

YU Today

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY • NO. 8 ORIENTATION 2003 • VOLUME 8

Meet Hillel Davis

■ *New Vice President seeks "friendlier environment"*

For Hillel Davis, PhD, exchanging the frenetic pace of corporate life for the challenges of academia is a task he relishes. In both spheres, he has applied the values of commitment, compassion and openness—principles that he hopes will define his tenure as YU's vice president of university life.

Dr. Davis was recruited by YU's new president Richard M. Joel with one clear charge: to create a campus environment that stresses respect, more effective communication, and friendliness both in and outside the classroom.

Before joining YU, Dr. Davis worked as a senior vice president of human resources at IDT Corporation, an international telecommunications firm. Previously, he held simi-

lar senior-level positions at Republic National Bank (currently HSBC) and Citicorp/Citibank, N.A.

A soft-spoken man with a gentle yet strong presence, Dr. Davis graduated from Yeshiva College in 1973. He received a master's degree in history from Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) in 1975. He earned another master's degree and a PhD in industrial/organizational psychology from New York University. The son of a prominent rabbi in Chicago where he grew up, he never planned to be a pulpit rabbi; but learning Torah impacts his daily life and his world view.

Dr. Davis lives in Ocean-



Hillel Davis

side, NY, where he is co-president of Hebrew Academy of Long Beach, a member of the Board of Jewish Education of New York, and is active in the Young Israel of Oceanside. He is a close friend and colleague of President Joel, and is inspired and motivated by their shared philosophy of *kavod ha'briot*—respect for the dignity of all of God's creatures.

continued on page 4

Welcome From the President

These are years for dreaming dreams and growing toward their fulfillment. The YU community we share is a place where these dreams are given context, color, and luster.

The pursuit of learning, engagement in Torah studies, and growth in the world of ideas and ideals are at our fingertips. So are an array of opportunities that can enrich your life.

We are honored to be your guides on this exciting journey, and want to help ensure its success. Therefore, we encourage you to become familiar with all the resources we make available—especially the human ones—and hope that you will not hesitate to use them.

THE INVESTITURE OF THE
FOURTH PRESIDENT OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Richard M. Joel

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2003
24 ELUL 5763 • 2:00PM

WILF CAMPUS • ZYSMAN HALL • LAMPOR AUDITORIUM
186TH STREET AND AMSTERDAM AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

FOR INFORMATION: PUBLICAFFAIRS@YMAIL.YU.EDU 212-960-5285

Midtown and Wilf Campuses Spruced Up and Upgraded



Proposed design of the lower-level food court at 215 Lexington Avenue



Architect's sketch of Danciger Quadrangle and the signature sculpture recognizing the Wilf family

A flurry of renovations and construction projects was the order of business this summer, as Yeshiva University upgraded facilities and spruced up grounds for students' return to both the Wilf and Midtown campuses this fall.

"We are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life and environment for students" said Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of supporting services administration.

Additional floors, each at approximately 10,000 square-feet, are scheduled for further development.

Midtown Campus

The new Norman F. Levy Lobby at Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business at 215 Lexington Avenue is set for completion Sept. 10. The 2,500 square-foot lobby is open and airy, and includes a glass-enclosed area that provides additional seminar and conference space, as well as a comfortable area for students to meet.

The lobby's terrazzo flooring and stone walls replicate Jerusalem stone. The space

sports a modern look—a challenge in converting an existing office building into a college and administrative building.

Ascending from the lobby, escalators take students and faculty up to floors two and three, which house multimedia seminar rooms, classrooms, and faculty and administrative offices, including admissions and finance.

Spacious studio and gallery rooms for SCW's art department comprise the entire eighth floor. Also planned is a "trendy," 160-seat food court and lounge on the lower level, with final construction due for fall 2004. The building's air-conditioning system was upgraded, and a new sprinkler system was installed.

"The continuing construction at 215 Lexington Avenue, particularly the impressive Norman F. Levy Lobby and the studio art spaces on the eighth floor, fulfills a dream—to match the quality of our facilities to the quality of our education," said Karen Bacon, PhD, Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean of SCW.

YU implemented a Midtown Campus expansion plan

in 1994 that prompted acquisition of real estate, including the former Cineplex Odeon movie theater on East 34th Street (now the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center), 215 Lexington Avenue, the 36th Street Residence Hall, the Jerome and Geraldine Schottenstein Residence Hall at 121 East 29th Street, and 150 East 35th Street, a building whose use has not yet been determined.

The University is also negotiating to purchase 251 Lexington Avenue, which would establish a contiguous block of SCW and SSSB campus buildings on Lexington Avenue.

The 36th Street Residence Hall opened in 2001 after renovations, and houses 100 students. The front and back lounges were redecorated through gifts from Marjorie Diener Blendon and Anne and Isidore Falk, respectively.

Wilf Campus

Students will notice an expanded and beautified plaza adjacent to the Herbert and Florence Tenzer Garden and an enhanced Danciger Quadrangle. *continued on page 4*

New Web Site Debuts

After many months of work, a completely redesigned Yeshiva University Web site debuted on June 18.

The site has new features, new navigation, and new links. "The new site represents the first step in changing the philosophy of how the Web is used at YU," said Peter L. Ferrara, who heads the Communications and Public Affairs department, and chairs the Web Advisory Committee. "The approach emphasizes the importance of our audiences or constituencies and over

time, will make the Web the prime medium for accessing knowledge about YU and related topics."

The Web Advisory Committee includes Sarah Bush, John Fisher, George Sullivan, and Dale Hochstein. Mr. Ferrara noted that the future of the YU Web will depend heavily on the input of deans, directors, faculty, staff, and even students, and on the willingness of page "owners" to keep their pages fresh.

Please see www.yu.edu.

Know Your Student Leaders

WILF CAMPUS

Student Leader	Organization	Email	Phone Number
Yummy Schacter	YSU-President	yumdawg@hotmail.com	646-529-3608
Yaniv Kerem	YCSA-President	steegs@sbglobal.net	646-245-8987
Eli Renov	SSSB-President	Towntaxi2@aol.com	646-739-8525
Yakov Agatstein	SOY-President	Jake1371@aol.com	347-526-4046
Isaac Winkler	IBC-President	Wink512@aol.com	917-371-2877
Khashayar Hakimian	JSS-President	Kkyhman13@hotmail.com	
Joseph Saka	SBMP-President	joesaka@hotmail.com	732-306-0754
Tzvi Kahn	Commentator-Co-editor	tzkahm@aol.com	201-837-9491
Jamie Hirsch	Commentator-Co-editor	zegem@aol.com	516-330-6713

MIDTOWN CAMPUS

Student Leader	Organization	Email	Phone Number
Anat Barber	SCWSC-President	Anatbarber@hotmail.com	718-614-0842
Lisa Grundman	SCWTAC-President	Pumba530@aol.com	347-386-7812
Rachel Moss	SSSBSC-President	Gingi2@aol.com	347-234-0044
Shaindy Raice	Observer-Co-editor	comibranch@aol.com	917-669-2278
Rachel Horn	Observer-Co-editor	Raych107@aol.com	732-306-3589

Know Your University Counselors

Stop in and meet the staff in the Office of Student Affairs at the Midtown and Wilf Campuses. You may contact them to talk and to help you get acquainted with your new surroundings. They are also experienced professionals who are ready to support any students having trouble adjusting to the college environment, experiencing emotional difficulties, or wanting to discuss issues of a religious nature.

Peer counselors are available to lend a sympathetic ear to fellow students. Additionally, Student Affairs is helpful to students with learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, and special academic needs.

WILF CAMPUS

Personal Counselors

Dr. Efrem Nulman
Senior University Dean
of Students

Furst Hall-419
212-960-5330

Dr. Chaim Nissel
Associate Dean of Students

Furst Hall-419
212-960-5330

Bradley Karasik, MA
Assistant Dean of Students

Furst Hall-419
212-960-5480

Ronald Lamb
Director of Housing

Morgenstern Residence
Hall-104
212-960-5249

Guidance Counselor

Rabbi Yosef Blau
Furst Hall-419
212-960-5480

International Student Advisor

Russ Schoumaker
Furst Hall-419
212-960-5480

Peer Counselors

Yitz Glass
Head Peer Counselor
Schottenstein Center-314
212-928-6573; 646-529-3603

MIDTOWN CAMPUS

Personal Counselors

Zelda Braun, CSW
Assistant Dean of Students
MID-114
212-340-7715

Beth Hait, MS
Coordinator of Student Services

MID-133
212-340-7714

Rachel Kraut, CSW
Director of Residence Life
Brookdale Residence Hall-1G
212-340-7795

Shana Glasser, CSW
Assistant Director of
Residence Life
Schottenstein Residence Hall
Office 212-340-7466

Rochelle Ausubel, PhD
Psychologist
MID-114
212-340-7715

Guidance Counselor

Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg
MID-623
212-340-7736

International Student Advisor

Marga Marx
MID-305
212-340-7770

Peer Counselors

Michal Safier,
Head Peer Counselor
contact information will be
provided after the holidays.

Department of Student Affairs-Midtown Campus (Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business)

Dr. Efrem Nulman
Senior University Dean of
Students
nulman@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5330

Dean David Himber
University Dean of Students
himler@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5330

Mrs. Zelda Braun, CSW
Assistant Dean of Students
zlbrown@ymail.yu.edu
212-340-7715

Ms. Beth Hait, MS
Coordinator of Student Services
hait@ymail.yu.edu
212-340-7715

Dr. Rochelle Ausubel, PhD
Psychologist
ausubel@yuhsg.org
212-340-7715

Ms. Rachel Kraut, CSW
Director of Residence Life
rkraut@ymail.yu.edu
212-212-340-7795

Student Affairs-Wilf Campus (Yeshiva College and Sy Syms School of Business)

Dr. Efrem Nulman
Senior University Dean of
Students

Dean David Himber
University Dean of Students

Dr. Chaim Nissel
Associate Dean of Students
drnissel@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5330

Department of Admissions (YC, SCW, SSSB)

Michael Kranzler
Director
kranzler@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5277

Helen Moskowitz
Associate Director
hmoskowi@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5277

Daniel Morris
Assistant Director
dmorris@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5277

Carla Shron
Assistant Director
cshron@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5277

Department of Student Aid

Robert Friedman
Director
studentaid@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5269

Miriam Ezike
Assistant Director
ezike@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5269

Amelia Gomes
Associate Director
gomes@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5269

Ryan Loughlin
Assistant Director
loughlin@ymail.yu.edu
212-790-0238

Anthony Pizzuti
Associate Director
pizzuti@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5269

Marianela Cabral
Banner Systems Coordinator
mocabral@ymail.yu.edu
212-960-5269

YU Today

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 8

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Ronald P. Stanton, Chairman
YU Board of Trustees

Richard M. Joel
President

Dr. Norman Lamm
Chancellor

Peter L. Ferrara
Director of Communications and Public Affairs

Joshua L. Muss, Chairman, Board of Directors, Yeshiva College; Marjorie Diener Blenden, Chairman, Board of Directors, Stern College for Women; Bernard L. Madoff, Chairman, Board of Directors, Sy Syms School of Business; Robert A. Belfer, Chairperson, Board of Overseers, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Earle I. Mack, Chairman, Board of Directors, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; Robert Schwalbe, Chair, Board of Governors, Wurzelweil School of Social Work; Mordecai D. Katz, Chairman, Board of Directors, Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies; Katherine Sachs, Chair, Board of Governors, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology; Moshael J. Straus, Chairman, Board of Directors, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration; Julius Berman, Chairman, Board of Trustees, (affiliate) Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary; Erica Jesselson, Chairperson, Board of Directors, (affiliate) Yeshiva University Museum.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY TODAY

Hedy Shulman
Editor

Norman Eisenberg
Managing Editor

Judy Tucker
Art Director

Jerry Bergman, Kelly Berman, Esther Finkle, June Glazer,
Norman Goldberg, Cara Huzinec, Peter Robertson, V. Jane Windsor
Contributors

www.yu.edu/news/publications

Yeshiva University Today is published monthly during the academic year by the Yeshiva University Department of Communications and Public Affairs, 401 Furst Hall, 500 West 185th St., New York, NY 10033-3201 (212-960-5285). It is distributed free on campus to faculty, staff, and students. © Yeshiva University 2002

Summer Honors Programs in Exotic Locales

■ *Studying on site in Central America, Florence, Italy, and Brookhaven Lab*

The Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein and S. Daniel Abraham Honors Programs at Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women this summer had a global feel. In three innovative courses, under-

rence," coordinated and led by Evelyn Cohen, assistant professor of art. Stern students learned about Jewish life under the Medici, and were treated to a private tour of Florence's great post-emancipation synagogue and its mag-

Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College, two linked courses ended with a 12-day field trip to Central America. "Introduction to Tropical Ecology and Ethnobotany" taught by Prof. Vincent Chiappetta, and "Honors Introduction to Anthropology: Maya Civilization," taught by Dr. Jill Katz, adjunct instructor in archeology and anthropology, began at the Wilf Campus.

Eleven undergraduate men with accompanying faculty then visited sites in Guatemala and Honduras, including the ancient city of Copan, with its famous ball court, inscribed stones, and hieroglyphic stairway; Tikal, the largest Mayan city known for its palaces, plaza, and pyramids rising above the tropical jungle canopy; Antigua, the former Spanish colonial capital, now designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO; and Lake Atitlan, a natural lake created 70,000 years ago by exploding volcanoes. Students also visited towns inhabited by modern Mayan people, many of

whom retain traditional woven styles of brightly colored clothing, and bargained for items from marimbas to mangoes at the crowded market places.

"Great Ideas and Experiments in Modern Physics," which featured a groundbreaking residential component, was a joint effort by the S. Daniel Abraham and Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Programs. Three women and nine men spent six days performing, analyzing, and designing experiments while living on the campus of Brookhaven Na-

tional Laboratory on Long Island, home base of multiple Nobel Prize winners. Dr. Anatoly Frenkel, associate professor of physics and computer science; Dr. Gabriel Cwilich, associate professor of physics; and Dr. Fredy Zypman, professor of physics, team-taught the course. Experiments ranged from using x-ray beams and infrared light, to applying the fundamental laws of physics to problems in chemistry, nuclear physics, and the life sciences, to studying nuclear reactions of interest to the radiopharmaceutical industry. ■



Yeshiva College Honors Contingent at San Felipe Fortress on the Rio Dulce in Guatemala

graduate students left the Manhattan campuses for the piazzas and cobbled streets of Florence, the ancient Mayan dwellings, and one of the most advanced scientific laboratories in the world.

A dozen women returned from Italy where they participated in "Art and the Jewish Experience in Medici Flo-

nificent Jewish ceremonial art by Prof. Dora Liscia Bemporad, director of Florence's Jewish Museum. Highlights of artistic importance included the Uffizi Gallery, National Sculpture Museum of the Bargello, Pitti Palace, and the Academia, where Michelangelo's statue of David stands.

A first for the Jay and

PROFILE

Robert Friedman: Customer Service With a Smile

■ *Student Aid Director Has a Message for YU Students and Parents: Expect Change*

The office of student aid is often the front line for students, parents, and management of a university. Robert Friedman, YU's new director of student aid for Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women, Sy Syms School of Business, and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, came on board in July. He was tapped by Dr. John Fisher, director of enrollment management, for his expertise in retooling student-aid operations.

"In speaking to colleagues at each of Bob's former schools, the first thing people mentioned was his focus on students," Dr. Fisher says.

A graduate of Thomas Edison State College in New Jersey, Mr. Friedman oversaw student aid at Teachers' College Columbia University Graduate School of Education. He also held related positions at Fordham University in the Bronx and DePaul University in Chicago. He helps parents and students figure out how best to pay for a college education—\$30,000 at YU.

"My job is to make sure our families have a sense of how to navigate the financial aid system," says Mr. Friedman. He calls college tuition "daunting—students and parents need help," and points to improved customer service as the best way to assist them.

He plans to "train every person on my staff to treat people with respect, sensibility, and sensitivity, especially regarding issues unique to Orthodox families." Also, he has made walk-in counseling available during office hours at the Wilf and Midtown campuses, and plans to make technology improvements to give students and parents easier access to information.

"I want them to be able to read their account live, not just from the last day of the last bill, and I want them to have access to their aid package," he says.

"We have to increase the level of customer service. It all boils down to that," he says.

To make an appointment with the Office of Student Aid, call 212-960-5269 or e-mail studentaid@ymail.yu.edu. ■



Robert Friedman

MTSA Teacher Harriet Levitt Recognized

Sitting at a table in Belfer Hall's cafeteria on the Wilf Campus, Harriet Levitt reminisces about her 23-year teaching career at the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy/Yeshiva University High School for Boys.

When one of her former English students and debate team members nominated her as the high school teacher who most influenced him, Mrs. Levitt said she felt "humble" about receiving her first formal accolade for teaching.

"My true reward is keeping in touch with former students," Mrs. Levitt said. "I am very curious about them and I care about them."

When former student Howard Heching, YH'98 of Monsey, NY, was inducted into Cornell University's Merrill Presidential Scholars Program this spring, Mrs. Levitt immediately came to mind.

Mr. Heching, 23, graduated

from Cornell in May and plans to attend Cornell's Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College this fall. He was one of 35 graduating seniors (representing the top 1 percent of his class) to receive the Merrill award that recognized students for academic achievement, strong leadership ability, and potential for contributing to society.

Merrill recipients choose one high school teacher and one college professor who inspired them and contributed to their scholastic experience. Mrs. Levitt was one of 35 high school teachers (who came from as far as India, Singapore, Bulgaria, and Japan) who were honored during a two-day event at Cornell.

"Basically, it really wasn't much of a decision for me," Mr. Heching said about nominating his sophomore English teacher. "She is very caring about her students and really wants to make sure they make

the right decisions."

Mrs. Levitt, who lives in Scarsdale, NY, describes herself as "curious, accepting, and demanding," and said she often pushes her students to fulfill their potential.

MSTA Dean Michael Hecht agrees. "We are very pleased to know that Harriet Levitt's selfless dedication over more than two decades has been acknowledged not only by the Yeshiva community, but also by the larger academic world."

In addition to teaching and coaching the debate team, Mrs. Levitt is a mother of three (her middle child, Mark, graduated from MSTSA in 1983 and from Yeshiva College in 1988) and a grandmother of five. She plays tennis, participates in a Hadassah reading group, and exercises every morning with a walking group.

But, smiles Mrs. Levitt, "My chief interest is my grandchildren." ■



Hillel Davis continued

Define vice president of university life

"My responsibilities cover enrollment management, which includes the registrar, student affairs, admissions, and student aid. I oversee supporting services and human resources, which touch virtually everything that affects students outside the classroom.

"However, I am charged with 'university life' not 'student life.' I will focus on human resources regarding faculty and administrators in addition to students. I will also strive to create an environment in which people feel better about the University by opening up the channels of communication and enhancing the level of respect we have for one another."

Management style

"I want to build consensus. I will work with our teams in human resources, facilities, and finance, and we will address emerging issues attempting to resolve matters in a fashion that benefits the University and its constituencies.

"For students, my door is always open. My ultimate objective is to create an environment in which 50 people will have their doors open. Our current system works, but

it needs to empower people and to improve.

"Also, I see as my challenge being instrumental in planning for YU's future. I hope to work with President Joel and the other vice presidents to help articulate the vision of the President and then to help bring that vision to fruition."

Responsibilities for graduate schools

"I have university-wide responsibility. Geography is an impediment because the campuses are so spread out. Ideally, I would like to return messages by walking into people's offices. Obviously that's more difficult regarding Cardozo or Einstein."

Family ties

"My wife, Racheyl, is a Stern graduate, as are my two sisters. My brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law are also alumni, as are several members of my extended family. My daughter Navah attended Samuel H. Wang High School for Girls, and graduated from Stern. My son, Ariel, attended The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy/Yeshiva University High School for Boys and is currently a Yeshiva College student. He is taking classes at Bernard Revel Graduate

School of Jewish Studies and is also a student at RIETS. My daughter Leora just finished her first semester at Stern after a year and a half in Israel and our youngest, Tali, just finished her sophomore year at Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls."

Recent books read

"I try to read non-fiction books of Jewish interest, including Hillel Goldberg's *Between Berlin and Slobodka*, Marc Shapiro's book on the Sridei Eish, and *The Six Day War* by Michael Oren. In preparation for this job, I also read Jeffrey Gurock's book on YU, *The Men and Women of Yeshiva*.

I struggle to keep up with Daf Yomi and try to attend a shiur four nights a week so I don't usually get home until 10. I have been co-president of Hebrew Academy of Long Beach for the past six years, which takes up a lot of time. When I was younger, I did more sports but now I don't have very much leisure time."

Your message to the University community

"I would like students, faculty, administrators, and staff to gain a sense of ownership and partnership with the University." ■

Summer Construction At a Glance

Wilf Campus

- Re-pavement and extension of sidewalks along Tenzer Garden and Danciger Quadrangle.
- Installation of signature sculpture honoring the Wilf family and addition of benches at Danciger Quadrangle.
- Removal of buildings on 185th Street and at Washington Terrace for possible future capital projects.
- Renovation of Parking Garage Area E.

Midtown Campus

- Air-conditioning upgrade at 245 Lexington Avenue.
- Renovation and expansion of SCW art department at 215 Lexington Avenue, including a sprinkler system.
- Renovation of SCW and SSSB lobby and lounge area at 215 Lexington.

Campus Renovations continued

Situated between Belfer Hall and the Leah and Joseph Ruben Residence Hall, Tenzer Garden's entrance will be expanded and repaved for better access and more space for relaxation.

A signature sculpture recognizing the generosity and commitment of the Wilf family was erected on Danciger Quadrangle, and new seating was added to complete the Quadrangle's overall beautification.

Also as part of the University's summer projects, vacant buildings on 185th Street and at Washington Terrace were razed for safety reasons and possible future capital projects.

Structural renovations to the Parking Area E garage on

Amsterdam Avenue will be completed in September.

Brookdale Campus— Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Significant renovations at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law's building at 55 Fifth Avenue are scheduled for completion this summer.

The newly expanded lobby houses a seminar room and the new Jacob Burns Moot Court Room. The Dr. Rebecca and Lillian Chutick Law Library was also redesigned to include wood paneling, vaulted ceilings, and showcases to display faculty publications. The lobby will be officially unveiled Sept. 24. ■