



State permits Yale New Haven Health System to acquire Prospect hospitals

BY GIRI VISWANATHAN, ADAM MCPHAIL,
ASUKA KODA AND ALEXANDRA
MARTINEZ-GARCIA
SCITECH EDITORS AND STAFF REPORTERS

The state signaled its support for Yale New Haven Health Systems’ acquisition of three Connecticut-based hospitals owned by Prospect Medical Holdings on Wednesday, offering a first step toward a long-awaited deal to bail out the hospitals.

The Connecticut Office of Health Strategy signed off on YNHHS’s certificate of need, or CON, application to buy Waterbury Hospital, Rockville General

Hospital and Manchester Memorial Hospital from Prospect Medical Holdings. Negotiations for YNHHS to acquire the financially troubled hospitals have been ongoing since October 2022.

The state’s approval of the CON greenlights the way for YNHHS to finalize the terms of the acquisition deal with Prospect Medical Holdings, keeping the hospitals from shuttering their doors. The acquisition would see YNHHS expand its total bed count by 700 and add about 4,400 additional employees, for a total of approximately 33,400. The for-profit Prospect hospitals would also be reverted to non-profit status.

“I am glad that all the parties have been able to reach an agreement on this transaction in a way that ensures that the residents who live in each of the hospitals’ host communities will continue to have local access to essential medical care, and the jobs of the employees who provide this care will be preserved under this new ownership,” Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont wrote in a statement.

For over a year, Yale New Haven Health has been in negotiations with Prospect Medical Holdings and the state to iron out an agreement to acquire the three, Prospect-owned hospitals.

Following a six-week-long cyberattack on the three hospitals last August, Yale New Haven Health proposed a “Recovery Plan” that lowered its originally proposed purchase price of \$435 million and asked the state to provide financial assistance for the deal. In return, the system would provide the three hospitals with support in their efforts to recover from the cyberattack.

Shortly after, negotiations between Yale New Haven Health, Prospect and Connecticut’s Office of Health Strategy for the acquisition

SEE YNHHS PAGE 4

Yale College admits 3.7 percent, lowest acceptance rate ever

BY MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTER

On Thursday evening, 1,365 students opened their browsers and logged into their Yale admissions portal to the news that they were offered a spot in the Yale College class of 2028.

The cohort joins the 709 applicants who were accepted via restrictive early action in December, as well as the 72 students who matched with Yale through the QuestBridge National College Match program. In total, of the 57,465 students who applied to join the class of 2028, 3.7 percent — or 2,146 students — were admitted, marking the lowest acceptance rate on record. The admitted class includes students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two U.S. territories and 62 countries.

The 3.7 percent acceptance rate for the class of 2028 is the lowest in Yale’s history, down 0.65 percentage points from last year’s 4.35 percent acceptance rate. The decrease continues a downward trend in acceptance rates that began during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 with applicants seeking admission to the class of 2024.

SEE ADMISSIONS PAGE 4



The politician ran for vice president as Al Gore’s running mate in 2000 and served as chairman of the News while a Yale College student. He passed away on Wednesday after a fall in his apartment in Riverdale, New York. / **US Coast Guard Academy, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons**

Longtime Connecticut senator, alumnus Joe Lieberman dies at 82

BY ARIELA LOPEZ AND YURII STASIUK
STAFF REPORTERS

Joe Lieberman ’64 LAW ’67, a Senator who served Connecticut for 24 years, died on Wednesday, March 27. He was 82 years old.

Lieberman, a practicing Orthodox Jew, was the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 2000, selected to be former Vice President Al Gore’s running mate. He was the first Jewish American to run for the position on a major party ticket. He passed away after complications from a fall in his home in Riverdale, New York, according to a family statement.

Born in Stamford, Connecticut, Lieberman attended Yale College and Yale Law School. During his

college years, he served as chairman — now editor in chief and president — on the Yale Daily News Managing Board of 1964.

Neither of the senator’s parents had a college education, according to filmmaker Jonathan Gruber, who said his biographical documentary about Lieberman will be released in May. Gruber, who filmed part of the documentary on Yale’s campus with Lieberman this past summer, said that Lieberman considered his Yale education to be a “leg up.”

Paul Steiger ’64, a childhood friend of the senator, fondly remembered his experiences working on the News’ Managing Board with Lieberman.

SEE LIEBERMAN PAGE 5

Peabody Museum reopens

BY BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ AND
YOLANDA WANG
STAFF REPORTERS

Roughly 100 students from the Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration, a dual-language New Haven Public School, will be among the first members of the public to explore Yale’s renovated Peabody Museum of Natural History when it opens its doors at 10 a.m. March 26.

The museum closed to the public amid the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, two years after a \$160-million donation for renovation from Edward P. Bass ’68 — the largest gift ever received by a natural history museum in the country.

The refreshed Peabody houses five new classrooms, a study gallery and a student-curated exhibition space, University President Peter Salovey wrote to the News. Salovey added that the museum’s galleries were also expanded to contain 50 percent more exhibition space and that it now houses more collection storage and research facilities for faculty and students, as well as a new education center for K-12 students from New Haven.

“The renovation is aimed at making the museum better able to serve its diverse audiences from Yale students to K-12 school groups and public visitors from greater New Haven and beyond,” Salovey wrote. “The new museum is designed to be accessible to all.”

Labels throughout the museum have also been added to acknowl-

edge different aspects of the University’s history, including its ties to eugenics and the exploitative practices under which certain objects in its collection were obtained.

Open galleries explore extinctions, climate change and human culture

According to Susan Butts, Director of Collections and Research, the museum’s first-

floor galleries “are a walk through time,” stretching from the oldest multicellular life on Earth until the appearance of humans in the present time.

Walking through the “A World of Change Exhibit” on the first floor, Director of Public Programs Chris Norris added that the museum is “saying yes to climate change” by presenting the

evidence of climate change — which he stated involved both quick, violent changes but also slower changes — coupled with fossil evidence.

“The main concepts that we have for this gallery are that life affects the environment, and the environment affects life,” Butts

SEE PEABODY PAGE 5



The renovations to the museum — which opened March 26 with free, ticketed admission — focused on increasing learning and exhibition spaces, making the Peabody more accessible to visitors from around the world. / **Benjamin Hernandez Contributing Photographer**

Government officials celebrate Peabody opening

BY ADAM MCPHAIL
SCITECH EDITOR

With the sun shining and dinosaur fossils on display, local officials greeted a group of New Haven Public Schools students in honor of the Peabody Museum’s reopening on Tuesday morning.

One of those students, D’Alessandro de Avdial, is a sixth-grader at Augusta Lewis Troup School. He told the News he had never been to a museum before stepping into the Peabody with his classmates.

Discussing the visit, de Avdial said that he loved “discovering new things” and was especially excited to explore the Peabody’s exhibits on electricity and other technological inventions.

“Come this summer, I would love to come here with my family,” he said.

Mayor Justin Elicker, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, NHPS Superintendent Madeline Negrón and New Haven Arts, Culture and Tourism Director Adriane Jefferson welcomed

SEE OFFICIALS PAGE 5

CROSS CAMPUS

THIS DAY IN YALE HISTORY, 1984. The Senior Class Council announces that they have selected Dick Cavett ’58 as their Class Day speaker. The former talk show host was a drama major in Saybrook College.

INSIDE THE NEWS

Yale economics professor Larry Samuelson has been permanently banned from entering Russia. **NEWS 6**



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BLUMENTHAL
CT Senator Richard Blumenthal’s talk at Yale Dems interrupted by pro-Palestine protest. **PAGE 7 NEWS**

PEABODY IN PHOTOS A News exclusive Peabody photo spread supplements page 5’s written coverage of the renovated museum. **PAGE 13 THROUGH THE LENS**

BULLETIN



Michael Seymour, *Pauline Boty* (detail), color print, 1962
National Portrait Gallery, London © Michael Seymour

YALE
CENTER
FOR
BRITISH
ART

Paul Mellon Lecture
by Lynda Nead

“Pauline Boty:
Women, Desire,
and the Image
in Sixties Britain”

Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 5:30 pm
Yale School of Architecture
Hastings Hall, 180 York Street

Co-organized by the Paul Mellon
Centre for Studies in British Art

YALE | 2024

Tanner
Lectures
on Human
Values

ECOLOGY
AND EQUITY

ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE REVISITED

Rob Nixon

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 | 4:30 PM | HQ L02
Environmental Justice and the
Great Outdoors

THURSDAY, APRIL 4 | 4:30 PM | HQ L02
Neoliberalism and the Science
of Plant Cooperation

ROB NIXON (Princeton University),
author of *Slow Violence and the
Environmentalism of the Poor*,
explores the crossroads where
environmental justice and the
environmental humanities engage
with research findings from the
ecological and behavioral sciences.



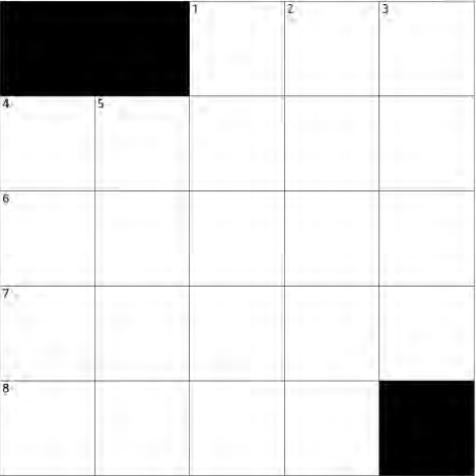
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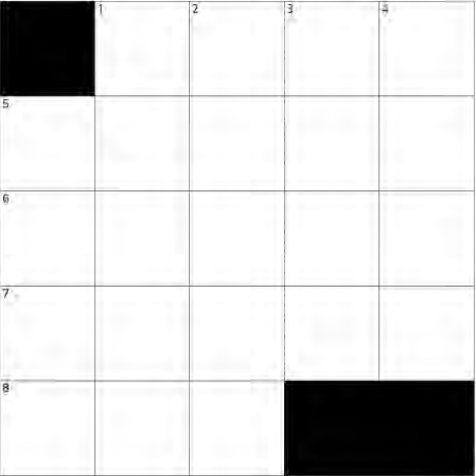
The Tanner Lectures on Human Values were established by the American scholar, industrialist, and philanthropist Obert Clark Tanner, who hoped that these lectures would contribute to the intellectual and moral life of humankind.

The Tanner Lectures are free and open to the public in the Humanities Quadrangle at 320 York Street.

- ACROSS
- 1 With 8-Across, common activity for kids on Easter
 - 4 Harsh light
 - 6 Lash __ (attack)
 - 7 Puts on, as muscle mass
 - 8 See 1-Across
- DOWN
- 1 Have dinner at home
 - 2 Research funding
 - 3 Understands
 - 4 Vincent Van __
 - 5 Hawaiian feast



- ACROSS
- 1 "About me" sections, informally
 - 5 Which menu the dumplings are on in Yale's Commons
 - 6 Red dye
 - 7 At __ for words
 - 8 Handsome mascot
- DOWN
- 1 What 8-Across may say
 - 2 "You're going down!"
 - 3 Yeses, in Paris
 - 4 Nine-digit IDs
 - 5 Starring role



Answers to previous puzzle



OPINION

The case for European strategic autonomy

When I was speaking with my father over winter break, the age-old debate around French military service came up. “I did it, your uncle did it, your grandfather did it. So why shouldn’t you?”

My father, much like many French policymakers, strongly believes in bringing back mandatory service. Under President Emmanuel Macron’s new rules, French youth over 16 years old will have the opportunity to serve for a month, but policymakers are also considering bringing back the old mandate for military service, where every French citizen would be required to serve for a minimum of 6 months. Ostensibly the “Service National Universel” aims to transmit French republican values and maintain national cohesion, but its return is of course tied to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine — and a possible second Trump presidency.

The election is still six months away, but at the time of writing, Donald Trump looks like the favorite. “Gun to my head, I’d give him between a three-in-five and two-in-three chance of winning the Electoral College, pricing in polling, legal issues, abortion, and everything else,” says Milan Singh ’26, who is an opinion columnist for the News.

Trump has repeatedly stated that he would end American aid to Ukraine. From stating that he would let Russia do “whatever the hell they want” to NATO allies that don’t meet their financial goals in the alliances, to blatantly answering “yeah” when asked whether he would not defend NATO countries, it’s clear the alliance is in peril.

The United States is currently the largest contributor of both military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine by far. If this aid were cut off, Europe would be faced with some very tough decisions.

In anticipation of a possible second Trump administration, European leaders have begun discussing plans for a world without American support. Macron has renewed his calls for France to reinstate mandatory military service and for Europe to embrace a doctrine of “strategic autonomy” — that is, to maintain a large enough defense force to abstain from American assistance.

Europe is already inching in that direction. Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Romania have bought 1,000 Patriot missiles, systems that are able to eliminate airborne threats, while Denmark is sending nearly all of its artillery to Ukraine. But the fact remains that the United States has provided the lion’s share of military aid, and right now, Europe simply does not have the capacity to fill the gap should Washington turn isolationist.

All of this comes as the Ukrainian counter-offensive has stalled in the face of legions of Russian conscripts. Although the Ukrainians have access to important anti-armor and anti-air weapons systems as well as artillery capabilities like CAE-

SAR and M109 systems, which are used for long range bombardment, they simply don’t have enough munitions and personnel to sustain the war at its current pace. Fortunately, Europe does have the financial firepower to fill in for an absent America. But, if Europe does not rapidly increase defense spending, military aid, and pivot to war time economies, the situation for Ukraine looks rather bleak.

At present, it’s not clear that Putin would stop at Kyiv. During his tenure as president, he has launched military interventions in several nations: Mali, via Wagner PMC; during the Syrian civil war on the side of Assad; in Georgia; and in Crimea in 2014. If Trump follows through on his promise to kneecap NATO and Ukraine falls, Putin would only be emboldened.

TODAY IT’S UKRAINE, AND TOMORROW IT MIGHT BE THE BALTIC STATES AND MOLDOVA. TOP OFFICIALS IN SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY SOUNDING THE ALARM.

Today it’s Ukraine, and tomorrow it might be the Baltic States and Moldova. Top officials in some of these countries are already sounding the alarm. The German defense minister publicly worries that Putin might attack a NATO country within the next five to eight years.

That is not to say that further Russian invasions are imminent or even likely. Still, Europe must prepare itself for a world where America takes a diminished role in defending it from Russian aggression. The fact of the matter is that Europe has the money to support Ukraine’s defense and its own. Whether or not Trump wins, it is in the continent’s interests to pursue strategic autonomy. What remains to be seen is whether there is the political will to do so. Although Europe has the necessary endowments to achieve strategic autonomy and guarantee the safety of the continent, policymakers and citizens alike are still reluctant to prepare for a world without American assistance. Whether we see this depends on both Brussels these coming years — and in America this November.

LUCA GIRODON is a sophomore in Branford College. Contact him at luca.girodon@yale.edu.

Narcan can save lives. Why is Yale slow to act?

Overdoses are increasingly haunting our communities. In 2021, the National Security Council reported that 98,268 people died from preventable drug overdoses, marking a 781 percent increase since 1999. The city we call home for four years is no different: just last year, 16 overdoses occurred during a two-week period in New Haven County. In 2018, 30 people overdosed on the New Haven Green, right next to Old Campus.

Yet it doesn’t need to — nor should it — be this way. As drug use is becoming destigmatized and understood as not a criminal issue but rather a health and socioeconomic issue, Yale can and must do more to prioritize public health and prepare community members to respond.

We write this piece to outline recommendations that we have kickstarted, in partnership with and motivated by Yalies who have been fighting for better drug policy and resource access on campus. Last year, after conversations with off-campus student groups that work on drug safety across Yale and New Haven, we proposed and passed a \$2,500 funding bill in the Yale College Council, or YCC, Senate to purchase 25 boxes of Narcan from local pharmacies. These boxes were then provided to Students for Sustainable Drug Policy, or SSDP, at Yale to more adequately institute methods to train its students and staff with resources to reduce fatalities.

Our project ran into many roadblocks. Then, Yale was not necessarily ready to accept the institutional burden, nor was it easy to

purchase Narcan. Only one pharmacy — the Walgreens Pharmacy inside a Yale New Haven Hospital building — was licensed to prescribe one Narcan prescription per day, per patient.

We weren’t deterred. Instead, we grabbed groups of friends to have multiple Narcan containers prescribed to us each day until we ran out of funds. The pharmacist was supportive of our efforts but was legally restricted in the amount of Narcan they could provide daily. We then gave the 25 boxes of Narcan, with two nasally-administered overdose-reversing treatments, to SSDP to distribute to students, off-campus groups and community spaces.

Since spring 2023, the landscape of Narcan has drastically changed. In March, the Food and Drug Administration announced that Narcan would be available for purchase over-the-counter starting July 2023. In December, the Biden-Harris administration called on schools and institutions to have Narcan stocked and readily available. While we work closely with SSDP and Yale Emergency Medical Services, or YEMS, to ensure Narcan is available on Yale’s campus, it is time for Yale to shed itself of its War on Drugs mentality from 1990 and step instead into 2024: students, staff and faculty need and deserve training on administering Narcan — on campus, off-campus and beyond.

Student initiatives and funding efforts can only function for so long. YCC’s budget is not large enough to train and supply every student with Narcan, and SSDP

and YEMS are not expansive enough to train and educate everyone on the issue.

The time for broad action and preparation is now. We must become proactive in preventing overdose, not reactive. Yale cannot wait for something to happen and realize it must meet the moment. By then, it’ll already be far too late.

We call upon Yale to take up the burden of safe drug education, overdose prevention and harm mitigation. It’s time to live in 2024 and ensure that every member of the Yale community has the means to protect strangers and loved ones from preventable death. Yale’s hierarchy must shift. We must strive to radically shift University policy to prioritize students and New Haven residents’ well-being over the protection of Yale’s image.

Based on the facts I’ve been able to find, it seems to me that the causal and motivational details surrounding this murder are extremely relevant in today’s culture of violence and racial tensions. The underlying facts of this case are practically *sui generis*, yet as it has been reported, it’s just another mindless homicide. Your readers should be given the entire story.

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Take Project 2025 seriously

“Conservatives have to lead the way in restoring sex to its true purpose, & for...ending recreational sex & senseless use of birth control pills.” That is a direct quote from the Heritage Foundation’s X account on May 27, 2023. Personally, I would not want these people anywhere near government. As it happens, I like recreational sex. If you don’t, that’s just fine; don’t have any.

Heritage is the top conservative think tank in Washington, D.C., founded in 1973 during the Nixon administration to serve as a counterweight to the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution. Its 1981 report, “Mandate for Leadership,” contained 2,000 policy recommendations for the incoming Reagan administration; Heritage brags that 60 percent of these were eventually adopted.

THE PROPOSALS BEING PUT FORWARD ARE EXTREME AND OUT OF TOUCH WITH AMERICAN VALUES. BUT WE NEED TO TAKE THEM BOTH SERIOUSLY AND LITERALLY.

Today, it is all but the official Republican Party think tank. The analogous institution on the Democratic side of the aisle is the Center for American Progress; Neera Tanden, its founder and longtime president and CEO, currently serves as a senior advisor to President Biden.

Ahead of the election, Heritage has been quietly working on “Project 2025”: a \$22 million effort at drawing up a blueprint for a second Trump term. The proposals being put forward are extreme and out of touch with American values. But we need to take them both seriously and literally.

Heritage has feted allies of Viktor Orban, the right-wing authoritarian prime minis-

ter of Hungary, in Washington. Its head, Kevin D. Roberts, describes Orban as “a very impressive leader”; calls the European Union’s assessment of democratic backsliding in Hungary under his tenure “incorrect”; and says that “there are lessons from a lot of countries, including Hungary” for American conservatives. When asked whether Biden won the 2020 election, Roberts says “no” — there were “a lot of unknowns about two counties in Arizona, multiple counties in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin” — and points to an internal “election-fraud database at Heritage that shows a lot of instances of fraud.”

Project 2025 has released a white paper analyzing the ways a Republican president could use executive orders to restrict abortion rights under the Comstock Act, a largely unenforced law passed in 1873 — before women had the right to vote — that bans sending birth control and abortion medication via the postal service. Jonathan F. Mitchell, the lawyer who drafted Texas’ near-total abortion ban, told the New York Times, “We don’t need a federal ban when we have Comstock on the books.” Make no mistake: Republican think-tankers want to bring religion into government and into your bedroom.

Russell Vought, Trump’s top budget official and a close confidant widely speculated to be Trump’s future chief of staff, is advising Project 2025 as well as running his own think tank, The Center for Renewing America.

The CRA, too, has a list of priorities for a Trump presidency. One of those items is “Christian nationalism”; another is invoking the Insurrection Act to suppress protests. The CRA’s document calls for revoking FDA approval of “chemical abortion drugs” such as mifepristone — a medication used in almost half of abortions — and defunding Planned Parenthood. Vought has written on X, formerly known as Twitter, that he is “proud to work with” William Wolfe, a former Trump administration official, “on scoping out a sound Christian Nationalism,” while Wolfe deleted his own posts calling for ending sex education in schools, surrogacy and no-fault divorce nationwide.

Donald Trump has studiously avoided taking a public stance on major abortion-related policy disputes, including the Comstock Act, abortion pills and what sorts of judges he might appoint. Sure, he’ll brag on Fox News that he is “proud” to “get Roe v. Wade terminated.” And he’ll gesture supporting a 15-week national ban. But he mostly doesn’t want to talk about these issues in the general election because he probably knows that his party’s position is out of touch with the American people and fundamental American values — separation of church and state, freedom of speech and women’s right to control their own bodies.

REPUBLICAN THINK-TANKERS WANT TO BRING RELIGION INTO GOVERNMENT AND INTO YOUR BEDROOM.

If Trump is reelected, he will be appointing judges and regulators who will make decisions on abortion policy. The most recent Republican Party platform says the 14th Amendment applies to unborn children and supports a constitutional amendment defining life as beginning at conception. Project 2025 includes a “presidential personnel database” of potential candidates for Trump administration jobs. To get their names into the database, candidates must agree with statements such as “Life has a right to legal protection from conception to natural death.” I wonder how regulators drawn from that shortlist will rule on abortion-related matters.

If you think that abortion and recreational sex are wrong — God bless, you’re entitled to your views. But don’t try and force them on the rest of us.

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Connecticut Office of Health Strategy allows YNHHS hospital acquisition

YNHH FROM PAGE 1

sition deal went confidential to ensure that they continued as efficiently as possible.

“We continue to meet with all parties, including the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy and Prospect, CT to bring the transaction to a successful conclusion,” said Dana Marnane, director for public relations at Yale New Haven Health, in an email to the News in October.

State conditions on YNHHS

The new CON contains 46 conditions that the state’s Office of Health Strategy, or OHS, will require Yale to adhere to, including the hiring of an independent monitor for five years that reports to the OHS at the sole expense of YNHHS.

“The [Independent Monitor] shall be responsible for monitoring NewCo’s compliance with all of the conditions set forth in this Agreed Settlement and shall produce a schedule of required reports and data to be shared with the [OHS],” the CON stated.

Many conditions work to ensure current employees at the three hospitals can maintain their jobs. Notably, the agreement requires YNHHS to rehire all non-management employees and use their “best efforts ... to minimize the elimination of individuals’ jobs.” YNHHS must also recognize all established bargaining agreements between hospital employees and the previous management.

Other conditions focus on community-building efforts. YNHHS and the Prospect hospitals must have community representatives on its board of directors. In addition, the hospitals must hold community meetings to engage the public with hospital activities that allow community members to ask questions.

The hospitals will also work with local health organizations and stakeholders to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment to systematically identify community needs. To increase accessibility, YNHHS will also make culturally and linguistically appropriate services available and integrated into the hospitals’ operations.

All three hospitals will adopt the YNHHS financial assistance policies, and all hospitals will continue to offer Medicaid services. Further, YNHHS must increase its aggregate community benefit expenditures across each hospital.

“For-profit ownership of community hospitals – especially when tied to hedge funds – should never again be tolerated in our state,” John Brady, vice president of the statewide labor federation AFT Connecticut, wrote in an email to the News. “We have been consistent on our priorities – the health and well-being of our communities and caregivers.”

For five years, Northeast Medical Group – the medical founda-

tion associated with YNHHS – will offer semi-annual reports on Medicaid patients’ access to specialty treatments, including medication-assisted treatment for substance misuse, dermatology, ENT services, neurology, orthopedics, and pain management.

YNHHS will also invest \$6 million in behavioral health services that target increasing access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

“With today’s approval by the Office of Health Strategy, I encourage Prospect to work with Yale to reach a deal that will allow them to finalize this purchase and bring a much-needed resolution to this transaction,” Lamont wrote.

Healthcare providers, legislators push to finalize deal

Throughout the negotiation process, many healthcare professionals, legislators and health policy experts around the state have urged the deal should move forward, and should do so as quickly as possible.

Of concern to these individuals is the volatile financial status of Prospect Medical, and the effects that its for-profit business model has had on its hospitals’ ability to provide care.

Following the cyberattacks, State Senator Saud Anwar, co-chair of the Connecticut General Assembly Public Health Committee, told the News in October that the hospitals could not bill their patients or pay medical supply vendors.

As a result, the CT Mirror also reported that the state was also forced to provide a \$7 million bailout to the hospitals, which were struggling to stay afloat after being unable to receive Medicaid reimbursements during the attacks.

“This was a perfect storm from the hospitals’ perspective,” Anwar wrote in an email to the News. “They were already struggling financially, and the fact that their medical records and ability to see as many patients as they usually see, as well as their ability to bill patients as normal, resulted in a financial issue that harmed cash flow, making their ability to manage their finances significantly more difficult.”

Prospect owes the state at least \$67.39 million in health provider taxes that date back to March 2022, according to three state tax liens filed against the California-based company.

The company’s financial struggles and alleged mismanagement have generated widespread frustration among several Connecticut healthcare providers, who told the News that they continue to support the YNHHS purchase of the Prospect hospitals.

Those financial difficulties “call attention to the dire need for responsible, committed new ownership of ECHN’s hospitals,” said Diane Carlson, president of the Manchester Federation of LPNs and Techs United, AFT Local 5144, who works as a licensed practical nurse at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

The state’s approval of the CON greenlights the way for Yale to finalize the terms of the acquisition.

“Our patients and our caregivers deserve better than a hedge fund that fails to pay its fair share to the communities from which it profits,” she added.

According to Rep. Jason Doucette, D-Manchester, the state representative for one of the towns containing a Prospect hospital, Prospect’s management style has “negatively affected” the availability of vendors and supplies.

He believes that Prospect’s financial woes also harm the morale of doctors, nurses and other hospital employees.

“The private equity model of doing business in health care, together with [Prospect’s] inability to refinance certain company debts, then compounded by the cyber attack in mid-2023, created a dire situation where the bills simply weren’t getting paid,” he wrote in an email to the News. “Most of the people I speak to in the community are hopeful that the acquisition by Yale will bring a significant overall improvement to the ECHN system generally, and that frankly anything is likely to be better than the current situation.”

As the deal moves forward after the state’s approval, however, healthcare professionals continue to provide care to Connecticut residents, even as they face uncertainty over future management and job prospects.

Annie-Marie Cerra, president of AFT Local 5055 for Manchester Memorial Hospital Nurses and an emergency department nurse at Manchester Memorial, highlighted healthcare workers’ continued commitment in an email to the News.

“This acquisition process has created a lot of anxiety for all of us. Despite that, our member nurses and health professionals – as well as our physician colleagues – have shown up every day in our hospitals to provide the excellent care our patients and their families deserve.”

Yale New Haven Hospital was founded as the General Hospital Society of Connecticut in 1826.

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The Connecticut Office of Health Strategy established conditions for YNHHS to begin finalizing the terms of its long-awaited acquisition of three state hospitals. / Yale Daily News

Fewer than four percent of applicants admitted to class of 2028

ADMISSIONS FROM PAGE 1

“The diverse range of strengths, ambitions, and lived experiences we saw in this year’s applicant pool was inspiring,” Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Jeremiah Quinlan wrote in a press release. “We gauge the success of our outreach efforts by these qualities, and not by the total number of applications. But it is heartening to see that Yale College continues to attract exceptionally promising students from all backgrounds.”

The class of 2028 applied amid a changing admissions landscape. They are the last group of students to apply in a test-optional admissions cycle. Yale announced in February that it would resume requiring test scores for applicants seeking a spot in the class of 2029. A News survey found that under a test-optional policy, students on financial aid were more likely to have omitted test scores from their Yale applications.

The cohort is also the first to be admitted to the University since the fall of affirmative action in June. This year, admissions officers did not have access to information about applicants’ self-identified race when evaluating them for admission.

Admissions officers involved in the application reading process will have access to neither this information nor aggregate information about the racial makeup of the class of 2028 until after the admissions process has officially ended. According to Mark Dunn ’07, the senior

associate director for outreach and recruitment at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the admissions cycle will not be officially completed until the final applicants have been offered admission off of the waitlist.

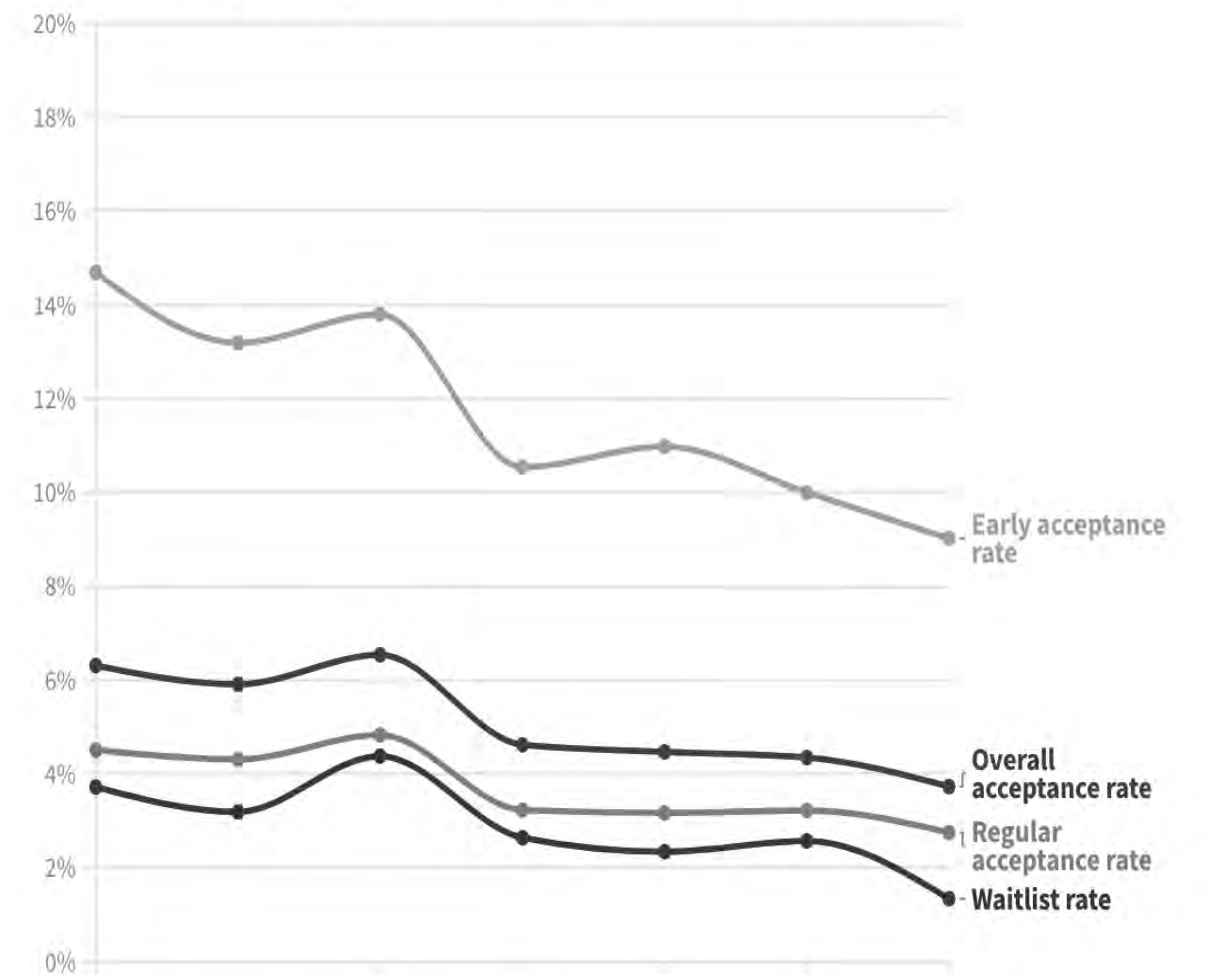
“Because some first-year applicants will be offered a spot on Yale’s waiting list, the admissions office’s selection process will not be complete on March 28,” Dunn wrote in an email to the News. “We will continue to maintain safeguards to ensure that the admissions officers involved in the review and selection of candidates from the waitlist do not have access to any race or ethnicity data at either the individual or aggregate level.”

Earlier this year, the admissions office hired two new full-time employees, whose jobs are devoted exclusively to community outreach and partnerships. Because these officers are not involved in the application reading process, they have access to aggregate racial data about the class of 2028; however, they will not be able to publish this information until after the admissions cycle has officially ended.

Due to delays with the rollout of FAFSA, the admissions office also does not have information about the proportion of students in the admitted class who are eligible for Pell Grants. However, Director of Undergraduate Financial Aid Kari DiFonzo told the News earlier this week that this will not delay financial aid offers for admitted students.

Each year, around the time matriculating first-year students arrive on campus in the fall, the admissions office publishes a detailed profile of

Yale College acceptance rates by class, 2022-2028



Of the 57,465 students who applied to join the Yale College class of 2028, 2,146 were offered admission, with an additional 773 offered a spot on the waitlist. / Anika Arora Seth and Molly Reinmann

the class, that includes information about demographics like racial and socioeconomic background. Dunn said that the release of the profile of the class of 2028 will not change this year from previous years.

All newly admitted students will be invited to campus in April for Bulldog Days. This year’s Bulldog Days will be the third in-person iteration of the event since the pandemic.

Admitted students will have

until May 1 to respond to their offer of admission.

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FROM THE FRONT

“Nothing is absolute. Everything changes, everything moves, everything revolves, everything flies and goes away.”

FRIDA KHALO MEXICAN PAINTER

'Stubbornly bipartisan' Senator Joe Lieberman '64 LAW '67 dies at 82

LIEBERMAN FROM PAGE 1

“I first knew him in seventh grade,” Steiger said, “and then we were on the YDN together. We called it ‘Chairman’ those days, but he was our editor in chief and I was on his staff.”

After graduating from law school, Lieberman was elected to the Connecticut State Senate in 1970, where he represented New Haven for ten years, including six as Democratic Majority Leader. After losing a race for Connecticut’s 3rd Congressional District in 1980, he served as Connecticut Attorney General from 1983 to 1989.

Lieberman was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1988, where he represented Connecticut for more than two decades. In 1994, he won reelection by the largest-ever margin in a Connecticut

Senate race, winning with 67 percent of the vote.

Gore, who served as vice president under President Bill Clinton LAW ’73, selected Lieberman to be his running mate in August 2000, while Lieberman was campaigning for reelection to his senate seat. The Gore-Lieberman ticket, which won the popular vote by over 500,000 votes, lost the general election to Republican President George W. Bush ’68 and Vice President Dick Cheney after a recount and Supreme Court challenge in the crucial swing state of Florida.

Lieberman briefly ran for the Democratic nomination in the 2004 presidential election but suspended his campaign in early February.

In the Senate, Lieberman staunchly supported the Iraq War,

over which he was criticized by his more liberal Democratic peers.

In 2006, Lieberman lost the primary for the Democratic nomination to now-Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, who clashed with the Senator over his stance on the Iraq War. Despite this loss, Lieberman ran as a third-party candidate and won the seat with over 100,000 votes more than Lamont.

“While the senator and I had our political differences, he was a man of integrity and conviction, so our debate about the Iraq War was serious,” Lamont wrote on X on Wednesday. “When the race was over, we stayed in touch as friends in the best traditions of American democracy. He will be missed.”

After his reelection as an independent, Lieberman still caucused with Democrats while at the same

time shifting away from the party. In the 2008 presidential election, he endorsed Republican nominee John McCain. Lieberman even contemplated running on the Republican vice presidential ticket but was not picked by McCain.

In his final term, Lieberman became the decisive 60th vote needed to break the filibuster on the Affordable Care Act. At the same time, he blocked the passage of a public insurance option, which then-President Barack Obama — and most Democrats — supported.

When asked about Lieberman’s legacy, Gruber described Lieberman as a “man of courage” who took his moral cues from his faith.

“He was a person who, as he said, was stubbornly, at least in the political world, bipartisan,” Gruber said. “I think where it comes from is his being

an Orthodox Jew, and how much his religion and his faith guided him in terms of how he dealt with people on an everyday basis.”

In 2012, Lieberman retired from Congress. In recent years, he challenged the Democratic party line and worked as a co-chair of the political group No Labels, which sought to find an independent presidential candidate for the 2024 race.

Lieberman is survived by his wife Hadassah, four children and 13 grandchildren.

Anika Arora Seth contributed reporting.

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Peabody opens after four-year renovation totaling \$160 million

PEABODY FROM PAGE 1

said. “The other big thing that we have for the gallery is that



Benjamin Hernandez, Contributing Photographer

extinctions change everything... one of the things that we want to impress on visitors is that while things go extinct, when

one thing dies out, another thing takes over in its place.”

The second floor of the Peabody has been converted from administrative offices to more exhibition space, focused on human culture, according to Associate Director of Exhibition Kailen Rogers.

Among the galleries on the second floor are the “History of Science and Technology,” “Egypt and Mesopotamia” and “Mesoamerican and Andean Civilizations.” The third floor which is opening later this spring will house a gallery on “Minerals, Earth and Space,” North American and Connecticut dioramas, “Dynamic Nature” and a “Living Lab” containing activities and some live plants and animals from the Peabody’s collection.

Rogers also said that the Peabody has altered its “storytelling approach” by incorporating shorter text panels with clear, big-idea statements written at an eighth-grade reading level. She added that some of the new text panels describe the University’s history with eugenics. The American Eugenics Society was founded on Yale’s campus at 185

Church St. in 1926 by economics professor Irving Fisher and was run largely by Yale faculty.

“So really, what we want to do is to prompt people to think for themselves, even more than before, what these objects mean to them,” Skelly said. “So we want this to feel really useful to a whole bunch of people and that gives us the scope to really lean into the public mission.”

A more accessible Peabody

The core of the museum’s renovation work aimed to make it more accessible to members of both the University and New Haven community, said Museum Director David Skelly, echoing Salovey’s statements.

Skelly added that part of this work has entailed transitioning to free admission, a goal that Salovey told the News in 2021 was among those he wished to accomplish during his tenure. To manage the expected crowding from interested visitors, the museum will use a ticketed reservation system for the first 30 days after opening. Skelly referred to this as a “soft opening,” adding that the museum’s store and third-floor

exhibition space will open to the public during its grand opening weekend planned for this April.

Salovey wrote that the museum has also worked to deepen its connection with the city by entering into partnerships with the New Haven Free Public Library and New Haven public schools.

“We want this place to feel like for anybody who walks in, we’ve been expecting you and we’re glad you’re here,” Skelly said during a press tour on March 11. “What I hope we’ve done is really renew the way we interact and provide something to the public, as well as the Yale community ... we’re a University Museum and that means that we are open to the public, but we also serve as a platform for teaching and research for the University.”

The Peabody Museum initially opened its doors in 1866 at the corner of High and Elm Street and the current building was erected in December 1925.

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Mayor Elicker, Superintendent Negrón embrace new Peabody

OFFICIALS FROM PAGE 1

first graders from the Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration and sixth graders from the Augusta Lewis Troup School as the first visitors on Tuesday.

Accompanied by their teachers, students gawked at the Burke Hall of Dinosaurs and exhibits on the evolution of the human species and the history of science and technology.

“It sends a real statement that the first kids into this building are New Haven Public School kids from the community,” Elicker told the News. “On top of that, the fact that you now no longer have to pay to get into the Peabody just opens up this world to so many kids that previously wouldn’t have been able to explore this space.”

Following a \$160-million donation from Edward P. Bass ’68, the Peabody underwent a four-year renovation, and is now free for all visitors in perpetuity, joining the Yale University Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art.

Elicker said that while New Haveners missed being able to visit the Peabody’s collections during the renovation period — especially during the COVID-19 pandemic — the reopening has reminded people of its value to the community.

“Of course, we missed coming in here,” Elicker said. “On the other hand, having been closed for so long, it made a lot of people realize just how special this space is, building up anticipation for today.”

Beyond expanding and reorganizing its exhibition spaces, the Peabody is also set to increase educational programming for K-12 students and develop a partnership with NHPS.



Mayor Elicker and Superintendent Madeline Negrón emphasized the importance of the museum’s new free entrance and expressed optimism about the collaboration between the Peabody, New Haven Public Schools and the larger New Haven community. / Adam McPhail, Contributing Photographer

In an interview with the News, Superintendent Negrón said that the specifics of this partnership are still unclear. Initial discussions between NHPS and the Peabody began three weeks ago, though both parties demonstrated interest in forging a stronger relationship, she said.

Nevertheless, she expressed optimism about how the Peabody’s new K-12 education center could offer opportunities to local students and enrich their educational experience.

“I think [the Peabody] is an opportunity just to continue to

expand on learning,” Negrón said. “For example, many of our kids are interested in having leadership roles and having an opportunity to go into all kinds of different fields. This could be a way that kids could come in and learn from the people who work here, what it means to hold one of these professions and explore academically.”

The Peabody will also enhance the exhibits’ educational experience through a new app called “Amuse.”

According to Dakota Stipp, the company’s CEO and co-founder, Amuse was founded in 2019 in col-

laboration with Yale’s Center for Engineering and Innovative Design. Once visitors download the app, depending on where they are standing in the Peabody, they will receive videos, tidbits of information and other types of short-form content related to different exhibits. While the Peabody is the first museum to use the app, Stipp said he hopes to expand its use to other public spaces, including museums, parks and historic landmarks.

Stipp said that Amuse accrues data on how visitors interact with the app, informing what

types of future content the Peabody will develop. The app also allows users to learn more about the city, he said.

“When you’re looking at the map of the museum, you can actually zoom out, and then you’ll find historic information about New Haven,” Stipp said.

For the next 29 days, the Peabody will be using a ticketed reservation system.

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NEWS

“Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.”
MARIE CURIE POLISH-FRENCH SCIENTIST

Yale professor Larry Samuelson added to Russian ban list

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

The Russian government has permanently banned Yale economics professor Larry Samuelson from entering the country, according to a press release sent out by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Samuelson’s name is, as of March 14, included on a list of 227 Americans who are banned from entering Russian territory due to their alleged involvement in “conceiving, carrying out and justifying the anti-Russia policy” adopted by the United States government as well as those “directly involved in anti-Russia undertakings.”

“I was quite surprised,” Samuelson wrote the News upon appearing on the list. “It must be a very long list indeed in order for me to come to their attention.”

Samuelson specializes in economic theory with an interest in game theory. Since 2018, he has been a member of the International Advisory Board of the Kyiv School of Economics. Samuelson speculated that his association with the Ukraine-based university was the reason for his addition to the list.

The Russian government has placed an entry ban on over 2,000 American citizens since the United

States began imposing economic sanctions on the government in the wake of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The list includes — but is not limited to — elected officials, journalists, academics and business leaders.

The latest round of bans, in particular, appears to target academics. Sixty-seven of the 227 individuals named on the list are affiliated with a U.S.-based university. Samuelson suggested that this is because the list was constructed based on online information, and academics typically have an easily identified online presence.

Yale’s spokesperson declined to comment for this story.

David Cameron, a professor of political science and director of the Yale program in European Union Studies, pointed out the seemingly arbitrary nature of the names on the list. He noted that there are “a few people on the list who know a lot about Russian politics and international relations,” but also many knowledgeable people on the subject who have been left off.

“There’s no obvious explanation why they’re on it and others who might be on it aren’t on it,” Cameron said. “It’s no doubt the work of some not very bright low-level functionaries in the Russian Foreign Ministry who were told to come up with a list.”

According to Cameron, the list is further evidence that “smart people in Russia” with an interest in international relations are concentrated in the Foreign Intelligence Service, an externally focused intelligence agency, rather than the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In November 2022, in one of the earliest rounds of Russian entry bans, Yale history professor Timothy Snyder was one of 200 U.S. citizens whose name appeared on the list.

The Yale Economic Growth Center was founded in 1961.

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YALE NEWS

Samuelson is now included on a list of 227 Americans who are banned from entering Russian territory.

Yale professors reflect on teaching about Ukraine

BY YURI STASIUK AND JOSIE REICH
STAFF REPORTERS

Amid Russia’s ongoing war against Ukraine, more professors at Yale have begun discussing Ukraine in their classes.

Following the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, some scholars started calling for the “decolonization” of Eastern European studies by centering the experiences and voices of non-Russian nations in the region.

Per the Yale Course Search website, Yale’s academic offerings about Ukraine increased over the last two years from zero in the 2020-21 academic year to eight this semester, as professors in Eastern European studies and other departments started offering classes about Ukrainian history and the ongoing war. Some professors, in addition, added Ukrainian authors to their existing curricula.

Even then, Edyta Bojanowska, chair of the Slavic Languages and Literatures department, said that the new offerings are consistent with a longtime aim to critically study Russia’s colonialism — an effort that has grown nationally since the outbreak of the war.

“[The] field is really abuzz with decolonial rhetoric. It’s a field in transition,” Bojanowska wrote. “Scholars are responding to the shock of the war by trying to account more fully and more critically for the legacies of Russian and Soviet imperialism and by charting alternative visions of Russia and Eastern Europe, their histories and cultures, that counter those emanating from the Kremlin.”

East European studies during the war in Ukraine

In his teaching, history professor Timothy Snyder focuses on examining the origins of Russia and Ukraine in a manner contrary to what he calls Putin’s “understandable imperial national construction” of the emergence of the two countries. While Snyder has long taught about Eastern Europe, he began teaching “The Making of Modern Ukraine” in the fall of 2022 following the Russian invasion and offered it again this past fall. The class aims to unpack and challenge this “myth” of Russia.

According to Snyder, some historians of Russia have already seen the war as an opportunity to question what they were taught about Russia.

“The Making of Modern Ukraine” considers Ukraine as “an early example of European state formation and an early example of anti-colonial rebellion.” The lectures from the course were recorded and uploaded online to YouTube and as a podcast series, many of which have amassed millions of views.

Snyder said that he thinks that historical survey courses are especially effective ways to educate students and members of the general public.

“I think the reason that it was popular was that it was a survey [that] gave people a basic structure of knowledge,” Snyder said. “I think we don’t have enough of that at Yale or universities in general, and we feel that lack when we hit a crisis like this.”

Andrei Kureichik is a Belarusian playwright and self-described civic activist who began teaching “Art and Resistance in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine” last fall and “Drama and Russian-Ukrainian Conflict” this semester.

Kureichik came to Yale as a Yale World Fellow in the fall of 2022. Half a year before the invasion of Ukraine, the Artists at Risk program helped him leave Belarus after the government pushed him out for his criticism of President Alexander Lukashenko.

He said that one of the most important aspects of his teaching is creating opportunities for students to have direct contact with people on the ground in Ukraine and Russia, often virtually bringing guest speakers into his class over Zoom.

“Understanding the human side of the war helps you to understand the historical side, political side, or any other side,” Kureichik said. “So this connection to real people on the ground is crucial for me.”

Nari Shelekpayev, another recent hire, focuses on the history of Kazakhstan in his two ongoing works, according to the Slavic department’s website. In the fall of 2022 and 2023, he taught the “Ten Eurasian Cities” seminar, in which he, besides Russian cities, included cities in countries like Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Shelekpayev was not available for an interview.

Professor of intellectual history Marci Shore said that she long incorporated thinkers from Ukraine in her teaching. This semester, Shore also started teaching a first-year seminar titled “The War in Ukraine and the Problem of Evil.”

“I’ve been so mentally consumed by this war — these are my friends and colleagues being slaughtered,” Shore wrote. “And I believe that students benefit when I can share with them the material I’m intellectually immersed in at a given moment.”

Shore’s class considers questions of evil, historical determinism and individual choice, which she said the “extremity of the moment” brings to the forefront.

Longtime efforts to decolonize Russian history

Bojanowska and Molly Brunson, who serves as a chair of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies program, both highlighted the work of their colleagues in conversations with the News, who, they said, had been doing “decolonial” work for a long time.

“I see the primary task of REEES to support, promote, and encourage the work that [my colleagues] are already doing,” Brunson wrote. “I don’t think it’s always a question of doing more on colonialism in the REEES fields, but more a question of amplifying the excellent work already being done by REEES faculty and students.”

She added that the program hosted numerous speaker events, symposia, conferences, and workshops, most of which were focused on non-Russian experiences and voices in the region.

Last year, REEES also cosponsored the launch of the Central Asia Initiative, which Brunson wrote “seeks to promote interdisciplinary research on the area

and cultivate a new generation of scholars and policymakers.”

Still, Brunson said that REEES has a limited budget, and with more money, the program could start post-doctoral and visiting scholar programs, provide grants for research, or start international partnerships.

“I would turn this question around and ask what the University can do to help its REEES community support and expand the diversifying efforts in the field,” Brunson responded when asked about REEES efforts on promoting “decolonial” scholarship about the region.

In her own teaching and research, Bojanowska, who works on Russian literature and intellectual history, has been focused on decentering Russian perspectives and studying colonized nations long before the Russian invasion of Crimea in 2014 and the full-scale invasion of 2022.

She added that, with the war, her research, which used to be “on the margins,” is now moving toward the center in terms of its efforts to decolonize Russian history.

In her first book, for example, she highlighted the engagement with Ukrainian nationalist concerns of Nikolay Gogol, a writer who is usually considered to be Russian.

As a department chair, however, she said she does not push her colleagues toward decolonial scholarship or teaching.

“It is not my place to encourage my colleagues to teach anything in any special way. They have the intellectual [and] academic freedom to make those decisions,” Bojanowska said. “The way we constitute ourselves, [and] the colleagues that we hire, speaks to our values and speaks to where ... we want to go.”

In the hiring process, according to Bojanowska, the department prioritized interdisciplinarity and a comparative look into non-Russian cultures. Bojanowska also told the News that the Slavic department wants to hire more professors who specifically work on non-Russian Eastern European cultures.

interest and take Ukrainian language classes, she said.

Bojanowska said that the Slavic department also hopes to change its beginning Russian language textbooks. The new textbooks will include interviews with Russian speakers from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds, which she said “will solidify the idea that the Russian language is not the sole property of the Russian nation.”

“We have become very sensitive, both professors and graduate students, about making a distinction between Russian and Russophone ... and making sure that the research and teaching that we do conveys ... the Russophone world as diverse, multicultural, and also shaped by imperial legacies,” Bojanowska said.

Yale also moved its Russian summer study abroad program to Georgia starting in the summer of 2023.

During the transition, Bojanowska said that the faculty was careful not to turn the program, which continues to teach Russian, into a “colonial venture,” given the colonial history of Georgia. Thus, students are also required to learn some Georgian and take classes in Georgian culture.

Brunson wrote that she would like to see the University invest in expanding other language offerings beyond Ukrainian, such as in-person Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian or Central Asian languages classes, all of which have strong faculty and student interest, per Brunson.

East European and Eurasian languages at Yale

Brunson believes that the key to “genuine decolonizing work” is language study.

While Ukrainian has only been offered as an online course in the past through Columbia University, Yale hired lector Olha Tytarenko, who will spearhead the Ukrainian language program starting next semester.

“Edyta Bojanowska in Slavic [department] did go to heroic lengths to find a way to get the Ukrainian language taught and that’s very important,” Snyder said. “It was not the result of some kind of general flowing of support from [the] University.”

Bojanowska told the News that her department has long worked on bringing in-person Ukrainian language instruction to the university. Now, the success of this program will depend on whether students demonstrate an



KAI NIP

Since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Yale has started offering more courses about Ukraine.

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Focus on Ukraine across departments, schools

After the Russian full-scale invasion, some professors outside of Eastern European studies started to teach classes on Ukraine or include materials about the country in their curricula across schools and departments.

“What perhaps has changed [since the full-scale invasion] is that students interested in the language of propaganda, in security studies, in intelligence work, in the history of totalitarianism, in European affairs are

now focused on Ukraine,” Shore wrote to the News.

In the Law School, professors Eugene Fidell and Margaret Donovan co-teach the course “The Russo-Ukrainian War” on what the war shows about the law of armed conflict and international legal issues. The course, which is law-focused but not limited to law students, is cross-listed with the School of Management and the Jackson School of Global Affairs.

Fidell told the News that he feels a personal connection to Ukraine because three-quarters of his family originally come from the region. He said that he and Donovan also relate to the course because they are both military veterans.

Fidell said that he wanted to offer the course because he expected it to be “pretty stimulating for us to teach, as well as for students” because there would be “so many potential flashpoints.”

The class brings speakers who talk about legal aspects of the war in Ukraine and cover topics like child abduction, the legality of possible peace settlements and the question of whether Russia commits genocide in Ukraine.

The other course at YLS that centers on the war is “International Law and War in Ukraine and Gaza,” taught by Professor of law and the humanities Paul Kahn. Lectures in the class, frequently by guest speakers who speak to either the war in Ukraine or the Israel-Hamas war, seek to understand how the wars “are both shaped by law and shape the law.”

Kahn said that he decided to pair the two ongoing wars together...

Read more online:



“Living everyday in the presence of those who refuse to acknowledge your humanity takes great courage.”

MIN JIN LEE AUTHOR

As alders ease residency rules, Elicker wants more



DANIEL ZHAO / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Board of Alders opened a path for city coordinators to ask to live outside city limits; Mayor Justin Elicker said that more officials should have that flexibility.

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

Should officials who help govern New Haven have to live in New Haven?

The question is on local leaders’ minds after alders voted this month to let certain city administrators seek exemptions to the typical residency requirements — a move Mayor Justin Elicker said he hopes is the first step toward greater flexibility for more officials.

The Board of Alders approved, by a 26–4 vote on March 4, an ordinance change allowing incumbent city coordinators to get waivers to move outside city limits if they prove to alders “a critical need or extraordinary hardship due to exceptional circumstances.” New Haven currently has three coordinators: top mayoral lieutenants who each oversee a large swath of the city government.

Elicker told the News he appreciates the measure but would like to go further, by easing or removing residency requirements for all department heads, who are one rung below coordinators, except for the fire and police chiefs.

“There’s, I think, generally the concept that someone that’s a New Haven resident maybe has more skin in the game,” he said. “At the same time, for these highly specialized positions, it is incredibly difficult at times to identify people that are New Haven residents to fill them.”

For example, Elicker said, before the city hired Kristy Sampieri as comptroller, it took two years to fill the position. Elicker said recruitment for municipal jobs has only grown harder in recent years amid a competitive labor market, leaving roughly 200 of the city’s 1409 full-time positions vacant.

Ward 27 Alder Richard Furlow, the Board’s majority leader, said it would

be more difficult to persuade the alders to weaken, let alone eliminate, residency mandates for department heads. While coordinators serve at the mayor’s pleasure, department heads work under four-year contracts.

“Part of our legislative agenda is good jobs for New Haven residents. And so these good jobs should start where we are, at City Hall,” Furlow said.

He added that he would be open to rethinking the residency mandate for certain posts but thinks the government should better advertise available jobs to New Haveners.

Board President Tyisha Walker-Myers, who represents Ward 23, is assembling a working group of alders and city officials to consider the merits of residency requirements for each department head position, according to Furlow.

Connecticut law since 1989 has forbidden residency mandates for unionized government workers such as police officers, firefighters and

teachers. But other cities in the state have requirements for more senior office-holders, as New Haven does.

In 2021, Hartford loosened its residency mandate with an ordinance amendment that lets four department heads request waivers to live outside the city.

Hartford’s then-mayor, Luke Bronin — who is teaching a Yale Law School course about local and state governance this semester — told the News that officials who live out of town can be just as devoted to serving residents.

“It’s often very hard to get somebody to change school districts, sell a home and move in for a job that they might not have two years later,” Bronin said. “Especially where cities are small, a city should be able to have the flexibility it needs to attract the right team.”

Elicker proposed ending residency requirements for department heads during New Haven’s charter revision

process last year, but the idea did not catch on as a charter amendment.

The measure enacted this month is far narrower. Exceptions are only available to coordinators, a senior rank that at most four people can hold — and only to coordinators who have already served for a year.

To receive an exception, a coordinator must be experiencing significant hardship, such as one related to their family, health or finances. Even with an approved waiver, they must live within 50 miles of New Haven’s borders and in Connecticut.

“I feel strongly that any leadership positions for this city should reside in this city,” Ward 10 Alder Anna Festa, one of the four alders to oppose the measure, told her colleagues before the vote. “We don’t have anyone that is qualified to fill these positions that resides in the City of New Haven?”

The most immediate effect of the ordinance amendment could be to allow Chief Administrative Officer Regina Rush-Kittle to move in with her family out of town.

Elicker has not formally asked the alders for an exception for Rush-Kittle, who continues to live in New Haven. Elicker’s spokesman said Friday that the mayor plans to do so but has no firm timeline.

“With my family based in Rocky Hill, like other working families, I’m glad to be able to do the job I love during the day and then commute home to be with family on the evenings and weekends,” Rush-Kittle wrote in a statement provided by the mayor’s office.

Elicker has also not set a timeline for proposing to the Board of Alders a measure to allow residency exceptions for department heads. Furlow said the question may have to wait until after the budget process concludes in May, or even until the fall.

The other two current coordinator-level positions, besides chief administrative officer, are economic development administrator and community services administrator.

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Blumenthal reminisces with Dems, interrupted by protests

BY ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTER

Sen. Richard Blumenthal LAW ’73 returned to his alma mater on Tuesday evening to speak to the Yale College Democrats.

The senior Connecticut senator mostly recounted anecdotes from his long political career and offered advice for novices. The hourlong event in Linsly-Chittenden Hall was interrupted briefly by pro-Palestine protesters.

Standing before a crowd of roughly 100 students, Blumenthal stressed the value of starting out in politics by forming relationships through local campaigns and community organizations.

“Go back to your roots,” Blumenthal said he was told by Justice Byron White LAW ’46 during the now-senator’s year clerking for Justice Harry Blackmun. Blumenthal added, “You don’t have to go back to your hometown, but you do have to set down some roots.”

Five minutes into the senator’s introductory remarks, an attendee stood up and began to read a statement demanding that Blumenthal “call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.”

About a dozen students pulled out pieces of white cloth with the word “ceasefire,” and some held them up while walking by Blumenthal at the front of the room.

“You refuse to hold Israel accountable, but we will hold you accountable,” the protester yelled, referring to the over 32,000 people Israel has killed in Gaza since Hamas killed 1,200 and took over 250 as hostages during its Oct. 7 attack on Israel. “Shame on you, senator, and shame on all of you who remain complicit.”

The protesters, numbering about 30, marched out of the room while chanting “shame.” Blumenthal resumed a minute and a half after he had been interrupted and said he regretted that the protesters could not hear his position on the ongoing war.

He told the remaining group



ETHAN WOLIN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Senator Richard Blumenthal (Connecticut) recounted stories and offered advice at a Yale College Democrats event that was disrupted briefly by pro-Palestine activists.

tain Palestinians imprisoned in Israel. He also called for increased humanitarian aid to Gaza.

“Many in the Congress, like the president, are losing patience with the Netanyahu government,” Blumenthal said, referring to Israel’s prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

The rest of the event focused less on current events than on sometimes extended stories from Blumenthal’s nearly five decades in public life

the PACT Act of 2022, which expanded benefits for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals, and brought up legislation he has introduced to protect minors on social media.

During the Q&A section near the end of the hour, one student asked Blumenthal whether it amounted to a conflict of interest for members of Congress to trade stocks.

Blumenthal, whose wealth exceeded \$80 million in 2015, said

in disclosure forms. He would support banning members of Congress and their spouses from owning stocks, Blumenthal said, adding that it was “pretty tender territory” at home, a line that drew laughs.

Blumenthal told the News after the event ended that he enjoys returning to Yale, where he attended law school and where three of his four children have been students. The fourth will start at the law school in the fall.

He said he was not surprised by the pro-Palestine protests. “What

The News was unable to seek comment from the protesters who marched out of the event.

“Our organization is in support of our peers’ right to stand up for the causes they believe in,” wrote the Yale College Democrats in a statement to the News. The group added that it adheres to the University’s policy against event disruptions, which the moderator announced before Blumenthal spoke.

Blumenthal, 78, has served in the Senate since 2011

SCITECH

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

RUTH BADER GINSBURG SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Arvinas looks to make headway against breast cancer and brain diseases

BY JANICE HUR
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

As New Haven’s biopharmaceutical sector continues to grow, the startup Arvinas is making waves with its advancements in cancer and neurodegenerative disease treatments.

Headquartered in New Haven, Arvinas achieved two drug development milestones last month. The breast cancer drug that it is jointly developing with Pfizer, called vepdegestrant, received “fast-track” federal review from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The company also administered the first human test dose of another drug, labeled ARV-102, which targets neurodegenerative illnesses such as Parkinson’s disease.

Arvinas credits its success to a proprietary technology called PROTAC, an abbreviation for the term ‘proteolysis-targeting chimeras.’ The drugs, taken orally, use cells’ biological machinery to break down disease-causing proteins within the body — an approach that creates a promising avenue for treating a wide range of diseases including cancer and certain neurological disorders.

Arvinas scientists say that the distinct protein-breakdown approach targets proteins that are widely recognized to cause disease, taking the guesswork out of choosing a biological target that might have unintended consequences — or none at all.

“We’ve proven that PROTAC will be a product ... a drug that shows up in a bottle on a pharmacy shelf that someone can buy and take,” said Ron Peck, Arvinas’ former medical officer.

The FDA’s fast-track process is designed to accelerate the development and approval of drugs that are considered to potentially meet an unmet medical need. The drugs also must have sufficient data to show that they would be an important and effective potential therapy — criteria that Arvinas’ and Pfizer’s vepdegestrant could meet, said Ian Taylor, the company’s chief scientific officer.

The breast cancer therapy is cur-

rently being evaluated in Phase 3 clinical trials that are evaluating its effectiveness in patients with advanced, or metastatic, breast cancer who have previously been treated with endocrine medications that affect hormones in the body. Vepdegestrant is also being tested in other Phase 3 clinical trials as a combination therapy with other medications, including the breast cancer drug palbociclib.

Meanwhile, Arvinas’ drug for neurodegenerative diseases, ARV-102,

Peck and other biotech entrepreneurs believe that the Connecticut area has emerged as a hub for pharmaceutical companies to innovate.

“Connecticut is a great place to do drug discovery and drug development,” said Martin Mackay, co-founder of the New Haven-based biopharmaceutical company Rallybio. “There is great talent here. We thought we’d be able to really build partnerships with top academics ... we thought we could hire great people here.”

Compared with established biotech hubs like Boston or San Francisco, lower rent and overhead costs help startups with limited funding allocate more resources towards research and development, Taylor added.

Mackay described the significance of partnerships between academia, industry and local government in fueling innovation. Rallybio, for instance, launched out of the University of Connecticut’s technology incubator program in Farmington, giving the

including regulatory hurdles, funding constraints and scientific challenges.

New biopharmaceutical startups face high costs associated with running clinical trials. Though trial costs vary widely, a 2018 analysis found that the median expense for a single Phase 3 trial reached \$19 million, with the most expensive multi-thousand patient trials reaching upwards of \$340 million.

New Haven’s biopharmaceutical companies are no exception, even if rent costs are lower than in other cities. Rallybio, for instance, laid off nearly half its workforce last month, shrinking from 44 employees to 23. The money that Mackay’s company saved was used to obtain clinical trial data on pregnant mothers.

“You can pay in biotech dearly because you can’t raise the money that you need so easily,” Mackay said. “To extend the runway, we needed to make our money last longer. The people that we parted with were truly great human beings and great individuals, and it was kind of really hard for us to make those decisions. But we needed to make sure that we can get the data to see if this program is going to work.”

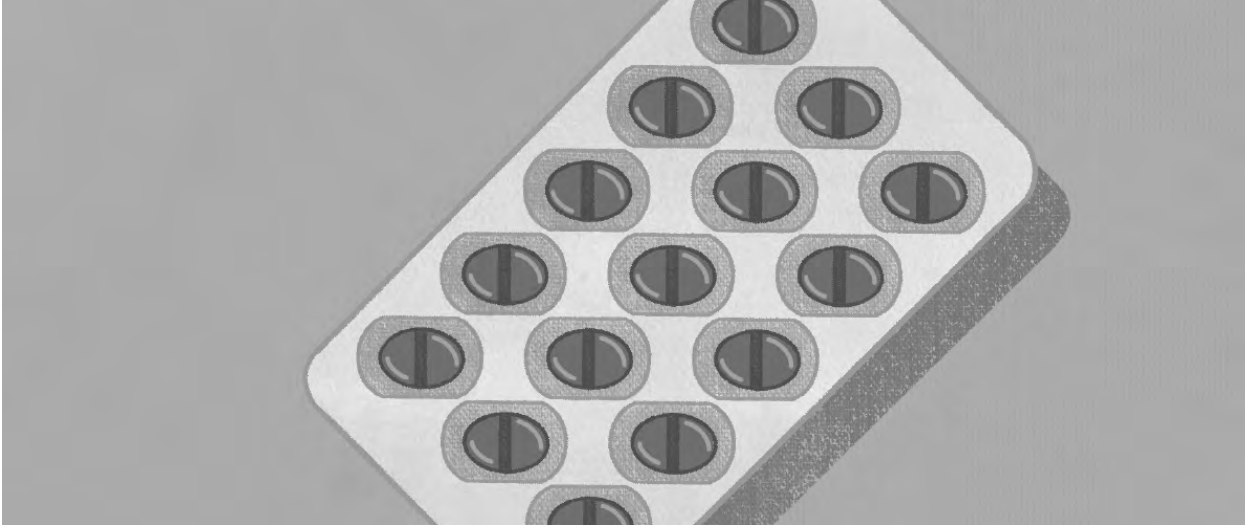
According to Peck, researchers developing a new drug also face a fundamental obstacle: uncertainty that the molecules or biological mechanisms the drug targets will have positive outcomes for patients.

But scientists like Taylor remain optimistic, particularly about the promise of Arvinas’ PROTAC technology. The technique, he believes, creates a new way to hit disease-causing proteins, over 80 percent of which are considered to be “non-druggable” by traditional drugs known as inhibitors.

“The challenge is getting the molecules to have drug-like properties,” Peck said. “Would these things actually work in humans? It’s looked great in laboratory systems, but do they really work?”

Arvinas is located at 395 Winchester Ave.

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YALE DAILY NEWS

Researchers at Yale and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte projected surges of COVID-19 in the winter months.

dosed its first human subject at the end of February. In a news release, the company detailed how the medication, in preclinical studies, targets a protein called leucine-rich repeat kinase 2, or LRRK2.

Research suggests that increased expression and activity of LRRK2 are associated with brain diseases like Parkinson’s. In primate studies, the company says, ARV-102 reached deep into the brain to degrade LRRK2 by up to 90 percent.

Arvinas’s recent drug development advancements mirror a broader trend of growth within New Haven’s burgeoning biotech landscape. With its proximity to research institutions like Yale University and a supportive ecosystem for startups,

Founded in 2013, Arvinas spun off from the lab of Yale biochemist and professor Craig Crews, employing a group of 20 individuals. Since then, the company has ballooned in size to 450, said Taylor. Today, the company has four drugs in development, including vepdegestrant and ARV-102, and has been publicly traded on the stock market since 2018.

For Taylor, the fact that New Haven has a less-saturated biopharmaceutical industry than other cities has helped the company thrive. In a less crowded field, he said, startups have a greater opportunity to establish themselves as key players and expand their operations over time.

company access to the university’s offices and laboratories.

He highlighted how university and government partnerships helped Rallybio gain footing during the drug development process.

“I think it starts off with the state government being attractive to come into Connecticut: you feel wanted,” Mackay said. “There was a recognition that there were great people here, that you could actually build companies. Very welcoming local government and local politicians make it a great place to discover new medicines and develop the biotech industry.”

But Arvinas’s researchers still face challenges in drug development,

Alzheimer’s Buddies continues to forge connections with nursing home residents

BY ALESSANDRA PAPPALARDI
STAFF REPORTER

A group of undergraduates called Alzheimer’s Buddies is making weekly trips to local nursing homes, creating connections between student volunteers and individuals with neurodegenerative disorders.

Housed under the Dwight Hall Center for Public Service, the student group pairs roughly 50 undergraduates with residents suffering from neurodegenerative diseases. These volunteers visit patients once a week in three care facilities to offer social and emotional care.

The group is led by co-presidents Rianna Raghunandan ’26 and Sarah Feng ’25, who help facilitate these interactions between Yale students and patients in nursing homes.

“Our main mission is to alleviate some of the burdens that affect both the patient who is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and also the nursing homes who take care of the patients,” Raghunandan said. “Nursing staff are in charge of so much medical care, but they don’t really have the time or energy to address the social withdrawal, the isolation and the loneliness that come with neurological diseases and being in a nursing home.”

Raghunandan emphasized that Alzheimer’s disease affects a patient’s physical, social and emotional health. While many care facilities try to tend to all three facets, the visits by Alzheimer’s Buddies address the social and emotional areas integral to overall patient well-being, Raghunandan and Feng said.

Raghunandan and Feng added that they hope to bridge the gap between the isolating nature of neurological diseases and emotional care with volunteerism. For example, complexities within the healthcare system can make it difficult for individuals affected by neurodegenerative disorders to form genuine connections, Feng said.

“Isolation can put you in a space where you don’t know how to ask for help,” Feng said. “I feel like with cog-



COURTESY OF SARAH FENG

Weekly, undergraduates offer social support to patients with neurodegenerative diseases to try to capture their life stories.

Though patients benefit from interacting with new students every week, the relationship is not one-sided, Raghunandan noted. Volunteers similarly benefit from the weekly visitations.

“There are not a lot of spaces currently where we can just kind of engage one-on-one with an older person,” Raghunandan said. “Volunteers can choose to repeat volunteering sessions with the same buddy, so it is interesting to keep building on these relationships.”

Volunteers don’t just chat with patients about their days and what they have done since their previous visit. Instead, they try to stimulate patients’ memories, delve further into residents’ stories and learn more about their lives.

The Looking Glass Project

ries of patients with memory loss. Volunteers ask patients probing questions to learn more about their biographies. They also interview patients’ family members to corroborate the information. Ultimately, Feng said, they hope to commemorate patients by developing narratives of their lives.

“Through the Looking Glass Project, we’re exploring and doing a deep dive into people’s lives — interviewing the patient and people around them to build a life biography through a journalistic point of view,” Feng said. “Even if they can’t exactly remember all of the details, it’s a way to celebrate them.”

The Looking Glass Project was initially launched in 2023 by Jocelyn Ra ’22, who worked as a student researcher in Alzheimer’s

undergraduate research, as well as the storytelling in Lewis Carroll’s “Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There,” Ra sought to create an initiative that helps patients and their families navigate the disorienting nature of neurodegenerative disorders.

According to Ra, the project has a three-pronged approach, aiming to benefit patients and their families, professional caregivers and students.

“For the patients and for the patient families, the project serves as a way for them to preserve life,” Ra said. “For memory care facility staff, it helps them get to know their patients better in ways that might not come up in normal conversation. Students can see and know that diseases are not suffered in isolation and that they’re also part

Hannah Barsouk ’25 co-leads the Looking Glass Project alongside Ra. She said that the ultimate goal is to expand nationally. While Alzheimer’s Buddies at Yale is one chapter of a national organization, the Looking Glass Project’s genesis is unique to New Haven.

“The hope is that eventually this would be a permanent part of National Alzheimer’s Buddies — starting here at Yale,” Barsouk said.

The pair is in the process of expanding the Looking Glass Project to other universities. They aspire to add more volunteers and form long-term relationships with local partnering nursing homes and care centers.

Alzheimer’s Buddies at Yale is one of 40 chapters associated with the national network.

ARTS

“There is a stubbornness about me that can never bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me.”
JANE AUSTEN, BRITISH WRITER

‘Past Lives’ director Celine Song delivers PAAH Month keynote speech

JANE PARK
STAFF REPORTER

More than 300 students filled the auditorium at Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall to hear from Korean Canadian director Celine Song on Tuesday. Song, the Academy Award-nominated director of “Past Lives,” was this year’s Pan Asian American Heritage Month, or PAAHM, keynote speaker.

The film, which is Song’s directorial film debut, follows two childhood friends, Nora and Hae-sung, as they reunite with each other and confront all that has changed — and remained the same — over the last 24 years. Song’s speech touched upon intentional creative decisions within the film, her experiences in the theater and film industry and her reflections on her bilingual, bicultural identity.

This year’s PAAHM celebrations centered on “Nostalgia and the Path Forward,” a theme that resonated with “Past Lives,” said Song.

“At the heart of the movie’s audience are immigrants,” she said. “And it can be in India, or it could be in France, or it could be in the United States. But wherever it is, the audience that this is for, at the heart of it, are people who have [had their] feet in two different spaces.”

Song’s address was preceded by a performance from “UNITY,” Yale’s traditional Korean drum and dance troupe — as well as introductions from Joliana Yee, director of the Asian American Cultural Center and an associate dean of Yale College, and Zahra Yarali ’24. Song’s speech was followed by a short Q&A session, moderated by Diza Hendrawan ’25 and Jenny Lee ’25.

According to Yee, the theme of “Nostalgia and the Path Forward” is an important reminder to carry lessons from the past with us as we are moving forward to the future.

“This year’s theme, ‘Nostalgia and the Path Forward,’ is a reminder in an ever-changing, fast-paced and oftentimes turbulent society, of the necessity to slow down, pause and remember our roots, where we come from,” Yee said. “I have personally found that whenever I feel



ELLIE PARK / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

In her address, Song spoke about “Past Lives” as a deeply personal, yet universal, story of reunion, loss and saying goodbye.

fear and doubt about the future, drawing from the strengths of my ancestors and communities, who shaped me into being, [has] been my most powerful tool.”

For fans of rom-com and film buffs alike, “Past Lives” has received critical acclaim for its modest, yet emotionally devastating, portrayal of romance. In some ways, the film’s honest and realistic nature comes from — “Past Lives” is partially inspired by Song’s own experiences. It is a nod and a love letter, almost, to herself.

The idea for this movie first came to her as she was sitting at a bar, in between her white husband Arthur and a childhood friend from Korea, translating between two men who had loved her across time, space and languages.

This moment would later serve as the inspiration for the opening scene of the film, in which two strangers observe Nora, Hae-sung and Arthur sitting at the bar and speculate about their relationships. They ask themselves whether Nora and Hae-sung are siblings. Is Nora introducing Arthur, her friend, to Hae-sung, her boyfriend? View-

ers are left wondering how these three characters’ relationships are intertwined.

As much as this opening scene serves to tease out curiosity and tension between the characters, for Song, this moment is an empowering one. Her bilingual tongue, an insecurity of hers, seemed to be a “superpower,” bringing together the worlds of two strangers.

“I remember also knowing that the only reason why these two people ended up in this bar on the same night and our ‘in-yeon’ is because of me,” Song said. “Because of their connection to me. And I think that being in that room, being bilingual felt like a superpower. It felt like I was now able to collapse time and space and become whole and become bigger than an ordinary person.”

Since its release, “Past Lives” has enjoyed considerable success and popularity. Most recently, the film was nominated for Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture at this year’s Academy Awards and received five nominations at the 81st Golden Globe Awards.

Not everyone was sold on this movie at first, according to Song. Particularly during the pre-production stages, it was difficult for people to understand the marketability and feasibility of a bilingual film. Song had written the script before the success of 2018 film “Parasite,” which spurred critical discourse on how foreign-language movies were treated in award circuits, said Song.

It seemed as if this was a story nobody wanted to hear. Even the script-writing programs seemed to reject bilingualism, Song said.

“I opened ‘Final Draft,’ and I realized that they don’t support any other alphabet except for the English alphabet,” Song said. “It’s a way of implicitly telling you that Hollywood is not interested in a movie that is bilingual.”

While “Past Lives” was Song’s first script-writing venture in the film industry, Song has been a playwright for more than decade. If there’s anything that Song has learned from her experience in the theater industry, it’s rejection. As a playwright, she said, you realize that “no one wants to do your plays anyway.” Just as she had

done with theater-writing, Song pushed on and continued to write.

Even as she met and spoke with audiences in various different countries, Song noted that this story is particularly relatable for viewers who are used to having their feet in two different worlds: “sometimes bilingual, sometimes bicultural and sometimes not even fully that.”

At the same time, however, there is a universality to the heartache and yearning of “Past Lives,” said Song. She recalled a conversation she had with an audience member in Galway, Ireland, who tearfully spoke to her about his childhood sweetheart, all the while pronouncing “in-yeon,” the Korean word for fate, in a heavy Irish accent.

“There’s a way that you can watch ‘Past Lives’ where it is quite a universal feeling,” Song said. “Just by having been 16 once and no longer 16 and feeling displaced from the person that you were when you were 16 and having become a different person, because now you’re a little bit older ... I think that’s the reason why the audience existed in such a big way.”

For Lee, one of the co-moderators for the Q&A portion of the talk, “Past Lives” is more than a story of romance.

The film presents a chance for its characters, as well as viewers, to properly say goodbye.

“To me, it was a story about a childhood sweetheart and a now-lover but also about letting go of a life that could’ve been,” Lee said in an interview with the News. “It’s about visiting Korea and seeing high school-aged girls in uniforms and wondering what I could’ve looked like in a Korean high school uniform. It wasn’t just a film about letting go of an imagined romance with someone but also about mourning versions of a life forfeited to, as Celine Song shared in her keynote, the Pacific Ocean and time.”

Song’s play “Endlings” premiered at the American Repertory Theater in 2019 and tells the tale of three older Korean haenyeos — female sea divers — and a Korean-Canadian writer residing in New York.

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Yale Student Film festival to feature award-winning speakers

LUCIANA VARKEVISSER
STAFF REPORTER

This spring, the Yale Student Film Festival team will be hosting its ninth annual film festival featuring award-winning filmmakers and the best of student filmmaking.

The Yale Student Film Festival screens student films from around the world. Submissions are sorted into five categories: narrative, experimental, documentary, animation and high school. Films are then reviewed by a panel of judges, including industry professionals and Yale faculty members. The festival will include screenings of submissions and a featured screening of a film from David Hemmingson ’86.

This festival is “an opportunity to see some of the best shorts that are being made around the world in one auditorium,” said co-director of the festival Gabrielle Burrus Bustamante ’26.

The submission team received over 600 films from 20 countries. Out of that pool, only 50 were selected for awards and screenings. The festival itself will include screening blocks for those films that were chosen, award ceremonies and parties.

This film festival is unique in the sense that it is curated specially for college filmmakers, giving them the opportunity to gain production and critical skills in filmmaking.

In addition to student screenings, the festival will host renowned film industry profes-

sionals to lead Q&A-style talks and workshops.

Big Apple Film Festival’s Women Filmmakers Short Film 2019 winner, Patrice Bowman ’15, will lead a color grading workshop. Producer of “Eternal Sunshine of The Spotless Mind,” Anthony Bregman ’88, and producer of “Past Lives,” Pamela Koffler ’87, will lead a session on independent producing. Writer and co-executive producer of “The Boys,” Michael Saltzman ’86, will lead a talk on TV writing and producing.

A full list of the festival’s workshops and networking events can be found on their website.

With the appearance of talented Yale alumni, in addition to films by Yale students, the festival team hopes to bring light to the artistic talent of the Yale community.

“I’m interested in making a community for young filmmakers,” said director of programming Marissa Blum ’24, “and to give a name to Yale as a place for student filmmaking.”

The festival will host three feature screenings. The Connecticut premiere of the documentary “Roleplay,” a film following a group of Tulane students as they confront sexual violence on their campus, will include a post-screening conversation moderated by Yale Communication and Consent Educators. The film’s producer Jenny Mercein ’95 and director Katie Matthews will be present for the screening. The sci-fi mystery “Karmalink”



COURTESY OF YALE STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

The Yale Student Film Festival team will host its annual film festival this April.

will be screened and joined by producer Valerie Steinberg — producer of the 2022 Cannes festival Caméra D’Or award-winner, “War Pony.”

The festival’s “spotlight screening” of “The Holdovers” will be joined by writer and producer of the Oscar-nominated film, David Hemmingson.

The festival is a “center for student filmmaking in the northeast” and aims to “celebrate the next generation of filmmakers,” said festival

co-director Eli Berliner ’26.

Because the festival boasts submissions from across the world, some events will have the option of virtual attendance.

The festival’s goal is to bring together filmmakers and film lovers alike. It is open to all students, regardless of major.

“One of our main missions is making the Yale Student Film Festival as accessible as possible,” wrote director of publicity Miette Maoul-

idi ’25 in an email to the News. “This means our tickets are free and available to anyone, no matter their academic institution or major. We are screening so many great films that the public deserves to see!”

The festival will be hosted April 11-14 in various locations across Yale’s campus.

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SPORTS

Bulldogs fall to Aztecs

M BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 14

program, it stings knowing I’m never going to wear this jersey again,” Mahoney said. “But this has been the best few weeks of my life. As much as it hurts now I know I’m gonna look back in a week, a month, a year and have this journey for the rest of my

life. I’m forever indebted to coach Jones and know this program is in great hands.”

This season was the second time ever that Yale made it to the NCAA tournament’s round of 32, the first being in 2016 when the No. 12 Bulldogs upset No. 5 Baylor in round one before falling to No. 4 Duke.

The Bulldogs have a lot to look forward to next season. Three of their five starters will be returning, and young players such as Danny Wolf ’26, Nick Townsend ’26 and Samson Aletan ’27 are poised for bright futures.

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BEN RAAB / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Three of their five starters will be returning, and young players such as Danny Wolf ’26, Nick Townsend ’26 and Samson Aletan ’27 are poised for bright futures.

Bulldogs defeat Dartmouth, making history

W LAX FROM PAGE 14

ing out after the game was definitely very exciting.”

Yale’s impressive 8–0 record marks their best start since the 2001 season, solidifying their position as one of the three remaining undefeated teams in NCAA Division 1 women’s lacrosse. This remarkable feat places the Bull-

dogs in a strong position as they prepare for the rest of their season and Ivy League play.

Looking ahead, the Bulldogs will take on No. 23 Brown University (8–2, 1–1 Ivy) at Reese Stadium this Saturday at 1 p.m.

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YALE ATHLETICS

The Bulldogs play against the University of Massachusetts on Friday at 7 p.m..

Yale ready to begin racing

MEN’S CREW FROM PAGE 14

longtime volunteer coach, Henri LaLiberte, as the third member of the coaching staff. In July 2023, LaLiberte served as an assistant coach alongside Gladstone for the U.S. Men’s Senior National Team.

“It’s been a seamless transition,” said Harry Keenan ’24, team captain and first varsity coxswain. “Mike brings to the table a ton of success and frankly he just knows what to do.”

Since the founding of Yale’s boat club in 1843, Keenan is only the second coxswain to be chosen as captain of the team. Gennaro said to Yale Athletics that Keenan’s captaincy as coxswain “speaks volumes to how much he is respected by our squad.”

Last year, Keenan coxed first varsity through an undefeated dual race season and earned First Team All-Ivy.

This Saturday, the top four heavyweight boats will take on Brown, Harvard, Northeastern, Washington and Stanford at the IRA Sarasota Invitational.

At this event last year, the first and fourth varsities came in first. The second varsity finished third to Brown and Washington, and the third varsity finished second to Washington.

The invitational marks the first competition of the team’s spring racing season — and it will be followed by three dual races, the Eastern Sprints and IRA Championships, and, finally, the 157th iteration of the iconic Yale-Harvard Regatta in June.

When asked about the team’s goals for the season, Keenan emphasized the importance of consistent work leading up to the day of a race, not just the crew’s performance on the day itself.

“Obviously we want to get results in the big races, but that comes from executing day in and day out,” the senior coxswain said. “We’re looking to go as fast as we can, and hopefully that is enough to bring home the medals we want.”

Yale is the oldest collegiate boat club in America.

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YALE ATHLETICS

Yale is the oldest collegiate boat club in America.

Elis tally wins over Denver and Harvard, fall to Cornell

M LAX FROM PAGE 14

tied game, was a behind-the-back pass by Anderson to Brandau, who shot and scored on Pioneer goalkeeper Malcolm Kleban. The play was featured as one of SportsCenter’s Top-10 of the week.

Throughout the contest, the Elis led the game 57–43 in shots and 28–17 in ground balls. Between Rodriguez and faceoff specialist Nicholas Ramsey ’24, Yale won 19-of-32 faceoffs, and goalkeeper Jared Paquette ’25 made 11 saves.

In their home game against Harvard the following Saturday, the Elis also saw success, dominating their Ivy League rivals 17–15. Leading the contest by seven points at halftime, Yale managed to hold Harvard at bay and refused to concede their lead the entire game.

Defenseman Jack Stuzin ’25 began scoring for the Bulldogs just ten seconds into the first period, assisted by Hackler. Harvard answered back with an unassisted goal by attackman Sam King, but Yale responded with two more goals by Kuhl and midfielder Logan Soelberg ’25.

Crimson attackman Teddy Malone reduced Yale to a one-point lead, but the Elis scored another two within the next minute, both by Kuhl and assisted by Brandau. Malone scored again for Harvard with 8:43 remaining in the quarter, and the Bulldogs closed out the frame with three more goals, by Keib, midfielder Thomas Bragg ’24 and Hackler.

Harvard opened the second frame with two goals, by King and attackman/midfielder Miles Botkiss, so, in retribution, Yale scored five in the next ten minutes. Kuhl scored once, while Keib and Anderson each tallied two goals. King closed out the half with a goal for Harvard, raising the score to 13–6.

In the third quarter, Harvard attempted a comeback, scoring five goals in comparison to Yale’s sole, unassisted goal by Bragg. In the final frame, however, Yale held its lead by adding three more goals, by Bragg, midfielder Cole Cashion ’27 and Hackler, who shot from beyond midfield into an empty net.

Ultimately, Harvard was unable to catch up to Yale’s lead, securing Yale its first Ivy victory of the season. Brandau tied Yale’s single-game assists record with eight

assists, Rodriguez led the Bulldogs in faceoffs, going 24-for-34, and Paquette made nine saves during the contest.

Last Saturday, Yale traveled to Ithaca, New York, to face Cornell. After a two-hour game delay due to adverse snowy weather conditions, Cornell attackman Ryan Goldstein began scoring 1:13 into the game. Yale answered back with two unassisted goals by Brandau and Bragg, leading to Cornell’s next two by attackman/midfielder AJ Nikolic and attackman CJ Kirst.

Kuhl was the next to net a goal to level the score, followed nearly 30 seconds later with another Nikolic goal. A goal by Brandau closed out the period in a 4–4 tie.

Cornell netted three more goals throughout the second period, followed by three Yale tallies from Soelberg and Hackler — to close out the half — and Bragg to open the third frame. Cornell scored again twice, and Kuhl answered back with 9:58 remaining in the third period. Big Red Michael Long made two consecutive goals within 15 seconds, followed by another Kirst score with 7:16 remaining.

Brandau, Krevsky and Kuhl each added a goal in the remainder of the third frame to reduce Cornell to a one-point lead. In the fourth and final frame, however, Cornell scored five consecutive goals, before Yale added three — one by Krevsky and two by Brandau — which wasn’t enough to catch the lead.

Within the final six seconds of the game, Long and Bragg each scored one goal, leaving Yale in a three-point deficit to close out the contest.

The Elis led the game in shots, 48–39, and turnovers, 14–13. Yale also edged Cornell 44–33 in ground balls and 21–14 in won faceoffs. Rodriguez had a team-best 13 ground balls, followed by Brandau and Hackler with five each.

Paquette made 14 saves in goal for the Bulldogs throughout the game.

Yale faces Le Moyne (2–5, 0–0 NEC) at Reese Stadium on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and will travel to Providence, Rhode Island, on Saturday to face Brown at 2:00 p.m. Both games will be streamed on ESPN+, and the Brown game will also be streamed on NESN.

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Despite FAFSA delays, financial aid office promises no changes to timeline

BY MOLLY REINMANN
STAFF REPORTER

In 2020, Congress passed the FAFSA Simplification Act, which intended to simplify the application process for and expand access to federal student aid beginning with the 2024-25 academic year.

But rollout this year of the modified FAFSA is occurring on a months-delayed timeline, forcing many colleges to push back deadlines for students to respond to their offers of admission, and leaving many students to choose a college without final financial aid offers.

But federal delays will not affect Yale College’s ability to release initial financial aid offers to admitted students, according to Director of Undergraduate Financial Aid Kari DiFonzo. Come Thursday, when regular admission decisions are released, admitted students will receive an initial financial aid offer detailing the amounts their families are expected to contribute toward their Yale education, DiFonzo said. When FAFSA information becomes available, families will receive a follow-up financial aid package, specifying how much aid will come from Yale and how much will come from federal Pell Grants.

“There are many reasons why the process of completing a financial aid offer can take longer for some families, but, thankfully, the FAFSA delays are not impeding our ability to assess families’ need and package offers,” DiFonzo told the News. “The proportion of admitted students with completed financial aid offers at the time admissions decisions are released is very similar to last year.”

The goal of the FAFSA Simplification Act was to make the application for federal student aid as easy as possible, but rollout problems caused more harm than good, DiFonzo said.

In a normal year, the FAFSA form is released for families in October. This year, however, due to complications with system changes, the system did not launch until late December.

“Many families — those who were able to access the system — were able to complete the form in maybe 10 minutes or less,” DiFonzo said. “The problem has really been with the rollout. It came out much, much later than it should have. Even when it was introduced, it was intermittently available, and it was down for maintenance all the time.”

According to DiFonzo, when assembling a student’s financial aid package, Yale looks at the “full financial aid profile” of their family, using information from the student’s CSS profile, their FAFSA documents and their federal tax documents.



EUI YOUNG/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Despite delays in the FAFSA rollout, Yale will not havfinancial aid office it will still be able to inform families about their expected contribution as planned.

The Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid uses a process called “institutional methodology,” when determining a family’s financial aid package, DiFonzo explained. This allows financial aid officers to gauge a family’s financial need without access to FAFSA documents, using only information from their CSS profile.

Because of Yale’s robust financial aid program, the role of the FAFSA in the assembly of a financial aid offer is mainly to determine what amount of a family’s aid will come from federal dollars, DiFonzo said.

“What we do is we start with the total cost of attendance, and then subtract out the family share that we calculate, and then you are left with a student’s total need,” she said. “That total need can be thought of as a big bucket, one which is filled both with Yale financial aid dollars and federal financial aid dollars. So the role of the FAFSA is really just in figuring out how much of that need bucket is filled with federal aid versus institutional aid.”

Yale has the resources to meet 100 percent of every student’s demonstrated financial need, DiFonzo said; however, she added that the financial aid office counts on some portion of the aid given out being subsidized by federal dollars in the form of Pell Grants.

But because of Yale’s promise to meet all demonstrated need, it is possible to send out initial offers without FAFSA information detailing how much of their

financial aid will come from Pell Grants. According to DiFonzo, the initial offers will be less about telling families exactly how much financial aid they will receive from Yale and more about making families aware of how much they should plan to pay for the following academic year.

“I feel strongly that students and families need as much time as possible to plan,” DiFonzo said. “If we wait until we’ve had the opportunity to review all of the FAFSAs, which likely won’t be until July, one or two months of a payment plan will have already passed. The bill will already have been posted. This way, at least families can start thinking about what their payment plans will look like.”

Dean of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Jeremiah Quinlan echoed the importance of giving families as much time as possible to plan.

Cost is typically the top concern for most admitted students, Quinlan told the News, so releasing these initial packages will give families ample time to process their aid packages and ask questions.

Despite a delayed and complicated rollout of FAFSA this year, the financial aid office is not making any adjustments to its timeline for returning students. There is an April 1 priority deadline for returning students to submit their financial aid applications.

DiFonzo said it is possible that financial aid packages for current students, which are sched-

uled to begin releasing in the coming weeks, might also be released without FAFSA information and adjusted later on.

Every financial aid package sent out to an incoming first-year student includes a cover letter from DiFonzo that explains information about Yale’s financial aid program and the contents of their aid packet. Historically, returning students’ aid packages do not include a similar letter.

However, DiFonzo said that due to this year’s FAFSA complications, returning students will also get a cover letter from the office along with their initial financial aid package detailing that there may be changes to their financial aid package once their FAFSA is reviewed on the delayed timeline.

These discrepancies between the financial aid package given in the coming weeks and those given when the FAFSAs are all processed may also occur for incoming students.

Although the information on a student’s CSS Profile should align with that on their FAFSA form, DiFonzo said there are occasional discrepancies. In previous years, such discrepancies have been resolved by clarifying certain details with families before releasing their aid packages.

But because this year’s FAFSA forms will be released after initial aid packages have already been sent out, if there is discrepant information between a student’s CSS Profile and their FAFSA, the office might have to make slight

changes to a family’s financial aid offer, according to DiFonzo.

“We are making sure that, when we send out initial financial aid packages, we are saying clearly to students that this is not a final financial aid offer,” DiFonzo said. “Rather, it is a tentative offer, pending review of their FAFSA; if students qualify for federal aid, their Yale financial aid package might change. We want students to understand that they will get another letter later on, but their end result — the amount their family is expected to pay — will be the same.”

The Yale College Council has been campaigning for years for increased transparency from the financial aid office, according to YCC president Julian Suh-Toma ’25.

Suh-Toma said that, while he is happy with the office’s decision to communicate initial assessments to students as quickly as possible, he is worried about the possibility of packages shifting pending new information from FAFSA documents.

“This plan of action feels like the best of a poor lot in the face of an admissions cycle where families may otherwise have no estimated cost of attendance to work off of,” Suh-Toma wrote in a message to the News.

The FAFSA was first issued in 1992 with the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

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Lamont honors Idaho band for cheering on Bulldogs

BY BEN RAAB AND ETHAN WOLIN
STAFF REPORTERS

Governor Ned Lamont SOM ’80 proclaimed Thursday — March 28, 2024 — to be “University of Idaho Day” in Connecticut, honoring the student band that played for the Yale men’s basketball team during two national tournament games in Spokane last weekend.

“The University of Idaho student band, a tribe from the North, brave and bold, bearing banners of Silver and Gold, donned blue and white, tried and true, to subdue all Yale’s foes,” the official statement from the governor said.

With Yale’s marching band unable to make the trip over spring break, Yale Athletics reached out to Idaho’s Vandal Marching Band on Sunday, March 17 — the day Yale defeated Brown to earn a spot in March Madness — asking if it could sub in.

The musicians, wearing Yale T-shirts and calling themselves the “Van-Dogs,” gained national media attention after performing during Yale’s first-round win over Auburn and also earned praise from the team’s players and coaches.

“It’s outstanding that the government did that to recognize the band,” head coach James Jones told the News after Lamont’s proclamation. “It was such a selfless act and I’m humbled that they were able

to come out and support us and be recognized in this way.”

Lamont’s statement commends the band’s effort to learn “Bulldog,” the Yale fight song, and its commitment to “understanding Yale traditions.” It also credits the band as a contributor to the Bulldogs’ upset victory over Auburn.

After that game, the band briefly returned to the University of Idaho for a campus recruiting event before making another 90-minute trip to Spokane on Sunday to perform during Yale’s second-round matchup against San Diego State.

“Our entire goal was to do the best we could to represent Yale University and the State of Connecticut as well as the University of Idaho and the Gem State,” Spencer Martin, Idaho’s director of athletic bands, wrote to the News. “We are so humbled to be honored by Governor Lamont and the State of Connecticut.”

By all indications, Lamont is a big fan of college basketball.

The University of Connecticut men’s team won last year’s national championship, and the UConn women boast a record 11 national championships. Lamont has taken to calling the state “the basketball capital of the world.”

On March 21 this year, Lamont released his March Madness brackets, accompanied by a nearly two-minute video discussing the prospects of each of the five Connecticut teams



COURTESY OF DAVID SCHAMIS

Governor Ned Lamont proclaimed Thursday “University of Idaho Day” after the school’s marching band stepped in to support Yale.

that had qualified for either the men’s or women’s tournaments. No fewer than ten of the governor’s 26 posts on X in the past two weeks have concerned college basketball.

David Bednarz, a spokesperson for Lamont, wrote in a statement to the News on Thursday that the governor decided to declare “University of Idaho Day” after seeing news coverage about the Idaho band’s service to the Bulldogs.

“Proclaiming a day in the university’s honor is a fun way to show that while our two states may be on opposite sides of the country, acts of good sportsmanship like this can bring us together,” Bednarz wrote.

Thursday’s announcement was not Lamont’s first time focusing the ceremonial power of the governorship on March Madness.

Last spring, after the UConn men’s team qualified for the Final Four, Lamont proclaimed a “Husky Weekend” before traveling to Houston to watch the games. But Lamont ruffled feathers by saying on a radio show that Houston was “butt ugly” during his visit. He later apologized to the city’s mayor.

For the University of Idaho, there is no apology — only thanks.

Yale and the University of Idaho are 2,193 miles apart.

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NEWS

Trumbull student affinity group showcases Black New Haven artists

BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

This week the Trumbull Art Gallery is hosting an exhibition of New Haven artists.

The exhibition is the culmination of a collaboration between the University’s Belonging at Yale initiative and BlackBull, a nascent Black student affinity group for Trumbullians co-founded by Jenelle Burgess ’26 and Alexander O’Sullivan ’26. According to Burgess, the theme of the gallery exhibition is “bridging community.” The five artists — Faustin Adeniran, Jasmine Nikole, Kwadwo Adae, Moshopefoluwa Olagunju and Marquía Brantley — are all local to the Elm City and will receive an honorarium for showcasing their work.

“I really do hope that this gallery will inspire similar things at Trumbull or throughout the Yale community,” Burgess told the News. “Because I do think it is a really beautiful thing to be able to showcase not just the wealth of talent that exists in the Black community and other marginalized communities at Yale, but also that exists in the community that we all walk through every day.”

Burgess said the idea to form BlackBull emerged among friends at a study break her first year but only formalized last semester with the help of newly-appointed Trumbull Head of College Fahmeed Hyder and his wife, Associate Head Anita Sharif-Hyder.

She said that the gallery was inspired by a similar event held to commemorate Black History Month at Hopkins High School by Hyder’s daughter Laila. Hyder then approached Burgess and proposed hosting such an event at Trumbull, Burgess said.

“I imagined that there was a need and a desire for a community like this and we’ve definitely seen that that is a shared sentiment,” said Burgess.

She added that the exhibition also came together with the help of Vice President and Secretary for University Life Kimberly Goff Crews ’83 LAW ’86, as well as Associate Dean for the Arts Kate Kreir.



BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Five local artists are showcasing their work in the Trumbull College art gallery this week in an exhibit sponsored by the Black Trumbullian student affinity group and Belonging at Yale.

Goff-Crews told the News that she hopes the exhibition inspires students to embark on something similar.

“People think there’s this big distinction between Yale and New Haven, but this helps bridge that divide,” Goff-Crews said. “To have a student in particular create a platform to be

the bridge is very inspiring and definitely needed.”

Nikole, one of the artists, told the News that it was a “huge honor” to exhibit her work alongside other New Haven artists at the University.

She added that she hopes her work fosters a sense of belonging in viewers and that simi-

lar programs continue to create a “mutual relationship” between Yale and New Haven.

“I grew up in New Haven, and I don’t think I’ve really been on campus and so I think programs like this could be a way to bridge that gap,” Nikole said. “There could be a mutual relationship where it’s not just Yale reaching back to the

community but the community imparting their knowledge back into Yale and its community.”

The gallery is open from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. every day this week until Friday at Trumbull College.

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Urban Resources Initiative plants first of 1,000 new trees

BY LILY BELLE POLING
STAFF REPORTER

On Monday morning, New Haveners gathered at Kimberly Field Park to celebrate the first tree planting of the 2024 tree planting season. This tree is the first of 1,000 trees the Urban Resources Initiative will plant in New Haven this year.

“Trees are awesome,” said Mayor Justin Elicker at the celebration. “They are beautiful, they’re wonderful for the environment because they suck in carbon so we can help reduce the impacts of climate change, they shade our neighborhoods to keep our cities cooler [and] they provide habitat for the birds that we’re hearing right now. We need many, many more trees in our city.”

Thanks to a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service through the Inflation Reduction Act, the URI is going to be planting 1,000 trees per year for the next five years, up from the 500 it planted in 2023. URI has been planting trees for at least the last 20 years.

In addition to the first tree planted in Kimberly Field Park, which is the largest park in New Haven’s Hill neighborhood, Colleen Murphy-Dunning — the director of URI — announced plans to plant a total of 30 trees in the park this week.

“Yale researchers have studied satellite images of New Haven and found that some of our neighborhoods, like Fair Haven and the Hill, can have surface temperatures that are 20 degrees hotter than other New Haven neighborhoods because they have less trees and less parkland,” Murphy-Dunning said.

The remaining 970 trees will be planted in the types of neighborhoods Murphy-Dunning referenced that have fewer trees and hotter temperatures due to climate change.

Murphy-Dunning also announced that the URI is working with IRIS — Integrated Refugee



COURTESY OF JOSEPH DWYER

Thanks to a \$2.6 million grant, the URI will be planting 1,000 trees per year for the next five years, the first of which was planted Monday morning.

& Immigration Services — which will help spread the word about the opportunity to have a tree planted for free in backyards, parks, schools and wherever residents want them.

“We only plant trees where people want them. We will plant for a resident, a school, a park [or] a business. Any institution who would like a free tree, we will plant it for you — if you promise to love and care for that tree by just watering it once a week,” Murphy-Dunning announced to the crowd. “So, we ask the public’s help in fighting climate change and growing our green workforce by requesting a tree from URI.”

In addition to the trees being planted, the city and URI, thanks to a \$60,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, will also be making improvements to Kimberly Park.

The other improvements to Kimberly Field will include upgrading the park trail, installing benches and trash cans, resurfacing the basketball court, improving the entrance between the school and park and planting other flowers and shrubs.

“For the last couple years, our community has poured its heart and soul into advocating for this park, a space that holds so much mean-

ing for all of us. We all know Kimberly Field hasn’t gotten the attention it deserves, and this is a story we see repeated across the city,” Crystal Fernández, co-founder of Friends of Kimberly Park, said. “Neighborhoods most impacted by environmental injustice often lack access to quality parks. This project is a symbol of our collective power.”

Kimberly Field Park is located next to the Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School parking lot, which uses the park for student recreation.

Principal Jennifer Jenkins mentioned that many families and members of the community walk or ride their bikes in the school

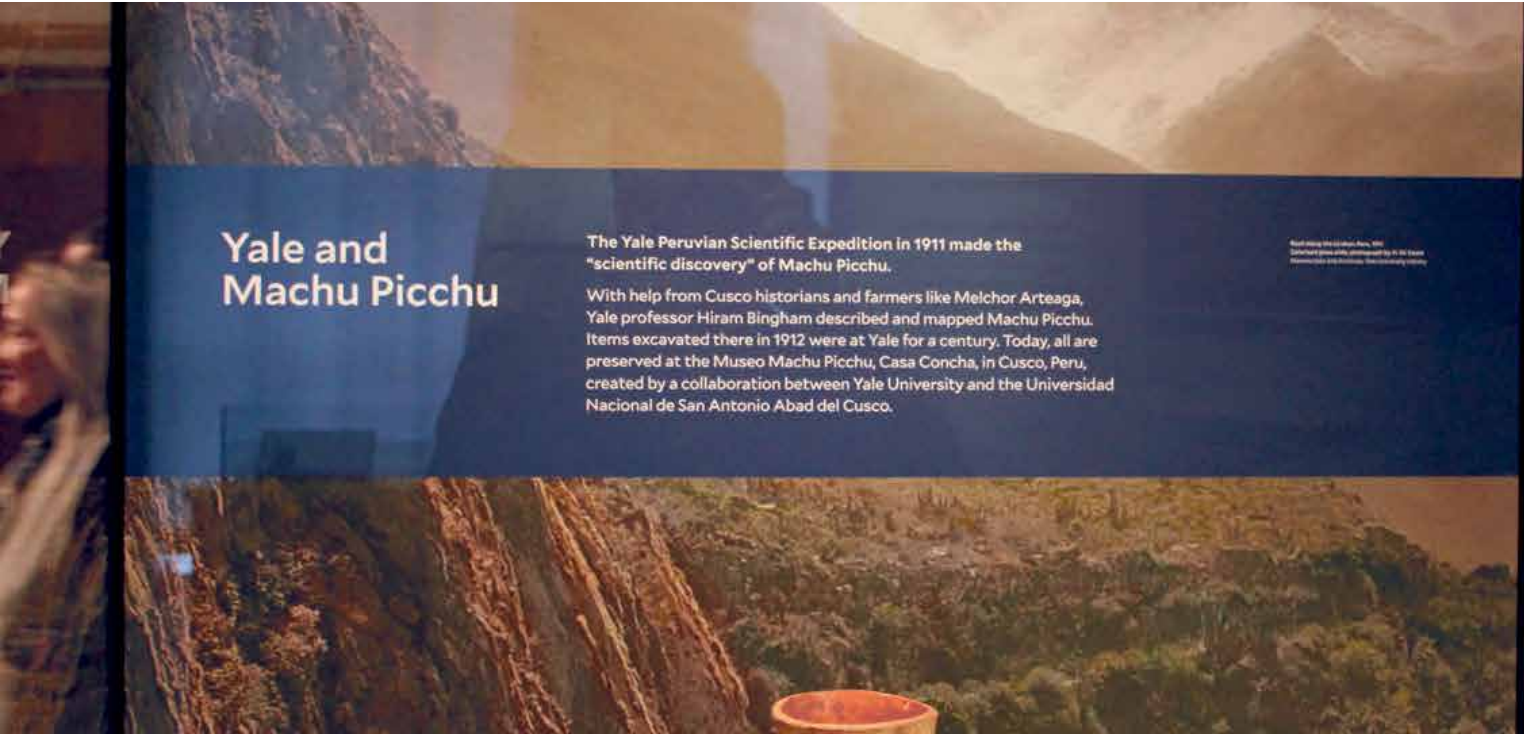
parking lot for exercise, so she was glad to see this park become something that can be a part of their daily lives.

“It is beautiful to see [this project] finally come to fruition,” Jenkins said. “It is just like with trees: we always see the big end result, but we don’t always see how the roots are planted into the ground. So I must say the process of getting here is definitely much like these trees being planted today.”

The Urban Resources Initiative began in Baltimore in 1989.

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THROUGH THE LENS



Photos by ADAM MCPHAIL.

SPORTS

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“My personal highlight has to be reaching 100 career goals. I didn’t even realize I was close to that mark so finding out after the game was definitely very exciting,”
YALE WOMEN’S LACROSSE STAR JENNA COLIGNON ’25 SAID OF HER 100TH CAREER GOAL

M BBall: Yale falls to SDSU, ending March Madness run

BY BEN RAAB
STAFF REPORTER

SPOKANE — As Spokane Arena emptied, Yale head coach James Jones went over to thank the Yale fan section and cheerleaders.
No. 13 Yale couldn’t pull off a second upset against No. 5 San Diego State Sunday night, falling 85–57 after the Aztecs got out to a hot first half start and made 13–27 threes throughout the game. The loss comes on the heels of a thrilling 78–76 victory over No. 4 Auburn on Friday night.
“San Diego State played a tremendous game,” head coach James Jones said following the loss. “They usually don’t make too many threes but saw me coming and figured they’d make them all today.”

Point guard Bez Mbeng ’25 led the Bulldogs in scoring with 12 points, while the Aztecs Jaedon LeDee finished with 26 points on 9–12 from the field.
San Diego State will go on to play No. 1 UConn in Boston next week.
The defeat marks the end of the road for seniors August Mahoney ’24, Matt Knowing ’24 and Yusif Basa-Ama ’24. The three players played through one of the greatest four year stretches in Yale basketball history, which included two NCAA Tournament appearances. With 86 career wins, Mahoney is the program’s all time winningest player.
“Knowing how much work I’ve put in throughout my life and how much we’ve accomplished as a

SEE M BASKETBALL PAGE 10

W LAX: Yale crushes Dartmouth with record-breaking win



YALE ATHLETICS

The women’s lacrosse team emerged victorious against Dartmouth, marking their second Ivy League win of the season.

BY COLETTE STAADECKER
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Over their spring break, the No. 16 Yale women’s lacrosse team (8–0, 2–0 Ivy) had a dominant two weeks, securing victories against the University of Connecticut (4–5, 0–1 Big East), Central Connecticut State (2–7, 2–3 NEC) and Rutgers (5–5, 0–3 B1G). The Bulldogs have not won against UConn since 2019, when they topped the Huskies 17–11.
On Sunday afternoon, the Bulldogs traveled to Hanover, New Hampshire to face off against Dartmouth (5–3, 0–2 Ivy) and earned a decisive 15–5 victory. This game marks the Bulldogs’ third consecutive

win against the Big Green and the largest margin of victory in school history.
Dartmouth started strong, netting the game’s first two goals and keeping the score tight until halftime, trailing the Blue and White only by four. At halftime, Yale led 7–4. The Bulldogs rallied in the third quarter to outscore the Big Green 6–1, and maintained their momentum until the end.
Although Dartmouth trailed behind by a small margin in the first half, by the end of the third quarter the Bulldogs were dominating the game and leading by eight. The Blue and White out-shot Dartmouth 33–10, conceding only a single shot to the Big Green in the second half.

In a standout performance, four Bulldogs secured a game-best four points each: Sky Carasquillo ’25, Chloe Conaghan ’24, Taylor Everson ’25 and Ashley Kiernan ’27. Kiernan notably achieved her first career hat trick. Adding to the impressive tally, Taylor Lane ’25 and Jenna Colignon ’25 also recorded hat tricks of their own.
An honorable mention must go to Colignon, who scored her 100th career goal in the third quarter.
“My personal highlight has to be reaching 100 career goals,” Colignon wrote to the News. “I didn’t even realize I was close to that mark so find-

SEE W LAX PAGE 10

MEN'S CREW: Bulldogs welcome new coach ahead of season



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men’s heavyweight crew team is ready to kick off their 2024 spring racing season — with Olympian Mike Gennaro now the team’s head coach.

BY ELEANOR LOCKHART
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Last season, the Yale men’s heavyweight crew team seized its seventh-consecutive Eastern Sprints and Ivy League Championship titles and secured fourth place in the national Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship. These titles, combined with a victory over Harvard in June, capped off the final season of head coach Steve Gladstone’s 50-plus-year coaching career. Gladstone, tied for all-time winningest American collegiate crew coach, left big shoes to fill.

Thankfully, the team is in extremely capable hands. Mike Gennaro, who served as Gladstone’s second in command since 2016, has moved up to head coach. Gennaro’s own rowing career is studded with success: among other accolades, he stroked the 2011 U.S. Under-23 8+ and set a world record, and he achieved an alternate position for the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games.
Gennaro’s promotion was not the only staffing change instituted this season. The team also promoted its third coach, Matt Fluhr, to the second position, and hired

SEE MEN’S CREW PAGE 10

M LAX: No. 11 Bulldogs go 2–1 over spring break

BY AMELIA LOWER
STAFF REPORTER

After falling to Penn State in overtime on March 2, the Elis made a comeback with victories against Denver, ranked No. 1 at the time, and Harvard, while dropping a game to Cornell last weekend.
The now No. 11 Bulldogs (4–2, 1–1 Ivy) began their spring break with a decisive 15–13 win against No. 10 Denver (6–2, 0–0 Big East) on March 10, who was ranked No. 1 at the time. Yale continued their strong play through the next weekend, beating No. 16 Harvard (6–2, 0–2 Ivy) 17–15 on March 16, yet the Bulldogs faced adversity at No. 7 Cornell (5–2, 2–0 Ivy) last Saturday, falling 18–15 on March 23.

In their contest with Denver, midfielder Patrick Hackler ’24 began the scoring for the Elis less than five minutes into the first quarter. Denver answered back with two goals by midfielder Mic Kelly and attackman JJ Sillstrop, and attackman David Anderson ’27 leveled the score with 4:01 remaining in the quarter.
Kelly added another goal for Denver, and midfielder Carson Kuhl ’25 leveled the score again, at 3–3, to close out the period. While Denver midfielder Joshua Carlson added a goal in the first minute of the second frame, Yale scored the next three, with goals from midfielder Max Krevsky ’25, Anderson and attackman Peter Moynihan ’27.
Attackman Noah Manning added a man-up goal for the Pio-

neers with 5:04 remaining in the half, followed by another Denver goal by Michael Lampert 16 seconds later. Midfielder Johnny Keib ’25 tallied a goal for the Bulldogs to close out the half with a 7–6 lead.
In the second half, scoring shifted back and forth between the Elis and the Pioneers, with Anderson, Hackler, Moynihan, Krevsky, attackman Matt Brandau ’24, Keib and Kuhl seeing success. Notably, Brandau’s first goal of the half came five seconds after Krevsky’s, as faceoff specialist Machado Rodriguez ’25 won a key faceoff and assisted the goal.
A key moment in securing Yale’s win, with less than five minutes remaining in the 13–13

SEE M LAX PAGE 10



YALE ATHLETICS

The Yale men’s lacrosse team defeated Harvard and Denver — which was ranked No. 1 at the time — but fell to Cornell.

WEEKEND



Women's
History Month
Special Issue

Professor, ex-Little League Coach and Queen of the Gnomes

How does HOC Gonzalez do it all?



// BY NORA RANSIBRAHMANAKUL

I had scarcely ventured further than the Davenport dining hall before this interview, and was left locked out and wandering around the courtyard at the time we were slated to meet. Moments before my finger hit send on a cry for help, I spotted a briskly walking woman with a thermos in hand heading towards me.

Once I was saved, my interviewee ushered me up the stairs and down a short hallway. Her office is wood-paneled and well-lit, cordoned into a workspace in one half and a seating area in the other. It’s well furnished — homey, even. In the corner, proudly displayed on shelves, are 17 decorative gnomes. I knew I was in the right place.

Dr. Anjelica Gonzalez holds three official titles at Yale: Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Faculty Director of Tsai City and Head of College for Davenport. To say she wears many hats would be a cliché, but the image of a HOC gnome switching between her many gnome caps is too convenient to resist.

I asked her what started her on the path to have such a significant presence on campus. She tells me that she used to be unfamiliar with even the concept of graduate school, as the first in her family to go to college. During her undergraduate years at Utah State she had “no idea” what being a professor would be like. By chance, a flyer in the mail led her to apply and attend a summer medical and research training program with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. There, she was able to learn more about the process. Pursuing graduate studies in the sciences and engineering was a way for her to have a job and support her work — even though so many other aspects of academics and careers were foreign.

Later, she pursued a Ph.D. at Baylor College of Medicine in Structural and Computational Biology. Today, Gonzalez runs a lab at Yale focused on inflammation. Dr. Gonzalez explained the process of trying to model the human lung, engineering the tissue and examining the blood vessels of it, as the lung progresses from an inflamed state then to a scarred fibrotic state. She wants to understand how the blood

vessels contribute to the shift in progressive disease. “In doing that, what we can start to work with pharmaceutical companies to say, ‘Oh, if we can see disease starts to happen, can we identify points where we can interject?’”

Dr. Gonzalez is only two years into her tenure as Davenport Head of College. To see students in the classroom or in research labs is wholly different from living with them in the college and sharing the dining hall with them. She describes the role as being a “CEO” of the college: making sure that the budget is aligned, making sure that the college operations run, but also endeavoring to create a space — somewhere that encompasses the great number of passions and interests that its students hold.

“I get to see students in the whole 360 — as whole human beings. I see what they eat. I see them when they wake up,” she said. “I see them at the height of their accomplishments. I see them at some of the lowest periods in their experience here. It’s different from my role in the classroom. Now, I have a better understanding of who they are and what they experience. I look for ways to support them.”

The way that the Davenport staff, students, and community have embraced her family is one of the highlights of her experience so far. HOC Gonzalez noted how having a dining hall and support system make it possible for her to be present for her boys as a single mother while continuing with her work elsewhere on campus.

In Davenport, one project she has taken on is the Innovation Studio. This new space was designed in collaboration with the Center for Engineering and Innovative Design and brought resources like 3D printers, sewing machines, and hand power tools to the college.

“Sometimes the term creative is associated with the humanities in the arts, but in actuality, it spans the STEM fields, the social sciences and so, so many of different areas,” Gonzalez said.

The characteristic that surprised me the most about HOC Gonzalez was how she seemed reluctant to lay claim to all of the amazing work that she has done. I was sitting on her couch, listening to her speak about building models of human lung fibro-

sis, creating spaces for entrepreneurial creativity on campus, finding the best way to be there for the students in her college, and raising her sons on campus, whilst never seeing the thoughtfulness and care in her words waver.

I think we’ve all met someone who makes you want to be a better person — to be a better student or friend or teacher — just by being in their presence. Anjelica Gonzalez is one of those people. It seems like the Davenport students think so, too. I mentioned to several of my friends that I was writing a piece on her, and every single response after the fact was a version of, “HOC Gonzalez? She is amazing. I don’t know how she does it all.”

I was sitting on her couch and wondering if this person was uncannily humble or just truly unaware of the respect she has earned on campus.

What is on HOC Gonzalez’s mind right now? Baseball. Her twins are on a travel team, and HOC Gonzalez was their Little League coach until they aged out of parent coaches. She became interested in how Yale’s student athletes take on the challenge of committing to a team while also pursuing a university education, because — in her words — “a place like the residential colleges are built by so many members of the broader community and they all bring something to Davenport. But what that means for me is that I also have to figure out ways to be uniquely supportive to those communities.”

What’s her favorite MLB Team, you may ask? HOC Gonzalez has an answer for that too:

“My favorite player is Shohei Ohealani. He switched teams from the Angels, so wherever he is right now.”

I made myself comfortable on her couch. We talked baseball, true crime podcasts and the best spots on campus for when you want to hide away from everyone. The purpose of a head of college is to have a person who is considering the whole student. Their task is to create a place — physically, culturally and socially — that students can return home to during their four years at Yale.

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WKND’s Song Recommendation:

“Slow Dancing in a Burning Room”
by John Mayer

WEEKEND

MEMORIES

An Ode Para MI MAMÁ

// BY MARIA AROZAMENA

“Rosi, you have to wash your armpits or else you are going to stink,” my mom said, raising my arms over my head and grumbling to herself in the pungent, humid air of the Disney World public bathroom.

It was a hot May day in central Orlando; I had left the house without putting on deodorant earlier that morning; I was nine years old washing my armpits in the public bathroom and wading through an emotional

My mom is sewing needles and vintage machines, she’s homemade clothes and the cheery yellow sundress she fashioned for me when I was six, she’s the thick glasses that help her thread needles with transition lenses that sometimes help but often overly obscure her rich brown eyes. When I think of my mom, I think of waking up on Saturdays to clean and I think of washing the dishes as I’m cooking and our odysseys to TJ Maxx

blaring rhythms emanating from the Facebook reels she watches, spanning from neighborhood chatter to questions about love and life and the things I couldn’t understand as a child that I suppose I now have the maturity and experience to know.

I came to my mom for all the firsts of my girlhood. Besides the natural issues — see tampon above — associated with coming of age, it was in her arms I cried when I broke up with my

It was only recently that I realized she didn’t just work hard during our first few years, she worked 70-hour work weeks receiving scrappy, minimum-wage McDonald’s pay and biking miles each day to get to work and back. Yet, she still managed to bring me and my brother M&M sundaes after every other work shift.

My mom didn’t just struggle to learn English, she spent hours of her week attending night

when she needed to be, like when her 9-year-old daughter began to reek of rancid onions and endanger public health. But she never failed to sit with me when I felt sad for no reason, and she always knew the difference between scripted smiles and genuine grins. She made sure I learned the life skills necessary to ensure that I can thrive on my own — like deodorant — even at the expense of my being angry at



// MARIA AROZAMENA

pool of pure, exquisite shame. My mother stood to my right in the mirror’s reflection, vigorously scrubbing with the cheap neon hand soap. I stared with squinted eyes and scowled with dutiful detestation at her figure.

Noted. Never leave the house without deodorant. And never, EVER speak to Mami again.

I thrived in 9-year-old naivete for a whole five minutes of silence before promptly realizing I would, in fact, have to speak to my mother again if I wanted her to buy me Dippin’ Dots.

Ever since the Disney Incident, my relationship with my mom has gone relatively uphill. My mom is my go-to for advice, my confidante and chisme blabber, my favorite cook and raging Ross shopper, my best friend and walking embodiment of home. She has been the mold for how I understand my womanhood. My mother is the woman I aspire to be in all walks of life.

She’s Dianelys to all besides me and my brother, who adhere faithfully to the trinity of “Ma,” “Mami” or “Moomy.” To me, my mom is caramel frappes from McDonald’s and turquoise blouses. She is her numerous editions of “Les Misérables,” sitting on the garage bookshelf as living artifacts she acquired during her teenage years, her favorite novel and famed piece of literature that she’s begged me to read for years — and thanks to HUMS 366, I finally did!

and unscripted “woops!” and yelps and seemingly endless Facebook scrolling and overused TikTok sounds.

But I also think of her spurt-ing wisdom, an oracle in her own right—my mom never fails to anticipate my issues, even months before they occur, always with sound advice to follow. I often wonder just how many of my experiences are truly my own, since she seems to have every situation logged in her memory book — that friend, C*****? Yeah, she likes your crush. Your boyfriend, *****? You don’t even like him that much, but it’s okay, we all go through it.

I don’t know when I stopped asking her about all things practical and shifted toward the more ... spicy. Abstract, even. Sure, I remember the trials of my late girlhood, begging her to let me wax my eyebrows and shave my legs at thirteen. These would’ve been blessings for the hairy, Hispanic pubescent girl that I was. I remember asking her if we could drive to Hot Topic or go to the movie theater or how to not wobble in my heels or how to apply lipstick without smudging it all over the place and — oh, how do I use a tampon?

And sure, I still often ask her silly strings of questions and watch her sigh in dumb-foundedness, but now there’s a hazy sense of comfort, of equal understanding in our speech. Our words bob in between the

first boyfriend, when I felt the twinge of betrayal from childhood friends, when I thought my life’s worth depended on my final exams.

It was also to her I cried when we entered the supermarket and drifted toward the grocery section, and I didn’t know how to explain to anyone else that the Walmart pineapples reminded me of my grandpa’s farm in Cuba, and how I still felt guilty because when we went to visit Cuba in 2016 my grandpa offered me pineapples he grew — widely known to be the sweetest and juiciest pineapples people would ever taste, it was his pride and joy to offer them to his grandchildren — and I refused to try them because I didn’t like pineapples. He looked sad, but he brushed it off. But then I started to feel bad for refusing his offer, but it was too late and we were already eating lunch and I took his kindness for granted and then he lost his farm and now he’s too old and he lives with us and now I’ll never have the chance to try his pineapples again. I recognize that that’s a bit of a stretch, but even through my delirious sobs, my mother sighed gently and held my hand as I finished letting go of my grief. She’s the only person who would understand.

I admire my mom for her resilience. As I’ve matured, my hazy memories of our first years in the United States have been sharpened by my mother’s recountings.

classes and suffered ridicule from coworkers for her grammatical mistakes. She nearly lost her job for not understanding the dress code; the instructions were in English.

I also didn’t realize that my mother felt the loneliness I too felt when moving over — this realization was only solidified when — digging through the garage shelves in search of art supplies — I found the hefty bag of years’ worth of letters sent back and forth to Cuba. There were mounds of handwritten letters sent to my grandma, chronicling the plight of our first years in the U.S. and searching for the strength to continue. Only now can I begin to fathom the humility it must’ve taken to admit these hardships and look for support, knowing that ultimately, my mom had no choice but to continue away from her family, with two small children, and push.

When I got into Yale, my mom was the first person I called. She whooped and cheered and I could hear the echoes of “My daughter’s going to Yale!” resonating through the phone line, no subtlety in her revelry. I could picture her dancing around her work office, singing familiar melodies I’d heard in celebrations past, that relentless, unforgiving joy that only she could conjure.

I admire my mom because she knew how to be harsh

her, though that usually lasted little more than a few minutes.

When I was little, I promised my mom I’d buy her a boat when I was older and rich and full of money, that I would buy her a boat and a house next to mine and we could continue to be best friends and we could gossip together and cook together and be happy together, the way we always did. Although I am persistently changing and weaving new plans for my future, that one goal has remained sound in my mind. I’ll never be able to thank my mom enough for always being there for me, for giving her physical, mental, emotional and spiritual energy to her children, and devoting her life to making sure we could enjoy ours to the fullest.

My mom was the catalyst for my sound maturation, and what I like to think is my somewhat stable adult state. My mom and surrogate mothers — namely, my abuelas, my Tia Belkis, my aunt Iris, my best friends’ mother Iraisy, my mom-away-from-home and advisor Mme Koizim — along with the other women I’ve been lucky to have in my life have inspired me to grow into the woman I am today. I am continually fascinated and inspired by the strength, compassion, and love these figures have shown me, and I can only hope to embody them someday.

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WKND Recommends

“Roman Holiday” with Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck

MONIQUE TRUONG

on identity and the female narrative



// BY CHLOE EDWARDS

For this piece, in honor of Women's History Month, I had the opportunity to interview Monique Truong '90, a Vietnamese-American author known for her works "Bitter in the Mouth," "Book of Salt" and "The Sweetest Fruits."

When I first read Truong's "Bitter in the Mouth," it quickly became a favorite of mine. My memories of reading the book are ones of home. I read much of the book lying in a hammock in the shade of a magnolia tree fearing the blistering North Carolina weather.

I think my fondness for "Bitter in the Mouth" is due to its familiarity. The book follows Linda Hammerick as she navigates friendship, family and adolescence in Boiling Springs, North Carolina — a small, southern town not too different from my own. Truong exquisitely captures this place, the people that inhabit it and, most acutely, the emotion of this stage of life.

Similarly, her most recent novel — published in 2019 — "The Sweetest Fruits," is

also told from the first-person perspective of a woman; in fact, several women.

When I asked how she would define being a woman, or womanhood more broadly, Truong said:

"It's to be defined by your body, whether you like it or not. I think to unpack that, it means you are not a blank slate in the world. There is already a narrative, multiple narratives, written about your body that you are essentially born into. Some of it may be things that you can embrace and you feel connected to, and others...are things that you will need to push against."

In this moment, in the wake of *Roe v. Wade* and ensuing uncertainty over the governance of female autonomy, it is so pertinent to address how women are often defined by their bodies.

Truong continued, "I think the struggle for me, and for many women, is that journey of defining what it means to be a woman in relationship to these existing narratives. What does it mean to you and not what others have imposed upon you?"

Reconciling mixed emotions over what it means to be a woman is its own battle. Truong voiced her experiences and the unique difficulties that came with growing up in the South as an Asian American woman.

"I have never been comfortable within my body. Part of it was actually growing up in the U.S. ... it was something that was problematic to other people. And it was something that I could not understand as a child because, not only was I in a female body — which later would become even more significant to all that is going to try to define me — but I was in an Asian body. When I came to the U.S. and specifically Boiling Springs I became something that I didn't understand, which was this racial other, this Asian other."

When feeling uncomfortable in her body, Truong says that she has always found a certain redeeming confidence in her brain, her intellect.

"The thing about my body that I am comfortable with, and have always been comfortable with, is my brain. That has never let me down!" Truong says laughing.

Truong then added, "[My brain] has gotten me everywhere that I needed to be in my life today."

The everywhere Truong refers to includes Yale College, where she studied literature.

Truong arrived at Yale, typewriter in tow, in 1986 — 17 years after Yale College first began admitting female students.

When asked if her educational career's proximity to Yale College's first female admits affected her experience Truong began, "I don't think I understood the impact of the relatively brief history of women at Yale and ... what sort of message it sent to me as I was a student there."

During Truong's time at Yale, the odes to female success that we see around campus now — The Women's Table, residential colleges Grace Hopper and Pauli Murray and the Portrait of Yale's first seven women doctorates in Sterling, to name a few — weren't around.

Commenting on this lack of representation, Truong said, "There hasn't been that long history of women playing a significant role at the university. And, you know, that might seem like a kind of superficial or trivial thing like 'What does it matter if the paintings are of white men?' Of course it matters! It matters because every single day this is what you're looking at."

Female role models are the igniters of progress, as they do what has never been done. Seeing women on screen, or reading

about them in books, is what allows young girls to envision their futures unobstructed by what a woman can or should be.

Truong spoke a lot about how she has been shaped by both real and fictional women, primarily her mother and Jo March from Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women." "[Before Jo], I don't think I had read about a woman, a girl, being a writer or wanting to be a writer," Truong said. "Reading about her desire and seeing her so doggedly working towards it and wanting this life of letters that was just kind of the beginning of the road map."

When asked about who inspires her the most, Truong responded, "...my mother because she has gone through the kind of life changes that I could never imagine: being a woman in her thirties all of a sudden losing her country, her language, her family, everything and coming to the U.S. and having the ability to continue to live and create a life."

Truong's mother later went to nursing school in North Carolina to become an Intensive Care Unit — ICU — nurse. Reflecting on this time in her mother's life, Truong remarked that she didn't think she would have that kind of strength.

When asked what she would say if she could go back in time and give a piece of advice to the girl who left Saigon, Vietnam for Boiling Springs, North Carolina, Truong provided a sentiment that many, regardless of gender, age or sexual orientation, will resonate with:

"There are certain limits to words. Even though I'm a writer. If I reach back and tell that little girl 'There's nothing wrong with you,' I don't think she can actually do very much with that. I think what I would want to do for her is to hug her. You know, there are other forms of communication."

As March comes to a close, take a moment to reflect on how far we've come; as individuals, as a university, and humanity as a whole.

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WARRING TIDES

// BY BROOKE WHITLING

In brisk Boston Octobers, the Charles River teems with thousands of boats—rhythmic water striders that skim the surface, moving only through plunging oars and grit. For two days, the water remains disturbed by the coming and going of rowing singles, doubles, fours, and eights. Four hundred thousand people line the river and crowd its bridges to catch a glimpse of the largest rowing competition in the world—the Head of the Charles Regatta.

Jennie Kiesling first won the Head of the Charles in 1975, as a sophomore in a Yale Women's four—joined by Chris Ernst, Anne Warner, and Lynn Baker. The third year in which women were invited to compete marked one year that Kiesling had rowed herself. In the following summer, half of their boat competed in the Olympics. But before their oars could touch the waters of Montreal, Yale Women's Crew sent ripples across the country.

Kiesling was one of nineteen rowers to participate in a now-famed Title IX protest. The team captured the scene in words and photographs—searing their stand into the archives of the New York Times. Even now, a shot of Kiesling's shoulders blazes the cover of a film that was made about the women, twenty-five years later.

"I loved rowing because it was so terrifyingly hard. Every practice, I hoped I would survive," Kiesling described the physical experience of rowing a 2000 meter race to me, a stranger to boathouses before arriving in New England. Only time in an eight-oar shell could help you understand its oppressive art. "Imagine someone has put a vacuum cleaner hose down your throat and is sucking out your lungs while somebody else pours sulfuric acid on your legs."

Professor Kiesling, alternating from rowing to revolving book pages, knows the ravages of war—both in historical text and the physiological impact of crew. Discipline rules her life. A voracious, life-long student of military history and West Point professor of military theory for twenty-eight years, the principles of soldiering combat do not stray far from those that push one to sit in a rowing shell each day. And for the Yale women rowers, daily battles against the limits of one's own physicality also came with struggle on the Housatonic River shoreline.

Despite the enactment of Title IX, after completing the same training course as the men, the Women's Crew team was denied access to the boathouse locker rooms and restrooms—requir-

ing them to sit cold and water-soaked until after dinner. It was from these frigid bus-seat puddles that something began to emerge.

In March 1976, Yale Women's rowers entered the athletic director's office before removing their school sweatsuits to reveal their bodies beneath—naked, their backs and chests adorned with the words "Title IX". The literal exposure backset a speech delivered by the team captain, expressing the exploitation of the bodies in the room.

Reparations to the women's "Declaration of Accountability" ensued, and universities in every crevice of the country followed—scrambling to cover systemic infractions.

This moment, documented in print and film, was just that—a moment in each of their lives. When I sat down at my dining room table, checking my Zoom background to ensure that you could not see my still-unpacked suitcases, I was not sure of much beyond the archival articles I had read. Of course, I had questions catered to the persistent presence of the 1976 protest within Kiesling's life. With over two million search results, Google had to agree with me—the hour that proceeded rather brought me to a different place.

As each woman graduated, continued to study, row, or move beyond both, they maintained a connection that transcended their boat shells. In adulthood, they host "pajama parties", spending week-ends in each other's homes to "just talk". Though the dozen women that rotate between houses did not all row with Kiesling, they share a thread.

"We bond easily, because we have a certain trust, and—I want to say—seriousness about the world. We don't talk about the past a lot, although it's not irrelevant. But we're not fixated on the past, and we don't just talk about our families. It's just a little bit more—a little bit deeper. And I have that feeling with the people I rowed with and the people I didn't, but who came up through the same program. And I think that's incredibly special"

Intensity grips every part of Kiesling's life—rowing, coaching, learning, teaching. There is

even weight to the pauses in her sentences, as she methodically contemplates and reconstructs six decades of life with words. Her earnest framing of the world was apparent long before she spoke to a shared "seriousness". Through her time at Oxford, where she met her husband of over four decades—between rowing and studying the classics—and Stanford—where a knee injury forced her to trade her aspirations to row in the Olympics for competitive cycling—she carried a sense of momentum.

It landed her at the University of Alabama, where her battle for tenure was limited by those who couldn't see her utter gravity about the world—beyond her blue jeans, sweat suits, and the bright red Mazda Miata that so frequently found her at the university boathouse.

But her ceaseless exploration and experience of the world began long before she touched an oar, rather starting with a book. Professor Kiesling was only eight years old when she began to study military history, with second-grade hands grabbing volumes from the "big kid" shelf—The Monitor and the Merrimack, The Battle of Gettysburg, D-Day. She was only nine years old when she decided that she wanted to be an officer in the Army—an infantryman and a West Point graduate. For her, war was easier to romanticize when it lived in the past—when it wasn't an immediate threat to her younger brothers. With the rest of the country, she spent high-school with thoughts hitting the ground in Vietnam.

"Part of being a woman studying war in the 1970s was not being a woman; it was, I can do this just like the men, and I am not going to have any feminine thoughts. And if somebody asked me about the role of women in war, I'd say, 'That's women's history! I'm a military historian, I do tactics. I don't study the Women's Army Corps. They're not in combat; I'm not interested. I'm tough. I row and I don't talk about women.'"

There is a sternness in Professor Kiesling's face, laying just beyond her ponytail and fringe bangs, that somehow kept this statement from entirely surprising me.

Until—within the same breath—she did.

Professor Kiesling coached Army rowing and taught at West Point for fifteen years before she



first began to study the role of women in combat, prompted by a request to give a conference lecture. Her first reaction was to question why she should be asked to speak beyond her field; then, she reconsidered why she hadn't studied the topic before.

"I started thinking about all the times that I had said, 'Well, women aren't in combat.' Well, women are killed in combat — women are killed all the time."

And with time, her exploration of stray combat violence against women became a broader consideration of military services in the United States.

"America is basically a nation of ostriches, who aren't interested in war at all. There are some hawks, there are some doves and I define these as people who have visceral feelings about war."

This, perhaps, was the last metaphor I expected Professor Kiesling to draw out for me. Our conversation became something more of storytelling: an experience worthy of a velvet-curtain stage. She was a historian sharing her craft—what she understands now as an art, not a scientific process of data collection.

Her art is to reconcile humanity with physical brutality—forty-eight years after she stood naked in the Yale athletic director's office. Her stories now feature the cadets that fill her classroom and boathouse with the United States Army—what she calls the "final line of constitutional sanity"

Her art of thought exists on cycling trails, ski slopes, rock-climbing walls—and rowing shells.

Six months ago, in a familiar October chill, Kiesling climbed back into a Women's Four shell. The three women who joined her had been reaching for blue ribbons, placing second and fourth for the past four years. They wanted to win, and they needed a final rower; Kiesling—who just wanted to have a "good row"—found them rather in a record-breaking win. With four hundred thousand people watching the Head of Charles, they clocked in at twenty minutes and seven seconds.

"The consistency in my life is rowing—the belief in teamwork and integrity. But the great transformation is the recognition that the hawkish attraction to war tends to have a lot more to do with some personal gratification. I have moved away from that to finding personal gratification in the thought that cooperation—which is a rowing virtue—hard work, and teamwork should be used for peaceful purposes."

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