

From the Dean's Desk

From: symsfac-bounces@lists.yu.edu <symsfac-bounces@lists.yu.edu> **On Behalf Of** Dr. Noam Wasserman, Dean
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:01 AM
To: YUMailingList_symsfac <symsfac@lists.yu.edu>
Subject: [Symsfac] From the Dean's Desk



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Over the last three months, I have been working with the faculty, other YU Deans, and supporters of the school to identify priorities in each of three key stages of life: **the undergraduate program**, **the graduate program**, and **post-graduation continuing education**, each of which I cover in its own section below. Over the summer, we made important inroads in each of these three stages and will continue to do so over the coming year.

I also encourage you to read about the **fantastic new faculty** working with us now. I am sure you will be impressed, as am I.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noam", with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Noam Wasserman

Dean

Undergraduate Highlights

Within the undergraduate program, many of the priorities emerged from my first-week “Chat with the Dean” roundtables that I conducted with students first at Beren and then at Wilf. (Those chats were so informative that I plan to continue holding them every semester!)

Most centrally, we are working on **strengthening the teaching** across the board. My first Thursday as Dean, I taught a full-day Teaching Workshop to the faculty based on the same “Teach the Teacher” sessions that I conducted for more than a decade at Harvard and USC and found our faculty to be delightfully receptive to experimenting with adding more experiential and practice-oriented elements to their courses. For instance, professors will be tapping case studies and role-plays more often, augmenting their discussion planning with pre-class polls and seating charts and strengthening the important-and-new takeaways they drive home in class.

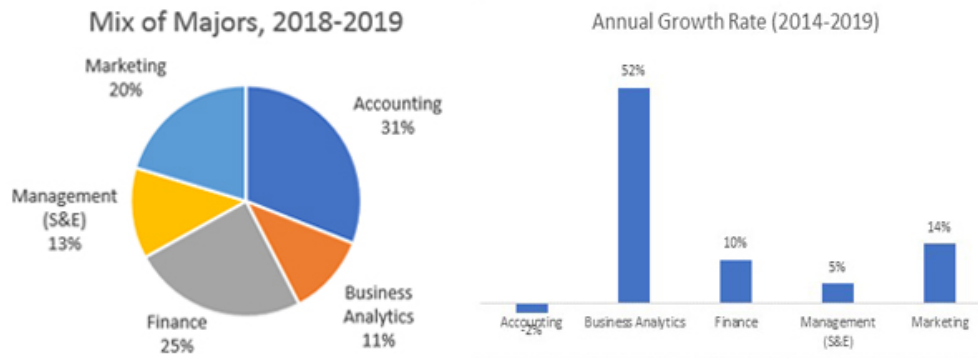


Teaching the faculty

With the practical and experiential elements we’re starting to add to the curriculum, we are prioritizing developing **Day 1 Job Readiness** in our students. This will enable them to impress employers during the job search and again when they arrive at work, ready to be immediate contributors.

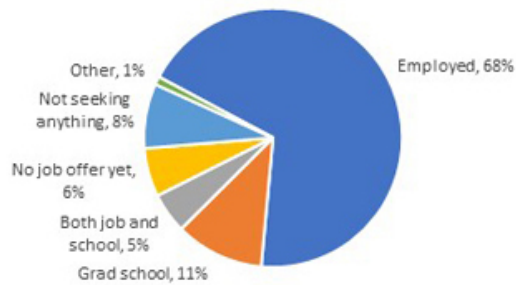
With the **Honors program**, we tapped student input to create a wish list of what to build within the Honors program and then brought in the first two multi-year donations to the program to help build it. Those resources will enable us to increase the Honors course offerings by at least 40% starting next semester, with

I also want to share with you some metrics about our majors. Although Accounting is still the largest major, with Finance in second place, by far the fastest-growing major is Business Analytics.



On the job market, Syms students have also achieved increasing success.

94% of Graduating Undergrads Had Locked Down Their Next Step at the End of the Year



Average Starting Salary Increased by 17% Last Year



Graduate Highlights

A highlight of the summer was the [EMBA program's trip to Israel](#), led by the EMBA program's wonderful director Prof. Mark Finkel. The students experienced firsthand the Startup Nation and explored innovation with a wide variety of companies, such as Mobileye, Laliway (a fitness app), UpCommunity (manufactures residential pods for dense urban areas), SIT (innovation consultancy) and Bank Leumi.



EMBA students with Mois Navon (second from right), a founding engineer of Mobileye

Over the coming year, we are redesigning the existing graduate programs to be more cohesive, including sharing a common core of courses and introducing practice-oriented capstones for each program.

We are also getting ready to launch a new MS in Real Estate program in the Fall of 2020, alongside a more-general MS in Finance program. More details on both programs will be coming in a future newsletter.

Post-Graduation

For people who have already graduated college, we launched the first of our continuing-education efforts: my **full-day Founder Bootcamp** where 30 early-stage founders came to the YU Innovation Lab to learn about the most important early decisions that tend to hurt founding teams. The Bootcamp was followed by an evening shiur from a RIETS Rosh Yeshiva (Madda during the day, Torah during the evening!).



The Founder Bootcamp

Upcoming bootcamps include one for Angel Investors and another for people who want to strengthen the governance and leadership of our non-profit organizations (e.g., shuls, schools and chesed organizations).

Faculty Highlights

Our faculty are the core of all of these efforts, creating knowledge through their research and disseminating knowledge through their teaching. Each issue, we will feature various aspects of the faculty and their work, including papers they are publishing, new research results, and presentations they are making in the press and in academia.

This issue, we feature our newest faculty members. We had seven new faculty join us this year, including two full-time faculty and five adjuncts. Those very impressive faculty include:

Dr. Abram Poczter, former dean of the School of Management at New York Institute of Technology, was a recipient of the Distinguished SOM Faculty Teaching Award and has a PhD and MPhil in Management from the Graduate Business School at Columbia University. He is teaching in the EMBA program.

Barry Sklar, Managing Director at Goldman Sachs, where he is the U.S. Head of Structured Investing. He has law degrees from Columbia and New York University and has bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from Columbia

University. He is teaching Taxation of Financial Instruments in the MS in Taxation program.

Daniel Fischer, the U.S. Brand Manager of Coppertone (Suncare) at Bayer Healthcare. A YU graduate, he also has an MBA from Rutgers Business School and an MS from the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Science. He is teaching Brand Management.

Gil Peleg, a doctoral student in the Faculty of Business and Management, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, in the field of Marketing, whose dissertation is waiting for final reviewers' reports. He is teaching Marketing.

Harry Balan, Senior Counsel at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, who was also Dean and Professor of Law at Touro Law Center. He has a long record of high-profile consulting projects with Fortune 500 companies and global organizations and is teaching Strategy.

Jonathan Gersch, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania who has taught at Baruch College and is teaching Statistics in our undergraduate program.

Yehuda Davis, who this fall will be receiving his PhD in Accounting from Rutgers Business School. He taught Accounting for Managers in the Executive MBA program at Rutgers Business School and is teaching Accounting to our undergrads.

Yosef Klein, a tax manager in the Banking and Capital Markets group at Deloitte who has an MBA in Finance from St. John's University and will be teaching in our Taxation program.