NEWS

"In black ink my love may still shine bright"
SONNET 65 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Chinese language program has its most students in a decade

BY JOLYNDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

Spring enrollment in Yale's Chinese language program climbed to 345 students this semester, marking a decade-high level, according to program coordinator Fan Liu.

Chinese professors identified the program's strong relationships between students and instructors, an engaging and practical curriculum and cultural activities outside the classroom as factors for the growing enrollment. The program has increased its advanced-level course offerings in response to greater student interest, according to Chinese professor Ninghui Liang.

"We are thrilled to see the sustained and growing interest in Chinese language and culture among both undergraduate and graduate students," Liu wrote to the News. "The program continuously monitors evolving student interests and changing learning preferences to better serve our community."

Liu wrote that the program has undertaken several new initiatives to enhance student learning and boost interest.

Liu, along with Chinese professor Wen Zhang, introduced the course "Chinese for the Food Culture of China" for the first time last spring, as an advanced elective class for both heritage and non-heritage speakers.

"We have enhanced hands-on experiences across all courses to make Chinese a living part of students' lives," Liu wrote.

Liu emphasized that the program offers students multiple opportunities to practice Chinese and engage with Chinese culture, such as weekly Friday lunches and calligraphy sessions. The program also hosts an annual Chinese New Year celebration and a UN Chinese Language Day event on Cross Campus each April.

Chinese professor Mo Wu said that the Friday activities are open to classmates and friends who have never even studied Chinese before. She also said that these hands-on activities allow students to connect personally with the culture and draws students into the Chinese program community.

"I think every teacher in the Chinese program is kind of like your friend," Wu said in a Zoom interview. "In the classroom, we are your teachers, but every Friday afternoon, we are like your friends."

Chinese professor Ninghui Liang wrote that one potential factor that may contribute to the increasing trend in student enrollment is a shift in teaching philosophy. She explained that the program's professors are stressing lessons on language for real-life situations such as searching for apartments and buying snacks.

"This is indeed very encouraging news, especially given the current tensions in U.S.–China relations and the nationwide decline in enrollment in Chinese language programs," Liang wrote to the News. "Against this broader context, our program has continued to see steady growth, which we find both meaningful and motivating."

Chinese professor Rongzhen Li wrote that instructors' participation in AI pedagogy workshops at the Poorvu Center and workshops at the Center for Language Study has contributed to the program's growth by improving teaching methods.



ABBY ASSOUAD / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This semester, 345 students are enrolled in language courses, as the program expands its offerings with classes and events.

Jason Cao '29, a student in "Readings in Modern Chinese Fiction," wrote to the News that through these courses he can grow his passion for Chinese literature and political movements.

Tiffany Zhou '27, who is taking "Chinese for the Food Culture of China," said she joined the program initially to acquire a language certificate. However, she continued to take courses to learn more about her culture and become a more fluent speaker.

Isabella Greubel '28, who is taking "Readings in Modern Chinese Fiction" and "Introduction to Literary Chinese II," wrote that she was drawn to the program by its additional Shanghainese and Cantonese courses and the potential to apply for the Richard U. Light Fellowship, which lets Yale students study language in China, Korea and Japan. Last year, Greubel received the fellowship to study in Beijing.

Leslie Stone, the vice president of the Yale-China Association, suggested that the increase in Chinese language enrollment has contributed to an increase in applications for Yale-China's programs.

"Yale students and alumni understand the importance of U.S.-China understanding and people-to-people engagement during these turbulent times," Stone wrote.

Mya Fisher, the director of the Richard U. Light Fellowship, wrote to the News that "over the past five years, application volume has remained relatively steady across Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language applicants and does not fluctuate in direct response to enrollment changes in any single language program."

Yale established a Chinese language program in 1936.

Contact **JOLYNDA WANG** *at jolynda.wang@yale.edu.*

Law School enrollment steady as graduate school cuts seats

BY HENRY LIU
STAFF REPORTER

Yale's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is decreasing its enrollment as the University anticipates an endowment tax hike this year. But at Yale Law School, enrollment is remaining steady.

While the graduate school provides healthcare and living stipends for students, the Law School charges students for tuition, meaning that enrollment is a "source of revenue," according to Sterling professor and former Law School dean Robert Post LAW '77.

"One way to respond to the tax is to increase enrollment to increase your income," Post said. "We don't use our endowment to subsidize students the way that the endowment of the graduate school does."

In a statement to the News, Law School spokesperson Alden Ferro wrote that "Yale Law School is not planning any significant changes to its enrollment." Yale Law School's tuition for the 2025-2026 school year is $76,636. It enrolls roughly 600 to 630 J.D. students, most of whom receive some financial aid.

The endowment tax increase that President Donald Trump signed into law last year has led the University to tighten its budget through a 90-day hiring freeze, a 5 percent reduction in non-salary expenses and a one-time retirement incentive for managerial and professional staff. In December, administrators warned of potential layoffs as departments downsize.

In a Zoom interview with the News, Post explained that while enrollment is a financial loss for graduate schools, it is a source of revenue for the Law School. Post said that while the Law School awards scholarships, enrollment is a source of income "on the whole."

Post recalled that when he became dean in 2009, the Law School's endowment had decreased by 35 percent due to the Great Recession. As a result, the Law School increased enrollment to bolster its revenue, he said.

However, Post said that the endowment tax increase could decrease scholarship resources, since the Law School's scholarships are funded by its endowment. That includes programs such as the Soledad LAW '92 and Robert Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program, which now supports a record high 96 law students.

"If the endowment goes down, then our scholarship resources go down," Post said, but called it a "whole different dynamic" than the challenges faced by the graduate school.

Yale recently announced cuts to the graduate programs, reducing enrollment by approximately 13 percent in the humanities and social sciences and by 5 percent in STEM fields over the next three years.

Other institutions have made even steeper cuts. Harvard announced a 50 percent reduction in Ph.D. admissions slots in science departments.

Contact **HENRY LIU** *at henry.liu.hal52@yale.edu.*

Residents of 14-floor tower in Morse bemoan elevator outage

BY NELLIE KENNEY
STAFF REPORTER

The elevator in Morse College's 14-story tower has been broken since Monday morning.

Issues with the tower's elevator began on move-in day this year, when an elevator breakdown left students to haul their belongings up the stairs to the tower's higher floors, tower resident Xinzhi Qiu '27 said in a phone interview. Several residents of the tower said that elevator breakages have been a recurring problem all school year.

A Yale Facilities spokesperson did not immediately respond to the News' question about how many times the elevator has broken down this year. The current outage, which was ongoing as of Tuesday night, began on Monday morning, residents said.

"I woke up yesterday to go to class, I pressed the elevator button. It wasn't working. It would just glow a little bit, and then it just never came up," Kyle Romans '27, who lives on the tower's 13th floor, said.

For Romans and other students living on the tower's top floors, the elevator outage has been a hassle. Some have said that carrying laundry up and down the stairs was a hurdle.

"It's as if I didn't already feel like Sisyphus struggling against the burden of a physics p-set every week," Eric Claassen '27, who lives on the tenth floor, wrote in a text message. "Now, every time I come home I must trudge up 10 flights of stairs to get to my lofty perch in morse tower."

Karim Najjar '27 said in a phone interview that the elevator outage has made him avoid returning to his room "until the very end of the day" to avoid the dreaded climb. When Najjar ran out of water in his room on Monday night, he said, the "prospect of going all the way down to fill it up and then all the way back up made it not worth it."

Qiu, who lives on the tenth floor, said that on previous occasions when the elevator has broken down, it has usually been repaired within one business day. This time, he said, the wait has been "particularly long." He guessed that Yale Facilities may have "their hands full" at the moment, referring to a sprinkler pipe failure that drenched dorm rooms in Lawrance Hall on Monday.

Qiu said he "put in a call" to Facilities on Tuesday morning and was told that they had received two work orders about the issue and would fix it as soon as possible.

Facilities representative Ayde Lyons wrote in an email Tuesday evening that Facilities is "looking into this," but did not immediately answer questions about previous elevator issues or suggest a time frame for repairs.

Qiu, who lives on the tenth floor, said that he "doesn't know how" people who have injuries or disabilities fare when the elevator is down. Other residents echoed this sentiment.

Sarah Senatus '27 also said that she had been "wondering" how people with injuries or disabilities could reach the higher floors. The situation is "actually ridiculous, especially considering how high up people live," she said.

Morse Head of College Catherine Panter-Brick and Dean Blake Trimble did not immediately respond to questions about whether the college has a plan in place for students unable to climb to higher floors when the elevator is down.

Lichel Johnston '27 said that aside from "daily inconveniences," the outage has been a wake-up call to how much students living in the tower rely on the elevator. The elevator is an opportunity for a "quick catch up" with friends, she added, a facet which she has missed in the past two days.

Morse College was built in 1962.

Contact **NELLIE KENNEY** *at nellie.kenney@yale.edu.*



NELLIE KENNEY / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The only elevator in the dormitory building has not been working since Monday morning, requiring some residents to climb up and down many flights of stairs.