

FROM THE FRONT

“I keep turning over new leaves, and spoiling them, as I used to spoil my copybooks; and I make so many beginnings there never will be an end.”
LOUISA MAY ALCOTT LITTLE WOMEN

School loses top U.S. News spot

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awarded Yale’s post-graduate fellowships for public service as unemployed. Using public data, U.S. News continued to rank Yale Law School and other schools that stopped reporting data. Several law students and professors largely dismissed the significance of the Law School’s new rank.

In a statement to the News, Law School spokesperson Alden Ferro wrote that the school “is focused on providing a rigorous and excellent legal education and increasing access and opportunity to law school and the profession,” adding that “we are proud to have sparked a movement away from these rankings four years ago.”

After Yale announced that it would stop submitting data to U.S. News for its law school rankings, Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, Berkeley and Georgetown also announced they would stop providing data. According to the Washington Post, 62 law schools did not provide data for the rankings as of 2023.

Sterling professor Akhil Reed Amar ’80 LAW ’84 cast the rankings in a different light, saying “we’ve never been number one in every respect, but we’re still clearly number one in many of the most important respects,” specifying Yale’s “intellectual tradition” and its “dominance” in producing the next generation of leaders and scholars.

According to the latest U.S. News rankings, Yale is ranked first for three graduate subjects – history, constitutional law and fine arts.

In 2019, Amar wrote an opinion article for the Los Angeles Times criticizing the rankings as imperfect. Amar told the News that he “stands by every word” of that article, emphasizing that he wrote it when “Yale was indisputably number one.”

In the article, Amar praised the effect the rankings had on Yale’s image, writing “thanks to U.S. News, most recruits need little persuasion; we have them at ‘hello.’ So my grapes are not sour and my gripes are not self-serving.”

Professor and former Law School Dean Harold Koh bashed the rankings as flawed and useless.

“We don’t need, and have never needed, US News to tell us who



Kalina Sabala Montes / Contributing Photographer
After decades of holding the top spot in U.S. News’ annual rankings of top law schools, Yale Law School is now tied with the University of Chicago for second place, and Stanford holds the top spot.

we are. The whole point of leaving these rankings, which everyone knows are deeply flawed, was not having to care about how a magazine fiddles each year with its rankings to help sell more magazines,” Koh wrote to the News. “Are they piqued because we left? Who knows or cares?”

“But Yale Law School has always judged itself by its own values, and it is and will continue to be the exact same unique school today as it was yesterday,” he added.

Eric Gertler, the executive chairman and CEO of U.S. News, has defended his company’s rankings. In an opinion article published in the Wall Street Journal in 2023, Gertler wrote, “But absent U.S. News’s academic rankings, it’s difficult to find accurate, comprehensive information that empowers students to compare institutions and identify the factors that matter most to them.”

“Our rankings don’t capture every nuance. Academic institutions aren’t monolithic or static; comparing them across a common data set can be challenging,” he continued. “But we reject our critics’ paternalistic view that students are somehow incapable of discerning for themselves from this information which school is the best fit.”

Students were also critical or indifferent about the new rankings.

Sam Haddad LAW ’26 wrote to the News that he does not find U.S. News’ rankings credible in assessing law schools, calling their methodology “deficient.”

“US News and World Report should utilize criteria that actually matter: student well-being, postgraduate debt, and long-term employment outcomes, not circular, elitist categories like ‘selectivity’ or ‘reputation,’” Haddad wrote to the News.

Hannah Terrapin LAW ’26 wrote to the News that she felt most students were “apathetic” about the change in rankings because they were aware that Gerken had stopped reporting data to U.S. News to allow the school to focus more on low-income students and students pursuing public-interest careers.

“I have benefitted tremendously from the Law School’s generous financial aid, so it will always remain #1 in my heart, regardless of what US News reports,” Terrapin wrote.

U.S. News has published its report ranking universities and colleges since 1983.

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Justice to lecture on emergency docket

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the Supreme Court’s current conservative supermajority.

Jackson was nominated to the court in 2022 by then-President Joe Biden and took her seat that summer. Jackson has voted consistently with the court’s liberal bloc and has authored forceful solo dissents, some of which have drawn the ire of conservatives and her fellow justices.

In a case last year in which the Supreme Court ruled that lower courts could not block President Donald Trump’s executive order limiting birthright citizenship through nationwide injunctions, Jackson issued a foreboding dissent.

She wrote that the court’s decision would allow “executive lawlessness” to flourish. “Eventually, executive power will become completely uncontrollable, and our beloved constitutional Republic will be no more,” Jackson wrote.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, writing for the majority, called out Jackson by name.

“We will not dwell on Justice Jackson’s argument, which is at odds with more than two centuries’ worth of precedent, not to mention the Constitution itself,” Barrett wrote, adding that Jackson “decries an imperial Executive while embracing an imperial Judiciary.”

In an interview with the News, Sterling professor Akhil Reed Amar ’80 LAW ’84 praised Jackson’s ques-

tioning at the Supreme Court’s birthright citizenship case last Wednesday. Amar filed an amicus brief in the case and was present in the courtroom during oral arguments.

“She was absolutely spectacular in the birthright citizenship case at oral argument,” Amar said, calling it “a really triumphant performance on her part.”

When asked about Jackson’s philosophy as a justice, Amar demurred, saying that “it takes a while sometimes to grow into the role” and argued that Jackson was “now perhaps at an inflection point.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor ’79 gave the James A. Thomas Lecture in 2014. Other past speakers for the lecture have included Randall Kennedy LAW ’82, a professor at Harvard Law School, and Chai Feldblum, an activist for LGBTQ rights.

The lecture series was created in 1989 to honor James Thomas LAW ’64, a long-serving associate dean of the Law School who oversaw admissions for 35 years.

Ilani Nurick LAW ’27 wrote that he was excited to hear from Jackson because the talk would offer an opportunity to see how abstract classroom principles are applied in the courtroom.

Jackson graduated from Harvard Law School in 1996.

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Tim Tai
The Supreme Court’s newest member, who has written forceful dissents against conservative rulings, is set to deliver a lecture about the court’s emergency docket before a Law School audience in Battell Chapel on Monday.

Dwight Hall leaders announce flat-rate storage option

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age is a challenge” and stressed that the aid’s end “was not a new decision, but I recognize that we could have communicated it more effectively.”

The Dwight Hall leaders’ email included a link to an interest form for the program, which asks students for their name, NetID and a confirmation that they believe they “meet all eligibility criteria.” Students will “likely qualify” for the storage option if their home address is more than 150 miles from Yale’s campus, if they live on campus and if they are eligible both for a full federal Pell Grant award and a “zero parent share” financial aid award.

“At this stage, our response from students has been robust

but is within the projected range of demand we anticipated,” Allen wrote to the News on Tuesday evening, referring to the volume of student responses to the interest form. “I’m personally in active discussions with several alumni and donors who are deeply passionate about issues of student equity at Yale. We are prepared to quickly scale up the infrastructure as donor support accelerates.”

Over 1,000 current undergraduates qualify for a “zero parent share” award, according to a Yale News article. The Dwight Hall storage option will not be available to students who live in nearby cities like New York City and Boston, given that they fall within 150 miles of New Haven.

Last summer, Yale College disbursed up to \$225 of summer storage aid to students who fell

under similar criteria. According to an email sent last April, the aid was available to “on-campus residents during both the Spring 2025 and Fall 2025 terms, with a parent share of up to \$10,000 and whose permanent residency zip code exceeds 150 miles from New Haven.”

Ruiz said on Monday night that the Dwight Hall initiative was the first supplementary aid program for low-income students to come from Dwight Hall’s Student Executive Committee, and was spearheaded by Allen in his role as the inaugural student equity coordinator.

“We just created the role this year. And so this is exactly the type of work that we wanted him to be doing,” Ruiz said of Allen. “It really aligns with Dwight Hall’s goal, which is to be passionate about public service and help at-risk communities, and that includes marginalized students at Yale just as much as it includes all the other marginalized communities that we engage with.”

In a Tuesday morning email to the student body, YCC President Andrew Boanoh ’27 and Vice President Jalen Bradley ’27 thanked “friends at Dwight Hall” for the storage solution and encouraged students to use it as “an avenue to spend” the YCC stipends that will be disbursed in the coming weeks.

In the email, Boanoh and Bradley also solicited support for a forthcoming referendum that would ask whether students “condemn the Yale administration for raising tuition while reducing investment in undergraduate student life.” The bill proposing the referendum – separate from the stipend pro-

gram – passed unanimously at the final YCC Senate session of the semester on Sunday.

Ruiz said Boanoh and Bradley had been “thought partners” amid Dwight Hall’s formulation of the storage solution.

“The stipend program is wonderful, and I’m really happy that they’re doing something for FGLI students, and we also are doing our own thing,” Ruiz said. “There’s no competitiveness between the two, it definitely came from a collaboration of like, let’s put our minds together and figure out, ‘What are the ways that we can help students as much as possible?’”

Ruiz characterized the storage solution as an “emergency response” to the confirmation that student aid would be phased out. Last year, low-income students received notification from Yale College administrators about the summer storage support available to them on April 11.

Anthony Arcangelo ’29 said on Tuesday that he was glad to learn of Dwight Hall’s storage solution, adding that “as a consumer, it’s always good to have options.” Arcangelo lives in East Haven and said that he had offered up his home to his suitemates before the storage option and stipend programs were announced.

He said that a day after he had learned that Yale College summer storage funding would end, he received an email from a storage company listing storage services that were “super expensive.”

“I was like, dude, there’s no way I’m gonna make my suitemates pay for this next year,” Arcangelo said. “I just sent out a text, like, ‘Hey, if anybody needs to store anything’ – because

they’re not from here – ‘I could find space in my house.’”

A Yale College-sponsored summer storage guide from last year estimated the cost of unsubsidized summer storage – excluding transportation and supplies – to be upwards of \$390.

For \$50, the newly announced Dwight Hall storage option will hold student belongings in “secure, fully insured, weather-proof storage containers that will be stored in an access-controlled off-site location managed by a private company,” Allen wrote.

“We’ve worked around the clock over the past week to negotiate discounted rates and terms most favorable to our FGLI peers,” he added.

Dwight Hall leaders also solicited Camp Yale student leaders – who stay on campus after classes end in May and move in earlier than most students in August – to support the transportation of their peers’ belongings to and from storage units. An email sent on Monday to incoming FOCUS leaders offered pay of \$22 per hour, to be earned during 4-hour shifts from May 4 to 7 and Aug. 24 to 27.

John Robert Walker ’28, an advocacy coordinator at Dwight Hall, said he “organized outreach to various Camp Yale Programs to get the initiative fully staffed.” According to Walker, over 60 students have filled out a non-binding form stating their interest in working the program.

Dwight Hall was founded at Yale in 1886.

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Logan Dinkins / Staff Photographer
Student leaders at Dwight Hall plan to offer a \$50 storage option – another response to the phaseout of Yale College’s financial support for summer storage, after the Yale College Council approved its own plan to provide stipends to some students.