



THE VIEW FROM YU

**DEC
2021**

RISE UP

The Campaign for 613

yu.edu/riseup



From the President

My Dear Friends:

Yeshiva University is on the rise.

Our academic standing is on the rise, our educational programming is on the rise, and our enrollment is on the rise. But we are not stopping there. On Dec. 5, during our 97th Annual Hanukkah Dinner, we announced the Rise Up campaign to raise \$613 million over the next 5 years. This unprecedented campaign will help fund scholarships, faculty and facilities, enabling us to broaden our impact as the flagship Jewish university. You can read about the Rise Up campaign along with news items about each of our four strategic pillars in this issue.

Exemplifying **Values and Leadership**, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Erica Brown, our new Vice Provost of Values and Leadership and inaugural director of the Sacks-Herenstein Center. We announced new scholarships for the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies for Women, engaged in dialogue with world leaders and diplomats and celebrated many joyous Hanukkah events including a “Takeover” of the American Dream Mall. Particularly memorable to me was the privilege to represent the bridge between Israel and the Diaspora by lighting the Menorah at the Western Wall.

In the area of **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**, we hosted an event led by Roy Peled, an IDF veteran turned startup CEO on his experience, “From The Battlefield To The Start-Up World.” Our renowned professors accrued major awards for their **Science and Technology** initiatives, and the many networking events and advisory sessions of the Shevet Glaubach Center for Career Strategy and Professional Development provided our students with the tools and insights to pursue **Great Jobs and Impactful Careers**.

Lastly, congratulations to our nationally ranked #1 men’s Division III basketball team, which now holds the longest active winning streak in men’s college basketball history.

Yeshiva University is on the rise, and I thank each of you—our students, rebbeim, faculty, staff and community members—for helping us chart our path forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Berman'.

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
President, Yeshiva University

YU Launches Rise Up Campaign

Rise Up: The Campaign for Yeshiva University, officially launched on Dec. 5, will raise \$613 million in the next five years to fund new initiatives in YU's four areas of strategic focus: values and leadership, science and technology, entrepreneurship and innovation, and great jobs and impactful careers. This unprecedented campaign comes at a pivotal moment in our history, a time when our values and traditions must not only link us to the past but propel us into our next great era as the flagship Jewish university. [READ MORE](#)

YU Hanukkah Dinner

YU's Rise Up campaign was launched at the 97th Annual Hanukkah Dinner on Dec. 5, 2021. Philanthropic donors, friends of the University, student leaders, faculty and staff attended the virtual celebration that was hosted by Gayle King, editor at large of Oprah Daily and co-host of *CBS Mornings*. It also featured Dr. Berman, famed opera tenor Andrea Bocelli and several YU luminaries.

Live Taping of Newsweek Podcast with Bahraini Ambassador

On Nov. 22, **Jason Greenblatt** '89YC, former Middle East envoy, recorded an episode of his *Newsweek* podcast, "The Diplomat," by interviewing **Shaikh Abdulla Bin Rashid**



Al Khalifa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States, in front of 100 students at the Heights Lounge on the Wilf Campus. In the groundbreaking

dialogue, Shaikh Abdulla said that we are living in historic times and that extremely positive developments are dramatically changing the Middle East. [READ MORE](#)

Dr. Berman Lights Menorah at Kotel

Bridging the gap between Diaspora and Israeli Jewry, Dr. Berman lit the Menorah on the second night of Chanukah and addressed the Israeli public on live television. While in Israel, Dr. Berman met with members of the government, gave an inspirational shiur to Gruss Kollel fellows, and met with YU Israel staff to share new developments and strategies.



Care Café: Serving The Community

On Nov. 17, **Kimberly Moore**, director of the Care Café, **testified** before the Committee on Veterans and Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction of the New York City Council regarding the various services Care Café delivers to veterans throughout the city. On Nov. 16, in partnership with local organizations, Care Café volunteers held a **Coat Drive and Community Information Day** for residents of Central Harlem, helping them access important services and resources. A few weeks later on Dec. 6, they were back in action for a **Chanukah concert and luncheon**, held in conjunction with Brooklyn's Nachas Health, a community organization serving seniors and Holocaust survivors.



Great Jobs and Impactful Careers

Eventful Month for Career Opportunities

The Shevet Glaubach Center (SGC) promoted Great Jobs and Impactful Careers through these five events: the Consulting Industry Panel (Dec. 6) connected students with professionals from McKinsey & Company, UBS, Mercer and PwC; the Virtual Non-Profit and Social Services Fair (Dec. 13) showcased volunteer positions and internships; the Real Estate Meet and Greet (Dec. 15) networked students with accomplished leaders across the real estate industry; and the Virtual Healthcare Fair (Dec. 16) presented volunteer and full-time opportunities in the medical, research and administrative professional areas. SGC rounded off an eventful month with What is Wall Street? Other Than Investment Banking (Dec. 21).



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

First Cardozo Patent on Behalf of Female Inventor

Cardozo's Patent Diversity Project, partly funded by Google, secured its first patent on behalf of **Rose Coppee**, a Black inventor, for a modular hairbrush. The Project aims to close the "patent gap" by providing free legal assistance to inventors who have been historically underrepresented. [READ MORE](#)

Students Compete for Stock Market Prize

In the 2021 Stock Market Challenge, a Sy Syms Student Council project, 149 participants competed, and Henry Bensmihen '23SB won the grand prize of lunch with **Jeff Brodsky**, vice chairman of Morgan Stanley. As part of the Challenge, **David Kerdell**, former partner

at Brahman Capital and analyst at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. spoke at a Nov. 1 event on "Due Diligence for the Fledgling Investor."

From the Battlefield to the Startup World



Sharing life lessons with an audience of more than 50 students, **Roy Peled**, IDF vet and managing partner at Ballista Ventures, a New York City-based business accelerator for Israeli startups, spoke to students at the YU Innovation Lab's first in-person event for the fall 2021 semester.

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Science and Technology

Major Grant from the NSF

The National Science Foundation awarded **Dr. Emil Prodan** \$277,958 for three years of collaborative research (which will support undergraduate and postdoctoral students, travel, materials and publications) on "Topological Dynamics of Hyperbolic and Fractal Lattices." [READ MORE](#)

Math Professor Co-Publishes Paper on Space Curvature

Dr. Pablo Roldan, professor of mathematics and the new director of the M.S. in Artificial Intelligence at the Katz School, has co-published a paper in the *Journal of Differential Equations* that has important implications for cosmology. [READ MORE](#)



Students and Alumni



Chanukah at YU Shone Brightly!

On- and off-campus activities kept students in the Chanukah spirit throughout the holiday. In New Jersey, over 1,500 people—many of them YU undergrads and staff—joined YU’s Chanukah Takeover at the American Dream Mall, where they enjoyed skating, the amusement park, and free latkes and donuts. Planned by all student councils and the Office of Student Life, the “takeover” was YU’s biggest event of the year. Also off campus, Yachad’s Menorah making event at Washington Heights’ Mount Sinai Synagogue drew some 70 students and 20 Yachad members, who were addressed by **Rabbi Yaakov Taubes**, assistant director of RIETS programming.

On campus, Wilf’s Chanukah chagigah brought together hundreds in a lively celebration that included music, dancing, food and faculty speakers. Beren’s Chanukah activities included a community menorah lighting and a chagigah that drew over 400 students.

Young Alumni Celebrate Chanukah

The YU Young Alumni Council hosted a festive Chanukah party at Tempura NYC that drew over 80 alumni. The celebration included a buffet dinner, live DJ, open bar, donut wall and a communal candle lighting led by **Mordechai Weiss** '18SB.



Faculty

New Director of Sacks-Herenstein Center for Values and Leadership



Dr. Erica Brown—renowned educator, author, scholar, Stern College alumna and former student of Rabbi Sacks—has been appointed Vice Provost of Values and

Leadership and inaugural Director of the Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks Center for Values and Leadership founded by Terri and Andrew Herenstein. She will design leadership initiatives and curricula based on Rabbi Sacks’ teachings and writings.

[READ MORE](#)

Jewish Studies Professor Wins Prestigious Grant



Dr. Joshua Karlip, associate professor of Jewish history and Herbert S. and Naomi Denenberg Chair of Jewish Studies, was awarded a two-year research grant by the

Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow for his book project, *Rabbis in the Land of Atheism: The Struggle to Save Judaism in the Soviet Union*. [READ MORE](#)



Upcoming Events

Visit yu.edu/events/all for more information on YU programming. **PLEASE NOTE:** Events may be subject to change as we continue to monitor CDC guidelines, city and state regulations and recommended best practices, based on the current public health situation.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

YU vs. Illinois-Wesleyan University

Thursday, December 30
8 – 10 p.m.

Wilf Campus / Max Stern Athletic Center

YU vs. Williams College

Sunday, January 2
5 – 7 p.m.

Wilf Campus / Max Stern Athletic Center



(l-r): Adi Markovich, Alon Jakubowitz, Ryan Turell, Ofek Reef

YU Macs Achieve **50th Straight Win:** Longest Current Streak in Men's College Basketball

With its 93–86 win over New Jersey City University, the YU men's basketball team now has a record of 14–0 and is **ranked #1 in the nation in Division III**. They have won 50 straight games since 2019, the longest active men's basketball winning streak in the nation in any division. It also marks the second longest such streak in the history of Division III.

Ryan Turell has been named U.S. Basketball Writers Association Division III Player of the Week twice (Nov. 30 and Dec. 14) and ranks second in the nation, averaging 29.8 points per game. **Gabriel Leifer** ranks second in the nation in assists, averaging 8.1 per game.

The Macs will host Illinois-Wesleyan University Dec. 30 and Williams College on Jan. 2.

GPATS ANNOUNCES MAJOR GIFTS

The Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies for Women (GPATS) will receive a significant increase in funding for the 2022–2023 academic year. In addition to support from individual donors, **Ann and Jeremy Pava** and the **Micah Philanthropies** have gifted \$1 million over five years to support stipend increases and programmatic enhancements. GPATS will also receive a generous gift from a prominent anonymous foundation in support of the highly selective Shana Gimmel [Third Year] initiative for top GPATS students. [READ MORE](#)



Yeshiva University