

# Community Resources and Cultural Events

The OUI holds dozens of events every year through the Department of the Spokesperson and Public Relations. These include symposia, conferences, evening programs, and lectures and events in science, art, and music. All are open to the public, and participants enjoy talks by top lecturers and scholars in a range of disciplines. The university also offers entertainment, including lectures combined with film screenings, exhibition openings, and concert series. The OUI also hosts Scientists' Night in cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space, (co-sponsored by the European Union) – an evening of science and research combined with lectures, performances, and interactive programs for the whole family.

## Selected Symposia

- I Choose Analogical in a Digital World: Decision-Making in a Technological World
- A Rare Demonstration of the Ancient Photography Process from the Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, accompanying the exhibition, *Between Light and a Box: Two Photographers and the Beginning of the Age of Photography*
- The Dark Side of Technology: How are Survival Skills Developed in the Digital Zone?
- Spotlight on a Dark Industry: Prostitution and the Media
- Provence Jewry: Renaissance in the Shadows of the Church
- The Lifesavers of 1929: Stories of Lifesaving Jews and Palestinians in Hebron and Jerusalem
- Daring and Digital! The Net Series You Won't See on Television
- Medicine in the Viral Age: How do Technologies Affect our Health?
- Book launch for Yoram Kaniuk's secret book, *Soap*
- The Long Year of 1948: A Lecture Series Marking Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day
- Five Hundred Years since the Protestant Revolution
- Always on my Mind: Does Multitasking on Smartphones Affect Intimacy? – Prof. Miri Souroujon Memorial Symposium

## Selected Cultural Events

- *Loitering #1*, a group exhibition of 12 Israeli artists, dealt with the experience of loitering as a source of ideological inspiration, and at times, even as a material source in creative work. The works in the exhibit related to geographical, historical, urban, cultural, human, and individual space. At the opening event, the vocal artist, Josef Sprinzak performed his work, "A Song from Here," which combines text and sound.
- The exhibition *Screen Minute*, the first in a series of mini-exhibitions by Israeli video artists, presented a multichannel, new media work by the artist, Shirley Shor. SPLIT is a minimalist, geometric video creation. A computer code written by Shirley Shor creates changing constructions of geometric shapes in real time which are born, move, merge into one another and are swallowed into nihility, yet are reborn in different, unexpected configurations. In this work, Shirley Shor challenges our basic faith in the stability of architectural structures and the credibility of "secure space."

- Israeli Love – A concert marking Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Original arrangements of the immortal love songs by Avraham Halfi, Nathan Alterman, Naomi Shemer, Arik Einstein, Yankele Rotblit, and others, under the musical direction of Orit Wolf.
- Afternoon concert series
- Jazz concert series
- "Sounds" – concert series with commentary by Anat Sharon
- Cultural events, performances and tours for alumni and the general public offered by the OUI Alumni Association, including a series entitled "Cinema Academia," – movies with lectures by OUI faculty members.

## Lamda – The OUI Bookstore

During the past year, 20,058 OUI books were sold by Lamda. Of them, 11,129 were sold to individual customers, 1,902 to stores and distributors, and 7,027 to institutions and universities.

## Online Academe

Online Academe, Ltd., a subsidiary of the OUI, was established in 2015 to provide production services for Israeli higher education, and for online learning resources that support and help improve learning by leveraging the knowledge, experience and infrastructure of the OUI.

The growing interest in learning technologies in Israeli academia, and global interest in the capabilities of digital technologies with respect to improving teaching in institutions for higher education set the stage for establishing Online Academe. Growing recognition for the complexity of innovation in learning technologies continues, and the company, together with Shoham, analyzes the challenges of developing academic courses and characterizes the learning technologies needed.

The main products include courses in academic English, an initiative of the Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) which funds it. Online Academe maintains and operates the website. To date, over 40,000 students from institutions of higher education in Israel have registered for the courses. Research is underway to study the character of learning on the website.

During the past year, Online Academe produced eight courses which were granted funding in the framework of the national program of the CHE, and the Digital Israel project in the Ministry for Social Equality. Three OUI courses were produced: Planning Studies, Teaching and Evaluation (developed by Prof. Sarah Guri-Rosenblit), The Legend of the Golem (developed by Prof. Tzahi Weiss), and Religion Conversions (developed by Prof. Ora Limor, in collaboration with The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev). In addition, Online Academe produced five courses for other institutions of higher education, in the framework of an RFP for producing online courses.