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Yale Daily News

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT · **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026** · VOL. CXLIX, NO. 7 · yaledailynews.com · @yaledailynews

Graduate student reduction takes toll

BY SARA AGRAWAL
STAFF REPORTER

Reductions to graduate student enrollment introduced last year as part of University-wide budget cuts are taking a toll on departments.

Last year, the Graduate School implemented a three-year plan to reduce graduate school enrollments by around 13 percent in humanities and social sciences programs as well as 5 percent in STEM programs. At the time, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Steven Wilkinson attributed the cuts to the looming endowment tax hike, which went into effect in July and was part of President Donald Trump's signature One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Department leaders told the News that cuts to graduate student enrollments have affected different departments to varying degrees — with some smaller departments feeling the brunt of diminished class sizes, and larger STEM departments struggling with federal funding uncertainty alongside the enrollment caps. Affected programs are set to feel the toll in varied ways,

SEE **ENROLLMENT** PAGE 4

$3 million was saved in cuts, Lewis says

BY ANAYAH ACCILIEN
STAFF REPORTER

Students should expect no major budget cuts in the next few months because Yale College's budget is balanced following last year's cuts, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis said.

Following the announcement of a federal endowment tax hike last year, Yale College — along with the rest of the University — made various cost-saving measures, including a reduction in staff size and cuts in summer program funding. Those cuts saved a total of $3 million in Yale College's operating budget last year, Lewis said. They also drew widespread criticism from students, putting Lewis at a precarious position ahead of his reappointment review this year.

"Fortunately, we're now in balance," Lewis said in a Tuesday interview. "So, for now, no changes in the next few months."

Lewis said the improved financial position has allowed the College to restore some programs. He pointed to the laundry program, which the College announced in April, and the restoration of the summer storage funding as examples.

"So now that we're in better financial shape, we're able to work on other issues," Lewis said.

Lewis said the College's full budget for the year has not yet been determined. He expects to have more information during the second semester and plans to develop his budget by around February, he said.

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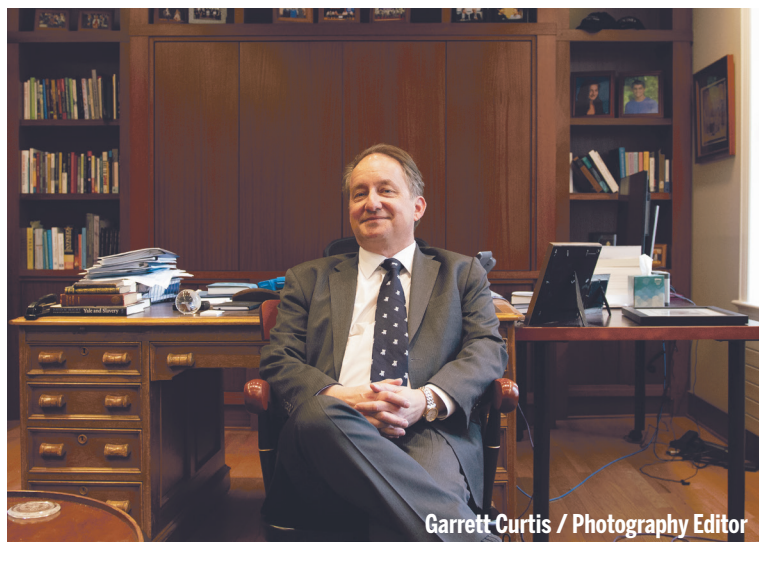
Garrett Curtis / Photography Editor

Medical students reject Trump claims


TimTai

BY GILLIAN PEIHE FENG
STAFF REPORTER

Nearly 200 Yale School of Medicine students have signed on to a letter sent Tuesday demanding that University administrators not settle with the federal government.

The medical school, which according to the Office of Institutional Research enrolled 681 students last fall, is under investigation by the Department of Justice for allegedly discriminating against white and Asian applicants. Yale has since entered into voluntary negotiations with the Justice Department, and last week, University President Maurie McInnis said that only medical school admissions, not those of Yale College or Yale Law School, were at issue in the talks.

As of Thursday, the letter — sent to McInnis, School of Medicine Dean Nancy Brown '81 and Yale's Office of the General Counsel — has garnered 184 signatories, 103 of whom are anonymous.

"We urge the University to refuse a settlement with the federal government that would impact the School of Medicine's operations, including present or future admissions," the letter reads. "Given the contents of the DOJ's findings, a settlement would run counter to our stated mission and values."

The mission statement posted on the school's website states a commitment to nurturing "lead-

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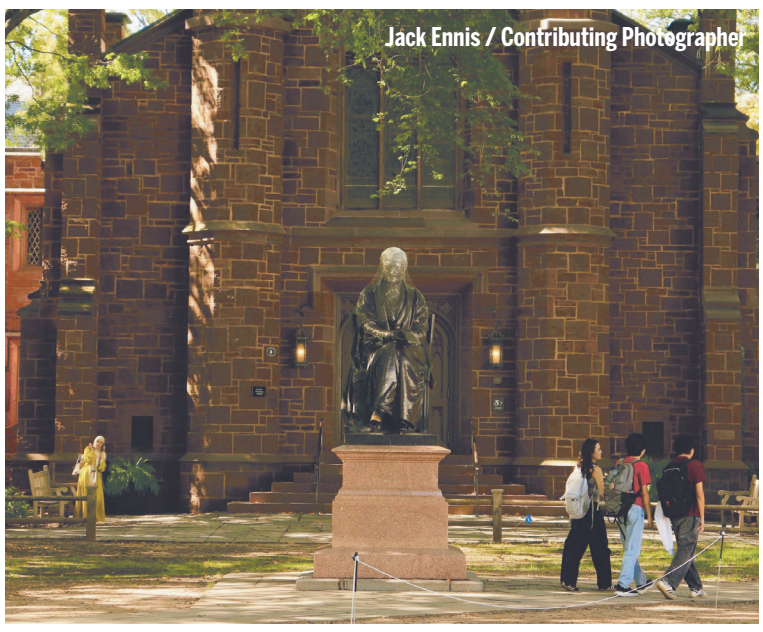
Jack Ennis / Contributing Photographer

Summer storage aid back after phaseout

BY ANAYAH ACCILIEN
STAFF REPORTER

Summer storage funding for low-income students is coming back.

On Tuesday, Yale College Council President Alex William Chen '28 and Vice President Michelle Jimenez '28 wrote in an email to undergraduates that after months of negotiations with Yale College — which concluded a phase-out of storage funding this summer — aid would be restored beginning summer 2027. Administrators have committed to maintaining the support for at least five years, they wrote.

"We were able to convince Yale College that storage was valuable, critical to FGLI and low-income students who are facing significant costs as the prices of storage rise," Chen said in a phone interview, referring to first generation, low-income students.

Students can receive funding if their parents are expected to contribute $10,000 or less toward their attending Yale, they live on campus before and after the summer in which they receive support and they have permanent residence more than 150 miles from New Haven. Students who are funding their tuition independently are also eligible to receive storage funding.

Those eligible may be awarded up to $300 toward storage costs, based on their financial aid package.

YCC's advocacy for restoring College storage funding began around May, Chen said, with meetings with College administrators continuing through the summer and into the current academic year.

He said the council pushed Yale to provide support for students with parent shares of up to $10,000, pro-

SEE **STORAGE** PAGE 5

Dean touts diversity 'by legal means'

BY ANAYAH ACCILIEN AND LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTERS

Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis stayed silent on the federal investigation into Yale College admissions during his first interview with the News this academic year.

Though he declined to comment on the Department of Justice's inquiry into whether Yale discriminates against white and Asian applicants, Lewis said he has always valued diversity "of all kinds." The federal probe of the College, Law School and School of Medicine concerns Yale's compliance with the 2023 Supreme Court decision in Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard, in which the court struck down race-conscious admissions.

"I've been a strong advocate for diversity, as long as it's

SEE **LEWIS** PAGE 5

City passes yearlong data center freeze

BY NELLIE KENNEY AND NAUSICAA CHU
STAFF AND CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

The New Haven Board of Alders voted unanimously to impose a yearlong hold on data center development within city limits at a Tuesday meeting.

No plans to build data centers are currently in the works in the city, but alders described the legislation as an important pause that will allow them to consider how the facilities could, in theory, affect New Haven residents.

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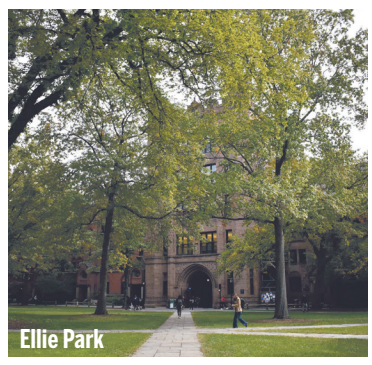
Jiyoo Nam / Contributing Photographer


Ellie Park

Research grants on faculty's minds

BY SARA AGRAWAL
STAFF REPORTER

Faculty members affiliated with Yale School of Medicine expressed concern about the future of research funding as the University engages in negotiations with the Trump administration over the School of Medicine's admissions process.

Since the Department of Justice released a letter of findings in May alleging that the School of Medicine was intentionally discriminating in its admissions process against white and Asian applicants, Yale has presented two settlement proposals to the federal government. University President Maurie McInnis told the News last week that the ongoing negotiations involved only the School of Medicine, and not Yale College or Yale Law School, two schools the Jus-

SEE **FACULTY** PAGE 5

Inside The News

Amid a nationwide debate about artificial intellgience, some Yale professors and students expressed reservations about uninhibited development.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES Yale professors criticized the Trump administration's reported changes to the the Endangered Species Act.
PAGE 7 **SCI-TECH**

FARMER'S MARKET The parking lot beside the Conte West Hills Magnet School comes to life on Saturday mornings with the Wooster Square Farmers Market.
PAGE 8 **NEWS**