



From the Dean's Desk

Graduation Edition

Mazel tov to all of our Class of 2020 graduates!

This week's parsha, B'haalotcha, opens with Hashem instructing Aharon (through Moshe) to light the candles of the menorah. However, instead of using the usual word for "light" (l'hadlik), the Torah uses "b'haalotcha," which literally means to lift up. Rashi explains that there was a stair in front of the menorah, and Aharon climbed that stair to lift himself up to accomplish his mission. The Torah immediately tells us, "Va'yaas kein" (he did so): Aharon stepped up and carried out his important task of bringing light to the mishkan.

Over the last four years, YU has helped you develop the "stair" that will be your foundation for the rest of your life. In your Torah studies, your Mada studies, and the way in which you have learned to bring both together, you have developed the skills, the mindset, and the values needed to succeed in every endeavor. Please make sure to use that stair as Aharon did, to reach your potential, accomplish your mission, and bring light to a world sorely in need of it! We look forward to celebrating with you again when we can declare about you, "Va'yaas kein."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noam".

Dr. Noam Wasserman
Dean

Degrees and Graduation Awards

This Sunday, Yeshiva University will be awarding 202 Bachelor of Science degrees to our undergraduate Sy Syms students. It's been wonderful to get to know many of them during my first year as dean, whether through hallway conversations, office meetings, Chat With the Dean sessions, schmoozing during timeouts of a YU Macs basketball game, or interacting during Night Seder. The enthusiasm and talents of our students never cease to amaze me, and bode well for the impact that they will have in the coming years and decades on their own careers, their families, and their communities.

May 26th was supposed to be YU's original in-person graduation day. Instead, we held an online Graduation Awards Ceremony at which we presented the awards and heard from each of the award winners. Below is a video of my remarks to close the Ceremony, followed by a listing of the awards.

(The Ceremony was the week of Parshat Naso and the 48th day of the Omer count. The video includes my closing remarks based on the significance of that day. Just before my remarks, we had a remembrance of our late faculty member, Prof. Bob Tufts, with his wife Suzanne and his daughter Abigail.)

Video

As we announced to everyone in November, in the Fall [we re-examined our school-wide graduation awards](#), broadened the award criteria to include other important criteria besides GPA, and designed a structured process for evaluating candidates for the awards. The criteria now include how challenging the academic path has been (e.g., dual majoring or major+minor, Honors courses), substantive leadership roles in extracurricular activities, and representing the values of the school and university.

The result is the graduation awards listed below.

The following are this year's academic-excellence awards:

- Dean Harold Nierenberg Valedictorian Award: **Shayna Doretsky**
- Dean Harold Nierenberg Valedictorian Award: **Yona Rom**
- Bernard Brown Salutatorian Award: **Rachel Green**
- Bernard Brown Salutatorian Award: **Jakob Deutsch**
- Dr. Joseph Kerzner Award for Outstanding Achievement in Accounting: **Joshua Hecht**
- Harry R. Mancher Award for Excellence in Accounting: **Li-El Avraham**
- Henry Brout Award for Superior Scholarship in Accounting: **Ephraim Benoff**
- Joseph Herbst Award for Excellence in Accounting: **Marnina Daniels**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Business Intelligence and Marketing Analytics: **Eve Bessaleli**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Business Intelligence and Marketing Analytics: **Leora Feder**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Finance: **Rebecca Schwartz**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Finance: **Daniel Ferber**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Management: **Chaya-Bracha Walkenfeld**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Management: **Yoav Deutsch**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Marketing: **Sigal Melnik**
- Dean's Award for Scholastic Achievement in Marketing: **Naftali Ostreicher**

We are also thrilled to announce the winners of the **Dean's Award for Service & Character**:

- Alberto Benhamu
- Michal Essebag
- Miriam Schloss
- Sarah Torgueman
- Tyler Hod
- Yehonatan Broth
- Zak Benarroch

In addition, the following student leaders received the **Dean's Hakarat Hatov Award to the Student Council President**:

- Chayim Mahgerefteh
- Miriam Schloss

Please join me in wishing a *mazel tov* and a *yasher koach* to all of our students, their parents and families!