

New Faculty

At the start of the Fall 2025 semester, Yeshiva University welcomed eight new fulltime faculty members. **Mariana Duarte** (Biology) and **Jin Yang** (Chemistry and Biochemistry) join the faculty at Yeshiva College. At Stern College for Women, the faculty now includes **Evelyn Kolidas** (Psychology), **Olga Lavinda** (Chemistry and Biochemistry), and **Annette Penstein** (Jewish Studies). **Rebecca Chalmé** (Psychology), **Stephen Miller** (Mathematics), and **Alexandra Panzarelli** (Political Science) will be teaching at both campuses.

Research

Anderson Oliveira (Chemistry and Biochemistry), is the recipient of a major NSF RUI (National Science Foundation – Research in Undergraduate Institutions) award. He has received \$579,398 for his project titled “RUI: Harnessing Marine Bioluminescence: Discovery and Engineering of Calcium-Regulated Photoproteins from Siphonophores.” As he explains, “The NSF project focuses on newly discovered light-emitting proteins from bioluminescent marine organisms. Bioluminescence is light produced by living systems via an enzyme-catalyzed oxidation of a luminogenic substrate. The proteins we’re studying belong to a new group that glows in the presence of calcium (Ca^{2+}), a key signaling ion involved in neuronal activity, muscle contraction, and immune responses. Because of this property, these proteins can be engineered as sensitive probes to monitor calcium-related biological processes in real time. We’re combining biochemical and structural studies with protein engineering to elucidate their mechanisms and develop practical tools for biological imaging.” For more on this work, visit [Oliveira Lab](#)



Activated light emission in The Oliveira Lab.

Irina Catrina (Chemistry and Biochemistry), **Ran Drori** (Chemistry and Biochemistry), **Anderson Oliveira** (Chemistry and Biochemistry), **Josefa Steinhauer** (Biology), **Margarita Vigodner** (Biology), **Raji Viswanathan** (Chemistry and Biochemistry), **Fredy Zypman** (Physics) form the membership of the new Yeshiva University Protein Institute. As Drori writes, “We created YUPI during the spring of 2025, the goal

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was to create a brand name for research at YU. The most common research topic we agreed upon was the study of proteins in chemistry, biology and physics. The center was created with the following ideas in mind:

- Collaboration among faculty in research to improve productivity and introduce new ideas (for example, Prof. Zypman have published papers with Profs. Drori and Steinhauer during the last few years).
- Sharing teaching ideas from research of colleagues. Prof. Steinhauer demonstrated effective integration of research in her courses, and her knowledge base will be more effectively shared in the framework of the institute.
- Creating opportunities for students in research projects. Students from YC, Stern and Katz would be able to learn about the research in the institute, and directly contact the researchers.
- Optimization of shared equipment through collaboration in research projects. YUPI researchers will have strong communication, which will lead to better understanding of the capability and limitations of existing equipment in the lab.
- Identifying new funding opportunities designed for larger research centers or groups of researchers.
- Creating a sense of community amongst faculty and students through research, teaching and informal meetings. Students will have increased access to faculty from various departments through seminars and other activities of the institute.”

Paul Glassman (Art) serves as a team member of the Partnership on University Plagiarism Prevention (PUPP), an international research initiative. Most recently, along with five other team members, he evaluated research proposals for funding in the current academic year. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada funds the project.

Matt Miller (English) completed a draft of a new book manuscript, due at the University of Iowa Press, for the second volume of *Every Hour, Every Atom: A Collection of Walt Whitman's Early Notebooks and Fragments*. Miller is the lead editor on this volume, which collects Whitman's notebooks and manuscript fragments from the Civil War period until his death. This summer he worked with two student interns from Stern, Yita Khanin and Hadassah Reich, who were trained in how to transcribe handwritten documents into typographic transcriptions that show as many details as possible of Whitman's writing process. The summer before, Miller worked with Khanin and another student, Rivka Inger, who received paid internship thanks to help from the Shevet Glaubach Center. Khanin is also helping to co-write the introduction, and the students will all be thanked and acknowledged in the published volume.



Presentations

This summer **Mordechai Becher** was scholar in residence for Jewish tours of Croatia, Spain and Tunisia/Djerba.

Stephen Glicksman presented a poster at the 19th European Congress of Psychology in Paphos, Cyprus, July 1-4, 2025, on the topic of “Using moral theory to inform policy for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disorder.” He was also quoted in the *Tampa Bay Times* (September 12) in a story about Intellectual Disability and the death penalty titled, “Florida to execute Polk man whose lawyers say he’s mentally disabled.”

In August, **Shalom Holtz** (Bible) participated in the Wod Congress of Jewish Studies, where he spoke on “God’s Day in Court and the Exilic Experience of Law.” In September, he participated in a conference, organized by **Ari Mermelstein** (Bible) on Codification and Halakha, at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. The title of the lecture was, “Codification’s Educative Impulse: A View from a Point of Origin.”

Michelle Levine (Jewish Studies) has delivered community lectures for women in Kew Gardens Hills, Holliswood, and West Hempstead, NY, on the following biblical topics: “Redemption, Restoration, and Royalty in the Book of Ruth”; “Rachel Weeps for Her Children: Our Matriarch of Exile and Redemption”; and “Hannah’s Prayer: An Uplifting Message of Faith and Trust in God for the High Holidays.”

Seamus O’Malley (English) presented at a conference this July in Galway, Ireland (the International Association for the Study of Irish Literature) on the Jewish-Irish writer Hannah Berman. Born in Lithuania, Berman was the main English-language translator for the great Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem.



Philip Schofield, director of the Bentham Project, Bentham House, London

(Photo: Carrie Shanafelt)

Carrie Shanafelt (English) gave a talk, “Jeremy Bentham Meets the Unaccountability Machine,” at Bentham House in London on July 24. In September, she helped to host the annual Johnsonians dinner, held at Vassar College, an event to celebrate Samuel Johnson’s birthday. Shanafelt continues to chair the Columbia University Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture, which holds its first monthly lecture on Thursday, September 18.

On September 7, **Jacob Wisse** (Art History) gave a lecture on “The Artistic Legacy of the Hebrew Bible: The Binding of Isaac” to the Study Group Daled, a Jewish-themed discussion group that is attached to Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, in Montreal, and that was founded in 1955.

Marnin Young (Art History) will give a presentation on “Art, Autonomy, and the Avant-Garde,” as part of the Sacks-Herenstein Center Faculty Colloquium Series on Wednesday, November 5, from 12-1pm, Sky Café, 12th Floor, Belfer Hall.

Publications

Ran Drori (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and **Fredy Zypman** (Physics), with YU Graduate student Yitzhar Shalom published a paper, “Cooperative Ice Binding of Engineered Antifreeze Protein Produces Superior Activity,” in *The Journal of Physical Chemistry B* (August 15, 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpcc.5c03982>

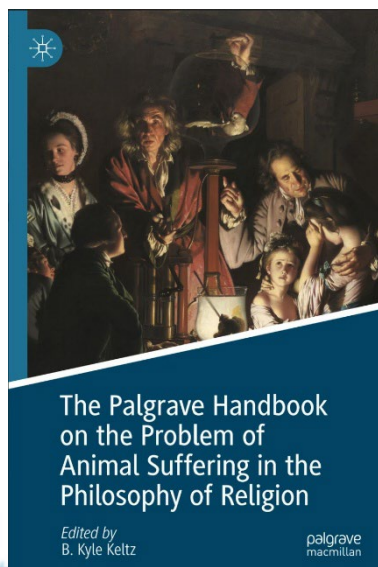
Shalom Holtz (Bible) published a chapter, “Maššartu, Mišmeret, and Duties in Temples: A Contextual Parallel,” in the volume *Jehu's Tribute: What Can Biblical Studies Offer Assyriology?*, edited by Jeffrey L. Cooley and Rannfrid I. Lasine Thelle (Penn State University Press, 2025), <https://doi.org/10.5325/jj.20753040.13>

Roni Rosenthal (Hebrew) published an article, “Can AI make Hitler cry? Exploring the use of AI in Holocaust education across four generations,” in *AI and Ethics* (2025), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-025-00816-3>



Mordechai Schiffman (Jewish Education) has a book forthcoming, called *The Torah of Character: Psychological Growth Through the Weekly Parsha* (Kodesh Press, 2025)

David Shatz (Philosophy) recently published four pieces: “Reason and The Ritual Commandments,” in *The Routledge Companion to Jewish Philosophy*, ed. Daniel Rynhold and Tyron Goldschmidt (Routledge, 2025); “Judaism and the Suffering of Nonhuman Animals,” in *The Palgrave Handbook on the Problem of Animal Suffering in the Philosophy of Religion*, ed. B. Kyle Keltz (Palgrave MacMillan, 2025); “A New Offering: Zechariah Haber’s Legacy” and brief note about Samuel Lebens, *Philosophy of Religion: The Basics*, both in traditiononline.org. Many more pieces are yet to come.



Jacob Wisse (Art History) published a review of the Jewish Museum’s recent exhibition and catalogue, “The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt (exhibition catalogue, Jewish Museum, New York and North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh; by Abigail Rapoport, with Michele L. Frederick; Yale University Press, 2025) in the October issue of *Commentary Magazine*.

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A review by **Marnin Young** (Art History) of André Dombrowski, *Monet's Minutes: Impressionism and the Industrialization of Time* (Yale University Press, 2023) appeared in the Spring issue of [*Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*](#).

Student research and achievements

On September 10, Shevet Glaubach Center and the Yeshiva College English Department hosted a panel featuring former English majors from YU. Participants included Rabbi Shalom Schlagman, Daniel Altaras, Mollie Sharfman, Dr. Tony Wexler, Joshua Redlich, and Binyamin Bixon.

The Biology and Chemistry Departments hosted an annual SCW poster competition where students presented their summer research projects. Here are a few photos from the event, which took place on September 15:



Judah Diament reports that the Computer Science Department has started a three-year project with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in which some very precocious YC Computer Science majors will be working with MSKCC researchers on using computer vision to detect and track tumors.

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Performances

Rebecca Cypess was invited to curate an eighteenth-century-style salon for the conference “Crafting Soundscapes: A Festival Celebrating Pianos in History and History in Pianos,” held at Cornell University in August 2025. The salon included Rebecca and two colleagues performing a French *proverbe dramatique*, leading the audience in musical dice games, and playing concertos on three fortepianos, as shown in this photo.



Daniel Beliafsky (Music) will give a performance and lecture on October 10 at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library in La Jolla, California. He will focus on works by Chopin, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, and Shostakovich. (Details [here](#)). The next day, he will perform at a fundraiser for the San Diego Opera. He also continues to produce educational videos for the San Diego Opera this season. Coming up are videos on Pagliacci, The Barber of Seville, and Carmen. Earlier videos on Salome and La Traviata can be found [here](#).



On June 2, at St John's in the Village, the Da Capo players performed the world premiere of *Medici Slot Machine*, a new work by **David Glaser** (Music). The piece, for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion, is inspired by the shadowboxes of Joseph Cornell. As Glaser explains, “one structural aspect of Cornell’s work, the use of repeating elements—an object, be it marbles, cork balls, or clay pipes—may appear multiple times in one box, and they also reappear in several different pieces, creating what I think of as analogous to the musical process of the *idée fixe*. More overtly than in my past music, I rely on repeated, short melodic/rhythmic motives.”

Field Trips

Paul Glassman (Art) took his students from his course on “The Language of Architecture,” to visit the Washington Memorial Arch, Congregation Ramath Orah, and the Cloisters Museum, as part of their exploration of ancient and medieval buildings and their architectural vocabularies.

Daniella Berman (Art History) led a group of students from her Stern course, “Color & Line,” on a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on September 14. In addition to seeing paintings in the galleries, they were able to go behind the scenes to see works in storage with David Pullins, the Jane Wrightsman Curator of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French, Italian and Spanish painting. One highlight was this pastel by Jean-Étienne Liotard, *Woman in Turkish Dress, Seated on a Sofa*, of 1751-52:



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