

Honors and Milestones

Honorary Fellowships

Honorary Fellowships of the Open University were conferred upon Prof. Arie Vardi, internationally renowned musician; Ada Karmi-Melamede, distinguished architect; Jakob Hirsch, former Director-General of the State Comptroller of Israel; and Stanley Chais, investor and philanthropist.



Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir, flanked by Prof. Gershon Ben-Shakhar, President of the Open University (left) and Prof. Arie Vardi (right) receiving the Honorary Fellowship of the Open University

Prof. Arie Vardi received an honorary fellowship in recognition of his myriad activities in Israel and worldwide as a musician who strives to bring music to one and all. He has achieved international acclaim as an outstanding pianist, a soloist with leading orchestras all over the world and a conductor.

For his work in disseminating music throughout Israel, he received the "Omanut Laam" award, as well as Minister of Education Award for lifetime achievement.

As a gifted educator, he has developed a generation of musicians. His posts have included professor of piano at the Buchmann Mehta School of Music, Tel Aviv University (the Rubin Academy of Music) and master classes at the Julliard School of Music in New York. Many of the young talents he has promoted have won international competitions. He has also served as head of the jury of the Arthur Rubinstein Competition, as judge in many international competitions, and as visiting professor at the Hanover School of Music.

Prof. Vardi headed the Music Studies program at the Open University for many years and has initiated the development of courses and textbooks. He has inspired the teaching staff to prepare the curriculum and engage in

teaching along with research and artistic activity, in order to bring music to the public and initiate public events on an academic level to music lovers in Israel. At the Open University, he produced a series of programs on educational television in cooperation with the Jerusalem Music Center and subsequently a series of programs with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, designed for the entire family.



Ada Karmi-Melamede received an honorary fellowship in recognition of her distinguished work in the field of architecture, which constitutes an outstanding contribution to the aesthetics and culture of Israel. This work has included the Supreme Court building in Jerusalem, designed together with her brother Ram Carmi, the Life Sciences Building at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, the Arison School of Business, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, the master plan for Habimah Square in Tel Aviv and many others. For such projects, she has won many international and local awards, including the 2007 Israel Prize.

The honorary fellowship was conferred in tribute to her contributions to education, including guest professorships at many overseas universities, such as Yale, Harvard and M.I.T. and the design of many university campuses and buildings.

The Open University pays special tribute to Ada Karmi-Melamede's design of the Dorothy de Rothschild Open University campus in Raanana, about which she has said, "While I have worked on some major projects in Israel, I found the Open University campus a particular challenge. In my view, the Open University is a wonderful and excellent institution and I am not only proud to be associated with it, but I found the task of giving expression to its unique, complex and special features a fascinating assignment."

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Stanley Chais received his honorary fellowship in recognition of his tireless commitment to the promotion of Jewish study and awareness and of higher education the world over, supporting Jewish causes. Among them are the UJA and the Brandeis Bardin Institute in California and creating the Chais Center for Jewish Studies at Moscow State University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Honorary Fellowship was conferred in tribute to his dedication to the advancement of the State of Israel by championing the high tech industry and investing in dozens of start-ups which have enabled large numbers of immigrants from the former Soviet Union to find employment and develop their talents, promoting education and culture by establishing the Chais Project on Economics and Defense at Tel Aviv University, an Excellence Program at the Technion, supporting research and youth programs at the Weizmann Institute of Science and the public library at Mevasseret Zion.

The Open University pays tribute to his devotion in establishing the Chais Research Center for the Integration of Technology in Education, supporting the program of Jewish Studies in Russian, providing special assistance to Open University students in northern Israel following the war in Lebanon, and dedicating the Chais Auditorium, and in all these spheres, addressing Israel's priorities and needs, enhancing higher education and research and strengthening Jewish heritage.



Prof. Gershon Ben-Shakhar confers an Honorary Fellowship upon Jakob Hirsch

Jakob Hirsch received his honorary fellowship in recognition of his volunteer work on behalf of organizations promoting development, humanitarian assistance and advancement and for dedicating his best efforts to the promotion of these institutions and their work. Among them are the Jerusalem Foundation, Alyn Hospital for Children and Adolescents, the United Restitution Organization, the Organization for Immigrants from Central Europe, Ben Gurion University of the Negev and the Jerusalem School for Film and Television.

The Honorary Fellowship was conferred in recognition of his steadfast life's work upholding an impeccable moral code of public service in the State of Israel, serving as Director-General of the State Comptroller of Israel, Chief Auditor of Bank Leumi, Chairman of the Institute of Internal Auditors of Israel and President of the European Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditing.

The Open University pays tribute to his singular devotion to the Open University, serving as a member of the Council of the Open University from its earliest days until recently, serving on the Audit Committee for many years and applying his expertise towards attaining high standards, and as a dedicated friend of the Open University of Israel, advancing through ongoing activity, the mission of the Open University of furthering knowledge and higher learning.