



YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST

bluELines



Winter 2018

Volume 14 Number 1

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast,

*I have great news for you! Our Club has a new, exciting and easy to navigate website! Our website committee has worked for many months to develop and get this ready for launch. **yaleclubofthesuncoast.org** will bring you all you need to know about our Club on either your computer or mobile device. Please check it out: use it to find information, sign up for luncheons and events, and to keep up to date with what is happening.*

As I write this message I am struck by the fact that more than half of our regular season has passed. We have thus far had no fewer than eight events beginning with our Welcome Back Party in October celebrating our sixtieth year. This was followed by many outstanding lecturers that have both challenged and enlightened us. In January, we were treated to a delightful musical revue by the West Coast Black Theatre Troupe and in February another wonderful Ringling Art Museum visit. And much more to come...

Looking ahead, April is always a busy month for our Club. Our featured speaker on April 10th will be Harold Bubil who will speak about architecture and architectural treasures in Sarasota. Following the presentation, we will convene the Annual Meeting of the Yale Club of the Suncoast to elect four new members of the Board of

Directors to a Term ending in 2021 and conduct any other business that may be appropriate. The special event for our spring season will be a visit to the South Florida Museum on April 23rd. Finally, for our annual Yale Day of Service, we are looking for 35 volunteers who will participate in the Homeless Veteran's Stand Down on April 28th.

Our season will close with a return visit of Mary Lundeberg, an outstanding wildlife photographer, who will show photos and talk about the effects of climate change on creatures around the world.

I look forward to seeing you at these events.

*Warmest regards,
Elaine Gustafson, MSN '86
President*

Winter 2018 Club Events

Speaker: Stephen Tauber

January 6, 2018



Professor Steven Tauber Speaks on Challenges of Teaching Political Science Today

The first luncheon speaker of the new year was Dr. Steven Tauber, Director of the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies at the University of South Florida. His most prominent publication is the award winning textbook, *American Government in Black and White: Diversity and Democracy*, which is now in its third edition from Oxford University Press. Important for the day's topic, Dr. Tauber has taught the full canon of American political science including constitutional law, foundations of political inquiry, parties and interest groups, the presidency, and race and politics. He was invited to address the topic of teaching political science in a transformed political age and accepted the challenge. Perhaps most telling about his credentials was his recognition among the twenty-five hundred USF students as the

Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher in 2011, an award difficult to earn if one is teaching complex and difficult subjects.

The starting point for his presentation was acknowledgement that social science requires empirical explanations in which theoretical frameworks guide the analysis of comparative politics, international relations and the three branches of American government: Congress, the Judiciary and the Executive branch. He also noted the importance of the media, parties and interest groups. The larger challenge in teaching all these variants of the discipline is to teach with clarity in a non-ideological manner.

A catalog of some of those areas of change he identified included such things as the: increase in partisanship which is frequently negative; major shift in the perceptions of political parties; and shifts in congressional conditions including majority parties, leadership, committee changes and policy changes. In the executive branch there are also party shifts, notable changes in officials managing governmental agencies and the policy shifts accompanying a change in the party controlling the White House. Finally, there are changes in the courts, most notably when new appointments are made to the Supreme Court.

To apply this breadth of inquiry to the current Trump administration reveals that much of what has occurred in the first year is typical of any change in administration. The president could be in place for up to eight years having run as a conservative as did his vice-president. The impact will be felt in the areas of foreign policy, fiscal policy, civil rights and regulatory policy as well as the judiciary in the appointment of Judge Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and, importantly, at the federal district and circuit court levels.

With regard to how President Trump is different, one can begin by first acknowledging that his Republican predecessors - Reagan, Bush '41 and Bush '43 - were conservatives. Trump has claimed a conservative mantle but he has not demonstrated integrity in so many of his choices including qualifications for staff appointments, staff nepotism, and unqualified family appointments. In foreign policy there has been recklessness as revealed in careless approaches to North Korea and relations with historic allies. Thirdly, the President has not fulfilled campaign goals regarding Obamacare, the wall on the southern border and a comprehensive policy on infrastructure. These failures stand in stark relation to the achievements of LBJ as an effective chief executive.

Regarding presidential performance there is evidence of massive insecurities. Today's students have grown up with reality TV which is a distorted perception of the world. Nonetheless, the president applies that view to his executive actions. All presidents have scandals, but Mr. Trump exacerbates his possible scandals by such actions as the firing of the FBI director and unnecessary feuds with sports figures and individual politicians in both parties as well with officials within his administration. Less critical but still troubling are excursions into inappropriate buffoonery, treatment of women, racially insensitive comments regarding the Charlottesville demonstrations and blatant contradictions of fact.

In conclusion, the consequences of all these elements of the 45th president's performance are a realization that the country is in uncharted territory with regard to the presidency and how government will perform in the remaining years of the current president's term. This reality should not be taken lightly. And as to the teaching of political science in this environment there

is an obligation of faculty to acknowledge the tensions in political opinion, accept that university faculties are generally more liberal than the population at large and to create environments for inquiry in which ideas and differing points of view can be honestly shared without undue rancor.
- Peter French '61 MA/'69 PhD

Special Event
Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe Performance Animates a Mid-
Winter Luncheon

Saturday, 20 January 2018

On January 20th the Club held a mid-winter special event at the suggestion of President Gustafson. It was a Saturday luncheon designed to accommodate younger Yale alumni who are engaged in busy working lives that do not allow them attend Tuesday gatherings. For this special luncheon there was a performance by members of the celebrated Westcoast Black Theater Troupe. Nearly eighty Yale Club members and spouses and many friends attended and had the opportunity to see and hear one of the exceptional performing arts groups on the Suncoast whose reputation now extends far beyond the region and the state.



The presentation was introduced by the Troupe's Executive Director, Julie Leach, who spoke briefly and then let song and dancing prevail for the benefit of the assembled crowd. The music was 'Motown' and the songs familiar. The energy of the four performers was infectious and soon hands were clapping, toes were tapping and, if you looked closely, the lips of many were moving as the familiarity of lyrics known over a lifetime returned to the consciousness of the listeners. Nearly every song was sung in the style of the legends that had made the sound and lyrics famous.

When the encores were sung and the music had died away, the Troupe's Artistic Director, Nate Jacobs, took the stage and told the tale of his own artistic journey, a story that shapes the inspiration of the Troupe's successes. A child of a large family, Nate Jacobs was an uncertain student when he entered Florida A&M believing he could become a graphic artist. However, life changed when he met the Club's own Bishop Henry Porter '71, who became a mentor and inspiration to Jacobs. From that close relationship came the effort that has produced the success of the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe in which Nate is a central artistic force. It has also been the core of fascination for an expanding company of donors and agencies that have

resulted in a permanent performance venue and a unique dimension to the performing arts on Florida's west Coast.

When the event concluded the crowd departed with the great likelihood that spirits were lighter and thoughts more positive than had been in the mind on arrival.

- Peter French '61 MA/'69 PhD

Annual H-Y-P Luncheon

Speaker: Harry Lewis

Friday, February 9, 2018



We were treated to a new approach to education at the annual Yale-Harvard-Princeton luncheon on February 9th. Our speaker was Harry Lewis, Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science in the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and former Dean of Harvard College. His books include *Excellence without a Soul: Does Liberal Education Have a Future?* and *What is College for?* The title of his presentation was "Reinventing the Classroom While Rethinking Education."

Professor Lewis began by describing the classical notion, espoused by a couple of Harvard Presidents, that education consists of professors acting as intermediaries to pour information from books into students. He noted that Petrarch in the first century of our era had opined that the purpose of education is not to fill students with knowledge but to excite their brains to develop ideas. He noted that another Harvard President had defined education as what remains after people have forgotten what they had "learnt."

Professor Lewis used three Computer Science courses that he has developed to illustrate his approach. He began by describing the three courses, which are basically an introduction to Computer Science, math for Computer Science majors and a new course that involves reading the most important papers of the development of Computer Science. He mentioned that he had one course where just a few students showed up for class, because the course had been videotaped and was available online. He has redesigned his courses to have the students attend the lectures online and then he devotes his classes to problem solving. The students work in groups, and Professor Lewis and his teaching assistants work directly with the students in these classes.

Professor Lewis ended with anecdotes about two of his most famous students, Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates. He allowed Zuckerberg to use his name on an early version of what became Facebook. The faculty considered Gates dangerous, because he used huge amounts of space on a computer that had been funded by the U.S. Government for defense research.

During the Q&A session, Professor Lewis responded to a question on grading that the first two courses use: spot quizzes and exams. The third course, on the literature of Computer Science, is a second semester course for seniors. He stated that they don't need to be graded at that point. In response to another question, he mentioned that he is writing another book along the lines of *Excellence without a Soul*.

Several persons in the audience expressed their desire to return to college after hearing Professor Lewis. There was no question after his presentation that liberal education does have a future.

- Oliver Janney '67

Special Event
Annual Visit to the Ringling Museum
February 28, 2018

For the past several years the Yale Club of the Suncoast has sponsored a private tour of a special exhibit at the Ringling Museum. This year, the 49 Club members and their guests who attended this season's event had a different experience. They did not see a special exhibit. Instead, they participated in a tour to view the "Stars of the Collection".

Two superb docents, Bob Hunter and Verla Ebert, discussed paintings that they had carefully selected from the Ringling's permanent collection. As we stood before works by Velasquez, Hals, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Veronese, and Rubens, they shared their in-depth knowledge of the paintings and the artists in ways that were both witty and informative.



Encouraged by the engaging and informal presentations of the docents, several members of our group asked questions and made comments. Those of us who have visited the Ringling regularly and seen the paintings many times before came away feeling that our understanding of them was significantly deepened.

In fact, as we were leaving the galleries, a number of people commented enthusiastically that they had enjoyed themselves and learned a good deal.

Following the tour we went to the Ringling's Muse restaurant for lunch on the terrace on a fine winter day. As always with gatherings of the Club, the meal provided the opportunity for good conversations among valued friends.

- Frank Samponaro '62

Speaker: Meg Urry

March 13, 2018



Professor Meg Urry explains Black Holes and the Evolving Universe

Introduced by Club president Elaine Gustafson, Professor "Meg" Urry returned to speak before us after a twelve-year hiatus to explain "black holes" and the expanding universe. A large luncheon audience of about 75 heard her clear, well-paced and lively presentation, and followed up with an animated question period.

Meg is currently Professor (and served half a dozen years as Chair) of Physics at Yale and is also Director of the Yale Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics. She is a fellow of Jonathan Edwards College; her favorite part of her job is talking to students.

She attended Tufts University, graduating in 1977 with a double-major in mathematics and physics (and numerous honors), and earned a Masters and her doctorate from Johns Hopkins, followed by studies at M.I.T.'s Center for Space Research. She joined Yale's faculty in 2001 and became Physics Chair in 2007.

Prof. Urry illustrated her talk with colorful pictures of galaxies as well as diagrams and formulas to highlight her points.

She described a universe populated by a vast array of galaxies, each of which is a gravitationally bound system of stars and assorted stuff including dark matter and dark energy. She said there are at least 200 billion galaxies and that about three-quarters of the mass of the universe consists of dark energy. The physical extent of the universe itself is upwards of 14 billion light years. Most space scientists, including Prof. Urry, have concluded that, after years of believing the universe was contracting, based on new evidence it is in fact expanding, and at

an increasing rate. We need not fear, therefore, she assured us, that it is going to collapse upon us.

Our solar system is located in a "suburb" (nearer the edge than the center) of our galaxy, the "Milky Way". Galaxies come in many shapes, ours being a "spiral." Different shapes result from gravitational forces as galaxies pass one another. Space scientists believe that there is a super-massive "black hole" at the center of every galaxy. A black hole is a mass of matter with gravity so strong that light cannot escape it. However, around the outside of a black hole there is vigorous radiation (optical, gamma rays, etc.) which can be observed and measured.

Prof. Urry's teams have strong research support, having recently received a major funding grant from the current federal administration. They also participate in joint research projects here and abroad, with access to the most powerful telescopic equipment.

- Dyer Wadsworth '59

Upcoming Club Events

SAVE THE DATE #1

April 10, 2018

Speaker + Annual Meeting

Luncheon Speaker: Harold Bubil

Our featured speaker will be Harold Bubil, columnist with the Sarasota Herald Tribune, who will give a presentation on "Florida History Through Its Buildings, post-1870." Author of the "Florida Buildings I Love" series in the Herald-Tribune, as well as his Sunday column, "Letter From Home," he will present a slideshow featuring structures that reflect the architectural and social history of Florida. A historian of the state's architecture and an entertaining speaker, he will tell the stories behind the buildings.

Annual Meeting

Immediately following the presentation by Harold Bubil, President Gustafson will convene the Annual Meeting of the Yale Club of the Suncoast. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to elect four members proposed by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Club's Board of Directors for a three-year term expiring in 2021.

Nominating Committee

Brian T. Kelly, Chair
Peter French
Nicholas Gladding
Elaine Gustafson
Kenneth Schneier
Frank Samponaro

Nominees for Term Ending in 2021

Nicholas S. Baskey
Oliver J. Janney
John H. Rixse
Frank N. Samponaro

SAVE THE DATE #2

April 23, 2018

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### ***A Day at the South Florida Museum***

#### ***In Three Acts***

***(Reservations required by April 7<sup>th</sup>)***

*ACT ONE: The Planetarium:* Normally closed on Mondays, the Museum's Provost, Jeff Rodgers has agreed to provide us a customized planetarium program. The presentation will begin with a look at the night skies visible from our area before launching Earth to fly us through space to explore our solar system, newly discovered solar systems, our galaxy and the billions of other galaxies in the observable universe. There will be ample time for questions after our "return." (This will be a fitting post script to Professor Urry's talk on March 13<sup>th</sup>.)

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ACT TWO: Luncheon in the Museum's courtyard catered by Pier 22

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*ACT THREE: Linking the Galaxy to Earth's History:* After lunch a tour of the Museum's first floor will link the galaxy to Earth's history over the past 4.6 billion years, Florida's geologic history over the past 500 million years, the fossil evidence of the past few million years and the archeological record of human habitation of Florida over the past 10,000 years. (Of course, there will be time to see the manatees!)

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The Details

Place: The South Florida Museum, 201 10th Street W, Bradenton, FL 34205

Time: Program begins at 10:30 a.m., lunch at noon, tour at 1:00 p.m.

Reservations: To reserve a place, please send your check for \$35 per person payable to Yale Club of the Suncoast by April 7, 2017, to: Brian T. Kelly, 1624 Caribbean Drive, Sarasota, FL 34231

Questions: Contact Brian at BTK1000@aol.com or 941-350-5548 (Brian's cell)

SAVE THE DATE #3

April 28, 2018

Yale Day of Service

Homeless Veterans Stand Down

Our Club's participation in Yale's Annual Day of Service will take place on Saturday, April 28th from 8 a.m. until noon at the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County and Payne Park Auditorium located at 2200 Ringling Blvd.

Please join fellow Club members, spouses, family members and friends to assist in the distribution of clothing, supplies, and equipment to some 300 homeless veterans in Sarasota County. On the Friday before, trucks with Department of Defense supplies will deliver and unload all of the items to be distributed. Following our distribution to veterans at noon, we have been asked to help pick up any loose trash and put the auditorium back in order. Due to the increasing number of homeless veterans who attend, our Club needs to provide at least 35 volunteers.

SAVE THE DATE #4

May 8, 2018

Luncheon Speaker: Mary Lundeberg

Our final luncheon speaker for the 2017-18 season will be Ringling College photographic artist, Mary Lundeberg, an outstanding wildlife photographer who will show photos and talk about the effects of climate change on creatures around the world.

Miscellany

Welcome to New Members joining our Club in 2017!!

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| Addison, Cynthia M. (Richard Allen) – Parent | McElrath, Tom (Marianne) MD '52 |
| Brookfield, Gayle E. – Parent | McLane, James W. (Meg) '61 |
| Calahan, David – Parent | Moore, Clarissa (Michael Petrino) '82 |
| Colson, CathyAnn (William) M.Div '00/STM '05 | Naples, Caesar J. (Sandra Harrison) '60 |
| Doedon, Paul G. MFA '77 | Niemczyk, Steven J. (Bette Kim) '76 |
| Gennet, Melanie D. – Parent | Paster, Benjamin G. (Linda) JD '76 |
| Glickman, Morton G. (Marcella Halpert) Hon MA '77 | Pattison, Jane (widow) |
| Koerner, Richard M. (Marianne) '50 | Perlmutter, Irving H. (Myra Rakoff) JD '54 |
| Koplin, Aaron D. (Joan) '61 | Roth-Donaldson, Barbara G. (John) MAT '56 |
| Lyssy, Doug MD '02/MBA '07 | Seifer, David |
| Magrabi, Tina | Sell, Jeffrey E. (Christine) '76 |
| | Matthay, Richard A. (Eileen) '75 |
| | [Present Faculty/School of Medicine] |

Club Officers and Directors for 2018

(as of Annual Meeting, 10 April 2018)

Nominating Committee

Brian T. Kelly, Chair
Peter French
Nicholas Gladding
Elaine Gustafson
Kenneth Schneier
Frank Samponaro

Nominees for Officers

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|----------------------------|----------------------|
| President | Elaine M. Gustafson |
| Vice President | Richard S. Lannamann |
| Secretary | Bruce Ballard |
| Treasurer | Nicholas S. Baskey |
| Director, Communications | Elizabeth Spahn |
| Asst. Treasurer | John H. Rixse |
| AYA Representative | Nicholas C. Gladding |
| Director, Membership | Danielle D. Gladding |
| Chair, Alumni Schools Cmte | Patrick B. Whelan |
| bluELInes Editor/Publisher | John H. Rixse |
| Director, Luncheons | Richard S. Lannamann |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| <u>Term Ending 2019</u> | <u>Term Ending 2020</u> | <u>Term Ending 2021</u> | <u>Ex-Officio</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Richard S. Lannamann | Peter L. French | Nicholas S. Baskey | Bruce Ballard |
| Mark J. Magenheimer | Nicholas C. Gladding | Oliver J. Janney | Danielle D. Gladding |
| Trudy C. Mulvey | Elaine M. Gustafson | John H. Rixse | Patrick B. Whelan |
| Kenneth C. Schneier | Brian T. Kelly | Frank N. Samponaro | |
| Dyer S. Wadsworth | Elizabeth Spahn | | |

Message from Yale President Salovey On Sexual Harassment & Misconduct

March 8, 2018

In anticipation of International Women's Day on Thursday, March 8, I am excited to highlight the extraordinary contributions of Yale women on our campus and around the world. Yale women are spearheading critical projects in education, scholarship, and research, and I am delighted to share some of their stories with you.

Next year will mark two important milestones in the history of women at Yale. In 2019, we will celebrate 150 years since the first women were admitted to graduate study (in the School of Fine Arts) and 50 years since women enrolled in Yale College. Today, women are leaders in every field of study at Yale. Around the world, our alumnae are at the forefront of new advances in medicine, business, law, education, and many other fields. It is impossible to imagine the Yale community today without their remarkable contributions.

Like many of you, I am mindful of the obstacles that remain for women and girls in the United States and throughout the world. Everyone benefits from the full and equal inclusion of women in our classrooms, workplaces, governments, and homes. Here at Yale, we will continue to advance our mission — creating and sharing knowledge that improves the lives of women and men around the world.

Sincerely,

Peter Salovey
President and Chris Argyris Professor of Psychology
Yale University
