



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

As we pass the one-year mark of the pandemic, we want to thank you for your continued support for 1stGenYale. Since its founding of this Shared Interest Group of the Yale Alumni Association in April 2016, we have grown from an idea to connecting over 2,800 alumni and students who share similar experiences being the first in their families to attend 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, races, and thought, connecting from all Yale schools, classes & years. We come together, support each other, and build new friendships in our Yale family...especially now, when we are faced with unique challenges that COVID-19 has presented.

As alumni and current students, we are keenly aware of the pressures that come with being a Yale student. These pressures often are higher for first-generation students. We join the Yale community in mourning the recent loss of Yale College

first-year student Rachael Shaw-Rosenbaum whom we have come to learn was the first in her family to attend college. We offer our condolences to members of our first-gen community who knew her.

We vow to continue our mission of serving first-generation and low-income students and alumni during one of the most challenging times in the nation's history.



With warmest regards,
1stGenYale Executive Board

Lise Chapman '81 MBA

Michael Watson '81

Barb Protacio '81

Suzanne Solensky '83

Lydia Serrano '99

Angela Landoño '12

Rayan Semery-Palumbo '19

CREATING NEW WAYS TO CONNECT

VIDEO CONTENT FOR 1STGENYALIES

1stGenYale went into high gear last March to develop a total of 13 Zoom webinars between March and June 2020, and more now to connect Yalies and offer tips and strategies to help us get through this pandemic. We engaged over 1,400 alumni and students of many backgrounds and Yale affiliations – including 21 alumni volunteers who designed content, hosted webinars, or served on panels. Given the negative economic impact on recent grads, young alumni, and alumni in transition, a majority of our webinars were made in partnership with the Yale Office of Career Strategy and focused on jobs and careers.



1stGenYale is honored and grateful to receive the "Board of Governors Excellence Award" from the Yale Alumni Association for our weekly webinars during the first three months of the pandemic. A big shoutout goes to everyone who had a role from those creating the webinars to alumni, students, and faculty who participated. Thank you the Board of Governors for this recognition.

[BROWSE WEBINARS](#)

CONNECT WITH 1STGENYALE ON LINKEDIN

In addition to [1stGenYale LinkedIn](#) for general conversation and information, we created a second group on LinkedIn specifically for job searches—**1stGenYale Careers, Connections, and Jobs**. It is for both alumni and students to check out job posts and share professional opportunities.

[JOIN "CAREERS, CONNECTIONS, AND JOBS"](#)

REVĒLO: A GUIDE TO RESOURCES AND TIPS FOR CURRENT FIRST-GEN STUDENTS



September 22nd, 1stGenYale REVĒLO was launched as a guide specifically created for first-gen low-income students to help them navigate Yale. Check it out! Shout out and thank you to Barbara Macario '81 who developed and manages this new website for Yale students to help them make the most of their time at Yale.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

1STGENYALE CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH FACULTY FOR SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Summer 2020—1stGenYale developed a pilot program which helped support six first-generation low-income Yale College students in research funded by the [Office of Career Strategy Summer Experience Award \(SEA\)](#), formerly known as the Domestic Summer Award (DSA), with Yale Law School Professor Daniel Markovits.

"It was a great pleasure to work with this outstanding group of Yale College students. They made important contributions to my research; and, separately, their perspectives added to my thinking."

—Daniel Markovits, Guido Calabresi Professor of Law at Yale Law School, and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Private Law

Given the success of the experience for the professor and students, the 1stGenYale alumni team is working with several of Yale's graduate and professional schools to make available 2021 summer research projects for more Yale College students on financial aid. Our goal is to provide better access for more Yale undergraduates with G&P faculty for academic research as well as give them a window to possible graduate work in their future through this funded opportunity by [OCS](#) and the [Yale Center for International and Professional Experience](#).

Join 1stGenYale DC for a
2-for-1 Webinar on Weds. Oct 21, 2020

The Meritocracy Trap: Perspectives from the Inside @ 7 p.m. EDT

Part I. Join us for a discussion with Yale Law School Professor Daniel Markovits about his book, "The Meritocracy Trap: How America's Great Colleges, Firms, and Other Institutions Create False Hope and Diminished Dreams." Listen to the internship experiences of the Yale students he and 1stGenYale sponsored over the summer.

Plan Now for Summer 2021 @ 8 p.m. EDT

Part II. Join us afterwards to meet the student interns and hear about their internship journeys. For Yale students, learn about how to find and secure a 2021 summer internship.





Register for one or both webinars at <https://tinyurl.com/2020Markovits>

 Professor Markovits
YC '91, YLS '00
  Hailey Andrews '22
  Cam Do '22

 Jordan Farenhem '22
  Bryan Mendoza '21
  Laura Vera '21

Introduced by
 Lise Chapman, '81 MBA
  Michael V...

Yale College student Cam Do '22 shared her experience last summer, "I am so grateful to have had this summer research experience with Professor Markovits. I got to know a law professor, do research for the first time, and bonded with fellow first-gen low-income students. Coming from a low-income background, this was a world I never thought I could enter. I am thankful to everyone who helped make this happen for me. This experience changed my life."

Alumni Perspectives: Navigating Yale & Beyond



OUR ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR FIRST-YEAR SCHOLARS AT YALE GOES VIRTUAL

Our 5th annual program with Yale College & Yale Summer Session, “Alumni Perspectives: Navigating Yale & Beyond” for [First-Year Scholars at Yale](#) (FSY), was held virtually on Saturday, July 25th. Over 123 participants including 72 FSY students, 14 counselors, 3 faculty & staff, and 34 alumni joined our 3+ hour program.

Our alumni ranging from recent grads to ‘56 represented Yale College, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, School of Architecture, School of Law, School of Management, and School of Medicine and holding BA, MA, JD, MD, MPhil, and PhD degrees. They represent broad diversity in cultural, ethnic, gender, racial backgrounds, geographic locations, and political thought. For many of our alums who came from all over the country, it was the second, third, or fourth time participating in our FSY program.

Leading our team, a big thanks goes to Suzanne Solensky ’83 who did an outstanding job creating the program and working through the logistics and coordination with Michael Fitzpatrick, Associate Director of Academic Affairs.

Our program included a pre-recorded 1stGenYale alumni panel discussion

moderated by Professor Laura Barraclough and shown to the students in advance of the event, a welcome address from Yale College Dean Marvin Chun, and two breakout group sessions, including open topics, eight different careers fields, and career explorations. We look forward to seeing these students and alumni again virtually and later in person! Welcome to Yale, Class of 2024!

Sat, July 25, 2020
2:00-5:00 pm EDT
Zoom Registration by July 16: tinyurl.com/2020FSY

Alumni Perspectives: Navigating Yale & Beyond

Connect with
First-year Scholars at Yale
— virtually this year

The FSY summer program gives incoming first-gen low-income students an in-depth introduction to Yale. Alumni with similar backgrounds share their real world experiences from Yale to their careers today. Explore with the students how to take advantage of Yale's resources as members of the Yale family.

1stgen Yale
1stgenyale@gmail.com

2020 FSY 1stGenYale Alumni Panel

1STGENYALE'S INAUGURAL PARTNERSHIP WITH CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



Cultural Connections is a pre-orientation program dedicated to introducing first-year students to Yale's cultural resources and diverse student body, with a focus on the experiences of students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. Central to CC's mission is providing community and guidance to its participants, many of whom are students of color.

Yale students who identify as first-generation have found community through the QuestBridge, First-Year Scholars at Yale (FSY), and the Community Initiative at Yale. With this new partnership with CC, 1stGenYale alumni are glad to find more ways to support our next generation of Yalies.

While 1stGenYale has partnered with FSY for five years, we are excited that this was our inaugural event on August 20th with CC! Thank you to Rayan Semery-Palumbo '19 for coordinating all the details! We were excited to welcome more students and introduce them to the first-gen Yale community before their time at Yale begins.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CULTURAL CONNECTIONS](#)

ANNUAL CAREER NETWORKING MIXER

Thank you to over 85 students & alumni who signed up for 1stGenYale's first virtual career networking mixer on November 18th.

Executive Committee members Michael Watson '81 & Angela Londoño '12 welcomed the participants and introduced our co-sponsors: YFAM student leaders Karen Li '22+1, Nick Randos '22+1; and YLAN Chair David Sanchez '84 MPhil. In addition, Dr. Richard Kayne '76 MD and Dr. Vishal Agrawal '96 BS & MS, '02 MD highlighted the alumni initiated The FYI Board for its Yale-focused corporate job placement program for students and recent grads.

The students were free to move around different breakout rooms hosted by alumni for small group discussion: Arts & Architecture, Business, Communications, Computer Science & Engineering, Consulting, Education, Environment, Finance, Law & Social Justice, Health Care, Non-Profit & Public Service, and the career exploration process overall.

A Yale College '22 student commented about what she liked best - "Pursuing public interest scholarship programs at graduate schools and fellowships, navigating personal finance issues endemic to the first-gen experience, harnessing the power of your first-gen story in the workplace, in interviews, in your job application."

A shout out goes to Valerie Popp '02 who joined us in our technical operations and ran the Zoom event!

While our annual program has been held in the Afro American Cultural Center at Yale during the Assembly & Convocation since 2016, we hosted it virtually for the first time! Given the strong participation for the nearly 2-hour program and additional requests, we are thinking about offering this virtual career mixer twice a year. Thanks again to everyone who participated!

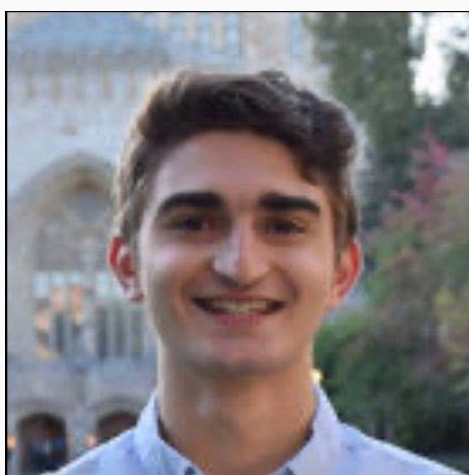
SPOTLIGHT ON CURRENT YALIES

MEET OUR FIRST 1STGENYALE INTERN

Nick Randos, Saybrook '22+1

Welcome to our 1stGenYale student intern, Nick Randos '22+1, (Saybrook), immediate past Co-President of the Yale First-Gen and/or Low-income Advocacy Movement (YFAM). Nick is majoring in Political Science and one of 15 students in the Class of 2022 in the Multidisciplinary Academic Program, Human Rights at the Schell Center, with a focus on criminal justice reform and LGBTQ youth advocacy.

He serves as Co-Coordinator, the Urban Fellows Program.



Yalie Elisabeth Anton '85/'89 shares, "I am privileged to have met Nick as a newly arrived 1stGen freshman, and have watched in awe as he has evolved into a visionary member of his class. He is a confident, caring, and generous leader, whose capacity for effecting change is remarkable."

WAYS TO SUPPORT FIRST-GEN LOW-INCOME STUDENTS AT YALE

Did you know:

- 55% identify as members of a minority group
- 21% qualified for federal Pell Grants for low-income students

- 19% will be the first in their families to graduate from a four-year college
- 59% receive a Yale need-based financial aid award

(Statistics for the Yale College Class of 2024 from the Yale University Office of Undergraduate Admissions)

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 in April 2019, which is now part of Yale College Alumni Fund Student Support. Now, alumni & friends can support students directly in ways not covered by tuition, room and board, and financial aid. Thank you.

NOTE: Click to designate your gift towards Yale College Alumni Fund - Student Support.

[**DONATE TO SUPPORT YALE STUDENTS**](#)

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 would 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!

Connect with us through Yale's Cross Campus - [Cross Campus - 1stGenYale Group](#)

For 2021 graduating Yale students from all schools, be sure to email us with your new email address so we can keep in touch!

This report was created by Lydia Serrano (DC'99).
