FROM THE FRONT

" To make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from."
T.S. ELIOT POET AND ESSAYIST

One-time-only course offers overview of American history

AMERICA AT 250 FROM PAGE 1

"The more that Yale can open itself up to the larger community, the better its relations will be, and the more the community will grow and develop from the exchange of ideas," she said.

Buzzell, 79, added that being in a room with undergraduates is "energizing."

"They have perspectives that I don't have," she said. "They have experiences that I don't have. They're really growing up in a very different world, and I want to hear about it."

Arthur Nacht DRA '06, a fellow at Saybrook College, was enthused by the course's relevance today.

"The opportunity to hear a course with a grand view, such as a sweep of 250 years, is very exciting," Nacht said. "History is still in us and is affecting everything that's happening in the current moment."

After the first class, Freeman told the News that she found the high turnout "cheering."

"To see this many people, students and in the community, this interested in learning history at this moment – – it doesn't get better, right?" she said.

Freeman said the short time frame of the course poses a unique challenge.

While teaching about the American Revolution normally takes her a whole semester, she said, she will dedicate only one lecture to the topic in this course.

Each professor is slated to teach eight lectures based on their areas of expertise.

"With 2026 upon us, there couldn't be a better moment for the three of us to be thinking about big questions in American history so that people here can go and think for themselves next year as to how they're thinking about the past, how they're thinking about the present, how they're thinking about the future," Freeman said.

The DeVane lecture series began in 1969, named after former Yale College Dean William Clyde DeVane, according to the website of the University president's office, which sponsors the series.

Jaeha Jang and Olivia Woo contributed reporting.

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Students and locals filled Battell Chapel, which seats 850 people, for the course's first lecture. / **Jaeha Jang, Contributing Photographer**

Yale still spared from Trump targeting

TRUMP FROM PAGE 1

diversity" as justification for the punitive measures.

In July, the White House restored the $175 million in funding to Penn after it agreed to remove former swimmer Lia Thomas' individual records. Thomas is transgender. Penn also agreed to specify that its athletics department would "adopt biology-based definitions for the words 'male' and 'female.'"

Columbia likewise agreed to pay a $200 million fine and enact sweeping policy changes in exchange for the return of federal grants terminated by Trump's punitive cuts.

Trump has demanded at least a $500 million settlement from Harvard. Harvard has since sued the federal government over freezes to its federal research grants. The university's president, Alan Garber, has publicly criticized the Trump administration's moves against universities. Garber has indicated Harvard will not pay the $500 million fine.

Though University President Maurie McInnis accepted a Yale committee's recommendation in fall 2024 that university leaders refrain from taking public political stances, Yale joined 17 other universities in filing an amicus brief supporting Harvard's case against the federal government in June.

During the summer, when a Republican proposal to increase the tax on universities' endowment gains moved through Congress, McInnis prominently announced her opposition to the provision and urged Yale community members to advocate against it. Although the ultimate tax-and-spending bill, signed into law on July 4, set the tax at 8 percent — lower than the originally proposed 21 percent — the University has announced a series of budget-tightening measures in its wake, including hiring freezes and delayed construction projects.

"I'm very fortunate that our school has not been as deeply affected as some of these other schools," Jack Ludwick '28 said in an interview. "My financial aid was never at risk, my housing situation was never at risk. I'm really grateful that none of those things have been dramatically affected so far."

Though students interviewed by the News were relieved Yale had thus far avoided direct penalties, some questioned the price.

When Trump first took office in his second term, McInnis told the News that her priority was to work with legislators behind the scenes and avoid making public statements. The University also invested heavily in lobbying efforts, outspending all but one of its Ivy peers on lobbying during the second quarter of 2025.

Zach Pan '27 described the Trump attacks as "100 percent political" and said that other universities were targeted due to their presidents "putting their foot in their mouth."

"Yale's disciplined and drama-free approach has shielded us for now," Pan said.

Despite feelings of unease, the prospect of the first day of classes still carried the usual jubilance of reunions and new beginnings for interviewed students.

For now, Yale remains largely untouched. But many students feel that could change at any time.

"He could finger-paint a middle finger to Yale anytime he wants," Conor Webb '28 said of Trump. "We're not spared."

In the 2024 fiscal year, Yale received approximately $900 million in grants from the federal government, according to the provost's office.

Jonas Loesel contributed reporting.

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State, Yale officials tight-lipped after electrocution

CONTRACTOR FROM PAGE 1

The victim — identified as male in a brief statement from Yale on Saturday — was employed by the Stamford-based landscaping company Eastern Land Management. He was killed after touching a live electrical wire that had fallen down in a storm, according to the University statement.

New Haven Fire Department first responders were at the scene, but officers in the city police department were not, according to the New Haven Police Department's public information officer Christian Bruckhart. New Haven's fire marshals office did not respond to a phone call from the News asking for clarification about the incident.

Bruckhart attributed his department's absence to a jurisdictional division between the New Haven Police Department and the Yale Police Department.

The golf course is on Yale property and therefore under the jurisdiction of the Yale police. Yale Police Chief Anthony Campbell '95 DIV '09 wrote in a text message that he was not in New Haven at the time of the contractor's death. He did not answer two further calls from the News.

The department did not send a message to Yale students about the contractor's electrocution.

A spokesperson for the Connecticut medical examiner confirmed that the contractor's cause of death was electrocution and that it was accidental, but the office has declined to share more information.

Alder Amy Marx LAW '00, whose ward in Westville includes the golf course, told the News she did not know any details about the victim.

"My heart goes out to the family and friends for their loss and we hope that out of this tragedy there can be more community understanding of the dangers of live wires and the importance of safety when a tree has fallen in the neighborhood," Marx said in a phone interview.

She added that she was on the scene after he was electrocuted but declined to share more information for this article.

Six neighbors living near the golf course told the News they had no information about the electrocution.

The regional manager for Eastern Land Management did not respond to the News' request for comment.

Eastern Land Management's President and CEO Bruce Moore Jr. expressed his sympathy for the victim in a statement to the News but declined to comment further.

"Our focus has been supporting our employee's family and our team members that were affected by this tragic accident," Moore wrote to the News.

Anastasia Mixsell, a tree system coordinator for the New Haven Parks Department, wrote in a statement to the News that she did not know about the storm or the downed tree.

"If this tree and incident was on Yale's property, Yale would be in the best position to comment," she wrote.

As of Thursday evening, Yale officials have not commented beyond the original statement shared with the News on Saturday.

"Yale offers its deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of the deceased," the statement read.

James M. Hoak Jr. '66, a former Yale golfer who helped lead the fundraising effort to renovate the course, is quoted in a press release from Yale's "For Humanity" capital campaign calling the course "a Rembrandt."

Reeti Malhotra contributed reporting.

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University and state officials have stayed tight-lipped about a contractor's death while working on the Yale Golf Course last Thursday./ **Jake Robbins, Contributing Photographer**