balance of -\$2,035.50, an OPS balance of \$7,000 and an EXP balance of \$13,828.69, creating in total an operating expenses balance of \$18,793.19. On 10/19/05 John Idiculla (Assistant VP for Administrative Affairs, FAU Davie Campus) initiated an error correction (related to Nancy Rosen's 3.6% salary raise) that resulted in a transfer of \$1,958 into the Salaries and Benefits, thus reducing the negative balance to -\$77, and raising the overall operating expenses balance to \$20,751. On 11/18/05 another adjustment reduced the negative

salary balance to -\$5, raising the available expense balance to \$20,823 (not counting FII Phones encumbrance for the year).

D03101: This account was exclusively created to accommodate the transfer of BCC FII funding into D03100. As of 10/17/05 the account showed a negative balance of -\$20,945 indicating that BCC is yet to transfer the second half of its 2005-2006 funding. Requisition has been sent to BCC. Process is on-going.

BWD100: This is the Institute's main Foundation account. Its available balance (as of 3/9/06) was \$4,286.28.

BR1031: This is an Auxiliary Account that had been created a year ago (to facilitate tickets sales for the 2005-2006 Lecture Series) by a transfer of \$4000 from the BWD100 account. This is the present balance in the account. The account, like a regular Foundation account carries over its balance from one year to the next. However, every withdrawal from this account is subject to about 10% overhead charge. Therefore the actual available cash in this account is only \$3587.

#### **Transactions Related to the Change of FAU co-Directors**

The designated D03100 Salary budget of \$59,048 has been frozen to provide for Nancy Rosen's salary and benefits for the remainder of the 2005-2006 FY. This part of the account cannot be accessed by the Florida-Israel Institute accounts signatories. The Salaries and Benefits portion of the account will be freed up again for the 2006-2007 FY. Change of leadership occurred on 9/9/05. Nancy Rosen's salary and benefits during the period of 7/1/05-9/9/05 was \$11,043.

An amount of \$45,000 has been budget-transferred by FAU to the Electrical Engineering Department for Dr. Roth's 50% Release Time during the 2005-2006 academic year. This amount includes a committed Dr. Roth's Summer 2006 salary of \$15,000, and an amount of \$5,127 for Dr. Roth's annual Administrative Salary Increment.

So how much of the \$83,781 FII 2005-2006 Budget did the FII actually receive? Summing \$11,043 (Rosen's salary in the first two months) + \$45,000 (Roth's release time) + \$24,733 (actual D03100 account EXP and OPS budgets at the beginning of the FY) yields \$80,776, about \$3,005 short of the initial budget. This shortfall is entirely due to this year's change of Institute leadership.

**FII 2005-2006 Budget as Presented to and Approved by the FII Academic Advisory Board in its 10/14/05 Meeting – Budget Explanation**

The 10/14/05 presented and agreed upon budget was based on an erroneous figure (\$35,656) of the available expense budget. Indeed the confusing Banner system can fool even the most experienced fiscal coordinators. Budget plan involved leaving \$2000 as OPS and transferring \$5000 from OPS to EXP.

The following is a summary of the original budget intents:

Prior Commitments: \$3,500 to the FII 2005-2006 Lecture Series (involving Harel Stanton (Israel), Dr. Nathan Katz (FIU), Dr. Sergio Dela-Peragola (Hebrew University), Dr. Ira Sheskin (UM) and Dr. Yitzchak Ben-Gad, and \$1,000 co-sponsoring of the Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence Symposium.

FII Basic Needs: \$2,000 for hiring a secretary for the Davie Campus FII Office (at 5 hours/week), \$1,000 for Copying and Office Supplies, \$1,500 for Web, Computers and other hardware needs and \$1,000 for Directors' in-Florida TARs. The sub-total for Basic Needs is \$5,500.

The sub-total of Prior Commitments and Basic Needs is \$10,000, leaving \$25,656 of remaining expense budget. This is budgeted as follows:

Israeli Film Series: \$5,000 (based on \$350-500/movie distributor's fee and \$150/event of moderator's fee). This amount presents a full-sponsorship of this monthly series.

FII Directors Business Trips to Israel: \$5,000 (based on three trips at \$1,500-2,000 per trip).

Co-Sponsoring of FL Faculty FII Business Trips to Israel: \$5,000 (based on providing \$500-1,000 per one faculty trip).

Co-Sponsoring of Visiting Israeli Faculty: \$9,000 (based on providing honorarium of \$1,000-1,500 per visit).

Co-Sponsoring of Other Events: \$1,656 (with the intent of co-sponsoring up to \$500 per conference or other FII-related events).

The above is the budget intent as approved in the 10/14/05 meeting of the FII Academic Advisory Board.

**FII 2005-2006 Budget Ramifications** (as worked out by the two FII Directors on 11/21/06):

The actual total expense budget of \$20,823 presents a \$14,833 deficit (with respect to the original budget plan). The following budget plan attempts to preserve the original budget intents, at appropriately reduced levels of funding.

Prior Commitments: \$4,500 (as before)

Basic Needs: \$5,500 (as before).

Israeli Film Series: Reduce from \$5,000 to \$2,500.

FII Directors Business trips to Israel and FII-related Conferences: Reduce from \$5,000 to \$4,500 (covering two trips to Israel for Dr. Roth, Dr. Rieger's trip to the Israel Studies conference and Dr. Rieger's NY-FL trip coming to the 11/10 FII board meeting).

Co-Sponsoring of FL Faculty FII Business trips to Israel: Reduce from \$5,000 to \$1,500 (reducing the rate of \$500-1,000 participation per faculty to \$500/faculty).

Co-Sponsoring of Visiting Israeli Faculty: Reduce from \$9,000 to \$2,500 (reducing the rate of participation from \$1,000-1,500 per visitor to \$500-1,000 per visitor).

Co-Sponsoring of Other Events: Reduce from \$1,656 to \$1,000.

All the above add up to \$22,000.

The remaining deficit of \$1,168 will be covered from the BR1031 auxiliary account, as needed. This Foundation-type account will also be used to cover FII subscriptions and membership fees, as necessary.

#### **Expenditures July 2005 – March 2006 and Balances as of 3/30/06**

- 1) Lecture Series total expenditures to date: \$2,154. [No further expenditures expected.]
- 2) Israeli Film total expenditures and encumbrances for the year: \$5078.85. [This is almost double of the budgeted amount. Reasons: Hosting an Israeli Director in the opening weekend and larger amounts of film copyright fees].
- 3) Office Supplies and other Expenses to date: \$700.91. [Additional \$300 of copying expenses, all related to the Film Series, are expected by 6/30/06].
- 4) Equipment to date: \$349.99. [No further expenditures are expected].
- 5) Clerical and Administrative Support to date: \$650. [Another \$1,000 are expected by 6/30/06].
- 6) Visiting Faculty from Israel to date: \$2446.19 (which included the pre-committed \$1,000 FII support of the Mathematics and AI Conference).

- 7) FII Directors' Trips to date: \$3,457.40 (which included Florida blanket TAR for \$600, Dr. Roth's January trip to Israel for \$1,582.20, Ms. Rosen's trip in Summer 2005 for \$674.57 and Dr. Rieger's NY-FL trip related to the Board of Directors pre-meeting in November - \$600.63). [Encumbered for trips April – June 2006: \$2,350: \$1,500 for Dr. Roth's trip to Israel in May 2006, and \$850 for Dr. Rieger's participation in the Israel Studies Conference].
- 8) Florida Faculty Trips to date: \$0. [Only one request has been received (from Dr. Miri Talmon) for co-sponsorship of participation in the Israel Studies Conference to present a paper related to the FII Israeli Film Series: \$650 were encumbered].
- 9) Co-sponsorship of Events to date: \$1,000 (Mathematics conference 3/29-31/06).
- 10) Phone expenses to date and encumbrances for the year: \$2769.93 (which includes the FII cell phone service - \$540, and web page service - \$143.40).

The overall **unencumbered budget balance**, as of 3/30/06 stands at **\$2,107**.

Some of this balance may be used to obtain additional secretarial/clerical support prior to the processing of the 2006-2007 Scholarship Applications in June 2006. Some can still be used to co-sponsor faculty trips. Some is kept to support Israeli faculty visits that may come on a short notice.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

The above budget plan and actual expenditures should serve as a guideline for the 2006-2007 budgeting process: 1) FII definitely needs a full-time administrative assistant. 2) The Israeli Film Series budget should be enlarged, or co-sponsors from the private sectors are to be sought, 3) There should be active FII Call for Proposals for faculty trips to Israel and/or to promote the FII mission.

## **Florida-Israel Institute Budget Appropriation Request FY 2006-2007**

**Drs. Zvi Roth** (FAU Interim co-Director) and **Daniel Rieger** (BCC co-Director)

### **Mission of the Florida-Israel Institute**

The Florida-Israel Institute (FII) was created by the State of Florida legislature. It is a unique public organization, administered jointly by Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and Broward Community College (BCC). Its sole purpose is to promote direct Florida-Israel mandated academic, commerce, education and cultural connections. FII promotes cooperative research and education through sponsorship of student and faculty exchange,



and development of bilateral trade through organizing symposia and business forums in both states and in cooperation with Enterprise Florida.

**Requested FII Budget Appropriation for FY 2006-2007 totaling \$200,000:**

50% Directors Release Time + Administrative Assistant + Expenses	\$80,000
Florida-Israel faculty exchange and sponsorship of high-level delegations to promote homeland security, aerospace/aviation, agriculture and other technology cooperation	\$50,000
Florida-Israel Conferences, Symposia and trade Forum sponsorship	\$30,000
Scholarships to subsidize Florida students to study in Israel	\$20,000
FII Lecture Series + Israeli Film Series + Concert Series	\$20,000

**Proposed FII Programs:**

FII shall coordinate programs that enhance the Florida economy and security of both states, stemming from collaborative effort aimed at Israel's world class academic institutes, their outstanding faculty and the highly innovative Israeli hi-tech industry, agriculture, water management, defense, transportation and other key economic sectors:

A) The **Florida-Israel Risk Assessment, Infrastructure Safety and Preparedness Program** shall study and assess potential infrastructure safety risks and develop response protocols to effectively cope and mitigate specific nature and man-made disasters, in collaboration with the ICLAD and CITSS centers.

B) The **Florida-Israel Commerce Connection Program** shall coordinate steps with the Israel Consulate Economic/Commerce division, Enterprise Florida and the Israel Venture Capital Association to organize conferences to promote joint business ventures.

C) The **Florida-Israel Visiting Scholars Program** shall sponsor scholar exchanges for extended sabbatical periods ranging from a month to a year, to promote joint research in specific academic fields deemed vital to the economy of both states (such as Robotics and Automation in Biotechnology, Beach Erosion, Water Resource Management, Urban Planning and Development, and Healthcare Technology), not excluding other critical Arts and Humanities areas of research.

D) The **Florida-Israel Innovative Science, Math and Engineering Education Program** shall bring together educators and organize education seminars in Florida and Israel in areas of special importance, such as elementary school math education and innovative technology solutions to science learning facilitation.

FII shall continue to administer the Tuition Waivers program (at the level of 25 FTE) to Israeli students who study at the Florida public higher education system.

**Florida-Israel Institute FY 2006-2007 Budget**

**Drs. Zvi Roth** (FAU Interim co-Director) and **Daniel Rieger** (BCC co-Director)

*Approved by the FII Academic Advisory Board in its 6/22/06 special meeting*

**2006-2007 Budget Plan Draft (totaling \$200,000)**

**Salaries (assuming 3% annual raises) (\$94,241)**

25% Release time Dr. Roth	\$24,463
50% Summer salary Dr. Roth	\$16,308
2 release times and 3 supplements Dr. Rieger	\$10,970
Full-time Executive Secretary (salary and benefits)	\$40,000
Accounting 5 hours/week for 6 months	<u>\$2,500</u>
Salaries sub-total:	\$94,241

**Directors and Office Expenses (\$15,159)**

Phone	\$2,000
Cell phone	\$1,000
Directors' FL Travel (blanket TAR)	\$500
Directors' Israel Travel (one trip each – FAU-BCC Israel Studies Certificate program)	\$5,000
Annual State meeting of linkage institutes	\$500
Office space rental (FAU Boca campus)	\$4,000
Moving of office contents from Davie campus	\$500
Supplies, Copying, Office equipment	<u>\$1,659</u>
Expenses sub-total:	\$15,159

**FII Projects involving Faculty Exchange, Symposia and Delegations (\$55,000)****1. Ports Security**

Dr. Benjamin Arazi (BGU) 2 visits of 2 weeks each	\$5,000
Two day workshop (FL + Caribbean port authorities + Israeli hi-tech)	\$2,500

**2. Hospitals Emergency Readiness**

One day workshop (Jackson Memorial – Prof. M. Lynn)	\$1,000
FL delegation (participate in large-scale exercises in Israel)	\$9,000

**3. Water Supply Infrastructure**

Dr. Abraham Katzir (TAU) 1 week visit	\$3,500
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**4. Elementary Math Education**

Dr. Ron Aharoni (Technion) 1 week visit of FL school boards	\$3,500
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**5. Agriculture**

FL→Israel and Israel→FL delegations (TBA)	\$10,000
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**6. Biotechnology**

Workshop – TBA	\$5,000
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**7. Electrical Power Infrastructure**

IEC delegation to FL (Readiness, Wind Energy)	\$1,500
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**8. Engineering Education**

Dr. Igor Verner (Technion) 1 week visit	\$1,500
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**9. AI Research**

FAU-Haifa University (Caesarea-Rothschild Institute) continued Collaboration based on partnership agreement in place	\$1,500
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**More Faculty Exchange – TBA (\$1,500/trip)** \$6,000

**Support of other FL Conferences (\$1,000/conference)** \$5,000

Mathematics and AI Conference - \$1,000

Projects, Conferences and Faculty Exchange sub-total: \$55,000

**BCC-FAU Israel Studies Certificate Program:**

**FII Monthly Lecture and Concert Series (\$15,000)**

Honoraria (9 speakers, \$500 each)	\$4,500
Transatlantic Travel Expenses (3 Israeli speakers, \$1,500/each)	\$4,500
US Travel, Lodging and Meals (6 speakers, \$1,000/each)	<u>\$6,000</u>
Lecture Series sub-total:	\$15,000

**FII Monthly Israeli Film/Lecture Series (\$10,600)**

Screening Fees (\$500/film on the average, for 12 films)	\$6,000
Film purchase cost (\$50/film on the average, for 12 films)	\$600
Speakers Honoraria (\$150/lecture+discussion, \$100 pre-event prep)	\$3,000
Technician fee (\$50/event)	\$600
Misc. expenses	<u>\$400</u>
Film Series sub-total:	\$10,600

**Subsidizing FL Students Trips to Israel** \$7,000

**Co-sponsorship of New Courses Development** \$3,000

**Grand Total: \$200,000**

**APPENDIX B: ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD DOCUMENTS**

**FLORIDA-ISRAEL INSTITUTE  
ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD**

**President: Fred Hoffman, Ph.D.**

**October 27, 2006**

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Mobile: 305.343.5095  
Office: Miami Children's Hospital

## **APPENDIX C: SCHOLARSHIP DOCUMENTS**

### **Florida-Israel Institute**

#### **Tuition Exemption Scholarships**

#### **Definitions, Rules and Guidelines**

*The following set of new rules and guidelines regarding selection criteria for the scholarships awarded by the Florida-Israel Institute (FII) became effective on March 31 2006 (after being approved by the FII Academic Advisory Board). It shall be applied to scholarships awarded from the Fall 2006 semester and on.*

#### **Definitions and General Explanations**

- 1) The Florida-Israel Institute is allowed by-law to provide up to 25 full-time yearly out-of-state tuition exemption scholarships to Israeli citizens who study in one of the Florida public higher-education institutes.

- 2) These students are considered as “out of state” for tuition purposes.
- 3) Each scholarship award is implemented as a fax message from a FII director to a respective financial-aid officer in a student’s Florida school prior to the start of each semester, instructing the officer how many credits shall be computed at the “in state” rate.
- 4) Example: Let’s assume that a student receives 9 scholarship credits from the FII, and let’s assume that that student is enrolled to 12 credits. Then tuition for 9 credits is therefore paid at the “in-state” rate. For the remaining 3 credits, tuition is paid at the “out-of-state” rate.
- 5) “Full-time Yearly Credits” is interpreted (as is done by most financial-aid offices in the US) as  $12 + 12 + 9 = 33$  undergraduate (UG) credits, or as  $9 + 9 + 6 = 24$  graduate (G) credits (to be taken in the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters, respectively).
- 6) The FII scholarships are “merit-based” and not “need-based”. Students compete for the awards regardless of their financial situation.
- 7) Officially there is no room for any need-base considerations. Students on F-1 (or J-1) visas are expected to have demonstrated to their school’s International Students Office a financial self-sufficiency.
- 8) Foreign students are required to be enrolled on a “full-time” basis. During Fall and Spring semesters, undergraduate students are expected to be enrolled to at least 12 credits, whereas graduate students should enroll to at least 9 credits. Summer semester enrollment is optional. “Full time” during a summer semester is defined as 9 credits at the undergraduate level and 6 credits at the graduate level.
- 9) Necessary conditions to qualify for the FII awards are: a) Maintaining full-time status during Falls and Springs, b) Maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, c) Performing of community service activities in organizations whose mission is related to the mission of the FII, or for the Florida-Israel Institute itself, d) Letters of reference (from instructors familiar with the student’s academic performance), e) Submitting of an essay. [For more information please keep reading this document]. “Necessary” means that if any of the above items is missing, the



student shall not be qualified for the award. Meeting of all the above conditions does not assure award winning as these are given on a competitive basis.

10) So far FII has played a passive role, in the sense of passively awaiting for students' applications prior to awarding the scholarships. In the future some of the scholarships may be used as an active recruiting tool to bring to Florida Israeli students who will be expected to work in projects important to the mission of the FII.

#### **Award Rules and Operating Procedures**

- 1) All awards shall be uniform: 12 UG credits per semester (in Fall and/or Spring semesters), 9 UG credits per semester (in Summer), 9 G credits (in Fall or Spring), 6 G credits (in Summer).
- 2) Each semester, up to 15 full-time awards may be awarded to students who have studied in the Florida higher-education system for at least two semesters.
- 3) Each Fall and Spring semesters, up to 5 full-time awards may be awarded to new students who have studied in the Florida higher-education system for less than two semesters.
- 4) Each semester, up to 5 full-time Awards may be awarded to students working as Research Assistants in projects related to the mission of the FII. Unused Research awards shall be applied to provide more scholarships to existing students (beyond the 15 awards mentioned in (2) above).
- 5) Unused awards to existing students may be applied to provide more scholarships to new students (beyond the 5 awards mentioned in (3) above).
- 6) Summer exemption credits shall be awarded for Summer semesters only. These credits may not be transferred to earlier semesters.
- 7) Research awards (see (4) above) may be committed for up to one academic year. Extension for more years is conditioned on the student's academic and research performance.
- 8) Regular awards (to either existing or new students) shall be given on a semester-by-semester basis. Students should apply for the awards every semester.
- 9) Awards in semester N shall depend on the student's cumulative GPA in semester N-2. [Specifically: Fall semester awards depend on the prior student's end of

Spring semester cumulative grade point average; Spring semester awards depend on prior end of Summer semester GPA; Summer semester awards depend on prior end of fall semester awards].

- 10) Official transcripts for semester N shall be mailed by the students (or by the respective school's Registrar's Office) no later than one month from the beginning of the new semester N+1. [Example: Fall semester updated transcripts must be mailed no later than one month into the next Spring semester].
- 11) All applications from existing students shall be scored numerically (using a spreadsheet) based on a weighted sum of multiple criteria where the weighting factors attempt to best reflect the mission associated with such scholarships. See the next paragraph for the details of the specific computation.
- 12) Criteria and weights for the quantitative merit figure of existing students:

	Normalization Factor	Weight
Cumulative Florida GPA	4.0	10
Quality of Community Service	10.0	8
Letters of reference (2 instructors)	10.0	3
Essay	10.0	3

Explanation: 1) Community service, essay and letters of reference will be assessed on a scale of 1-10 by either one of the FII directors or the tuition committee members, 2) Letters of reference and the essay shall stay valid for one year. 3) Merit for each student M will be spreadsheet computed using the following proposed weighted sum. M may range from 100 (excellent) to 0 (poor).

$$M = 100 \cdot \frac{\frac{GPA}{4} \cdot 10 + \frac{CAS}{10} \cdot 8 + \frac{Ref}{10} \cdot 3 + \frac{Ess}{10} \cdot 3}{10 + 8 + 3 + 3}$$

4) Students who score at the top 15 scores (of all qualified existing student candidates) win the FII award for that semester. 5) Notification of awards shall be done at least one month prior to the beginning of the semester for

which the award is applicable. 6) Leftover research and new-students awards shall be awarded to 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> etc place scorers.

[Examples: a) Ron has a GPA of 3.5, has done very little community service (his community service portfolio was scored as 2 on a scale of 10), and has excellent references (10) and wrote an excellent essay (10). His score is 68.125. b) Sharon’s cumulative GPA fell to 2.8, she did excellent community service and has excellent references and essay. Score does not matter, because GPA is below 3.0. Sharon does not qualify for the award.]

13) Criteria and weights for the quantitative merit figure of new students:

	Normalization Factor	Weight
Israeli Grades	10.0	10
Letters of Reference (2 instructors)	10.0	7
Essay (in English)	10.0	5

Explanation: 1) Grades, essay and letters of reference will be assessed on a scale of 1-10 by either one of the FII directors or the tuition committee members, 2) Letters of reference and essay will stay valid for one year. 3) Both original Hebrew language transcripts and their English translations must be submitted, 4) Merit for each student M will be spreadsheet computed using the following proposed weighted sum:

$$M = 100 \cdot \frac{\frac{ISGPA}{10} \cdot 10 + \frac{Ess}{10} \cdot 5 + \frac{Ref}{10} \cdot 7}{10 + 5 + 7}$$

5) The top five score winners shall receive awards.

14) If the FII develops joint Florida-Israel research projects or special student-exchange campaigns, that require active recruitment of Israeli students, a certain amount of scholarships will be kept aside for such endeavors (as approved by the FII academic advisory board, on a year-by-year basis). Presently that number is set at 5.

15) It is the student’s responsibility to document well and to communicate to the FII awards committee his/her community service activities. Assessed portfolios may

- contain photographs, letters of recommendation from supervisors or the organization for which the service was performed, printed material, web information and so on. [Examples to good community service: Help in maintenance of the FII web page, help in FII special events and speaking engagements, leadership in a local Hillel chapter, etc].
- 16) New student's essay should be a free-style 600 word (or more) of a self-introduction: Tell about yourself and your family, your prior studies, army service, why you want to study in the US, and specifically in Florida, what do you want to study and why, your near and long term plans, etc. Essay should be typed in English. English should be reasonably good – there will be no score deductions due to specific grammar errors, however an overall poorly written document shall definitely be noticed.
  - 17) Existing students' essays should also contain (in addition to what is included in (16) ) an accounting of the previous academic year.
  - 18) New students' letters of reference from teachers in Israel may be Hebrew written. Student may opt to submit letters from former bosses, army superiors etc, if relevant.
  - 19) From time to time FII may opt to conduct interviews (or phone interviews) of the semi-finalist candidates prior to awards decision.
  - 20)

## **APPENDIX D: LECTURE SERIES LIST**

11/8/05 lecture: **“The 1000 Faces of Israel” A Multimedia Presentation of Daily Life in Israel** by **Harel Stanton**

2/6/06 lecture: **The Future of the Jewish People: What Will Jewish Demographics Look Like in 100 Years?** By **Dr. Sergio DellaPergola** (*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*) and **Dr. Ira M. Sheskin** (*University of Miami*)

12/16/05 seminar **The Effect of Integrating Applications in a Calculus Course at the Technion** By **Dr. Igor Verner** (Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Department of Education of Technology and Science )

4/5/06 lecture: **The Fall and Rise of India-Israeli Relations** by **Dr. Nathan Katz** (Professor, Department of Religious Studies and President of the Society for Indo-Judaic Studies at Florida International University )

2/22/06 seminar: **Self-Referenced Public Key Cryptography** by **Dr. Benjamin Arazi** (Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel)

## **APPENDIX E: ISRAELI FILM SERIES LIST & ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

### *ISRAEL: CINEMATIC VISIONS 2006*

It is said that "film is a mirror that society holds to itself". The Israeli film and television industry has engaged in a serious and deep discussion of the many burning issues that stand at the core of Israel's past and present. The opportunity to view, explore, and become affected by these films is a privilege that few in the American community have had the chance to experience. *Israel: Cinematic Visions* is pleased to bringing the discussion of those same issues to our vibrant South Florida Community. The program is not politically affiliated and its principal concern is to introduce and share the essence of the multifaceted Israeli experience.

*ISRAEL: CINEMATIC VISIONS* follows the Israeli/Jewish calendar (holidays and memorial days), and addresses current affairs such as the upcoming elections. **All films are in Hebrew with English subtitles**

**Academic Advisor: Dr. Miri Talmon** was born and educated in Israel. She is a scholar of Israeli culture, cinema, media and literature who has lectured at Israeli universities including the Open University of Israel, Tel-Aviv University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Haifa University. In the spring of 2006 she is teaching a course on Israeli Cinema and Culture as visiting Professor at Wesleyan University, Department of Religion. Dr. Talmon earned her Ph.D from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1998, with a dissertation on Israeli culture and collective memory as articulated in Israeli Cinema between 1930-1990. She has appeared as a guest speaker on Israeli television, radio, and in the press, and was the editor of a television series on Israeli cinema, literature and society for the Open University of Israel and for Haifa University Broadcasts. She is the author of ***Israeli Graffiti: Nostalgia, Groups and Collective Identity in Israeli Cinema***. The book was published in Hebrew by Haifa University Press and the Open University of Israel Press, in 2001.



**Curator: Nava Dushi** was born and raised in Israel. She earned her BFA in film and television from Tel Aviv University and her MA in communication from Florida Atlantic University. She is currently working on her Ph.D at Tel Aviv University, focusing her dissertation research on the reception of contemporary Israeli films by foreign viewers. She is the coordinator of the film studies program at Lynn University, where she teaches a variety of film history, theory and production related courses.

***OUT FOR LOVE... BE BACK SHORTLY***  
(Israel, 1997, 55 min) on Saturday 2/11/06, and

***COMPANY JASMINE***  
(Israel, 2001, 55 min) on Sunday 2/12/06.

**Saturday, March 11, 2006** "HOW I LEARNED TO OVERCOME MY FEAR AND LOVE ARIK SHARON" , by **Avi Mograbi** (1997, 61 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles)

**Saturday, April 8, 2006 LEYLASEDE / PASSOVER FEVER**  
(Israel, 1995, Drama, 100 min) Written and Directed by Shemi Zarhin  
Winner of the 1995 Montreal World Film Festival for Best Screenplay

**Saturday, May 6, 2006 BUCHACHI** (Israel, 2001 Director: Nati Adler).

**Saturday, June 10, 2006 Turn Left at the End of the World\*** ( Avi Neshet, [2004](#)) (108 minutes; French, English, Hebrew and Moroccan Arabic with English subtitles)