

YU.edu/TogetherWithIsrael



THE VIEW FROM YU

JAN
2024

YU Stands Together with Israel



President Berman with Dafna Linzer, Editorial Director and Executive Vice President, *U.S. News & World Report* (left) and Mildred García, Chancellor, California State University (center)

President Berman Advocates for Moral Leadership in Higher Education

On Dec. 11, **Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, President of Yeshiva University**, held a meeting with U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Their discussion focused on the importance of students reporting incidents of religious-based intimidation and hate crimes on college campuses. Proactive reporting such as this plays a crucial role in establishing metrics for universities to identify and combat antisemitism effectively and aligns with the mandates of the 1990 Clery Act. Following the meeting, President Berman's comments were featured on social media through an Instagram post by Jewish activist Lizzy Savetsky, which garnered more than 298,000 video views. [READ MORE](#)

On Dec. 12, President Berman took part in the *U.S. News & World Report* Breakfast Forum on Leadership in Higher Education. Notable participants included Mildred García, Chancellor of California State University; John B. King Jr., Chancellor of the State University of New York; Jonathan Koppell, President of Montclair State University; and James Kvaal, Undersecretary of Education at the U.S. Department of Education. The discussion delved into current challenges facing college and university leaders, including the imperative to teach students civil debate. In his remarks, President Berman underscored the urgent need for clear moral leadership on campuses nationwide. [READ MORE](#)

President Berman with U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce





Members of Yeshiva University's basketball team outside Sheba Hospital in Tel Aviv where they visited survivors of the Oct.7 massacre

YU Organizes Solidarity Missions to Israel

In January, faculty and students from Yeshiva University embarked on several solidarity missions to Israel. **Dr. Steven Fine** and **Dr. Ronnie Perelis** organized the Jewish Studies Scholars Solidarity Trip, which took place from Jan. 2–4. The participants, including educators from various Jewish studies programs at American universities, visited Israeli academic institutions.



Dr. Steve Fine (fourth from left) visiting Israel with other Jewish Studies scholars

727th Battalion, an all-female combat unit stationed in Gaza.

Additionally, in January, members of YU's basketball team traveled to Israel with Athletes for Israel (AIF). During their visit, they met with survivors of the Oct. 7 massacre and members of the IDF at Sheba Hospital, hosted basketball clinics for children with special needs, worked with Leket Israel and played an exhibition game against the Hapoel Tel Aviv team.

On Jan. 7, **Dr. Erica Brown** and **Aliza Abrams Konig** of the Sacks-Herenstein Center led 36 students and four faculty members on a week-long journey to Israel for study and volunteer work. They dedicated their time to learning about the ongoing conflict from scholars and activists. A high point of their trip was delivering 15 duffel bags of requested equipment to the

Jewish American Leaders Meet in D.C.

On Dec. 6, the U.S. Commerce Department's Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships convened with Jewish American leaders at a meeting co-organized by Yeshiva University. The objective was to discuss ways in which the department, along with other federal bureaus



and agencies, can initiate, expand and endorse meaningful partnerships involving businesses, faith leaders and community-based organizations. Among the distinguished guests at the landmark event were Don Graves, deputy secretary of commerce, and Tom Perez, senior adviser to the president of the United States and director of the White House office of intergovernmental affairs.

New and Notable



YU Partners with Israeli Universities in Pioneering Program

In the fall of 2024, Yeshiva University will launch an innovative four-year program providing undergraduates with the complete YU experience while residing in Israel. This exceptional opportunity allows students to earn a YU degree in partnership with two esteemed Israeli institutions, Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University. Following the YU model, the curriculum will commence with morning Torah studies, scheduled at the Gruss campus for men and at the Chorev campus for women. Afternoon sessions will be dedicated to rigorous academic programming.

Students can pursue a degree in business administration at Tel Aviv University or choose a degree in psychology and multi-disciplinary Jewish studies at Bar-Ilan University. [READ MORE](#)



Katz School Honors Inaugural Physician Assistant Studies Graduates

On Dec. 19, at the YU Museum, the Katz School of Science and Health celebrated the inaugural graduating class of its Physician Assistant Studies master's degree program. During the awards ceremony, **Dean Paul Russo** praised the twenty-two graduates for their dedication, sacrifice and commitment to clinical excellence, setting a high standard for upcoming cohorts. [READ MORE](#)

Maimonides Conference

“Maimonides: Now and Then,” a symposium organized by the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and the YU Museum, drew over 200 attendees to the Center for Jewish History on Dec. 17. Inspired by the YU Museum’s exhibition “The Golden Path: Maimonides Across Eight Centuries,” the long-awaited event delved into the complexity and brilliance of Maimonides’ life and legacy, featuring discussions on the Rambam’s legal and philosophical works, as well as explorations of how his ideas influenced and inspired subsequent generations.



Dr. Ronnie Perelis speaking at Maimonides conference

Learning About the Success Factor

On Dec. 5, Dr. Ruth Gotian spoke to Sy Syms honors students in an engaging fireside chat about her new book, *The Success Factor*, with **Dr. Sharon Poczter**, chair of the strategy and entrepreneurship department and associate professor at the Sy Syms School of Business, as well as the founder of YUWILL (Yeshiva University Women’s Initiative for Leadership and Learning). An expert in mentoring and leadership development, Dr. Gotian is the chief learning officer at Weill Cornell Medicine as well as an associate professor of education in anesthesiology. [READ MORE](#)



(l-r) Emily Kaplan, Dr. Ruth Gotian, Dr. Moses Pava and Dr. Sharon Poczter

Students, Faculty & Alumni

YU Student Aids Israeli Families



In the aftermath of the Hamas massacre on Oct. 7, **Adina Feldman '26S** traveled to Israel to offer direct support to those in need. Drawing on her connections in Israel,

where she had previously volunteered to work with twelve-year-olds in an Ethiopian Absorption Center, Feldman invited her former students to join her in assisting displaced families throughout Jerusalem.

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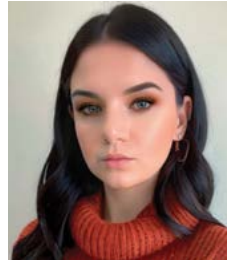
Cardozo Professor Quoted in National Press



Prof. **Matthew Wansley** of Cardozo, who specializes in emerging automotive technologies, has been quoted in *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, regarding the recent

decision to recall Tesla's self-driving software, Autopilot, which impacts over two million vehicles. The recall comes after a federal safety investigation determined that the feature is susceptible to misuse by drivers.

NY State Society on Aging Honors Wurzweiler Student



Justyna Rzewinski, LCSW, a Ph.D. candidate at Wurzweiler School of Social Work, received the Student Award at the 50th Annual Conference of the State Society

on Aging of New York. Rzewinski is a clinical supervisor at Revcore Recovery Center of Manhattan, a leading provider of outpatient mental health services in New York City. As an adjunct professor at Wurzweiler and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she teaches courses on forensic social work, sex offender treatment and criminal justice policy. [READ MORE](#)



Youshan Zhang and Lakshmi Kar Polamreddy

AI Researchers Look to Improve Safety of Self-driving Cars

Researchers from the Katz School received the Emerging Research Award at the Future Technologies Conference held from Nov. 2-3 in San Francisco for their work on a machine-learning algorithm designed to decrease traffic accidents involving self-driving cars. In their conference presentation titled "LaksNet: An End-to-End Deep Learning Model for Self-Driving Cars in Udacity Simulator," **Youshan Zhang**, assistant professor of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science, and **Lakshmi Kar Polamreddy**, a master's candidate in artificial intelligence, detailed their research, which aims to address the limitations of previous work in the field.

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Kickstarting Financial Success



On Jan. 31, the Young Alumni Council of YU's Office of Alumni Affairs and the Sy Syms School of Business are hosting a must-attend event for twenty-somethings looking to get their financial house in order. Industry experts, including **David Chubak**, Head of Wealth Management at Edward Jones and Chair of the Sy Syms Board of Overseers, will explore how to plan personal finances for a successful future. The event will be held at the Manhattan offices of Grant Thornton.



Upcoming Events

Visit yu.edu/events/all to learn more about the programs listed here.

Financial Planning in Your 20s

Wednesday, Jan. 31 | 6–9 p.m.
Grant Thornton
757 3rd Ave., 9th Floor, Manhattan

Annual Alumni Night at the Max Stern Athletic Center

Saturday, Feb. 3 | 8:30–9:30 p.m.
Furman Dining Hall, Wilf Campus

The Seforim Sale

Sunday, Feb. 4–Sunday, Feb. 25
10 a.m.–10 p.m.
Weissberg Commons, Wilf Campus

Tech Career Fair

Monday, Feb. 12 | 5–7:30 p.m.
Furst Hall, Wilf Campus



Together with Israel

For the latest news and information on University initiatives, resources and events in support of Israel, please visit YU's web page yu.edu/togetherwithisrael.



Yeshiva University

RISE UP
The Campaign for 613

YU Honors Brilliance

YU's esteemed faculty are highly accomplished experts in their fields, published authors of scholarly papers and books, research grant recipients, and industry leaders dedicated to sharing their deep knowledge with the world.

Learn more about their outstanding contributions to the sciences, business, law, education and the arts at yu.edu/brilliance, part of a far-reaching advertising campaign YU has launched to share the accomplishments of our exceptional faculty with the broader community.

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MYRIAM GILLES
Professor of Law
Cardozo School of Law



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Director of the Zatziva and
Moshad Straus Center for
Torah and Western Thought



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DR. RAN OROBI
Professor of Biochemistry
Yeshiva University



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