



Elul 26, 5784
September 29, 2024

Dear Students,

Undoubtedly, this past year was one of the most difficult in our nation's history—a year of war, loss, and unexpected challenges. Many of you were at the front lines of battle, and many of you are coping with the loss of loved ones and friends. Still others spent long weeks and months in worry, all while bravely maintaining a routine amidst the uncertainty.

As a university, our primary mission this year was to support all of you. In the first weeks after the attack, we reached out to all of you who had been evacuated from your homes, as well as to all of you called up for reserve duty. Together with our faculty, we worked to ensure your stability and success, through special scholarships, changes to the academic calendar, and educational and psychological support. Our commitment to training you, our future generation, only deepened, and we determined that no one be left behind.

As we approach the new year—a time of renewal and new beginnings—we are excited to welcome four new vice presidents. Prof. Yaron Shav-Tal will lead our research efforts; Prof. Zeev Zalevsky will establish a new office for industry relations; Prof. Rivka Tuval Mashiach will oversee our activities in the areas of internationalism and the university's third mission—fields that have become more critical in the wake of October 7th; and Mr. Roni Vinnikov will direct our work in resource development.;

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Prof. Moshe Lewenstein, outgoing deputy president, and Prof. Shulamit Michaeli, outgoing vice president for research, at the conclusion of their remarkable tenures. Both of them worked with me shoulder to shoulder to advance Bar-Ilan in the fields with which they were entrusted. Fortunately, both of them will also continue to contribute to Bar-Ilan in new and meaningful ways.

From every crisis comes opportunity, and with every destruction the chance to rebuild and build anew. True, we are still fighting, and our brothers and sisters are still in captivity. Many of our fellow citizens are still displaced, and too many of our injured soldiers are still not home with their families. Nonetheless, I urge all of you to look toward the new year with optimism. After all, you are the generation on which our hope for the future rests. And when I look at all of you, I am filled with confidence that our state and society will emerge better than ever.

With warmest wishes for the new year,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Zaban".
Prof. Arie Zaban
President