



YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST

bluELines



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Membership Report

On January 8th, the date of the completion and initial distribution of the Yale Club's December 2012 membership directory, the Club has 142 members. This includes 22 new members who have joined our Club since the December 2011 directory was published, including two students, Jake Albert '13 and Andrew Grass '16 and one recent graduate, Rino Landa '10. Seven of these new members came from the November 2012 mailing that was sent to Yale alumni whom Yale University informed us had recently moved into our geographic area. We give a very warm welcome to all our new members!

We have had the pleasure of meeting several of these new members at our December and January luncheons, John Aniello '70 and his wife Laura, Richard MacDonald '72 and his wife Trish Diamond, and Jonathan Percival '87 MPPM and his wife Marilyn Hill, and Nathan Speck-Ewer, '00 Div., as well as Andrew Grass '16 and Nancy Griffin, widow of John '62. We look forward to meeting additional new members at future Club events.

We would appreciate your help in getting the word out about our wonderful Yale Club. If you meet Yale graduates, their spouses or parents, please let them know about our Yale Club and the interesting meetings and special events that the Club sponsors. A number of our new members have joined as a result of the contacts made by existing Club members, so please let us know if you meet someone who might be interested in learning more about our Club. I would be delighted to correspond with them. Thank you.

Beverley Wadsworth, Membership Chair



Members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast and their guests are invited to enjoy a tour of the exhibit entitled “Paolo Veronese” at the Ringling Museum of Art on Monday, February 11, 2013. Lunch in the Museum’s Treviso Restaurant will follow the tour. Veronese (1528-1588) is widely regarded as one of the giants of Venetian painting. The broad spectrum of his work as a painter and a draughtsman has not been available to audiences in the United States in over two decades. Thus, this exhibition, put together from collections throughout North America, is especially noteworthy. Two excellent Ringling docents will lead our private tour. Lunch will begin at 11:30 upon the conclusion of the tour. The menu includes an entrée, coffee, tea, or a soft drink, and tiramisu for dessert.

Those attending are asked to choose from among the following three entrees:

ROASTED CHICKEN SALAD (fresh boneless free range chicken on arugula and iceberg lettuce, goat cheese, grape tomatoes, pickled onions, honey pancetta dressing)

BUFFALO MOZZARELLA GIRASOLE (small raviolis filled with mozzarella, tomato cream, peas, and shaved grana padano)

PRESSED HOT ITALIAN SANDWICH (capicola ham, roast beef with smoked provolone cheese and marinated pepper spread, pressed on a hot semolina roll, served with fresh fruit)

Plan to arrive at the Ringling’s Visitors’ Pavilion by 9:45 on the morning of Monday, February 11.

The cost of the event is \$27 per person. To reserve mail checks payable to the Yale Club of the Suncoast to:

**Frank Samponaro, 9409 Forest Hills Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238 by
February 5.**



Dr. Virginia Brilliant

Dr. Virginia Brilliant spoke to a gathering of 71 people at the monthly luncheon meeting of the Yale Club of the Suncoast on March 8, 2013. She is Curator of European Art at the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota. Her topic was Paolo Veronese and the Veronese special exhibition currently at the Ringling. She has a Ph. D. with specialization in medieval and early Renaissance Italian Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art of the University of London and has published numerous scholarly articles. She is also the coauthor with Frederick I. Ilchman of a book published in 2012 entitled Paolo Venonese: A Master and His Workshop in Renaissance Venice.

Dr. Brilliant began her lively and fascinating discussion of Veronese by describing him as an artist who is celebrated for his ambitious and extravagant decorative cycles, religious and allegorical, sacred and profane. Considered one of the giants of Venetian painting along with Titian and Tintoretto, he is the most elegant of the three. He is probably best known for his grand ceiling paintings and scenes of Biblical feasts. Nevertheless, throughout his enormously productive and successful

career, Veronese and his workshop were also responsible for large altar pieces, smaller religious paintings, portraits of Venetian prominenti and depictions of sensual episodes based on classical themes. He was an accomplished draughtsman, and his surviving graphic works include preliminary sketches as well as highly finished chiaroscuro works.

Born Paolo Caliari in Verona in 1528, he was the son of a stonecutter and the illegitimate daughter of a nobleman. Veronese moved to Venice in the early 1550s, where he lived most of the rest of his life. By 1553 he was creating works for the Doge's Palace, and the following year he painted the ceiling in the sacristy of San Sebastiano. Over the next two decades, he decorated nearly the entire church. During these years he also produced large canvases depicting New Testament themes for several monasteries. One of these paintings, now called the "*Feast in the House of Lev*," led to his being summoned to defend himself before the Inquisition. He was charged with including improper subjects (Germans and dwarfs) in a religious composition. Fortunately for him, he managed to convince the inquisitors that his work did not violate their standards of orthodoxy. Veronese died in Venice in 1588 and was buried in the church of San Sebastiano. His artistic creations have maintained the popularity and acclaim they enjoyed during his lifetime in the centuries since his death with his works sought by collectors and connoisseurs. Furthermore, generations of painters from Peter Paul Rubens to Peter Greenaway have been influenced by his brilliant compositions and elegant, exuberant style.

After this introduction to the life and work of Veronese, Virginia Brilliant explained how the current exhibition at the Ringling Museum featuring some of the master's most famous works came about. As part of her duties at the Ringling, She is charged with developing exhibitions based on major pieces in its Old Master collection. She realized that while the museum owns many great paintings, Veronese's magnificent "Rest on the Flight into Egypt" is in her own words: "truly a jewel in the Ringling's crown." It could, therefore, become the foundation of a wonderful exhibition that would also be timely because the last comprehensive

exhibition of Veronese's works in the United States took place in 1988. Assembling the exhibition that opened at the Ringling in December 2012 proved to require a great deal of time, effort, and tenacity. Of course, it was not possible to obtain every work Virginia had in her sights. For example, two of the finest paintings in America by Veronese in the Frick Collection, "The Choice between Virtue and Vice" and "Wisdom and Strength," cannot be lent because of the terms of Henry Clay Frick's bequest. Eventually, however, thirty institutions and private lenders responded to the call, and a substantial and marvelous exhibition was put together utilizing loans of paintings and drawings entirely from North American institutions and private collectors.

After giving us an insight into the complexities of putting together a major exhibition, Virginia discussed the exhibition itself. In so doing, she projected on a large screen, images of some of the major works by Veronese and his school that are currently on display at the Ringling Museum. While her comments about each of these images revealed the depth of her scholarly understanding, they were presented in an informal and readily understandable manner. Upon the conclusion of her outstanding presentation, it was abundantly clear that Veronese exhibition offers those of us who reside in Sarasota and environs a rare opportunity to view a representative collection of the work of a master of the Italian Renaissance. Furthermore, her talk set the stage for Yale Club of the Suncoast's private tour of the Veronese Exhibition on the morning of Monday, February 11. Those planning to attend will be delighted to learn that Virginia Brilliant has graciously agreed to serve as the lead docent for our tour. Her presence certainly will make the event even more memorable.

Frank Samponaro

**NEW PRESIDENT OF NEW COLLEGE PRESENTS
PANORAMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION**



Donal O'Shea, who became President of New College of Florida on July 1, 2012, surveyed the history of higher education over the centuries and presented a vision for liberal arts education at New College at our December luncheon. A brilliant mathematician who graduated from Harvard and Queens College in Ontario, Canada, he spent the past 32 years at Mount Holyoke College, where he taught mathematics and chaired the Mathematics Department. While continuing to teach mathematics, he also spent the past 18 years as Mount Holyoke's Dean of the Faculty and Vice-President for Academic Affairs. He brings a tremendous wealth of academic and administrative experience to New College.

Dr. O'Shea began with a survey of the history of higher education in the Western World starting with the University of Bologna, which began as a coterie of students attracting professors in the eleventh century, and the University of Paris,

which began as a troupe of professors attracting students in the twelfth century. He then described the growth of higher education in Renaissance Europe and the British Isles and then the founding of the first colleges in the U.S. He continued with the development of liberal arts colleges as a distinctively American contribution, the post-Civil War dramatic expansion of higher education, especially with land grant colleges, the establishment of research universities inspired by those of Germany in the nineteenth century, and the beginning of Florida's university system in 1887.

Dr. O'Shea then discussed liberal arts colleges, which focus on the teaching of arts and sciences and provided examples of how Mount Holyoke College, the oldest women's college in continuous operation in the world, founded in 1837, and New College, founded in 1960, offered research training as part of the academic program. He then described the development of higher education in America since World War II, including the growth of multiversities and for-profit colleges and universities. He stated that higher education in the U.S. today comprises 7,500 institutions, which deliver education to more than 20 million students using many forms, including research universities, regional comprehensives, residential liberal arts institutions, community colleges, specialized institutions and for-profit institutions, including some that deliver their services exclusively online. He mentioned that only 130 of these are liberal arts colleges. He noted the huge increase in the cost of higher education as one of the major problems and challenges of the present day. He attributed the situation to the burgeoning administrative costs, as institutions cope with ever-increasing complexity of government regulations.

Dr. O'Shea concluded with a description of the strengths of New College and expressed enthusiasm for collaboration with other local institutions. He extolled the goals of a liberal arts education at New College, which include ensuring that students learn to communicate effectively and to take and defend positions on subjects of importance. He emphasized the importance of education's promotion of understanding of different points of view. While he supported a role for online education, he emphasized the importance of close interaction of students with

faculty and with each other. He proudly announced that 52 New College students have been awarded Fulbright scholarships in the past decade and that this number constitutes one-third of all Fulbrights awarded to students at Florida institutions. Dr. O'Shea expects that New College will collaborate in various areas with other local institutions such as the Ringling College of Art and Design, USF Sarasota-Manatee, State College of Florida and the FSU Ringling Museum. One area he intends to explore is sharing of administrative support, in order to contain costs and, ideally, to enable the institutions to reduce tuition or at least tuition increases.

Dr. O'Shea's brilliant presentation presages a further blossoming of liberal arts education in Sarasota.

Oliver Janney



Ivy League College Fair
New College
January 12, 2013

Annual Yale Alumni Association 53rd Assembly Report

Snow! Levin's Farewell State of Yale! Alumni Answering the Call to Service!

A surprise visit by an old fashioned New England northeaster dumped 9+ inches of wet snow on Yale New Haven, closing many airports and dealing a blow to attendance at the 53rd Yale Alumni Association Assembly. Noticeably absent were large contingents of West Coast delegates whose flights had been cancelled. More than 500 Eli alums managed to attend the Thursday November 8 opening welcome by Mark Dollhopf '77, AYA Executive Director. The attraction of Yale President Richard Levin '74 PhD and his last State of Yale speech at the Friday luncheon swelled the attendance to over 600 and proved to be the overwhelming highlight of the Assembly.

The Levin State of Yale Speech

As Levin took the podium the attendees stood and gave a long and vigorous applause in appreciation of the longest – 20 years – service by any Yale president and the most achievement ever in the history of Yale. Levin acknowledged the thanks and affection of the crowd and began to talk in his customary even-paced, temperate manner. He began with a “big thanks to all of you” for the work of the AYA and its remarkable progress in how Yale graduates have been a force to change the world for the better. Then he presented a summary of what he felt were the most significant changes that he presided over during his 20 years at Yale's helm. The modest approach of this powerful leader gave the listing of achievements tremendous impact. Summarized these were:

- Three quarters of Yale's total facilities have been renovated at an aggregate capital expenditure of \$5 billion. All 12 colleges were renovated with extensive amenities added. All major class rooms and all of Science Hill have also been renovated. There have also been “niche leadership” restorations such as the Paul Rudolph Architecture School. He felt strongly that Yale's emphasis on restoration has earned it additional respect from current and prospective students as well as the admiration of our competition (read fair Harvard). Levin described Yale's buildings as being in atrocious condition when the renovation program began in 2004. At that point \$200 million was dedicated to renovations and the effort was continued even during the hugely unfavorable effects of the Great Recession.
- New construction included the Forestry School, the School of Management and the Engineering School. All of these have produced immediate and measurable

improvements in performance of these schools. These new buildings have the latest technology in sustainability and enjoy a niche position in this regard.

- In the last 20 years Yale's campus acreage has expanded by 50% - no small thanks to what Levin referred to as Yale's Louisiana Purchase of the huge former Bayer North America Laboratories located on the New Haven/West Haven line. That purchase represents 40% of the 50% campus expansion. Yale School of Nursing is in the process of relocating to the new West Campus and there are several science projects underway there as well.
- Yale's endowment now stands at \$19.3 billion. It had lost \$6.5 billion at the height of the recent recession. Levin stated that in spite of the endowment drop Yale was able to preserve the highest quality of student life and faculty with no academic loss.
- Applications for admission to Yale 20 years ago were approximately 11,000 per year. They now are about 29,000 per year. Acceptances which were 23% now stand at less than 7%. Levin felt that Yale now appeals more to the best and the brightest of student applicants and is increasing steadily to the levels of Harvard, Princeton and Stanford.
- Financial Aid, which was received by 40% of Yale College students in 1993 is now at 56%. Total financial aid is now at a record high. In 1999 Yale went to "need blind" aid and now any family with less than \$65,000 annual income has full tuition coverage. Another interesting statistic was that the average Yale tuition paid by a family has declined by 1.4% per year since 1993, when adjusted for inflation.
- Yale/New Haven development has vastly improved in the past 20 years said Levin. He cited the imaginative Yale home buyer program begun in 1993 which over the years has allowed over 1,000 Yale faculty and students to own homes in New Haven. Some 50% of these buyers were minorities. The Yale home buyer program has been copied by many other universities.
- Yale has become the largest downtown New Haven property owner due to its huge development activity. Currently there are more than 1,000 construction workers employed on Yale projects. Levin explained that the effect of these downtown developments have significantly improved the perceptions of Yale by prospective students and faculty. Another important program has been Yale's major support in providing guaranteed Connecticut college scholarships to local high performing

secondary students. This program has won the hearts and minds of many in New Haven.

- A strong understanding of international cultures is a centerpiece of Levin's latest initiatives. He stated that to have a real 21st century education there is a requirement of understanding international cultures. This creates a need for a specialized curriculum and interactive students. Action began with a summer internship program in Asia. Now some 1400 Yale students participate annually in offshore summer internships. Yale's faculty also now has 65 professors with international specialties, and the Jackson Program brings international leaders to Yale to participate in global studies. For example, Yale's Leadership Program brings "world fellows" from China, India, the Middle East and Africa to its campus.
- The Yale NUS College in Singapore is, according to Levin, as important for world education as was the introduction by Yale in 1828 of the Liberal Arts Program. He described most of current Asian education as simple regurgitation of information – quite similar to the Yale education of 150 years ago! Yale NUS is designed to develop a broad perspective rather than one track, narrow, specific education. He characterized NUS with small classes encouraging student push back. It will also capture the experience with residential colleges – which Levin greatly esteems. The quality of faculty and leadership will be top level, and the result will be a high value similar to combining Aristotle with Confucius – who Levin pointed out were contemporaries!

Levin concluded by describing his current state of affairs as breathtakingly busy, but greatly enabled by the best team of Yale officers and Board in the entire world. He described his successor, Peter Salovey as totally prepared for the presidency. He said that Peter connects extremely well with faculty and students. Levin then called Salovey to address the Assembly.

Peter Salovey, in a stentorian voice, declared "I am thrilled, since I get to follow my hero in education at Yale." He explained that his name in Russian means "nightingale." He has enjoyed many trips with alumni and has enormous respect for the good work and good will spread by the AYA team. He described Yale as having the broadest array of education in the world, and bringing it all together is a huge opportunity and responsibility. Salovey said the Yale NUS (Singapore) is the latest of Yale's history of the richest innovations in education and he looked forward to guiding its success. He opined that the world should find a way to provide a worldwide voucher for education via the web. Salovey stated that all Yale activity must be either excellent or able to become excellent. That is his challenge. He concluded by appealing for help to define Yale's vision from all parts of Yale including the alumni. Both Levin and Salovey received tumultuous applause from the 600 luncheon attendees. The Levin State of

Yale was a compendium of stellar accomplishments over the last 20 years and the passage to Salovey was rich in warmth and assurance of an ever stronger Yale. For God, for Country and for Yale!

The 53rd Yale Alumni Association Assembly

For the first time in recent history, the Assembly did not have a theme illustrating a part of Yale University. Two years ago the Assembly enjoyed an in-depth explanation of Yale's highly successful School of Medicine, and last year it examined Yale's 150 years of historic leadership of Yale PhD programs. Now the theme was "Answering the Call to Service: Alumni Volunteers in the Global Community. The Assembly began with our YCS former speaker and current AYA Executive Director, Mark Dollhopf '77, providing the AYA's mission and central tenet of the new five-year plan: to connect alumni for the greater good. He felt there was something very special in Yale's DNA which produced strong willingness on the part of alumni to give back to Yale and to their communities. Giving back to Yale in the form of money for its endowment is one strong example of thanks by alumni but the endowment of alumni's time and talent to meet the needs of the world is equally impressive.

There followed a panel of this year's Yale Medal awardees which addressed Yale's distinctiveness in inspiring alumni to volunteer for community and public service. The panelists related inspirational examples of spreading the Yale spirit throughout the country and world. The key point of their examples was that the Yale alumni possess many talents which can be spread with the common denominator being the Yale spirit of giving.

An afternoon panel comprised of the presidents of Vassar, Oberlin and Amherst discussed how America's colleges and universities encourage volunteer service by their student bodies. It was noteworthy that Yale and many other schools averaged 75%+ participation in community service volunteer activity. Examples of Yale students' activities throughout New Haven schools were particularly impressive. Anecdotal evidence indicates that students who received help usually most willing to assist the success of students in need. With President Levin's guidance, Yale has not wavered in its dedication to "blind admission." This results in a diverse student, which is aware of and willing to improve the Yale area community.

The breakout sessions described examples of the many ways Yale alumni can and do volunteer in the world today. These are listed to show examples of the vast breadth of volunteerism accomplished and available to Yale alumni – and they are:

- Yale Clubs and Nonprofits: Case Studies in Tutoring
- Shared Interest Groups and Innovations: Summer Institute of the Arts
- Yale College Outreach: Music in Public Schools
- College Dreams: Outreach to Underserved Students
- New Ways to Learn: Alternative Education and Education Reform
- Service without Borders: Volunteering Abroad
- The Lifeblood of Democracy: Volunteers in Civic Engagement
- Volunteer Leadership: The Heart and Soul of Nonprofits
- Hands-on Healthcare: Volunteering for a Better Future

Currently, more than 3,500 Yale alumni and friends are involved in the **Yale Day of Service** in hundreds of locally organized community service projects. Since its beginning in 2008, the **Yale Alumni Service Corps** sent Yale alumni to China, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mexico, Nicaragua and Brazil for projects ranging from healthcare to education to small-business consulting. This year alumni will develop cross-cultural exchanges in Nicaragua, Ghana and the first domestic program in West Virginia. In the past year, over 9,000 alumni have interviewed students, staffed college fairs through their local **Alumni Schools Committee** and presented Yale Book Award to local promising students. While many members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast in the highly successful efforts of our Alumni Schools Committee with the goal of inspiring the best and brightest students in our area to attend Yale, this report is aimed at piquing interest of members who may have interest in further connecting with Yale alumni activities. There are several members of our Yale Club who have and continue to participate in the above described programs. It may be of interest to conduct a brainstorming session with those folk to attract other potential participants. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to investigate these Yale alumni volunteer activities.

Brian Thomas Kelly Y'61



**Yale Book Award winner
Juan Pablo Gonzales of Cardinal Mooney High School
with Mark Magenheim**

