

# Supporting Student Scholarships

at the University of Haifa

the spirit of innovation | the spirit of research | the spirit of excellence | the spirit of community | the spirit of science



the spirit of environmentalism | the spirit of innovation | the spirit of community | the spirit of research | the spirit of science



# The Spirit of the University of Haifa

A passionate commitment to excellence, innovation and community defines the spirit of the University of Haifa. Guided by this spirit, University of Haifa students and faculty are shaping the academic, social, scientific and economic future of Israel.

**A Thriving Academic Center.** Sitting atop Mount Carmel, the inspiring campus is home to internationally recognized faculties in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, as well as law, social welfare and education. Further, the University initiates novel interdisciplinary programs and cooperative academic endeavors.

The University of Haifa represents a common ground for over 17,000 students from different ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds in Israel. The University's diverse student body of Jews, Arabs, Druze, new immigrants, IDF officers and security personnel study together in an atmosphere of coexistence, tolerance and mutual respect.

In keeping with its commitment to providing education to the best and the brightest, regardless of their economic status, the University of Haifa provides scholarship assistance to more than one-third of its students.

**Scholarships Driving Success.** Student scholarships are a driving force behind the University of Haifa's success. They represent a key investment in the academic future of Israel, and in meeting the social, cultural and technological challenges that lie ahead.

Dedicated, **merit-based scholarship** programs enable the University of Haifa to attract the most promising students and to recognize academic excellence. **Need-based scholarships** target students with financial difficulties, such as new immigrants, soldiers, minority groups, and single parents, and afford them an opportunity for higher education.

A new fellowship program for doctoral students, "Reach for the Stars", provides incentives for talented students and seeks to increase the number of those pursuing PhDs. The program provides scholarship support for four years, enabling students to conduct research while mentoring the next generation of scholars.



## Doctoral Students

### Committing to Environmental Stewardship

**The Inner World of Chimpanzees.** Itai Roffman's PhD research centers on the 'human traits' of chimpanzees – identity, creativity, imagination and reasoning. Guided by Profs. Eviatar Nevo and Avraham Ronen of the International Graduate Center of Evolution, Itai collaborates with chimpanzee sanctuaries in the US, the UK and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Itai has long been involved with humanitarian, environmental and animal-related projects in Israel. He has a ten-year association with Dr. Jane Goodall (he was national coordinator of the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots program for youth in Israel) and is this year's recipient of the prestigious Adams Fellowship of the Israeli National Academy of Sciences, granted annually to ten outstanding doctoral students in the fields of science. Itai and Prof. Nevo recently co-authored a scientific article on humans and chimpanzees as sister species in the inaugural issue of the *Rambam Maimonides Medical Journal*.

Itai and his team aspire to establish a chimpanzee culture sanctuary on Mount Carmel, adjacent to the University of Haifa. There, chimpanzees relocated from zoos can regain their cultural and natural way of life in a semi-wild habitat where cavemen lived up to a million years ago. At the sanctuary Itai will advance his research with interaction between chimpanzees and severely autistic/retarded youth, a subject which promises to help these young adults improve their mental competencies through games, tools, art and music.



### Illuminating Language

**A Focus on Fluency.** Elena Mizrahi Yurchenko immigrated to Israel in 2006, and with the financial assistance from the Ministries of Aliyah and Absorption and the University of Haifa, she found her academic home at the University's Department of English.

Elena speaks five languages fluently: Russian, Ukrainian, English, Hebrew, and Italian. She earned her BA in Philology, and an MA in Applied Linguistics in Ukraine.

Elena has extensive teaching experience in English as a second language. Appropriately, her doctoral research focuses on second-language vocabulary acquisition and the lexical competence of advanced second-language users. Her thesis tackles the controversial question of whether those who study a foreign language can achieve native-level proficiency. To explore this compelling subject, Elena is probing learners' vocabulary size, lexical use and knowledge of collocation.



## Revealing the Secrets of the Sea

**Diving into the Unknown.** Maxim Rubin is a first-year doctoral student in the Department of Marine Biology at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences. Maxim, who emigrated from St. Petersburg in 1991, was first drawn to the mystery of the sea as a child. During a family sabbatical to Honduras, he plunged into the world of diving. Following his military service as a tank commander, Maxim earned academic degrees from the Technion and Bar Ilan University in related scientific fields.

"When I heard the University of Haifa was establishing a marine biology department, I knew I wanted to be part of it," says Maxim. "The scholarship I received from the University enabled me to pursue my research here."

Under the mentorship of Dr. Dan Tchernov, Maxim's PhD focuses on new ecosystems in the deepest waters of the Mediterranean. There, in reefs and cold seeps miles below the surface, communities of light-independent organisms thrive.

## Linking Academia to Media

**Is Reality Real?** Michal Hershman Shitrit, a PhD student in the Department of Communications, has 'grown up' in the University of Haifa family, where she has been both undergraduate and graduate student, employee, and teacher.

Michal earned her BA in political science and communications and completed an MA with honors in political science. With her expertise in the field of rhetoric, she was quickly recruited to teach undergraduate students. She later joined the spokesman's office at the University's Division of Public Affairs.

In light of the growing global popularity of reality TV, Michal chose to explore the phenomenon of these programs in her doctoral thesis. There she focuses on changing notions of privacy and personal boundaries in the mass media.

Michal resides in the Western Galilee on Kibbutz Eilon, and is married with three children. She is the recipient of a University Merit Scholarship, and the Wolf Foundation Scholarship.



## Easing the Pain of Terror Victims

**The Power of Forgiving.** How victims of terror recover from emotional trauma and learn to forgive is the subject of **Michael Weinberg's** PhD thesis at the School of Social Work. By examining how Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) sufferers cope after terrorist attacks, Michael hopes to better understand how to help victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse in their rehabilitation.

Social work is Michael's second career, having earned a BA in Law following his military service as a combat soldier. Working as an attorney, Michael was moved by the legal plight of victims of terror attacks, and decided to pursue a degree in social work at the University of Haifa. Now a PhD student under the mentorship of Professor Ora Gilbar and Dr. Sharon Gil, Michael, who is married with four children, says: "The scholarship lets me devote my time exclusively to my research. I hope this work will provide professionals with therapeutic tools that will help patients get their lives back on track."

"I cannot express my gratitude to the University for allowing me to pursue my dreams and achieve my goals, and my appreciation for everything it has done and continues to do, on my behalf."



## Bringing History to the Present

**From the University of Haifa to the Sorbonne.** **Deborah Cvikel** is a PhD student in the Department of Maritime Civilizations of the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies. Her doctoral research explored a 19th - century shipwreck excavated in the harbor of Acre. Drawing upon underwater archaeological excavation and historical research, Debbie's research sheds light on the most important naval campaigns of the Ottoman period, which determined the fate of this ancient city until today.

Debbie is the recipient of the Natan Rotenshtreich Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities, a prestigious fellowship awarded to fifteen doctoral students each year in Israel. She plans to continue her post-doctoral studies at the University of Paris-Sorbonne.



## Graduate Students

### Where Law and Philosophy Meet

**Bridging Different Disciplines.** **Lihi Yona**, 23, is studying in an accelerated Master's degree program toward an LLB in law and an MA in philosophy. Her scholastic achievements have already won her numerous scholarships, including Academic Excellence Scholarships from the Office of the Dean of Students and the Faculty of Law.

A member of the University of Haifa's International Debate Club, Lihi won the national Junior Debate Championship in 2008. The club gives Lihi the chance to speak about human rights issues in Israel – her academic and personal passion. In addition to her full course load, Lihi volunteers at the University's Legal Clinic for Minority Rights and is employed as a teaching and research assistant at the faculty. A member of the editorial board of the faculty's periodical *Mishpat and Memshal*, she hopes to pursue an academic career in philosophy and law.

"The 'open door' policy of the Faculty of Law attracted me to the University of Haifa, where I have benefitted from the academic and personal support of the faculty, Lihi notes. "I don't look at the University of Haifa only as a place to study, but a nurturing home. That's a debt you can't repay."



### Doing the Math

**Finding the Formula for Success.** **Daniel Solomon**, 34, is a Master's student in the Department of Mathematics. The eldest in his family, Daniel left his native Ethiopia at age 15 with his family of five siblings and spent his high school years at a Jewish Agency boarding school. After completing his military service in the Air Force, Daniel earned a BSc in mathematics from the University of Haifa, with financial assistance from the Dean of Students.

"As a graduate student, managing my course load while having to support myself began to take a serious toll on my studies. With no financial help from my family, I was very lucky to receive a scholarship from the University of Haifa. This freed me from economic worries and enabled me to focus on studying," explains Daniel.

For Daniel, meeting the generous supporters of his scholarship, the Crystal family, was a significant experience. "Meeting them made all the difference in the world to me; I feel that my success will also be their success," says Daniel, who plans to complete his studies this year and pursue a teaching career in mathematics.



## Undergraduate Students

### Promoting Excellence in the Arts

**A Very Personal Scholarship.** [Ya'ara Oltchik](#), 24, is a third-year BA student of music and psychology, who lives in the student dormitories on campus. As a voice major, Ya'ara regularly performs at University ceremonies and festive occasions.

Ya'ara is the recipient of a Nazarian Family Scholarship, one of 121 scholarships generously donated in memory of the 121 soldiers who fell in the Second Lebanon War. In an unusual case of serendipity, Ya'ara, a native Jerusalemite, was awarded a scholarship in memory of Uri Grossman, who was her fellow classmate since elementary school. Since receiving the scholarship, she has developed a close relationship with Uri's parents, Michal and author David Grossman, who invite her to sing at annual memorial services for their son. Ya'ara has also begun to represent Israel on behalf of the Foreign Ministry as part of musical ensemble at international State ceremonies.

"My gratitude is beyond words. It is a true honor to be awarded this generous scholarship in memory of Uri Grossman," says Ya'ara. "I am deeply appreciative."



### A Passion for Leadership

**Reaching Out.** [Shani Zelzko](#), a third-year BA student at the Faculty of Law and the Department of Psychology, is a scholarship recipient of the Friends of Raveh-Ravid Program for excellence, leadership and social responsibility. As part of the scholarship program, Shani became actively involved with the "Living Bridges" project, an initiative promoting social and cultural interaction between university students in Israel and Poland through exchange programs and joint projects.

"The Program has given me the opportunity to meet students from around the world who are passionate about social issues," says Shani. This year, she participated in an international conference held in Boston at the Institute for Global Leadership. "Taking part in the conference made it clear to me that every student has the power to contribute and to make a difference," explains Shani.

"Receiving this generous scholarship has enabled me to devote most of my time and energy to academics. Today, after working very hard, I am proud to be able to apply to the direct doctoral program in the Faculty of Law."

## The Spirit of Giving

Your support helps the University of Haifa to attract Israel's top students and makes an immediate difference in the lives of our students. Many University of Haifa students, in addition to pursuing their educational goals, are already making a difference in Israel and around the world.

Merit-based scholarship programs and need-based scholarships may be dedicated to support specific academic disciplines or to honor loved ones or special interests.



### Dedicating Scholarship Programs

	Annual Gift	Full Degree
Undergraduate (3-4 years)	\$3,000	\$9,000 - \$12,000
Master's (2-3 years)	\$5,000	\$10,000-\$15,000
Doctoral (President's Scholarships) ( 3-4 years)	\$15,000	\$45,000-\$60,000
Post-Doctoral Fellowship	\$25,000	

### Establishing a Scholarship Endowment

Scholarship Endowments ensure a continuous investment in generations of Israeli students at the University of Haifa. They provide ongoing testimony to the commitment and generosity of the sponsor.

Annual scholarship for one <b>undergraduate student</b> in perpetuity	Endowment of \$100,000
Annual scholarship for one <b>graduate student</b> in perpetuity	Endowment of \$150,000
Annual scholarship for one <b>doctoral student</b> in perpetuity	Endowment of \$450,000
Annual scholarship for one <b>post- doctoral student</b> in perpetuity	Endowment of \$800,000



## Where Inspiration Meets Innovation

Brain and Behavior Studies | Cancer Research | Biodiversity of Mt. Carmel | Innovations in Rehabilitative Technology | Marine Biology and Marine GeoScience | Jewish Education | Molecular Mechanisms of Learning and Memory | Holocaust and Anti-Semitism Studies | Creative Art Therapies | Communication Disorders | Community Mental Health | Epidemiology | Environmental Health | Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science | Law and Technology | Multiculturalism and Educational Research | Brain Research for Learning Disabilities | Peace and Conflict Management Studies | Creative Arts Therapies | Natural Resources and Environmental Management | Information Processing and Decision-Making | Evolutionary and Environmental Biology | Management Information Systems | Maritime Studies | Alternative Technologies in Education | Iraq Studies | Alternative Energy Sources and Technologies | Study of the Internet | Geography and Environmental Studies | Asian Studies | National Security Studies | Chronobiology and Ecophysiology | Multiculturalism and Educational Research | Brain and Behavior Studies | Cancer Research | Biodiversity of Mt. Carmel | Innovations in Rehabilitative Technology | Marine Biology and Marine GeoScience | Jewish Education | Molecular Mechanisms of Learning and Memory | Holocaust and Anti-Semitism Studies | Creative Art Therapies | Communication Disorders | Community Mental Health | Epidemiology | Environmental Health | Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science | Law and Technology | Multiculturalism and Educational Research | Brain Research for Learning Disabilities | Peace and Conflict Management Studies | Creative Arts Therapies | Natural Resources and Environmental Management | Information Processing and Decision-Making | Evolutionary and Environmental Biology | Management Information Systems | Maritime Studies | Alternative Technologies in Education | Iraq Studies | Alternative Energy Sources and Technologies | Study of the Internet | Geography and Environmental Studies | Asian Studies | National Security Studies | Chronobiology and Ecophysiology | Multiculturalism and Educational Research | Brain and Behavior Studies | Cancer Research | Biodiversity of Mt. Carmel | Innovations in Rehabilitative Technology | Marine Biology and Marine GeoScience | Jewish Education | Molecular Mechanisms of Learning and Memory | Holocaust and Anti-Semitism Studies | Creative Art Therapies | Communication Disorders | Community Mental Health | Epidemiology | Environmental Health | Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science | Law and Technology | Multiculturalism and Educational Research | Brain Research for Learning Disabilities | Peace and Conflict Management Studies | Creative Arts Therapies |

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