FROM THE FRONT

"Blue lights all around / I'm with you until all this is over"
OROT KCHULIM OMER ADAM

Student advocacy helped bring back fall fundraiser

CHARITY FROM PAGE 1

place in Boston — and March 5.

Kaminski said that through collaboration with YHHAP and Yale Hospitality, the YCC was able to restore a "historical tradition" through which students could support the broader New Haven community twice a year. Funds are typically donated to nonprofits that address food and housing insecurity.

In fall 2024, YHHAP raised $18,360 for local nonprofits Sunrise Cafe, Witnesses to Hunger, Amistad House and New Reach under its traditional swipe-donation model. After Yale Hospitality changed the fundraiser's structure, the fast raised $15,066 in spring 2025 and $13,418 in spring 2026, with the latter fundraiser allowing students to donate dining points, according to YHHAP organizers.

Jodi Smith Westwater, assistant vice president of Yale Hospitality, said last fall that the unlimited dining hall access available to students on the full meal plan complicated the process of determining the value of donated meal swipes. Under the new agreement, students will again be able to donate under the traditional meal swipe model, and the donation period will be extended from three days to one week.

In a Monday email to the News, Westwater wrote that Yale Hospitality viewed collaboration with students as an opportunity to support their efforts and foster broader community impact.

"Yale Hospitality values our work with many student organizations, including YHHAP, and the structure of those collaborations continues to evolve over time," Westwater wrote.

Jimmy O'Connell '28, a YHHAP co-director, said in a phone interview that YCC President Alex William Chen '28 and Vice President Michelle Jimenez '28 reached out to YHHAP over the summer on behalf of the YCC and its dining policy team, seeking the return of a second fast. O'Connell said that the group later met with Yale Hospitality, which agreed to bring back the fast for both semesters.



Jerry Gao / Contributing Photographer
The Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project fast, through which students can donate a day's worth of their meal plan value to New Haven charities, will return to its biannual schedule after Yale Hospitality limited the fundraiser last year.

He said that the return of the fundraiser will allow students to make a relatively small contribution that can have a larger impact on community organizations and New Haven residents experiencing food and housing insecurity.

"It's a simple act of donating that can go a long way," O'Connell said.

Chen said in a phone interview that bringing back the fall semester fast aligns with the goals of his council campaign in "ensuring that Yale is doing its part to support the New Haven community and allowing meaningful avenues for students who have done this for, I think, almost 50 years now to do the same thing."

"The YCC is committed to genuinely engaging with and supporting the New Haven community. YHHAP has historically supported the New Haven community through their fasts, starting in 1974," Jimenez wrote. "Any change that limited the impact the fast was having on the community was a concern for the YCC, so we partnered with YHHAP in their advocacy efforts."

Kate Johnson '27, a YHHAP fast co-chair, said the student council played a significant role in advocating for the fundraiser's return.

"In the grand scheme of things, it's not that much money out of Yale Hospitality's pocket," Johnson said. "It's not worth the bad press that they were receiving."

A 1974 fast organized by the then-Yale Hunger Action Project raised $5,000.

Contact
ANAYAH ACCILIEN *at*
anayah.accilien@yale.edu.

Departure shocked some Yalies

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ups in the YCDO. But everyone is afraid for their job," the account wrote under the News' post.

Kirsten Polk '28, a Berkeley student, said the posts "felt too soon" and that she was not a fan of their timing.

She said that the posts were "kind of the only indication" that Cruvinel Santiago had not left on her own terms, though she said she did not have the context on the matter.

Maryam Abbas '29, who is also in Berkeley, said that learning of the dean's departure was "shocking."

"It was really sad just because I feel like she was probably the most supportive person in Berkeley College. I also knew a lot of friends who also had very similar experiences and also felt similar shock," Abbas said in a phone interview.

Berkeley student Sergio Rey Hernandez '28 said that during her tenure, Cruvinel Santiago often advertised the pet account and often hosted office hours for students to visit with Fubá.

"It's obvious that she has a pretty strong and emotional connection with Fubá more than most people would with their pets. At least for the students, the extent of our interaction was petting Fubá," Rey Hernandez said in a phone interview.

Earlier this year, a video of Fubá was uploaded onto the account's story with the caption, "When you're just doing your thing as you should but mean humans make you step down anyway."

Asked about the pet account's comment on the article covering Lewis' reappointment review, Yale College senior associate dean Paul McKinley DRA '96 declined to comment since the subject was "personnel matter," he wrote in an email to the News.

Cruvinel Santiago declined to comment for this article and did not respond to a request for comment on McKinley's statement.

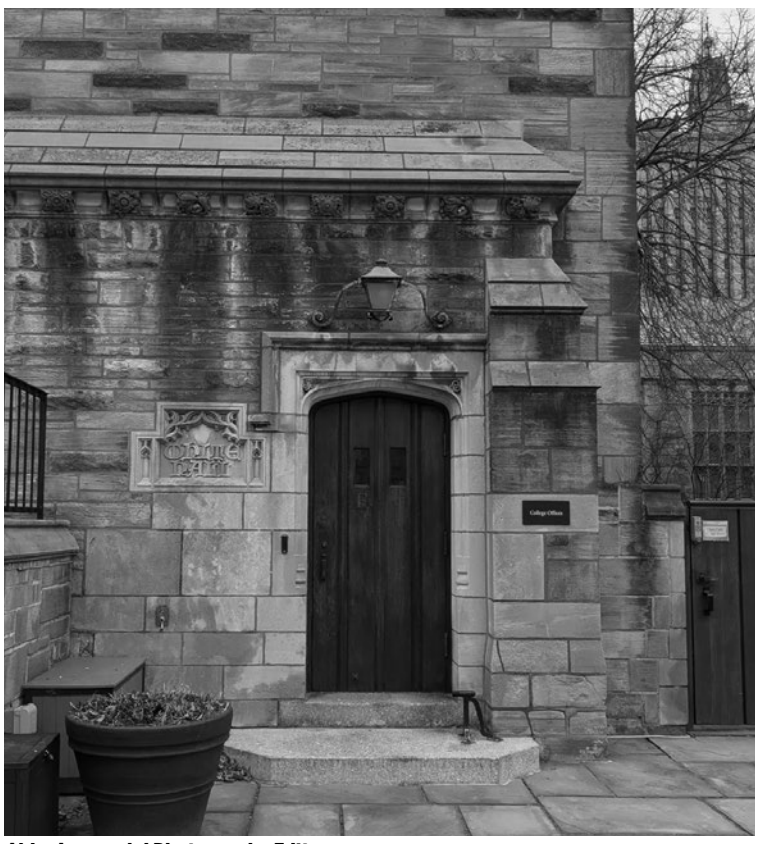
About three weeks ago, an Instagram story post from the account displayed side by side images of the Berkeley dean's welcome messages to the Class of 2029 and Class of 2030, with a caption appearing to be written from Fubá's perspective.

"So the people supposed to uphold academic standards in Yale College plagiarized the text that mom wrote with so much care in 2025 about me and mom welcoming the class of 2029 sentence by sentence to welcome the class of 2030. Maybe they should have just kept me and my mom there. ExComm, where are you??," the caption read, appearing to reference the University's Executive Committee, which reviews claims of "academic dishonesty."

Current Berkeley Dean Ksenia Sidorenko GRD '14 '23 declined to comment on the post regarding the dean's welcome letter.

In a Thursday email to the News, McKinley wrote, "the colleges receive a template for this message so that they provide consistent guidance to their incoming students across all 14 colleges."

Cruvinel Santiago received her Ph.D. in Physics from Columbia University in 2023.



Abby Assouad / Photography Editor
Since the departure of former Berkeley College dean Bárbara Cruvinel Santiago '17 in March, an account associated with her dog Fubá has made a series of Instagram posts appearing to reference her leaving Yale.

Contact
SASHA CABRAL
at sasha.cabral@yale.edu.

Gelernter has not taught since winter



Garrett Curtis / Photography Editor
Computer science professor David Gelernter was placed under conduct review in February after the revelation of his emails with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The professor's conduct is still being reviewed, according to a Yale spokesperson.

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The professor was teaching "The User Interface" in the spring semester before being relieved from his teaching in February, when computer science professor and then department chair Holly Rushmeier took over as the instructor. Rushmeier finished her term as department chair in June and will not be teaching this term because she is on leave, she wrote in an email to the News.

When asked about whether that course will be taught in upcoming semesters, Peart wrote that the computer science department "offers a variety of elective courses."

The University's website for course registration Yale Course Search does not list Gelernter's previous course, which typically runs in the spring, as a class next semester.

Gelernter and Epstein's correspondence was among millions of documents about the disgraced financier released by the U.S. Department of Justice in January.

In a February email to Jeffrey Brock, the dean of Yale's School of Engineering and Applied Science, Gelernter defended the language in his controversial email about the student's appearance. Gelernter wrote that he was considering "the potential boss's habits" when describing the student and that he regretted nothing.

The emails with Epstein drew criticism from faculty and students, though opinions split on whether the correspondence warranted disciplinary action.

To dismiss a professor, a five-member hearing panel at the beginning of the conduct review process must recommend that the provost ask the University president to convoke the University Tribunal.

Gelernter joined Yale faculty in 1982.

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