אוניברסיטת חיפה
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA
جامعة حيفا



The School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures

TRANSFORMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH - ON LAND, AT SEA, AND IN THE LAB

The School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures (SAMC) was established at the University of Haifa with a vision to create a new trajectory for archaeological research in Israel and abroad. The School is the first-of-its-kind in Israel to integrate the full scope of archaeological activities – on land, at sea and in the lab under one roof.

Building on the University's reputation for excellence in archaeology and maritime civilizations reseaerch research, SAMC introduces new fields of archaeological sciences and conservation of material culture - both unique in Israel's academic landscape. The four-track School is an innovative, world-class academic institution on the global stage.



Mount Carmel Caves, a World Heritage Site, where University of Haifa archaeologists are revealing traces of Stone Age humans going back 500,000 years.



The School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures

LEADING A PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE FIELD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

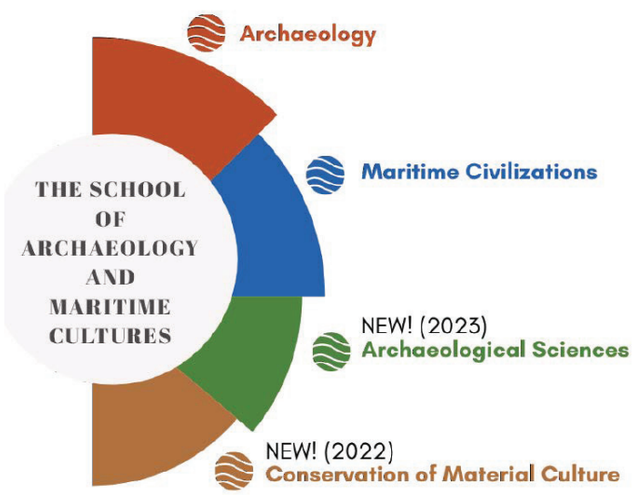
"The mission of the new School is to lead archaeological research in Israel," notes Prof. Israel Finkelstein, head of the School. "We have created a vibrant and unique research program with a dynamic faculty dedicated to addressing the latest challenges in archaeology. Our vigorous commitment to interdisciplinary research and emerging technologies is revolutionizing archaeological research. The synergy between the four departments sets the School apart from other universities in Israel and abroad," adds Prof. Finkelstein.

The School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures is home to the largest community of archaeologists in Israel, featuring state-of-the-art research laboratories. Offering a full range of degree programs, the School enables the University of Haifa to compete for the best doctoral students and outstanding post-doctoral fellows, and prepare them for leading roles in archaeology in the 21st century. All four of the School's departments include programs in English for international students.

University of Haifa is ranked

#1 in Israel
in archaeology

QS World University Ranking, 2024

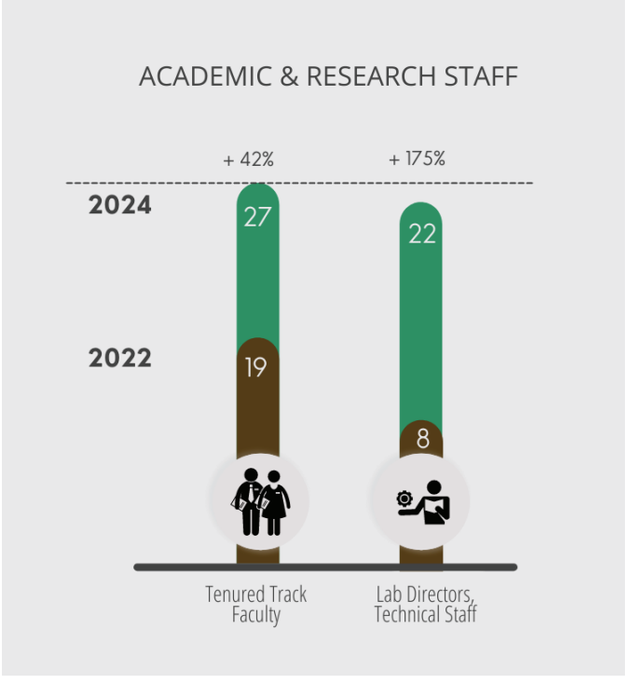




Tel Dor: A 4,000 year old coastal city and port, excavated on land and underwater.

CURRENT FIELDS OF STUDY

- Prehistoric archaeology
- Biblical and classical archaeology
- Underwater archaeology
- Mediterranean history
- Zooarchaeology
- Geoarchaeology
- Archaeometallurgy
- Materials
- Molecular residues
- Isotope analysis
- Conservation and curatorship
- Computational archaeology



DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE REQUIRES A TRULY INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The Department of Archaeology is committed to advancing and transforming our understanding of the past landscape, material culture and history of Israel through innovative research and teaching. The Department's research and teaching span three main periods: prehistory, with a focus on the world-class prehistoric sites of Mount Carmel; the Biblical period (Bronze and Iron Ages) with an emphasis on coastal cultures, such as the Phoenicians; and the classical and medieval periods, including Second Temple, Mishnaic and Talmudic, Early Islamic and Crusader times.

Faculty members are working at key excavation sites in Israel, such as the prehistoric caves on Mount Carmel, the port town of Dor, Roman Beth Shearim and Banias, the town of Shivta in the Negev desert and the medieval Montfort castle.



The Department offers BA, MA and PhD degrees. Students graduate with practical training in archaeological excavations and surveys. The Department also trains highly skilled personnel for employment with the Antiquities Authority and museums, teaching in schools and working in the tourism industry in Israel and abroad.



The Tabun Cave - one of the longest sequences of human occupation in the Levant.



DEPARTMENT OF MARITIME CIVILIZATIONS

EXPLORING THE REAL-WORLD LABORATORY UNDER THE SEA

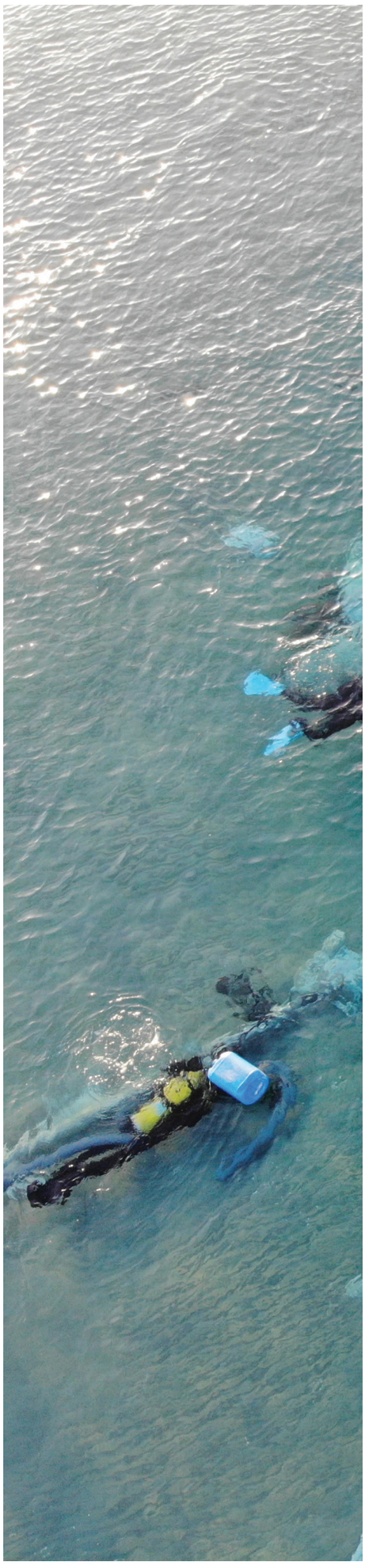


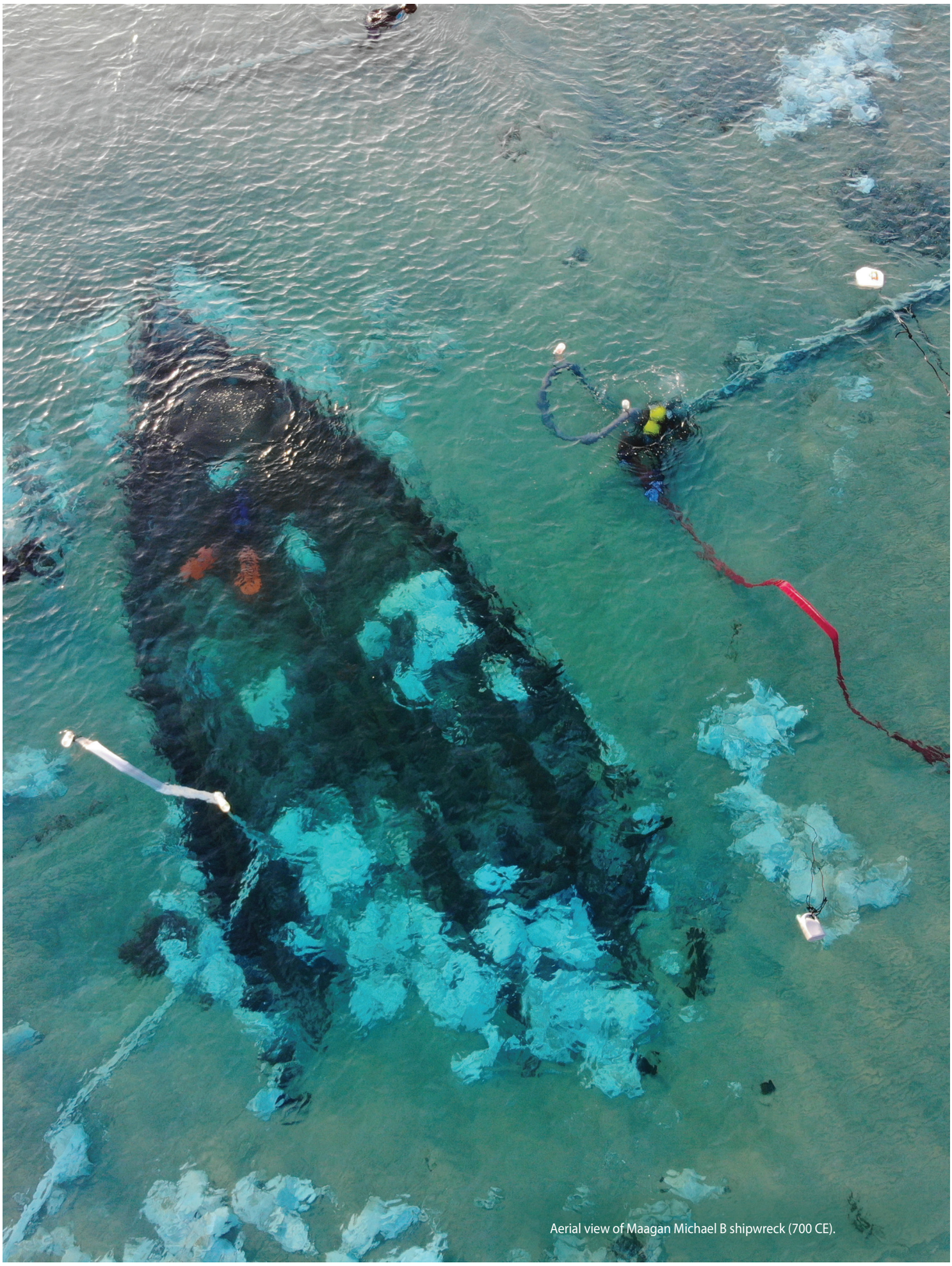
The Department of Maritime Civilizations is the only such department in Israel. Founded 50 years ago, it conducts underwater explorations along the Israeli coast, which has one of the densest concentrations of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean.

The Department explores the interrelations between humans and the Mediterranean Sea through the interlocking disciplines of underwater and coastal archaeology, geology and geoarchaeology, history and ecology. The research focuses on 11,000 years of human maritime adaptation in the Eastern Mediterranean, addressing questions of trade, migration, ship and harbor technology, historic sea level changes and coastal environments. Its interdisciplinary studies focus on a wide range of finds, from sunken Neolithic villages to Bronze, Iron Age anchorages and ship cargoes, Roman and Byzantine ports and shipwrecks, and medieval maritime activity.

The Department is recognized as one of the leading underwater archaeology institutions in the world, and works in close cooperation with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. Faculty members are currently working on underwater exploration of submerged Neolithic villages, Bronze and Iron Age cargoes, and an Early Islamic shipwreck south of Haifa.

The Department offers MA and PhD degrees in Hebrew and English.



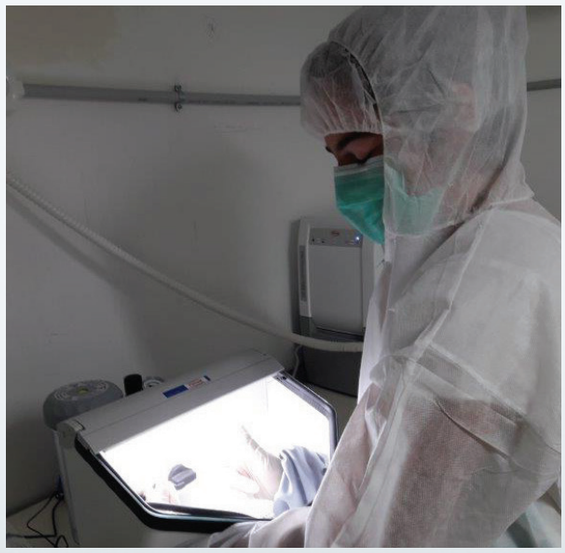


Aerial view of Maagan Michael B shipwreck (700 CE).

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

LEADING A REVOLUTION IN THE STUDY OF THE PAST

The Department of Archaeological Sciences aims to achieve the highest standards of excellence in exact-science driven archaeological research and teaching. By integrating exact and life sciences into archaeology studies, we gain a better understanding of past societies.



The School is responding to the growing need for archaeologists to gather and analyze quantitative data needed to solve archaeological puzzles and overturn the archaeological consensus of the last several decades. From microscopic investigation of sediments, work on molecular residues in ceramic containers and investigating movement of people according to stable isotopes in teeth, to studying ancient metallurgy and human involvement with animals and plants, new tools are transforming the field of archaeology. Students will be able to earn graduate degrees in both Hebrew and English.







The Israeli Silk Road in the Negev desert, a sector of an ancient trade route connecting the East and the West. | Photos from Shamir and Baginski 2014



The ancient town of Shivta in the Negev desert, where researchers investigate the collapse of Byzantine civilization.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION OF MATERIAL CULTURE

PRESERVING ISRAEL'S PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Department of Conservation of Material Culture focuses on utilizing best practices in conservation science and methods for the protection and management of cultural heritage. Our graduates play a vital role in preserving the art, objects and historic sites that tell the story of our lives, history, and society. This is the only department of its kind in Israel.





The Department addresses challenges such as climate change and development pressures, protection of cultural heritage on land and underwater, recording methods, the future of museums and novel ways of interacting with local and global policy makers and shareholders.

Students receive classroom instruction as well as hands-on training in the field and in the lab. Classes are taught in both Hebrew and English.







ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Heading the School is Prof. Israel Finkelstein, member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and the Humanities and a foreign member of the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres (academy of the humanities) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Finkelstein specializes in the archaeology of the Bronze and Iron Ages, the incorporation of the exact and life sciences into archaeology and biblical historiography. He carried out many field projects, among them the excavation of Megiddo, Shiloh and Kiriath-jearim.

Finkelstein is the author of 20 books and over 450 articles. Notable among the books are *The Archaeology of the Israelite Settlement* (1988), Living on the Fringe (1995), *The Bible Unearthed* (2001), *David and Solomon* (2006), *The Forgotten Kingdom* (2013) and Essays on Biblical Historiography: from Jeroboam II to John Hyrcanus (2021). In 2005 Finkelstein won the Dan David Prize in the Past Dimension and in 2017 he received the MacAllister Field Archaeology Award of the American Schools of Oriental Research.




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REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

The University of Haifa invites you to partner with us in naming the **School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures**.

The School will set new standards for archaeological research and heritage conservation for the international archaeology community and the general public.

- A generous gift of $5 million will enable the University to dedicate the School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures in your honor.



DONOR RECOGNITION

The University of Haifa prominently recognizes its donors and will be honored to pay tribute to your generosity.

- The naming of the **School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures** will be marked with a festive dedication ceremony.
- Recognizing your donation through appropriate plaques and/or signage.
- Acknowledging your support in University, national and international media publications.
- All publications of faculty members of the School will acknowledge your support.



Join us in transforming archaeological research - on land, at sea, and in the lab.



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