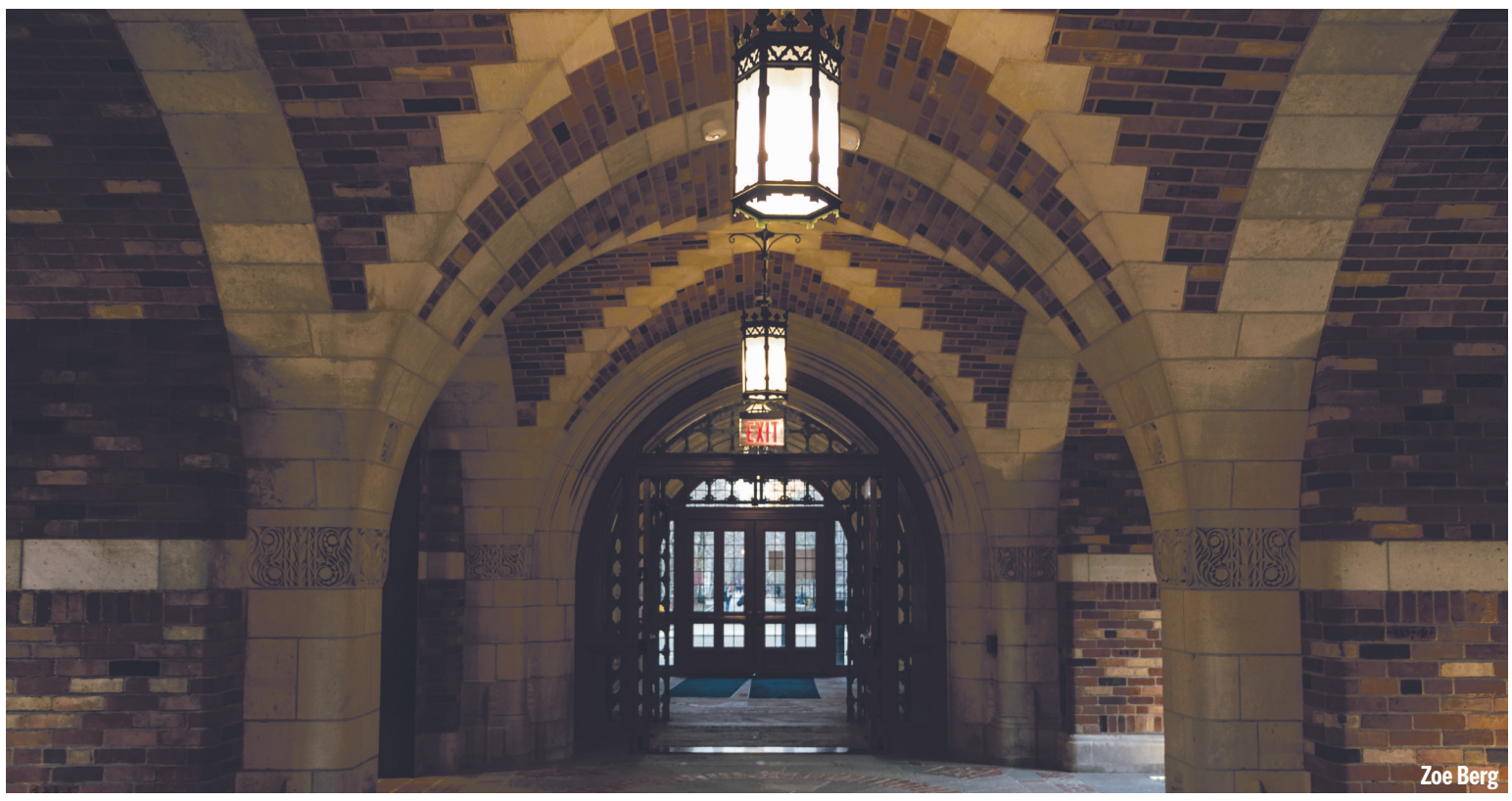
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Lewis: No grading changes until fall 2028


Zoe Berg

BY ANAYAH ACCILIEN, EMILY AKBAR AND JOLYNDA WANG
STAFF REPORTERS

Potential policy addressing grade inflation would not go into effect until fall 2028, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis confirmed on Monday.

Paul McKinley, a Yale College senior associate dean, told the News in September that a College committee anticipated to release recommendations for grade reform in November, and Lewis said then that it was "hard to say" when the guidance would go into effect.

But in a Monday email to the News, Lewis wrote that the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Advising is not expected to finalize its report on addressing grade inflation until the early months of the spring semester, although it will present its initial research at a faculty meeting this week. The delayed timeline means that current juniors would not be subject to the recommendations that go into effect.

"We had originally thought that there might be a new grading policy in place for Fall 2027, but the Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Advising is still conducting its research and getting inputs so we don't expect to have their final report until early 2027 and we plan to implement any approved changes in Fall 2028," Lewis wrote.

Lewis told the Yale College Council Senate in an off-the-record meeting on Oct. 11 about the updated timeline for potential action on grade inflation, according to Trumbull College Senator Christopher Johnson '29 and Morse College Senator Lauren Sonnenfeld '28.

Lewis said in an interview last month that he wants new grading policy to streamline the grading scale across different departments and professors. He added that the general standard should be the same across the College "so that students aren't trying to find the professor who gives all A's."

"Grade inflation is only one dimension of it. I think the bigger issue is about parity of grades across different parts of the curriculum," Lewis said. "It's more about trying to have fairness across the curriculum."

For students concerned about how grade deflation will impact their postgraduate opportunities, Lewis assured that the new policy should provide enough information to graduate schools about what a typical grade-point-average should look like at Yale.

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FIELD HOCKEY

Elis lift first Ivy trophy

BY ELI RATNER
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale field hockey team (14–3, 4–3 Ivy) secured their first-ever Ivy League Tournament trophy on Sunday afternoon after defeating the Princeton Tigers 3-2 (13–5, 6–1 Ivy) in an overtime penalty shootout.

Coming into the tournament as the fourth seed, the No. 19 Bulldogs took on tournament host and top seed, No. 4 Harvard (15–2, 7–0 Ivy) in the semifinals on Friday. Having gone into the championship game against No. 9 Princeton, the tournament's second seed, underdog Yale beat the odds once again in securing their victory, picking up the program's first win in 49 years over the Tigers since Oct. 15, 1977.

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Yale Athletics

Finance directors' pay shot up in 2024

BY SARA AGRAWAL
STAFF REPORTER

The compensation of some of Yale's highest-paid administrators swelled between 2023 and 2024, tax filings show. Employees in Yale's investment office were among the University's top earners, along with former Yale President Peter Salovey.

In the 2023 calendar year, Chief Investment Officer Matthew Mendelsohn '07 received $4,443,090 in compensation, the most of any administrator. That figure exceeded Salovey's compensation in 2023 by almost $2 million. In 2024, Mendelsohn received $5,384,798, an increase of over $940,000 from the previous year. Amelia Chivetta, the managing director of Yale Investments, earned $4,584,829 in 2024 — an increase of nearly $3 million from the $1,723,114 she received in 2023 and the largest jump in compensation recorded that year.

The compensation received by investment office employees Timothy Sullivan '86, who was until March 2025 Yale's senior director of private equity, and Alexander Banker, who stepped down from his role as senior director of finance in June 2024, each grew by over $2 million between 2023 and 2024.

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Shyam Suva / Contributing Photographer

Researcher dives into legal rights of rivers

BY ANNA KOONTZ
STAFF REPORTER

What does it mean for a river to be considered a person?

In 2017, partnering with Whanganui Iwi leaders and guided by historical settlement negotiations, the New Zealand Crown government granted legal personhood to the Whanganui River. Now, Raffaele Sindoni ENV '23 '28 is studying how the act has played out.

Sindoni's doctoral research examines the legal rights of nature and what they described as the "push and pull" between Indigenous and Western frameworks. The "biggest takeaway" of their research was stepping back and reconsidering the "hubris of man," they said.

"We really have to take seriously and question the alternate ways that we are in relationship with nature, with money, with law, with these kinds of systems that you don't have to scratch too far beneath the surface to understand the ways that they've really been weaponized," they said.

Sindoni arrived at Yale in 2021 with a relatively "small understanding" of environmental problems and solutions, they said.

Their perspective has expanded throughout the past few years as they worked with Indigenous leaders in the United States and, more recently, in New Zealand.

Sindoni's doctoral research brought them to New Zealand from November 2025 to April this year. They gathered archival material, a couple hundred pages of handwritten notes and over 40 hours of recorded interviews with people such as Maori leaders, politicians, foresters and farmers. Sindoni described a "very slow social and cultural shift to seeing water as a kind of a being."

"Seeing those shifts as they're

SEE **RIVERS** PAGE 4

Yale playoff hopes crushed by Brown

BY BRODY GILKISON
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale Bulldogs (4–4, 2–3 Ivy) lost to the Brown Bears (4–4, 3–2 Ivy) this Saturday at the Yale Bowl.

Team 153 entered the day seeking to maintain their playoff hopes. Dartmouth's (4–4, 3–2 Ivy) Saturday loss to Princeton (6–2, 4–1 Ivy) meant a conference win could have been possible for the Bulldogs, if they beat Brown and won their remaining two games. But Yale's loss to the Bears, which was Brown's first win over the Elis in 10 years, eliminated the Bulldogs from contention for the Ivy League's FCS playoff bid.

On Saturday, the Bulldogs jumped out to an early lead on a methodical six-minute drive that ended with a Jaxton Santiago '28 touchdown reception. Brown's offense attempted to respond to Yale's scoring drive, but the Bulldog defense forced a three-and-out, and a punt followed.

The next possession for Yale began with four straight rushes from Hugo Djeumeni Kemeni '29, but the drive stalled out when Dante Reno '28 was sacked for the first of six times that day.

An energized Brown offense retook the field and began employing a strategy that would eventually win them the game: bullying the Yale secondary. Five passes to five different receivers, all between 12 and 20 yards, quickly marched the Bears down the field and into the end zone, tying the game 7-7.

The Bulldogs received the kickoff, and the offense came onto the field looking to get something going as the last seconds of the first quarter ticked off. Yale

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Liza Kaufman / Photography Editor

Inside The News

On Saturday morning, clothier Mark Anthony Grasso hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new menswear shop in Wooster Square.

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MEN'S SOCCER After securing a 1-1 draw against the Brown Bears, the Yale men's soccer team clinched a berth to the Ivy League playoffs for the first time since 2023.
PAGE 12 **SPORTS**

YALE HEALTH The campus health clinic incorporated an artificial intelligence-powered tool into clinical visits in 2024. Students had mixed reactions.
PAGE 7 **SCI-TECH**