

Resources and External Relations

During the past year, The Department of Resources and External Relations led a process of expansion among new donor populations throughout the world, and development of OUI friends and supporter groups in new regions. Resource development focused on special projects for making higher education more accessible to Israel's geographical and socio-economic periphery, and to populations with special learning requirements. The generosity and responsiveness of many donors throughout the world made possible a wide range of scholarships and the creation of a variety of projects to assist students.

Fundraising in Israel

A considerable number of businesses, foundations and individuals in Israel have generously contributed to scholarships for OUI students. In addition, the OUI Alumni Association launched a campaign to raise funds for scholarships among alumni. Finally, preparations have been made for the imminent launching of an online campaign for small donations via social networks.

Project ACCESS

Project Access focuses on the geographically peripheral cities in Israel and offers access to higher education via the establishment of local OUI study centers, scholarships for tuition, preparatory and skill-building workshops, and individual mentoring. This is the second year of the pilot version of this project in Ofakim. Following its success, many donors have shown an interest in replicating the model at other locations in Israel.

Retention Project

Following the success of past OUI retention programs and workshops, the concept was expanded and a scholarship fund was established. The project identifies students who have already completed a considerable share of requirements towards a degree, but who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to finish their study programs. The fund grants these students a full scholarship, conditional on their completing a degree, and provides academic support until they graduate. A particularly moving personal connection has been set up between the contributing families and the students taking part in the project.

Academic and Financial Aid Scholarships

Financial aid scholarships

With the gracious support of the American Friends of The Open University of Israel and other donors, over 4,000 financial aid scholarships were distributed this year to students throughout Israel. Many families have chosen to perpetuate the memories of loved ones by providing scholarships in their names to students. Ceremonies of acknowledgement, with donors and students participating, allow the recipients to express their appreciation and learn more about the person in whose name the aid was donated. The Dean of Students, heading the scholarship distribution process, works together with donor families.

Scholarships for Arabic-speaking and Ultra-Orthodox students

A number of large foundations in the United States, Jewish Federations, and private donors have asked to focus this year on support for Arabic-speaking and ultra-Orthodox students. They have facilitated a variety of projects, including preparatory workshops in core subjects, learning skills workshops, individual assistance and mentoring, and financial aid scholarships.

Project Access Optimization

Successful fundraising took place this year for a new mentoring project for students of Ethiopian origin. The project provides support and assistance for these students, including scholarships, personal mentoring and guidance, preparatory

workshops in study skills, mathematics, English, and computers, and personal guidance in preparation for entering the workforce.

Operation Protective Edge scholarships

During Operation Protective Edge, OUI management made a commitment to do everything possible to ensure that students' studies would not be adversely affected, either by military service during the war, or by residence in the South. Many donors contributed scholarships as part of a broader effort of assistance which included alternate exam dates, additional tutorial sessions, and academic and financial assistance.

American Friends of The Open University of Israel

The strong relationship with the American Friends continued to flourish this year, resulting in extensive support. In November, some 350 guests attended the annual gala in New York which served to raise respectable funds for distribution of scholarships to students. For the first time, a major summer event was held for donor families at the home of the American Friends President, Mrs. Ingeborg Rennert. The American Friends activities this year focused on expanding the circle of donors and friends in the United States to new regions, integrating new forces into the Board of the American Friends, and organizing fundraising events with the president of the OUI, the chancellor, and faculty members in attendance.

Friends of The Open University of Israel on the West Coast

This year, a new group of Friends of The Open University was formed in Los Angeles and the West Coast. The local leadership of the business community introduced new audiences of potential donors to OUI programs, organized fundraising events, and conducted ongoing fundraising activities.

Friends of The Open University of Israel in South America and Brazil

The Director of Resources and External Relations visited Brazil and other South American countries this year, where he held meetings with community leaders in order to gain supporters and friends for the OUI in South America. Fundraising activity is currently developing at this time.



Kobi Metzer



Ingeborg Rennert