



UNIVERSITY  
OF THE PEOPLE  
Tuition-Free Online University

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# MISSION, VISION & CORE VALUES

University of the People (UoPeople) is a non-profit organization devoted to providing universal access to quality, online post-secondary education to qualified students. The vision of University of the People is grounded in the belief that universal access to education is a key ingredient in the promotion of world peace and global economic development.

The mission and vision are guided by the University's four core values:

## **Opportunity**

UoPeople is based on the belief that education at a minimal cost is a basic right for all qualified applicants, not just for a privileged few. The University shall open the gates of higher education to qualified students anywhere in the world by offering its programs through distance learning and by making this opportunity affordable.

## **Community**

UoPeople shall create a global community by making its academic programs, educational services, and employment opportunities available to all qualified individuals from all over the world, and by providing learning opportunities that engage students and faculty from diverse backgrounds.

## **Integrity**

UoPeople grounds its institutional culture in candor, transparency and best professional practices, and expects all students, faculty, staff, and administrators to uphold the highest standards of personal integrity, honesty and responsibility. Additionally, the University expects its students to take responsibility for their education, and to pursue their studies diligently and with seriousness of purpose.

## **Quality**

UoPeople provides a high-quality, online liberal arts education suitable in scope and depth to the challenges of the 21st century. The University assesses and evaluates all aspects of its academic model on an ongoing basis.



# MILESTONES

“UoPeople has empowered us, giving us the basic right of education! Even though we wore rags and never had a penny, they opened their doors and saw the potentials in us.” – Nanaawawu, UoPeople student from Gambia

**January 2009:** University of the People Launched

**April 2009:** Enrollment Opened

**May 2009:** United Nations Welcomed Shai Reshef and University of the People

**May 2009:** Fast Company Named Shai Reshef to Its List of the 100 Most Creative People in Business

**September 2009:** Classes Commenced

**September 2009:** Yale Law School Information Society Project Partnered with University of the People

**December 2009:** Shai Reshef Was Inducted to the International Ashoka Fellowship

**August 2010:** University of the People Rings the NASDAQ Closing Bell

**August 2010:** Clinton Global Initiative Grants Membership to Shai Reshef on behalf of UoPeople

**September 2010:** Shai Reshef Selected as the Ultimate HuffPost 2010 Game Changer in Education

**November 2010:** The UoPeople Haiti Project Commenced

**March 2011:** UoPeople Extended its Global Reach by Admitting Students from More than 115 Countries

**June 2011:** UoPeople has Admitted More Than 1,000 Students

**June 2011:** New York University Announced Collaboration with UoPeople to Accept Students to NYU

**June 2011:** HP and UoPeople Partner to Open Up Internships for UoPeople Students

**November 2011:** UoPeople Partners for a Technology Center in Ramallah, West Bank

**May 2012:** Presidents of Oxford, NYU, GWU and More Unite Behind UoPeople as Members of the Presidents Council

**June 2012:** Over 1,000,000 Support UoPeople on Facebook!

**July 2012:** UoPeople introduces Women Scholarship Fund – Hewlett-Packard Pledges \$200,000 to Educate 100 Women

**September 2012:** Google for Non-Profits gives \$500,000 to UoPeople!

**April 2013:** UoPeople launched innovative Micro-Scholarship Portal

**August 2013:** Microsoft 4Afrika partners with UoPeople



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# PARTNERS AND ALLIES

## **Yale Law School Information Society**

The Information Society Project at Yale Law School (Yale ISP) expanded its program in digital education by entering into a research partnership with University of the People in September 2009. Within the partnership, the Yale ISP engages in research, advocacy, and network building to advance the marketplace of ideas supporting UoPeople's effort to create accessible, high-quality digital education.

## **New York University**

University of the People established collaboration with New York University (NYU) to identify UoPeople students who are eligible for admission to one of the most selective institutions in the world - NYU Abu Dhabi. High performing students who have studied for at least one year at UoPeople and meet the standards of admission are eligible to apply for admission to NYU Abu Dhabi. Successful applicants who qualify are also eligible for financial aid to enable them to attend. UoPeople Computer Science Student, Joe Jean was the first student to transfer to NYUAD in September 2012.

## **Hewlett-Packard**

In addition to valuable general and in-kind support, HP provides a scholarship and mentoring program for women students as well as internship opportunities that allow our students to broaden their skills and apply theory to real-world challenges. The internship collaboration was formed as part of the HP Catalyst Initiative. UoPeople also has a special partnership with HP's LIFE (Learning Initiative For Entrepreneurs) E-learning program, that gives UoPeople students special access to these online training programs.

## **Microsoft 4Afrika**

Through this partnership, 1,000 promising African students will receive scholarships to study at UoPeople. The program will also provide scholarship students with access to Microsoft leadership and technical training, mentorship by Microsoft employees, internship opportunities, and, upon graduation, access to job opportunities. Mentorship is provided by Microsoft employees from around the world, and employment opportunities will include internships and both part-time and full-time jobs within Microsoft as well as with the company's more than 10,000 partners across Africa. The program will transform Africa, and provide a life-changing opportunity for the students selected to take part.

## **Asal Technologies**

University of the People and Asal Technologies have partnered for a technology center in Ramallah, West Bank. The technology center is building upon and enhancing the technology infrastructure of University of the People – offering a unique opportunity to guide the continuance of steady technological development. Asal Technologies' contributing qualities include technical expertise and excellent problem-solving skills. Clients of Asal Technologies include Cisco Systems, Volvo and Intel, among others.

## **Dorsey & Whitney LLP**

Dorsey & Whitney LLP provides high-quality pro-bono advice in the areas of accreditation, intellectual property, contract, fundraising and non-profit governance and tax exemption matters for University of the People. Dorsey is a global law firm serving leading business and organizations since 1912. The firm has a deep commitment to providing pro bono legal services to organizations that help communities and disadvantaged individuals. This commitment makes Dorsey's pro-bono assistance of University of the People's efforts to make higher education available to the entire world, a natural fit.

## **BAV Consulting**

BAV Consulting has offered ongoing pro-bono services to help UoPeople to assess, position, and grow the brand awareness of UoPeople globally. Since 1993, BAV has spent \$140 million surveying 750,000 respondents, on a total of about 50,000 brands in 51 countries, with 72 metrics on each brand – making BAV the largest study of brands in the world. BAV Consulting is a significant asset for UoPeople.

## **VML, Inc**

VML provides pro bono services to University of the People, supporting a variety of digital marketing initiatives. Marketing efforts are designed to foster social engagement, spreading the word about UoPeople and connecting with students who can benefit from tuition-free higher education. VML, a global digital marketing firm with expertise around the world, aligns perfectly with UoPeople, as both organizations value diversity, equal opportunity and cultural exchange.



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# BACKGROUND

**University of the People** (UoPeople; [www.UoPeople.org](http://www.UoPeople.org)) is the world's first tuition-free, online academic institution dedicated to opening access to higher education. UoPeople, a nonprofit venture, is the brainchild of entrepreneur **Shai Reshef**, who has worked in international education for over 20 years. Providing universal access to collegiate-level studies, despite geographic and financial constraints, UoPeople promotes world peace via the democratization of higher education.

High-quality, low-cost and universal, UoPeople's pedagogical model draws on the principles of e-learning and social networking, coupled with open-source technology and courseware. Within online study communities, students from around the world cover readings, share resources, exchange ideas and discuss assigned questions. Full-time and volunteer educators, selected from a pool of active and retired professors, master level students and other professionals, participate in and oversee the assessment process, as well as develop the curriculum.

UoPeople offers four undergraduate programs: Associate of Science (A.S.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Business Administration and A.S. and B.S. in Computer Science in a tuition-free model. There is no charge for the cost of instruction, books, teachers or annual enrollment. In order for the University to be sustainable, there are nominal fees for application and examination processing. The University charges a minimal Application Processing fee ranging between \$10-\$50 depending on the applicant's place of residence and an Exam Processing Fees of \$100 per each end-of-course exam to cover the cost of UoPeople to process exams.

UoPeople has been met with favorable press reviews from around the world, with coverage in outlets ranging from The New York Times, CNN and Associated Press to prominent education trades and international publications.

UoPeople Founder and President Shai Reshef committed US\$3 million of his own money to fund the initiative. The University is currently fundraising \$6 million in order to become sustainable.

## DATA

### Student Population

<b>Student Body:</b>	Admitted 1500+ students
<b>Locations:</b>	138 countries including Indonesia, Vietnam, Brazil, China, Spain, USA, Colombia, South Korea, Egypt, Jordan, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia and Ghana
<b>Ages:</b>	18-72 years old

### Student Satisfaction

"Of students polled consecutively each term, 95% of students would recommend UoPeople to a peer as a good place to attend."



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# KEY ADMINISTRATION

## **Mr. Shai Reshef – President**

An educational entrepreneur, Reshef has 20 years of experience in the international education market. From 1989 to 2005, he served as Chairman of the Kidum Group, a for-profit educational services company. Between 2001 and 2004, Reshef also chaired KIT eLearning, the online learning partner of the University of Liverpool and the first online university outside of the United States.

Reshef has been widely recognized for his work with UoPeople. In 2009, he was named one of Fast Company's 100 Most Creative People in Business, selected by OneWorld as one of its 'People of 2009' and awarded an Ashoka fellowship. He also joined UN-GAID as a High-level Adviser. In August 2010, on behalf of UoPeople, Reshef was granted membership in the Clinton Global Initiative. The following month, recognized for "taking the world to school," Reshef was selected by The Huffington Post readership as the Ultimate Game Changer in Education. In February 2012, he was nominated as one of Wired Magazine's "50 People Changing the World."

An expert on the intersection of education and technology, Reshef has spoken internationally at numerous conferences including the Clinton Global Initiative; DLD: Digital, Life, Design; TEDxOxbridge; TEDxKC; World Economic Forum; EG Conference, Google's Higher Education Summit; EMV Human Values meeting; The Economist's Annual Human Potential Summit and the Schools for Tomorrow Event for the New York Times. He has also lectured at Yale University, Harvard University, Stanford University and Oxford University, among others.

Reshef holds a M.A. in Chinese Politics from the University of Michigan.

## **Dr. David Harris Cohen – Provost**

Dr. David Harris Cohen was named University of the People Provost in December 2009 following a distinguished career as a neurobiologist and university administrator. Dr. Cohen served as the Vice President and Dean of the Faculty for Arts & Sciences at Columbia University, where he was also Professor of Biological Sciences and Professor of Neuroscience in Psychiatry.

## **Dr. Roxie R. Smith – Vice Provost**

Dr. Roxie Smith is the Vice Provost of University of the People. Dr. Smith is also Vice Provost of Columbia University. Previously, Dr. Smith was Associate Provost of Northwestern University for six years as well as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Education and Social Policy for eight years prior.

## **Mr. Paul Affuso - Chief Financial Officer**

Mr. Paul Affuso is the Chief Financial Officer for University of the People. Previously, Affuso served as Associate Dean for Administrative Services & Facilities at New York University's Leonard N. Stern School of Business, overseeing the day to day operating needs of the School and all capital projects and plans.

## **Dr. Arik Lifschitz – Associate Provost for Institutional Research and Planning**

Dr. Arik Lifschitz is University of the People's Associate Provost for Institutional Research and Planning. He received his Ph.D. in management from Columbia University. He also holds a Masters in Business Administration and a law degree.

## **Dr. Ariella Zeller – Dean of Student Affairs**

Dr. Ariella Zeller is the Dean of Student Affairs at the University of the People. Dr. Zeller holds a BA in Women's Studies, an MA in American Studies, and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Maryland, and a Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan.

## **Mr. Shawn Moustafa - Associate VP for Academic Affairs**

Mr. Shawn Moustafa is the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for University of the People. Moustafa previously served as the Director of Curriculum and Academic Development at California Coast University, a pioneer in distance learning, where he taught marketing and management courses.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## **Mr. Ashok Chandrasekhar, Chair**

Mr. Chandrasekhar is a Partner in the Corporate and Securities Department of Goldfarb Seligman & Co. Law Offices and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Mr. Chandrasekhar holds a J.D. from the New York University School of Law and a B.A. in English Literature from Yale University.

## **Hon. Justice Christine Durham**

Hon. Justice Christine Durham has been on the Utah Supreme Court since 1982, and served as Chief Justice and Chair of the Utah Judicial Council from 2002 to 2012. She received her A.B. with honors from Wellesley College and a J.D. from Duke University, where she is an Emeritus Member of the Board of Trustees.

## **Prof. Daniel J. H. Greenwood**

Prof. Greenwood is a Professor at Hofstra University's School of Law. Previously, he was S.J. Quinney Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College Of Law. He received degrees from Harvard College and Yale Law School.

## **Dr. Gabriel Hawawini**

Dr. Gabriel Hawawini is the Henry Grunfeld Chaired Professor of Investment Banking and former dean of INSEAD (2000-2006), one of the world's leading and largest graduate business schools. He is currently Visiting Professor of Finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Mr. Shai Reshef**

Mr. Shai Reshef is the President of UoPeople. Mr. Reshef has twenty years of experience in the international education market including having chaired K.I.T. eLearning, a subsidiary of Kidum, the eLearning partner of the University of Liverpool and one of the first online universities outside of the United

# DEANS

## **Dr. Alexander Tuzhilin – Dean of Computer Science**

Dr. Alexander Tuzhilin is the Dean of Computer Science at University of the People and serves as Professor of Information Systems at the Stern School of Business, New York University. He has previously held visiting positions at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University.

## **Dr. Russell S. Winer – Dean of Business Administration**

Mr. Russell S. Winer is the William Joyce Professor and Chair of the Department of Marketing at the Stern School of Business, New York University. He previously served on the faculties of Columbia University, Vanderbilt University and the University of California at Berkeley.

## **Dr. Dalton Conley - Dean of Arts & Sciences**

Dr. Dalton Conley holds a B.A. from the University of California – Berkeley, an M.P.A. & a Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University, and an M.S. & M.Phil. in Biology from NYU. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biology at the Center for Genomics and Systems Biology at NYU, studying phenotypic capacitance and socially regulated genes.



# PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

## **Chairman: President John Sexton**

John Sexton is the fifteenth President of New York University, as well as the Benjamin Butler Professor of Law and NYU Law School's Dean Emeritus, having served as Dean for 14 years. He joined NYU's Law School's faculty in 1981, was named the School's Dean in 1988, and was designated NYU's President in 2001.

## **Chancellor Nicholas Dirks**

Chancellor Nicholas Dirks serves as the Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley. Dirks is an internationally respected leader in higher education, well-known for his commitment to and advocacy for accessible, high-quality undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences.

## **Rector Emeritus Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux**

Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux has extensive educational leadership experience including being Rector of the Academy of Paris, Chancellor of the Universities, and Rector of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) which associates more than 700 Universities around the world.

## **President Robert R. Jennings**

Dr. Robert R. Jennings is the President of Lincoln University. Jennings brings with him many years of experience in strategic planning, operational and financial management, program and policy development, fundraising, research (grants/contracts) development/management, and student affairs.

## **Director Devang Khakhar**

Devang Khakhar is the Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (ITT) Bombay as of January 01, 2009. He received his Bachelor's in Technology from IIT Delhi in 1981 and his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1986. He joined the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Bombay in January 1987, and has been with the institute since then.

## **Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Sir Colin Lucas**

Sir Colin Lucas was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford from 1997 to 2004 and has recently retired as Warden of Rhodes Trust, the charitable organization responsible for bringing some of the world's finest scholars to Oxford. During his seven years as Vice-Chancellor, Sir Colin led the modernization of the University and saw it ranked fifth in the world.

## **President Emeritus Dr. Roger Mandle**

Roger Mandle is President Emeritus of the Rhode Island School of Design, where he served from 1993 to 2008. Dr. Mandle is currently the Senior Advisor to the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums Authority, after previously being the Executive Director. A cum laude graduate of Williams College, Dr. Mandle holds an MA and a Certificate in Museum Training from New York University and a Ph.D. in Art History from Case Western Reserve University.

## **President Emeritus Judith R. Shapiro**

Judith R. Shapiro is President and Professor of Anthropology Emeritus at Barnard College, having served as President of Barnard from 1994 to 2008. Shapiro is also Professor of Anthropology Emeritus at Bryn Mawr College, where she served as a faculty member and then Provost. Shapiro is a magna cum laude graduate of Brandeis University, and received her Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia University.

## **President Emeritus Stephen Joel Trachtenberg**

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg is President Emeritus and University Professor of Public Service at The George Washington University. He served as GW's 15th president from 1988 to 2007. Trachtenberg came to GW from the University of Hartford, where he was president for 11 years.



# ADVISORS

## Business Administration Advisory Board

**Dean: Dr. Russell S. Winer** currently serves as William Joyce Professor and Chair of the Department of Marketing at the Stern School of Business, New York University.

**Dr. Kriengsak Chareonwongsak** is a Senior Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School, the President of the Institute of Future Studies for Development in Thailand and former advisor to the Prime Minister of Thailand.

**Mr. John Gerzema** is the Executive Chairman of BAV Consulting. Previously, Gerzema co-founded Account Planning at Fallon and was Global Chief Insights Officer for Young & Rubicam. In addition to his consultancy work, Gerzema is an internationally known social theorist, a best-selling author, an in-demand public speaker, and a cultural analyst.

**Dr. Gabriel Hawawini** served Henry Grunfeld Chaired Professor of Investment Banking and former dean of INSEAD (2000-2006), one of the world's leading and largest graduate business schools. He is currently Visiting Professor of Finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Albert Wenger** is a General Partner at Union Square Ventures. Dr. Wenger brings with him over 10 years of entrepreneurial experience with an in-depth technology background, including having founded or co-founded five companies. Dr. Wenger also served as the president of del.icio.us through the company's sale to Yahoo.

**Ms. Toby Winer** is a leading Chief Financial Officer in the higher education and professional services sectors, helping institutions return to financial health and enabling future growth based upon sound strategic planning and fiscal governance.

## Computer Science Advisory Board

**Dean: Dr. Alexander Tuzhilin** currently, serves as Professor of Information Systems at the New York University (NYU) Stern School of Business. He has previously held visiting positions at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University and École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications in Paris.

**Dr. Vijay Atluri** is currently a Professor of Computer Information Systems in the MSIS Department, and research director for the Center for Information Management, Integration and Connectivity at Rutgers University.

**Dr. Shay David** is Chief Revenue Officer and Co-founder of Kaltura. He is a serial entrepreneur, specializing in collaborative and open-source information and communication systems. He received his PhD in Science and Technology Studies and Information Science from Cornell University.

**Professor HV Jagadish** is the Bernard A Galler Collegiate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan and a Senior Scientific Director of the National Center for Integrative Biomedical Informatics established by the National Institutes of Health.

**Dr. Mihai Nadin** made a name for himself as one of the first proponents of integrating computers into the U.S. education system. Dr. Nadin has served as Endowed Professor at the University of Texas at Dallas since 2004, and he is also the founder & Director of Anté, Institute for Research in Anticipatory Systems.

**Professor Vincent Oria** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Science at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

**Dr. Avi Silberschatz** is an award-winning educator, author and researcher, Sidney J. Weinberg Professor of Computer Science and the Chair of the Computer Science Department at Yale University.



**Ms. Gabriele Zedlmayer** is Vice President of the Office of Social Innovation at Hewlett-Packard (HP). In addition to her role at HP, Ms. Zedlmayer co-leads HP's Global Citizenship Council and serves as a member of the board of directors of Junior Achievement Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA).

### **Arts & Sciences Advisory Board**

**Dean: Dr. Dalton Conley** holds a B.A. from the University of California – Berkeley, an M.P.A. & a Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University, and an M.S. & M.Phil. in Biology from NYU. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biology at the Center for Genomics and Systems Biology at NYU, studying phenotypic capacitance and socially regulated genes.

**Ms. June Arunga** is a founding partner and member of the board of directors at Black Star Lines (BSL), a technology solution provider for cell-phone based payments and money transfers in Africa. She is also the founder and president of Open Quest Media LLC in New York.

**Dr. Peter Awn** currently serves in his 14th year as Dean of Columbia University's School of General Studies and his 33rd year as a professor of Islamic Religion and Comparative Religion at Columbia University. Dr. Awn also currently serves as the director of the Middle East Institute at Columbia University.

**Professor Jack M. Balkin** is Knight Professor of Constitutional Law and the First Amendment at Yale Law School, the founder and director of Yale's Information Society Project and the co-director of Yale's Law and Media Program.

**Dr. Catherine M. Casserly** is currently CEO of Creative Commons. While the Director of the OER Initiative at The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, she managed investments totaling more than \$100 million to harness the efficiency and effectiveness of knowledge sharing worldwide.

**Dr. Geraldine Downey** currently serves as a Professor of Psychology at Columbia University and director of its Social Relations Laboratory.

**Dr. Terry Fulmer** is Professor & Dean of the Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. Dr. Fulmer received her Bachelor's Degree from Skidmore College, her Master's and Doctoral Degrees from Boston College and her Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate from New York University. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and currently serves as vice chair of the New York Academy of Medicine.

**Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir** has been the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United States since July 2007.

**Dr. Ariel Kalil** is Professor in the Harris School of the University of Chicago, and Director of the Center for Human Potential and Public Policy. Dr. Kalil received her PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of Michigan.

**Dr. Abdul Waheed Khan, Ph.D.** is currently President of Talal Abu Ghazaleh Business University, Bahrain, and Senior Adviser to the Arab Open University. Dr. Khan was previously the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information at the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**Dr. Preetha Ram** is currently the Associate Dean for Pre-Health and Science Education at Emory University. Dr. Ram received her PhD in biophysical chemistry from Yale, holds an MBA from Emory, graduated with a Msc in Chemistry from I.I.T Delhi and has an undergraduate degree from Women's Christian College, Chennai, India.

**Dr. David Wiley** is Associate Professor of Instructional Psychology and Technology at Brigham Young University, Chief Openness Officer of Flat World Knowledge, and Founder of the Open High School of Utah.

**Ms. Esther Wojcicki** has been the Journalism & English teacher at Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, CA for the past 25 years. After building the journalism program from a small group of 20 students in 1985 to one of the largest in the nation including 350 students, Ms. Wojcicki was selected by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as 2002 California Teacher of the Year.



**Dr. Ruth Yakir** currently serves as the director of the Center for International Studies at Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts and chairs a “think tank” to propose changes in teacher education curricula in the era of globalization.

### **Library Services Advisory Board**

**Chairperson: Ms. Ilene Frank** currently serves as the Director of Library Services at University of the People. From 1974 to 2009, Ms. Frank was a reference librarian at the University of South Florida (USF), where she retired with professor emerita status.

**Ms. Carol Goodson** is the Head of Library Access Services at the University of West Georgia, where she oversees services for distance education students.

**Mr. S. Blair Kauffman** is a Law Librarian and Professor of Law at Yale Law School. Mr. Kauffman has authored books including Szladitz Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Law (2000) with Dan Wade and Tracy Thompson, and Law in America (2001) with Bonnie Collier.

**Mr. Jim Neal** is currently the Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, providing leadership for university academic computing and a system of twenty-two libraries.

**Mr. Tom Peters** is the current CEO of “TAP Information Services”, founded in 2003, to assist libraries, publishers and other such organizations in research and assessment services. Mr. Peters has served as the Dean of University Libraries at Western Illinois University and as Humanities Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Bibliographic Instruction, Miller Nichols Library, University of Missouri--Kansas City.

**Ms. Elizabeth F. Watson** is Campus Librarian at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados of The University of the West Indies (UWI). She is a member of the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO, Chair of the UNESCO's Memory of the World Committee (MoW) and also serves on the (International) Marketing Committee for MoW.



# HAITI PROJECT

The 2010 earthquake destroyed much of Haiti's higher education sector, a crucial factor in rebuilding efforts and sustainable development. Twenty-eight of Haiti's 32 major universities were completely destroyed and the four remaining universities were severely damaged.

With the support of the Clinton Global Initiative, UoPeople currently has admitted approximately 100 local students, helping them access education and develop the skills needed to rebuild their country. Over a three year period, the organization will accept 250 qualified Haitian youth to study online, utilizing working towards an Associate's Degree in Business Administration or Computer Science.

Online programs will provide Haitian students with the opportunity to attain higher education without having to leave Haiti, not only empowering individual project participants, but also raising the standards for, and access to, higher education. In turn, these individuals will help to restore and repair civil society in Port-au-Prince and aid in the country's critical recovery. By encouraging Haitian students to study at home, UoPeople will also help counter the country's "brain drain" which has seen Haiti's brightest and most talented minds leave the country for greater educational opportunities abroad.

Since many Haitian students do not have access to the Internet, UoPeople works with on-the-ground allies to establish Student Computer Centers in the region. Managed by a support staff, the Centers, located in Port-au-Prince and Mirebalais, are equipped with computers and high speed Internet connection and are open to all students, who may study there for the duration of their enrollment at UoPeople.

"After high school, I could not go to university because it was too expensive. Every day, I would stand in the street talking with my friends about what we would do if we had money. We hoped that 2010 would be better, but then the earthquake destroyed everything, houses, businesses and many lives," said Elysée, age 21, UoPeople student. "Since that day, I have been sleeping in the street, under a tent, and nobody cares about my education anymore. University of the People is better than food and a tent. And education is even better than a visa or a green card."



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# MEDIA



"An Israeli entrepreneur with decades of experience in international education plans to start the first global, tuition-free Internet university, a nonprofit venture he has named the University of the People... Mr. Reshef is probably as well positioned as anyone for such an enterprise." – [New York Times](#)



"One of the higher education world's boldest experiments began in September when 180 students from nearly 50 countries around the world logged on to their computers for their first day of school at the University of the People." – [Businessweek.com](#)



"UN announces launch of world's first tuition-free, online university...As part of this year's focus on education, the UN Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technology and Development (GAID) presented the newly formed University of the People, a non-profit institution offering higher education to the masses." – [UN News Centre](#)



"As millions of students across the world go back to school this month, 178 students from 49 countries will turn on their computers and step onto the virtual campus of the world's first global, tuition-free online university. Called University of the People, the non-profit, California-based endeavor comes from Israeli entrepreneur Shai Reshef who says he founded the school to provide higher education to those who might otherwise never have access to it." – [CNN.com](#)



"An Israeli entrepreneur who has started what is believed to be the world's first tuition-free online university said Saturday he hopes the effort will expand education to less fortunate people around the world." – [Associated Press](#)



"Hundreds of students on five continents have enrolled [in University of the People], and Reshef hopes his university will serve as a global model for how to educate a new generation. 'There are hundreds of millions of people around the world unable to afford higher education,' he says. 'We are offering them an alternative.'" – [Fast Company](#)



"It's Time to Give Back...Serial entrepreneur Shai Reshef launches University of the People, a free online university for students who cannot afford tuition." – [Inc.com](#)



"Global University Eliminates Barriers to Education. There's a lot of handwringing about the cost of higher education in this country. Well, one entrepreneur has come up with a proposal to bring that cost down to a manageable number: zero. University of the People is free — it's 100 percent online." – [NPR](#)



"It is a grand vision: a global college with no tuition, accessible to anyone with an Internet connection. When higher education entrepreneur Shai Reshef laid out his ambitious plan to build a free university that would use modern technology to spread the promise of a college degree to all corners of the earth, he got an enthusiastic reaction from some high-profile institutions. The United Nations has backed the venture. So has Yale Law School's Information Society Project." – [USA Today](#)



"An online opportunity for those who lack alternatives. Welcome to the tuition fee-free world of the University of the People (UoPeople) – an online non-profit university which has already acquired 380 students from 81 countries within a year of opening." – [Financial Times](#)



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Tuition-Free Online University



**Los Angeles Times** “Shai Reshef, the Israeli entrepreneur behind the idea, said the response has been overwhelming since news of his in-the-works university started spreading earlier this year. Hundreds of potential students from all over the world have e-mailed, and hundreds of professors want to volunteer -- and admissions won't even open until April.” – [Los Angeles Times](#)



“The timing couldn't be better. Just as millions of working-age Americans are realizing they need extra education and skill-sharpening to thrive in a recession... The new nonprofit University of the People... will offer totally free online courses and textbooks leading to business and computer technology bachelor's degrees.” – [U.S. News & World Report](#)



“An entrepreneur is planning the University of the People, a global and largely free degree-awarding, online university that will rely in part on peer-to-peer teaching and professors — some volunteer — to plan assessments.” – [Inside Higher Ed](#)



“It has no campus, no lecture theatres and hardly any paid staff, but the International University of the People, which opened last month, does have one big plus point - no tuition fees.” – [The Guardian](#)



“Educators on the panel were equally vocal about reform... For those who can't afford a college education, there needs to be a free, viable alternative, said Shai Reshef, founder and president of University of the People, an online institution that he envisions will one day educate 100,000 people.” – [The Atlantic](#)



“You've voted on your favorites and chosen Shai Reshef as the Ultimate Game Changer in Education for 2010. Changed the game by ... taking the world to school. In 2009, Reshef founded the University of the People, a Pasadena-based project that streams lectures and assignments to people around the world, allowing them to take college classes online for less than \$100.” – [The Huffington Post](#)



“University of the People (UoPeople), a non-profit organization, is currently seeking funds to expand its presence in Haiti and fulfill its commitment to reach 250 students.” – [The Nation](#)



“New York University... is starting a new partnership with the University of the People... [NYU President] Mr. [John] Sexton said he hoped the collaboration would encourage more N.Y.U. faculty... to work with the online institution.” – [New York Times](#)



“Traditional Higher Ed Opens Doors for Tuition-Free Online University... mission is not to turn a profit, but rather to create a truly global opportunity for education... It's [UoPeople] an evolution of the existing educational space” – [Mashable](#)



“At a time when top national universities charge \$50,000 a year in tuition and living expenses, University of the People represents quite an anomaly. The Pasadena, Calif., nonprofit university offers college coursework to about 1,000 students worldwide essentially for free.” – [The Washington Post](#)



“All around the world, people have been waiting for someone like Shai Reshef to come along... UoPeople strives to serve the vast numbers of students who have no access to traditional higher education.” – [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)



“Mr. Reshef sees his project as a way to use the Internet to bring higher education to poor students around the world... For Joe Jean, a 23-year-old Haitian from a poor family, the University of the People was the only option for college.” – [New York Times](#)



UNIVERSITY  
OF THE PEOPLE  
Tuition-Free Online University



"The international, tuition-free, nonprofit institution, founded in 2009, is a pioneering effort in e-learning and peer-to-peer learning...Administrators are not only waiting for accreditation, which they hope to gain soon, but are preparing the institution for what may follow." – [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)



"Listen, everyone should be educated," Reshef says. "I care about the people who don't have the right to an education right now, and they should have the right." - [NPR](#)

