

Events

Academic Symposia

This year the Open University sponsored 12 symposia, workshops and conferences open to the general public, most of which were held on the Dorothy de Rothschild campus in Raanana:

- **Jerusalem: A City of Many Religions and Nationalities** – A symposium for students in 7 courses on History, the Middle East and Islam.
- **The Birth of the Apocalypse – in Judaism or Christianity?** – The symposium was held as part of a series of events on “Culture, Society and Myth” conducted in collaboration with The Shlomo Moussaieff Center for Research in Kabbalah, Bar Ilan University.
- **The Middle Ages are Returning Big Time!** – A symposium held at Tel Aviv University dedicated to publications concerning the Middle Ages.
- **Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus: Christian Saints in European Art and History** – An evening held at the Israel Museum that combined a lecture and a tour of the exhibition: “Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus: Saints in European Art”.
- **Inauguration of the Yad Ben-Zvi and Open University Center for the Study of Eretz Israel and its Yishuv** – An evening marking the event was dedicated to the book: *Pilgrimage: Jews, Christians, Muslims*.
- **Eretz Israel in Jewish Thought** (under the auspices of the Center for the Study of Eretz Israel and its Yishuv of Yad Ben-Zvi and the Open University) – The evening was held in honor of the series of books edited by Aviezer Ravitzky.
- The Open University hosted the 29th National Meeting of the Israel Oriental Society on the topic: **The Hashemites in the History of the Middle East**.
- **Heroes or Cowards: Jews in Foreign Armies** – A symposium for students in 6 courses on the History of the Jewish People.
- **The History of the Jewish People Between King David and Bar Kochba** – A symposium held at the Open University study center in Bat-Yam.
- **The Supreme Court and Social and Collective Rights: Activism or Conservatism?** – A symposium held as part of the interdisciplinary graduate program in Democracy Studies. The opening lecture was given by Supreme Court Justice (ret.) Dalia Dorner.
- **Genocide in Darfur, Sudan** – The symposium included a screening of the award-winning documentary film written and directed by Erez T Yanuv Barzilay, “A Cry for Madiom” and a discussion with the participation of scholars from various universities.
- The Open University hosted the annual meeting of the Israel Meteorological Society (IMS) on **Weather, Climate, Water and Development**. Thus the IMS responded to the World Meteorological Organization whose focus this year is on the contribution of meteorology to society.

Chais Research Center Symposia

The Chais Research Center held a series of symposia open to the general public. The symposia, which drew large audiences, addressed various aspects of learning technologies and their effect on human society.

- **Human Thinking in the Technological Era**
- **Authentic Feelings in a Virtual Reality**
- **Whose Line is This Anyway?** A symposium on the topic of intellectual property and copyright in the age of cultural reproduction.

Videotaped On-Campus Academic Activities

Symposia and on-campus events were videotaped and some broadcast live on the Internet. All videotaped events were integrated into course or department websites. Tutorials with students were also videotaped for the benefit of OU students abroad. Many of the videotapes can be viewed through the "Events" link on the OU website.

Workshop for Human Resource Managers

100 human resource managers from various companies participated in the workshop. The event opened with a general overview of the Open University and the placement services it offers its students and graduates, was followed by lectures related to the human resource field and ended with a panel of HR managers from leading companies in Israel. One of the panel participants, an OU graduate currently the HR Manager of a leading company, recounted her personal experience in combining studies at the OU with a career and the contribution of her studies to her professional development.

Symposia held by the Open University Library

The library held a national librarians' symposium to celebrate the move to its new site with the participation of about 170 librarians and directors of academic libraries throughout the country. The program reflected the complex reality confronting academic libraries that continue the classic library heritage of books and periodicals arranged on shelves while at the same time building a diverse digital collection, both acquired from publishers and created by the libraries themselves through digitization of study materials – each library according to its readers' specific needs.

The library conducted additional symposia this year underscoring the uniqueness of the OU library in serving distant learning needs. The symposia were attended by librarianship and informatics students as well as librarians from academic libraries of institutions of higher education in Israel.

Events in Cooperation with the Raanana Municipality

In collaboration with the Raanana municipality, the Open University offered city residents cultural and educational activities, among them: a series of events on "Challenges in Education" that included a symposium on dealing with individuals with learning disabilities; a symposium with school principals on "Vision and Leadership in School Management," a lecture presented by an expert from the OU to high school students on the effect of drugs on the brain, and a series of guided concerts.

The Economic Forum of the MBA Program

The Economic forum was attended by students in the MBA program, most of whom are mid- and high-level managers, OU alumni who are members of the Alumni Association's Economics Club, managers, representatives of academia, and interested individuals. This year's meeting was dedicated to discussions of strategic management and was attended by the CEOs of Israel's leading firms.

Open Day for Prospective Graduate Students

For the first time the OU held an open day for prospective graduate students in all academic programs offered by the OU. Interested students received individual counseling from University faculty members. A meeting of all academic programs was conducted as well as a separate session for each graduate program that presented study tracks and options.

Rotary Award

The Rotary Award for Promoting Higher Education in Israel was awarded for the 9th time this year by the Open University and Rotary Club Israel. Award recipients this year were Prof. Moshe Kaveh and Dr. Palti Stavi.

Prof. Kaveh, President of Bar Ilan University, has acted to advance the University that he heads and to expand and develop the institution. Dr. Stavi, Director General of the Israel Association for the Advancement of





Education, has contributed to advancing the pre-academic preparatory program enterprise in Israel and to the integration of tens of thousands of students throughout the country, particularly from the periphery and from underprivileged areas.

Honorary Fellowships

Every year as part of the graduation ceremony, the Open University confers honorary fellowships on prominent individuals. This year fellowships were awarded to a generous donor, Ms. Ingeborg Rennert, for her activities for the benefit of the Open University, and to Prof. Ruth Ben-Israel for her academic achievements and her contribution to the OU in writing and developing courses on social welfare and labor law.

Dedication of the Lamda Bookshop

The dedication of the Open University bookshop, Lamda, was a festive evening devoted to a discussion among authors and was open to the public.

Memorial Wall

In planning the Raanana campus, it was decided to build a Memorial Wall in memory of OU students who lost their lives in military activities or terrorist acts. Just before Memorial Day for IDF soldiers, a memorial service was held at which the memorial wall was unveiled in the presence of bereaved families and OU staff.

