

External Relations

In the past year the Resource and Development Department strengthened relations with the American Friends Association and cultivated contacts in Great Britain. Efforts were also invested in other fundraising projects in Israel beyond the Friends Association, and in establishing various commemorative endowments.

Fundraising in Israel

Fundraising through friends and businesses is aimed primarily at student scholarships. The Director of Donor Relations recruited a number of families to set up endowments in memory of loved ones. In addition, there was a focus on various foundations and other organizations interested in investing in the *Beit Daniel* campus, in order to support its establishment as a music and cultural center.

"Don't Give Up" – an Evening Honoring Dov Lautman



A gala event was held this year in honor of Mr. Dov Lautman, Honorary President of the Israeli Friends of the Open University. The evening was organized in cooperation with *Hakol Hinuch*, the Movement for the Advancement of Education in Israel, of which Mr. Lautman is President and Chairman of the Board. Hundreds of Mr. Lautman's personal friends attended the evening, including many prominent figures in the Israeli business world, politicians, and senior representatives of government ministries. Some 30 participants arrived early to enjoy a tour of the OUI campus and studios, guided by campus architect Ada Karmi-Melamed and OUI President, Prof. Hagit Messer-Yaron. In his opening remarks, Minister of Education Gideon Sa'ar highlighted the importance of the Open University in Mr. Lautman's activities. The evening culminated with the conferring of an Honorary OUI Fellowship upon Mr. Lautman, which he acknowledged with the words: "I have been awarded two honorary degrees in my life and I am most proud of this one, because no other place exists that contributes to closing the gaps in Israeli society as the Open University does."

American Friends of the Open University

This year, we continued to strengthen mutual confidence and joint ventures with the American Friends Organization and its President, Mrs. Ingeborg Rennert. The annual gala dinner, held in New York at the end of October, was attended by over 400 guests from the Jewish community. Additionally, the President of the American Friends expressed an interest in providing funding for the establishment of a center for student motivation and retention. The American Friends also took on a more active role this year in funding various OUI projects, including a contribution by Ronnie Heyman for the OUI virtual laboratories initiative and a gift to the Outstanding Students Fund.

Annual New York Friends Gala event



Open University Activities in Great Britain

Further to an initiative on the part of the OUI Chancellor, Lord Woolf, to involve his many friends and contacts in the UK, this year saw an endeavor to cultivate friends in the UK and engage them in partnership with the OUI. Efforts were focused on the joint conference of the OUI's **Center for the Study of Relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims** (JCM Center) with the Cambridge University-based Woolf Institute. Ties were further strengthened through a visit to the OUI by the British Ambassador, a discussion on collaboration with the Cambridge University Alumni Association, held in Israel at the invitation of Lord Woolf and the President of the OUI, as well as several other events and conferences in which the President participated in London. The various events yielded a number of donations towards scholarships, and foundations were laid for cultivating relationships. Following her visit to Cambridge, the OUI President met in London with potential donors.

The British Ambassador visiting the exhibition "A Window into Reality: Israeli Tributes to the Italian Renaissance"



Open University Activities in Brazil

In order to follow up on past cooperative initiatives with the University of Sao Paulo, the Director of the Resource and Development Department visited Sao Paulo with a view to strengthening ties with donors and other members of the community in an effort to promote further collaboration.