



Sometimes, in order to appreciate what differentiates Yeshiva University, you need to ask a different kind of question.

Just the other day, a parent of a recent graduate who had secured a job at Goldman Sachs told me that his son was grappling with his new role. The student had a great job, but had begun to wonder: I no longer have the same amount of time to focus on my davening [daily prayers] and Torah learning. Most of my waking hours are spent working. Is this why I worked so hard throughout my years as a student? To get to this place? What is the point?

This is what I love about Yeshiva University. Most students ask how do I get a position at Goldman Sachs. Our students ask how do I find meaning and purpose in my position at Goldman Sachs.

I told the parent how proud I was of his son. He was asking the right set of questions. More importantly, these are questions that YU is designed to answer.

More than perhaps ever before, YU is upgrading and updating its offerings to best meet the needs of its current students. We are developing our educational model to better prepare our students for success in this new era. We are driven by an educational vision that puts special emphasis on science and technology as well as innovation and entrepreneurship and that is geared to providing our graduates with great jobs and impactful careers.

Whether through our increased investment in STEM education, building our Innovation Lab, adding stellar luminaries like Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Dr. Noam Wasserman as the new dean at Sy Syms School of Business or growing an enormous and supportive alumni career network, the high value proposition of a YU education is clear.

But what sets us apart is that we place values at our core. Our campus is built upon Jewish values that nourish the soul and galvanize communities, and we teach our students to bring their values out into the world.

And so I suggested to the father to remind his son of this essential YU lesson. In the Torah, the same Hebrew word that means prayer also means work (Genesis 24:63), for serving God is not only when we pray and study holy texts, but it is also the hours working at Goldman Sachs. We do not simply study our values, we live our values.

And this is especially true today. When our students graduate and have access to all levels of influence and success, they have an opportunity to contribute to society and positively impact all those around them. This is truly a blessing worthy of our thanks.

Wishing each and every one of you a joyous new month and a Happy Thanksgiving,

Warmly,

Dr. Ari Berman



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