



YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST

**bluELines**



February/March 2017

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1

## YALE CLUB OF THE SUNCOAST NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 17, 2017

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Nicholas Gladding, Chair

Ken Schneier

Oliver Janney

Frank Samponaro

Brian Kelly

Elaine Gustafson

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Director, Luncheon Coordinator	Richard Smith
Director, Membership	Danielle Gladding

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##### Class of 2020 (terms expiring 2017)

Brian T. Kelly  
 Peter French  
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##### Class of 2019 (terms continuing from 2016)

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 Kenneth Schneier  
 Dyer Wadsworth  
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##### Class of 2018 (terms continuing from 2015)

Oliver Janney  
 Frank Samponaro  
 Nicholas Baskey (one year term)  
 John H. Rixse (one year term)

**LOBSTER BAKE - MAINE STYLE — BATH CLUB - CASEY KEY**

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 23rd**

Our Yale Club of the Suncoast will present a Maine-style lobster bake at the Bath Club on Casey Key on Sunday, April 23rd. Our caterers from Maine, led by “Uncle Jim” have a delicious dinner of: clam chowder, choice of Maine lobster, sirloin steak or chicken, with sides of Maine steamed clams and mussels, baby red potatoes, corn on the cob, hard-boiled eggs, condiments, coleslaw, and the grand finale of strawberry shortcake for dessert.

We will sit at the picnic tables on the beach at the picturesque Bath Club. Socializing will begin at 3:30 and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. We very much appreciate the assistance of Pat Kuelper for making the Bath Club available to us for our lobster bake. Please bring your own “beverages” or soft drinks - the Club will provide glasses, ice and water.

The cost is **\$40 per person** and we encourage you to bring guests and children. We ask that you sign up before April 7th, so “Uncle Jim” may be assured of obtaining the requisite lobsters! Should you have any questions about this great YCS Special Event, please call “Captain” Brian or Lady Susan who are coordinators for this event.

Please put this Sunday, April 23rd Lobster Bake on your calendars and send your checks (and dinner choices) of \$40 per person made to **“The Yale Club of the Suncoast”** to:

Brian Kelly  
YCS Lobster Bake  
1624 Caribbean Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34231

Looking forward to a most memorable lobster feast, Boola-Boola  
Captain Brian

**December Luncheon Speaker**

## Susan McManus



On December 13<sup>th</sup> the Club had a special guest as its speaker. Professor Susan MacManus is one of the dozen Distinguished University Professors at the University of South Florida. She is recognized as one of the most prescient analysts of election behavior in Florida, appearing on local and national radio and television programs on a routine basis for nearly two decades. A fourth generation Florida native, Dr. MacManus knows Florida and Florida politics as few others.

For her presentation to the Yale Club she came prepared with all the newly created data generated by the November elections. She started by affirming that Florida is always a 1% victory state as has been the case for the past two decades. She acknowledged how democratic voters were shocked, angry and not healing well after failing to defend the “blue wall” of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, but noted that Hillary Clinton had under performed in nine out of ten major media markets. In Florida, it is always a toss-up and the I-4 corridor is the “highway to hell” for politicians. That corridor did give Hillary Clinton a 51-45% advantage. However, Dr. MacManus was more focused on Polk, Manatee and Pasco counties where Mrs. Clinton did not do well and which Professor MacManus saw as a signal that Trump could win the state.

Some of the major issues shaping voter behavior were negative views of government, the role of so many media outlets to influence voters; millennials do not watch television and get news from other sources, and, regarding Trump, “the media built him up but could not take him down.” The economy played a big role in a state where the average income is \$39,000 but the median income is \$28,000. For the 50% of workers below the median, there was little belief that things were getting better and Trump was the hope for change.

As to who actually voted, Republicans were 35%, Democrats 38% and No Affiliation 24%. There was widespread over optimism for the Democrats which had a bad influence on Democrats getting out to vote. Too many polls gave Hillary Clinton too big an edge creating out size expectations as younger voters stayed home. Also, the women's vote was not cohesive,

being just 50/46 for Clinton. Trump got 9% of the African American vote in Florida but just 8% nationally. Further, the Latino vote was more split than the Democrats had anticipated. Wisely, the Trump campaign advertised on seven Haitian radio stations. Perhaps most significantly, the Trump campaign turned state operations over to local committees who knew their electorate well while the Clinton campaign micro-managed from outside the state with personnel less conversant in the realities of Florida politics, unwisely spending campaign dollars on TV advertising rather than funding ground level operations fully. It is also clear that Sanders supporters did not make the shift to Clinton that had been hoped for. Finally, the evangelicals were mobilized by the future of the Supreme Court and the nominees that Trump would favor. In summing up, Professor MacManus indicated the way to assess how a campaign is going is to see where a candidate goes in the closing days. In Clinton's case it was to college campuses. The young and the millenials were not turning out. If there is good news for the Democratic party in all of this it is that Millenials are 26% of the Florida population and GenX-ers are 24% so that in future elections these groups which tend to be more progressive are available for recruitment by the Democratic party.

With all this information presented in compact but clear form there was time for an excellent array of questions from the assembled Yale Club and Holyoke Club attendees, questions which ranged to the possible stable of future candidates for each party and the likelihood of changes to the work of the Electoral College. Generous applause marked the end of the presentation.

January Luncheon Speaker

Iain Webb

Director of the Sarasota Ballet



Iain Webb, Director of the Sarasota Ballet, addressed our club at the January 10th luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club. He is celebrating his 10th year as director of the Company, during which time he has taken the

Sarasota Ballet to new heights of national and international recognition.

Webb has maintained a diverse repertoire but is particularly celebrated for the revival of the ballets of Frederic Ashton, with whom he worked for many years.

Webb regaled the audience with stories of his growing up in York, England, the challenges of being a teen-age dancer in a working class English household, and his later courtship of fellow dancer, now wife, Margaret Barbieri, who is the Sarasota Ballet's Assistant Director. He also shared his aspirations for the Company's future.

Our club was originally scheduled to hear from the Ballet's Executive Director, Joseph Volpe, but a last minute scheduling conflict arose. We were delighted to have Iain Webb as his very adequate substitute.

Submitted by: Rick Lannamann

**Matthew Spence**



## YHP Luncheon Speaker



The 2017 Yale-Harvard-Princeton luncheon at Michael's on East was a very satisfying success for the Yale Club of the Suncoast. An audience of well over 200 alumni and friends gathered for the annual event and were treated to an outstanding presentation by Mr. Matthew Spence, Yale '06 JD, who gave a very serious set of reflections on the most challenging issues facing international relations in the new era of politics of a new administration. All this was done in a gracious and often self-deprecating style that eased anxieties among the listeners.

Mr. Spence knows of his subject well based on his service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Policy from 2012-2015. His earlier service from 2009-2012 was in the White House where he served on the National Security Council as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for International Economic Affairs as well as Advisor to two National Security Council members. In those capacities he worked on issues ranging from cyber security, trade policy, Asia policy, counter terrorism and the Osama bin Ladin operation. He is the recipient of the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Public Service.

Mr. Spence's talk focused on "What Should be keeping us up at night!" He began by sharing thoughts on how incredibly complex are the issues confronting America with regard to middle east policy. This involves seeking to make choices between "not very good options" and "bad options." He characterized these as not just what we are reading about in terms of partisan issues but bi-partisan issues that should worry us all. The heart of the presentation described the three most profound challenges that Mr. Spence sees: The Threat of Cyber Attacks, The Threat of ISIS Planning an Attack in the U.S. and China - Our Rival/ Adversary and Partner.

The cyber threat was framed in a quick review of rapid advance of digital messaging that creates super computers in our pockets, the thousands of daily breaches of presumably secure lines of both government and the public files carried out by criminals, cartels and countries. He noted the threats to infrastructure, electoral processes, and to the entire technology industry including drones, where information will be unsafe in any setting.

Turning to the threat posed by ISIS, Mr. Spence told a story about the “bomb maker of Yemen” who has produced the most sophisticated forms of explosives. This reality was then linked to the millions of refugees in the middle east who have no future in terms of jobs or a satisfying life. He fears most this “lost generation.” In those broken states with broken borders, 30% of the population is between 15 and 29 with no jobs and no hope. They form a potential disaffected class that is susceptible to being enrolled in terrorist plots. As to America he pointed out that 80% of ISIS collaborators are US citizens and only 3 terrorists have been successfully prosecuted in the past four decades and they were Cubans.

Regarding China, Mr. Spence noted that the Chinese Premier has achieved status by lecturing at the Davos summit. This is a threat to the American mantle of leadership and if America does not seize its leadership role, others will make the rules for us. However, we must realize we still have amazing opportunities on cyber-security matters and the abilities of our tech industry, on linkages we can promote with the middle east and in making our relations with China a true partnership. In order to be successful we must deeply educate ourselves, not just in the Ivy League, but with the whole population and we need to realize what we deeply care about.

Some very good questions were then raised by members of the audience that ranged from dealing with illegal refugees in the U.S. to India/Brazil/Turkey and Indonesia as emergent powers. Other queries touched on the impact of climate change, Turkey's role in the middle east, nuclear proliferation, the decline of adequate professionalism in the Foreign Service, Israeli-Iran confrontation and are we winning or losing in Iraq. Despite all of these challenges, Mr. Spence remains optimistic that

solutions or partial solutions will be found and America has opportunities to succeed and reassert its role of leadership around the globe.

The assembled YHP audience provided an outstanding round of applause and thanks.

Submitted by Peter French



Balloon Team ready for YHP Luncheon!

## “The Peals” - Whiffenpoof Alumni Group

Saturday, February 18, 2017



The Yale Club of the Suncoast was treated to concert by the Whiffenpoof alumni group, known as “The Peals” at the Sarasota Yacht Club on Saturday, February 18,

2017. A delightful day was arranged by our own Nick Baskey, a member of the group. Following a most enjoyable serenade and a delicious luncheon, the group and host families retired to Dyer and Beverley Wardsworth’s lovely waterfront home for further refreshments and some rest and relaxation. In the evening, the group reassembled at the Clubhouse at the Baskey’s home for pizza, key lime pie and more musical interludes. A delightful time was had by all.



Tracy Fanara

March Luncheon Speaker



**Environmental Health**

When Professor Meg Urry from Yale became ill the day before her planned talk at our March 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon, we reached out to Dr. Tracy Fanara, a Mote Marine Laboratories scientist who had achieved some recent notoriety by appearing on the Science Channel's "Mythbusters: The Search". She had already agreed to speak to our Club at some point next season but willingly accelerated her schedule to less than 24 hours notice and did a great job.

Tracy has a B.S., Masters and PhD in Environmental Engineering, all from the University of Florida, now recognized as one of the best schools in the field. She joined Mote in 2015 after 10 years experience in engineering consulting, hydrologic modeling and undersea biology. She now runs Mote's environmental health program, which includes studying phenomena such as red tide and ocean pollution, educating the public on these subjects and advocating for environmental programs and reforms.

In her talk, Tracy discussed the origins of red tide and the heated debate over how to control it and whether proposed cures might be more dangerous than the tide itself. She heads an aggressive project to encourage citizens to collect data on daily red tide levels throughout the region and to disseminate that information through social media. This program may be expanded to include other citizen-oriented environmental monitoring schemes to increase data for study and public awareness of issues and their solutions. She illustrated through numbers and slides the interconnectedness of watershed issues, including how Lake Okeechobee overflows have been polluting the waters of Sanibel and Captiva Island. Tracy is another of the vast team of Mote experts who do good works and have been willing over the years to share their time with us.



Submitted by Ken Schneier

## ANNUAL RINGLING MUSEUM EVENT FOR 2017



Members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast and their guests enjoyed the exhibit entitled "A Feast for the Senses: Art and Experience in Medieval Europe" on the morning of Monday, March 20. Lunch at the museum's Muse Restaurant concluded the day's activities. All who attended had a special treat. Our group was welcomed by Museum Director Stephen High and was given an outstanding docent tour of the exhibit by Bob



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The exhibit was organized by the Walters Art Museum of Baltimore in collaboration with the Ringling. This major exhibition has more than 80 objects, many on loan from renowned institutions in the United States and Europe, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Louvre. The focus of the exhibition is the late medieval and early Renaissance period in Europe. It was a time when changes in society led to a new interest in human experience, the enjoyment of nature, and the pursuit of pleasure. The exhibition features sacred and secular art, including paintings, tapestries, metalwork, and manuscripts.

A delicious lunch was served at noon on the patio of the Muse Restaurant.