



# YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST bluELines



May, 2006

Volume 4, Edition 12

## Yale Professor Meg Urry, Astrophysicist, Addresses Club on March 9th

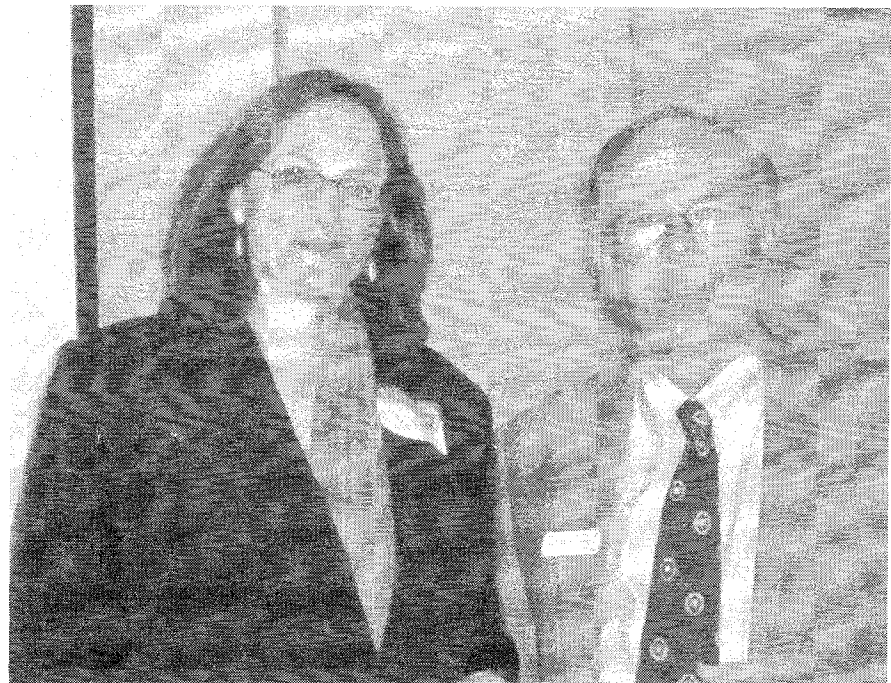
*The following is a letter from a guest at the luncheon meeting:*

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the opportunity to give you my impressions of the very entertaining Yale luncheon on March 9, 2006. This was a great start to our visit with my parents (Woody Allen, class of '49), having just arrived that morning at their house at 1 AM!

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that the esteemed presenter and astrophysicist from Yale, Professor Meg Urry, was involved in GOODS (Great Observatories Origins Deep Space) which involves some of the brightest astronomers in the world today. The project is fundamentally changing our knowledge of the formation of the early universe. One of my interests in astronomy is in this area so I was delighted to be sitting at the same table with Meg Urry!

I found Professor Urry to be highly amicable, entertaining, and, as you would guess, fully learned about all areas of astronomy which we discussed over lunch. We had a very lively conversation at our table as we ate.



**Yale Professor Meg Urry and Peter French, President**

Though the area she discussed can be technical at times, I thought she did an excellent job distilling out the salient points. Who would have thought that understanding type 1a supernovae as standard candles could be so easily understood!

I was also impressed by the questions asked of Professor Urry. It's obvious that I shared this interest of space and the mysteries that abound with the 81 other attendees at the luncheon.

I have an exciting and unique story to tell all my astronomer friends when we return to Colorado. Maybe this memory will help to keep me warm the next time I'm standing at my telescope at ten thousand feet in the Rocky Mountains in the middle of winter!

Sincerely,

Randy Allen,  
randyallen1@gmail.com

# SEMPLER LINKS U.S. ENERGY NEEDS TO GLOBAL WARMING DANGERS, MID-EAST INSTABILITIES

Robert B. Semple, Jr., Assistant Editor and Chief Editorial Writer of the New York Times, addressed the Yale Club of the Suncoast on Thursday, April 13, 2006 at the Bird Key Yacht Club. Attendance was a record 105.

Bob Semple began by offering limited praise to President Bush for recognizing half of the energy-global warming problem. Bush now understands that we are too deficient in hydrocarbon reserves to solve our energy needs by more domestic drilling. America accounts for about one quarter of the world's annual petroleum consumption, but only 3% of its reserves. Bush still needs to make the connection between energy conservation and environmentally friendly regulations that would ease the threat of global warming. And, if such measures were undertaken, Semple believes that we would need a smaller portion of our hydrocarbon imports from the Middle East, thus reducing the political power of the unsatisfactory regimes in that region and the sources of funds for Islamic terrorists.

Semple discussed the nature of the global warming problem, the sources and remedies for excessive carbon consumption, and alternative sources of energy. Carbon in the atmosphere which causes the "greenhouse" global warming effect, has risen from historic norms of 280 parts per million (ppm's) to recent levels of about 380 ppm. It has been predicted that it might reach 400 to 500 ppm's. Recent years have been the warmest on record. Glaciers have been melting and hurricanes have been more intense. Not all of these effects are man-made, but Semple believes we are loading the dice against the well-being of future generations. If temperatures rise 3 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit, seas will rise 3 to 5 feet. This outcome, the "lesser version," would inundate Florida. What to do about it? Bush wants voluntary compliance with emission guidelines. Other developed nations seek mandatory compliance, except Australia. But even

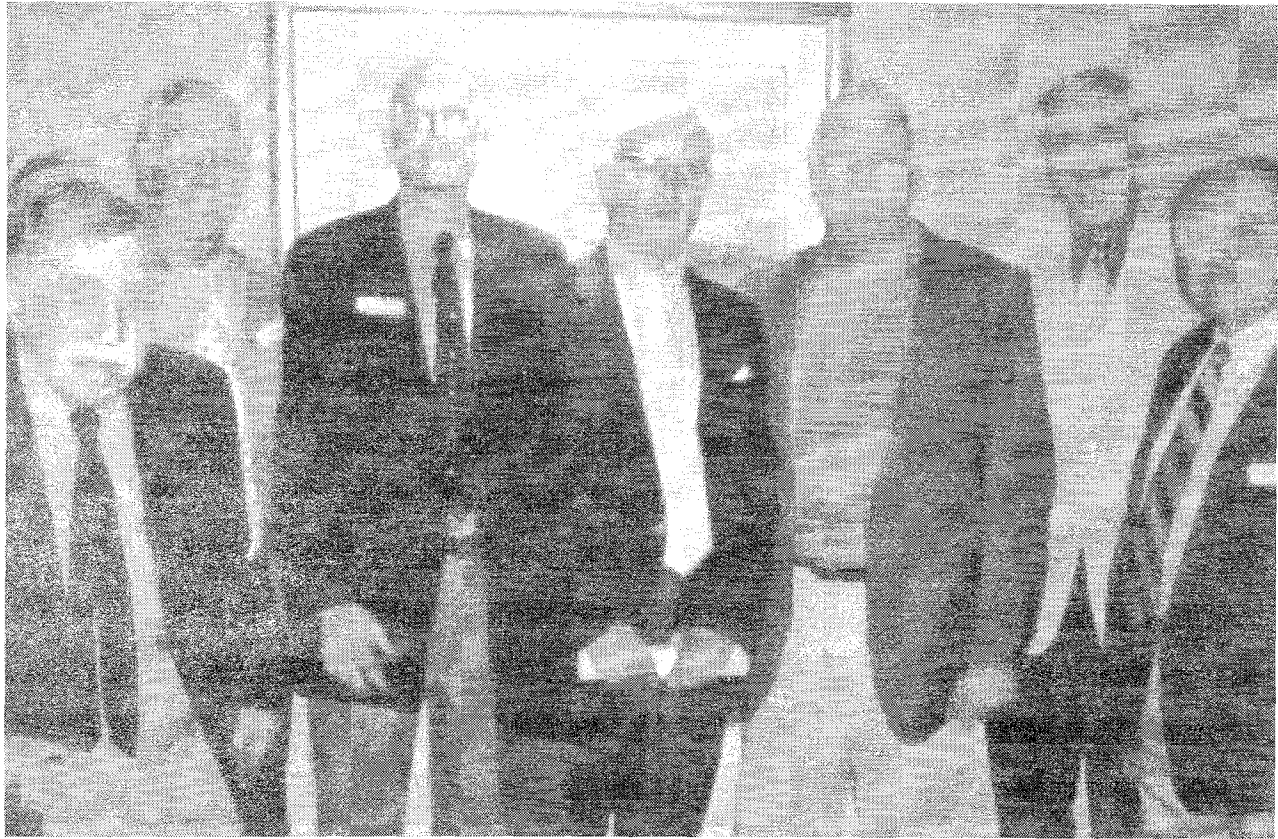
in the U.S., states, such as California and New York, are instituting their own mandatory emission standards.

The same remedies would help us reduce our dependence on Mid-East oil. The world currently uses 30 billion barrels of oil per year. With world reserves at 2.4 trillion barrels, there are 80 years of reserves at current usage levels. The U.S. now gets 60% of its oil from the Mid-East.



Robert Semple Addresses Yale Club

Semple discussed conservation measures and alternative power sources. One easy step would be to close the legal loophole that exempts sport-utility vehicles ("SUVs") from the fleet mileage economy standards imposed on each manufacturer's passenger cars. Raising this fleet economy requirement from 27.5 m.p.g. to 40 m.p.g. by 2015 would be easily achievable. It is consistently proposed in Congress, but always



**'59ers: Douglas Harwood, Bill West, Dyer Wadsworth, Bob Semple, Bill Parkhurst, Roland Kopp and John Titus, Regrettably, not shown (he escaped the picture call), Dave Schneider**

voted down by those who fear loss of jobs for our auto workers. Efficient hydrogen cars will take too long to develop to be helpful. Ethanol, on the other hand, could save 25% of oil used for transportation. Carbon dioxide comes principally from transport (40%) and factories (40%). We could save half of the transportation 40%. Most of our electric power comes from coal-fired plants. Coal exhaust contains major amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, mercury, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>, more than other fuels. Technology to reduce such emissions from coal is available, but is Bush ready to embrace it?

What about other countries? China is a prodigious consumer of energy, expanding at 8% annually. It commissioned 100 coal-fired plants in the last 5 years, with another 500 scheduled in the next 8 years. It produces 8% of the world's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions already, second only to the U.S. China will

not control their emissions unless it sees the Western nations cleaning up their act. Also, Far East nations are saying, "You've had your (dirty) industrial revolution; now we get to have ours." Is an economical clean-up possible? Semple says to trust the shop floor engineers, not the senior managers and their kept politicians, when they say they can do it cheaply enough. With alternative fuels and reasonable conservation measures, the energy future holds important opportunities, as well as huge challenges.

Other power sources? Solar power takes too much real estate. To replace Saudi Arabia alone would require solar cells covering an area equal to Kansas and Nebraska. Wind power is a better bet. However, conservation is more effective than either. Nuclear energy will gain increasing prominence. France already gets 80% of its electricity from nuclear power, compared to 20% in the U.S. China has 30 nuclear plants. The Times has refused to

cont'd on page 7

# POPULAR YALE/HARVARD/PRINCETON LUNCHEON



**Rino Landa, Yale, 2010  
and Wes Finer  
share an amusing  
moment**

**Werner and  
Lorraine Meudt at  
the Yale/Harvard/  
Princeton Luncheon**



**Charlie Alexander  
and Wendy Foldes  
enjoy the YHP  
luncheon**

# 2006 ANNUAL LOBSTER BAKE

On Sunday, March 19, 2006 we had sixty people get-together at the Bath Club to enjoy lobsters, steaks and related goodies that our caterers, the Brownriggs from Maine, served up. The sun was shining, a light breeze was blowing from the southwest and the temperature was in the mid 70's. We sat outside at picnic tables on the sand at the picturesque Bath Club on Casey Key. While we were eating lobsters, mussels, corn on the cob and roasted potatoes followed by a luscious strawberry shortcake for dessert, the sun slowly set, a fiery red at the horizon.

I had the pleasure of sitting with George and Marna Denton, who had just joined our Club and who spend their summers in Maine. We discussed our enthusiasm for Maine lobsters. Several family groups came to the lobster bake including Oliver and Suzanne Janney and their daughter Elizabeth; Innis and Louise O'Rourke and their daughter Colleen and her husband Phil Carson; three generations of the Simonds family, Richard and Bonnie, son Tom (also a Yale graduate) and his wife Lynn and their 13 month old son, Edward. Edward, who is preparing for Yale class of 2027, seemed to have a good time, including exploring the clubhouse on all fours!

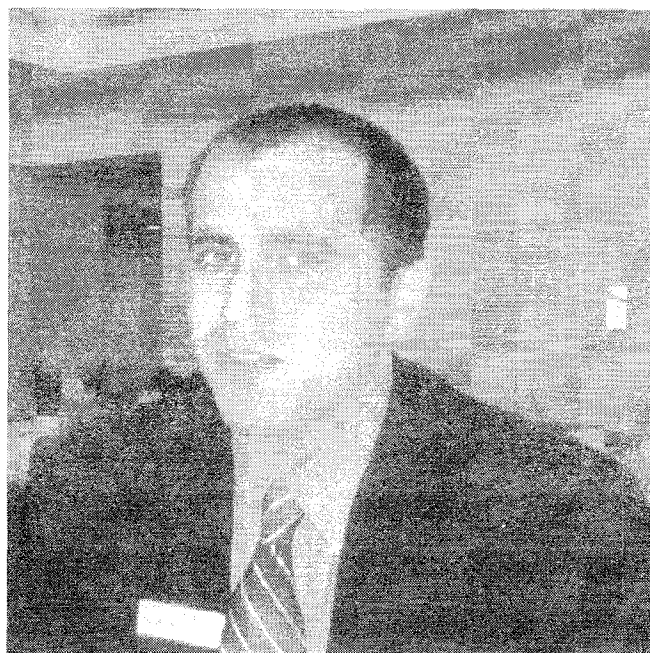
We give our thanks to Steve and Stevie Wilberding, who again showed us their kind hospitality in making the Bath Club available to us for the lobster bake.

Beverley Wadsworth

## IN MEMORIAM

The Yale Club is deeply saddened by the passing of **Charles H. Dearborn, '43**, on January 31, 2006. We extend sincere sympathies to his wife Barbara, his family and friends.

**Fred Longacre Born, '42S**, passed away on February 13, 2006. Fred was President of our Club, 1994-1995 and a great friend. He will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Ellen, their family and friends.



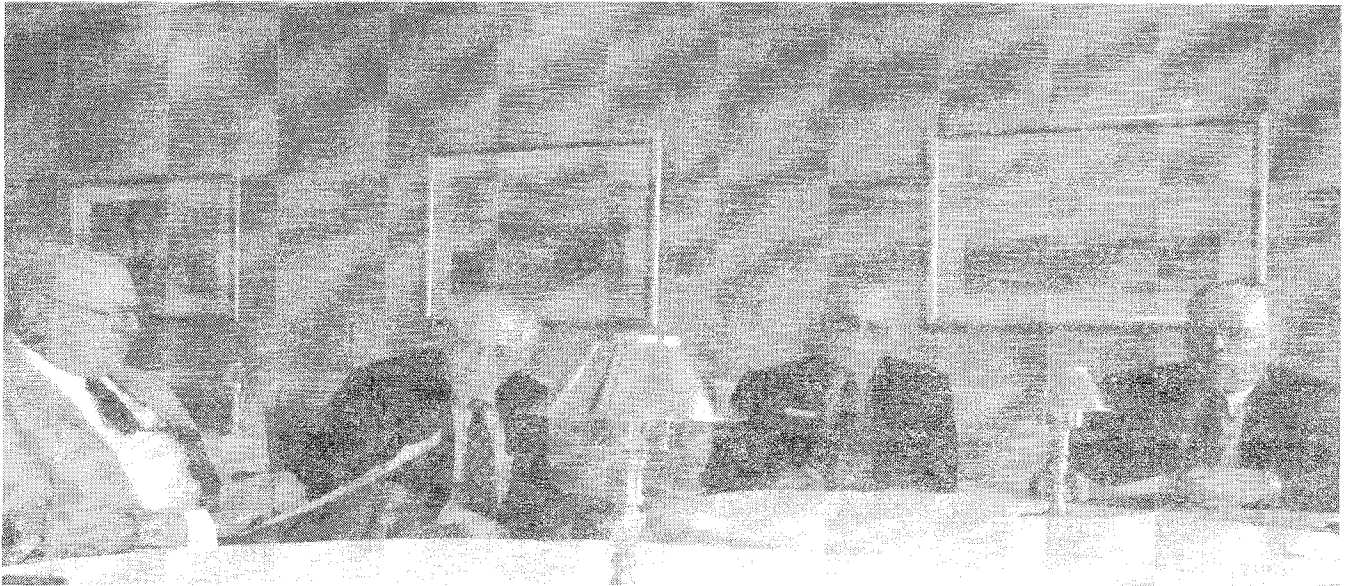
## A Word from David Phillips

Having joined the Club at the start of 2006, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you during the past few luncheons and at the recent Lobster Bake on Casey Key. I was quickly reminded how messy eating lobster can be, though the reward for hard work and sticky fingers was definitely worth it. Spending the evening with excellent company and taking in the beautiful view of the Gulf of Mexico at sunset made it all the more special.

I want to thank all who have made me feel so welcome since I've joined the Club. It's clearly evident that the spirit of fraternity among Yalies extends far beyond the environs of New Haven. As a "younger" member – I earned a Master of Business Administration from the School of Management in 2003 – I hope I can offer a fresh perspective on how to keep our membership strong and encourage new members to join. I'm looking forward to exchanging ideas with you in the coming months on how we can reach out to fellow area alumni.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as a Director and Assistant Chair of the Alumni Schools Committee. Wes Finer has done a tremendous job as Chair of the ASC and I look forward to helping him

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Some of our 2006 Board Members hard at work

## **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PETER FRENCH**

### *Thoughts at the End of Another Season....*

Another season for the Club has drawn to a close save for the smaller and quieter luncheons that occur in the summer months. It has been a good year with luncheons that featured an array of presentations on subjects as diverse as nanotechnology, the expanding universe, Florida history and pursuit of alternative energy futures. By all accounts and comment, the luncheons continue to be the core strength of the Club in bringing us together.

The success of these monthly gatherings has been achieved while making some significant changes in Club operations. The escrow system has been replaced by a pay-as-we go approach. It required some adjustment by all of us with regard to making reservations each month, but it now seems to be well understood. The Club owes thanks to Roland Kopp and Mike Lasche for making this new system go.

At mid-year we had three Board resignations. This highlighted a need to plan more precisely in terms of Board development and having back-up appointments at each assigned operations position. To insure that reality, Harry Riley has done an exceptional job as Chair of the Nominations

Committee, putting in place Board nominations, officer nominations and assigning tasks to individuals that will make the Club run smoothly. Harry, you have the thanks of the Club!

In January, the Board held a strategic planning session and ideas contributed by the membership have been useful in making another choice for our future. Beginning in October, the Club will have its luncheon meetings at the Sarasota Yacht Club. The SYC currently hosts the Ivy League Club. The location maintains necessary convenience and offers some cost benefits in Club operations. On behalf of the Board, thanks for all the written responses to the Club survey on ideas concerning meetings, membership, Alumni Schools Committee activities, and topics for luncheon speakers.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Club president for the past year. The support of the Board has been critical to whatever success we have had. Moreover, with the efforts made by all of the Board, I believe we can look forward to even better times to come next year. I look forward to serving as your president for another year and anticipate seeing everyone when we gather again in the fall.

*Peter*



Bob and Betty Griggs

## BETTY GRIGGS' WATERCOLORS

A most talented artist and member of the Yale Club of the Suncoast, Betty Griggs, can be counted as one of our Sarasota treasures who says, "Sarasota is an exciting town in which to live. My husband and I enjoy the marvelous art and music this place offers and the great organizations to which we belong: Rotary, Yale, Ivy League, MIT, U. of Michigan, UNA, Opera Guild, Ringling, Selby Gardens and Mote Marine—What a Place!"

Betty Fairbank Griggs, originally from Ohio, studied at the School of Fine Arts at Yale University. She resided for many years in Puerto Rico before relocating to Sarasota in 2002. She divides her time between Sarasota and Verbier, Switzerland, and also travels extensively. Many of her watercolors are in series, depicting subjects in such locations as Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Switzerland, Provence, Tuscany, Venice (Italy), Egypt, India, Thailand, Bali and China. They are strong, colorful, and dramatic, and reflect her interest in the many parts of the world to which she has traveled. She has had numerous one-woman shows in Puerto Rico, Sarasota, and Switzerland, and has also exhibited in Boston, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Venice (Florida). Her watercolors have won many awards, and hang in private

collections in Puerto Rico, the United States and Europe. A selection of her paintings can be seen at [www.BettyFairbankGriggs.com](http://www.BettyFairbankGriggs.com).

Betty concludes, "I am fortunate to have been able to travel and see other places in the world. I paint my impressions of the places to which I travel and of the people who live there. My paintings are really my diary, as I paint in series and have total recall with each image. Watercolor is my medium. I carry my sketchbooks, paper, paint and camera wherever I go and love to paint on the spot or later from photos I have taken. Heretofore, I've been reluctant to sell my work, but now that gyclees are available, I can do so without breaking up my diary."

### Simple, cont'd from page 3

condemn nuclear energy as a partial solution, but environmentalists have trouble changing their views. Reprocessing nuclear waste without creating bomb fuel is the problem. Importing liquefied natural gas is another possible solution. The states of the former Soviet Union are sources of LNG. Could we make synthetic fuel from coal? Germany got 90% of its WWII gasoline from coal. Shale oil, of which 500 billion barrels have been identified, is yet another source.

Bob Semple then answered questions about energy and various political matters posed by his enthusiastic audience.

Dyer S. Wadsworth

## NOTICES

Our apologies to the following Club Members who are from the Class of 1959. An article in our January 6<sup>th</sup> blueELInes inadvertently did not list them as 1959 graduates: John Titus and James Cowperthwait.

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If you have not been receiving e-mail notices from the Club, we either do not have your correct address or your system is blocking receipt of our messages. If you wish to receive our e-mail notices, please contact Roland Kopp with your correct address, [Rolandkopp@yahoo.com](mailto:Rolandkopp@yahoo.com)

Roland Kopp

## **Directors and Officers Elected April, 2006**

### **Directors for a three year term ending in 2009**

Betty F. Griggs '50 MFA  
Elizabeth Troutman Hon W  
Frank N. Samponaro '62  
Oliver J. Janney '67

### **Director for the vacancy of a one year term ending in 2007 :**

David S. Phillips '03 MBA

### **Officers:**

President: Peter L. French '61MA '69PhD (Director)  
Vice President: Brian Thomas Kelly '61 (Director)  
Secretary: Oliver J. Janney '67 (Director)  
Assistant Secretary and Ex-officio Director: Edward V. Williams '66MA '68PhD  
Treasurer and Ex-officio Director: Ernest (Mike) Lasche III '91MBA  
Assistant Treasurer and Ex-officio Director: Gilbert Waters '47  
AYA Representative: Frank N. Samponaro '62 (Director)  
Chair, Alumni Schools Committee and Ex-officio Director: S. Wesley Finer '52

### **Other Officers with no Director positions (unless otherwise so elected):**

Assistant Chair, Alumni Schools Committee: David S. Phillips '03MBA (Director)  
Chair, Membership: Beverley Wadsworth Hon  
Assistant Chair, Membership: Betty F. Griggs '50MFA (Director)  
Luncheon Coordinator, Drop-in Luncheons: David S. Phillips '03MBA (Director)  
Luncheon Coordinator, Fall and early Winter months: Ronald Levin '58 (Director)  
Luncheon Coordinator, Late Winter and early Spring: William A. Doyle '44 (Director)

### **Directors with unexpired terms ending in 2007**

Peter L. French '61MA '69PhD  
Roland A. Kopp '59E  
Dyer S. Wadsworth '59

**Term ending in 2008**

William A. Doyle '44  
Brian Thomas Kelly '61  
Ronald Levin '58  
Henry C. Riley '54

## **SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

The Admissions Office received a record 21,099 applications this year. On March 39, they mailed out acceptance/rejection notices. Accepted were 1,099 applicants from the regular decision pool; they join 724 students accepted under Early Action. This total of 1,823 reflects a low acceptance rate of 8.6%, possibly a record low.

This has been a banner year for applicants, both for the University as a whole and for our Club. Of these, more than 16,300 were interviewed by local alumni. Our Club had 31 applicants from Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte Counties. We were able to interview 28 of these students. Four of our applicants went Early Action; of these four, one was accepted from Bayshore High, two were deferred to the regular pool and one was rejected. There were several very highly qualified applicants from our area. The final tally stands at 2 accepted. Many thanks to the members of the Alumni schools Committee who took the time and effort to interview these students.

We have asked the guidance counselors at the high schools in Sarasota and Manatee Counties to nominate an outstanding member of their junior classes to receive our Yale Book Award again this year: DeSoto High School has come in with a request for us to give a Book Award over there, and we are working on that. These books will be presented during awards ceremonies at the schools in the coming months. We have chosen the book, *The Cold War: A new History*, by John Gaddis, to present this year. As many of you know, Professor Gaddis teaches a class on the cold war at Yale and it is one of the most popular courses on the schedule. His new book is a synthesis of several previous volumes and the course.

**Wes Finer, Chairman  
Alumni Schools Committee**



cont'd from pg. 5

## David Phillips

during the coming year. As stated on our website, supporting the recruitment of qualified applicants to Yale College is one of the chief *raison d'être* of the Club. If you have already served as a volunteer interviewer, as I did for the first time this year, you know firsthand just how bright and engaging are this area's best students. Despite the record low acceptance rate of 8.6% this admissions year, we had two local students accepted.

For those of us who live here year-round, we will continue to meet monthly during the Summer, with Drop-in luncheons starting in June. These luncheons will be an excellent opportunity for us to meet in an informal atmosphere and to strengthen personal relationships. As the Luncheon Coordinator, I look forward to meeting many of you at these luncheons and getting to know you much better in the year ahead.

David Phillips

## On the Subject of *High Flight*, by John G. Magee, Jr. '44

Printed at the suggestion of Jack Kahn, '58

Although featured prominently in the May 22, 2003 issue of the Yale Alumni Magazine, the article may have been missed by many of our Club members. Since John Magee, Jr.'s lyrical and inspirational poem has been quoted by our presidents each time we've lost one of our space

capsules (Challenger and Columbia), it seems fitting to share it with our members. McGee was 19 years old when this was written. He was accepted at Yale, Class of '44 and instead of starting with his class, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He died in an air collision over England. His father, Yale, Class of 1906, shared the poem with the nation:

### *High Flight*

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed,  
and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds,—and  
done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—  
wheeled and soared  
and swung  
High in the sunlit silence.  
Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along,  
and flung  
My eager craft through  
footless halls of air....*

*Up, up the long, delirious,  
burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept  
heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even  
eagle flew—  
And while with silent,  
lifting mind I've trod*

*The high, untraversed  
sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand and  
touched the face of God.*

### OUR LOSS

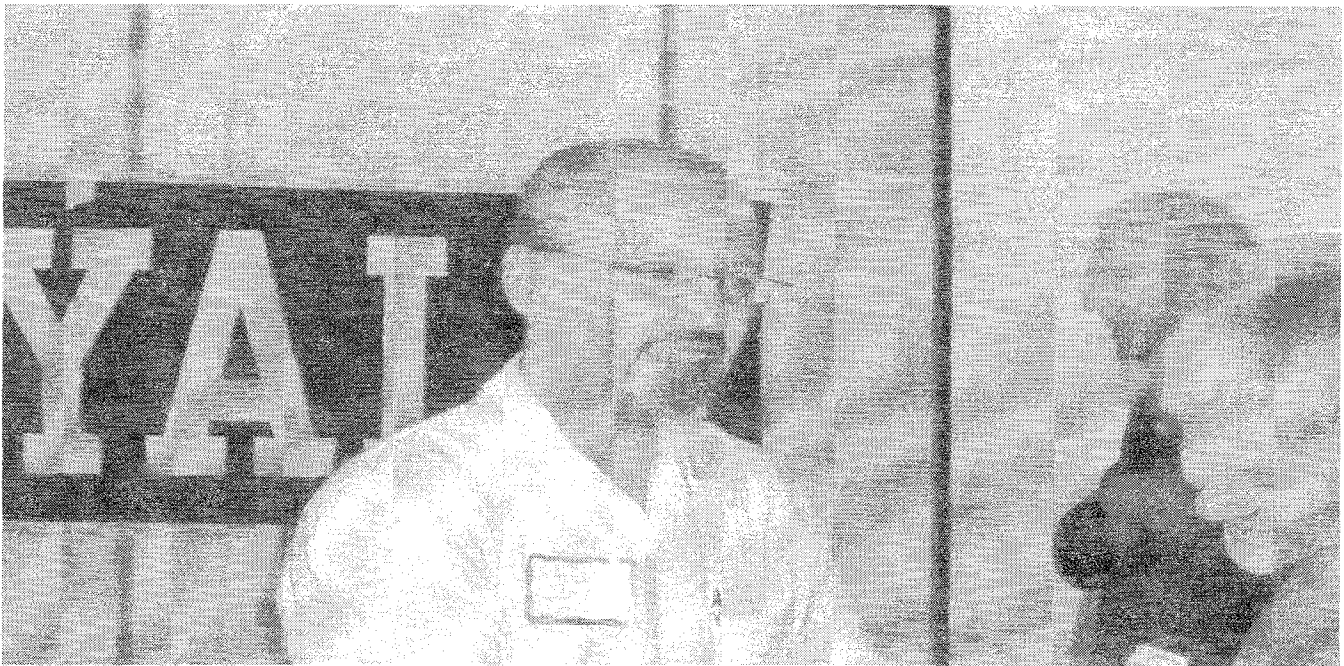
We are about to lose a long-time member to the distant North! **Reggie Roome, '43**, is about to move away from us. We wish Reggie and Joan good health, happiness, and prosperity in their new home. Keep in touch, Old Friend..

## Professor Paul Dorsal Speaks

### THE DEATH AND RESURECTION OF CHE GUEVARA

Paul J. Dosal, Professor of History at the University of South Florida, addressed the Club on May 11, 2006 on Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the revolutionary associated with Fidel Castro's Cuba until 1967, when he was killed at age 39 in Bolivia. Following an introduction by our President, Dr. Peter French, Prof. Dosal explained how Che's post-mortem career has been more successful than his life itself.

Che was trained as a doctor. His earlier days are reasonably well-portrayed by the movie "Motorcycle Diaries". He did swim the Amazon, and did fearlessly visit a leper colony there. After joining in Castro's 1956-7 revolution, he was the subject of a 1960 Time Magazine cover story, which called him "the brains of the Revolution". He was Minister of the Economy



Professor Paul J. Dorsal answers questions

and President of the national bank, among many high-ranking positions in Cuba. He wrote extensively, including books on agrarian reform and nationalization, and a widely-read manual on revolutionary tactics.

Che's plan for the world was to create revolutionary movements in three continents. The U.S. was already embroiled in Southeast Asia, with a million soldiers there. Che wanted to attract another million to Africa and a third to South America. These plans failed. The 1965-6 effort in the Congo went nowhere. Che's visit to Moscow raised no support. Che set up a revolutionary camp in southeastern Bolivia, but the U.S. response was only a low-level counterinsurgency effort. He was captured there by C.I.A. agents on October 8, 1967, who

were ordered to take him to Panama for interrogation.

However, the Bolivians wanted him dead. This was a problem: how to make people believe that he was dead. Most executions left the victims unrecognizable. (Prof. Dosal showed pictures.) Che was shot, but not in the head. His body was cleaned up (by nuns), and the C.I.A. arranged a "wake" in La Higuera, whose 25 homes today all have shrines to Che.

Che became a symbol of self-sacrifice. His enemies, including his killer, respected his willingness to die. A 1960 photo of the youthful, bearded Che, obtained by an Italian journalist, is the most reproduced photo in history. Another photo, of his supine body, has the same arrangement as a famous Renaissance painting of Jesus'

body. His eyes are open—he looks spiritual, Christ-like. His image has now been "commodified" in tattoos, and as a promoter of credit cards. Teenagers, who know nothing of what Che was really like, say, "Oh, he's so cute". Che's body was returned to Cuba in 1997, to great acclaim. But Fidel was jealous, so it has been buried two hours away from Havana, where few visit.

Prof. Dosal answered numerous questions about Che, and South Americans Morales and Chavez, that were posed by his enthusiastic audience.

Dyer S. Wadsworth

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