אוניברסיטת חיפה
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA
جامعة حيفا

IMPACT REPORT
NOVEMBER 2026



UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

Driving Impact Towards the SDGs



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INTRODUCTION

This annual report is published at a time when Israel continues to recover from one of the most challenging periods in its history. Following an extended period of instability and hardship, communities across the country remain in various stages of rebuilding lives, infrastructure, and resilience. As the leading academic institution in northern Israel, the University of Haifa has embraced a central role in supporting this recovery.

Despite these challenges, the University has remained steadfast in its commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and societal engagement. Our commitment to sustainability continues to receive international recognition: in the 2026 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, the University of Haifa maintained its position among the world's top 101-200 universities and once again ranked as Israel's leading university in advancing the sustainable development goals, with standout performance in SDG 5 (Gender Equality, 54th globally) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, 92nd globally).

This year also marks an important milestone in our efforts to understand and measure the broader societal contribution of universities. In our recent article, *Beyond Teaching and Research: Measuring the Societal Impact of Universities*, published in Education Sciences journal. This article introduces a comprehensive framework for assessing universities' contributions to society, moving beyond traditional measures of teaching and research to offer a systematic, evidence-based way of identifying, mapping, and evaluating institutional societal impact.

Alongside this, we continued to promote research and teaching initiatives with direct societal or environmental impact, namely through our Impactful Research Project grant program (five funded projects this year) and our Impactful Education initiative (four winning programs). Additionally, we secured funding to develop three new sustainability projects on campus: (a) a community garden built on sustainable practices (b) a heritage orchard that is also designed to reduce wildfire risk, and (c) a fully accessible therapeutic garden supporting recovery from trauma.

I am especially proud that this report not only highlights our initiatives advancing the SDGs but also reflects our growing commitment to rigorously measuring and strengthening our societal impact. As we look ahead, we remain guided by resilience, innovation, and a deep sense of responsibility to our communities, to the State of Israel, and to a more sustainable future for all.

Prof. Ofer Arazy

Director of Innovation & Sustainability



Younes & Soraya Nazarian Library (Credit: Hilla Klor)

1 NO POVERTY

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

RESEARCH

When ‘Easy Access’ Isn’t Easy: Rethinking Passported Benefits

A new article by Dr. Noam Tarshish, from the School of Social Work, at the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, and colleagues, published in *Journal of Social Policy*, explores why "passported benefits" often remain difficult to access despite being designed to simplify support. Based on an Israeli case study, the authors identify factors that make these benefits either accessible or administratively burdensome.

What Drives Financial Behavior? Insights on Gen Z

A study by Dr. Gilad Tohar and Dr. Sagi Akron, from the School of Business Administration, published in *Finance Research Letters*, the study identifies three key drivers of financial behavior: knowledge, attitude, and awareness. The findings show that financial attitude is the strongest predictor of responsible financial decisions. Among Generation Z, financial attitude plays an even greater role, while long-term financial awareness has less influence, highlighting a stronger focus on short-term financial priorities.



Program of the Social Engagement Unit at the Dean of Students Office in collaboration with Beit HaGefen (Credit: Younes & Soraya Nazarian Library Facebook)

Beyond the Encounter: Rethinking Emotional Experiences in Welfare

A new study, published in *Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*, by Ms. Sohad Amaria, and Dr. Einat Lavee, from the Department of Human Services, deals with low-income Arab single mothers in Israel and shows that their emotional experiences with social services are shaped not only by interactions with social workers, but also by gaps between their needs and the support they receive. While experiences vary among widowed, divorced, and separated mothers, a shared sense of exclusion emerges, highlighting the need to address systemic barriers and promote more equitable, supportive welfare practices.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Create Together: Art Workshops & Intercultural Dialogue

The Social Engagement Unit at the Dean of Students Office, in collaboration with *Beit HaGefen*, initiated a unique, hands-on program. An opportunity for emerging artists and students to meet, connect, and create together in workshops led by leading artists. The program also includes guided intercultural dialogue facilitated by a group leader from *Beit HaGefen*.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

New Course: Empowering Change, Financial Skills for Social Work Practice

Financial Management in Families Facing Poverty is a course instructed by Ms. Ilana Glotman-Asaf at the School of Social Work that equips future social workers with the knowledge and practical skills to support families facing poverty and financial hardship. Combining theory with hands-on experience, students learn financial counseling and employment guidance, analyze financial decision-making across the life course, and support a family through a structured financial recovery process.

Bridging Gaps: Digital Access & AI Skills for Older Adults

The Clinic for Law, Technology, and Cyber continues its initiative to improve access to online services, with a focus on digital services and consumer tools for older adults. As part of the project, students worked on multiple fronts: collaborating with the Israel Internet Association and civil society organizations to develop an accessibility index measuring how user-friendly websites are for older users; addressing individual inquiries; and leading workshops that introduce older adults to artificial intelligence technologies.

Driving Impact: Innovative Finance Meets Social Change

A groundbreaking course bridges theory and practice in impact investing and financing mechanisms. The Kayama Center course explores key trends, concepts, and innovative models shaping this expanding field, including hybrid financing mechanisms tailored to different organizational needs. Participants will also gain practical skills in designing a strategic roadmap for fundraising, applying the principles and tools learned throughout the course.

OPERATIONS

Excellence Scholarship for First-Year Students

Outstanding first-year students admitted to eligible programs with a psychometric score of 600-699 are eligible for a merit-based scholarship.

Training University Resilience Ambassadors

The University of Haifa has launched its Resilience Ambassadors training program, an initiative led by the University Resilience Center in collaboration with the Human Resources Division. The program equips staff with essential tools to cope with personal and organizational resilience challenges.

A total of 23 academic and administrative staff members completed the training, gaining practical skills and knowledge to navigate stress and crisis situations effectively.

Administrative Job Tracking Page

A new page is now available, offering updated tracking of administrative positions managed by the Placement and Employment Unit within the Division of Human Resources.

2 ZERO HUNGER

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


H. Nativ - Morris Kahn Marine Research Station

RESEARCH

Drought Threatens Marine Food Security

A new study by Dr. Igal Berenshtein from the Department of Marine Biology at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, and colleagues, published in *Nature Communications*, reveals that extreme drought can severely impact marine ecosystems and fisheries. Focusing on the late 1980s in the Gulf of Mexico, researchers found that prolonged drought reduced Mississippi River flow and nutrient supply, triggering a collapse of around 40% in fish biomass, starting with small forage fish and cascading up the food chain.

The findings show that environmental factors, more than fishing itself, drove this decline. Looking ahead, climate projections suggest that more frequent and severe droughts could lead to further sharp drops in fish stocks, posing a growing risk to marine food security unless adaptive measures are taken.

'Mother of Dates'?

Researchers have identified a previously unknown species of wild date palm in southern Israel, notable for its unique traits and remarkable resilience. Led by Dr. Roi Galili and Prof. Guy Bar-Oz from the Haifa School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures. The study suggests this could be the long sought 'mother of the date palm', echoing the significance of the discovery of wild wheat. The research was conducted in collaboration with Tel Aviv University, the Volcani Institute, and the Montpellier Institute in France.

Mediterranean Diet Linked to Improved Crohn's Outcomes

A new study published in *Clinical Nutrition* journal by a team of researchers, including Prof. Shira Zelber-Sagi, from the School of Public Health, at the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, finds that adherence to the Mediterranean diet is associated with lower inflammation levels and higher remission rates in Crohn's disease patients. Benefits were strongest in the short term, highlighting the importance of maintaining healthy dietary habits, particularly limiting harmful food components, to support disease management.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

From Waste to Worth: Israel's National Food Rescue Plan

Israel discards about 2.6 million tons of food each year while 2.8 million people face food insecurity. A new national plan, led by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and supported by research from the Samuel Neaman Institute at the Technion, including Prof. Ofira Ayalon from the School of Environmental Sciences, brings together experts from government, academia, local authorities, and civil society to reduce food waste by up to 50% by 2050 through prevention, food rescue, regulation, and behavior change.

From Sea to Sustainability: Sea Wheat Gains European Recognition

The *SeaWheat project* at the Morris Kahn Marine Research Station, has been recognized as a 2025 'Success Story' by the prestigious COST program. Led by Prof. Muki Shpigel and Dr. Leigh Livne, the project explores the green algae *Ulva* ('sea wheat') as a sustainable resource for future food systems, aquaculture, and marine biotechnology. Connecting around 400 researchers from 36 countries and producing 47 scientific publications, *SeaWheat* highlights Israeli scientific leadership on the global stage and its contribution to sustainable solutions for marine ecosystems.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Bridging Communities Through Knowledge on Chronic Pain

As part of the course *'Chronic Pain: New Approaches to Measurement and Treatment'*, taught by Prof. Pavel Goldstein, from the School of Public Health, students are partnering with Wikimedia Israel to create Hebrew and Arabic Wikipedia entries on chronic pain. Working in Jewish-Arab pairs, they combine academic research with intercultural collaboration, producing reliable, accessible health information while fostering meaningful dialogue and connections beyond the classroom.

Tackling Food Waste: International Perspectives

An international webinar explored strategies for reducing food loss and waste in Germany, the UK, and Israel. The session was initiated and led by Prof. Ofira Ayalon from the School of Environmental Sciences and head of the Natural Resources and Environment Research Center.

From Knowledge to Practice: Nutrition & Physical Activity

A new course taught at the External Studies Unit offers practical, up-to-date knowledge of healthy nutrition and sports nutrition, addressing the needs of both the general population and athletes. Participants will explore physiological and nutritional principles, learn how to build healthy habits, debunk common myths, and gain practical tools to improve health and performance. Combining theory and hands-on applications, the 40-hour course supports a balanced, healthy lifestyle.

OPERATIONS

Archaeology Now: A Taste of History

The fascinating lecture series *'Archaeology Now'* returns to the Hecht Museum with a flavorful new season: 'Digging into the Plate - A Brief History of Food'. Through talks by leading researchers, the series explores the history of food, from wheat and ancient Egyptian beer to sugar in the Land of Israel, combining archaeology, botany, genetics, and culinary history to reveal how food has shaped human civilization.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

RESEARCH

Breakthrough PTSD Treatment: From Lab to Drug Development

Kailo Pharma raised 6.5 million NIS to develop a PTSD treatment that neutralizes traumatic memories in mice, based on research by Dr. Iris Reuveni and Prof. Edi Barkai (Department of Neurobiology) with Prof. Haim Gilon of the Hebrew University. Researchers identified a brain mechanism that amplifies fear memories and developed a peptide to block it, designed as a nasal spray for direct delivery to the central nervous system.

Aging in Sync: New Insights into the Body's Internal Communication

A groundbreaking study led by Dr. Judith Somekh (Information Systems), with Shaked Briller, Prof. Gil Atzmon, Dr. Gil Ben David and Yam Amir, published in *Scientific Reports*, found that coordination between key tissues, such as the brain, muscles and fat, declines with age. Aging appears to be a system-wide decline, opening possibilities for early detection of age-related diseases and treatments supporting healthy aging.



Occupational Therapy and Information Systems students at the Hecht Museum (Credit: Keren Shalem Facebook)

Predicting Suicide Risk: A Breakthrough in Bipolar Disorder Research

A simple blood test can identify suicide risk in bipolar disorder. Led by Prof. Shani Stern of the Integrated Brain and Behavior Research Center (IBBRC), researchers developed an AI-based algorithm that analyzes genetic signals in blood cells and predicts elevated risk with over 95% accuracy, a promising tool for early detection and prevention.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

New Partnership: Advancing Research and Rehabilitation

The Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences signed an affiliation agreement with Ziv Medical Center to promote joint research and collaboration, including a shared research fund, joint teaching and training, and clinical guidance for students. Teams will work on advanced treatments such as virtual reality-based neurological rehabilitation, and on protocols for patients with complex rehabilitation needs.

Gatekeepers for Suicide Prevention

Prof. Yossi Levi-Belz, head of the Lior Tsafati Center for Suicide and Mental Pain Research (Faculty of Education), leads the 'Gatekeepers' initiative with the Nova Tribe Community and the Ministries of Welfare and Health, equipping communities to identify and respond to emotional distress. As Prof. Levi-Belz emphasizes, healing after collective trauma is a shared responsibility.

Advancing Care: Supporting Complex Patients in the Community

The Azrieli Center for Advanced Nursing Roles (ADVANCE), headed by Prof. Efrat Shadmi, hosted the semi-annual meeting of nurses and leadership from Clalit's Guided Care and Support program. The program empowers primary care nurses to coordinate care for patients with complex multi-morbidity and runs in 22 clinics nationwide. The meeting included lectures and workshops on health coaching and healthy lifestyle management.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Innovation in Action: Making the Hecht Museum More Accessible

Students from Occupational Therapy and Information Systems worked on improving accessibility at the Hecht Museum for people with intellectual disabilities. As part of the course *Advanced Technologies in Development and Rehabilitation*, partially funded by the Division of Innovation and Sustainability and led by Dr. Alexandra Daniel-Saad and Prof. Tsvi Kuflik, they developed solutions using 3D printing, smart sensors, augmented reality and AI.

Advancing Mental Health: New IMPACT Research Center

Prof. Liat Helpman (School of Therapy, Counseling and Human Development, Faculty of Education) leads the newly established IMPACT Center, which advances mental health promotion across diverse systems. Its projects include a national study on a stepped-care mental health model within *Leumit Health Services*, with researchers from the University of Haifa and Columbia University.

New Generation of Coaches Certified

Seventy new sports coaches and instructors graduated from the University's School for Sports Coaching (External Studies Division), run with the Sports Center under the academic supervision of Prof. Einat Kodesh, Head of Physical Therapy. Graduates were certified in judo, basketball, volleyball and fitness instruction for physiotherapy graduates, among other programs, all recognized and supervised by the Ministry of Sport.

OPERATIONS

Inside the Brain: New Podcast Launched

The University's 'Integrative Brain & Behavior Research Center' launched *INTERBRAIN*, a podcast making neuroscience accessible, produced with the Digital Learning Unit. Researchers discuss attention, memory and addiction. Led by PhD student Rika Shayan-Aviv, with Prof. Inna Gaisler-Salomon and Ms. Dana Zoabi; episodes are on Spotify.

Get Moving: 8Week Training Toward the University Run

Ahead of the University Run on May 20, 2026, the Sports Center and the Physical Therapy Department launched a quiet WhatsApp group with an 8-week guided training program, helping participants complete a 30-minute run at their own pace.

Creating Together: Art, Community & Inspiration

The Hecht Museum hosted a series of meetings with a group from Israel Elwyn, including a clay sculpture workshop in the sculpture garden and a visit to the University of Haifa observatory.

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.



5 GENDER EQUALITY

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

RESEARCH

Gender Matters: What Shapes Trust and Policy Support?

A study by Dr. Aliza Forman-Rabinovici and Prof. Itai Beeri (School of Political Sciences), published in Policy Studies Journal, shows that gender shapes the links between satisfaction with public services, trust in leaders and policy support. In a Haifa survey, satisfaction-trust links were stronger among women, and support was greater when policies were led by female policymakers, especially in domains perceived as feminine.

Gender and Resilience: How War Impacts Teen Mental Health

Doctoral student Liann Haham, Prof. Idan Aderka, Prof. Tomer Shechner and colleagues published in *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* a study of gender differences in adolescents' responses to war: girls were at higher risk for anxiety and trauma symptoms, while social connection and active coping supported resilience, pointing to the need for gender-sensitive mental health support.



Leadareit Program (Credit: University of Haifa)

Balancing Identity and Growth: Haredi Students in Higher Education

Osnat Rubin (Counselling and Human Development) and Dr. Nurit Novis-Deutsch (Learning and Instructional Sciences), in *Higher Education*, examine how Haredi students navigate academic advancement and religious identity. Studies significantly enhance professional development but are often accompanied by a modest decline in religious belonging; men report a greater decrease than women, and single students gain more professionally than married peers, underscoring the need for culturally sensitive support.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Athena Women's Club: Culture, Community & Inspiration

Registration is open for the Athena Women's Club, led by Ms. Shoshi Vera with the Hecht Museum, a cultural space for enrichment, dialogue and community among women on campus, with lectures, tours and discussions on Israeli culture, design, society and history. Led by volunteer speakers, it also supports scholarships and research, advancing women's academic engagement.

Women at the Forefront: Celebrating Research in 2026

Marking the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026, academic initiatives joined for the event 'Women Researchers at the Frontline of Science', bringing together 9 universities and 13 colleges to showcase women-led research and its contribution to science in Israel and globally, as an expression of resilience, solidarity and collaboration.

Advancing Transgender Rights: A Clinical Success Story

The Civil Litigation Clinic (Faculty of Law) continues to expand healthcare access for the transgender community. This year it secured funding for essential estrogen treatment for a client after two appeals to a health fund exceptions committee, care not included in the national health basket.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Inspiring Women in Research: Leading the Way to Success

The Commission for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Bloom School for Graduate Studies hosted *'Inspiration on the Path to Success - Trailblazing Women Researchers'*: a lecture by Dr. Efrat Cohen-Touati, a panel on balancing research and motherhood with Prof. Michal Biron, Dr. Hanin Karawani-Khoury, Dr. Tal Luzzatto-Knaan and Dr. Maayan Sudai, and a talk by journalist Adva Dadon encouraging participants to overcome fear and pursue their ambitions.

Empowering Researchers: Diversity & Inclusion in Action

The Faculty of Law is advancing diversity, inclusion and gender equity, including a program to empower PhD candidates. *'Women's Monday - Women Researchers Together'*, led by Ms. Dorita Rubin with support from the Commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, fostered connections and collaboration, and participants want to continue the community.

Women Leading Together: Building Academic Leadership in the Field

As part of the 'Leadareit' program for senior academic leadership, faculty members took part in an outdoor workshop at Kibbutz Dalia, initiated by the Commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with the Rector's Office. Through experiential learning and group tasks, participants strengthened collaboration, trust and collective leadership.



Leadareit Program (Credit: University of Haifa)

OPERATIONS

Language Matters: Advancing Gender Equality on Campus

A new e-learning module promotes gender-inclusive language. Since Hebrew's gendered structure often reinforces bias, the Commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is working to reduce gender bias in campus communications, from forms and signage to digital content. The module was developed with Prof. Shulamit Almog of the Faculty of Law.

Inclusive Language Workshop

The Commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion organized hands-on workshops with the *'Speak to Us'* initiative for staff who write in teaching, communications, administration or marketing, providing practical tools for gender-inclusive and neutral writing and improving writing skills.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



Southern Jordan River Outflow into the Dead Sea (Credit: School of Environmental Sciences Facebook)

RESEARCH

Reliable Power-Water System Operation Under Uncertainty

Researchers Gal Perelman, Mashor Housh, Aviad Navon and Avi Ostfeld (School of Environmental Sciences) address power and water systems that are increasingly interconnected but planned separately. The researchers developed optimization methods for day-ahead operating plans for water pumps and power generators under uncertainty in water demand, electricity consumption and renewable generation, using a novel mathematical technique that makes the models practical to solve.

From Desert Storm to Sea: Tracking a Flash Flood

In a new study, Prof. Beverly Goodman-Tchernov and colleagues (Marine Geosciences) traced a rare desert flash flood in Eilat from its atmospheric origins to its impact on the Red Sea, using satellite, weather, flood and marine data. The flood delivered a pulse of freshwater and sediment that altered seawater salinity and sediment movement, improving understanding of how flash floods affect fragile coastal ecosystems in arid regions.

Hidden Pollution: Marine Litter Found in Sea Caves

In a new study, Prof. Dror Angel and colleagues (Maritime Civilizations) found that sea caves are overlooked hotspots for marine litter. Surveying sea caves, the researchers found debris in every site, mostly fragmented plastic; cave shape and wave exposure influence accumulation, and the waste can trap toxic substances and threaten species such as the Mediterranean monk seal.

Remote Sensing Tools for Mapping Waterborne Tropical Diseases

Profs. Daniel Sher and Yoav Lahan of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences received a 50,000 NIS grant through the 2026 Innovation and Sustainability Division Call for Impactful Research Projects to develop remote sensing-based tools for high-resolution mapping of waterborne neglected tropical diseases, supporting identification of high-risk areas, prevention and decision-making. The project takes place in Ethiopia.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Israel's Hidden Water Crisis

Dr. David Katz (School of Environmental Sciences) argues the public is not aware of the severity of Israel's water shortage: climate change reduces rainfall while intensifying storms, and despite heavier downpours and flooding, natural reservoirs keep shrinking, leaving northern agricultural fields vulnerable. The findings appear in a report for the environmental NGO Tzalul.

AI Meets Water

At the 11th Kinneret Conference, Prof. Mashor Housh and Dr. Elad Salomons (Natural Resources and Environmental Management) led a hands-on workshop on AI in the water industry for engineers, analysts and operations managers, using real-world water system datasets for data analysis, pattern recognition and operational decision-making.

Protecting Water, Enforcing Justice

The Social Justice Clinic uses legal tools to protect Israel's coastal and marine environment: monitoring enforcement against groundwater pollution in the Coastal Aquifer, identifying major contamination sources, and reviewing permits for discharging waste and wastewater into the sea to find opportunities for legal intervention.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Every Drop Counts

In the Water Quality course, Prof. Lior Gutman (Blue Biotechnology and Sustainable Marine Agriculture) introduces the science of water quality and its importance for health, ecosystems and water management, including methods for monitoring, analyzing and protecting water resources.

A Living Desert Classroom

The School of Environmental Sciences offers a multidisciplinary field course, led by Prof. Leah Michalovitz, on the landscapes of the Negev and Arava: the geological and geomorphological processes that shaped the region and its plant and animal diversity, with four field excursions.

Exploring the Future of Water

Students from Blue Biotechnology and Sustainable Marine Agriculture took a field tour exploring sustainable water technologies, visiting Pure Blue Fish, the Hadera desalination plant and the Dor Aquaculture Research Station to learn about recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), large-scale desalination and applied research.

OPERATIONS

Landscaping for a Water-Smart Campus

The new garden along the University's main building features native, water-efficient plants, the first step in a broader sustainability initiative. Similar landscaping will be part of all future campus developments, including the new medical school building, whose construction is scheduled to begin next year.

Advancing Sustainability and Community Engagement on Campus

As winners of the Green Campus 2025 competition of the Innovation and Sustainability Division, Dr. Eli Shemesh (Marine Biology) and Mr. Benny Vaknin (The Institute of Evolution, IoE) established an aquaponics system near the Institute and the university dormitories, combining fish farming and soilless plant cultivation in a closed loop to support sustainable food production, hands-on learning and environmental awareness.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

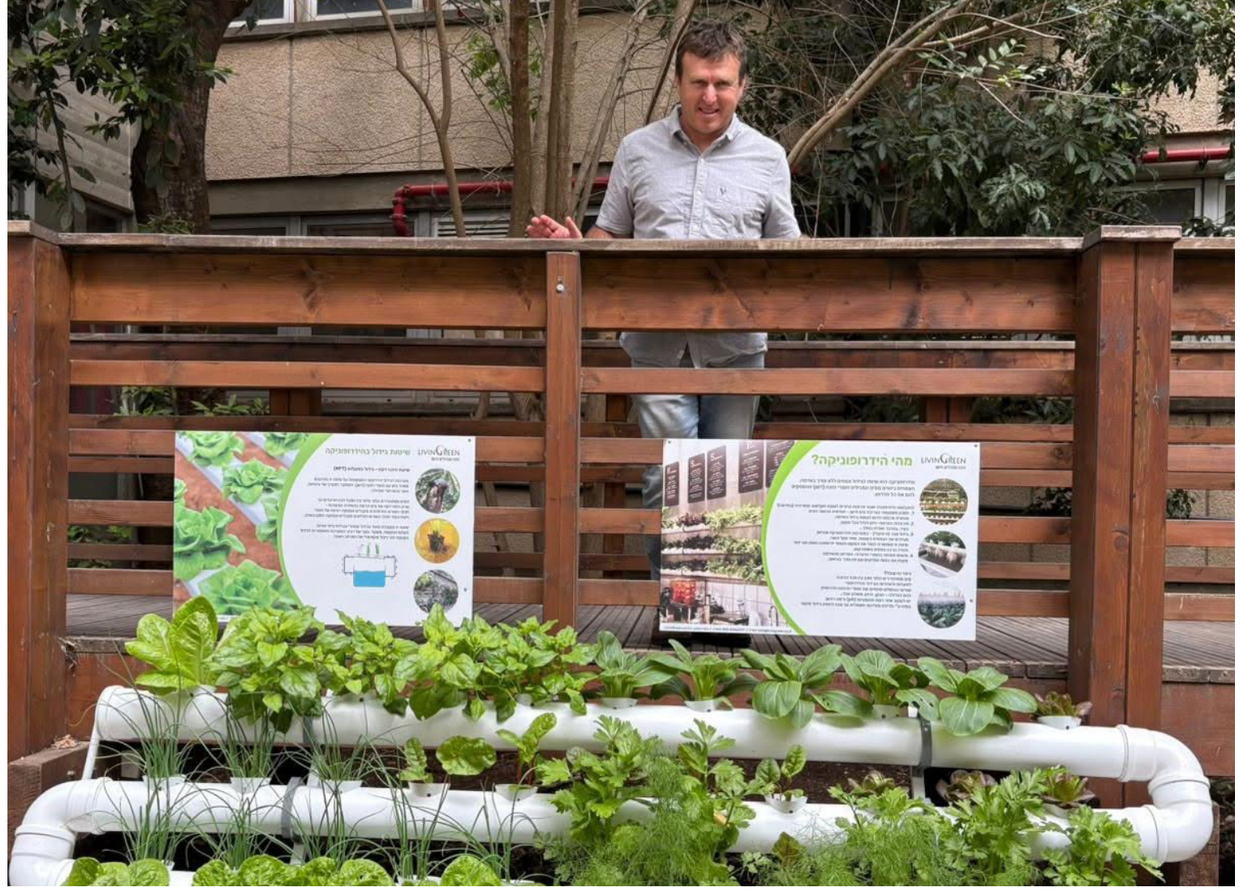
RESEARCH

Powering the Future of Underwater IoT

Prof. Roee Diamant, Department of Marine Technologies, has been awarded funding from Israel's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure for a pioneering project on energy harvesting for the Underwater Internet of Things (IoUT). The research aims to develop compact underwater generators that convert ambient ocean noise and motion into electrical power, extending the operating life of marine monitoring devices without relying on batteries. By combining advanced materials, innovative engineering, and real-world sea trials, the project could enable a new generation of self-powered underwater sensors for environmental monitoring and marine research.

Smarter Pumps, Lower Energy Costs

Prof. Mashor Housh and Dr. Elad Salomons, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, have developed a practical, model-based control strategy that makes water pumping stations significantly more energy efficient. Designed for systems with multiple variable-speed pumps, the approach optimizes pump operation without requiring costly infrastructure upgrades. Tested on a real-world case study, the method reduced energy consumption by approximately 10% while maintaining reliable water pressure and meeting operational constraints.



Dr. Igal Berenshtein, Dept. of Marine Biology (Credit: University of Haifa)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A Just Transition for Haifa Bay

The Environmental Justice Clinic is helping advance the transformation of Haifa Bay by supporting the phase-out of petrochemical industries while protecting workers' rights. Through research, policy development, and collaboration with government agencies, labor organizations, and environmental partners, the clinic is promoting a just transition, ensuring that the shift toward cleaner industries and renewable energy creates new opportunities for affected workers while improving environmental and public health.

Standing Up for a Cleaner Haifa Bay

Following the efforts to restore the Oil Refineries (Bazan) facilities after damage from Iranian strikes, the Environmental Justice Clinic, part of the Faculty of Law, is challenging the rehabilitation, arguing it should not undermine the government's plan to close the outdated industrial complex. Working with environmental organizations and local communities, the clinic advocates for a safer, healthier Haifa Bay by participating in planning discussions, supporting public engagement, and helping residents respond to proposed emissions permit changes.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Law, Energy, and the Environment

The Energy and Environmental Law course, taught by Mr. Zvi Levinson in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, provides students with an in-depth understanding of the legal frameworks governing environmental issues. The course introduces key stakeholders, their legal tools, authorities, and decision-making processes, while focusing on real-world legal challenges and practical solutions faced by professionals in the field.

OPERATIONS

Turning Waste into Energy and Community

Dr. Igal Berenshtein from the Department of Marine Biology and winner of last year's Green Campus competition, transformed a hidden green space on campus into a living showcase of sustainability. The project features a Home Bio-Gas system that converts organic waste into clean cooking gas for a shared coffee station, alongside an advanced aquaponic and hydroponic garden that provides fresh produce. The Green Corner hosts monthly community gatherings, where students, researchers, and staff from nearby labs and offices come together to enjoy coffee brewed with biogas and harvest produce from the garden.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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



Academia 360 meets NVIDIA (Credit: University of Haifa)

RESEARCH

Transforming HRM to Achieve the SDGs

In new research, Prof. Dana Vashdi and Noa Ariel Birman (School of Political Sciences) propose an HRM framework placing people management at the heart of sustainable development, built on five elements, culture, competencies, policies, programs and structure (the 5Cs), that align HRM practices with the SDGs.

Belonging in Healthcare: Professional Identity and Disability

Based on 124 interviews with students and clinicians across five healthcare professions, Yael Mayer (School of Counseling and Human Development) and colleagues reveal that disabled healthcare students and clinicians build professional identity through an ongoing process of navigating dual identities, highlighting the role of supportive educational and workplace environments in fostering belonging and a broader understanding of professionalism.

When Identity Meets Employment

Prof. Hisham M. Abu-Rayya and colleagues (School of Social Work) conducted research examining how Palestinian and Israeli identities influence labor market experiences of Arab citizens of Israel. Data from 552 participants show a bicultural identity can bring advantages, particularly in income and career advancement, and that the identity-success link differs between predominantly Arab and predominantly Jewish work environments.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Career Exploration Workshops for Gap-Year Youth

Aline Abu Sineh, Senior Career Psychologist at the Dean of Students Office Career Development Unit, led a workshop for gap-year participants in the University of Haifa Youth Program as part of the 'Ajik' initiative. The Unit is delivering workshops in Arabic on career options, higher education, the changing labor market and academic and career planning.

Bridging Academia and the Workplace

The Department of Occupational Therapy held its second career fair for graduating students and alumni, led by the Clinical Unit team, with representatives from healthcare, education, welfare and nonprofit organizations presenting career opportunities and professional pathways. Building on positive feedback from previous graduates, it strengthens the link between academic training and the professional field.

Building Career Experience During studies

The Internship Program, of the Dean of Students' Office helps students gain practical experience before graduation through placements in leading organizations, with guidance from professionals, career preparation workshops and an *Accessible Employment Bridge* track for students with disabilities.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Mentoring Program for University of Haifa Graduates

The Career Development Center, with the "Tofsim Kivun" association of *Education for Excellence* and the "Lighthouse" alumni association of Naval Academy graduates, launched the second cohort of the "Tofsim Kivun" mentoring program for University of Haifa graduates, offering workshops, mentoring, practical tools and networking on career focus, resume and LinkedIn, interview preparation, personal branding, communication and time management.

Academia 360 Meets NVIDIA

The Human Resources Innovation Hub of the "Academia 360" program concluded with a visit to NVIDIA's offices in Yokneam, where students heard Yael Rosenfeld, NVIDIA Israel's Recruitment Manager, on HR operations in a global company, and joined a panel with HR leaders.

"Talents" Program Connects Academia and Industry

The University's "Talents" Program, part of Academia 360, showcased its industry-focused model at Israel's leading HR Excellence Conference. With support from the Division of Innovation & Sustainability, it strengthened ties with senior HR professionals and highlighted student innovation and *TechBridge@UoH*, an employment gateway to high-tech for Arab society, established with the Israel Innovation Authority.

OPERATIONS

AI Workshop for the Finance Division

The Human Resources Division, with the University Computing and Information Systems Division, launched an AI pilot for the Finance and Control Division, led by Anat Baron, Executive Vice President of Finance and Control. Dror Gil, Founder and CEO of Gmadela, guided participants on using chatbots to enhance organizational tasks and workflows.

Project Management Course Concludes for Engineering Division

The Engineering Division concluded a construction project management course led by Dani Hayat of the Israel Center for Project Management, initiated by the Human Resources and Engineering divisions to strengthen professional and project management skills.

New Administrative Positions Tracking Page

A new webpage tracks administrative job opportunities managed by the Placement and Employment Unit in the University Human Resources Division, offering employees and candidates a convenient way to stay informed.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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



Prof. Roi Poranne, Faculty of Computer & Information Science (Credit: University of Haifa)

RESEARCH

AI Chatbots Excel at Pluralistic Reasoning

A study by Dr. Nurit Novis-Deutsch, Dr. Zohar Eliyosef and doctoral researcher Tal Eliyosef (Faculties of Education and of Social Welfare and Health Sciences), published in *AI & Society*, found that AI chatbots show stronger pluralistic reasoning than humans, recognizing the legitimacy of opposing views. The study also found that, when given the opportunity, chatbots often try to persuade users to adopt their own position.

AI Uncovers Hidden Archaeology

A new study by Dr. Yitzchak Jaffe, doctoral researcher Erel Uziel (School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures) and Prof. Motti Zohar (School of Environmental Sciences), published in the Journal of Archaeological Science, developed a machine learning tool that identifies building stones and wall remains in drone images, mapping hundreds of thousands of stones within minutes and revealing architectural patterns hard to detect from the ground.

Three AI Studies Featured at NeurIPS 2025

Three studies by University of Haifa computer science researchers were presented at NeurIPS 2025: Dr. Dan Rosenbaum on probabilistic learning using Flow Matching, Dr. Alaa Maalouf (Spotlight paper) on adapting large language models using a single gradient step and 100 samples, and a third on unsupervised reconstruction of aerial images distorted by water surfaces.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

HIL SPARKS Launches with Meet-up on Impact Measurement

Haifa Innovation Labs (HIL) launched its HIL SPARKS series with a meet-up on impact measurement for entrepreneurs, HIL alumni and students, featuring Hilly Hirt, Head of Sustainable Finance and Development at Valop Impact Ventures, who shared insights on impact measurement and investing.

Academia Meets Industry

The University hosted an innovation event organized by Carmel- University of Haifa Economic Corporation Ltd., bringing together entrepreneurs, investors and business leaders to explore researchers' work with commercial potential. Vice President and CEO Mr. Sharon Zaid and Mr. Tamir Frank, CEO of Carmel and the Research Authority, emphasized turning academic discoveries into real-world innovation through industry partnerships.

HIL FUND Graduate Among Top Health Innovators

Aviv Kushnir, a graduate of the HIL FUND accelerator, was named one of the Top 10 Health Innovations of the Year by the Reboot Forum and *Yedioth Ahronoth* for WELLPLAY. Drawing on his master's degree in psychodrama, he developed an app offering patients immediate complementary support, helping mental health providers reduce waiting times.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

WE SEARCH: Where Ideas Meet Innovation

WE SEARCH, an advanced research space affiliated with the Faculty of Social Sciences, brings cutting-edge technologies and methods to computational social sciences, giving researchers tools to analyze complex social phenomena and large-scale data.

Challenge 2 Innovation: Turning Healthcare Challenges into Solutions

The second cohort of "Challenge 2 Innovation" by HIL concluded with graduate students and healthcare professionals from Clalit Health Services and Carmel Medical Center presenting solutions to real-world healthcare challenges, including fall prevention, information sharing, nurse well-being and missed appointments. A third cohort is already underway.

University of Haifa Launches New Tech Faculty

The University is opening a new Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences, led by Prof. Rita Osadchy, with undergraduate programs in computer science, information systems and cybersecurity, and unique tracks in game development, Blue Tech and cyber-focused information systems, strengthening ties with industry.

OPERATIONS

New Student Portal Infrastructure at SAP Conference

Mr. Elad Bachman, Deputy CEO of the Computing and Information Systems Division, presented the University's new student portal infrastructure at SAP's annual conference. Built on SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP), it provides an advanced foundation for student information systems and services.

Designing Together

The University Human Resources Division launched a Canva course, led by Rona Yahel-Borer, to help faculty and staff independently create and design visual content.

Summer Fashion Design Course for Teens

The External Studies Unit invites young creators to a hands-on summer course in sewing and fashion design, where participants learn to design, create, sew and work with sewing machines.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

RESEARCH

Beyond Language: Hebrew Learning in the Metaverse

The Commission for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiated a large-scale study of barriers to Hebrew acquisition among Arab students in Israel, leading to an innovative Hebrew course in the metaverse. Based on the CEFR framework, it uses immersive simulations, avatars and real-life campus scenarios to strengthen academic writing, oral communication and cultural integration.

Between Status and Survival: Healthcare Access among Migrants in Israel

Prof. Rebeca Raijman (Sociology) examines how legal status shapes healthcare access among Sudanese forced migrants in Israel. The study found major disparities between refugees with temporary residency and asylum seekers dependent on employer-based insurance; bureaucratic barriers, discrimination, language difficulties and mistrust lead many asylum seekers to avoid treatment.



PhD Students from the School of Public Health wearing Aging Suits
(Credit: University of Haifa)

Aging on the Move: Transportation Justice in the Periphery

An Impact project led by Prof. Tova Band-Winterstein (Gerontology) with Drs. Mika Moran and Yifat Rom (School of Public Health) received 50,000 NIS through the university's "Impactful Research" call. Their project, *Transportation Justice in Older Age in Peripheral Regions: The Beit HaKerem Cluster as a Case Study for Developing Age-Friendly Transportation Policy and Practice.*

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The "Northern Lights" initiative

Dr. Sawsan Khair (Multidisciplinary Studies) presented the "Northern Lights" initiative at the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America in Washington. Developed with the Jewish United Fund of Chicago and the IDF, the five-month residential pre-academic program for recently discharged Druze soldiers combines academic preparation, leadership training, technology and AI skills and mentorship to increase Druze men's participation in higher education.

AI, Faith, and Coexistence: UofH Rector Meets Pope Leo XIV

Rector Prof. Mouna Maroun met this week with Pope Leo XIV, speaking about artificial intelligence, the challenges facing Israel's Christian population, her life in Isfiya and shared life on campus, topics on which Leo XIV offered his blessing.

Institutional Pathways to Equity

Dr. Rahma Makhamid (Minerva Center for the Study of Marginalized Populations in Ageing) was selected from among 70 candidates to represent Arab academics at a meeting at the Israeli President's Residence on 23 February 2026, where she presented her journey and her leadership in advancing Arab women in academia, stressing access to higher education and institutional support that reduces structural inequalities.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Launching an Advisory Forum for Older Adults at the University of Haifa

An advisory forum for older adults was launched in November as part of the Age-Friendly University Haifa (AFU-Haifa) initiative, bringing older residents of Haifa and the region together to help shape the university's age-friendly vision. The inaugural meeting was led by Prof. Anna Zisberg, Head of AFU-Haifa, and Dr. Michal Elboim-Gavison (Physiotherapy); the forum aims to integrate older adults' perspectives into research-informed policy and practice.

Understanding the Other in Israeli Society

A new program by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and Givat Haviva - Center for a Shared Society brings Jewish staff to learn about Arab society, and Arab staff and PhD students to learn about Jewish society, through dialogue, field visits, personal narratives and collaborative activities fostering mutual understanding.

Continuity of Learning: Supporting Students on the Autism Spectrum

The Dean of Students Office established a support program for students on the autism spectrum to facilitate their full academic and social inclusion, with an individualized plan for each student. The program includes counseling, academic and social mentoring, exam accommodations, mediation with departments, workshops, tutoring and training in assistive technologies.

OPERATIONS

Accessible Websites at the University

A new policy by the Computing and Information Division defines the workflow and professional standards for developing accessible websites, ensuring compliance with the Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities Law and Israeli Standard IS 5568. Under Israeli law, accessibility requirements are legally binding.

Aging from Within: An Experiential Learning Session with Simulation Suits

At the first session of a doctoral forum hosted by the School of Public Health, PhD students participated in an experiential exercise with aging simulation suits, led by Dr. Mika Moran, offering a slow-paced, thought-provoking experience of what it feels like to be old.

Building 21st-Century Skills Through Hands-On Learning

The High-Tech Class program, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education, introduces students in grades 7-9 to the high-tech world over three years. Taught by undergraduate Computer Science and Information Systems students, it builds independent learning, teamwork and problem-solving through hands-on experience in software, data, AI, design and entrepreneurship.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

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



The Israeli representatives at the World Cultural Festival (Credit: Michal Golan)

RESEARCH

A World First: The Cairo Geniza Goes Digital

As part of the ERC SYNERGY MiDRASH Project, in which the 'Eliyahu Lab' at the University of Haifa is a key partner, the first version of the complete computerized transcription of all the Cairo Geniza manuscripts is being published online. The release, as was reported worldwide, is the result of over a decade of research.

The World's First Nursing Home Unearthed

Dr. Michael Eisenberg and Dr. Arleta Kowalewska (Zinman Institute of Archaeology) with Prof. Gregor Staab of the University of Cologne, excavating at ancient Hippos (Sussita), found a Greek mosaic inscription bearing the blessing "Peace upon the Elders." It may be the oldest archaeologically dated elder-care institution ever discovered (Byzantine period, 5th-6th centuries CE).

An Incredible Find from the Deep

University of Haifa student Shlomi Katsin made a remarkable accidental discovery while swimming off Dor Beach: a 900-year-old Crusader-era sword on the seafloor. Reported to Professor Debi Tsveikal and the Israel Antiquities Authority, it was recovered, conserved at the Leon Recanati Institute of Maritime Studies and CT-scanned at Medical Elisha Hospital.

Academia Supporting Communities in Emergencies

Prof. Einat Shofer Engelhard and Dr. Maya Volkan (School of Creative Arts Therapies) received a 50,000 NIS grant through the 2026 Impact Call for Academia Supporting Communities in Emergencies, a training program for emergency aid workers to strengthen the resilience of families and young children through a research-based mind-body intervention.

Art, Identity, and Shared Society: The Living Room Study Group Final Exhibition

The Unit for Social Engagement (Dean of Students Office) and *Beit HaGefen* celebrated the conclusion of the "Living Room Study Group" program with a multicultural art exhibition by students from diverse backgrounds working with local artists, exploring identity, self-expression and coexistence. Attended by Dean of Students Prof. Batya Engel-Yeger and Beit HaGefen CEO Asaf Ron, it was curated by Ayman Dao.

Preserving Shikmona's Heritage for Future Generations

The Zinman Institute of Archaeology plays a leading role in the research, conservation and development of Shikmona National Park, preserving the site for the local community and visitors. Its Byzantine heritage is closely linked to the region's early Christian population and remains significant to Christian communities today.

World Cultural Festival 2025 in India

Ms. Michal Golan (School of the Arts) represented Israel at the *World Cultural Festival 2025* in India, with five Israeli musicians including Hagar Eshel, a master's student in composition, highlighting the university's role in cultural exchange.

Strong Presence for the University of Haifa at Tel Aviv Fashion Week 2025

The School of Design was prominently represented at *Tel Aviv Fashion Week 2025*:


Chef Asaf Granit wearing a design created by Aharon Genish, from the School of Design (Credit: School of Design)

faculty and alumni showcased collections, and Fashion Design students presented original work in a Morocco-inspired exhibition.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

A New International MA Program

UHaifa International's Heritage Management Master's program focuses on preserving archaeological, historical and cultural legacies, with hands-on training and partnerships with UNESCO, ICOMOS, Israel's Antiquities Authority and the National Nature & Parks Authority. The program is housed in the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures (SAMC), the first to integrate land, sea and lab research.

Haifa Hosts Global Israel Studies Summit

The University hosted the annual conference of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS), with about 500 researchers, led by Dr. Tal Almaliach, Dr. David Barak-Gorodetsky and Dr. Assaf Shamis. It featured academic panels, an opening session on Haifa chaired by Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi (2025 "Yakir Haifa" honoree), a doctoral colloquium with Indian scholars and city tours.

Preserving the Past: A Unique Heritage Conservation Course in Haifa

The Division of External Studies launched the second cohort of the "Heritage Site Conservation Trustees" course, with the Council for the Conservation of Heritage Sites in Israel and led by Dr. Assaf Selzer. The only course of its kind in northern Israel, it covers architecture, conservation engineering, tourism and community studies.

OPERATIONS

The Scenic Lounge Opens at the Nazarian Library

The University unveiled the "Scenic Lounge," a multifunctional space in the Nazarian Library for lectures, cultural events and open study, with a campus view and adjacent to the Nazarian Art Gallery. Designed by university architect Diana Shkolnik Goren and renovated by the Engineering and Operations Division headed by Ronen Chitterer.

The Reading Team

The Children and Youth Library, part of the Nazarian Library, launches "The Reading Team", a free monthly club for children in grades 3-6, held on Wednesdays (advance registration required).

Light, Space, and View: UHaifa's Architecture Department Gets a New Floor

The School of Design inaugurated the rebuilt fourth floor of the Architecture Department, with light-filled learning spaces overlooking the Carmel, the Bahá'í Gardens and the German Colony.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

RESEARCH

Addressing the Root Causes of Littering

Profs. Ofira Ayalon (School of Environmental Sciences) and Maya Negev (School of Public Health) published a qualitative study exploring factors sustaining littering behavior among educational and operational administrators in Israel, based on 52 interviews and the Iceberg Model, Theory U and Immunity to Change frameworks. It highlights cultural, systemic and individual influences and the need for transformative approaches addressing underlying causes.

Carbon Trapped by Microbial Recycling

Marine Biology researchers published the first multi-year study of carbon export in the ultra-oligotrophic southeastern Levantine Basin. Although primary productivity rises during winter mixing, most carbon is recycled by microbes rather than exported to deeper waters, limiting the biological carbon pump, which underscores the need for region-specific models in warmer, more stratified oceans.



School of Design fashion show (Credit: School of Design)

Mixing Green & Blue: Sea lettuce (Ulva) in Blue Economy

A new review by scholars including Prof. Lior Guttman (Blue Biotechnologies and Sustainable Mariculture) shows fast-growing green seaweed can provide renewable biomass for food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and biomaterials. Ulva contains compounds with antioxidant, antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties, and its rapid growth, nutrient tolerance and carbon capture make it promising for circular biorefineries.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

University of Haifa at the National Infrastructure Conference

Vice President and CEO Mr. Sharon Zaid took part in the annual National Infrastructure Conference and chaired its Steering Committee. It brought together ministers, industry leaders and senior executives to discuss Israel's post-war infrastructure challenges. For the second year, the University took a leading role, reflecting its commitment to academia-industry partnerships.

Empowering the Next Generation of Druze and Circassian Entrepreneurs

Haifa Innovation Lab (HIL), with Carmel Ltd., was selected to establish an innovation hub for entrepreneurs from the Druze and Circassian communities, supporting ventures and startups and connecting entrepreneurs with the university's research, technologies and innovation ecosystem.

Salesforce Project Earns National IT Award

Teams from the Information Systems and IT Division, Student Administration, Marketing Department and Rector's Office won an Outstanding Project Award at the annual IT Awards (1,800 submissions from 150 organizations) for implementing the University's Salesforce Marketing System.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Sustainability Course Visits Haifa Bay Environmental Association

Students from the "Sustainability, Health and Environment" course (School of Public Health) visited the Haifa Bay Association of Towns for Environmental Protection and met CEO Dr. Lihi Shahar Berman, learning about the bay's polluting industries, challenges and solutions, the association's rehabilitation work, and the links between environmental, public and worker health.

"White Repair, Green Environment"

"White Repair," a sustainable fashion studio course at the School of Design launched in 2025/26, teaches students historical and cross-cultural textile repair techniques, turning textile waste and garments donated by a partner fashion brand into recycled outfits showcased at a final fashion show and exhibition raising awareness of sustainable consumption. It won the University's Call for Impact Projects, receiving 50,000 NIS from the Division of Innovation & Sustainability.

DigiCraft Lab: Advancing Digital Creativity Research and Education

Led by Dr. Sharon Ringel, the DigiCraft Lab (Department of Communication) is a hub for teaching, research and digital creation where students and researchers explore digital content, social media platforms and online memory through theoretical inquiry, ethnographic research and hands-on creative practice.

OPERATIONS

Green Pay Slip

From the October 2025 payroll, as part of the University's commitment to sustainability, salary statements are issued digitally by default through the Malam PaySlip Online app.

Grand Opening of the New Brand Store

The Business Development Office invited the University community to explore branded merchandise featuring the University's logo, including apparel, accessories and gifts. The new store aims to strengthen belonging and University pride for students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors.

Digital Service Management Goes Live

The Engineering and Operations Division launched an online platform for managing maintenance and service requests across campus, connecting workshops, building managers and operational units in a unified workflow to improve coordination and service delivery.



School of Design fashion show (Credit: School of Design)

13 CLIMATE ACTION

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

RESEARCH

Global Climate Injustice

A new study by Prof. Maya Negev of the School of Public Health and co-authored with Dr. Matan Singer of Bar-Ilan University reveals a profound climate injustice: countries that contribute the least to greenhouse gas emissions suffer the greatest health impacts. The study shows that while the Global North produces most carbon emissions, the highest rates of climate-related deaths occur in Africa, Southeast Asia, and India. The findings were presented at the Second Ramat Hanadiv Conference on *Nature, People, and Health*.

Decoding Climate Denial

A new study by the University of Haifa and Tel Aviv University identifies six psychological mechanisms that contribute to climate change denial and proposes strategies to counter them. Led by Prof. Shlomit Paz of the University of Haifa's School of Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with Prof. Alon Tal of Tel Aviv University, the researchers argue that populist leaders and vested interests exploit these psychological



President Prof. Gur Alroey with Dr. Gideon Bickel and Prof. Assaf Distelfeld, Director of the Institute of Evolution (Credit: University of Haifa)

tendencies to undermine action on the climate crisis.

Building Climate-Resilient Hospitals with AI

Dr. Moshe Gish and Dr. Carmit Rapaport of the School of Environmental Sciences highlight how agentic AI could help hospitals prepare for climate emergencies that exceed existing response plans. As extreme weather becomes more unpredictable, AI-driven, threshold-based decision systems may strengthen hospital resilience when conventional emergency protocols are no longer sufficient.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

National Climate Health Plan Launched

Israel's national climate health preparedness plan was launched at the President's Residence, bringing together senior health leaders and researchers. Prof. Maya Negev and Irit Lador of the University of Haifa's School of Public Health led discussions on identifying vulnerable populations and strengthening the healthcare system's resilience to climate change.

Strengthening Climate Resilience in Kiryat Yam

The Climate Health and Resilience Lab completed a research project to strengthen climate resilience in Kiryat Yam, funded by the University of Haifa's IMPACT Program and conducted in partnership with the Haifa Bay Cities Association for Environmental Protection and the Kiryat Yam Municipality. The project report presents key findings from a resident survey and offers recommendations for improving local climate resilience.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Climate Literature

The climate crisis is increasingly recognized as one of the defining challenges facing humanity. It has inspired political, scientific, religious, artistic, and literary responses around the world and has become a prominent theme in contemporary literature. A new course by Dr. Keren Omry of the Department of English Language & Literature explores how writers use language, storytelling, and imagination to examine the climate crisis, its impact on individuals and societies, and the possibilities for resilience, care, and adaptation in a changing world.

Living on the Edge: The Collapse of Nature in the 21st Century

A course by Dr. Moshe Gish explores the global environmental crisis and its implications for the future of human society. Students examine how the degradation of natural systems threatens human well-being, the scientific evidence behind these changes, and the actions needed to build a more sustainable and resilient future.

OPERATIONS

Innovative sustainable farming

University of Haifa President Prof. Gur Alroey signed an agreement on behalf of the University with Dr. Gideon Bickel, who donated 61 dunams of agricultural land in Neve Yarak for the establishment of an innovative regenerative agriculture research farm. Led by the University's Institute of Evolution, the farm will advance research on climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable farming practices, and innovative crop development aimed at reducing environmental impact and helping address the challenges of climate change.

Heritage Orchard Takes Root on Campus

Prof. Guy Bar-Oz of the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures, and his research team are establishing a heritage orchard on the University of Haifa campus featuring ancient local fruit varieties such as olive, fig, date, almond, pomegranate, and grapes. Combining traditional and modern cultivation methods, the orchard will serve as a community space, a living laboratory for sustainability research, and an educational resource highlighting climate-resilient agriculture and Israel's agricultural heritage.



Heritage Orchard on campus (Credit: Hilla Klor)

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

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



Dr. Tal Luzzatto Knaan (Credit: School of Marine Sciences Facebook)

RESEARCH

AI Unlocks New Insights into Whale Communication

A new study by researchers at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences has developed the first automated system capable of reliably identifying and classifying the communication patterns of sperm whales, even in noisy underwater environments. Led by Prof. Roee Diamant and conducted as part of the international CETI project, led by Prof. Dani Tchernov, the research enables large-scale analysis of whale vocalizations and reveals coordinated, dialogue-like communication between pairs of whales. The findings were published in *Scientific Reports*.

AI-Powered Robot Swarms for Faster Oil Spill Detection

A University of Haifa study by graduate student Hadas Cohen and Dr. Oren Gal of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences introduces an AI-powered robotic swarm system for rapidly detecting and tracking oil spills at sea. The system uses coordinated autonomous marine vehicles and a novel AI model to predict the movement of oil slicks under changing ocean conditions, enabling faster and more effective environmental response.

AI Optimizing Microalgae Growth

A University of Haifa study at the Morris Kahn Marine Research Station applies AI to optimize microalgae cultivation in climate-tech applications. The model, trained on three years of operational data from BarAlgae, predicts algae growth and evaluates different harvesting strategies to maximize long-term yield. It integrates operational, environmental, and visual biological data to improve prediction accuracy and cultivation efficiency.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Real-Time Sea Monitoring from Research Buoy

Real-time ocean data from the Morris Kahn Marine Research Station & Blue Technologies Hub research buoy, located off Sdot Yam, is now publicly available through a new graphical interface on the station's website. The buoy provides continuous measurements of wave conditions, wind, and sea surface temperature, updated every 20 minutes, serving researchers and marine users alike. The data are also integrated into the Israeli GoSurf platform and offers forecasts for surfers and other sea users.

Byzantine Chisel Discovery

A collaboration between the University of Haifa and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems enabled the world's first digital reconstruction of a 1,500-year-old Byzantine chisel recovered from a shipwreck off Israel's Dor coast. Led by Prof. Debbie Cvikel with students from the University's maritime archaeology programs, the project offers new insights into Byzantine maritime life while demonstrating how advanced technologies can drive archaeological discovery and interdisciplinary innovation.

Taking Aim at Illegal Blast Fishing

Prof. Roee Diamant of the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences at the University of Haifa is helping authorities combat illegal blast fishing, a destructive practice that threatens marine ecosystems across Asia, Latin America, and Africa. He developed an acoustic system that successfully detected underwater explosions in real time during recent field trials on the Philippine island of Palawan, conducted in collaboration with the local coast guard. Following the successful pilot, the technology is expected to be deployed in additional regions worldwide.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

ARIEL Makes a Splash at RoboSub

The University of Haifa's ARIEL team made its official debut at the prestigious international RoboSub competition, becoming the first Israeli team to compete in the event in a decade. Led by Prof. Itzik Klein of the Hatter Department of Marine Technologies, the eight-member graduate student team designed and built an autonomous underwater vehicle that placed an impressive 20th among 59 teams from around the world. The achievement showcases the students' expertise in robotics, navigation, computer vision, and autonomous systems, and further strengthens the University of Haifa's position as a leader in marine robotics research and innovation.

Blue Tech Meets Industry

M.Sc. students in Blue Biotechnology and Sustainable Aquaculture program completed an industry internship course in partnership with the AquaculTech Innovation Community. Through placements at leading companies, they gained hands-on experience in aquaculture technologies and marine innovation, highlighting the value of academia-industry collaboration in preparing the next generation of Blue Tech leaders.

OPERATIONS

Meet Our Marine Research Technologies

The Department of Marine Technologies showcases advanced instruments and Autonomous Systems that support cutting-edge marine research. From underwater robotics and sensing technologies to ocean monitoring platforms, these tools enable students and researchers to explore, understand, and protect the marine environment while advancing innovation in ocean science.

Advanced Marine Research Services

The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences offers advanced marine research services using state-of-the-art technologies and facilities. Available to researchers, students, and industry partners, these services support innovative research and professional solutions across a wide range of marine science applications.

State-of-the-Art Marine Technology Facilities

The Department of Marine Technologies is home to advanced research facilities that supports cutting-edge innovation in ocean science and engineering. Its state-of-the-art laboratories, testing facilities, and marine technologies provide students and researchers with hands-on experience while enabling pioneering research in autonomous systems, underwater sensing, and marine monitoring.

15 LIFE ON LAND

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



Poster of Alexsey Sadich for the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (Credit: School of Design)

RESEARCH

AI-Powered Bird Monitoring Takes Flight

Prof. Ilan Shimshoni, Dr. Inbal Schekler, and Mr. Eyal Halabi, from the Department of Information Systems, developed an algorithm that combines artificial intelligence with ecological knowledge to enable automatic, precise, and non-invasive monitoring of seabird nesting colonies. This advanced technology helps scientists better understand the behavior of birds and support efforts to protect them.

Flyway Under the Radar: A Hidden Insect Superhighway

Using eight years of radar data along a 400 km Levantine corridor, researchers, among them Prof. Nir Sapir and Dr. Yuval Werber from the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, recorded 6.3 million insects and estimated over 700 million cross annually along a previously unrecognized migration route, finding weather-driven, directionally distinct movement that is proportionally lower than European flows-challenging the idea that this corridor funnels insects the way it does birds, with broad implications for regional ecology and disease/pest's spread.

Taxes, Trust, and the Politics of Urban Wildlife

Drawing on a 2020 survey experiment, choice-based conjoint analysis, longitudinal trends from 2019 to 2024, Prof. Itai Beeri of the School of Political Sciences, examined residents' willingness to pay additional local taxes as a novel proxy for support of urban human-wildlife policies. The study found that individual and environmental factors reduce support, while political incentives increase it. Counterintuitively, greater access to policy information can also trigger information overload, ultimately dampening public support.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A Citizen-Science Partnership

The Chief Scientist of Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) has selected the Center for the Advancement of Citizen Science (TCSS), headed by Prof. Yael Kali of the School of Learning Sciences and Leadership in Education, to lead a citizen-science partnership with KKL-JNF, in collaboration with the Technion.

Students Design Posters for the Israel Nature and Parks Authority

In the "Digital Illustration Techniques in Photoshop" course at the School of Design's Visual Communication Department, taught by Mr. Shachar Kover, students each designed a series of three posters inviting visitors to the Authority's overnight campsites. The best entries will be used for campsite promotion and a traveling exhibition. The project included a camping trip to Ma'ayan Harod National Park for inspiration.

Regulating Israel's Waste Sector

Ahead of the proposed waste-sector reform, Prof. Ofira Ayalon, Head of the Natural Resource & Environmental Research Center at the University of Haifa, convened a consultation with some 60 leading experts in February 2026, together with the Regional Councils Center, to address the sector's core challenges, from infrastructure shortages and illegal dumping to regulatory uncertainty, and produce practical recommendations soon to be published in a summary document.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Earth in Antiquity: Matter, Place, Idea

Taught by Prof. Moshe Blidstein, of the Department of General History this seminar explores the meaning of earth/soil in antiquity, with an emphasis on its religious and cultic dimensions-examining questions such as the role of earth in ancient religions and rituals, what mythology reveals about the relationship between earth deities and sky deities, its role in political symbolism, the relationship between earth, land, and agricultural fields, and whether earth expresses universality or a specific place

New Course: Environmental Regulation, Responsibility

The new course placed in the Eilat Region, developed by Prof. Ofira Aylon and Adv. Inbar Druyan (from the faculties of Social Sciences & Law), was selected for funding through the Sustainability Initiative's call for new courses. Using Eilat as a case study, the course examines environmental governance, climate resilience, and sustainable development in geographically and socially peripheral regions. Through an interdisciplinary approach that connects environmental, legal, energy, and economic perspectives, students gain the tools to address complex sustainability challenges with real-world impact.

New Course: Haifa Wadis Trail

The practical architecture course, developed by Ms. Dalia Zamora and Ms. Niva Aviram of the Department of Architecture was selected for funding through the Sustainability Initiative's call for new courses. Following the *design-build* model, students will work with local communities to design and construct sustainable way stations along the Haifa Wadis Trail. Combining architectural design with hands-on implementation, the course connects academic learning with real-world social and environmental impact while promoting sustainable development in the city of Haifa.

OPERATIONS

Campus Improvements

New landscaping and outdoor furniture have been added across campus, including local herb and tea plants and seating near the sculptures garden, varied furniture for gatherings on the 600 level, and additional seating in the Stairs Building's public areas for students, including those in the School of Medicine. The 600 Level patio was also upgraded with reused Ipe wood from the former accessibility ramp. These improvements were designed and implemented by the Division of Engineering and Operations.

New Website Showcases the University of Haifa's Impact

The University of Haifa has launched a new Sustainability Impact website, highlighting its commitment to advancing sustainability and impact through research, teaching, campus operations, and community engagement. The site brings together the University's initiatives, achievements, and partnerships, demonstrating how academic excellence is translated into real-world environmental and social impact in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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

AI and Criminal Justice

Prof. Eldar Haber, Faculty of Law, received a prestigious €2 million ERC Consolidator Grant for Recoding Justice. This five-year international project will examine generative AI across criminal justice, from crime prediction and investigations to prosecution, sentencing, incarceration, and rehabilitation, while developing policies for its fair, responsible, and rights-based use.

Road Safety in Minority Communities

Prof. Orna Braun-Appel, Emerita, School of Public Health; Prof. Gil Luria, Department of Human Services; and Prof. Hani Neuman, Head of the School of Social Work, received a grant from Israel's Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (MOST). Their project explores how community engagement and social capital can improve road safety in Arab and Bedouin communities under the 2025 Smart Transportation and Transport Infrastructure research program.

When AI Meets the Courtroom

A study by Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal, Faculty of Law; Dr. Zohar Eliyosef, Faculty of Education; and Dr. Adir Salomon, Department of Information Systems, found that advanced AI models produced more consistent and accurate sentencing recommendations than human judges. Published in *Justice Quarterly*, the research highlights AI's potential to improve consistency and fairness in criminal sentencing.



Prof. Eldar Haber with the President of the State of Israel, Isaac Herzog (Credit: Prof. Eldar Haber)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Honoring a Voice for Peace and Compassion

The Haifa Lab for the Study of Religions awarded its annual Peace Prize to Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa for his humanitarian leadership and commitment to peace, compassion, and interfaith dialogue during the Israel–Hamas war. Presented at the Hub's annual symposium, the award recognizes efforts to advance mutual understanding and shared society.

Strategic Thinking in an Era of Global Change

The University of Haifa's National Security Center and the IDF's Dado Center for Interdisciplinary Military Studies held a joint symposium on how global shifts, technological advances, and emerging security challenges affect Israel's national security.



Prof. Uriel Simonsohn, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Rector Mouna Maroun and Adv. Dov Weissglas (Credit: University of Haifa)

Advancing Global Rights for Older Persons

Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron, Department of Gerontology, participated in a historic UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva on drafting an international convention on older persons' rights. He emphasized addressing ageism to protect older adults' dignity and human rights worldwide.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Designing Bridges Across Cultures

Visual Communication Design students at the School of Design were selected to represent the University of Haifa in the international Manara Center competition promoting dialogue and tolerance across the Middle East. In the Inclusive Design course, they created a digital educational game inspired by the historic Hejaz Railway, exploring regional cultures through discovery and connection.

New Course: From Crisis to Action

Prof. Hagit Lernau and Adv. Rida Jaber, Faculty of Law, developed *From Crisis to Action: Exploring Efforts to Address Crime in Arab Society in Israel* through the Sustainability Initiative's call for new courses. Combining research and fieldwork, the course brings Jewish and Arab criminology students together to examine violent crime, engage with community initiatives, and develop practical strategies for social change.

From Classroom to Abu Dhabi: A First-Place Finish

University of Haifa Law students Noa Yosef, Yahya Manna, and Mika Talbi-Shain met through the Shared Society course, led by Prof. Faina Milman-Sivan and Adv. Dana Feinreich-Giloh. Launched after October 7, the course promotes dialogue, mediation, and consensus-building. The students developed a leadership workshop and educational videos on navigating difficult conversations during conflict. Their project won first place at the 2026 international Manara Youth Coexistence Initiative Showcase in Abu Dhabi.

OPERATIONS

New Academic Leadership Program Launches

The University of Haifa launched a Management and Leadership Program for heads of schools, departments, and academic units. Led by the Organizational Development Unit in the Human Resources Division, it supports academic leaders through professional development, collaborative learning, and leadership training.

What Does It Take to Plan the Campuses of Tomorrow?

In a new interview, Diana Shkolnik Goren, the University of Haifa's chief architect, discusses balancing long-term vision with everyday campus life while leading major development and construction projects. Her work spans strategic planning and the creation of inspiring spaces for learning, research, and community, helping shape the University's future.



2026 International Manara Youth Coexistence Initiative (Credit: Faculty of Law Facebook)

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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

RESEARCH

Coral Survival Secret

A study led by Dr. Shani Levy (Marine Biology) and researchers from the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) in Barcelona uncovered how the Mediterranean stony coral *Oculina patagonica* survives even without its symbiotic algae. Published in Nature, it reveals the coral's cellular and genetic adaptations, offering insights into coral resilience under rising ocean temperatures. Featured by *Ynet and The Media Line*.

New Research Uncovers Two Types of PTSD

A study by Prof. Roee Admon (Psychology) and Dr. Ziv Ben-Zion (School of Public Health), with international collaborators, found that PTSD develops through two distinct emotional pathways, not only fear. Published in *Biological Psychiatry*, it identified a fear-based profile and a separate profile driven by deep emotional pain, including guilt, sadness and shame, which may be detectable through brain activity soon after trauma.



Prof. Ofer Arazy and colleagues advancing global collaboration for Biodiversity in Kenya (Credit: University of Haifa)

Studying Climate-Resilient Corals in Costa Rica

Researchers and students from the Department of Marine Biology, led by Prof. Tali Mass and Mr. Dar Golomb, are conducting field research in Costa Rica's Guanacaste region on corals that naturally withstand extreme conditions. With local conservation groups and international partners, they aim to uncover how these corals adapt to climate stress and help protect reefs worldwide.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Yekke Museum Opens at University of Haifa

The University inaugurated the new home of the Yekke Museum, dedicated to the heritage of German-speaking Jewry, at the Hecht Museum, with thousands of rare documents, photographs, letters and personal artifacts, as a new public and research hub.

Boston Leadership Delegation Visits University of Haifa

The University hosted a delegation of community leaders from Boston, on a visit supported by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They met Prof. Tally Katz-Gerro (Vice President for Global Engagement), Tsameret Einav (Head of the Division of Global Engagement) and Dr. Marva Shalev Marom (Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies) and learned about the University's multicultural character and Haifa's model of interfaith coexistence.

Innovation Authority Awards Three Grants to University of Haifa

The University secured three Israel Innovation Authority grants totaling approximately NIS 6 million, including matching university funding. The initiatives will support entrepreneurship, bio-convergence innovation, healthcare startups and high-tech workforce training, with a focus on expanding opportunities for Arab students and strengthening industry collaboration.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

University of Haifa at Falling Walls 2025

The University led the largest Israeli university delegation to the Falling Walls Science Summit 2025 in Berlin. President Prof. Gur Alroey spoke on global academic collaboration, the Center for Cyber, Law and Policy led discussions on deepfakes, AI ethics, quantum security and biometrics, and faculty showcased research, including Prof. Roy Salomon on trauma among Nova festival survivors and Dr. Ziv Ben-Zion on resilience and trauma recovery.

University of Haifa Hosts West African University Leaders

Prof. Tally Katz-Gerro, Vice President of Global Engagement, welcomed a delegation of 10 presidents and vice presidents from universities in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The visit showcased Haifa's international programs in early childhood education and public health, included meetings with African students at the University, and concluded with discussions on future partnerships.

Advancing Global Collaboration for Biodiversity

Prof. Ofer Arazy, head of the Division of Innovation and Sustainability, and colleagues are taking part in research initiatives in Kenya and collaborating with North American universities on an international PhD course combining ecology, biology, computer science and AI, to equip researchers with data-driven tools to protect biodiversity.

OPERATIONS

University Launches New Website

Led by Ms. Esti Levy, Head of the Computer-Assisted Instruction Unit, the University launched its new website as part of a broader digital transformation, with redesigned faculty sites, a modern user experience and advanced content management that improve accessibility and meet international standards. Additional enhancements are planned.

International Public Health Program Launches First Newsletter

The International Public Health Program published the first edition of its newsletter, initiated by Dr. Tair Ben Porat and Dr. Shira Freeman, introducing the current cohort: students from varied professional and international backgrounds united by an interest in global public health, health promotion, health policy and reducing health inequalities.

Academic Year Opens with New Medical School

The new academic year opened with the inaugural class of the Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine, headed by Prof. Haim Bitterman. Thanks to a generous donation, all first-year medical students receive a full tuition waiver. The school operates with Carmel Medical Center and Clalit Health Services' Haifa and Western Galilee District.



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Driving Impact Towards the Sustainable Development Goals
Division of Innovation & Sustainability and the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library
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Cover Photo:

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