



לשכת נשיא | Office of the President | مكتب رئيس الجامعة

April 2026

Dear Friends,

Early on Saturday morning, February 28th, the sirens pierced the air. Even though we felt something brewing, the reality still caught us by surprise. My heart skipped several beats and a ritual of frequently going down to the shelter began. This ritual took place several times a day, and although it was wonderful to reconnect with my neighbors in the shelter, when it happened in the middle of the night it was not as charming.

Yet, like a well-oiled machine, the University of Haifa community rose to the challenge. Our studies transitioned seamlessly to Zoom, and our staff worked magnificently from home—balancing their duties while caring for children and navigating the frequent sounds of rockets over the Haifa Bay. Many of our students and faculty also headed to the frontlines as reservists without a moment's hesitation. I am in constant awe of this community; I have never been prouder to lead it.

German Friends programs you so generously support remain a beacon of hope. Our Community Leadership scholars continue their mission of coexistence, and our Werner Otto fellows are forging ahead with vital research. We remain an island of sanity, in great part thanks to your commitment and dedicated support over many years.

Dear friends, I look forward to connecting with all of you as there is a great deal to tell you about the developments on campus, just to name a few: last year we launched the **Frieze Center for Shared Society** which has made significant strides; we hope to launch the **Joubran Center for Democracy and Human Rights**, a living memorial to the life and legacy of Israel's first Arab Israeli Supreme Court Justice, *Salim Joubran*, renowned for his formidable commitment to democracy, human rights, and civil liberties. I am also very proud to mention that the University has launched a first-of-its-kind program known as the **Northern Lights**. This intense and rigorous program is dedicated to the introduction of young Druze men, post IDF service, to academia and its potential to furthering their personal and professional growth. I will be remiss if I did not also mention the scholarship which we established in memory of University Law student **Shada Khatib**, who was tragically killed by an Iranian missile in her home in Tamra, together with her mother, sister and aunt.

There is much to tell you and I look forward to the opportunity, both on Zoom and at the German Friends Dinner in Düsseldorf.

With great hope,

Prof. Gur Alroey
President