New Vice President
Prof. Ora Limor

Prof. Ora Limor has been appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs of the Open University, following a term as head of the University’s Research Authority. A professor in the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies and former head of the Department, Prof. Ora Limor specializes in Medieval History, focusing on Christian-Jewish relations, pilgrimages and sacred space in Christian and Jewish culture. She has published extensively in scientific periodicals in Israel and abroad, as well as several books. She was awarded the Ben-Zvi Prize for her book *Holy Land Travels: Christian Pilgrims in Late Antiquity* (Jerusalem, 1998).

Her recent book was published by the Open University of Israel *Pilgrimage: Jews, Christians, Moslems*. She served for a few years as editor of the periodical *Cathedra* and now serves as editor of the periodical *Historia – Journal of the Historical Society of Israel*. Prof. Limor joined the Open University staff in 1986 and has developed courses in Medieval history and in the history of the Land of Israel. Prof. Limor is a member of the Board of Directors of the World Union of Jewish Studies and a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Israel. Prof. Limor assumes the Vice-Presidency from Prof. Judith Gal-Ezer who has completed her extended term.

New Managing Director
David Klibanski

David Klibanski has been appointed Managing Director of the Open University after serving for eight years as Director of the Teaching Services Administration. David Klibanski holds a degree in Political Science from Haifa University and is a graduate of the Commander and Staff School of the Israel Defense Forces. A career military officer, Klibanski served in a variety of command posts and retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel.

New Chairman of the Israeli Friends of the Open University

Brig. Gen. (res) Yossi Peled was elected Chairman of the Israeli Friends of the Open University. His last command post in the Israel Defense Forces was Commander of the North, which he filled for five years. Since his transition to civilian life, he serves in a number of public and commercial functions. Among many, he is Chairman of the Board of Tadiran – Commodities, Chairman of the Second Authority of Radio and Television, and Chairman of the Council of Managers of Israel Petrochemical Plants. Says Brig. Gen. (res) Peled, “I have been following the Open University’s exceptional educational work for many years with great esteem. In some ways, this University does what the Israel Defense Forces does - taking young people from every walk of life and transforming them into one army, the army of the people. The Open University – which opens its gates to all who wish to study and accepts the young and the elderly, from the center and from the periphery, wealthy and poor, soldiers and ultra-orthodox – this a University of the People. This is an educational-social project of supreme national importance for closing gaps which undermine Israeli society. As Chairman of the Israeli Friends of the Open University I will do my utmost to provide assistance to the Open University to continue its important work, and to broaden it, enlisting additional and new friends who will have the privilege of familiarizing themselves with the Open University’s special contribution to Israeli society as I did.”