



# YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST bluELines



February, 2009

Volume 6 Edition 1

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS  
WITH THESE  
SPECIAL YALE  
CLUB EVENT  
DATES !!!**



**President Brian T. Kelly**

**February 13** – Yale/Harvard/Princeton Annual Luncheon – Michael’s On East, 11:30 socializing, 12 noon lunch

**March 10** – Yale Professor Jeffrey A. Sonnenfeld, “Obama’s Economic Program” Marina Jack Restaurant, 11:30 socializing, 12 noon lunch

**March 15** – Gala Dinner, Marina Jack 4:30-7pm, with Yale A Cappella Group *The New Blue*. 4:30 pm socializing, 5:00pm entertainment, 5:30pm dinner, 6:30pm entertainment  
7 pm adieu!

## **The Prez Sez: Mark Your Calendars – Right Now!!!**

We are entering the apex of our 2008-2009 Yale Club of the Suncoast Season! Many of your YCS clubmates are working diligently to assure you of the highest level of camaraderie, warmth and enthusiasm as well as a solid dollop of intellectual stimulation. All that is required for total Club success is your participation! I would encourage you to mark your calendars – right now, **please** – with the following not-to-be-missed events:

**February 13, Annual Yale/Harvard/Princeton Luncheon at Michael’s On East Restaurant**, socializing at 11:30, lunch at 12. The speaker will be Harvard’s Dr. Douglas Powell, who will present “Strategies for Maintaining the Aging Intellect.” Dr. Powell served 40 years on Harvard’s Health Services and currently is a Clinical Instructor in Psychology at the Medical School. Come to the luncheon on the tenth anniversary of his popular book *The Nine Myths of Aging* and let Dr. Powell clue you in on his secret to why knowing the truth can help one remain physically, mentally and socially vigorous. Prepayment is required for reservations and as usual spouses, friends, and relatives are most welcome. **Please send your check payable to Yale Club of the Suncoast to: Dick Smith, Y/H/P Coordinator, 4273 Corso Venetian Blvd., Venice, FL 34293.**

**March 10, Marina Jack Luncheon - Yale Professor Jeffrey A. Sonnenfeld, Senior Associate Dean for Executive Programs at Yale University's School of Management** and the Lester Crown Professor of Management Practice as well as the Founder, President of The Yale Chief Executive Leadership Institute – the World's first "CEO College." Recently, Sonnenfeld was named by *Business Week* as one of the world's "ten most influential business school professors" and one of the "100 most influential figures in governance" by Directorship. A frequent commentator for CNBC, he is a columnist for *Business Week*, a regular commentator on PBS's "Nightly Business Report." Sonnenfeld received his AB, MBA, and doctorate from Harvard University. He has published such best sellers as *The Hero's Farewell* (Oxford University Press), *Leadership & Governance from the Inside Out* (John Wiley), and his newest *Firing Back: How Great Leaders Rebound From Adversity* (Harvard Business School Press).

**March 15, YCS Gala Dinner at Marina Jack Restaurant**, socializing at 4:30pm, entertainment at 5:00, dinner at 5:30pm, entertainment at 6:30pm, adieu at 7pm – featuring the Yale A Cappella Group The New Blue. In the near future you will be receiving a formal invitation to the Gala Dinner with a return reply reservation form. There will be an opportunity to choose from four culinary entrée delights. The Gala cost has been held to the precise cost of the dinner at \$30 with YCS providing The New Blue entertainment. Founded in 1969, The New Blue is proud to be the oldest female a cappella group in the Ivy League and Yale University's first women's organization of any kind. For almost forty years, these women have used entertaining showmanship and captivating musical performance to wow audiences from the shores of Greece to the halls of the White House. New Blue's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary album, "Can't Stop," received the Contemporary A Cappella Society's award for Best Female Collegiate Album. For more information, please visit [www.yale.edu/newblue](http://www.yale.edu/newblue).

Hoping to be with all of you at these great events, All the Best to the Best,  
Your President,  
Brian Thomas Kelly, Y'61



**Susan Kelly, wife of President Brian Kelly, sits with her back to the splendid view from our meeting room at Marina Jack Restaurant, which looks out upon a serenely beautiful Sarasota Bay.**

## ASSOCIATION OF YALE ALUMNI--2008 ASSEMBLY

“From Print to Pixel: Carrying Forward the Legacy of Publishing at Yale” was the theme of the 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Association of Yale Alumni, held November 13-15, 2008, in New Haven. Several hundred, including your Club’s AYA Representative, attended. The focus of the assembly was partly on Yale’s publishing history—for one thing, it’s the centennial of the Yale University Press—and partly on how information and knowledge is shared at Yale and beyond in a world increasingly dominated by electronic media.

The printing press was an agent of innovation from its introduction in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century: it brought floods of information to masses of people, and also facilitated widespread criticism of authority. But what about today? Is information technology making us dumb? Preliminary research suggests that we read and think differently when we use text-messages.

The panelists and breakout group sessions at the Assembly offered two modes of thinking. Several traditionalists attempted to convey the close relationship between the printed page and proper, sustainable forms of argument. John Donatich, Director of the Yale University Press, asserted that the process of publishing books—selection, editing, and critical reviews—provides our culture with a standard of excellence. Sustained reading from a screen is wearying and leads to fact-spotting, not coherent reasoning. We miss the author’s process of reaching a conclusion.

Other presenters dwelled on techniques and statistics. Alice Prochaska, University Librarian, noted that—despite predictions that digital media would attenuate libraries—Yale’s physical library footprint is growing. It includes some 13 million volumes (including the world’s largest collection of cuneiform clay tablets (a form of writing in the shape of nails,

used in the Middle East for three millennia ending in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C. but not deciphered in modern times until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century) in 22 buildings. The annual budget for buying copyright licenses is \$7 million, and careful procedures are in place to comply with restrictions on copying and reformatting stored information. John Gambell, ’81 MFA, University Printer, described his office’s efforts to promote quality in any publication (even a football ticket) that carries the Yale name. There are now requirements for clear graphic identity, website layouts, a Yale color of blue, and a unique Yale typeface, for administration documents. “Yale” has become a brand. An audience member

asked if there have been any studies to show the effectiveness of these efforts. The best measure so far is the indirect one of counting website clicks, which has not been conclusive. Nayan Chanda, Director of Publications, edits the daily YaleGlobal Online magazine, which commenced in 2002. It includes articles from other sites and several Yale articles each week, with a back file of 3,000 articles on matters of global interest.

Editors of four student periodicals—the Yale Daily News, The Yale Record, Sage magazine (Forestry and Environmental) and Editors of The Pocket Part (Yale Law School Journal lite)—described their work. The “OCD” (oldest college daily) alternates between print and on-line; printed copies are free in the dining halls. Only the Record (humor) seems to require the print format for effective presentation. The editors are researching copies of the Record from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for visual ideas to help tell funny stories. All four of the editors are respectful of the traditional form of printed works in seeking effective communications today.



**Dyer S. Wadsworth, AYA Representative**

**Dyer S. Wadsworth**

Curators of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, built in 1963 and lately refurbished, explained how digital versions of rare books, manuscripts, and fragile photographs are made available to web viewers—over 500,000 a year, compared to 100,000 visitors to the library itself. Yale graduates are generous in donating desirable collections; deaccessions are limited to duplicates, which are often traded for materials from other libraries. Beinecke collections include many works in foreign languages, mostly European-oriented.

Friday's AYA meeting described the "Yale Day of Service" planned for May 16, 2009. Promotional T-shirts were distributed which say, "Where will you be on May 16<sup>th</sup>?" The idea is to do visible clean-up or building projects in local communities, including Yale family members and perhaps partnering with service organizations such as Rotary. More extensive service trips by Yale alumni, several to foreign locations, for educational or public health missions were also reported, and others are planned for 2009. There is also a Yale "Feb Club" which holds social gatherings around the world in February.

A second part of the AYA formalities involved a revision of the AYA constitution to update it since its establishment in 1972. The revised document was circulated with a commentary on the changes. An audience member referred to the recent imbroglio at Dartmouth, in which the administration revised Dartmouth's governing rules to reduce the influence of the alumni; he noted that the AYA came into being out of dissatisfaction among Yale alumni; and he asked whether the changes—including expansion in the base of delegates to the AYA—reflected a desire by Yale's own administration to reduce alumni influence. The constitution committee chair, Michael Madison '85, assured the audience that there was no such intention and that the Yale administration makes itself available to alumni to hear and respond to their concerns. (As I recall the background of the AYA, it came into being principally because of alumni dissatisfaction with the admission policies of President Kingman Brewster '41 and admissions director Inslee ("Inky") Clark, which greatly reduced "legacy" admissions of alumni children. The Vietnam War was also causing doubts about many forms of institutional authority at the time.)

The Assembly approved the constitutional amendments by ballot vote.

Yale Law School Prof. Akhil Amar, '80, '84 J.D., addressed the luncheon that followed. He described the 2008 presidential election as a revolution, notably in that Obama is not a warrior and warriors are losing their positions, worldwide, to peacemakers. His talk, illustrated by years of red state/blue state maps of U.S. presidential elections, showed periodic shifts in coalitions of voters. Obama (52.5%) is the first Democratic president since FDR (excepting Carter at 50.08%) to have won a majority of the popular vote, and appears to Prof. Amar to have created a new geographic coalition of Democratic Party power. Prof. Amar also discussed the Electoral College system and pointed out that one of its major effects was not merely to give small states a greater voice, but more importantly, prior to the Civil War, to give slave states more power than free states. For example, without the 3/5<sup>th</sup> representation per slave, Adams would have had more Electoral College votes than Jefferson in 1800. In concluding, Prof. Amar expressed the hope that, when led by President Obama, the United States can make common cause with the free peoples of the world.

Friday afternoon included a conference of Yale Club representatives. Among various tidbits: Dues of \$40 are typical, although some clubs shave dues for younger graduates (and include their area's Yale students at no charge), and some have no dues but compensate by adding a few dollars to event charges. Printed booklets of members' names—surprisingly to someone from Sarasota's directory-rich club scene—are rare. E-mail and web sites are heavily used. One service, "Constant Contact," shows how many times an email is being opened by the mass of addressees.

President Levin reported on the past year, noting that it is his 15<sup>th</sup> in office. The pace of change accelerated during the most recent five years but now must moderate. Yale's endowment has declined during the recent financial market setbacks, but Pres. Levin said Yale's endowment was doing better than the endowments of other educational institutions. (Yale recently reported a 25% decline in its endowment since June 30, 2008, the end of its latest fiscal year. Harvard had earlier reported a 22% decline, so their performances since June 30 may be about equal.) He said Yale's spending is

countercyclical. It will be 6% of the endowment in 2009 compared to 4% in better financial markets. There will be no major cuts or downsizing. The \$200,000 upper annual income limit for a family to qualify for financial aid will remain in place. Some construction will be put on a slower track, though overall planning will continue towards the same objectives and construction costs generally have experienced an attractive 10% decline. There are also excellent opportunities to hire eminent scholars and teachers.

Yale remains popular, Pres. Levin said, perhaps too popular. In the prior season Yale received 19,000 applications for the freshman class. This season there are already 22,600 applications for 1,300 places. When completed, the two new colleges will add space for only another 200 in each class. Costs are about twice the annual tuition rate. New personnel and physical facilities are needed: faculty, staff, library space, and theatres. "We will do it, but we have to go slowly." Another route is using digital technology to extend Yale's reach. There are already 15 courses taught by Yale's finest teachers, on-line and free of charge, with more to follow. "They could reach millions [of people] everywhere." Pres. Levin was relaxed and candid during the question period. A few of the numerous questions and answers follow.

Q. What is the ratio of women to men among applicants? A. From 10 years ago, male applications have increased 70%, but women 130%. Offers are gender blind. They are slightly higher to men, but Yale gets more acceptances from women, which is a puzzle receiving the administration's attention. Students are now about 55% women, 45% men. Pres. Levin is not against this disparity, "57% women would be fine."

Q. What has happened to plans for an "alumni village"? A. We have had no compelling offers. The developers all want Yale to contribute amounts ranging from \$20 to \$50 million.

Q. Is further growth of Yale good? Why not stay the same size and concentrate on quality? A. Studies show that growth can add to quality. Every new faculty member should raise the average.

Saturday's agenda offered museum and walking tours. Pres. Levin attended the Yale-Princeton football game, a satisfying 14-0 victory, prior to his departure for India. Your Representative

greeted him in the aisle as he left and shook him by the hand. The game program included the name of a Yale freshman from Sarasota, the 6' 3" 300-pound offensive lineman Colin Kruger from Riverview High. Follow-up calls to Yale happened to find him in the football office. He is happy at Yale. Last fall he played on the Junior Varsity, which had a successful season: only one loss and they beat Harvard.

**Dyer S. Wadsworth**



## **Do Not Miss This Event!**

### **MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB INVITATION TO EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE**

The Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida has invited our club to join them for a program on 11:30 a.m. on Saturday March 28th at the Laurel Oak Country Club. Professor Stephen F. Jones, Mount Holyoke Professor of Russian and Eurasian Studies will speak on The New Great Game: Oil and Geopolitics in the Caucasus.

An expert on post-communist societies in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Professor Jones regularly briefs the CIA and the US State Department on developments in Caucasia and the North Caucasus. Professor Jones earned his PhD from the London School of Economics, where he studied Soviet politics. From 1989 to 1991, during the collapse of the Soviet Union, Professor Jones frequently advised The New York Times, The McNeil-Lehrer News Hour and National Geographic Magazine. In July 1996 he travelled to Georgia for the World Bank to examine the impact of economic reform on the lives of ordinary citizens in Caucasia.

Last summer, Professor Jones accompanied and lectured to participants on a Mount Holyoke Alumnae Association journey along the Silk Road from Beijing and Xi'an, across Xinjiang and to Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara. Suzanne and Oliver Janney participated in the trip and commend Professor Jones' insights into an increasingly volatile region of the world.

**Oliver Janney**



**Karen Kopp greets members and guests as they enter the Ringling Museum of Art's Treviso Restaurant for a pleasant lunch following the very enlightening tour of ancient Egyptian artifacts .**

**Roland Kopp engages his tablemates in spirited conversation at the luncheon following a most interesting guided tour of the museum's special Egyptian exhibit.**



## **RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART: EGYPTIAN EXHIBIT “TO LIVE FOREVER”**

Members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast and their guests, a total of fifty-six people, enjoyed a tour of the Ringling Museum of Art's special exhibit, “To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures,” on the morning of Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Mr. Joe Molina, one of the museum's most accomplished docents, provided expert commentary as those in attendance had the opportunity to view over one hundred objects from Brooklyn Museum's world-renowned collection of ancient Egyptian art—including mummies, coffins, stone sculptures, gold jewelry, precious amulets, and sacred vessels. The intent of the exhibit was to explore the ways in which the Egyptians approached the most momentous and mysterious of events: death. The day's events concluded with lunch, punctuated by much lively conversation, at the Ringling Museum's Treviso Restaurant.

**Frank Samponaro**

# TOM TRYON EXPLAINS CHALLENGES IN NEWS EDITING

The editorial and op-ed page editor of the Sarasota Herald Tribune discussed the process and current concerns of editing our daily newspaper, speaking to a large gathering of the Club's membership at the December 9, 2008 luncheon held at Marina Jack's. Tom Tryon, introduced by Club President Brian Kelly, came to Sarasota in 1981 after a newspaper career that began following his graduation from the University of Wisconsin.

A poll of our audience indicated that most of us read a newspaper daily, and one-third read the New York Times. Only half of us go on-line for news and information. This devotion to print journalism is unusual these days, and Mr. Tryon blessed us for it.

He gave interesting details on editing. One major area of concentration is local elections, which Sarasota people love. There are about 77 offices for which elections are held in a typical year. They cover city and county commissioners, judges, law enforcement, charter review, hospitals, and the four elements of the ancient world, represented by commissioners for water, fire, solids control and the airport. There are seven editors on the Herald Tribune's editorial board. How many politicians, Mr. Tryon asks, can an editor interview without going crazy? They use one-half hour interviews and candidate forms, and compose analysis and recommendations. One of their questions, "Tell us what you want us to know about yourself and your campaign," surprises candidates who expect to rely on a one-minute prepared sound bite. The editors are "frightened" by how little most voters know when they vote. Audience questions followed.

How does the editorial board make recommendations on constitutional questions on the ballot? Independent groups, such as universities, are used to analyze them. Mr. Tryon also looks for groups supporting the amendment, and where the financial support is coming from. The newspaper generally opposes constitutional amendments.

Where can we get information on bills pending in the state legislature? State legislature coverage is a nightmare. Some bills get amended five times in a single day. In-depth local investigations are similarly difficult. Perhaps charitable trust financing could supplement the needed reporting resources. As a matter of presentation, these issues take up a lot of news space, they are complicated, and many readers tune them out.

Could the newspaper recommend any Bloggers, as some of them are valuable? No, not many at the state level are good. Screening them to use as an extension of editorial resources would be difficult. Many experts in a given field don't have the time or the financial incentive for effective participation.

How much collaboration is there with the New York Times, which owns the Herald Tribune? Mr. Tryon averred that "We get no orders from the Times. Any similarities in our editorial positions are coincidental." [After the meeting, a source at the Times declined to comment.]

How serious is the current recession and how will it affect the newspaper industry? Every news medium has been hurt by declines in advertising. Newspapers face a competitive disadvantage against the internet, which is cheaper to produce than print and can be delivered virtually without cost. Possibly a technique may be devised to print out newspapers in the home at low cost. Regarding the local economy, two-parent families are for the first time calling in large numbers for help. Many of the have-nots have already left town. Some neighborhoods are in ruins; some condo owners are being assessed amounts such as \$40,000 to cover expenses for families who have left. Baby boomers are in trouble: the value of their houses and 401 (k) plans has shriveled.

Other questions from the audience continued until it was time for President Kelly to end the informative session with the presentation to our guest of a microwaveable Yale coffee mug.

**Dyer S. Wadsworth**

# PRESIDENT MICHALSON EXPLAINS RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

Mike Michalson, '70, led us from his own exploration of religious education to his approach to religion in classes he teaches at New College. The first President of New College of Florida, renamed after it became independent of USF, and previously the Chief Academic Officer of the college, Michalson brought wit and insight to a topic that is, after several centuries, becoming again a divisive force in the world.

After graduation magna cum laude from Yale, Michalson earned his Master's in religion at Claremont School of Theology in California. There he realized that he was not interested in a pastoral ministry, but in the study of religion and its roots. He considered the

the passage to the Age of Enlightenment as a natural progression once Europeans of the sixteenth century, exhausted from torturing and killing each other, realized that the only way to put the mayhem aside was to move toward religious tolerance. The blossoming of science in the seventeenth century supported the reliance on mathematics and science to foster critical analysis. Michalson described the three biblical religions as objectivized, that is, they rely on historical events to support certainty in their view of the world. Scientific inquiry, on the other hand, reveals uncertainty and admits that there are various ways in which the truth can unfold. The apex of the scientific revolution was the discovery by Darwin and

his contemporaries that man was not a special being separate from the animal world. The toleration bred by scientific inquiry is, for Michalson, epitomized by the exchange in Lessing's eighteenth century play, *Nathan the Wise*, among Nathan, Saladin and a Knight Templar. Basically, the persons from different traditions that had been warring against each other found that individuals in the other camps were reasonable persons, willing to listen to the other side.

Michalson posited that the trend toward tolerance and



**Dr. Michalson lifts Yale mug presented by the Club**

program at Chicago but chose to earn his doctorate in the philosophy of religion at Princeton. He described the Princeton approach as treating religion as an academic subject and viewing religion in the context of the social and political forces in which it exists.

A student of the eighteenth century, especially the philosophy of Emanuel Kant, Michalson described

understanding began crumbling during the twentieth century. The rise of groups claiming to have the "truth" in the U.S., the Muslim world and elsewhere, has brought instability and the prospect of a renewal of religious conflict. A stimulating Q & A session followed the talk, demonstrating once again the intellectual acuity and agility of both the speaker and the audience.

**Oliver Janney**