



# Woodmont College

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## Message from the Executive Vice President

Dear Students,

At Woodmont College, we believe that education thrives on a collaborative partnership between students, faculty members, and administrators. Our commitment to supporting you in every possible way as you pursue your professional and academic goals, remains unwavering. As the semester progresses, let's continue shaping our vision of where we will take Woodmont together.

Especially during times of struggle and crisis, the Jewish people stand united in our shared commitment to Torah values, caring for each other and striving for growth as Torah Jews.

I wish all of you a *chag kosher v'sameach* and look forward to a continued successful year ahead - brimming with new possibilities, opportunities, growth, and a genuine sense of belonging.

May we experience yeshuos on a personal and communal level during this season of *geulah*.

Sincerely,

**Tzipora Klaver**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**Woodmont College**

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## Faculty Spotlight

### **Woodmont College Interviews Professor Arielle Arieli**

Professor Arieli has spent the past 14 years teaching in seminaries in Israel, while guiding students to achieve their goals on their individual paths. Originally from Queens, NY, Professor Arieli earned her BA in Judaic Studies with a minor in Computer Science from Stern College for Women and her MA in Jewish Secondary Education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education & Administration. Pursuing her love of teaching, Professor Arieli taught in HALB, HANC, and Ateret in Queens College before making aliyah. She enjoys spending her summers teaching on NCSY's Michlelet program. Professor Arieli values her relationships with students created in and out of the classroom. She and her family live in Ramat Beit Shemesh.

- **Tell us a little bit about your background and your life.**

I grew up in Queens, NY. I graduated from SKA High School and then spent 1.5 years at Michlalah Seminary in Israel. After I got back to the US, I earned my BA at Stern College and then went on to earn my masters in Jewish Education at Azrieli Graduate School.

- **What got you interested in your chosen field?**

I love learning and working with people. My parents raised me to be involved in numerous informal learning and chesed opportunities. From a young age, my father taught me how to formulate and deliver a Dvar Torah in public. Later in life, I explored different fields, which is why I minored in Computer Science. But, my love of teaching and helping people to understand Hashem's Torah, pulled me to pursue my degree in Jewish Education.

- **Did you attend a college or study program? If yes, which one and why did you choose that specific program?**

I chose to attend Stern College and Azrieli Graduate School because it offered me the opportunity to further my Torah learning while pursuing a degree. I also wanted to be in a good environment which I felt was a key factor in continuing my growth process. In addition, I was able to earn graduate credits while earning my undergraduate degree which saved me both time and money.

- **Do you think your degree was instrumental in finding a job and did it**

## **impact the level of your salary?**

Yes, my masters helped me qualify to become an instructor at Woodmont College. Many of the jobs that I applied for were impressed that I had both a BA and MA in my chosen field. In Israel, the Misrad Hachinuch (the equivalent of the Board of Education in the US), raises your salary based on the level of your education. If I was teaching at a school affiliated with the Misrad Hachinuch, my salary would definitely be higher than a teacher who only had an undergraduate degree.

- **Describe a day in your life. How do you straddle the work/life balance?**

B”H I am a busy wife and mother who is constantly striving to successfully balance work/life. I find that because I love what I do, my work actually helps me grow as an individual and enables me to be a better person and contribute more to my home. A few more hours in the day would be helpful too :)

- **Could you recommend some tips and successful strategies for successful online learning?**

A. Schedule a specific time in your day for online learning.

To be successful, you can't just squeeze in online learning when it works out for you. Allocate time for it and keep to a realistic schedule.

B. Pace yourself

If you have to complete a course by a certain deadline, pace yourself accordingly. Factor some time in for unexpected delays such as computer glitches or other issues.

C. Create a conducive environment for online study.

Eliminate all distractions and tell your family and friends not to disturb you during your study time.

- **What challenges did you face when you first started teaching?**

It took some time to learn how to strike the right equilibrium between classroom management and forming close relationships with my students.

- **What advice would you offer for those entering the education field?**

A. Learn as much as you can from experienced teachers. Ask if they can share materials and good advice with you.

B. The Torah is timeless, but the packaging has to be updated constantly. It is very important to give over your lessons in a way that the students can relate to it.

C. Each student is a unique individual who has so much inherent good. Try to always recognize and preserve the kavod of each student when interacting with them.

- **What lessons have you learned?**

There are too many to list!! I always daven before I begin teaching that Hashem should put the right words in my mouth to give over His Torah correctly and effectively.



## Student & Alumni Spotlight

### **Woodmont College Interviews Shoshana Rich Graduate, Feb. 2022, BS Computer Programming & Technology**

- **What inspired you to become a developer and what do you enjoy most about it?**

I chose to pursue a degree in computer programming, because practically speaking, the schooling is relatively short, job options are broad and offer high salaries, and remote work is possible. I'm a logical thinker and I always enjoyed math and problem solving. In high school, I took an engineering course and enjoyed it very much. After that, it was a natural choice to pursue a career in tech.

- **Why did you ultimately choose Woodmont College to pursue your degree?**

I'm from Dallas, TX where there aren't really any frum college options. I wanted to complete my degree in a Jewish environment. At that time, Woodmont was the only 100% online college that offered a bachelor's degree in computer programming in line with my Jewish values.

- **What hard skills (languages) and soft skills have you found most important in the workplace?**

I studied Python at Woodmont, and that is actually the computer language I use at my job. As a software engineer, you need to be able to collaborate well with others. It's essential to have good communication skills to share ideas, problems and solutions effectively with team members.

- **Tell us about a tech project you've worked on that you found both challenging and gratifying.**

We had to do a final project in the Python course I took at Woodmont. I built a self-checkout system. Although it wasn't very complex, I learned a lot as I struggled to fulfill the requirements and fix bugs on my own. It was very satisfying when I was ultimately able to figure it all out.

- **In what way do you feel that completing a degree online helped prepare you for the workplace?**

Since I was in an online program, I had to learn a lot on my own. This trained me to be resourceful, which helps significantly in the workplace,

especially in the tech field.

- **What key takeaways and experiences from the Woodmont College tech program have you found to be the most helpful for you in your career path?**

Learning to figure out information on my own, working hard to find solutions, and meeting deadlines, are all skills that have really helped me on the job.

- **What advice would you give current students at Woodmont just starting or completing their degree?**

For those just starting out, I would say- make an effort to learn all of the information well by watching the videos and completing the assignments on time. It's also very important to start building a portfolio early on, so that you have something to show future employers.

If you are completing your degree, in the beginning, it might be difficult to break into the field. Don't give up. I got an internship and ultimately my job, when a friend working for the company, referred me. You never know who might be the right shaliach!. Keep doing your hishtadlus and Hashem will take care of the rest.



## **A Three -Step Formula to Snagging your Dream Job- Part II**

*By Tzvi Broker, Career Counselor at Woodmont College*

### **STEP 2 (CONT.) -Checklist for Creating a Compelling Resume:**

- Use Strong Action Verbs - Avoid general overused words that don't add much such as 'Responsible for'. Examples of strong action verbs include "Accelerated, Integrated, Optimized.."
- Context of Success - Be specific whenever the context of what you did can help you. For example, saying you managed a team of 10 employees says a lot more than 'managing a team'

● Show Results - Show what impact your contribution made to the company.

Examples can

include an increase in revenue or levels of customer satisfaction, optimizing a process,

development of a new product or saving money. Whenever possible, use numbers or %'s.

● Remember: The goal of your resume is not to get the job; it is to make your potential employer want to meet you. It's a lot easier to sell yourself when you're able to meet face-to-face. Leaving unnecessary information off your resume will help keep it to the accepted standard of 1 page unless you have 10+ years of experience or are applying for a senior position. Always ask: is there a greater chance this information can help or hurt me?

### **STEP 3 - Effective Networking & Interview Strategies**

Having a concise storyline of how you became the current version of your successful self (If you don't see yourself this way, don't expect anyone else to!) is the key to becoming a person people want to partner with.

The key to effective networking is driving your conversation about who you are. People are intrigued by those who are passionate about what they do (especially when it aligns with what they are passionate about!). Your networking message should be that you're looking to connect with others who are passionate about the same thing. This type of interaction will leave the other brainstorming on how they can connect you with others who share a similar vision. These are the contacts that will help you most to find the type of job opportunities that you are looking for.

The interview is the climax of sharing your story of how your previous experiences have set you up for this next opportunity. With over 70% of employees not engaged in their work, you can be sure that HR is looking for people who see the job aligned with their own professional identity and mission.

Use these questions to design your story:

● What drives me in the work I do (My natural interest and passion for....) ?

● How have my previous work experiences given me the opportunities to excel in bringing out what I am passionate about or my best skills in the workplace? (In my previous roles, I was able to actualize my passion and use my best talents by....)

● What about this company's mission and the specific job caught my eye?

● What am I looking for in this job that makes me want to invest my next chapter of my success story here?

**Successful job hunting happens when we shift from being a job seeker to an opportunity seeker.**

When you believe in yourself and convey it powerfully, the type of boss that you

want to work for will recognize that you are an asset that he/she can't afford to turn down.

*Tzvi Broker is a Career Coach with 10 years of experience providing career services to individuals, colleges, and organizations within the Jewish community. He runs workshops on career development and work engagement for companies, conferences, organizations, and schools worldwide. Tzvi's goal as Career Counselor for Woodmont College is to transition students from 'education' into the workforce through strategic guidance on building a resume, LinkedIn profile and the mindset needed to find their next opportunity.*

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## News and Updates

- Our first webinar in conjunction with New Leaf Therapy, open to students and alumni, took place in Dec. 2023. Woodmont hosted an informative online workshop exploring tools and techniques on how to stay focused and on track even in difficult times.
  - An upcoming webinar on time management and productivity by Time Management Coach, Avi Friedman, is in the works. Stay tuned for updates!
  - We're happy to announce the launch of our Alumni Google Group where Woodmont graduates can look forward to updates on alumni news, webinar invitations, job postings, and relevant discussions related to career advancement and professional growth. Please share career opportunities with our group so we can help each other network and find jobs.
  - Woodmont warmly welcomes a new cohort of graduate students to our groundbreaking MA in STEM Education Masters Program which began Jan. 2024.
  - New alumni webpage coming soon!
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## Scholarships

*In addition to the scholarships that Woodmont College offers, there may be external scholarship opportunities you may qualify for. Note that these scholarships are not managed by Woodmont. Please contact the specific organizations directly if you have questions.*

Name	Amount	Deadline
<a href="#"><u>Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award</u></a>	Varies	Check website for application availability expected in Aug. (For low income female US undergraduate students)
<a href="#"><u>Patsy Takemoto Mink Education Support Foundation</u></a>	\$5000	Check website for new application availability expected to open in May 2024 (For low income female students)
<a href="#"><u>AMBUCS</u></a>	Up to \$1500	Deadline, May 2024. (For graduate students pursuing a career in therapy)
<a href="#"><u>HFLS/UJA Scholarships</u></a>	Varies	Check website, Applications open April 1. (For NY undergraduate and graduate students.)

### **We love hearing from our Students & Alumni!**

We invite you to share any suggestions, updates or accomplishments. If there's a topic you'd like to see covered in a future issue or if you'd like to be interviewed for our Student & Alumni Spotlight Column, please reach out to us at: [alumni@woodmontcollege.edu](mailto:alumni@woodmontcollege.edu)



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ACCREDITED COLLEGE • QUALITY EDUCATION • TORAH VALUES  
FLEXIBLE • COMPLETE DEGREE PROGRAMS • SCHOLARSHIPS  
SUPPORTIVE STAFF • 100% ONLINE • AFFORDABLE

