

# Spotlight: 30,000 Alumni



From the exhibition, "The Open University and Our Alumni: A Story of Growth," by the graphic designers of the OUI publishing house.

This year, the Open University celebrated a major milestone: the number of our alumni exceeded 30,000.

Since the first 42 degrees were awarded in 1982, and until the evening honoring our alumni, the Open University granted 32,011 degrees, of which 31,001 are bachelor's degrees (73 different degrees) and 2,010 master's degrees in six different disciplines.

The Open University's 32,011 alumni reflect a broad spectrum of the population, coming from many different sectors, age groups, geographical locations and educational backgrounds, as illustrated in the following data:

- 58% of the bachelor's degree recipients and 49% of the master's degree recipients are women
- 474 bachelor's degree recipients began studying at the Open University while still in high school; 1,520 bachelor's degree recipients and 28 master's degree recipients began studying while still soldiers
- Our youngest graduate was 16 years old, and the oldest was 86
- 4,057 bachelor's degree recipients and 182 master's degree recipients had no *Bagrut* (matriculation) certificate
- The bachelor's degree recipients came from 952 different towns and cities, and the master's degree recipients from 290 different locations
- 290 bachelor's degree recipients and 25 master's degree recipients were overseas students

Behind every graduate is a personal story, usually telling of varied activities, effort, perseverance, self discipline and hard work, both for completing the degree, and, in many cases, together with additional obligations such as full time work, military service, high school studies, parenting, or any other demand that competes for the student's time and attention. The path taken by Open University students is a difficult one and bears witness to their unique abilities and qualities. Anyone completing an OUI degree is well equipped to face later challenges in life with resourcefulness, intelligence and good judgment.

## A Tribute to 30,000 OUI Alumni

Under the leadership of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Prof. Judith Gal-Ezer, the University organized an event to honor its alumni. Education Minister Gideon Saar greeted the alumni and a specially produced film was screened that focused on the diverse human mosaic reflected in the alumni. The event was accompanied by an exhibition, "The Open University and Our Alumni: A Story of Growth," by the graphic designers of the OUI publishing house.