

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

DRIVING IMPACT TOWARDS THE SDGS



SDG REPORT
NOVEMBER 2023





CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
|  SDG1: NO POVERTY | 6 |
|  SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER | 8 |
|  SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 10 |
|  SDG 4: QUALTY EDUCATION | 12 |
|  SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY | 14 |
|  SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 16 |
|  SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 18 |
|  SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 20 |
|  SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 22 |
|  SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 24 |
|  SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 26 |
|  SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION | 28 |
|  SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION | 30 |
|  SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER | 32 |
|  SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND | 34 |
|  SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 36 |
|  SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS | 38 |

DRIVING IMPACT TOWARDS THE SDGS

We are thrilled to share with you the remarkable achievements of the University of Haifa in our latest Sustainability Report.

The University of Haifa is a research-intensive university in the north of Israel and the most pluralistic institution of higher education in the country. A preeminent example of a mixed city, Haifa is home to Jews, Muslims, Christians, Baha'i, and Druze. Founded in 1963, it received full accreditation in 1972, and today offers all degrees, undergraduate and graduate, in seven faculties: Education, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, Social Welfare and Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Marine Sciences.

First in higher education in Israel to place the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its roadmap, the faculty and administration continue to extend the institution's commitment to human, societal, and environmental well-being. The geographic location affords the campus body a unique blend of educational and scientific opportunities within the Carmel mountain top natural reserve, urban scape of downtown Haifa, and along the Mediterranean shore.

Ranked among the top 101-200 universities globally by Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 (out of approximately 1,700 academic institutions), the University of Haifa showcases an unwavering commitment to

the United Nations SDGs. The rankings for each SDG reflect a university's achievements in terms of research, teaching, public engagement and internal operations. Among our standout achievements include placing:

- 9th in SDG5 Gender Equality, up from 55th place in 2022
- 25th in SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, up from 101-200 place in 2022
- 28th in SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, up from 95th place in 2022
- 28th in SDG 14 Life Under Water, up from 98th place in 2022

Altogether, ranked Top 50 on seven of the SDGs and ranked 51-100 on two additional SDGs

Beyond these outstanding rankings, this year we launched an internal 'Impact Project' grant program to encourage teaching and research that send ripples of impact far beyond the university's boundaries. Namely, the grant promotes the valorisation of scholarly knowledge and the translation of research to societal and environmental solutions, encouraging cross-sectorial and multidisciplinary blending of knowledge and practical utility.

The Abraham Accords opened the gates to new, regional partners. After successfully advancing partnerships with the TRENDS Advisory Center in Abu Dhabi and Zayed University in the UAE in 2021, in 2022 MOUs were advanced with the United Arab Emirates University; Cadi Ayyad University, and Abdelmalek Essaâdi in Morocco, as well as the Bahrain Institute.

Finally, we cannot conclude without a few words about the current situation at the university of Haifa, and in Israel at large, although the events are outside the scope of the report presented before you.

As mentioned, the University is the beacon of interfaith shared existence, championing diversity and inclusion. Nonetheless, we face unprecedented challenges in the aftermath of the murderous massacre of October 7th 2023, as war rages across all Israel's borders. Many of our students and staff have been called up for reserve service, and the 2023-2024 academic year has yet to open. We witness growing tensions among our students and staff, threatening to fracture the inter-cultural bonds we have so carefully nurtured. As we look forward, we remain determined to allow the freedom of expression, encourage healthy discourse, and disallow calls for violence and hatred.

As you explore this report, we invite you to join us in fostering a culture of positive change, where each wave of progress has the potential to shape a more sustainable and equitable world for generations to come.

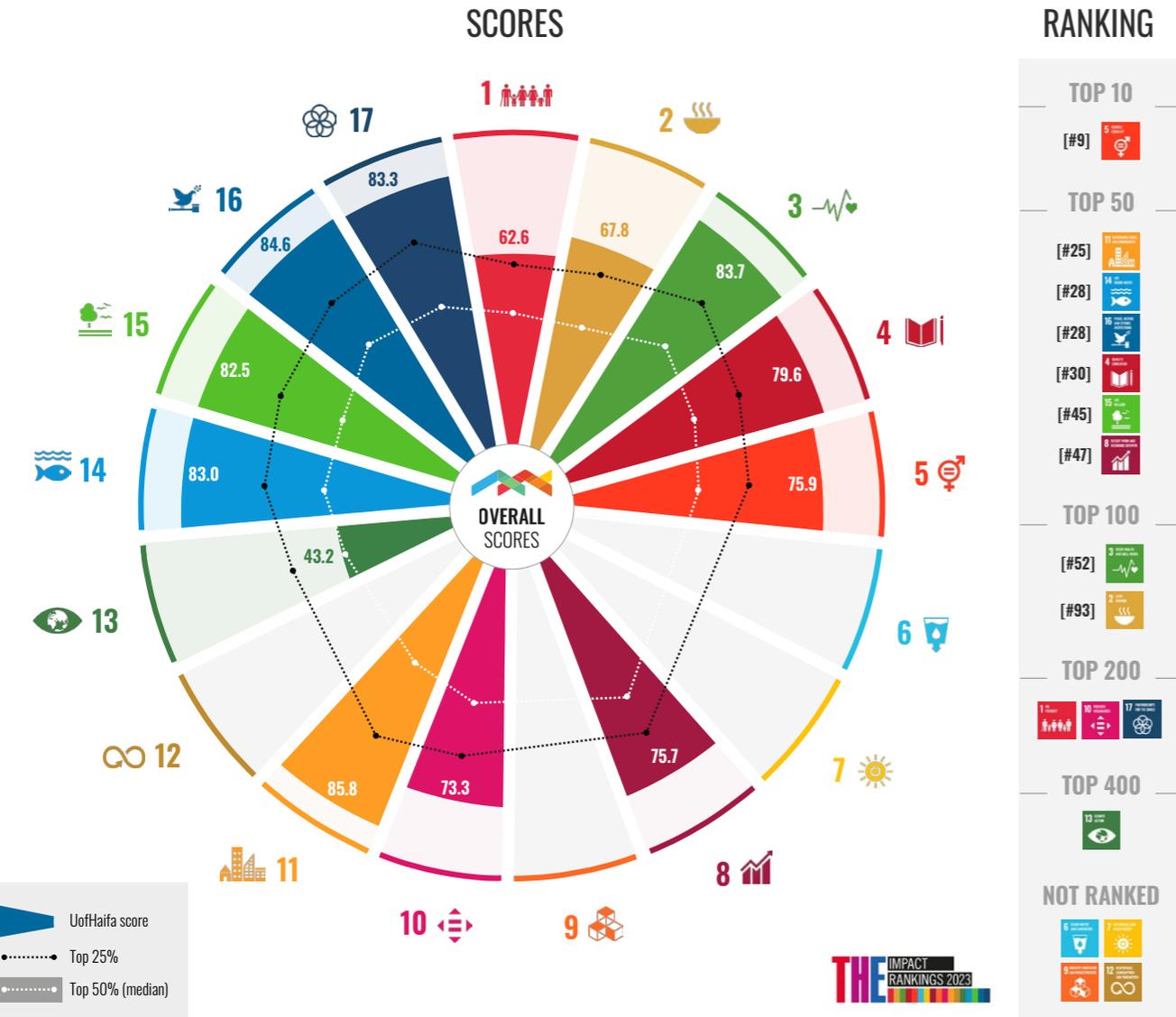
Prof. Ofer Arazy



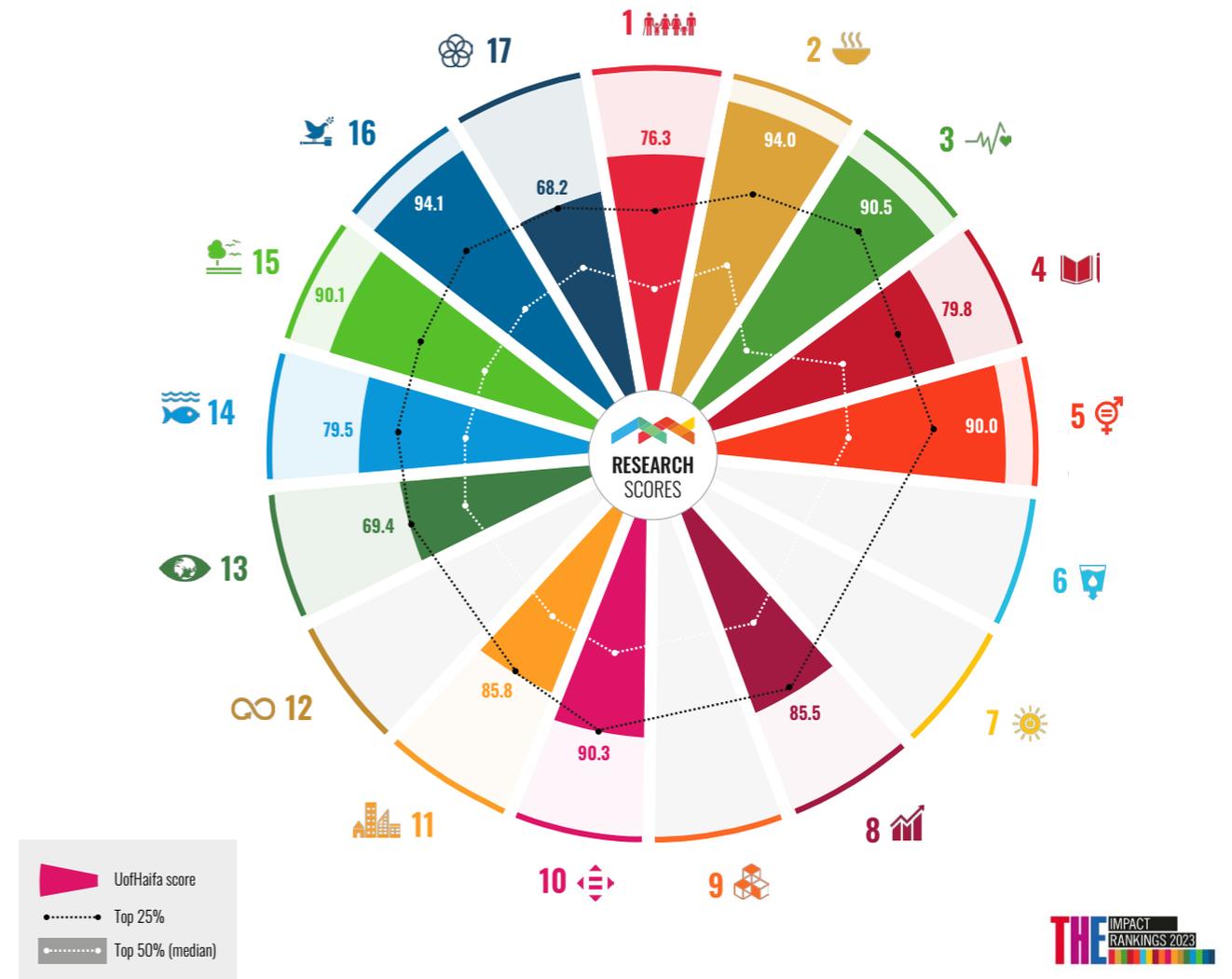
Director of Innovation & Sustainability



UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA **OVERALL PERFORMANCE*** PER SDG - 2023



UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA **RESEARCH SCORES** PER SDG



* including: Research, Learning & Students, Public Engagement, and Operations



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

RESEARCH

ERC Grant: Causes of Inequality in the Labor Market

Prof. Tali Kristal of the Department of Sociology researches the various dimensions of economic inequality and demonstrates why and how economic inequality in Israel, the US, and other developed societies is related to institutional and structural features of labor markets. This year, Prof. Kristal was awarded the prestigious European Union ERC Consolidator grant for the second time. Her research will challenge prevailing assumptions on income inequality, investigating the origins of inequality using workplace-derived data.

Article: Non Citizenship and Poverty amongst Palestinian Families in Israel

The article 'Families in Poverty and Non Citizenship: An Intersectional Perspective on Economic Exclusion' published in Journal of Family Issues, by Dr. Einat Lavee of the Department of Human Services, and Prof. Roni Strier, founder of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion, discusses the relationship between noncitizenship and poverty among Palestinian families in Israel. It explores the survival



Soul of Rwanda (Credit: Dr. Rinat Feniger-Schaal)

strategies of noncitizen families through qualitative interviews, highlighting mechanisms of economic exclusion. The study suggests adopting a transnational protection framework for inclusive economic and social integration of noncitizens.

Reconceptualizing Uneven Global Relations

Prof. Ayelet Ben-Yishai, former Chair of the Department of English Language and Literature, specializes in British and Postcolonial literature and cultures. She observes that as the initial promise of a more just postcolonial world order slips further away, the academic field of postcolonial studies must urgently reconceptualize the uneven global relations that continue to dominate our world. She works to bring together scholars from around the world to the complex

social and cultural ecosystem of Haifa and address poverty, ongoing violence, the refugee crisis, and the environment.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Relieving Debilitating Debt

The Civil Litigation Clinic, directed by Adv. Reut Cohen, provided legal aid and representation to 130 clients, offering pro bono legal aid in areas including debt, social security issues, housing, banking and SLAPP. Several cases involved court representation and Execution Office proceedings, and one case involved a petition for pardon filed with the president of Israel on behalf of a client with a criminal fine debt. The clinic sits under the Clinics for Law and Social Change, directed academically by Dr. Tammy Harel Ben Shahr of the Faculty

of Law and was established two decades ago. The team of six leading lawyers oversee students in 500 cases annually, impacting thousands.

Soul of Rwanda

Dr. Rinat Feniger-Schaal, from the Drama and Health Science Lab at the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, traveled to Rwanda to explore a new partnership to with Soul of Rwanda, a shelter started by two brothers who survived the mass genocide. The shelter provides shelter, food, and education for 45 children. Dr. Feniger-Schaal and a team of volunteers traveled there to help build sustainable economic, educational, and treatment programs, raised funds and brought art supplies to support their work.

Interest-free Loans for Students

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles provides interest-free loans ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, to University students who have completed military or national service, demonstrate financial need, and have Iranian heritage. Repayment occurs in 10 equal installments, starting one semester after expected graduation.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

NEW International Jewish Studies and Global Activism MA

Together with Tevel b'Tzedek, a new MA program in Jewish Studies combines rigorous Jewish learning with global activism. Tevel b'Tzedek is an Israeli Non-Profit supporting vulnerable rural

communities in the global south, such as the region of Mphande, Zambia, in creating sustainable transformations. Students will study relevant topics such as social justice in Hebrew Bible and charity in Rabbinic literature. In the third semester, students will engage in live activism abroad through Tevel b'Tzedek programs. The MA is earned over two semesters: one at UofH and one abroad.

Unlocking Opportunities for Lower Income Students

UofH is unlocking opportunities for students of less financial means. According to Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) data

35% of BA, 27% of MA, and 18% PhD students at UofH are from towns and cities in Israel that are considered low on the Israeli socioeconomic scale.

Cultural Sensitivity in Higher Education

In Israel, like in higher education systems worldwide, academia is becoming more accessible to diverse populations. The 'Cultural Sensitivity in Higher Education' conference, held by the Dean of Students, together with the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion, Haifa Center on the Politics of Inequality, and the Department of Leadership and Policy in Education, examined the impact of diverse populations entering higher education, the challenges they face, and potential paths to ensure social mobility.

OPERATIONS

Future Leaders Scholarships

The 'Future Leaders Scholarships' initiative, offered by the Dean of Students Unit, is designed to empower first-generation, ambitious students from Israel's socio-economic periphery. Participants receive comprehensive support, including tuition scholarships, housing assistance, academic guidance, personal development, and career counseling. The selection process involves group dynamics, economic scoring, and personal interviews.

Meeting the Needs of the First-Generation in Higher Education

The Division of the Presidency and External Relations introduced the Ambassadors Lecture Series, showcasing passionate faculty and professionals who align with the University's academic and social goals. As part of the series, Dr. Yael Granot-Bein, Director of the Social Engagement Unit, discussed 'First Generation Students as Agents of Change'. She underscored that 47% of UofH students are first generation, and how the institution can better tailor their programs to ensure their success. Dr. Granot-Bein is leading the institution's new Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community, headed by Prof. Arin Salamah-Qudsi.





END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH

Promoting Health via Education

Dr. Noga Cohen, from the Department of Special Education and the Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities, together with her lab team, researches the reciprocal links between cognitive control and emotion and how these links can be strengthened through training. [Their findings](#) show that cognitive reappraisal is an effective technique, not only for reducing negative affect, but also for modulating links between emotions and their consequences.

New Publication: Transforming Culture and Religion to Eradicate Food Waste

A multi-disciplinary team of UoFH researchers recently published an article titled, [‘Between perceptions and practices: The Religious and Cultural aspects of food wastage in households’](#), published in *Appetite*, explores how cultural and religious views shape food waste practices. Interviews with influential individual subsets of Israeli society, including secular Jews; religious Jews; and Muslim Arabs unveil the conflict between values and waste. The research seeks to identify factors that



Planting at the food forest in Bethlehem of Galilee (Credit: Yuli and Nitzan Betzer)

lead to household food waste include past scarcity, consumer culture, and hospitality in hopes to demonstrate how dissonance can be reconciled, both on the level of justification and action.

New Study: Lengthening Wheat Roots

[A new study](#) conducted by Prof. Tzion Fahima, from the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, in collaboration with researchers from the University of California Davis, was published in *Nature Communications*. Their work identifies the genes (OPRIII) responsible for regulating the length of the roots in bread wheat, which will allow wheat with longer roots to reach the water found in

deeper soil layers and yield more crops in dry conditions.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Opposing Judicial Overhaul for National Food Security

Considering the ongoing judicial overhaul in Israel, the National Council for Food Security, led by Prof. Emeritus Roni Strier from the School of Social Work, [released an opinion](#) highlighting the implications for food-insecure populations. The council emphasized that without a robust and independent legal system, the most vulnerable individuals lack adequate protection. This underscores the importance of maintaining an independent judiciary to ensure the well-being

next three years. By sharing their soil management experience, they help to ensure that project outcomes are most impactful.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Training for National Food Security

Twenty-eight students graduated from the first cohort of the new training program for food security.

under the Unit of Continued Education and the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, is unique in its aim to train coordinators from across the country and diverse backgrounds that work for the national initiative for food security. The initiative operates under Eshel Chabad, together with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs, who grant services to thousands of families nationwide.

Teaching for Sustainable Food Practices

Courses such as ‘Dieticians for underserved populations’ with Dr. Roni Elran-Barak; ‘Seven Skinny Years: Food Security in the Mediterranean Region’ with Prof. Guy Bar-Oz and Prof. Gil Gambash; and ‘Nutrition Policy in Present Times’ by Prof. Ronit Endevelt, all play a vital role in addressing and advancing food security by equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle the challenges of nutrition and sustainable food practices, ultimately contributing to a more secure and equitable food future.

OPERATIONS

Student Union Cafe

In response to student protests on living costs, the Student Union established [the ‘Union Cafe’](#) on campus, offering a diverse range of affordable and subsidized food options. The clean, organized dining area provides students with a comfortable space to enjoy sandwiches, chocolates, snacks, hot/cold drinks, as well as hot meals like pizzas, pastas, salads, and pastries throughout the year.

Discounted Vouchers for Staff

Discounted vouchers for a variety of groceries stores in Israel are offered to the University’s Staff.





RESEARCH

Understanding Schizophrenia

Prof. Shani Stern and fellow researchers at the Sagol Department of Neurobiology performed a meta-analysis of numerous publications focusing on individuals with Schizophrenia (SCZ) from various populations and ancestral backgrounds. The analysis led to the revealing of common genetic variants that could potentially play a significant role in the pathophysiology of SCZ. The team's [results](#) were published in *Schizophrenia Research*, and their conclusions highlights the potential benefit of identified common genetic variants in predicting the disease status among individuals with schizophrenia.

Killing by Degradation

A [new article](#) published in *Cells*, by Prof. Sarit Larisch, head of Cell Death and Cancer Research Laboratory, and others, illustrates the cell suicide process (Apoptosis) that is essential for human health. Impaired apoptosis is associated with a variety of human diseases. As the levels of pro- and anti-apoptotic proteins can determine the life or death of cells, tight regulation of these



Prof. David Roe (Credit: University of Haifa)

proteins is critical. The ubiquitin proteasome system (UPS) is essential for maintaining protein turnover, which can either trigger or inhibit apoptosis. Compounds that specifically target proteins for degradation resulting in effective tumor killing may dramatically improve the success of cancer therapy.

AI GRID Ambassador

Prof. Mor Peleg is a Professor of Information Systems and Director of the Data Science Center at UofH. As Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Biomedical Informatics* and an International Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, Prof. Peleg's renowned expertise led to her nomination as an [ambassador of](#)

[AI GRID](#), an initiative that cultivates exchange and collaboration between young professionals in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Her research focuses on clinical guideline-based decision support systems (CDSS) for patients and physicians.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Haifa Age Friendly University.

The Center for Research and Study of Aging at the university, in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team including members of the university's faculties, begins to fulfill the social, ethical, and innovative vision of making the university the first in Israel to be senior-friendly, part of an impact project.

Art Therapy for those coping with Breast Cancer

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, The School of Arts Therapy held a conference attended by dozens of women currently coping or recovering from breast cancer. [The women took part in a study](#) headed by Dr. Johanna Czamanski-Cohen, of the Psychosomatic Study of Art Therapy Lab, and funded by the American Health Organization, examining the role of emotional processing in art therapy in reducing depression, pain, and fatigue among women affected by breast cancer.

Promoting Social Change to Mitigate Community Stigma in Mental Health

To promote equality, health, and welfare, Prof. David Roe (Department of Community Mental Health) and his team train and guide teaching staff at local schools to assist their students in coping with mental health stigmas. Through an integrated course for MA students together with individuals with mental disorders, participants interact and create short films based on personal stories. These films aim to [empower those coping with mental health](#) challenges and change attitudes among students and to mitigate stigma in the wider community.

LEARNING & STUDENTS

Customizing Psychotherapy

A diverse team of over 40 post-doctoral, PhD, MA, and BA students carry out the mission of the UofH [Psychotherapy Lab](#), whose mission is to improve the available treatments for depression by seeking to identify the most effective treatment and custom tailor to the individual's needs, preferences, and characteristics. Their clinical experience supplies research questions and hypotheses to advance how therapists can contribute to treatment.

Biological Clocks

Prof. Eran Tauber heads the [Laboratory of Biological Clocks](#) at the University of Haifa. The main focus of his research team is to understand the genetic basis of individuals' tendency to be active either early or late during the day. This barely known trait (called chronotype) impacts human behavior and health. The group has studied this trait in wild populations of *Drosophila*, vinegar fruit fly. The extraordinary range of chronotypes exhibited by these flies provided an opportunity for using *Drosophila* for the genetic dissection of chronotypes. The Biological Clock laboratory with Prof. Tamar Shochat (UofH) and Prof. Ayelet Baram-Tsabari (Technion) has initiated a citizen science project for middle- and high school students, entitled 'Sleep - A Third of Life', which aims to map sleep patterns of adolescents in Israel.

OPERATIONS

Seeking to Increase Inclusion

An intensive process explores how to increase diversity and inclusion is being advanced by the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, led by Prof. Naomi Schreuer, Prof. Hisham Abu-Rayya, and Dr. Carmit-Noa Shpigelman, who began by addressing diversity among faculty, administrative staff, and Ph.D. students. Whereas data shows that

across the faculty, women fill over 50% of academic positions,

there is more work to be done to ensure representation of Arab, religious, LGBTQ, and single parents.

Racing to Commemorate

Each of the last 49 years, a [race has been held to commemorate](#) the university's fallen students, in the name of Ilan Shapira, a university student who was killed in the Yom Kippur War. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and guests participate in the run hosted by the University each year.



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

RESEARCH

Bilingual Education Policy in Xinjiang Revisited

[‘The “Bilingual Education” Policy in Xinjiang Revisited’](#) published in the journal *Modern China*, by Associate Prof. Nimrod Baranovitch, of the Department of Asian Studies, examines the controversial policy's impact on Uyghur ethnic identity.

Uyghur scholars' essays and ethnographic data highlight the policy's negative impact on Uyghur identity, indicating implications for quality education. Contrary to previous understanding, the study reveals that not all Uyghurs resisted the policy; some political and academic elites promoted it. Some Uyghur academics' overt opposition to the policy challenges the existing scholarship's covert resistance assumption.

Micro-level Dynamic and Educational Reforms

[‘Between Collaboration and Conflict: the exploration of micropolitical processes during reform enactment in an Arab junior high school in Israel’](#) by Prof. Ayman Agbaria, of the Faculty of Education, and colleagues, explores an Arab junior high school's responses



The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library (Credit: The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library)

to the Ministry of Education New Horizon reform in Israel. Through qualitative case study, it analyzes how staff interpret and implement the reform, impacting their professional identities. The research reveals both collaborative and conflict-driven strategies among teachers and the principal to safeguard their interests. The findings underscore how micro-level dynamics and local context influence larger educational reforms.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

University of Haifa for Youth

University of Haifa for Youth was established in 2022, and since has involved [thousands of teens in their enrichment programs](#) and over 100 teens in

full-degree programs, such as Etgar, a prestigious undergraduate program for high school seniors studying computer science; and Kodkod, an intensive mathematics program for undergraduates. The university offers an array of courses from Cinema to Science.

Social Work Study Delegation to Uganda

In the summer of 2023, [a delegation from the School of Social Work embarked on a mission to Uganda](#), which they prepared for over a year. In collaboration with the Jewish Agency 'TEN' initiative, the one-week mission included 10 students and 2 senior faculty members. The delegation had several key objectives: mutual learning of varying welfare

systems, understanding social issues in Uganda and Israel, building connections between leading social work researchers, and exposing students to international aspects of community development.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Academic Clusters

UofH aims to equip its graduates with a diverse academic toolbox to prepare them for the modern workforce. In addition to their disciplinary studies, undergraduate students can choose one of [six clusters](#), each focusing on unique skill sets: (1) Critical Thinking (2) Data Science and Cyber (3) Innovation and Entrepreneurship (4) Human Resources (5) Sustainability and Open Environment (6) Digital Communication. These clusters aim to bridge academia with the evolving employment landscape, industry, and community while fostering a holistic and well-rounded education.

New MA Programs

The University of Haifa has recently introduced several new academic programs, among which is an international interdisciplinary [Master's degree in Child Development](#) that targets professionals who work with children. This program aims to enhance the quality of students' work substantially by equipping them with advanced assessment tools. Additionally, the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences offers an MA program in Bioethics and Public Health, which seamlessly [integrates](#)

[ethical thinking into health policy decision-making](#). This program emphasizes practical. The curriculum addresses ethical dilemmas, caregiver-patient relationships, and justice in public health.

The students of 'Ofakim Program' are looking at the horizon

The [‘Ofakim program’](#) UofH's Honors program which trains outstanding students in an array of academic research tools, introduces them to various disciplines, and cultivates in them high-level critical thinking, writing and analytical skills. The program aims to turn its graduates into leading interdisciplinary researchers in academia, and key opinion and action leaders in Israeli society. 'Ofakim' students receive a full scholarship, personal guidance, and participate in study tours in Israel and abroad. The program accompanies its graduates from the moment of graduation and throughout their career, while they harness their studies on their way to the top.

OPERATIONS

Largest Gift to UofH: New \$120M Scholarship Fund

The largest gift in the University's history – a \$120 million commitment from Mr. Elie Horn, will be used to establish two new scholarship funds.

The first is 'Ahavat Olam' (eternal love), which will support students pursuing in-depth studies in Jewish religion, heritage, and history; while the second scholarship fund will provide

need-based financial assistance to deserving female students. Mr. Elie Horn, Brazilian-Jewish philanthropist and businessperson and longstanding friend and supporter of the University received an [honorary doctorate](#) in recognition of his lifetime dedication to the Jewish community in South America, his support of Israel and its people, and generosity and friendship to the University of Haifa.

Open Access to Published Research

The trend towards open information is growing, allowing for free of charge and unrestricted access to research worldwide. UofH's Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library have signed agreements with publishers to facilitate [open access publishing](#) for researchers, ensuring accessibility for the public.

Library and Museum Access

To serve the public both the UofH Library and Hecht Museum are open to the public for free during weekdays. During summer months, the museum holds archaeology-related craft workshops for local youth. During the winter, on Saturday, when many institutions are closed in Israel due to the Jewish Sabbath, the museum hosts theatrical performances for children followed by interactive activities. Throughout the year, [the Library serves as a 'cultural center'](#) which is open to the general public that offers fascinating lectures related to the areas of interest of the library.



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

RESEARCH

Prof. Mouna Maroun named among the 50 Most Influential Women in Israel

Prof. Mouna Maroun, the first Arab female professor in the field of neuroscience in Israel, was named by the Israeli publication Globes as [one of the 2023's top 50 most influential women in Israel](#). Her research focuses on post-traumatic stress, aiming to develop a drug to alleviate traumatic memories. As Vice President and Dean for Research and Development at the University of Haifa, she promotes higher education in Arab society. Prof. Maroun engages in volunteer work, climate change collaboration, and fostering connections between the academy and religious communities in Haifa.

Gender Gap in Populist Radical Right Parties

School of Political Science faculty member, Dr. Liran Harsgor, is part of a team of researchers who recently published in the *American Journal of Political Science* an article that examines the [gender gap in support for populist radical right parties \(PRRPs\)](#). It suggests that men are more likely to vote for PRRPs than women, and this difference can



Laboratory for Neurobiology of Emotions members (Credit: lab website)

be attributed to variations in risk-taking tendencies. The research emphasizes the significance of gender differences in risk aversion and their impact on the voting gender gap.

Feminism and Mathematical Literacy

[‘Intersectional feminism to reinvasion mathematical literacies & precarity’](#) by Prof. Laurie Rubel of the Department of Mathematics Education and her team, published in *Research in Mathematics Education*, highlights the need to adapt math education given global challenges like COVID-19 and climate change. It critiques the Program for International Student Assessment's framework for mathematical literacy (FML), suggesting it's insufficient for addressing current crises and gender disparities. The study proposes integrating

critical math education and intersectional feminism to redefine mathematical literacy with a focus on feeling, acting, and problem context.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Legal Feminism Clinic

The Faculty of Law's [Legal Feminism Clinic](#) provided legal aid and representation to about 200 clients last year. The cases involved employment discrimination and sexual harassment; appeals against DA decisions not to press charges in sex crimes; eligibility for social security pensions for survivors of sex crimes; defense against SLAPP; protection warrants in cases of domestic violence; and more. The clinic was also involved in several projects for policy change relating to abortion

committees, treatment of victims of sex crimes in hospitals, exclusion of women from the public sphere, and a new initiative to conduct mediation between victims of sexual harassment and the alleged perpetrators.

Maternity Leave Museum Tours

Women on maternity leave are invited to explore culture and history at the Hecht Museum with [special guided tours](#). These free community tours offer an engaging and enriching experience, providing new mothers with an opportunity to connect, learn, and share the museum's treasures.

Working at the Intersection of Gender and Disabilities

Dr. Carmit-Noa Shpigelman of the [Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences](#) and the [Department of Community Mental Health](#) is a passionate disability advocate and researcher, [emphasizing gender inclusion within disability work](#). She serves on a round table managed by the Ministry of Law on the right of adults with disabilities to become parents; and works together with Prof. Sagit Mor of the "Haifa Forum of Disability Studies" to promote critical and ethical discussions on issues related to the people with disabilities and gender.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

International Women's Day: Female Wisdom

Throughout the year, the university holds [a series of events](#) where faculty speak to students at local

bars. This year on International Women's Day, in collaboration with the Technion, there was an enlightening exploration into the realm of female wisdom, traversing ancient Greece to the groundbreaking discovery of DNA's structure. Celebrating the invaluable contributions, lead researchers' stories amplified the themes of empowerment, wisdom, and the pressing need for voice and resilience.

Aging Together: From Theory to Inclusiveness

Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein of the Minerva Center on Intersectionality in Aging (MCIA), led a conference on the topic [‘Aging LGBT: Exclusion to Inclusion’](#). The conference aimed to expose existing knowledge in theoretical discourse and interdisciplinary aging research, and to address the gaps in the interface between the realities of the lives of LGBTQ+ elderly populations, academic research, interventions, and policy. The conference was attended by a professional and academic audience from relevant disciplines and was sponsored by the Ministry of Social Equality and the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security.

Prestigious Na'amat and The President Scholarship Recipient

Doctoral student Asmaa Masarova from the Department of Gerontology received two prestigious scholarships. The Na'amat Scholarship 2022 and The Israeli President Excellence Scholarship for her outstanding research paper titled 'Between

Role Commitment and Abusive Behavior: Unmarried Girls Who Take Care of Elderly Parents in the Arab Family - An Intergenerational Perspective'. The committee [recognized her work for its academic excellence, originality, and groundbreaking](#) contribution to the field of gender research.

OPERATIONS

Werner Otto Scholarship for Arab Women

The Werner Otto Scholarship Program provides scholarships for Arab women studying towards MA and PhD degrees, enabling talented Arab female students to [pursue their academic careers](#), and promoting Arab women within Israeli society. Up to now, the University has granted scholarships to over 200 strongly committed women in partnership with the Jewish-Arab Center.

Preventing Sexual Harassment Amongst LGBTQ Students

To address and limit sexual harassment on campus, the university's management [appointed Prof. Anat Derech-Zehavi to be head of the complaints commission for matters of sexual harassment](#). During gay pride month this year, the complaints commission made a special appeal to the LGBTQ community on campus, citing that despite new research that shows that LGBTQ students at Israeli Universities are 6.5x more likely to experience sexual harassment, the commission receives very few complaints from the community.



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

RESEARCH

Impact of Rising Sea Levels on Coastal Aquifers

In their article titled '[Holocene Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Aquifer Interactions](#)', Prof. Dorit Sivan, Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau from the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, together with their international research team, and featured in *Quaternary Science Reviews* delves into the effects of sea-level variations on Israel's Carmel Coast. Their study reveals the transformation of the coastal environment and settlements, notably Tel Dor, due to sea-level rise. The research provides valuable insights into the impact of rising sea levels on coastal aquifers and the formation of wetlands, emphasizing the long-term risks faced by low-lying coastal regions.

Submarine Springs in the Dead Sea

In '[Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Submarine Springs in the Dead Sea – An Underappreciated Phenomenon](#)', Prof. Michael Lazar sheds light on the overlooked submarine springs in the Dead Sea. Published in *Geomorphology*, the study emphasizes the significance of these stable,



The Dead Sea (Credit: www.istockphoto.com image)

long-lasting freshwater sources and their crucial role in the Dead Sea's hydrology, particularly given increasing arid conditions and rising freshwater demands.

Integrating Seawater Desalination into Regional Systems

['Optimizing Desalination for Regional Water Systems'](#) by Prof. Mashor Housh, School of Environmental Studies, of the Faculty of Social Sciences, discusses the challenges faced by arid regions in managing water supply systems amid increasing demand and water scarcity. The article, published in the *Journal of Cleaner Production*, emphasizes the importance of integrating seawater desalination into these systems. It proposes a two-stage

optimization approach to address decision timelines and uncertainty, using the Israeli national water supply system as a case study. The study also incorporates stakeholder preferences through multicriteria decision analysis, aiming to enhance sustainability and efficiency in regional water management.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Climate Change Preparedness in the Israeli Water Sector

[A workshop](#), titled 'Climate Change Preparedness in the Israeli Water Sector: Wastewater and Desalination Systems Facing Climate Challenges', was conducted by a group of

researchers from the University of Haifa and the Grand Water Research Institute at the Technion. The workshop aims to examine the perceptions of stakeholders in the Israeli water sector regarding the issue of separation between wastewater and desalination systems in the context of mapping challenges, risks, and knowledge gaps, and proposing managerial and technological solutions.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Teaching Water Resource Conservation

'Introduction to Climate and Water Resources', is a course taught by Dr. Elad Dente and Prof. Shlomit Paz, which covers climatology and meteorology fundamentals, analyzing factors and processes

influencing global climate and water resources. Dr. Dente also teaches a course on 'Water Resources in Israel' together with Prof. Uri Schattner. These courses collectively contribute to the university's commitment to educate students about vital water and sanitation issues and encourage sustainable practices.

OPERATIONS

Reducing Water Usage

After extensive pipe repairs, efficiency measures, and awareness raising,

this past year reported water use was 30% below the year before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the campus.

Ensuring Well-being of Sanitation Workers

Sanitation workers [have completed safety training](#), including workshops on movement, proper work techniques, ergonomics, and more, funded by the National Insurance Institute and Prof. Naomi Schreuer. Recently, specialized water faucets were installed by maintenance staff to facilitate the filling of buckets, improving hygiene, and preventing work-related injuries. The Operations Unit, headed by Mr. Eyal Ofir, head of Operations Department, is also planning to purchase equipment to enhance worker safety and health, which will be funded through the research grant led by Prof. Schreuer.

Improving Irrigation Systems

Efforts were made to [improve the irrigation systems](#) to prevent leaks and maintain the landscaping with minimal watering whenever possible. These measures collectively contribute to water conservation.



RESEARCH

Trigo Solar: Agri-voltaic Solutions

A study aimed to explore promising methods to integrate a solar system into the cultivation of barley and wheat will enable Trigo Solar to develop viable and scalable Agri-voltaic solutions for rain-fed crops that are combining cost-effectiveness with ease of deployment. While traditional Agri-voltaic solutions focus on optimal sharing of the sun, Trigo Solar focuses on water management. Ph.D. student, Nikolai Govta, worked with his advisor, Prof. Tamar Krugman, curator of the [Lady Barbara Davis Wild Cereal Gene Bank \(ICGB\)](#) to conduct feasibility testing and carry out a report to assist Trigo Solar.

Preventing Bat Death by Wind Turbines

An innovative facility, developed by Prof. Nir Sapir and Ph.D. student Yuval Werber from the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology in collaboration with researchers from Tel Aviv University, the Wingo Energy company, and the entrepreneur Gadi Harali, is designed to [prevent the killing of bats by wind turbines](#) - a problem that currently prevents the efficient



Prof. Tamar Krugman and her team, The Lady Barbara Davis Wild Cereal Gene Bank (Credit: University of Haifa)

and continuous operation of the turbines that produce energy.

Wildlife Mitigation Technologies for Wind Energy

Published in *Energy Policy*, [‘Institutional Acceptance of Wildlife Mitigation Technologies for Wind Energy’](#) by Dr. David Katz, of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, and his colleagues from Hebrew University, shifts the focus from individual preferences to the socio-political dimension of acceptance. It explores stakeholders' revealed preferences through a case study involving a Shutdown On Demand (SOD) technology to mitigate wildlife harm in a proposed wind

farm near a bird migration route.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A new report regarding A ‘net-zero’ economy

Adv. Orin Shefler, from the Maritime Policy and Strategy Research Center, [focuses on future needs and methods for the production and generation of energy in the sea](#) for Israel. The underlying assumption is that Israel is currently a producer and exporter of natural gas, with sufficient natural gas reserves to sustain itself and its neighbors in the near future. He writes that development of additional natural

gas fields in the sea will create new opportunities for transitioning to a ‘net-zero’ economy.

Solar Aspirations and Realities on the ground

In a paper, part of an annual report available for the public and stakeholders and produced by the Maritime Policy and Strategy Research Center, Dr. Elai Rettig, describes the numerous benefits of renewable energy for Israel spectrums in the country. However he believes that the [2030 renewable energies goal](#) is unattainable at this point and there is a need for more time to develop technologies to assist and achieve the 30% usage of renewable energy goal.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Teaching Energy Challenges and Solutions

‘Renewable Energies’ a course taught by [Prof. Ofira Ayalon](#) focuses on the principles of energy production from renewable sources such as solar, wind, water, geothermal, and biomass. It explores energy conservation, efficiency principles, and green construction. Additionally, the course delves into possible policy measures required to implement renewable energy in the economy. Prof. Ayalon also teaches ‘Earth, Wind, and Fire: Environmental Challenges in the 21st Century’. Both courses provide valuable knowledge and insights into renewable energy sources and their sustainable utilization.

Taiwanese Student Delegation

UofH recently welcomed the [first student delegation from Tunghai University](#), led by the head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Mission to Israel, H.E. Ya-Ping (Abby) Lee. The 23 Taiwanese students participated in the International School's festive opening ceremony of the Entrepreneurship Summer School Program. The tour was led by co-founder of EcoWave and UofH alumni Inna Braverman.

OPERATIONS

Carbon Emissions Report

As a first step in our attempt to further reduce the university's impact on the environment, the administration [commissioned an assessment of its carbon footprint](#). The report helps to establish a baseline that will inform our plans for further reducing our facilities' emissions. The analysis was conducted according to the GHG Protocol guidelines –and relates to the carbon footprint of the three campuses and associated facilities, including dormitories, cafeterias present in the campus, as well as other rented spaces such as post office, bank, etc.

Piloting Energy solutions

Several new [energy-efficient pilot projects](#) were launched on campus this year, including the installation of six new electric car charging stations, as well as two “solar benches” that both light up in the dark and allow students to charge their phones while sitting.

7.5% reduction in Electricity Use

This year witnessed an impressive 7.5% decrease in campus energy consumption compared to the pre-COVID-19 shutdown period,

showcasing our commitment to sustainability and efficiency.



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

RESEARCH

Leading Antitrust Academics

[Prof. Michal Gal](#), from the Faculty of Law, achieved global recognition as one of the 25 most influential researchers in antitrust law in 2022. Her expertise spans Legal scholars and Economists, leading the university's law and markets forum and serving as the president of the International Academic Society for Competition Law Scholars (ASCOLA). She has been a visiting professor at esteemed institutions and her research has international impact, cited by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Israeli Supreme Court. Additionally, Prof. Gal's advisory roles encompass small economies and international organizations like the United Nations.

Stakeholder Value Creation to Promote SDGs in Cities

In [‘Shared Responsibility and Labor Rights in Global Supply Chains’](#), Dr. Faina Milman-Sivan from the Faculty of Law, explores how Stakeholder Value Creation (SVC) contributes to achieving SDGs at the city level. Using the Cross-Network Information Analysis protocol, the study



University students (Credit: University of Haifa)

published in the *Journal of Business Ethics* finds that SVC significantly contributes to most SDGs in cities, with a strong impact on SDGs 11, 17, 9, and 8. The research highlights various aspects such as consensus building, smart sustainable cities, and innovation ecosystems as central to this contribution.

Societal Conflict and Collegiality

Released in 2023, the new book [Between Conflict and Collegiality](#), by Prof. Asaf Darr of the Department of Sociology explores how the ethnonational-religious conflict between Jews and Palestinians in Israel affects ethnically mixed work teams. Prof. Darr documents workplace tensions and coping strategies

used by both groups, comparing how these tensions play out. The book also examines how external pressures impact workers, career expectations, language use, religion, intergroup relations, and their potential to mitigate wider societal conflict.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Sanitation Workers integrate into University Community

Five years ago, the university began to employ sanitary workers directly, as opposed to through a contractor. Prof. Naomi Schreuer from the Department of Occupational Therapy, [conducted an evaluation study](#) together with the Operations Unit. The study,

which was based on workshops and other activities with the workers, showed that it was best to continue to employ sanitation workers directly throughout the institution; it will help them to understand that they are part of the university community.

Workplace Victimization and Safety

UofH researchers from the School of Social Work and the School of Management examined teachers' perceptions of risk and protective factors associated with workplace victimization and safety. The scholars conducted thirty-six in-depth interviews with teachers who shared their [experiences of workplace victimization](#) and safety, both inside and outside the school. The study, published in *Journal of School Violence*, led to proposed guidelines involving teachers, students, parents, and school social and organizational climates, intending to formulate a clear policy regarding this issue.

Public Health and Wind Turbines

The Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians, including UofH Prof. Maya Negev, has expressed [significant concerns about the construction of additional wind turbines in general, and particularly in Israel](#). Their stated opposition to wind turbines is due to the adverse effects on physical and mental health due to noise and light flicker, as well as due to their height of up to 200 meters, which conspicuously alter the landscape, affecting populated areas and significantly

transforming the natural, agricultural, and rural scenery. They strongly recommend considering alternative green energy sources.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Green Management Training

The UofH Division of the Presidency and External Relations introduced the Ambassadors Lecture Series, showcasing passionate faculty and professionals who align with the University's academic and social goals. Featured among the lecturers is [Prof. Michal Biron](#) of the Center for the Study of Organizations and Human Resource Management (COHRM), who is working to scale up green management training programs across the Middle East and Africa, as they are most exposed to the accelerating impacts of climate change.

MBA in Non-profit Management:

[A unique program designed](#) for managers in non-profit organizations seeking to expand and develop management skills that will help them address managerial challenges in a complex social and community environment. It is also suitable for managers in other organizations aspiring to acquire knowledge in the field of non-profit organizations. These organizations focus most of their activities in social areas such as welfare, health, education, security, culture, environmental quality, and sports.

OPERATIONS

Late Arrival on Ramadan

Muslim employees observing Ramadan were granted a 2-hour late arrival or early departure throughout the Ramadan period.

Approved departures do not affect employees' salary, annual vacation quota, or require compensatory hours. Part-time employees have their work hours adjusted accordingly.

Work from Home Pilot

This year a pilot program was launched, allowing employees to [work from home](#) one day per week. Eligibility is determined by the employee's role, access to necessary technology, and the ability to monitor work performance.

Paid time for Sport

To [encourage healthy living](#) among faculty and staff, UofH grants those who participate in intramural volleyball and soccer leagues, one hour of work time towards practice each week.



BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

RESEARCH

Twitter for Environmental and Social Research

Prof. Andrea Ghermandi and colleagues from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management published an article titled, [‘Twitter’s totter must prompt research rethink’](#) in the esteemed *Nature Journal*. The article highlights the increasing relevance of Twitter as a database for environmental and social research. This platform offers valuable insights that aid decision-makers in various areas.

Enhancing Data Transmission

Prof. Noga Ron-Zewi of the Department of Computer Science received the [esteemed ERC Starting grant from the European Union](#). Her research concentrates on error correction and calculation codes, addressing the intersection of computation and communication. The project aims to develop efficient and reliable error correction codes for digital communication, enhancing overall data transmission performance.



University students (Credit: Nitzan Zohar, University of Haifa)

Promoting Multidisciplinary Data Science Research

The Data Science Research Center (DSRC) aims to [promote multidisciplinary data science research](#) to the benefit of society and the environment. The Center assists cross-disciplinary faculty in carrying out their research with the help of experienced data scientists. Among 2022’s seed research projects were projects by Prof. Roei Diamant and Prof. Dan Feldman from the Charney School of Marine Sciences; by Dr. Einat Minkov and Dr. Alon Zoizner; and Dr. project by Judith Somekh and Prof. Gil Atzmon.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Clinic for Law, Technology, and Cyber

[The Clinic for Law, Technology, and Cyber](#)

combines technological understanding with legal expertise to promote policy aimed at ensuring human rights in the digital era. To this end, the clinic carried out several projects, including the following: writing a policy paper concerning the desirable regulation of smart cities; approaching the Israel postal services demanding they ensure access for elderly people after the post shifted to an online appointment setting;

[Initiating over 20 letters and information requests under the Free Information Act](#)

to promote transparency in the use of algorithms by government entities.

EU Cost Action: Blue Economy

Prof. Noga Collins-Kreiner of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies was chosen to be an Israeli representative to the EU COST Action ‘Rethinking the Blue Economy: Socio-ecological Impacts and Opportunities’, which centers around [the Blue Economy and related policies](#) affecting European societies and beyond. The purpose of this Action is to rethink the Blue Economy by assessing its impact on coastal

societies, and by exploring innovative marine activities.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Advanced Technologies in Rehabilitation and Development

[A new and innovative course](#), ‘Advanced Technologies in Rehabilitation and Development’, led by Dr. Alexandra Daniel-Saad from the Department of Occupational Therapy, and Prof. Tsvi Kuflik from the Department of Information Systems was launched this year. Throughout the course, students worked to make the University’s Hecht Museum accessible to blind people by creating products through a 3D printer and sound sensors.

Global Technology Policy

UofH Faculty of Law students enrolled in the ‘Global Technology Policy’ course, participated in a workshop entitled ‘Seminar on Technology, Innovation, and Sustainable Development Goals’ together with students from the University of Ottawa and Bocconi University in Milan. Through the seminar, they explored with their peers how global technology policy can help or hinder SDG-related innovation from advancing.

Innovative Thinking

Creative and strategic thinking is the foundation for an advanced, thriving, efficient, and effective society. As automation and artificial intelligence processes increasingly occupy our lives, creative thinking for problem-solving becomes doubly crucial.

In future job analyses, it emerges that creative thinking is among the most essential skills in the 21st century. [The HIL workshop: Innovative Thinking](#) helps students to connect a real problem, challenge, or essential need to a sustainable solution.

OPERATIONS

New Director for Carmel-Haifa

We are pleased to announce the appointment of [Mr. Hussam Bishara \(CPA\)](#) as [Chairman of Carmel-Haifa Economic Corp Ltd](#) – our commercialization and business arm, responsible for protecting and commercializing its intellectual property. He has served on the Board of Directors of Carmel-Haifa and for the past 14 years, he has been a senior lecturer in the Department of Economics.

New Research Information System

In June, the university unveiled its new [Elsevier CRIS-type information system](#), designed to monitor, and showcase our researchers’ scientific publications globally and enhancing our research visibility. The project, a collaborative endeavor with other Israeli universities and the Israel Council for Higher Education is a result of dedicated efforts from the university library, research authority, computing department, and human resources department, to advance our research impact.



REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

RESEARCH

Shift in Ethiopian Identity in Israel

[‘Intergenerational dialogue and positioning change in dealing with racism’](#) by Prof. Uri Ben-Eliezer from the Department of Sociology, published in *Identities* journal, investigates how the second generation of ‘Black Jews’ who migrated from Ethiopia to Israel responded to racism. The research reveals that the younger generation adopted different identity and positioning strategies compared to their parents, as it was only through extensive demonstrations in 2015 that a meaningful intergenerational dialogue emerged, leading to a successful strategy against racist rhetoric.

Labor Migration in Israel

A recent article published in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* entitled, [‘Who Drives Migration Discourse and in What Direction? Claims-Making and Political Mobilization Analyses of Labor Migration in Israel’](#) by Prof. Rebeca Raijman and her team from the Department of Sociology, delves into the actors influencing labor migration discourse. Examining the period of 2000 to 2012 in Israel, the study



The ‘Blue Team’ members (Credit: University of Haifa)

investigates how state and non-state actors shape public claims and political framings related to labor migrants.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Clinic for Law and Education Policy

Last year, the [Faculty of Law’s Clinic for Law and Education Policy](#) provided legal aid and representation to about 500 clients, and several projects of policy change. The cases all involved ensuring all children in Israel are provided an adequate and equal education. These cases included, among others, a petition against racial segregation of asylum seekers in Tel Aviv; an ongoing legal struggle to prevent charging illegal fees in public

schools; representing ultra-Orthodox parents from Safed in their demand for appropriate state school for their children; promoting access to online education for Bedouin children; a petition on behalf of a child with autism who did not receive the services and accommodations he needed in school.

Sustainability Education for Druze Students

The ORT Ronson School in Isfiya partnered

with the UofH Youth Promoting Excellence program for 63 Druze 9th-grade students.

The program [aimed to expose students to academia](#), enhance their general knowledge, improve public speaking skills, and

promote sustainability awareness. The program concluded with a parent-student-staff meeting featuring a lecture on interpersonal listening by Prof. Guy Itzchakov. Students had the opportunity to showcase their position papers using debate skills acquired during the program.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Research Excellence for the Elderly

Four doctoral students have been awarded the President’s Scholarship for Scientific Excellence and Innovation for 2023, the highest number of any research University in Israel. The scholarships were awarded to students whose research focuses on factors affecting the lives of

the elderly, including a special focus on Holocaust survivors. Their [achievements highlight the institute’s dedication](#) to quality of life for the elderly and sustainable communities.

Arabic-language Access to Marine Science

[A unique collaboration](#) between the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and the Social Involvement Unit of the Dean of Students, the ‘Blue Team’ is composed of researchers from the and Arabic-speaking students from a variety of departments and faculties. The goal of the program is to translate the research knowledge accumulated at the School of Marine Sciences into experiential and enriching learning workshops for students of Arabic-speaking schools in northern Israel, to raise awareness of the importance of the sea for continued life on Earth.

New Program ‘Accelerating Towards Career’

The project ‘Accelerating Towards Career’ is aimed at promoting employment, harnessing human capital, and increasing the workforce in Israel through academia. The program aims to narrow the gap between the knowledge gained from academic studies and the evolving skills needed in the workforce. It expands the responsibility of academia for the employment of graduates and placement processes. It specifically focuses on non-professional study areas and socioeconomically

disadvantaged populations, including first-generation higher education students and groups characterized by underrepresentation in academia.

OPERATIONS

NEW Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Unit

This year, the university established a Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Unit led by Prof. Arin Salamah-Qudsi and Dr. Yael Granot-Bein. In alignment with the university’s vision of social sustainability, co-existence, and desire to address related challenges in Israel, the unit will promote [informed management of diversity for growth](#), innovation, and foster a sense of belonging.

Inviting Access

As with each year, the University reminded the campus community of its [accessibility policies](#) which were updated to ensure all campus events are inclusive. Among the instructions are that all invitations should include plain text in addition to the designed invitation; ensuring that there is wheelchair access from a parking lot to the venue, as well as to the stage, should there be one; providing transcription and audio services along with hearing aids on loan; guidance and assistance on the day of the event. To ensure inclusivity of students, faculty, and staff who require accessibility accommodations, all UofH faculty members are required to attend an intensive training on accessibility.



MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

RESEARCH

Impact Project: Emotional Mapping in Haifa through Citizen Science

A team of scientists among them, Dr. Keren Kaplan Mintz, Prof. Dani Ben-Zvi and Prof. Yael Kali, from the Department of Learning and Instructional Sciences, investigate the relations between different urban and natural features of city landscape and citizens' emotional state. The research will be conducted as a citizen science project, promoting citizens' awareness of their environment and how it affects their own emotional well-being. This research was supported by a grant from the Division of Innovation & Sustainability, one of six impact projects.

3rd ERC Grant for Prof. Bar-Oz: Ancient Varieties of Fruit Trees

Prof. Guy Bar-Oz of the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures was [awarded his third prestigious ERC grant](#) for his research which aims to regrow ancient varieties of fruit trees that once flourished in the Israeli desert. Ancient fruit trees are a living archaeological relic and store within them important information about traditional and



Modigliani at the Hecht Museum (Credit: Hecht Museum Facebook account)

sustainable horticulture that may be relevant to today's climate challenges. The project, 'Bio-Archaeology of Heritage Trees and Traditional Dryland Farming Horticulture in the Desert Fringes', will combine several fields of research, including DNA testing, to better understand the ecology and evolution of the ancient orchard, as well as the main fruit trees cultivated in antiquity (olive, date and fig).

Smart Cities?

Prof. Boris Portnov and Dr. Oleg Dashkevych, from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Management, published in *Sustainable Cities and Society*. Their [research questions](#) the common perception of 'smart' cities.

By analyzing data from over 100 major cities worldwide, they find that the proliferation of internet technologies and universities do not necessarily reduce income inequality or improve environmental performance within cities.

Instead, the study suggests that smart city efforts should prioritize people's needs and digital skills, rather than merely increasing technology adoption, contributing valuable insight to urban development.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Clinic for Dispute Resolution

To assist marginalized groups settle disputes through community-based facilitated

mediation, the [Leon Charney Clinic for Dispute Resolution](#) provides pro-bono in small claims family cases and mediation between victims of sexual harassment and the alleged perpetrators (together with the Legal Feminism Clinic). Additionally, the clinic led workshops for individuals from marginalized groups, providing them with tools from the world of ADR (alternative dispute resolution) to manage their conflicts.

President of the Israel Immunological Society

Prof. Amiram Ariel, Head of The Laboratory for Molecular Pathways in the Resolution of Inflammation, who studies novel molecular and cellular effectors in resolving inflammation, focuses on the clearance of apoptotic neutrophils by resolution phase macrophages. His aim is to uncover pro-resolving pathways and harnessing them for the treatment of inflammatory, autoimmune and fibrotic disorders. Prof. Ariel was re-elected in 2022 as president of [The Israeli Immunological Society](#), a prestigious society dedicated to promoting the discipline of Immunology in Israel and facilitating the

Subsidized Therapy

In the face of the ongoing struggle and uncertainties posed by the corona epidemic, the Psychotherapy Institute at the University of Haifa's [Interdisciplinary Clinical Center](#) has been a pillar of support for the wider community. The dedicated psychotherapists provide

confidential and professional treatment and guidance, offering reduced-cost therapy.

Remarkable Discovery: Modigliani

Curators at the University of Haifa have made a remarkable discovery by finding three previously undiscovered sketches by the renowned 20th-century artist Amedeo Modigliani concealed beneath the surface of one of his paintings. These unfinished works, hidden for years, were unveiled during an [X-ray examination of Modigliani's 'Nude with a Hat'](#) at the University's Hecht Museum as part of a comprehensive forensic study for an upcoming exhibition at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. Inna Berkowitz, an art curator at the Hecht Museum, described the find as 'truly remarkable'.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Exploring Residents Representation

The [Division of Public Administration and Policy](#) actively collaborates with local authorities on planning and redevelopment efforts. Led by Prof. Nissim Cohen, the division offers an annual course on local democracy, inclusive governance, and local entrepreneurship. Through this course, students engage with residents and local actors in Haifa, particularly in neighborhoods undergoing urban renewal projects. The course aims to establish residents' representation in shaping local policies that promote affordable housing and preserve urban communities.

Follow Me!

'Aharai! (Hebrew for Follow Me!) Program' is a leadership program intended for graduates of 'Aharai!' and young individuals with affinity to lead in the social and public spheres. [The program](#) is a joint initiative of the Department of Jewish History and the School of Political Science. Its goal is to cultivate quality leadership that will impact the public space through the examination and involvement with pressing issues in the social discourse, as well as deepen Israeli and Zionist identity.

OPERATIONS

Arabic Literacy for Faculty

To build a shared Israeli society, it is important to familiarize Jewish Israelis with spoken-Arabic. As part of the ['Israeli Hope in Academia'](#) program, spoken Arabic was offered to academic and administrative staff. In addition to learning the Arabic language, participants in the course were exposed to the history and cultural customs of Arab society in all its diversity through a joint tour they took in the village of Kisra-Sumei in northern Israel.

Bicycle Lots

As part of the university's effort to provide safe and [accessible means of transportation](#) to campus, the University designated new bicycle lots in the downtown campus to encourage students to commute to and from the University without cars, thereby decreasing pollution and fostering a healthier lifestyle.



ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

RESEARCH

Strategic Impact of CSR

The paper '[Value of Corporate Social Responsibility for Multiple Stakeholders and Social Impact – Relationship Marketing Perspective](#)' by Prof. Aviv Shoham, from the [School of Business Administration](#), in the *Journal of Business Research* delves into the strategic impact of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The study shows that by aligning CSR efforts with employee-focused initiatives and societal trends like diversity and inclusion, relationships with customers and employees are enhanced, benefiting both society and business. The findings emphasize targeted CSR efforts for specific stakeholders and highlight differences between Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and larger firms in their approach to relationship quality.

Self-Organized Ride Sharing

Dr. Sharon Shoshany-Tavory is a cyber-physical systems expert with 30+ years of industrial experience in defense and transportation systems.



Riger Café, Main Building (Credit: University of Haifa)

Dr. Shoshany-Tavory wrote her PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Management at UofH on the topic of self-organized ride sharing. She recently published, '[A cross-cultural study of nonprofit self-organized ridesharing](#)', together with NREM faculty member, Prof. Tamar Trop. The article, published in *Transportation*, explores the potential of nonprofit ridesharing for sustainable transportation by analyzing eight diverse self-organized ridesharing (SORS) cases, highlighting recurring patterns, contextual factors, and policy recommendations for fostering SORS growth and diffusion.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Clothing Exchange

Students and faculty were invited to a [clothing exchange initiative](#) ahead of the High Holidays. They were asked to clean out their closets and bring clean, gently used clothing to the designated booth on the 7th floor for sorting and redistribution.

Give and Take Market

The Administrative Staff Organization launched

a collaborative project together with students from the School of Political Science in pursuit of social and environmental sustainability. The give-and-take market offers an opportunity to exchange unused items at no cost.

Hosting the market during the Passover season, a time in which people often buy presents for loved ones, bolsters a campus culture that promotes healthier consumption practices.

ATVs Harm to Soil

All-terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are becoming more popular in Israel, where preserved natural landscapes are limited. Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management graduate student, Aya Shalmon, worked with her supervisors, Prof. Ofira Ayalon and Dr. Moshe Gish, to analyze the [financial consequences of ATVs harm to soil and plants](#) and published their findings in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* to encourage regulation and oversight in Haaretz.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

The Environment and Education for Sustainability

The course focuses on the contribution of environmental education to the improvement of the environment. It opens a window to activities in these areas in local authorities in Israel and around the world. [The course addresses](#) perceptions and challenges in the field of environmental and sustainable education in the community. It will expose the student to key concepts in the field of place-based education, common heritage, social resilience, and

sustainable communities in Israel and globally.

MA in Environmental Resources Management

The purpose of the [Environment Management Program](#) is to broaden professional knowledge of the interface between human activity and the environment. The program draws on relevant knowledge from the fields of social sciences, and management, and equips students with knowledge and tools to cope with environmental problems. Additionally, the program aims to influence policy-making and decision-making regarding the conservation and cultivation of the environment and sustainable development.

OPERATIONS

Digital Pay Slips

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we aim to promote [digital pay slips](#) and reduce printed ones. Employees were asked to choose a preferred method: digital slip with an email link or printed slip. After just a month, approximately one-third of all UofH employees joined this new initiative, and we expect many more to join by the end of this year.

Fresh Cup: A Pilot Program

In alignment with the university's commitment to waste reduction through the elimination of disposable cup use for personal purposes, [the university's encouragement of reusable water jugs](#) that can be filled at designated coolers across campus. In line with these efforts, a pilot program has been launched. As a key component of this initiative, ten compact dishwashers for cups have been placed in select kitchenettes throughout campus, to allow for a quick, economical solution. This initiative was based on research findings that indicate a 35% cost savings compared to the procurement of disposable cups.



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

RESEARCH

Middle Out Perspective to Drive Renewable Energy

In [‘Weaving an Innovation Network from the Middle-Out’](#), published in *Energy, Sustainability and Society*, authors Dr. Tali Zohar and Prof. Ofira Ayalon of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, explore the creation of renewable energy (RE) innovation ecosystems, crucial for combating climate change. The study emphasizes that effective innovation goes beyond traditional technology-push and market-pull approaches. The research analyzes Israel's ‘Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Initiative’ and demonstrates how middle actors drive the implementation of RE technologies, pulling decision-makers and others to promote a low-carbon transition.

Coral Rings Alarm for Climate Change

A team of researchers from The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, together with the Bioinformatics Services Unit, conducted a study published in *Frontiers in Marine Science* on corals in oxygen-deprived conditions. [While these corals manage to survive, they face](#)



‘Micro-plastic project’ by Hadar Weisberg, Roni Zada and Yaniv Cohen. The NB Haifa School of Design and Kayama Center student exhibition (Credit: The NB Haifa School of Design Facebook account)

[significant risks to future generations](#), including reduced prey ability, increased reliance on symbiotic algae, and decreased reproductive processes. The findings highlight the potential consequences of environmental changes, particularly those impacting coral-algae symbiosis and oxygen levels. Dr. Hagit Kvitt, the study leader, emphasizes the importance of understanding the implications of climate change for the future.

Unequal Impact of Climate Change and Communal Resilience

The Urban Climate Study published in *Urban Climate*, entitled [‘Multidimensional Hazards, Vulnerabilities, and Perceived Risks regarding Climate Change and Covid-19 at the City level’](#), by Prof. Maya Negev of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, together with Prof. Shlomit Paz and Dr. Motti Zohar of the School of Environmental Sciences examines climate threats in Haifa. It uses Geographic Information Systems

to map risks like heat waves, floods, and wildfires, considering social vulnerability. A survey of residents links perceptions of risk, danger, and resilience, with findings highlighting diverse hazards, varying vulnerabilities, and unequal distributions within the city, emphasizing the need for targeted infrastructure and community resilience efforts in different neighborhoods.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Israeli Committee for Climate Change

Given the urgency for national governments to act on climate change, and the responsibility of the Israeli academic community to advise the government on the subject, Prof. Shlomit Paz of the School of Environmental Sciences [joined the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities newly established Committee for Climate Change](#). The committee will convene top experts from all universities, to address pressing and future challenges, and will prepare for what lies ahead, and identify new areas for research.

The Dark Side of The Moon

The Division for Youth in Environment, Culture, and Science at the University of Haifa, held a [two-day workshop](#) including fascinating lectures from the University leading faculty members studying climate change, women in Aerospace and Astronomy and the secrets of the moon. Additionally, “Is it really

dark?” was a featured session that was a state-wide event for youth engaged in the subject.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Visually Communicating the Climate Crisis

This past year an [exhibition by third-year students majoring in visual communications from the WIZO Haifa Academic Center](#), which recently became part of the University of Haifa, in collaboration with Kayama Center for Social Innovation and Impact Entrepreneurship, displayed designs of students' work addressing the climate crisis. The exhibition was showcased at Haifa University's Rechter Gallery.

Impact Project: Combating the Urban Heat Island and protecting vulnerable populations in Haifa

An Impact Research Project that seeks to combat urban heat islands and protect vulnerable populations in Haifa. The multi-stakeholder group, including the University of Haifa, MATI Haifa, and CoVelocity aims to develop [local responses to the climate crisis](#) by conducting a Heat Vulnerability Assessment using scientific evidence provided by students, aspiring to improve the lives of the residents of Haifa, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations, through local innovation.

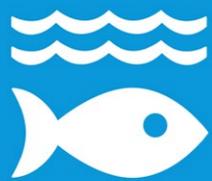
OPERATIONS

COP22 Events

To mark Global Climate Change week and the start of COP22, The Climate and Environmental Sustainability Center led a [day of events on campus which included TED talks by leading UofH faculty whose work focuses on sustainability](#).

Large Scale Maintenance Projects to Reduce Carbon Footprint

In efforts to reduce the University's carbon footprint, several large-scale maintenance projects took place on campus this year, such as transitioning to LED lighting, replacing old chillers with new chillers, and installing VRF air conditioning systems in the downtown campus.



CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH

Amazing Jellyfish

A new study conducted by Dr. Dror Angel and doctoral student Hila Dror from the Department of Maritime Civilizations, together with a group of researchers from Ort Braude College, found that a small amount of saliva produced from Mediterranean jellyfish can repel synthetic nano and microplastics from the water. The full research findings were published on the [YNET website](#) and in [Science of the total Environment](#) Journal.

The Miller Fellowship Award

[Dr. Tal Luzzatto Knaan](#) was awarded *The Dusty and Ettie Miller Fellowship* for her innovative research in metabolomics. In her Lab, her and her team, explore the biological role, regulation, diversity, and distribution of natural products in microbes and algae, and their potential biotechnological and medicinal applications.

AI-powered solutions for the Sea

In one of his latest articles titled 'Estimating DVL Velocity in Complete Beam Measurement Outage Scenarios' published in *IEEE Sensors Journal*, [Prof. Itzik Klein](#), head of the Autonomous Navigation and Sensor Fusion



(Credit: Hagai Nativ/Morris Kahn Marine Research Station)

Lab at the Hatter Department of Marine Technologies, tackled Doppler Velocity Log (DVL) complete outages scenarios and offered a new motion model as a solution.

Grant: Low-Cost Robots for Fishery Sustainability

[Prof. Roe Diamant](#), from the Department of Marine Technologies and Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, won a Schmidt Marine Technology Partners grant

through their Sustainable Fisheries Initiative. The innovators chosen to receive these grants are ensuring that fishers and fisheries—and by extension all of us who rely on them—are secure and sustainable worldwide.

Prof. Diamant's work will deal with a 'swarm' of low-cost underwater autonomous robots that coordinate for better acoustic detection and size estimation of fish populations.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SwitchMed – Fostering Blue Economy

Haifa Innovation Labs (HIL), together with the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and the European Union, invited students with innovative marine ideas to join the 9-week [SwitchMed](#) program. This ideation and innovation program aims to foster the blue economy in the Mediterranean basin and support blue growth projects in areas such as sustainable marine resource management, maritime transport,

renewable energy, food, leisure, pollution control, and more. Ms. Oshrat Ben Hamo, won the national competition and moved up to the European finals.

Impact project: Noise Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea

The Division of Innovation & Sustainability, asked faculty to propose Social and Environmental Impact Research that includes cross-sectoral partnerships. One such Impact Project, by Prof. Roe Diamant, Prof. Shaul Horev, and team, seeks to communicate noise pollution methodologies to legislative authorities to [address marine noise pollution in the Mediterranean Sea](#). The team aims to develop technologies for evaluating and monitoring underwater noise pollution from ships, including proposing noise emission testing for

vessel registration, which will target policymakers and EU task groups for noise monitoring and standardization methodologies.

Kindergarteners study Microbiology

This month, [the Marine Microbiology lab](#) volunteered at the Hod HaCarmel Kindergarten, near the University. They taught the children about how bacteria are found in all places, even if they cannot see them. Then the kids did an activity on 'hand hygiene', they touched agar plates before and after washing their hands and saw how that influenced the number of bacteria that grew.

Conservation and sustainable utilization of the oceans

The university supports and organizes events aimed to promote conservation and sustainable utilization of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and marine resources, such as [public seminars](#) under the y of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, on the university's work on the deep Mediterranean.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

'Diving for Research' Program

As part of the Master's Program at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, students undergo an [intensive two-week course](#) where they acquire skills in planning and conducting scientific dives. The course provides the opportunity for hands-on experience in operating scientific equipment underwater, with particular emphasis on dive safety

and environmental conservation. The course was conducted at the Morris Kahn Marine Research Station, led by Prof. Tali Mass and Dr. Beverly Goodman, with the assistance of diving safety officer Eran Rosen.

Deep Sea Conferences

Conferences hosted this year by the renowned Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences included the [2023 Ocean Day](#) conference entitled, 'The Deep Sea - Nature Conservation, Challenges, and Innovation', in partnership with the Israeli Society for the Protection of Nature (SPNI) during which SPNI announced its new strategic masterplan for deep-sea marine protected area network in the Israeli waters. This year, the school also hosted the 10th Haifa Conference on Marine Sciences, SeaAI: Artificial Intelligence and Sea, endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

OPERATIONS

New Marine Lab

[Dr. Derya Akkaynak](#) from the Cherney School of Marine Sciences has joined the Inter-University Center (IUI), a marine research facility in Eilat, and recently [opened a new laboratory](#) titled COLOR Lab. Researchers affiliated with universities in Israel have a special status and receive a limited-term position to conduct research at the facility and offer focused courses on behalf of the institute that are open to all students nationwide.



PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

RESEARCH

The Social Life of Ants

Dr. Eyal Privman and his Lab team research the social life of insects. Insect societies are a unique model system for investigating the genetic and evolutionary mechanisms at the basis of animal sociality. Relative to vertebrates, insect social behavior is more mechanistic so it is easier to find its genetic basis. In one of their latest papers, published in *Nature Communications*, their team found that [social isolation shortens ants' lifespan](#), these findings have important implications on our understanding of social isolation's impact on our own lifespan in general.

Tropical Tree Diversity

[A study by Dr. Edwin Lebrija-Trejos](#) of the Biology and Environment Department published in *Nature*, shows that in central Panama plant diversity increased with soil moisture during the first year of life, persisting for over 15 years. Negative density-dependent interactions among conspecifics were stronger in wetter years, contributing to increased diversity. Climate change and habitat degradation could impact these relationships and tropical tree diversity.



The African Houbara (Credit: Yohay Wasserlauf, University of Haifa)

A Tale of Drones and Rodents

A new study led by a group of UofH scientists from the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, Shamir Research Institute and the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies [examines the impact of using drones to determine rodents' location and damage in crops](#). Conducted on 120 plots, the study revealed that rodents' damage to crops can be controlled by using drone-generated data. This discovery contributes to increasing the efficiency of pest control, decreasing the amount of rodenticides, and water conservation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

How Many is Too Many?

A PhD thesis by Rakefet Diamond conducted under the supervision of Prof. Noga Collins-Kreiner, School of Environmental Sciences, and in collaboration with Dr. Lior Chen Levin, the social scientist of the Nature and Parks Authority, assesses the carrying capacity of nature reserves and national parks. It examines how many visitors can stay and visit reserves without causing harm, both to the natural environment and to the visitors' experience. The work is in advanced stages and it has significant implications and influence on the management of nature reserves and national parks in Israel.

Saving the African Houbara

The University of Haifa, in collaboration with the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority has launched a research project led by [doctoral students Yohay Wasserlauf and Assaf Miroz](#), supervised by Prof. Nir Sapir of the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology. The study actively

monitors the migratory patterns of the Houbaras

(also known as Houbara Bustard) in different regions of the Negev, in an effort to save the Houbaras and other endangered species.

The project secured funding totaling 440,000 ILS through an agreement between the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority and the Abu Dhabi Research Institute.

LEARNING AND STUDENT

Plastic Waste and the Dead Sea

Under the guidance of Prof. Beverly Goodman-Chernov, postdoctoral student Dr. Akos Kalman led a study on plastic waste in Israel and tracked the decline of the Dead Sea level over decades. The research, [involving students from a course on advanced technologies](#), revealed significant amounts of old plastic waste at the Dead Sea. The findings were widely covered in news outlets, including YNET and the Jerusalem Post.

To what extent do we value our forests?

A new study conducted by Dr. Keren Kaplan-Mintz from the Department of Learning and Instructional Sciences and the Shamir Institute for Research, Prof. Ofira Ayalon from the Department of Natural Resource and Environmental Management, along with a team of researchers from the Shmuel Ne'eman Institute at the Technion, found that many of us are willing to pay for the existence of forests and only few venture into them alone. The full research findings were published on the [YNET website](#).

OPERATIONS

Safe Environment for Kestrels

The Department of Information Systems and the 'Friends of the Kestrels' Association [constructed a kestrel nesting box for barn owls](#) (a type of bird) on the roof of the Amir Building. Kestrels are migratory birds that arrive in the spring to nest, primarily in old buildings in cities. Modern construction and the use of sealed technologies do not allow kestrels to nest, and their numbers are declining in Israel and worldwide. The settlement provides a safe environment for kestrels to nest, and they also help control mosquito populations, contributing to preventing this nuisance.

Flight for Hope

The Swift sculptures displayed on campus were generously donated by the Friends of the Swifts Association and represent the hope for peaceful coexistence among three Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. In efforts to conserve these small migratory birds, whose populations are decreasing, they built [nesting chambers and livestream](#) their activities to raise public awareness and gather valuable scientific information. This colony's data will be available online for ornithologists, scientists, and Swift enthusiasts worldwide.



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

RESEARCH

Democratic Crisis and Social Sustainability

This past [winter's Law Conference](#) was entitled, 'Democracy and Social Sustainability in Broken Times', and featured keynote speaker, former Minister of Justice Gidon Saar. Among the topics discussed at the conference were Gossip and Shaming in the Legal Field; Considerations and Procedures in Judge Appointments; and Democracy in Crisis.

Preventing Violent Escalations

A study that examined the situation in Haifa during the violent events that took place in Israel in May 2021 during Operation 'Guardian of the Walls', led by Dr. Rolly Rosen from the Department of Anthropology, in collaboration with Abraham Initiatives, [offered practical recommendations](#) to prevent a similar escalation in the future. The study makes practical recommendations for implementation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Impact Project: Field Hospital X – Research, Experience and Development Center

The *Field Hospital X* art display was established by Prof. Aya Ben Ron, from The Department of Fine Art, School of the Arts, as a means to address social illnesses and injustices. The display participated in many central exhibits among them the Venice Biennale (2019), and due to its success, now it will have a permanent exhibit hall within the university. In its four years of existence and activity, it has been a safe space for visitors, where they can recognize and hear silenced voices, understand tolerance and empathy in a new and thought-provoking way.

Honorary Doctorate to former President Bill Clinton

UofH granted

honorary doctorates to former US President Bill Clinton and NYU President Emeritus John Sexton.

The honorary doctorate was given in recognition of Clinton's support for Israel, his actions promoting coexistence and peace in the region, as well as the work of the Clinton Global Initiative promoting social and economic sustainability.

Jewish, Christian, Muslim Conference

For the first time, the [Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies](#), headed by Dr. Uriel Simonsohn, in partnership with the Ministry



The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies (Credit: University of Haifa)

of Regional Cooperation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized Israel's first JCM (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) conference in Haifa. Participants included academics and religious leaders from different countries, fostering close interfaith dialogue.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Building a More Egalitarian Israeli Society

The School of Political Sciences' new [Yesodot \(Foundations\) program aims to foster social integration and dialogue between Jewish and Arab communities in Israel](#). The year-long program equips participants with professional tools for public service and sets "shared society policy" as an area of expertise.

The goal is to empower participants to become influential leaders in building a more democratic and egalitarian Israeli society.

Student Leadership in Mixed Cities

Being a mixed-city with a truly diverse student population, the UofH Dean of Students office operates several programs to foster young people to build our shared society. Programs include ['Initiative for Shared Society in Acco'](#) run by diverse students who together map the challenges there; leadership course for Druze students; Ultra-Orthodox/Secular dialogue group, and many more.

'Beeri Program': You and I will change the Country!

['Beeri is a bachelor's degree program](#) in the Department of Jewish History and Bible, led by Prof. Dani Gutwein and Dr. Tal Elmaliach. The program gives an academic glance into the socio-economic reality in Israel in an overall historical perspective. 'Beeri' is a multidisciplinary program, which offers courses in an array of disciplines. Graduates of the program have been recruited to key and leadership positions in social organizations and political, economic, and educational frameworks.

Fighting Misinformation

Prof. Sarit Barzilai, from the Faculty of Education, and her research group, engage in research and outreach activities to help students and teachers

deal with misinformation and disinformation online. Prof. Barzilai's group created a digital game that helps middle school students navigate the complex world of social media. The game, titled ['Misinformation Is Contagious'](#), teaches students to evaluate online information critically and avoid sharing misleading content. Prof. Barzilai and her team findings, based on the game, were published in the prestigious journal [Computers & Education](#).

OPERATIONS

Library Cooperation with UAE

An MOU for cooperation between UofH and the National Library and Archives of the UAE was signed this year, paving the way for an exchange of collections, research, and training. We believe the new relationship will contribute to the [accessibility of new materials](#), the development of ideas and knowledge related to the Middle East.

Protesting Judicial Overhaul

In the past year, the university [hosted dialogues](#) involving academic staff, administrators, and students to discuss government-promoted judicial overhaul. Furthermore, the university decided to allow academic and administrative staff to participate in various protests (on their own time) and permitted students to join major demonstrations without holding their absence against them on those days.



STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH

Human activities including climate change are altering our oceans

The University of Haifa formed a partnership between GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel to [establish the Helmholtz International Laboratory in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea](#) as a model for Future Ocean Research (EMS FORE). The Eastern Mediterranean Sea is one of the most rapidly changing ocean basins on our planet impacted by both climate change and extensive human pressures. The 6 million€ project is led by Prof Eric Achterberg (GEOMAR) and Prof. Ilana Berman-Frank (UoH), with a core team of approx. 25 researchers and students.

Human Rights of Older Persons

Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron, Dean of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, presented before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, as part of the council's first meeting in the field of the [rights of the elderly](#), titled 'The multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons'. Prof. Doron presented in the first session of the meeting 'The Human Right to Life-long Learning in Old-Age'.



Aerial view of Eshkol tower (Credit: University of Haifa)

Harnessing Technology for the Advancement of the Study of the Past

The first collaboration of its kind between the School of Archaeology and Maritime Civilizations, led by [Prof. Israel Finkelstein](#), and scientists at the [Technion](#) will propel the study of the past into the technological era of our time. This collaboration was launched at a conference held in January 2023 at the Technion, which showcased how to integrate archaeological research with exact sciences. The collaboration will leverage the unique capabilities of researchers from both institutions to lead groundbreaking interdisciplinary research.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Middle East Philosophy Association with Children

[The inauguration of the 'PCYNAP Philosophy with Children and Youth Network for Asia-Pacific'](#) was announced during an international online event. The association was founded by the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Aryeh Kizel, in collaboration with Soufiane Morgava, a social activist from Morocco. Dozens of researchers and practitioners from around the world participated in the event, including from Italy, Spain, Malta, Turkey, and more.

VESKI grant: Integration of Autistic People at Work

A joint project between researchers from the University of La Trobe in Australia and researchers from the Faculty of

Welfare and Health Sciences. The project, which was funded through a VESKI grant from the government of La Trobe in Australia, [intended for international collaborations](#), included three studies: integration of autistic people at work, led by Prof. Eynat Gal and Prof. Naomi Schreuer from the Department of Occupational Therapy; Exposure to alcohol in the digital media, led by Prof. Sharon Sznitman from the School of Public Health; and developmental intellectual disability and families, led by Dr. Carmit-Noa Spigelman, from the Department of Community Mental Health.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Map the System – Global Learning

Students from the University's Kayama Center, which aims to create positive social impact, participated in the competitive University of Oxford [Map the System: global learning program](#) and social innovation competition that equips students to use systems thinking to tackle social and environmental challenges. The students made it to the finals, which included only 12 teams, out of dozens that competed.

Meaningful SDG-related Education

The university is offering meaningful SDG-related education within its academic programs, students have the option of advancing the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) through diverse course offerings and experiential learning. In particular, the ['environment and sustainability' cluster](#) of elective courses; MA in [Natural Resources and Environmental Management](#), and the MBA Program Specializing in Sustainability (Global Green MBA), to mention a few.

OPERATIONS

SDG Campaign to celebrate UofH 50th anniversary

This year UofH celebrated its 50th anniversary with a campaign highlighting key research and educational initiatives that align with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – reducing poverty, hunger, and discrimination.

We are proud of the University's multidisciplinary approach that encourages different perspectives and unusual pairings to address some of the world's greatest challenges.

Upholding ISO Standards

Under Ayelet Anati's management and VP Nebi Amer's guidance, the safety department led the University Standards Institute's inspection of ISO 45001 (safety) and ISO 14001 (environmental quality). [Annual inspections ensure certification](#), recent inspections of various university units met successfully the ISO standards for infrastructure, security and operations.

Israel-Argentina Exchange

As part of a larger strategy to strengthen the ties with Latin American partners, the University is working to consolidate cooperation agreements with Argentinean universities to increase research projects, student exchanges, and new online teaching opportunities. In efforts to advance collaborations, Dr. Sebastian Klor of the [Department of Multidisciplinary Studies](#) (Eshkol) visited Maimonides University delivering a lecture on "Israel and Argentina in the 21st Century: Exchanges, Challenges, and Opportunities." In November, [both Universities signed the MOU](#) cementing the commitment to collaborate on joint projects.

Opening Doors to a Regional Research Collaboration

The University of Haifa established a regional research collaboration by signing agreements with several universities in Morocco and the Emirates. Specifically, agreements were signed with Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Tangier and Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh, focusing on ecological, marine technologies, and sustainable aquaculture research. Additionally another [pioneering trilateral agreement](#) was signed with Khalifa University, United Arab Emirates University and the German Helmholtz GEOMAR research center.

SDG REPORT: WORKING TOWARDS THE UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Division of Innovation & Sustainability and the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library

The University of Haifa, Mount Carmel, Haifa 31905, Israel



www.haifa.ac.il | sdg@univ.haifa.ac.il

© November 2023 | Graphic Design:  Marina Bugaev



אוניברסיטת חיפה
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA
جامعة حيفا