


THE VIEW FROM YU



2021
COMMENCEMENT

The logo for the 2021 Commencement features the year '2021' in a stylized, multi-colored font. Each digit is composed of several overlapping semi-circles in various colors including yellow, red, purple, blue, and white. Below the year, the word 'COMMENCEMENT' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with each letter also filled with a different color from the year's palette.

JUN
2021

2021 COMMENCEMENT



Emerging Stronger Than Ever: Thousands Join YU's Commencement Live and Online

On Wednesday, May 26, more than 650 graduates and their families and friends along with YU faculty, staff and administration gathered at the Arthur Ashe Stadium at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens for YU's 90th Annual Commencement Exercises.



Internationally renowned singer **Shulem Lemmer** set the tone for the event's theme of emerging stronger and more determined by singing the American and Israeli national anthems and inspiring the audience with his version of "Rise Up" by Andra Day.

"Character is shaped by adversity," said **Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman**, President of Yeshiva University, in his remarks. "While none of us had the map that told us how this year would unfold, we did have the compass. Our values are our compass. Even during times of deep uncertainty, they give us confidence that we are moving in the right direction."



Jason Greenblatt '85YUHS, '89YC was the commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient. The former White House Middle East Envoy was introduced by **Ron Dermer**, the former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, and **Yousef Al Otaiba**, the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the United States.

In his keynote address, Greenblatt exhorted the graduates to "continue to build your communities and help the United States of America, the Jewish State of Israel and indeed all of humanity in meaningful ways while living up to and being true to the values of the Torah." [READ MORE](#)



Graduate School Commencements

Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology



The Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology graduating class gathered online with faculty, staff, friends and family for the May 24 ceremony.

Dr. Leslie Halpern, dean of Ferkauf, addressed the virtual audience with these words: “Members of the class of 2021, we are proud of your accomplishments, are confident in your skills, dedication and courage . . . and wish you the very best in your careers.” [READ MORE](#)



Ferkauf conferred 59 doctoral and 51 master’s degrees.

Wurzweiler School of Social Work



During the May 25 event, the 2021 graduates of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work were called on to be “social justice warriors” as they gathered online with faculty, students, staff, friends and family.

Dr. Danielle Wozniak, the David I. and Dorothy Schachne Dean of Wurzweiler, told the students, “Your legacy in the profession will be one of hope and transformation.” [READ MORE](#)

Wurzweiler conferred 10 doctoral degrees, 111 master’s degrees and 21 certificates.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine



Albert Einstein College of Medicine celebrated its 63rd Commencement on May 27 with a joint on-campus and virtual ceremony honoring its medical and graduate students.

“We salute your resilience and achievements as well as your dedication and commitment to patient care and scientific discovery,” said **Gordon F. Tomaselli**, M.D., the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean at Einstein and executive vice president and chief academic officer at Montefiore Medicine. [READ MORE](#)



Einstein conferred 189 doctoral and 22 master’s degrees and 41 completed training. **David Kessler**, M.D., J.D., President Joe Biden’s Chief Science Officer for COVID-19 Response, delivered the commencement address.

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law



Sunny skies appeared over Central Park in New York City on June 1, just in time for Cardozo's 43rd Commencement, as **Dean Melanie Leslie** told the class of 2021, "You are the bright light around which our community focuses today in a spirit of celebration and pride." [READ MORE](#)

Cardozo conferred 374 J.D.s and 54 master's degrees.

Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, the first Jewish woman as well as the first refugee to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada, delivered the commencement address virtually.

Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration



It was a worldwide celebration as friends, family and alumni of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration joined together virtually on June 6 to celebrate the graduating class of 2021.

"Azrieli champions excellence and meaningful Jewish education for every Jewish learner in Jewish schools and educational settings," said **Dr. Rona Novick**, dean of Azrieli and the Raine and Stanley Silverstein Chair in Professional Ethics and Values.

[READ MORE](#)

Azrieli conferred four doctoral and 31 master's degrees.

Katz School of Science and Health Sy Syms School of Business



On June 10, the Katz School of Science and Health and Sy Syms School of Business graduate programs held a dual virtual ceremony to honor their graduates.

Dr. Paul Russo, dean of the Katz School and vice provost, complimented the graduates as "values-driven practitioners, honest, generous and kind with the integrity that ensures your actions will follow your commitments." [READ MORE](#)



Dr. Noam Wasserman, dean of Sy Syms, also praised the graduates for having "made it to the finish line, and your week-in, week-out dedication to building your futures and to doing your best work." [READ MORE](#)

The Katz School conferred one doctoral degree and 103 master's degrees. Sy Syms conferred 22 master's degrees.

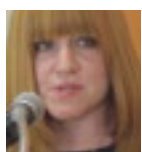
Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies



The Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies proudly announced the names of its graduates, who together earned three doctoral and seven master's degrees.

Dr. Daniel Rynhold, dean of Revel, said, "[Our graduates have learned from] internationally renowned research scholars who are themselves steeped in the very traditions that they teach."

Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS)



The faculty, students, staff, friends and family of GPATS gathered online on May 24 to celebrate the awarding of two master's degrees. President Berman, Associate Dean Shoshana Schechter and GPATS **Director Nechama Price** addressed the graduates and their families and friends.

Valedictorians: Exceptional Academic Achievers

Eight undergraduate students were named valedictorians in honor of their extraordinary academic achievements. [READ MORE](#)



SARA SCHAPIRO
Stern College for Women,
Rebecca Ivry Department
of Jewish Studies



YONI SACKNOVITZ
Yeshiva College



NOAH TRADONSKY
Sy Syms School
of Business



TALI GOLDMAN
Sy Syms School
of Business



AHARON ZAZULIA
Irving I. Stone Beis
Medrash Program



ISAAC BENDAHAN
James Striar School
of General Jewish Studies



YAAKOV KAMINETSKY
Mazer Yeshiva Program



ALEXEI ANTONOV
Isaac Breuer College
of Hebraic Studies



Makor College Experience: A Special Graduation

For **Jonah Goldstein**, a member of a multigenerational YU family, this year's commencement was a dream come true. A graduate of the Makor College Experience, a three-year program for those with intellectual disabilities, Goldstein is the first Makor student to participate in an in-person graduation. Although he could have completed Makor in 2020, he chose to stay an additional year for this milestone event. "Jonah isn't our first graduate, but due to COVID-19, he is our first to walk at commencement with his peers," said **Dr. Stephen Glicksman**, founder of the program. Jonah exemplifies the goal of Makor to give people with disabilities the same experiences their friends and family have.



Student-Athlete Earns Historic Honor

Gabriel Leifer has been selected CoSIDA First Team Academic All-American for men's basketball in Division III, the first in YU history. Leifer, also a two-time All-American, has led the Maccabees to a pair of conference championships in his career and two trips to the NCAA Tournament. The Maccabees are currently riding the nation's longest winning streak in all divisions at 36 games. "Gabe's leadership on and off the court is a major reason our program has experienced the success it has," Yeshiva University Head Coach Elliot Steinmetz said. "That he does it in the classroom as well is a testament to his willingness to be a complete example of leadership for his teammates."

Yeshiva University Commencement 2021

Congratulations to all Yeshiva University 2021 graduates! You've overcome unprecedented challenges in unprecedented times, and we salute you.

