



From the Dean's Desk

Sy Syms Comes to Africa (Virtually)

Three years ago, the president of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, declared that one of the four pillars of the university's future emphasis should be **Entrepreneurship & Innovation**. (The other pillars are Values & Leadership, Science & Technology, and Great Jobs & Impactful Careers.)

We have now built a [multi-pronged entrepreneurial ecosystem](#) within the University that provides our students with **practical experience in starting and growing companies** (e.g., [the YU Innovation Lab](#), the Innovation Lab courses within Sy Syms, the Israel Summer Internship Program, the Rensop Winter Trek) and **in evaluating and investing in startups** (e.g., our Venture Capital and Angel Investing course and the YU-affiliated [Maccabee Ventures Fund](#), where the students serve as the investors while being mentored by VC veterans and YU alumni Bruce Taragin and Moshe Bellows).

This year, though, we got a unique opportunity to extend this pillar **far beyond the walls of YU**—to a college in Africa. To see more about this, please keep reading below.

Dr. Noam Wasserman
Dean

A Request from Rwanda

On a regular basis, we get inquiries from other universities and entrepreneurial entities who want to learn from what we have developed or even explore collaborations. Perhaps the most interesting of those inquiries this year was from **Davis College in Rwanda**.

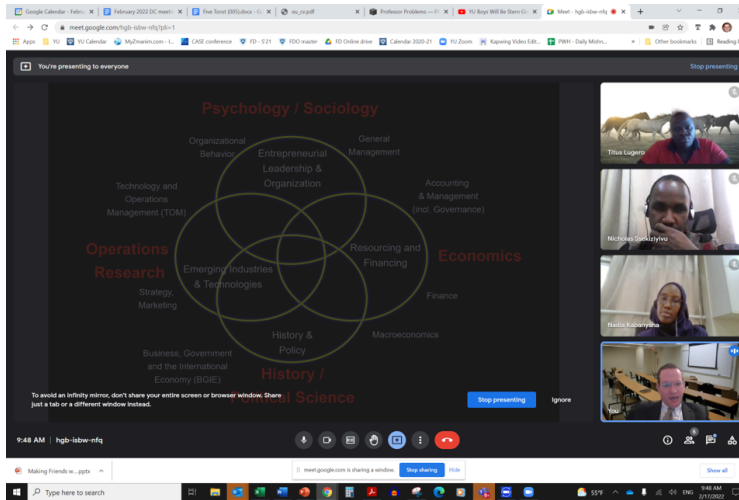
[Davis College](#) was created in 2009 as an institute for women's leadership and career development. In 2020, it became a co-ed college that grants diplomas to hundreds of men and women each year. Their largest major is Business Management & Entrepreneurship.

Early this year, Davis College reached out to me through the [Make It Real Foundation](#) (MIRF), whose CEO is a great friend of YU named [Isaac Wolman](#). (MIRF is also a client of this summer's [YU Consulting Force](#), employing two Consulting Force interns who are helping them develop a career mentorship program for refugees.)

Davis College's requests: Could I help their faculty think systematically about curriculum design, and could I do a model "Founder's Dilemmas" session with some of their students?

The answer: Of course!

Sessions with Faculty and Students



Dean Wasserman's February 2022 session with entrepreneurship faculty from Davis College.

In February, I did a session with their **entrepreneurship faculty**. We discussed, among other topics:

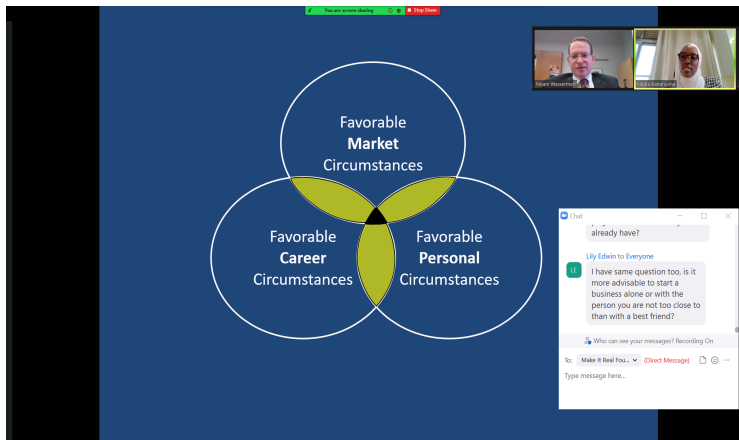
- The three core building blocks of an entrepreneurship curriculum.
- The best student-centered teaching methods to convey each of those building blocks (including tapping the Talmud for insights from R' Chanina's student-centric teaching approach in Taanit 7a).
- How the faculty should think about their own career development, knitting together their research and teaching into a powerful reinforcing system.

This was followed a month later by a Founder's Dilemmas session with a **section of entrepreneurship students**. We delved into:

- The biggest reason for failure among high-potential startups
- Preparing Yourself to Found (the topic of the [first episode in the new podcast I am co-hosting with Charlie Harary](#))
- The most important early dilemmas faced by founding teams—the 3Rs of Relationship dilemmas, Roles and Decision Making dilemmas, and Rewards dilemmas.

In the Q&A period afterward, the students' seriousness about founding came through in their questions about their current co-founder decisions and about how to build the strongest pre-founding foundation for their upcoming careers.

But the overarching message was: **Yeshiva University is here to help you**, even if you are continents and oceans away from New York City.



March 2022 session with entrepreneurship students from Davis College.

Update: "Founder's Dilemmas" Podcast

To mark the 10th anniversary of the publishing of my bestseller, *The Founder's Dilemmas*, we have launched a podcast that I **co-host with Charlie Harary**, famed motivational speaker, investor, advisor, and business executive. We tap our entrepreneurial experiences, my data on 10,000 founders, case studies on dozens of founders, and insights from the Torah and Talmud to provide a roadmap for entrepreneurs and lessons that can be applied even outside startups.

The audio episodes can be found on the **major podcasting platforms**, including [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#), [Google](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Amazon](#).

Video versions of the episodes are also posted on **YouTube** and to date include:

- [Preparing Yourself to Found](#)
- [Relationship Problems](#)
- [Relationship Solutions](#)