

Extra-Academic Studies

The School of Technology

Course development and operation

The new "Electricity Technical Engineer" track was approved by *Mahat* for 2006, and most of the development efforts were invested in this program. A curriculum of 15 courses was planned, initial study material was developed and some of the equipment for the laboratory courses and for the Facility, Control and Electrical Machines Workshop was purchased.

Two new integrated programs to be offered in 2006 were developed: Software Practical Engineer combined with a B.A. in Computer Science in which students can accumulate up to 59 credits if they successfully complete their technical engineering studies; Industrial and Management Practical Engineer combined with a B.A. in the Social Sciences: Emphasis on Management, in which students can accumulate up to 63 credits towards their technical engineering studies. Both programs were approved by the University.

Courses in MCAD.NET continued in accordance with the agreement with Microsoft.

Enrollment Data

Field	Enrollments
Technician/Practical Engineer program (including the integrated program)	954
Continuing education for teachers and vocational courses	415
Total	1,369

Graduates

In 2004-2005, 27 graduates were awarded practical engineering or technician degrees. 18 students from other engineering technician colleges completed their studies at the School of Technology and received practical engineering degrees from their home

colleges. 17 students were awarded certified electrician degrees. 265 teachers completed continuing education courses in technological subjects.

Continuing Education and Projects for Teachers

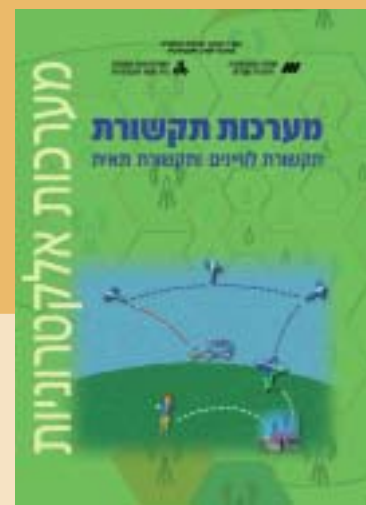
In addition to academic courses awarding a degree, the Open University offers various continuing education programs and projects to the teaching community, through the Continuing Education for Teachers Unit, the *Tamid* Project, the School of Technology and the English Unit.

Activities of the Continuing Education for Teachers Unit

In 2005 the Continuing Education for Teachers Unit conducted 71 advanced professional training courses attended by 1,390 teachers, including:

Professional training and project coordination on learning disabilities: Programs are based on material from academic courses in the Education and Psychology Department. Among the courses offered are an advanced program in diagnosis; screening and promoting learning processes among junior high school pupils with learning difficulties; a program for training and empowering "learning behavior promoters" (a new position in the education system).

Projects in the Arab sector: After winning a tender of the Ministry of Interior, the OU conducted two year-long courses – in cooperation with OU academic faculty members – to train Muslim religious leaders for leadership positions in the community. We also conducted courses initiated by the Ministry of Interior for training joint police and educator teams in the



Arab sector with the aim of qualifying them to undertake educational activities opposing violence. At the Teachers Center in Taibe, we conducted professional training for teachers on assessment of achievement and teaching methods in mathematics.

Project at the universities' Israel Center for Science and Technology Education (*Malam*): The achievements of high school students taking 2-point science and technology are assessed using alternative assessment. We coach the teachers in utilizing alternative assessment methods and are involved in the development of suitable tools.

Position holders in the education system: Unique year-long courses were developed for empowering position holders: certificate studies for agricultural farm coordinators; managing work teams using Internet forums; assessment coordinators and project assessors; educational leadership – empowering kindergarten teachers.

***Tamid*, Computer Communication for Teachers – Knowledge and Didactics:** *Tamid* is a unique model for teachers' professional development. Programs in science and civics are the full responsibility of the Open University. English and innovative pedagogy are the joint responsibility of the OU and the Center for Educational Technology (CET). There are two kinds of activities in each area: disciplinary content websites and distance education courses.

Today *Tamid* is a virtual campus for teachers in Israel. It serves as an online framework for all professional advanced study and training activities for teachers throughout the country. The campus includes 1,800 sites, 26,000 teachers and 30,000 content items.

The English as a Foreign Language Unit

This year we completed the development of the D-Level English course as an online course, and it is being offered in this format.

We developed a course on presentation skills in English and operated a pilot for 9 OU senior faculty members. The course was improved following the pilot and we plan to offer it to the general public. Integrating the presentation skills into the MBA program is also being considered.

Center for Continuing Studies

The Center for Continuing Studies includes six schools: *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *Tafnit*, *DiAlog*, *Meirav* and *Diploma*. The last four are managed through the National Center for Certificate Studies. In 2004-2005, over 16,000 students studied at the six schools, in addition to employees from about 60 organizations through the Intra-Organizational Training Center.

The courses are conducted face-to-face and taught by top lecturers from academia in a variety of professional fields. Symposia, workshops, open days and diverse cultural activities were conducted in addition to the courses.

The Center conducts its activities at OU facilities throughout the country, mainly in Tel Aviv, Hakfar Hayarok, Petah Tikva, Haifa, Beer Sheba, Jerusalem and on the OU campus in Raanana.

An accelerated process to computerize the Center was initiated this year based on two systems. A CRM system was installed to manage relations with prospective students and with organizations interested in acquiring courses. The second system, intended for planning and operation of courses, is under development by the OU and will be implemented next year.

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

11,639 students studied at *Ascolot* in 2004-2005 (as compared to 10,291 in 2003-2004). About 300 students studied at the new study center opened on the OU campus in Raanana this year.

Along with courses offered on a regular basis, new courses were opened this year. These included, for example, "Bible Now" in which lecturers from diverse disciplines present their contemporary and unique perspectives of the Bible. A symposium on "Pianomania" was held in preparation for the 11th International Rubinstein Piano Competition.

Beit Ayala: Beit Ayala is a branch of *Ascolot*. In the morning hours it operates as a school for retirees, with some 2,200 students in 2004-2005.





"Voices of Soldiers"



"Chu Chu and I"

Hasifa – School of Communications, Television and Multimedia Arts

Hasifa offers a wide range of study programs in digital media. An enrichment course was offered for the first time this year on social-urban still photography taught by 2005 Israel Prize winning photographer Alex Libak.

Hasifa held a symposium on animation and art in the new age. At the traditional end-of-year event, "Digital Happening 2005" dozens of graduates and students exhibited their works: animated movies, design exhibitions, documentary and action films, etc. The animated film "Voices of Soldiers" created by a graduate of the animation and post-production track was broadcast on two of the leading television channels in Israel.

Five *Hasifa* graduates won the "Quality Product" award at the international Europrix 2004 competition for a joint interactive project "Chu Chu and I". The uniqueness of the project stems from the integration of computer applications with mechanical control mechanisms that create a story, game and learning experience with the aim of encouraging children to explore their physical surroundings.

Tafnit – Continuing Education for Managers

About 1,000 students, managers and employees, studied in the intra-organizational programs offered by *Tafnit* this year. The School also conducted two large projects that exposed participants to OU study opportunities:

Preparing combat soldiers for civilian life: About 6,000 soldiers participated this year in the project conducted jointly with the IDF.

Training programs in preparation for academic studies for soldiers from the periphery prior to their army discharge: The workshops, conducted in collaboration with the IDF and funding entities, prepare soldiers for academic studies and encourage their integration into their communities as future leaders. About 2,300 soldiers participated in the workshops to date.

Diploma – Certificate Studies

Diploma was established last year and offers high-quality professional training tracks including

preparation for certification exams in fields such as tourism, finance and real estate. Collaboration with businesses in the field of study are forged with the aim of facilitating integration of graduates into the employment market.

Meirav – School for Training Complementary Medicine Professionals

Meirav joined the OU Continuing Studies Center this year. Managed jointly with "Maccabi Natural", *Meirav* qualifies practitioners in complementary medicine fields and offers enrichment courses to practitioners and to the general public. The four-year study programs offered by *Meirav* are accredited and students can apply the credits they accumulate in degree programs at the Open University.

As part of their studies, students in the Chinese Medicine track do their internship in "Maccabi" clinics. Students also offer treatments to *Alut* institutions (the Israel Society for Autistic Children), pupils at Hakfar Hayarok and to high-risk adolescents in an arrangement with the Tel Aviv municipality.

DiAlog – School of Languages

This year, *DiAlog* offered studies in 15 languages on different levels in courses intended for the general public and organizations. Among the unique projects offered by the school this year:

Cross culture: A new project focusing on narrowing inter-cultural gaps and intended for individuals maintaining ties with individuals and organizations from less-familiar cultures.

Ulpanim: Intensive preparation for employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other organizations. Studies in this program are customized to the needs of the student and the organization with an emphasis on improving language fluency.

Lectures Broadcast in Russian

With the support of the "Avi Hai" Fund, for the second year in a row the Open University produced a series of lectures broadcast on *Radio Reka* (the immigrant absorption channel of the Israel Broadcasting Authority) about the history of Zionism and the State

of Israel. The project enables hundreds of thousands of Russian-speaking immigrants to expand and deepen their knowledge on these topics. To date, 104 programs have been recorded and broadcast, half of them

devoted to “Exploring the Jewish Bookcase” and the other half to “Examining the History of Zionism and the State of Israel”.

Beit Daniel

Training and learning activities organized by Open University departments and other institutions and organizations and conducted at Beit Daniel were expanded this year. Activities included music and musical instrument workshops for adults and youngsters, writing workshops for poets, painting workshops, management development workshops, professional symposia including an International Symposium on the Environment, conferences,

concerts, musical weekends, a researcher workshop, a seminar for Open University graduate students in Biological Thought, and a 3-day seminar on marketing and advertising. Marketing efforts were enhanced with the aim of increasing the volume of activity.

The estate garden that was made operational this year has already been used for the EFI awards ceremony of the Association of Advertisers, as well as for public song evenings and company meetings.

The Carriage House on the Beit Daniel estate

