

“We start out walking and learn to run, and yes, we’ve just begun.”
WE’VE ONLY JUST BEGUN THE CARPENTERS

Slain Yale alumna remembered for warmth, drive

BY OLIVIA CYRUS & ISOBEL MCCLURE
STAFF REPORTERS

Waiting in line at the Yale Bookstore to purchase books for her first semester at Yale, Elyssa Friedland ’03 eyed Wesley Mittman ’03 standing behind her. Here was someone she might want to get to know, Friedland thought.

They introduced themselves, Friedland said, and Mittman — who later took the name LePatner from her husband — volunteered that she thought they could be friends. They walked to Old Campus together, talking along the way.

Wesley Mittman LePatner was among the four people killed in a shooting at a Midtown Manhattan office building on July 28.

Her death at age 43 shocked her friends and members of the broader Yale and New York communities who watched her rise thanks to what they described as a singular mix of brilliance, compassion and drive. LePatner ticked off traditional benchmarks of success while devoting herself to others, friends said — until a gunman fatally shot her in the lobby of the Park Avenue skyscraper where she worked as an executive at the investment firm Blackstone.

“She rose to her position through sheer hard work, but also genuine likability. She wanted everyone around her to succeed,” Friedland said.

In an email to the News, Sarah Indyk ’03, another Yale classmate, called LePatner “magnetic, effervescent, savvy, brilliant.” She added: “Wesley was truly one of a kind.”

LePatner’s parents, Larry and Elyn Mittman, are both lawyers. They raised her with a strong sense of Jewish traditions, Indyk wrote. LePatner graduated in 1999 from the prestigious Horace Mann School.

At Yale, LePatner was a dedicated and intellectual student, several classmates and a professor told the News. LePatner graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in history.

Professor Tim Barringer, an art historian who taught LePatner, remembered her prowess in the subject.

“I will never forget Wesley’s sparkling presence in the classroom: She was deeply committed to scholarship, creative, witty, and warmly supportive of her peers,” Barringer wrote to the News.

LePatner visited Yale in the spring to see the reopened Yale Center for British Art, according to Barringer. After the Metropolitan Museum of Art named LePatner a trustee in February, Barringer received an appreciative email from her saying that working with Yale’s collections had “awakened” her love for art.

In college, LePatner was a First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips leader, a head campus tour guide and a first-year counselor, or FroCo.

Alex Milsom ’03, a fellow FOOT leader, said LePatner was eager to lead her first trip. “Any freshman who would be assigned to her group was always very lucky, because she was so hands on and nurturing and kind,” Milsom said.

LePatner’s work as a FroCo was no different. Kate Crandall ’06 — a member of LePatner’s FroCo group in Calhoun College, now called Grace Hopper — recalled that LePatner caringly helped her through a challenging time her first year.

After graduating, LePatner worked at Goldman Sachs as managing director in the real estate investment group.

“I think that she had a strong sense of achievement,” said Michael Schulman ’03, a writer who attended high school and college



COURTESY OF SAM YEBRI '03

with LePatner and recently memorialized her in a New Yorker essay. Goldman Sachs, he said, “was sort of the default place to go, having grown up in Manhattan and been such a star student.”

LePatner arrived at Blackstone in 2014 and became the chief executive officer of Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust in January.

Emily Hurstak ’03 described LePatner as intensely humble — so much so that Hurstak was often unaware of the many impressive things her friend was doing.

Hurstak recalled listening to LePatner introduce her once with such flattering words that Hurstak almost did not recognize herself as the person being described.

“Wesley had a unique ability to elevate other people in a truly

effective and genuine way. She was authentically thrilled for other people’s successes and achievements,” Hurstak wrote to the News.

In addition to the Met’s, LePatner served on boards for a Jewish day school and the UJA-Federation of New York, a Jewish organization.

LePatner donated extensively to Yale, reaching the level of the Sterling Fellows, who have committed at least \$1 million to the University. She was a member of the “For Humanity” fundraising campaign committee and the Yale University Library Council.

LePatner and her husband, Evan Harris LePatner ’03, are recognized on a plaque in Sterling Memorial Library’s Linonia and Brothers reading room, whose renovation the couple helped fund.

Jessie Rossman ’03 wrote to the News that LePatner was a “regular companion” on trips to Yorkside Pizza & Restaurant, just outside the library, to “pick up anything eggplant-related.”

According to Katie Cole ’03, another friend, Sterling was LePatner’s favorite place on campus. Cole said LePatner loved the “peacefulness and community of the library,” particularly the L&B room.

“As her friend, you just knew not to open any loud snacks in her vicinity,” Cole told the News.

LePatner is survived by her two children.

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COURTESY OF KATIE COLE

LePatner ’03, front, with Sarah Indyk ’03, Louise Davis Langheier ’03, Emily Hurstak ’03, Jessie Rossman ’03, Katie Cole ’03.



COURTESY OF KATIE COLE

Wesley Mittman LePatner ’03, right, with Louise Davis Langheier ’03.

Students must replace old ID cards before Sept. 9

BY JERRY GAO
STAFF REPORTER

Current Yale identification cards will cease to work in residential colleges by Sept. 9 as part of the University’s ongoing effort to replace ID scanners.

Yale’s information technology office first announced it would be replacing ID scanners on June 13, citing newer technology as “necessary to better protect” campus. Now, students have until Monday, Sept. 8, to replace any IDs issued before July 2.

According to a statement from Yale’s media office, the upgraded technology includes “modern encryption and authentication features.”

Undergraduates across all residential colleges will be able to pick up new IDs in specific locations across the next week and a half.

The first phase of the upgrade will focus on scanners in residential colleges, with academic, administrative and research facilities to follow, according to the University’s statement. Approximately 1,200 new readers

have already been replaced, the statement said.

The previous ID system was piloted in the 1990s and implemented fully in the early 2000s, according to the statement.

However, by the late 2000s, cards based on radio-frequency identification technology — or RFID — were found to be vulnerable to duplication.

In April, Yale Police Department officers arrested a person on Cross Campus after tracking a cloned ID card used to gain access to Berkeley College.

A student who obtained access to most residential colleges by cloning his friends’ IDs described the cloning process as relatively straightforward. The student, who spoke to the News on the condition of anonymity because duplicating an ID violates undergraduate rules, said it was possible to tap someone else’s ID to a relatively cheap device and “have access to their swipes.”

Universities such as MIT, Stanford and Duke have issued digital student IDs accessible on phones. Duke switched exclusively to digital cards in 2023, only issuing physical IDs for student voter registration.

Daniel Lai, a sophomore at Duke, said in an interview that the digital IDs were convenient for accessing student dormitories.

“Basically you can just have your card on your phone,” Lai said. “If you go to the newer dorms on Duke’s campus, you can swipe into your dorm room with your card.”

The Wednesday email from Yale’s Information Technology Services office said that holding an iPhone near the new ID scanners may cause Apple Pay to appear.

“Our testing has confirmed that the reader will not access any personal information,” the email said.



RACHEL MAK / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Undergraduates with IDs issued before July 2 must pick up new IDs due to security concerns.

According to the University media office, the rollout of new IDs for all students will not affect the price for an individual replacement ID, which is \$20 according to a Yale Public Safety website.

Yale’s Central Campus ID Center is located on 57 Lock St.

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When and where to pick up new IDs by college

College	Date	Location
Benjamin Franklin and Pauli Murray Colleges	Sep. 2 to Sep. 3	Franklin Prospect St. entrance
Morse and Ezra Stiles Colleges	Sep. 2 to Sep. 3	Stiles entrance in alley across from Sherkaan Restaurant near entryway B
Pierson and Davenport Colleges	Sep. 2 to Sep. 3	Davenport Park St. entrance near Entryway M
Trumbull and Saybrook Colleges	Sep. 2 to Sep. 3	Trumbull Elm St. entrance to Dining Hall
Branford and Jonathan Edwards Colleges	Sep. 4 to Sep. 5	Branford Library Walk entrance closest to York St. near Entryway N
Grace Hopper and Berkeley Colleges	Sep. 4 to Sep. 5	Berkeley Elm St. entrance by High St. near Entryway D
Timothy Dwight and Silliman Colleges	Sep. 4 to Sep. 5	Silliman College St. entrance near Entryway E

Locations are open from 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.