

# Extra-Academic Studies



Works by students of *Hasifa*, School of Communications, Television and Multimedia

## Continuing Studies (*Ma'aleh*)

The Continuing Studies Center includes *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *Tafnit*, *Tafnitech*, *Diploma*, *Dialog* and *Meirav*. In 2008-2009, the number of courses awarding credits towards an OUI academic degree was increased. 17,939 students from the private sector participated in courses. Extensive activities continued in the periphery, and cooperation with the ultra-orthodox community has become closer. The Continuing Studies internet sites have been updated and improved to increase their visibility on Google's search engine. Integration of management and operation systems has continued, in order to improve budgetary control.

### ***Ascolot* – School of Interdisciplinary Studies**

13,050 students studied at *Ascolot* during 2008-2009. Registration for core courses increased and in some courses, hundreds of students attended each lecture. This year, cooperation between the School and cultural bodies throughout the country was extended. Existing cooperation includes: Haifa Cinematheque, Tel-Aviv Cinematheque, the Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jerusalem Theatre, *Cinema Lev* and the Holon Mediatheque.

**Beit Ayala:** The Beit Ayala branch of *Ascolot* is located at the home of philanthropist Ayala Zacks-Abramov. The building retains its residential nature, and classrooms are located in the family's guest and living quarters, creating an intimate and relaxed atmosphere. Beit Ayala offers about 35 morning courses. Taught by leading lecturers and scholars, they cover a wide range of disciplines: music, cinema, philosophy, science and others.

### ***Hasifa* – School of Communications, Television and Multimedia**

*Hasifa* offers varied study tracks, some of which award credits toward Bachelor's degrees. *Hasifa* is part of the Center for Media Studies, established this year at the OUI. Two exhibitions of students' works were held this year. "Vote for Me – February 2009" was held close to the *Knesset* elections. Students of the visual communications program presented a series of posters and masks in a mock election campaign. At the end of the academic year, the traditional "Digital Happening 2009" was held, in which dozens of graduates displayed their works in the fields of design, animation, documentary and feature films, and more.



### **Tafnit – School for Managers**

*Tafnit* continued to expand its activities and accessibility this year. New subject matter was introduced and courses were updated with a view to market trends and developments in the field of professional management. This year, the school continued to run large-scale projects intended to expose participants to diverse study opportunities at the OUI.

**Workshops for released soldiers:** *Hasifa* won the tender for holding workshops for soldiers upon their release from the army, to train them in skills needed for the employment market and for higher education.

**Workshops for new immigrants and for lone soldiers:** "Preparation for civilian life" workshops are offered to lone soldiers and to new immigrants upon their release from the army, to ease their transition into civilian life. The workshops offer vital information about academia and the employment market, and encourage soldiers to choose the academic track as an important tool for integration into the job market. In 2009, as in previous years, over 1500 soldiers took part in these workshops, held in collaboration with the Jewish Agency, the IDF, the Gross Foundation and the Queen Esther Fund.

### **Tafnitech – School of Computers**

*Tafnitech* views the employee as central to the performance of any organization. *Tafnitech* training enables individuals, even those with no prior background in computers, to enter the world of technology, and provides a simple means to remain up-to-date for those who wish to keep up with new and future technologies. Financed by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, career-change training courses were held for unemployed high-tech personnel with academic degrees, with a view to meet the demand for employees in the computer programming and communication markets. *Tafnitech* linked the College for the Ultra-Orthodox, JDC-Israel and The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor for a unique project qualifying members of the ultra-orthodox community in computer programming in order to integrate them into industry.

### **Diploma – Certificate Studies**

*Diploma* offers study tracks for professional training and for preparing students for licensing examinations in a variety of areas: tourism, finance, graphic design and real estate. *Diploma* continued with a wide range of activities for the ultra-orthodox at Beit Rivka in Kfar Habad and in the City of Bnei Brak through the city's Social Services Department.

## **Dialog – School of Languages**

*Dialog* offers a variety of courses to the general public and to business organizations. This year, the number of instruction hours for Russian and German courses increased considerably, along with the steady increase in the number of instruction hours in English. *Dialog* Students include soldiers who have completed their service with distinction, and whose studies are financed by IDF vouchers. The School won tenders from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office, to teach family members of overseas delegates. Before departing, they receive training in the language and culture of the target country, and their children are acquainted with the study method practiced in American Schools throughout the world.

## **Meirav – School of Complementary Medicine**

*Meirav*, in collaboration with "Maccabi Natural" of Maccabi Health Services, continued to expand its activities this year in the ultra-orthodox sector and offered study tracks which include credit awarding courses. This year too, second year students in all therapist training programs participated in volunteer activities: treating children from various non-profit organizations, schools and institutions, including *Elem* for at-risk youth, *Akim* (the National Association for the Advancement of the Mentally Handicapped in Israel) and *Kfar Ofarim* (an institution for autistic children). Students also treated ultra-orthodox women, mothers of children with special needs (in collaboration with Bnei Brak Municipality), and children with learning disabilities at Kfar Hayarok and at a junior high school in Ramat Hasharon and more.

## **School of Technology**

### **Course development and updating**

A practice study guide was developed for the course "Analog Electronics" of the Electronics Technical Engineering track and activities were performed with the simulation and circuit analysis software PSPICE.

**Development of study material for the tender for projects of the Amos De-Shalit Science Teaching Center:** The School of Technology (with the Center for Educational Technology) won the Ministry of Education's tender for developing study and teaching material for five projects. Textbooks, a trial edition of books and lab books are due to be developed by 2010, as well as teachers' manuals for several high school subjects including study material for internet-oriented programming in Hebrew and in Arabic.

### **Continuation of Training Israel Electricity Company Employees as Electrical Engineering Technicians**

The first group completed their studies this year and a third group of 25 participants was opened.

## **Graduates and Certification Recipients**

<b>Program</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
Technician / Practical engineer	41	46	57
Students from other colleges who completed their studies at the School of Technology	21	22	18
Technology teachers and graduates of vocational training programs	199	214	326
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>401</b>

## Enrollment Data

Program	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Technician/Practical Engineer program (including the combined program)	1,179	1,348	1,456
Professional Training and Continuing Education program	235	214	326
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>1,782</b>

## The In-Service Teacher Training Unit

Through its activities, the In-Service Teacher Training Unit realizes one of the main goals of the Open University – to enable the teaching community in Israel to enhance its educational and professional level. The Unit works with the teachers and offers diverse training programs and projects for the Ministry of Education. The OUI senior academic teaching staff participate in designing and teaching these training programs. This year, activities included five comparative survey-studies dealing with professional literature, conducted by the OUI staff in cooperation with researchers from other universities. These studies were requested by the Study Programs Branch of the Ministry of Education to serve as an updated source of reference information for teams developing study programs and for policy makers.

### Studies toward a Teaching Certificate and Specialization in Teaching

The Unit takes part in training teachers, from various academic disciplines, towards certification in teaching and acts as professional liaison between Academia and the Ministry of Education with regard to awarding teaching certificates and licenses and recruiting University graduates into the formal education system. Through grants, the Ministry of Education encourages students to qualify as teachers of civics, by obtaining graduate and postgraduate degrees in interdisciplinary democratic studies. 20 students from the civics teachers' training track, together with 22 students from the Talmudic law program, already received grants.

Since the graduates of the teacher training program are required by the Ministry of Education to specialize in their academic field, the In-Service Teacher Training Unit accompanies every program graduate recruited by the Ministry of Education during the first year of teaching. The Unit also offers annual training courses for tutoring teachers.

### Teachers Diagnosing Learning Performance

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and with its approval, the In-Service Teacher Training Unit offers programs for training specialist teachers in diagnosing learning disabilities.

**Program for training diagnostic specialists and evaluators in learning functions:** The three-year program for training diagnostic specialists was formulated, and is operated by the In-Service Teacher Training Unit, with the participation of teaching staff members and tutors from the Education and Psychology Department. This year, the first class of the program completed its studies. Two corresponding programs were held in the Arab sector (at Givat Haviva) and in the Bedouin sector (in Beer Sheva) and the students completed their second year.

**Training programs for teaching staff and diagnostic specialists working in the education system:** The OUI offered nationwide and year round enrichment courses for diagnostic specialists who are currently working in the education system.

**Nationwide Diagnostic Specialists:** The Ministry of Education is preparing for nationwide tests to assess 7<sup>th</sup> grade pupils during the 2009-2010 school year. The tests were introduced to 180 diagnostic specialists and school principals at a meeting at the OUI.



The Carriage House at Beit Daniel

## ***Beit Daniel***

This year, once again, special activities were held at Beit Daniel such as the launching of the "Tzamarot" Program for school principals with the participation of the Minister of Education and Culture. These included: a researchers' workshop on behalf of the Weizmann Institute of Science; the annual conference of the Haifa Department of Philosophy; the annual conference of the Schleyer Institute of Psychology and Organizational Consulting in Combination with Cinema; *Shatil* (Support Services and Consulting Organizations for Social Change) workshops; the Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel conference; a Lidor Dance Studio workshop; a University of Haifa workshop on the topic of leadership and policy in education; an international leadership workshop on behalf of the Coaches' Training Institute; an Observation workshop by the non-profit organization *Beruach*, which is involved in spiritual support and training on behalf of *Shaare Zedek* Medical Center; a Painting on Wood art workshop, and more.

The OUI held diverse events at Beit Daniel this year including meetings of the academic teaching staff, seminars, research and study workshops.

Among the organizations that held activities at Beit Daniel were Intel, Teva, Tambur, Strauss, Marvell, the Hebrew Reali School, Tower, EZchip Technologies, Clalit Health Services, Press-Sense, Unilever, Hanita Metal Works, Paz, T.U.T. Communication, Microsoft, Tnuva, Israel Railways, Haruv Institute, Delek, Shikun uBinui, Eitel, Visa Cal, Yad Hanadiv, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Bank Hapoalim, Leumi Mortgage Bank, Chromagen.

In the best tradition of Beit Daniel, musical events were also held during the 2008-2009 academic year, including courses offered by *Mishkenot Sha'ananim*, musical weekends for the general public, such as the international summer orchestral camp of the "Kol Hamerkaz" Orchestra, and weekend concerts held by the Israeli Association of Classical Music Lovers.