

My Dear Friends, Students and Colleagues,

It is with much delight that I welcome you back to our campuses as we begin this new academic year.

While every year carries much excitement as the students return to campus, I am particularly excited for the upcoming year, which will significantly advance our institutional momentum as the flagship Jewish university and actualize many of the successes in our Rise Up Campaign. Last year we publicly launched the Rise Up Campaign for \$613 million, and already we have seen a significant rise in philanthropy from our alumni, supporters and friends.

Campus Developments

You will notice some results of these successes on campus:

- New elevators for Brookdale Hall and Cardozo Law School
- New computer science and art labs on the Beren Campus
- New cyberspaces for the Katz School
- A new Bloomberg Lab for our business school
- Renovations in the study hall (beit midrash) on the Wilf Campus
- The start of a complete renovation of Furst Hall as we transform it into the Belz Building

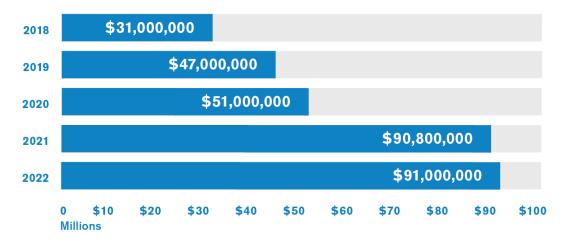


Scholarships

The most direct way the Campaign impacts our students is through scholarships. Our philanthropic partners believe in our students' futures and have donated in large numbers towards subsidizing your education. Many of you have already experienced this benefit in recent scholarship packages. Some of you have been selected as fellows in our new scholarship programs that have launched this fall, including:

- The Leadership Scholars
- The Medical Leaders Scholars
- The Sacks Scholars for Ethics and Entrepreneurship

Philanthropy Rises: New cash and commitments, which includes cash donations, multi-year pledges and estate gifts.



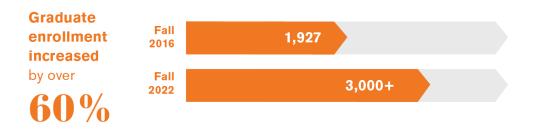
New Programs

As the Campaign continues to unfold, new impactful programs will be announced in the months ahead, but already we have felt the significant effect of the expanded Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought, the new Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks—Herenstein Center for Values and Leadership, the Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Shevet Glaubach Center for Career Strategy and Professional Development. In fact, thanks to the work of our new Shevet Glaubach Center, 95.5% of our undergraduate students are employed or have been admitted into graduate and professional schools within six months after their graduation.

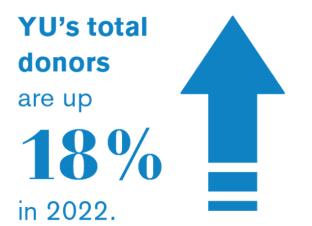
We have also launched a number of additional programs in Israel to further expand our YU-Israel superhighway. I am delighted to welcome our undergraduate students to our Jerusalem campus for our first-ever semester abroad program, as well as our new graduate students in Israel, including those who will be working in our new Wurzweiler Jerusalem social work clinic.

Facts and Figures

Our rankings continue to rise as well. As the #68th ranked National University in the country (#3 in New York City), we are pleased to see more of our new programs draw national recognition. The Katz School for Science and Health's online cybersecurity master's program, for example, was recently ranked #2 in the United States by *Fortune* magazine. In fact, our graduate school enrollment is up 60% over the last six years as we have developed 25 new graduate degree programs in the latest and most in-demand fields.



Our undergraduate campuses are booming, too, with a 10% enrollment increase over last year. Students from across our feeder schools are showing with their feet that YU is the best place to study for those who are serious about their Torah, aspirational in their academics and interested in a well-rounded student life experience. Our undergraduate experience is renowned for its individualized attention. In no other higher education institute in the world can students receive direct and personal guidance from some of the greatest rabbinic scholars in our generation, top-tier professors in their academic disciplines and career guidance professionals with an extensive alumni and friends network ready to lend their support.



Undergraduate enrollment is set to rise significantly in Fall 2022 with an over



10% increase in new students from Fall 2021.

New Hires and Promotions

Our continued growth and academic excellence has attracted highly accomplished professors to our university family, and I am proud to welcome over 30 new faculty members across our schools. I would also like to welcome Ukrainian professor Dmytro Vovk, an award-winning expert on religious freedom who will be teaching as a visiting professor at the Cardozo School of Law.







New faculty include Professor Mindy Garfinkel (Katz), Professor Dmytro Vovk (Cardozo) and Rabbi Shay Schachter (Stern College).

I am also pleased to announce new hires for our senior leadership. After years of service in our Business Affairs division, Michael Schreiber has assumed the position of CFO, continuing to advance our trajectory of growth towards a balanced budget even during this challenging inflationary period. We also welcome Patrick Gallagher as Vice President of Administrative Services, overseeing IT, HR and Facilities. Patrick brings a wealth of experience and perspective to this essential role, and we are excited for him to join the senior team. Finally, I am delighted to share the news that we have brought back Dr. Danielle Wozniak to YU. Danielle is an educational visionary, and in the

increasingly interconnected world of higher education, she will help expand our programs as Vice President of Global Strategy and Business Development.

In accordance with our growth, Student Life has been further developed as well. Vice Provost Dr. Chaim Nissel is developing a new program for graduate school student life, while Dr. Sara Asher has been promoted to the Interim Dean of the Office of Student Life, already adding her fresh, creative spark to working with our undergraduate student leaders. We continue to focus on the importance of mental health issues on campus, and are grateful that Dr. Yael Muskat will now serve in a position new to the university—Dean of Mental Health and Wellness—to highlight that student well-being is the North Star of our work.

Core Torah Values

Bringing all this together is the work we are doing to further articulate and embody our core Torah values. Yeshiva University stands for something. It is not like any other university in the world. What differentiates us is that we are the bearers of a multi-millennial tradition with a powerful set of values that imbues us with purpose and mission. It is our aspiration that everyone in our project—rabbis, educators, administrators, security guards, office workers, maintenance staff and, of course, our students—is impacted by and blessed through these values.

Much work has been done to advance this goal:

- We held our first Values Conference last spring for over 100 members of our YU community.
- We are scheduling public and internal lectures and conversations on our values throughout the new academic year.
- I recently completed the draft of a <u>book</u> and <u>podcast</u> that articulates our educational philosophy, *A Life of Faith, Meaning and Purpose: Nineteen Letters to Our Students*. The book will be distributed to all incoming first year students and will be available for the public in 2023.
- We have framed freshman orientation around our core Torah values.
- Our values are visible. You can see them articulated in signage all over our campuses.

The feedback and input from our conference, as well as multiple other meetings, are shaping our initiative to better distill and communicate our values. Over the course of this year, you will see and experience the beginnings of this effort. I invite all of you to become a partner and join in helping our Yeshiva University community reach new heights, as we work together to move YU forward into its next great era.

My warmest regards and best wishes for an amazing year ahead,

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman President, Yeshiva University

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