NEWS

"You can't handle the truth!"
NATHAN JESSEP **A FEW GOOD MEN**

Heads of Saybrook, Morse and Berkeley to step down this year

BY OLIVIA WOO
STAFF REPORTER

Three heads of college will be stepping down from their roles at the end of the 2025-26 academic year, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis announced in a Monday afternoon email to undergraduates.

Upon completing their terms, all three heads will have served in their positions for over a decade — Thomas Near of Saybrook and Catherine Panter-Brick of Morse will have served for the maximum 11 years, and David Evans '92, head of Berkeley College, for 10.

"My time as HoC has reinforced my belief that education happens not just in classrooms, but in the daily rhythms of shared meals, late-night discussions, and the informal interactions that make college life transformative," Near wrote in an email to the News on Monday.

Ten years ago, the maximum number of years a head could serve was 10 years, or two five-year terms, Lewis said in a Monday interview with the News. Five years later, however, heads who had led their residential colleges through the pandemic, which Lewis said was "not the norm" for the role, became eligible to extend their tenures by one year.

Lewis said that the three heads all built "very, very strong communities in their colleges."

"When they came in, it was a somewhat difficult time around campus, and they then had COVID to deal with. So I've been very impressed with the way that they kept the residential culture community, not only going, but also very healthy and vibrant," Lewis said.

In an email to the Morse community on Monday morning, Panter-Brick, an anthropology professor, wrote that she had extended her time serving as head of college out of love for the Morse community.

"I am deeply attached to Morse, having lived here with Associate Head Mark Eggerman and our sons for eleven years," Panter-Brick wrote in the email. "I love this college and its lack of right angles, which feels like apt preparation for stepping into the future, with no guarantee of straight paths."

Panter-Brick also currently serves as chair of the Council of Heads of College, which meets approximately eight times per year to consider "matters relevant to all colleges," according to its website. The council also includes four standing committees, which meet on an ad hoc basis to manage matters such as college finances and the selection of Community and Performing Arts awards.

Lewis told the News that he will choose a new chair upon the recommendations of all of the sitting heads and hopes to name that chair around spring break.

Saybrook head Thomas Near, an Ecology & Evolutionary Biology professor, reminded students that he would be stepping down from the role of head at the end of this academic year in an email to the Saybrook community on Monday morning. Near noted that he had first announced last spring that the 2025-26 academic year would be his last as head.

Near wrote to the News that during his time as head, he has learned that leading a residential college "isn't about directing from above." Instead, leaders must be "present for the small moments and major milestones alike."

Berkeley head David Evans, an Earth & Planetary Sciences professor, wrote in an email to the News that his time as head has shown him the "extremely real diversity of life experiences of the current Yale student body."

"Ten years ago I thought I was being progressively respectful of diverse backgrounds when I made it a point to refer to that early Fall weekend as "Family Weekend" because some students might have lost their parents; and then quickly discovered that we have students among us who have also lost their entire families," Evans wrote. "Take nothing for granted behind the mask of calmness — some students, to their great testament and fortitude, are dealing daily with crises almost unimaginable."



YALE NEWS AND YALE DAILY NEWS

After having served for a decade or longer as heads of college, professors Thomas Near, Catherine Panter-Brick and David Evans will reach the end of their terms in May.

Near, Panter-Brick and Evans are the last sitting heads of college to have held the role of master — the naming switch from "master" to "head of college" occurred an hour after Evans was named Berkeley master. Near and Panter-Brick's inaugural semester as heads of college in the fall of 2015 coincided with advocacy for greater racial inclusivity that swept across campus.

Near wrote in his email to the News that the title change "reflected important conversations about language and inclusivity."

"If anything, I've seen the role evolve to be even more collaborative and student-centered," Near wrote. "The fundamentals of being present, listening, and fostering community haven't changed, but we always have to adapt our approaches to meet students where they are."

Upon stepping down from their roles, all heads and associate heads of college are appointed for life as fellows in their respective residential college communities, according to the Council of the Heads of College's website.

Lewis said that his office is "just at the very beginning" of the process for finding replacements for the three departing heads. During the selection process, applications for the position will be reviewed by committees made up of students and faculty affiliated with each of the three residential colleges.

"We've asked the faculty members to serve on the committee and we will be asking students in this coming week or so," Lewis said. "Each college will have roughly four students on the committee, and the students' job is to get student input on what the college is looking for in a head."

Lewis said that by the end of February, each of the three committees will have created a shortlist of applicants which he will then personally interview. He hopes to have made final decisions on the three replacements by late March or early April this year.

In his email to the News, Evans recounted several fond memories from his decade serving as head, including the time "when a first-year showed up in L-Dub with two rare individuals of an endangered species of aquatic newts."

"Obligated to enforce rules about pets on campus, my family took them into our house, including keeping a jar full of live earthworms in our fridge to feed them," Evans wrote.

At the end of the 2021-22 school year, three heads of college resigned from their posts, the same number that will resign at the end of this year.from their posts, the same number that will resign at the end of this year.

Contact **OLIVIA WOO** *at olivia.woo@yale.edu.*

Yale offering new study-abroad programs in Europe and Africa

BY OLIVIA WOO
STAFF REPORTER

For the first time, Yale will offer summer programs in Florence on painting basics and in London on threats to democracy for students looking to take their learning overseas.

According to Study Abroad Director Kelly McLaughlin, the launching of this year's new programming — which includes four completely new programs and one to be relaunched in a new location — "is on the higher end of change" often seen in Yale's study-abroad offerings.

This announcement of new programs comes after a controversial change to non-competitive funding for international experiences. Administrators announced in November that the International Study Award and Summer Experience Awards will be replaced by the Summer Experience Grant in summer 2027. With the change, eligible students will be prohibited from using need-based grants on non-Yale study-abroad programs.

"New programs come out of a mix of faculty and their departments reaching out to us with their ideas, often culminating in completion of a formal proposal, and our reaching out to particular faculty and departments when we might have an idea for a new program," McLaughlin wrote in a Tuesday email to the News. "So, great ideas for programs can come from any direction, really."

Applications for Yale Summer Session study-abroad programs are due on Tuesday, according to the Yale Study Abroad website. Students may apply to only one Yale-run study-abroad program.

If students wish to use their Summer Experience Grant on a Yale study-abroad program, they will receive funding in proportion to the financial aid percentage they receive during the academic year, according to the Yale Fellowships and Funding website.

As a result, Yale Study Abroad expects an increase in applications to Yale-run programs offered in 2027, McLaughlin said in the email, though he specified that the plans for expanding the programs taking place this summer began before the Summer Experience Grant was announced.

According to the per-student costs listed on the Yale Study Abroad website, the tuition and fees of attending one of these five programs amount, on average, to $14,404 per student for summer 2026.

Maria de Los Angeles, who is teaching a Yale program called "Painting Basics in Florence" this year, said in a Tuesday phone interview that the course has been in the works for nearly 15 months. According to de Los Angeles, the Florence program is the first study-abroad painting course to be offered by Yale in almost a decade.

"It's being put together from scratch, but I think what's cool is that it's not only a studio course abroad, where you're in the classroom and doing those types of things, but also there are some fun activities," de Los Angeles said.

Spanish professors Maria-Lourdes Sabé Colom and María de la Paz García wrote in an email to the News that the idea for "Catalonia in Modern Spain," which will take place in Barcelona, originated from Sabé, who is a native of Catalonia.

Sabé and García added that the course will be similar to other L5 courses offered at Yale but specifically focuses on topics relevant to the Catalan region.

Bonnie Weir, an assistant dean at the Jackson School for Global Affairs, will be teaching "Challenges to Democracy in Contemporary Europe" in London this summer. She wrote in an email to the News that while the course is one that can be taught in New Haven, "holding it in London will present exceptional - and, frankly, fun - learning opportunities."

"We can talk first-hand with and challenge diplomats and leaders from the U.K. and other European countries on the nature of threats to democracy and their various responses to those," Weir wrote. "We can immerse ourselves in day-to-day dynamics in Britain, which can help us to better understand the truly astounding surge in support for policy platforms appealing to radical right and populist sentiments there."

The course is a "direct response" to current politics worldwide, according to Weir, but will specifically address the "increasingly pressing" challenges to democracy taking place in Europe.

In addition to these three new courses, students are able to apply to take "Writing in Stockholm" with English professor Jake Halpern, whose description of the program exhorts students, "pack your hiking shoes; we'll be walking everywhere."

"Visual Approaches to Global Health," a program taught by Yale School of Medicine professor Jonathan Smith, combines epidemiological methodology and hands-on filmmaking to tackle global health issues. This year, the course will be offered in Cape Town, South Africa for the first time. Previously, it has taken place in Johannesburg and in Mbabane, Eswatini.

Students will receive their admissions decisions for all Yale Summer Session study-abroad programs in early March, according to the Yale Study Abroad website.

Contact **OLIVIA WOO** *at olivia.woo@yale.edu.*



ALEX HONG / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

This summer, students will be able to travel to Florence, Stockholm, London, Cape Town and Barcelona for Yale study-abroad programs.