

YOF College and Career Guidance Initiatives Pave the Way to Success

Diane Chabbott

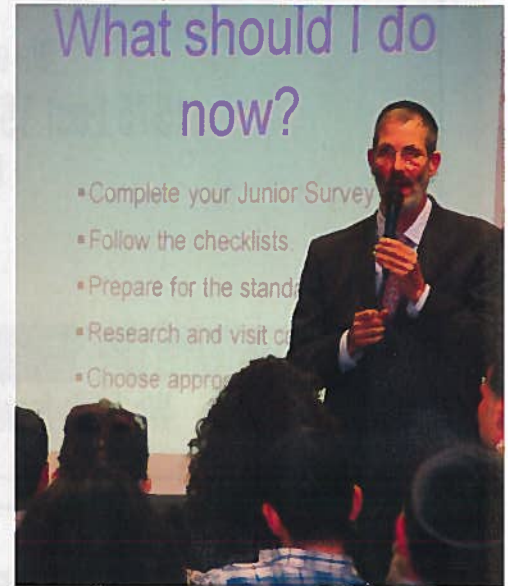
As the year's first round of college acceptance letters were received throughout the nation, many Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School students were accepted to their first-choice schools. Congratulations to our seniors on all of their efforts and accomplishments.

Senior Gabriel Bildirici, who will be going to NYU Stern School of Business, reflected on the JBHS motto, "Four Years for the Rest of Your Life." He said, "The skills and talents that I've developed in high school are critical for my success in the future. I am proud to say that Flatbush was a great place for me to grow in. I don't yet know what my career will be, but with all the opportunities offered at Flatbush I now have a better understanding of what I love and what I excel in."

Such insight is what the Yeshivah of Flatbush strives for. We care for our students and take steps to nurture their talents and interests.

This helps to develop confident, self-fulfilled individuals. Our Torah imbued atmosphere also teaches sensitivity to others and responsibility towards the world. Hence the vast numbers of YOF alumni in leadership positions in their communities and chosen professions.

A priority for Joel Braverman High School families is to find the right college, university or institution of learning in Israel for their children, and then gain admission. To this end, many new initiatives offer students and parents great support in navigating the application process. This past summer, college guidance counselors were



College Guidance Advisor Rabbi Yitzchok Rosenblum, speaking at Junior College Night

available in Brooklyn and in Deal to help juniors with early decision and early action applications, and outside consultants specializing in writing the college essay. Options for College received high ratings from the students who met with them.

Senior Bert Chabot felt the sessions were "the best by far." One of his fascinating essays discussed how, in reading "Don Quixote," he recognized a story that he had previously read in the Gemara. Although his essay raised the question of Cervantes' possible Jewish roots, it was mostly about Bert's seeking and building a bridge between his religious Talmudic side and his secular side—both precious to him. Bert has been accepted to Cornell University. He wants to major in English and become a doctor.



YOF interns at Monmouth Medical Center: Isaac Dayan, Abie Tawil, Michael Franco and Jack Grazi with the coordinator of that unit

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Rachel Erani was accepted to the University of Pennsylvania. She commented on the Yeshivah's 4 year college guidance plan, which she followed carefully. "Two things that led to my success in the college process were my transcript and my essays. I worked really hard to get the highest grades possible and joined the most interesting, challenging courses. I think that helped separate me from other applicants. The key factor in college essay writing is getting a few good people who you trust to help with the writing process. The people who helped me tremendously were my college guidance counselor Ms. Natov, my family members, and my English teacher Ms. Bloom. They each helped me reveal myself in my writing.

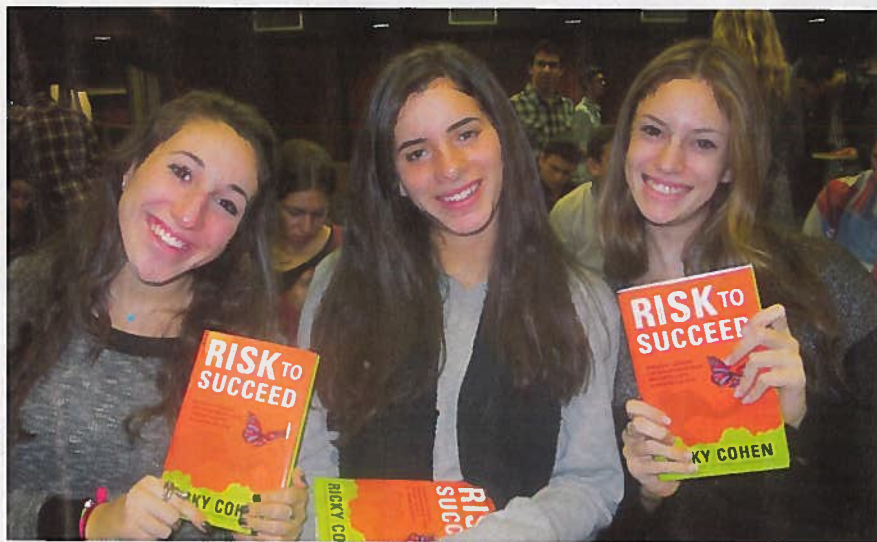
Shelly Hafif, accepted to Barnard College, concurred. "It's the whole package," she said. "I am actively involved in extra-curricular activities, did a law internship, have good grades/scores and took rigorous courses. But many kids have these qualities as well. What makes you stand out is your college essay and writing."

The YOF Pathfinders Internship Program, under the direction of Ms. Shifra Hanon, is a natural complement to college guidance. It offers an exciting way for students to enhance their individual portfolios and resumes while still in high school. Ms. Hanon researches and evaluates many internship opportunities, considering individual students' talents and dreams. These meaningful internships give YOF students an opportunity to meet industry professionals, doctors, lawyers, and leaders in business. They are making new connections,

building a foundation 'network' of professionals and are proving their ability to function in the work place. Students have worked at the

under a microscope in the histopathology lab."

Visiting a college is the best way to get to know it and decide if it's



At senior seminar, motivational speaker Ricky Cohen discussed strategies for success in work and life, detailed in his book

Museum of Jewish Heritage, CBS Interactive Sports, The Technology Incubating Company, Beth Israel Kings Highway Hospital, News Media Anti-Israel Media Watch group, the Center for Kosher Culinary Arts, the New York Aquarium and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

Junior Isaac Dayan interned at Monmouth Medical Center. He said, "I got the feel of being a doctor. I was introduced to a broad array of medical fields. Doctors spoke to us about what they do and let us observe them at work. In addition, we had some hands-on experiences: We performed virtual operations using the Da Vinci robot, an expensive piece of modern technology, and looked at genes and chromosomes

for you. YOF College Guidance has brought students on visits to local colleges including Columbia University, Baruch College, Parsons School for Design, FIT and Marymount Manhattan College. In August, a group of seniors and college guidance counselors took an overnight trip to Binghamton University, Ithaca College and Cornell University. This spring, they'll return to Columbia, plus take a full day bus trip to Princeton and Rutgers University.

The expanded YOF College Guidance Department provides opportunities for students to find their niche, showcase their talents, and effectively plan their college application strategies. We look forward to hearing more good college

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Participation in extracurricular activities—sports, the arts, saving the environment—helps students discover their talents and passions, and enhances college applications

news from Yeshivah of Flatbush students as the year progresses.

For information about the Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School or to schedule a visit, call (718) 377-1100, ext. 170/180 or email yofadmissions@flatbush.org. Learn more at www.flatbush.org, and www.myflatbush-life.com. Follow us on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

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