4 QUALITY EDUCATION

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

RESEARCH

Smart Math: Personalized Learning with AI

The Faculty of Education's Mathematics Education team developed an innovative AI-based bot that generates personalized math tasks by grade, topic and learning stage, building on years of 'math literacy' exercises. Led by Prof. Roza Leikin and Dr. Zohar Elyoseph, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, it supports adaptive, engaging math learning.

Misreading Emotions: What We Think vs. What Others Feel

A new study in *Nature Communications* shows people tend to perceive others' emotions as more negative than they are. The research, led by Prof. Noga Cohen (Special Education; Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center) and Dr. Haran Sened (Counseling and Human Development), based on seven experiments, reveals a consistent gap between how people experience negative events and how others interpret their feelings, with insights for empathy and social perception.



(Credit: Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center)

Learning in Nature: Forest Education

Two studies from the School of Environmental Sciences explore Forest School Education. Prof. Shlomit Paz and colleagues found that outdoor learning strengthens teaching practices, group connections and environmental understanding. An international study led by Prof. Ofira Ayalon examined Forest School programs in climate change education, finding strong potential alongside implementation challenges.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

New Association for Philosophy of Education

A national initiative led by Prof. Arie Kizel (Faculty of Education) establishes the 'Israeli Society for Philosophy of Education', a professional home for researchers, lecturers and students engaged in the philosophy of education. The inaugural conference marked the launch, with a keynote lecture by Prof. Avi Sagi.

Strengthening Ties: Educators Connect with the University

150 educators from 'Ironi Alef' High School joined a special preparation day at the University of Haifa, following a visit to the school by University President Prof. Gur Alroey. Rector Prof. Mouna Maroun spoke on expanding access to academia, reflecting a commitment to pathways from high school to higher education.

Research Starts Early: High School Students Go Academic

High school students in the University of Haifa Youths 'IDEA' Program conduct academic-level research on topics of their own choosing, guided by expert mentors, developing critical thinking and hands-on research experience.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

'Island of Understanding': Learning, Resilience & Nature

The Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center and the Ministry of Education presented the 'Island of Understanding' program at a special conference for over one hundred senior education leaders. Developed through years of research in Hebrew and Arabic, it combines literacy, emotional resilience and community, drawing on the healing power of nature. Implemented with over 10,000 students, it significantly improved learning outcomes and emotional well-being.

From Classroom to Clinic: Social Work in Action

A learning day at 'Carmel Medical Center' brought first-year social work students into the field, with lectures, ward tours, multidisciplinary panels and case discussions. Organized by Tami Handelman Ben Shimon (Field Studies, Department of Social Work) and Limor Disney (director of social services at 'Carmel'), it showed students the role of social workers in healthcare and strengthened the University-Carmel partnership.

Raising Awareness: Learning Disabilities in Arab Society

A first-of-its-kind conference raised awareness of learning disabilities and attention disorders in Arab society. Initiated by the Accessibility and Learning Disabilities Unit (Dean of Students Office) with the Mofet Forum, the Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center, the Faculty of Education and the Egdal Association, it highlighted challenges such as language barriers, stigma and limited access to support, presented support models, and promoted access to diagnosis and support for students.

OPERATIONS

Campus Break Talks: Big Ideas, Short Breaks

The Rector's Office launched the *'Campus Break Talks'* series at the Hecht Museum plaza, opened by Rector Prof. Mouna Maroun. Talks included Prof. Zohar Elyoseph on *'AI in Mental Health: Fascination and Concern'* and Prof. Shira Zelber-Sagi on *'Fatty Liver: Not What You Think-Prevention and Treatment from Childhood to Old Age'*.

Inspiring the Next Generation: Youth Programs at the University of Haifa

The Youths unit launched three programs: *'Wednesday Break the Routine'* introduces 8th graders to academia through hands-on activities, including a brain and biofeedback course; *'Words in Frame and Color'* supports immigrant youth through art, language and self-expression; *'Path to Excellence'* empowers outstanding young adults from Arab society with academic literacy, Hebrew, entrepreneurship and public speaking.

Lifelong Learning: 37 Courses Open to the Public

The Age-Friendly University team opened 37 courses this year to external participants, including older adults, strengthening ties with the wider community and supporting lifelong learning. More courses are expected next year.

