



YALE CLUB of THE SUNCOAST

**bluELines**



January 2012

Volume 8 Number 2

### **A Warm Welcome to the Yale Club's New Members**

The Yale Club is pleased to report that fourteen new members joined the Club in the fall of 2011, and we want to give them a very warm welcome! We have already had the pleasure of meeting many of them and welcoming them in person at a Club event.

The new members are:

Douglas Berggren, PhD 1959, and his wife Barbara

Betty Blank, '54W

Richard Cornish, B. A. '49

Rev. Dee DeMontmollin, MDiv '2001 and her husband Phil

John Else, MDiv'61, and his wife Cathy

Rev. Maggie Gat, MDiv '93

Edward Higbee, MMusic '53, and his wife Mary Alice

Joseph Head, Jr. B.A. '54, and his wife Louise

Zachary Johnson, MMusic 2006, and his wife Jessica

Elliot Livstone, M.D. 1969, and his wife, Carol

Stephanie Mullany, M.A.R. '91 and her husband Larry

Lillian Sands, G '53

Elizabeth Pitts, B.A. '86

Joseph Smith LLB '54, and his wife Regina.

Thanks to everyone for continuing to help find new Yale Club of the Suncoast members and thus helping our Club to thrive.

Beverley Wadsworth, Membership Chair

## 2012 Events

### Friday, February 10, 2012

Annual Yale-Harvard Princeton luncheon at Michael's On East. Socializing begins at 11:30, luncheon served at noon. The speaker will be Harvard's Regina Herzlinger on "Healthcare Reform."

### Monday, February 27, 2012

Tour the Ringling Museum of Art exhibit, "Copyright Reubens", and enjoy luncheon with other YCSC members at the superb Treviso Restaurant located next to the museum.

### Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Monthly Luncheon at Sarasota Yacht Club – Socializing begins at 11:30, luncheon served at noon.

Meet Yale Speaker from New Haven, Paul Bracken, Professor of Management and Professor of Political Science. Professor Bracken is a leading expert in global competition and the strategic application of technology in business and defense. His topic will be "The Second Nuclear Age."

### Sunday, March 25, 2012

Join fellow members for a great Maine Lobster Bake at the Bath Club on Casey Key.

### Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Monthly Luncheon at Sarasota Yacht Club – Socializing begins at 11:30, luncheon served at noon.

Meet Robert "Bob" Semple, Yale '59, Senior Political Writer and member of the Editorial Board of the New York Times. His topic will be "A Journalist's 12th Presidential Campaign: The Race So far".

### Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Monthly Luncheon at Sarasota Yacht Club – Socializing begins at 11:30, luncheon served at noon.

Meet Durland Fish PhD, Professor of Epidemiology (Microbial Diseases), Yale School of Public Health and Yale School of Medicine.

## **“Peter Paul Rubens: Impressions of a Master” at the Ringling Museum**



Members of the Yale Club of the Suncoast and their guests are invited to enjoy this exhibit on Monday, February 27, 2012. Lunch in the museum’s Treviso Restaurant will follow the tour.

Peter Paul Rubens was one of the most extraordinary figures of the seventeenth century and arguably the most intelligent and exciting painter of his time. The exhibition features more than 75 engravings of the highest quality. These impressions are drawn from the magnificent collection of the Royal Museum of Art, Antwerp and from the holdings of the Ringling Museum. The prints will be displayed with several important paintings by Rubens from the Ringling’s renowned collection.

Marsha Samponaro, a Ringling Museum docent will provide an overview of the exhibit.

Lunch at 11:30 will follow the conclusion of the tour. The menu includes a first course, an entrée, coffee, iced tea, or soft drink and Limoncello Crème Brulee for dessert. Those attending are asked to choose from among the following three entrees:

Blue Fin Crab Cake Sandwich Maryland Style with Tomato, Onion, and Applewood Bacon Aioli

Italian Panino with Prosciutto, Mortadella, Capocollo, Provolone, Arugula, Olive Oil, Balsamic and Roasted Pepper Aioli

Sicilian Tuna Steak with Caponata: Seared Tuna Medium Rare on a Salad of Caponata, Mixed Greens, Tomato and Lemon Coriander Vinaigrette Sprinkled with Roast Pistachio

The cost of the event is \$37 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 21.

**PLEASE INDICATE A CHOICE OF ENTRÉE FOR EACH MEMBER OF YOUR PARTY.**

If you have any questions about this event, please call Frank Samponaro at 941-966-9115.

Members Enjoying Welcome Back Event Reception at New College, October 30, 2011



## January 10, 2012 - Dr. Milani Addresses Club on Southwest Asia



The January luncheon of the Club featured Dr. Mohsen Milani , Professor of International Relations and Chair of the Department of Government and International Affairs at the University of South Florida. This was Dr. Milani’s second visit to the Club and provided opportunity to offer commentary on the political complexities of international relations in southwest Asia with a more particular reference to Iran.

With exceptional clarity and encyclopedic grasp of the last four decades of politics in the region in order to create a setting for what was termed “a walk through” of the past three years of events that are now shaping current public awareness of diplomacy in the region. To accomplish this, Dr. Milani offered an integrated perspective on how Iran relates to all of its neighbors in the region including Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan. With regard to Iran’s development of nuclear capabilities, the options for U.S. policy makers were considered and commentary offered suggesting the Iran government prefers to maintain a condition of “capability ambiguity” in contrast to actual development of nuclear weapons and thus preserve the widest array of possibilities for future negotiations within the region. Citing examples of how the U.S. and Iran have assisted each other in the past, it was pointed out that Iran assisted in the overthrow of the Taliban in Afghanistan at 9/11 and the U.S. aided Iran by overthrowing the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq. While not dismissing the current tensions that mark international discourse, Dr. Milani made a case for avoidance of confrontational initiatives and pursuit of continued negotiations as the more productive course for long term stability in the region.

In follow-up questions to the presentation, Dr. Milani briefly reviewed Russian, Chinese and Indian relations with Iran and noted how beginning with smaller initiatives for U.S.-Iranian cooperation could contribute to a process of “normalized relations” until such time as “friendly relations” become a greater possibility.

### **YALE-HARVARD GAME**

Our Club fielded two tables of members to watch the Yale-Harvard game at Ocean Blues on Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>. Our team included Nick Baskey, Wes Finer, Nick Gladding, Oliver Janney, Ken Schneier, and Dyer Wadsworth. Despite the good cheer with our Harvard counterparts and two screens covering the game, our team let us down after the first quarter.

### **November 8, 2011 - ACE REPORTER REVEALS FLORIDA’S INSURANCE WEAKNESS**

Introduced by Yale Club President Nicholas Gladding, Paige St. John, 2011 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting of Florida’s property insurance system, addressed a large audience at the Sarasota Yacht Club on November 8. Ms. St. John began working for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* as an investigative reporter in 2008 after working as a reporter for *The Detroit News* and for the *Associated Press* in Michigan. More recently, she was Gannett’s Florida state house bureau chief. She graduated in the early 1980s from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

“How much is riding on our State’s bet with nature,” asked Ms. St. John. Based on intensive investigations over several years, she characterized the Florida property insurance system as an “Insurance Nightmare”. Following Hurricanes Andrew in 1992 and Katrina (though not a Florida hurricane) in 2005, the large national insurers fled the Florida property market. These included State Farm and Allstate, and then Nationwide, USAA, Hartford and Travelers. What’s left? “Concentrated risk takers.” They write only in Florida and have miniscule capital: \$5 million was the minimum (grandfathered for established firms), not enough to replace more than a small amount of housing. In 2000, the leading insurance rating agency said that many of these insurers cannot survive a single hurricane; Florida averages 2.5 per year and, except for the last 6 years, has at least one every 4 years. In 1992, concentrated risk takers wrote 6% of property insurance; in 2010 it was up to 71%.

Who are these new insurers? Ms. St. John described two of them, including the Northern Capital Insurance Group, founded with \$5 million of stated capital by two owners of a security guard company who had no insurance experience. In 2008 they generated \$95 million of premiums for a huge amount of insurance coverage. Where did the money go? Much goes to reinsurance, including one-third to Bermuda-based reinsurers. A lot goes for toys: Ms. St. John showed pictures of private airplanes and large yachts bought by insurance people. She also ran a video clip of dancing girls at the reinsurance industry’s annual 3-day convention in Monte Carlo. They were singing, “I don’t want to go to rehab.”



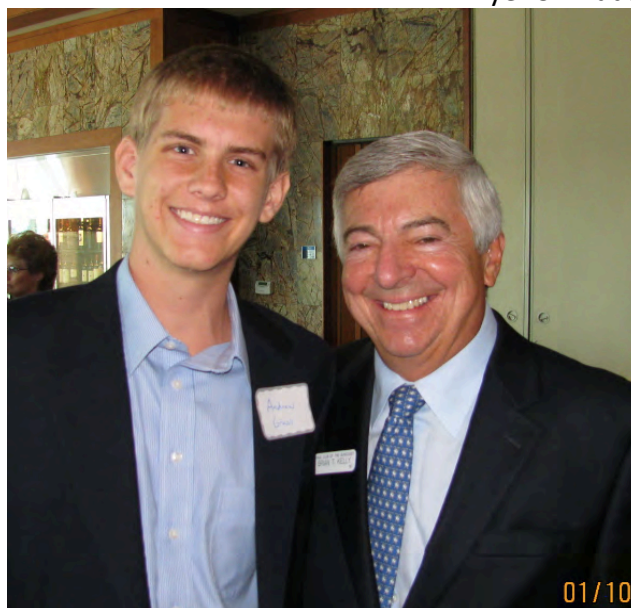
How are the premiums established? Reinsurance is not cost-based, like a manufacturing business. The insurers price their offerings like a poker game: the more you need it, the more it costs. One study concluded that property insurance was priced at three to five times the actual risk being insured. Insurers also cherry-pick by declining risks on certain types of roofs, ages of houses, etc. After Katrina, rates tripled, even though Katrina did not hit here.

Where's our state government, that's supposed to ride herd on the industry? If there is a default, the state is expected to pay the difference. Citizens Ins. Co., the state's insurer of last resort, actually has some assets, but not enough for claims that would come from a "100-year" storm. Insurance is not the problem with such catastrophes, it is politics. The Florida Insurance Commissioner, Kevin McCarthy, actually ran away from Ms. St. John, down a stairwell, when she attempted to question him following a public meeting about Florida's solution for such risks.

Ms. St. John then took questions from the attentive audience, including noting that the large national carriers are among those active in establishing small, concentrated risk subsidiaries in Florida even while disappearing as recognized names for property insurance here. The Club is enlightened and grateful for her excellent exposition of a complicated subject.

Like two of The Three Little Pigs, most Floridians do not want to pay for a hurricane-proof house or pay for insurance and reinsurance premiums on a less-than-hurricane-proof house. Those two factors create the hurricane problem. First, many Floridians, like many people everywhere, desire to moderate their housing construction costs and press on to the general public the true costs of storms. And second, if the true Florida hurricane risk were known, it could be properly priced into insurance and reinsurance premiums and also reduced by tougher building and zoning regulations. However, hurricanes in Florida are not common enough to be statistically predictable. Those causes are why Florida property insurance continues to be what Paige St. John calls a political problem and "an insurance nightmare".

Dyer S. Wadsworth, '59



**Brian Kelly attends luncheon with Newly accepted student in Class of 2016, Andrew Grass of Pineview High School in Sarasota**

# YOUR AYA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

## DATELINE NEW HAVEN

Some 450 Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) attendees were welcomed at Battell Chapel on the Old Campus on a chilly, grey day on November 17, 2011. The AYA theme honored the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the first PhD in North America by the Yale Graduate School and celebrated the remarkable legacy of educating scholars who became leaders in teaching, research, and education, as well as government, business, nonprofit work and much more. The most interesting and perhaps important part of the Assembly was president Rick Levin's annual University Update that occurred at the Friday luncheon in Commons attended by the 400 delegates of the AYA joined by another 400 volunteers attending the week's Alumni Fund Convocation. The highlights were as follows:

**Facilities Rehabilitation Conclusion:** Levin began by describing how the prior day's ribbon cutting ceremony at Ezra Styles College brought to a conclusion the total rehabilitation for Yale's 10 residential colleges. To date Yale has expended in excess of \$1 billion to renovate its facilities, which are now state-of-the-art. He said with a grin that he advised his Harvard colleges to think of renovating their campus facilities, as "they have a lot to learn."

**Funding/Donations:** He announced that the Yale Endowment Fund increased by 21% in fiscal 2011, which enabled an increase campus spending of \$50 million per year. Yale has concurrently achieved operating budget cuts of some \$350 million per year. Levin said that major donors continue to support Yale, which is critical to both the Endowment as well as ongoing projects. An example was the establishment of 10 engineering Chairs by a donation from John Malone. He also cited the growing multi-million dollar collaboration with large pharmaceutical companies as a means of rapidly expanding Yale's scientific community and capabilities – an area of great strategic importance to Yale's future.



**Yale's West Campus:** Levin's "Louisiana Purchase" is gaining momentum with all genome sequencing now being conducted within West Campus Laboratories. More than 350 people work at that task as well an exciting project that Levin describes as a "cross museum" of art collections, natural history and Peabody artifacts and perhaps even diplomatic collections such as the recently received Kissinger papers. The key to a successful West Campus is rapid travel time to and from the main campus. Levin is now working with Connecticut's Governor Malloy in an attempt to construct a fast rail connector between Yale Campus and West Campus by utilizing an existing rail spur (now mostly underground) built for WWII arms and ammunition shipping from New Haven's wartime production facilities. Levin feels that the "tipping point" for the West Campus will be when faculty asks to move their activities to the new campus facilities. In his opinion, the fast rail spur would provide that impetus.

**2 New Residential Colleges:** While Levin maintained his public stance that the already designed colleges would not be built until properly funded, this writer and his AYA compatriots enjoyed a view of the site from our buses as we journeyed up Prospect hill to the science labs. It was quite obvious, even to the untrained eye, that huge holes have been dug in the ground near Ingall's Rink and the Grove Street Cemetery (resting place for Daniel Webster et al) and veritable squads of construction folk were installing large pipes, power lines, etc. During the Assembly the New Haven Register announced that permits had been issued for the construction of the colleges! Perhaps we will soon be approaching the size of Fair Harvard – at least on an undergraduate basis.

**Yale We Need:** Levin said there was a long list of future needs which included a new science teaching building on Science Hill, a rebuild of the Drama School and the Music Hall.

**Education Costs:** The president asked the question – how will our grandchildren afford a college education? While businesses have been able to achieve dramatic production improvements through the use of information technologies, Levin said that Yale and its peers have severe limitations in its ability to do so. He drew on the analogy of "fixed costs" of an orchestra or a string quartet in describing Yale's strict adherence to small classes and high teaching standards and the resulting high costs. Levin mused that perhaps one of the few possibilities for future Yale consideration would be to spread its

costs over the offering of internet education. Already Yale is in the vanguard by offering many of its most prestigious courses on the internet. Perhaps these could, in the near future, be monetized. This is out-of-the-box thinking by our imaginative Yale leader.

**Yale Athletics:** Levin concluded his address by answering written questions that had been submitted by both the AYA and Alumni Fund attendees. It was most interesting that the first question Levin chose was the issue of Yale's sports programs and their success or lack therein. Perhaps because he was addressing an audience that contained many staunch Elis interested in Yale sports achievements, Levin seemed compelled to chronicle that Yale athletic programs were performing well under his aegis. He most likely is aware of the rumblings among alumni organizations to the effect that, while enormously committed to Yale's academic and physical assets, he appears to have only a passing interest in its sports and in particular its successes within the Ivy League. This issue becomes almost a firestorm when reference is made to Yale's lack of football success, in particular versus its archrival Harvard. Levin explained that when he took the helm at Yale one in five students had some form of sports scholarship. He said that last year student athlete recruits stood at 13%. This he admits is some 40 to 50 student recruits below the Ivy League average. At this level Yale achieved 7 sports championships, which was the most since the founding of the Ivy League. Levin cited last fall's sports program, which produced 30 victories in 41 events and the crowning achievement of leading the nation's athlete/student academic progress for six consecutive years. Editor's note: while the statistics may be in his favor, Levin does not even attempt to answer the issue of perceived success of Yale's major sports programs. The lone exception being last year's nationally ranked men's hockey team.

**The LXXI AYA Assembly theme** - celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yale PhD program, began with a panel of elite Yale professors chaired by the eminently popular former Dean of the Yale Graduate School, Jon Butler, who had been the school's dean for 15 years. He announced that this first plenary session would provide an overview of the Graduate School of today, its training of the next generation of leaders; the role of mentoring; where graduate school education is heading; and how the work of the school radiates outward. Butler described how the 150 years ago Yale awarded three PhD degrees, one in philosophy, one in physics and one in the classics. This was the point in history where Yale became a true university. Yale scored North American

diversity firsts when in 1876 it awarded the first PhD degree to an African American in Physics followed by the first PhD to a woman in 1892. Butler stressed that the Yale PhD program, and that of most other top tier U.S. graduate schools, have what he called the premiere world model based on strict adherence to the importance of original research. He believes that the “European” model, which has a preponderance of emphasis on the study of knowledge in the particular major area of study, produces an apprentice ready for teaching, but a lost opportunity for creative research and the resulting benefits to mankind. He introduced his fellow panelists of Ian Shapiro, Sterling Professor of Political Science and Director of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies; our old friend and former YCS speaker Meg Urry, Israel Munson Professor of Physics & Astronomy, chair of the Department of Physics; and Michael Warner, Seymour H. Know Professor of English and chair of the Department of English Languages and Literature. This star-studded panel brought tremendous weight to their common tenant that the American PhD was the world’s gold standard and that Yale’s programs ranked among the very best. As Meg Urry drove home the point that most students do not think of Yale as being strong in the sciences but that Levin’s leadership is rapidly changing this perception. She particularly admires Yale’s graduate programs’ emphasis on training the PhD candidates how to ask questions not just amass answers. Urry is concerned that funding cuts from both the government and corporations will translate directly into fewer graduate students. She was also concerned with agencies pressuring research for immediate results. While this may be reasonable for medical research – one of Yale’s fastest growing research areas – it is not viable for other sciences. Urry used the example of the physicists who in 1900 discovered the transistor, which at that time had no practical use whatsoever. She asked the Assembly to imagine what our lifestyle would be today if those physicists had discarded that discovery. Urry further illustrated the value of basic research with the discovery of “dark energy” by three recent Nobel Prize winners - for which there is absolutely no practical use but which will have a projected large effect on mankind in the future.

The panelist Michael Warner, who represented the humanities, described the current trend of pressuring graduate students to move from the humanities to more “productive” areas of study. He termed this as the cash value career path instead of the “cultivated soul.” Warner outlined the two challenges that he sees for the English

Department. The first, is that most current students learned from computers not books and are therefore media driven. That creates the challenge of how to put literature in focus. The second is how to globalize the study and teaching of English Literature, since the demand is now worldwide. He used the current demand for an African English Literature program as a prime example.

A question and answer period gave the panel an opportunity to describe distinctive characteristics of the Yale Graduate School. Yale's program is generally smaller than competitors, more collegial and has a very high PhD completion rate. Yale also does not run large Masters Degree programs to fund its PhD program. Also, better monitoring of its students almost guarantees they finish their degrees in five years. The new McDougal Student Center was credited as greatly enhancing interaction between the graduate students. The undergraduate teaching by graduate students is very carefully monitored to assure the highest quality of teaching possible. Finally, the panel revealed that there are between 350 and 400 PhD degrees awarded each year by Yale, of which approximately 30% are to students from outside the USA.

Executive Director Mark Dollhopf '77, Executive Director of AYA moderated the Friday morning session updating some of the most successful and innovative alumni programs from the last year, such as Yale Day of Service and the Alumni Service Corps' week in the Dominican Republic. Various awards were also given to alumni individuals, groups and programs. A subsequent breakout session intended to give attendees an opportunity to provide input to the AYA revealed that a sizeable percentage of alumni representing area clubs, such as our own, expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which the AYA provided information and assistance to the clubs. Examples were given of Yale sports teams going into club areas without any advance notice by the AYA. Many described a situation where the AYA expresses through its Strategic Plans what it expects from clubs without reciprocating by disseminating Yale news and data deemed vital to the individual clubs. There was a general consensus that the AYA must concentrate its communication via the web, so at a bare minimum, it could deliver a strong information technology to produce lists of alumni by location, by interest, by experience, etc. All of this was felt to be critical to the vitality of the individual clubs. An example was given of a failed attempt to communicate with Yale veterans in an effort to create a "special interest" association. It seems the AYA responded that it did not have that capability.

The consensus was that AYA should place a high priority on establishment of web site for coverage of all its events both in New Haven and throughout the USA. There also were expressions of dismay that the AYA was venturing overseas on “Yale Gale” assistance programs on an annual basis while there are desperate needs for help within the USA. Suggestions for a “Yale Gale” included Detroit and New Orleans.

There were opportunities to attend breakout sessions to learn about some of the exciting research in the social sciences that Yale Graduate students are undertaking. I attended one given by Allison Sovey, PHD '13, entitled “Political Science & Economics: Tricks of the Trade in International Politics. Sovey’s research into the World Trade Organization (WTO) enabled her to argue that the WTO has been very effective in depoliticizing trade between countries. She presented a wealth of high impact data and examples that explained how the WTO has been able to allow countries to commit not to use tariffs as a political weapon, which has increased trade and kept trade policy separate from foreign policy.

A breakout session for the humanities conducted by Andy Horowitz, PHD '14, used video clips and images to compare the rebuilding of a Gulf Coast town which had been rebuilt in one year after being slammed by Hurricane Audrey in 1957 and yet is barely rebuilt after a similar pounding by Hurricane Rita in 2005. His analysis through his interviews of local individuals was fascinating.

Our grand finale of these truly impressive PhD candidate breakout sessions represented the sciences and engineering and was entitled “Chemistry: Producing Fuels from Sunlight and Water.” We were bused up Science Hill to the 1922 era Chemistry Building on a very damp New Haven afternoon. Just as we had recovered from the wind, rain and cold, we received a warm greeting from three absolutely upbeat Chemistry future PhDs. Their cheery, “can do,” briefing of how to accomplish the centuries old dream of converting sunlight and water into usable fuel, produced an enormous breath of fresh air into the group of alumni. This original research being done through the Yale Green Energy Consortium – a group of four Yale chemistry professors and their graduate researchers explores the possibility of creating “solar fuels” by using titanium dioxide protons and electrons and light to create fuel. Our tour of the facilities confirmed President Levin’s statement that an entire new science teaching facility is required, but

the awesome energy and dedication of these students confirmed our belief in the Yale education program. There were two highlights, one when the students demonstrated how a solar cell can convert light into energy, the other when one student declared that she believed a similar energy system of very small size will power an automobile during her lifetime. Of course, an alumnus asked if the system might be developed during his lifetime, to which the student gave a wry but negative response. Then she added that he would be able to drive an all electric car during his lifetime – oh well, c'est la vie, que sera sera!

The AYA Assembly, with its theme of the Yale PhD was a most impressive series of contacts with Yale's awesome professors and graduate students. Yale has pioneered the North American PhD and enriched it with diversity and imagination while strictly adhering to the overarching principle of rewarding original research in the humanities, social studies and now increasingly the sciences. I can only hope that I have managed to convey some of this Yale graduate study prowess to each of you. I am proud to have been able to attend this Assembly, to have learned more about the greatest university in the land, and to be able to serve as your AYA representative.

Brian Thomas Kelly '61