



2019 Annual Report

Issue #1

January 2020

Welcome to our first annual report!

As we kick off the new year, I want to thank you for your continued support for 1stGenYale. Since we started in April 2016, we have grown from an idea to connecting over 1,400 alumni and hundreds of students who share similar experiences being first generation in their families to attend any college or graduate school and also coming from low-income under-resourced backgrounds.

While contributing different life experiences, we celebrate diversity of all abilities, ages, cultures, genders, ethnicities, race, and thought and connect from all Yale schools, classes & years. We come together, support each other, and build new friendships in the Yale family.

Upon completing two years of creating 16 programs which connected alumni and students in different ways, we were recognized as an official Shared Interest Group of the Yale Alumni Association this past April. We are honored and humbled to have received the 2019 Excellence Award and the 2018 Outstanding SIG Award from the YAA Board of Governors.

Our Programs

We started from a pilot program with 25 alumni who came back to campus in late July to help 62 incoming first-year students navigate Yale & beyond. Next, we created a networking luncheon with 120 alumni and 400 students from 18 universities for the student-run 2017 IvyG Conference. Soon after, we added a pilot networking mixer in November, which was expanded from a multicultural mixer created by Magda Vergara '82 the prior year.

While we are a little bit beyond a start-up, alumni continue to raise their hand and create new pilot programs from global webinars and an online book group, picnics at the YAA Alumni Village, Central Park, Washington DC, and Yale Family

Weekend, to new chapters in New York and Washington DC, with Chicago coming soon!

Thank you to alumni volunteers who have initiated programs and attended our events with a special thanks to Barb Protacio '81, Aaron Shipp '96, and Michael Watson '81 for their work on our executive committee. A shout-out goes to Magda Vergara '82 for her engagement throughout our early years and continued support.

Since many of our programs are in partnership, a big thanks goes to faculty and staff from Yale College, Yale Summer Session, First-Year Scholars at Yale, The Community Initiative, and the Yale Alumni Association. Finally, a special thanks goes to President Peter Salovey, Secretary & Vice President for University Life Kim Goff-Crews, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Jeremiah Quinlan, Yale College Dean Marvin Chun, YAA Executive Director Weili Cheng and Senior Director Nicholas Lewis for their continued support in building this new community within the Yale family.

Our Advocacy

We proudly advocate for those in the communities in which we serve. We nominate 1stGenYale alumni to volunteer leadership positions as At-Large Delegates and members of the YAA Board of Governors as well as for award recognition, such as the Yale Medal. We recommend our alumni for panels, such as Careers, Life, and Yale (CLY) A2S "Find Your Fit" in September 2019, our annual FSJ July program, and the new Career Speaker Series, "Managing Change: Preparing FGLI Students for Future Leadership." In addition, we often promote our alumni and their work through our social media.

To encourage broad community participation, we are honored to co-sponsor events with university partners, such as the Yale School of Medicine's "De-Stigmatizing Disability: Tribulations and Triumphs of Disability at Yale" in October and webinars, such as CLY's "Gaining Power & Influences in the Workplace" in September or the Yale Club of Oregon & SW Washington's "Women in Health: Uncommon Paths" in March.

Throughout our events and later as mentors, alumni support first-gen students by sharing how they navigated Yale to later graduate work and careers. We were honored that students asked us to assist them with their program, "Being a Minority in STEM" in March and later asked our medical community alumni for advice on a "Pre-Med Guide for FGLI Students." We proudly have supported four Yale students who were granted Rhodes Scholarships since 2017 and many more who applied to graduate schools and first jobs.

Enjoy our inaugural annual report! For more frequent information, join us in our closed facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1stgenyale/>. Be sure to follow us on all our social media. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events in 2020!

With warmest regards,
Lise Chapman '81 MBA
Chair, 1stGenYale
Shared Interest Group
Yale Alumni Association

Welcome to Our Inaugural 1stGenYale Delegates!



Barb Protacio '81

1stGenYale Executive Officer

Founder & Coordinator, 1stGenYale Alumni Connections

Barbara Protacio is a US Navy veteran, having retired at the rank of Captain after 30 years in Naval Intelligence. She now teaches first grade in northern Virginia. She has served as director of Yale's Virginia Tidewater Alumni Schools Committee, interviewer on the Washington DC ASC, and a member of the Yale Club of Washington DC Community Service Committee. Barbara

is a 2014 Teach For America DC Corps alumna, lettered in crew at Yale, and holds degrees from Yale, the US Naval Academy, and Georgetown University.



Michael Watson '81

1stGenYale Executive Officer

Founder & Coordinator, 1stGenYale Alumni Career Speakers Series

Michael Watson is Deputy Director, Human Resources for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Prior roles include Senior Vice President, Talent and Culture for National 4-H Council and Senior Vice President, Human Resources and Diversity for Girl Scouts of the USA. Prior to Girl Scouts, Michael held positions at IBM Global Services, Time Warner Inc., and GE Capital. Michael is currently on the boards of Manhattanville College and the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps. He has a BA in economics from Yale University and MS in organizational management and human resources development from Manhattanville College.

2019 Highlights

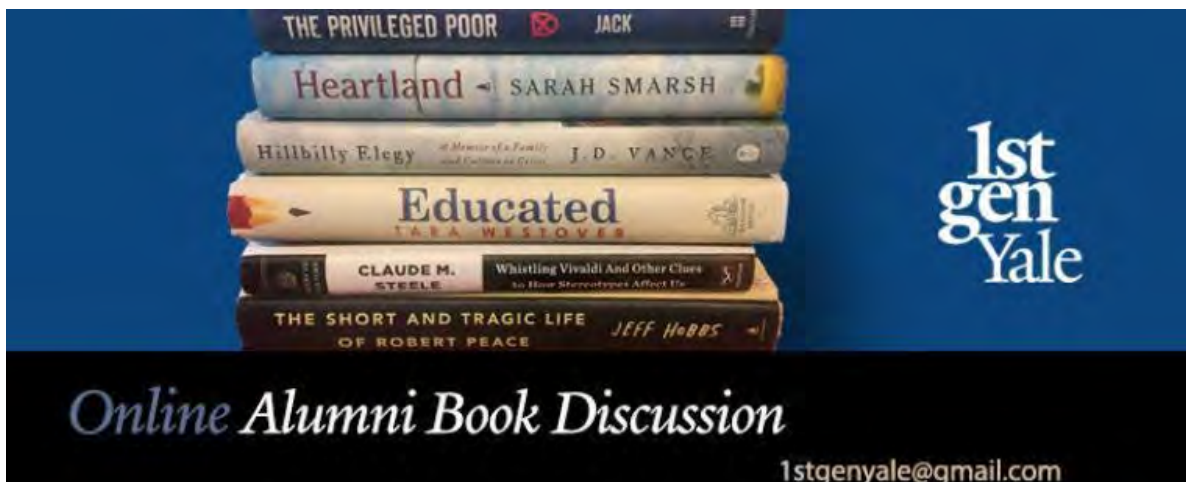
January - Webinar



Tara Falcone '11, CFA, CFP, and Founder of ReisUP, led our second global webinar "Overcome Money Insecurities to Build a Bright Future" with 200 alumni based on her own first-gen low-income experience. Afterwards, Tara led an in-person discussion with FGLI students on campus.

Our inaugural pilot webinar in September 2018 was "Making Unconscious Bias Conscious" with Dr. Darin Latimore, Deputy Dean and Chief Diversity Officer, Yale School of Medicine, and Claire Bown, Chair, Yale Women Faculty Forum. Over 400 alumni participated from around the world. If you have an idea or would like to host a webinar, let us know.

February - Pilot Online Book Discussion



Patricia Licea Guerrero '18 led our first online book discussion on *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs, Robert's Pierson College '02 roommate, with 20+ alumni. Several Yalies shared their experiences on campus with both Robert and Jeff. We're working on future book discussions, so if you are interested in hosting one, please email 1stgenyale@gmail.com.

April - 1stGenYale & Alumni Schools Committee Pilot



We were excited to work with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the Alumni Schools Committee to pilot a program introducing 1stGenYale alumni to admitted students in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami. Alumni shared our mission, vision and spirit. They talked about their experiences and highlighted the wonderful attributes of Yale with the students and their families.

Photo: Tasha Spann McCall (L), Nicole Kelly (C), and Tesha Spann Winslow (R) in Atlanta.

March to June - Yale Alumni Socials in DC & NYC, dinners, and Yale Day of Service



We welcomed spring with two inaugural welcome mixers in Washington DC and New York on March 20th. Alumni from different classes & schools met each other for the first time while school friends reunited.

Hosted by three co-chairs, Ben Bartolome '16, Barb Protacio '81, Yvette Rivers '96, and Mona Wang '13 MEM FES, the WDC event attracted 12+ alumni at the Yalie-

owned establishment, Buffalo Billiards. Gatherings continued throughout the spring with a family-style pot luck in April and a Yale Day of Service for 40 local high school students, co-sponsored by the Yale Club of Washington DC. More to come in DC!

Lydia Serrano '99, 1stGenYaleNYC chair, greeted over 70 alumni on the roof of The Yale Club of New York City. YAA Board of Governors Chair Nancy Stratford '77 welcomed alumni and shared opportunities through the Alumni Association. Following, Lydia hosted a delicious dinner at the Wonjo Korean BBQ, May 1st. More to come in NYC!





Yvette Rivers '96, President of the Yale Club of Washington DC, highlighted, "I was so proud of 1stGenYale DC's Yale Day of Service College Prep Mentoring site! As part of our charter, we strive to inspire local, underserved students, and sharing our 1stGen stories and mentoring local high school students was a terrific way to achieve this goal. Bringing together 40 total Yale alumni mentors, students, and parents for a lessons-learned panel and college-prep mentoring session was such a powerful and impactful experience for all involved."

July - 4th Annual FSY Program



Help new Yale College students navigate Yale & Beyond

Yale Alumni connect with First-year Scholars at Yale

Join us at FSY 🍷 July 20, 2019 🍷 1stgenyale@gmail.com

Over 50 alumni came back to campus to connect with 92 incoming first-year students in Yale Summer Session's First-year Scholars at Yale. Now in our fourth year, our program, "Navigating Yale & Beyond: Alumni Perspectives" attracts alumni from across the US to serve on the alumni panel, share their experiences as first-generation low-income students when they were at Yale, and serve as an ongoing resource for career and life skills discussion.

Link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_tadc7Egao

FEATURES

Alumni pitch in to help first-year scholars adjust to life at Yale

By E.J. Crawford | Posted July 26, 2019



<https://alumni.yale.edu/news/alumni-pitch-help-first-year-scholars-adjust-life-yale>



August - Picnics in the Parks!



September - Yale Alumni Association Welcome to New York!



1stGenYaleNYC hosted a table sponsored by Lydia Serrano '99, Patricia Licea Guerrero '18, Michelle Soto '16, Allie Ossa '11, and Cynthia Coco '07. It was terrific to meet so many new alums -- come join us again this September 2020!

Lydia added, "It's great to see our group expanding in NYC and making connections with other alumni groups. 1stGenYale is a disparate group in that most of us are only coming together after graduation (some MANY years after) because we find that having been first gen Yalies is bond that crosses countries, cultures, and many different identities. So the fact that we are organizing, making connections, and now reaching out and working with the larger Yale organization is really rewarding in a way I never thought possible."

October - 1stGenYale Picnic at Yale Family Weekend



Suzanne Solensky '83 headed our team hosting our first picnic partnered with Jorge Anaya '19 Woodbridge Fellow (YCDO & Poorvu Center), Coordinator of The Community Initiative, and Burgwell Howard, Senior Associate Dean of Yale College, Associate Vice President of Student Life (pictured below). We wanted our students to enjoy a fun time together with their alumni family even if their families could not attend the annual Yale Family Weekend. It was exciting that several first-gen families joined their students and enjoyed meeting alumni as well. Helena Lyng-Olsen '22 and Audrey Steinkamp '22 captured the magic in the Yale Daily News - <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2019/10/07/fgli-students-and-alumni-attend-family-weekend-picnic/>.

Suzanne highlighted, “Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 10, 2020 — for the second annual Alumni & Students picnic during Yale Family Weekend. Join us in sharing stories, laughter, and warmth with Yale undergrads whose families cannot be there. Let’s show these students that alumni care about them and welcome them to the Yale family.”



November Events



- Career Speaker Series Launch



Career Speaker Series

POORVU CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING
ROOM 120 A&B

Join the Community Initiative and 1stGenYale in their inaugural Career Speaker Series. Students will have the opportunity to gain insight on specific career industries. As previous first gen, low income students at Yale, the panelists are excited to share their experiences in the work force.

				
Michael Watson '81 Deputy Director, Human Resources, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	Patricia Melton '83 President, New Haven Promise	Anita Kishore '99 Career Coach and Executive Coach	J.C. Calderon '92 Owner, Calderon Architecture & Design Studio	Michael Protacio '13+1 Professional Singer and Actor

Michael Watson '81 hosted our first Career Speaker Series with four alumni who shared their experience and career advice. He reflected, "I was proud to re-create a program which I benefited from when I was at Yale. Students asked thoughtful questions and the panelists were insightful and candid in their responses. Students

left the session with a better understanding of what they can do while they are at Yale to prepare for career success after graduation."




- Alumni & Students Pilot Dinner



We thought it would be helpful to hear directly from students on "how we're doing" so we hosted our first small group student dinner in a local New Haven restaurant. We wanted to know how we could be helpful going forward as well as how they could be helpful to current & future students and to Yale. Thank you for such a meaningful discussion. We hope to have more small dinners in the future!


- 4th Annual Alumni & Student Career Networking Mixer



4TH ANNUAL

Career Networking Mixer

Friday
Nov 22
6:30-9pm
refreshments
Afro-American
Cultural Center
211 Park St.



co-sponsors:
Afro-American
Cultural Center &
Yale Latino
Alumni Network

Alumni & students from all schools | Explore many profess
All YAA-YAF Assembly-Convocationers welcome!
1stgenyale@gmail.com

Over 100 alumni and students enjoyed getting together again at our 4th annual networking mixer at the Afro-American Cultural Center during the Assembly & Convocation. Alumni from different schools and class years shared their stories about their own journeys. Students were free to ask anything from how to get to know a faculty member or develop a career interest or two, to how to tell their family, "I'm not moving back home after graduation."

Alum Victor Padilla-Taylor '15 MBA shared, "I was very pleased to be at this program. The energy in the room, alumni and students meeting each other for the first time, and lifelong connections was fantastic. This is my first time here, but not the last."

Thank you to YAA Executive Director Weili Cheng '77 and Board of Governors Chair Nancy Stratford '77 who welcomed alumni and students at our annual event. A special thanks goes to Regina Bain '98, '01 MFA, who represented *Yale Wishes*, a pilot initiative including Miko McGinty '93, '98 MFA, Rob Greenly '83 MBA, Jeannie Daniel and Deborah Stanley-McCaulay. Regina distributed letters written by over 100 alumni about what they had wished for when they were at Yale and one special wish for today to each student who attended.



Other Initiatives

1stGenYale Alumni Connections

1stGenYale Alumni Connections Founder Barb Protacio '81, shared her enthusiasm, "This is a group of 15 caring alumni across the U.S., Mexico and Hong Kong who have made ourselves available to support our first-gen low-income students whenever they travel to our cities for internships and jobs. We have signed up to be a knowledgeable friend in a new city. This information is available to students through Yale College, The Community

Initiative, Office of Career Strategy, G&P Schools, and our website. Help spread the word!" Link - <https://bit.ly/2RCQSSi>



In November 2018, we worked in partnership with The Community Initiative to create a professional clothing store for interviewing and career clothing. For now, the Career Closet is full thanks to alumni, faculty, and staff donations. Please contact Joliana Yee, AACC Director and Assistant Dean of Yale College, joliana.yee@yale.edu, to make donations in the future.

Meet Our 1st Student Liaison!



Welcome Karen Li, Pauli Murray College '22, our first student liaison. Karen is the YAA Class of 2022 Delegate & Student Life Director of Yale College Council. She is a proud FGLI student at Yale and serves as one of the leaders of Students and Alumni of Yale (STAY), which hosts events and helps Yalies form meaningful, long-lasting student-alumni relationships. Karen is beyond excited to serve the FGLI community in this inaugural position! We are, too!

Other Ways to Support First-Gen Low-Income Students at Yale



Did you know:

- 20% of first-year Yale College students qualified for federal Pell Grants for low-income students (300+ qualified -- nearly double the number in the entering class six years ago).
- 17% of the Class of 2023 will be the first in their families to graduate from a four-year college -- a 75% increase in the class which matriculated in 2013.
- 1 out of 6 Yale College students self-identity as first-generation and/or low-income.

(Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Yale University).

Alumni have been asking how they can directly support Yale students who experience an emergency or unexpected financial hardship. Working with Development, we helped create a fund last April so that now you can support students directly in ways not covered by tuition, room and board, and financial aid. Here is the newly updated link to give Yale College Student Support - www.yale.edu/giveYC. Thank you.

A Student's Perspective...



Yale senior Pablo Vazquez '20 PC shares his thoughts...

"These programs really do help students who are finding their footing, whether they be first years or seniors. They gather a lot of experience and there is a lot of transparency. The shared experiences which each of these alumni bring really do help us in reflecting and trying to choose a path. For me, having them reinforce that there are so many options at Yale and that this alumni community is willing to help, is just tremendous. Yale is a place of many resources, and sometimes, we might not know how to access or use them. These programs bridge the gap. Thank you for bridging that gap for us."

Come join us!

Join us across all schools, class years, abilities, cultural and racial identities as we explore ways to make a positive impact in the Yale community, especially for our students and fellow alumni. We'd love to hear how you would like to participate, create a webinar, or head up a pilot initiative -- just contact us at 1stgenyale@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you!

