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Elizabeth Spahn, President

**Contents:**

President’s message

Welcome Back Party

Community Foundation of Sarasota

Yale-Harvard Victory Dance

Sports Report—Women’s Crew

November Election Analysis

Editorial—Too Many Administrators?

**President’s Message 2022-2023**

**Yale Club of the Suncoast**

**Elizabeth Spahn ‘72**

We survived Covid AND Hurricane Ian with Bulldog persistence.  Then we won The Game. Life is good!  Our 2022 – 2023 season is a fabulous feast of the arts and intellectual life in Sarasota, plus Yale is hosting the annual Yale/Harvard/Princeton luncheon this year, so we get not just 1, not just 2, but 3 Yale professors visiting us.  I think this might set a Club record???

The Club is solvent despite inflation, and we did not need to raise our annual dues which remain at the bargain price of $40 a year.  Luncheon prices went up very slightly due to the cost increases in food and labor, remaining well below other alumni clubs in the area. We seem to be attracting new and younger members (under 65 counts as young here), and I ask all our members to keep a weather eye out for younger Yalies who can ensure our club continues to thrive.

Celebrating the Yale Club of the Suncoast’s 65th Anniversary, the Welcome Back Party was a huge success.  Held at the Sarasota Yacht Club outdoors on the shady bayfront lower deck, the weather cooperated.  Sarasota was showing off our balmy breezes and a lovely sunset, cocktails, delicious canapes, and a wonderful raspberry vanilla birthday cake accompanied by classical guitar music.  Conversations were warm and witty as old friends met new members, swapping Hurricane Ian survival stories.

Our November 8th luncheon featured Gulf Coast Community Foundation leaders **Mark Pritchett**, President and CEO and Gulf Coast Community Foundation **Jon Thaxton**,

Senior Vice President for Community Leadership.  Projects ranging from the Legacy Trail to affordable housing, to Hurricane Ian emergency relief are spearheaded by this important local philanthropic institution.

And did I mention we won The Game?   Yalies of all ages gathered for a watch party at Raffurty’s Sports Bar on Main Street and I have the pictures to prove it. Our friends from the other school also attended.  This year was so much more fun.  Did I mention we won?

December’s Tuesday luncheon brings us the nationally acclaimed expert on Florida electoral data, **Dr. Susan MacManus**, Professor *Emerita* USF, who will do her best to explain what is going on in our democracy.  As a retired professor of U.S. Constitutional Law, I am looking forward to seeing if she can make sense of the current situation.  At least we are guaranteed an excellent talk.

January 10, 2023, our Tuesday Luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club brings us **Anne Essner**, Chair of Architecture Sarasota plus the new Executive Director who will speak together on our architectural treasures here in Sarasota and the plans of Architecture Sarasota.  Sarasota is one of the leading sites for landmark midcentury modern architecture.  I expect the visual part of this talk to be memorable, plus YCS is getting one of the earliest glimpses of the new (as yet to be named as we go to print) Executive Director.

**Monday** evening January 23, 2023, we will gather at the Ringling College of Art for a private dinner with Ringling College of Art President Dr. **Larry Thompson**.  President Thompson is a dynamic speaker, and as one might expect at the College of Art, the visuals are fabulous.  Plus excellent food, cocktails, and fun with Yalies.  This event is not to be missed.

**Thursday,** February 2, 2023, our Luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club features our 1st Yale Professor.  **Murray Biggs**, Yale Professor *Emeritus,* together Yale Club of the Suncoast’s very own **Andy Sandberg** ‘05, Artistic Director and CEO, Hermitage Artist Retreat.  This dynamic duo will regale us with a discussion of the current state of The Theater world.  Please note this event is on Thursday, not on Tuesday, to accommodate our speakers’ schedules.  It should be exceptionally entertaining!

**Friday,** February 10, 2023, Yale will host the annual Yale/Harvard/Princeton luncheon at Michael’s on East. Our 2d Yale Professor of the season, **Robert Blocker**, Dean, Yale School of Music, Professor of Piano, and Professor of Leadership Strategies at Yale School of Management is our speaker.  We will be soundly stimulated.

**Sunday,** February 26 is our annual Feb Club *Emeritus* event which involves cocktails, 4 – 6 pm at the Dockside Waterfront Grill, Fisherman’s Wharf Marina, 509 N Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285.  We don’t even pretend to have an intellectual agenda; we just have fun.  If you haven’t joined us for this, do try to come this year.  Lots of younger Yalies having a blast.

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, our luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club features our 3rd Yale professor of the season. Yale Professor **Sten Vermund**, Dean, Yale School of Public Health will help us analyze the various public health challenges of the modern era.

**Sunday afternoon,** March 26, 2023, we have seats in the shade for the Baltimore Orioles baseball game vs. Philadelphia at Ed Smith Stadium.  (There is a rumor that Orioles’ manager **Mike Elias** ‘06 might stop by to say hello to us.)  There will be baseball and hot dogs.

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, wraps up our formal luncheon season at the Sarasota Yacht Club with the perennial favorite – Sarasota’s own West Coast Black Theater Troupe with **Nate Jacobs,**

Founder and Artistic Director or **Julie Leach**, Executive Director.  This event is hugely popular and a lot of fun!

Tuesday, May 9, 2023, we will gather informally bayside, outdoors on the deck under the shade at Marina Jack for our end of season luncheon, enjoying company and conversation with our fellow Yalies.  No speakers, no agenda.  Just us.

As I finish up my exceptionally eventful term as President, I want to thank the hard- working volunteers on the YCS Board of Directors who make all this possible.  Despite Covid, Hurricane Ian, and other disasters small and large, the Yale Club of the Suncoast has pulled together to ensure our club survives and thrives.  This club runs on the volunteer labor of our members, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with them.

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**Welcome Back Party**

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About 50 happy Yalies and friends gathered to welcome ourselves back Sunday, October 23rd at the Sarasota Yacht Club. We had much to celebrate - our 65th Anniversary as a club, our survival of Hurricane Ian, plus surviving the Covid-19 pandemic. Mother Nature showed off Florida’s best weather. Sunny with balmy breezes on the Sarasota Yacht Club lower deck overlooking the yachts and the bay at sunset, with plenty of shade and seats to relax, enjoying good fellowship. Cocktails, delicious appetizers, and the fabulous acoustic guitarist Pete Simmo (plus the football game on the big screen with the sound turned off) completed the lovely setting. Our president delivered an update on an usually rich and exciting series of coming events arranged for us by Rick Lannaman and his events committee (see President’s message below). At the end, we did, in fact, eat cake.

Elizabeth Spann and staff

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**Luncheon with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation**

**November 8, 2022**

A group of people sitting at tables

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Club members and guests watch and then later thank Jon Thaxton and Mark Pritchett

While Sarasota may be internationally known for its beaches and the arts, its best kept secret may be its cast of potent philanthropies in which the Gulf Coast Community Foundation is a major player. On November 8, our Yale Club hosted GCCF CEO Mark Pritchett and Senior Vice President for Community Leadership Jon Thaxton, who shared with us a peek under the tent as to how a major foundation leverages its resources to improve the community at large.

Formed in 1995 as the Venice Community Foundation, the GCCF was seeded with $80 million from the sale of the Venice Hospital. It has since grown that corpus to more than $400 million, while granting $35 to $40 million each year to its critical causes: health and human services, the environment, arts and culture, education and civic affairs. It is one of the fastest growing foundations in the country and ranks within the top 20 of more than one million non-profits nationally.

The Gulf Coast Community Foundation prides itself on engaging in “bold and proactive philanthropy”. Rather than merely doling out funds to worthy causes, the Foundation immerses itself in projects and initiatives, providing guidance and direction to those causes as well as to the non-profits dedicated to specific goals. It serves as an incubator of sorts to many non-profits, assisting with planning, administration, investment and fund-raising to increase their effectiveness as well.

Among the projects underwritten by the GCCF are the Legacy Trail, now running from South of Venice to Sarasota; the Bay, which will transform Sarasota’s waterfront; and a full 911 System Analysis, to improve emergency response throughout the county. Mr. Thaxton, a 12-year Sarasota County Commissioner, also shared details of several ongoing GCCF initiatives, ranging from dynamic hurricane relief after Ian (with some life sustaining grants out the door within six hours), to affordable housing and homelessness, to Jon’s Red Tide Playbook, containing 76 discreet actions that can be taken to minimize the effect of red tide in our region.

So, while we enjoy the more obvious benefits of Sarasota and its environs, it is important to remember the good works conducted every day behind the scenes by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation and its peers. And to join in.

Ken Schneier (Club President, 2015-2017)

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**FOOTBALL**

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**(Intro by an anonymous, unbiased attendee)** The usual suspects gathered at Raffurty’s Sports Bar on Main Street - Oliver Janney ’67 (above left), Dyer Wadsworth ‘59, Alex Doyle ‘62, and Jamie McLane ‘61 amongst others.  We were joined by some newer members including Tom Weigand ‘83, of Yale Crew fame, and new member Tom Doyle ’74 (above right), Yale’s winning quarterback 1972 – 1974.   Yale also beat Harvard in turnout for The Game at Raffurty’s although that was closer than the game itself.

**THE GAME**

**Yale Beats Harvard 19-14**

The Bulldogs played the Crimson at Harvard Stadium in front of over 30,000 fans on Saturday, November 19 for the 138th rendition of “The Game.” This year Yale had been defeated only once before in Ivy League competition (by the Penn Quakers, 20-13) while Harvard had lost to both Princeton and Columbia. Yale won 19 to 14 by actual score in addition to defeating Harvard statistically (total yards, 363 to 288; first downs, 19 to 12; time of possession, 40:27 to 19:33; and turnovers, 1 to 4).

  At the end of the first quarter Yale led 7 to 0. Harvard tied the game early in the second quarter but just before the half Yale’s Jack Bosman kicked a 20-yard field goal to take the lead, 10 to 7. Early in the third quarter Bosman kicked a 41-yard field goal to expand the Eli’s margin to 13-7. Early in the fourth quarter Harvard’s Charlie Dean threw a 24 yard pass to Tyler Neville for another touchdown, giving Harvard a one point lead, 14  to 13. With 6 minutes remaining in the game, Nolan Grooms threw a 5-yard pass to Jackson Hawes for another Yale touchdown. Yale attempted a two-point conversion which failed, bringing the score to 19-14 and returning the ball to the Crimson.

With 42 seconds remaining (remember that time from the famous 1968’s 29-29 tie) Harvard again took possession. Fortunately, history did not repeat itself, and Yale prevailed.

  Yale continues to lead Harvard  69-61-8 for what is one of the longest rivalries in collegiate football. Thanks to Penn, who scored a touchdown with 5 seconds remaining, the Quakers beat Princeton 20-19 and giving Yale sole possession of the 2022 Ivy League title!

John Bullock, ’74 OPH

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**Sports Special: Yale Women’s Crew and Sarasota’s Grace Menke**

A group of people rowing a boat

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 Women’s Crew began at Yale as a varsity sport in 1972, and by 1979 had become the best female collegiate crew in the country, winning Eastern Sprints and the NCAA National Championship. Today the program counts fifty-three varsity athletes, who come to Yale from as far away as Australian and New Zeeland, a hint as to the competitiveness of the program.

One of the current stalwarts of the Yale Women’s Crew is Sarasota’s own Grace Menke, ’24. Grace is a graduate of the prestigious Pine View School in the Sarasota Public School system. Here’s what Grace has to say about her love for being on the water competitively.

“While attending Pine View School I started rowing with Sarasota Crew in 6th grade because my best friend had just joined. I started out as a rower, but with my organization and leadership skills, after a few months it was clear to me and my coaches that the coxswain was the position for me. As a coxswain I am a mini coach in the boat. On the water my job is to direct the rowers and bring them together to create one stroke and row as one flawless unit. I also time pieces, steer the boat, and make calls in the moment to ensure our best result.

In our most recent competition, three boats from Yale Women’s Crew traveled to Boston for the Head of the Charles Regatta, the world’s largest two-day rowing event. I coxed the second varsity 8+ and we won the 2v+ event. This is a very special regatta to me because many people call it a “coxswain’s race” due to all of the difficult turns under bridges in the 3-mile course and the skill and strategy it takes to get through without hitting a bridge or taking on extra meters.

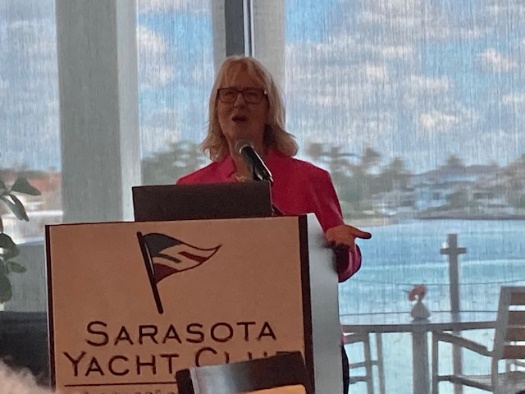
Ten years of coxing seems like a lot of time to commit to a sport, but I wouldn’t give up one day of it for anything. Over the past four years being on Yale Women’s Crew I have been so lucky to be on a team that has so much love for the sport and each other. The community this team has created is truly remarkable and the friendships I have made on this team are like no other. As winter comes around, we have moved to indoor training but have a very busy spring season ahead of us and I am excited to see what this team can do.”

The first spring event is the Cardinal Invitational at Oak Ridge, Tennessee on Saturday, March 18. You can follow Yale Women’s Crew at https://yalebulldogs.com/sports/womens-crew.

*BluELInes* Sports Staff

**Professor MacManus Analyzes the 2022 Florida Elections**

**at the December Luncheon.**

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Prof. Susan MacManus at the podium One of perhaps fifty informative tables

The December luncheon of the Yale Club of the Suncoast featured the return of Professor Susan MacManus who made her fifth presentation to the assembled alumni and significant others. Without objection, the presentation was designated the Gaddis Smith Memorial Lecture in honor of the lifetime achievements of the beloved professor and dean of Yale College who recently passed away.  For Dr. MacManus it was a welcome return to share her assembled knowledge of the recent elections.  This she did with her extraordinary range of statistical materials and commentary on the outcomes best summarized as “the Republican’s red wave that extended all across Florida but not beyond the state borders.

Very simply, the election for the Democrats was a colossal disaster with Republicans now controlling large majorities in both legislative branches and all the senior executive offices in state government.  By virtually every measurable criterion, the Democrats lost with the notable exception that women continue to vote in larger numbers than other groups and a majority still vote Democrat.  Notably, Democratic losses involved loss of Hillsborough, Pinellas and Miami Dade counties, an almost unthinkable outcome based on previous elections.

Strategically, the Democrats performed poorly in almost every way. They did not connect with the public, ran poor candidates who did not persuade with voters, made critical errors in wise use of candidate’s time and failed to generate interest and enthusiasm among key voting blocs such a Blacks, Latinos, and the younger voters.  A single statistic tells the story.  In the last fifty days when prospective voters could register for every nine new Republican voters registered the Democrats registered just one.  In 2020 the Republican voters outnumbered Democrats by just 6000 voters.  Now there are 343,000 more Republicans than Democrats.  Opinion among some Democratic leaders was that this was the worst performance in a century. Dr. MacManus shared the opinion from a Stanford study that in 2026 a well-qualified independent might well have better prospects for election than a Democrat.

One of the more fascinating dimensions of Professor MacManus’ talk was the level of uncertainty about future successes for either party given the broad range of variables now having an impact where voters under forty are a majority, interests of younger voters diverge sharply from those of a shrinking older generation, the uncertainties of a broadly diverse Latino vote and the movement of new residents into the state.

In summary, Professor MacManus demonstrated how the Democrats had neglected to seriously consider the basic rules of electoral politics by combining ineffective messaging with poor choice of messengers, weak methods of messaging, failure to “micro target” specific sectors of the electorate, and inadequate funding of candidates.  Overall, there was insufficient contact with the electorate.  More positively, Americans did not succumb to paranoia as the elections were proven to be largely free, fair and trustworthy.

Intriguing and insightful questions from the audience brought the proceedings to a close with the audience looking for a return of Dr. MacManus after the 2024 presidential elections.

Peter French (Club President, 2005-207)

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**EDITORIAL:**

**Nurturing a Support Staff or a Bloated Bureaucracy: You Be the Judge**

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Woodbridge Hall, Yale University

A few weeks ago, I was reading *The New York Times* when I came upon an article stating that faculty members at the New School of Social Research had gone on strike over the discrepancy between their numbers and pay, relative to the growing numbers of the school administrators. “Hmm,” I said, “wonder if that is going on at Yale?---I’ll Google that.” Little did I know.

Turns out that the same sorts of complaints have been lodged against the administration at Yale. In November, 2021 the *Yale Daily News,* the nation’s oldest college newspaper, ran an article, “A Proliferation of Administrators,” that began: “Over the last two decades, the number of managerial and professional staff that Yale employs has risen three times faster than the undergraduate student body, according to University [financial](https://your.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2002-2003_annual_financial_report_0.pdf) [reports](https://your.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2020-2021-yale-university-annual-financial-report.pdf). The group’s 44.7 percent expansion since 2003 has had detrimental effects on faculty, students, and tuition, according to eight faculty members.”

Perhaps most on point, is the comment to the *Daily News* offered by Sterling Professor of English David Bromwich: “Yale, like many other universities, clearly now wants to be known not only as a place for teaching, learning, and research, but also as a home, a community, an innovative corporate entity. The swollen self-image requires expanded oversight, and administrators are the overseers.”

Two months later, the Yale Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) Senate Committee on Governance formalized what the *Yale Daily News* had suspected, issuing a nineteen-page report titled *Size and Growth of Administration and Bureaucracy at Yale* (January 14, 2022)*.* Eventually the FAS report got picked up by the *Chronical of Higher Education*, which ran the following piece: “The Report that Yale Doesn’t Want You to See.” (In fact, the report is available to all at <https://fightforyale.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FAS-Senate-Report-on-Administrative-Size-v-5.0.pdf>). What follows in quotations is drawn not from the *Chronicle’s* extracts, but directly from that FAS report.

“A 2018 analysis of 931 four-year private institutions in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* found Yale ranks 2nd in terms of numbers of full-time managers per 1,000 students when compared to large research universities. Compared to all schools, large and small, Yale ranked 5th (Columbia 24th, Harvard 35th, Stanford 55th. Yale employed more than twice the number of full-time managers per 1,000 students as Stanford in this analysis. . . . Based on archived university directories, there is evidence that certain administrative units and functions at Yale (e.g., President’s Office, Secretary/Study Life, General Counsel, Human Resources, Development, Finance and Administration, Public Affairs and Communications, and “Vice Presidents”) have grown in size by at least 150% over the past twenty years. The FAS faculty has increased by 10.6% during the same period.”

Justification of this increase, offered as rebuttal by various spokespersons for the Yale administration, has centered on the four following points. 1) Much of the growth of managers (as well as faculty) had occurred within the clinical practice of the Medical School. 2) The increase in administrators is due in no small measure to the ever-growing requirements imposed on educational institutions by the federal government for programs such as Title IX, diversity in hiring, grants and loans, and policing. 3) More is being done to improve the lives of students, increased support for mental health, for example. And 4) Yale has instituted new programs that enhance not only education on campus, but also around the world (free Yale/Coursera online courses, an example).

Specifically regarding salaries: During a sample period running 2015-2019, salaries for the seven upper-level administrators rose 8.5% annually whereas those for faculty rose 4%. Between 2013 and 2019, President Peter Salovey’s salary went from $801,020 to $2,078,203--but in fairness, in 2012 the salary of his predecessor, Richard Levin, after twenty years of service, was $1,840,284. But what is fair and what is reasonable?

Has Yale’s administrative growth come about because it offers an increasingly nurturing support staff for students as well as more support for transformative scholarship and cutting-edge science? Or, has it become a bloated, self-serving bureaucracy intent on creating, as Sterling Professor Bromwich suggests, a new and different sort of corporate culture? You be the judge.

Craig Wright, Co-editor *BluELInes* of the Yale Club of the Suncoast

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