NEWS

"It's Friday night and I won't be long"
CHEAP THRILLS SIA

At Veterans Day event, administrators honor alumni who served



SHYAM SUVA / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
This year's iteration of the annual ceremony took place on Beinecke Plaza on Wednesday. It included remarks from University leadership and a Yale College veteran, as well as a tribute to a former student and veteran who died last year.

BY KARISSA CHENG AND PREMRUDEE MEPREMWATTANA
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

Hundreds of Yale affiliates gathered on Beinecke Plaza to listen to remarks, tributes and music in Yale's annual Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday afternoon.

Yale President Maurie McInnis and other senior administrators spoke at the event, which was attended by Reserve Officers' Training Corps students, alumni veterans, employees and professors. Attendees sat and stood facing the World War I Memorial Cenotaph, a monument that forms part of the Yale Alumni War Memorial honoring the 227 students and alumni killed in the Great War.

In her opening welcome, Vice President for University Life Kimberly Goff-Crews '83 LAW '86 discussed Yale veterans' service for the country and in the University community.

"So, today, let me leave you with this: the discipline you brought from your service, the capacity to welcome difference, the willingness to debate and still stand together and the instinct to serve the country and the community around you is not the memory of what you once did," Goff-Crews said. "It is alive here, every single day."

In her speech, McInnis highlighted Yale's longtime tradition of honoring Veterans Day. She said over 200 of the University's employees are veterans and that 100 undergraduate cadets and midshipmen, 74 undergraduate veterans and over 150 graduate student veterans attend Yale.

One of the speakers, veteran and Eli Whitney student Keith Buckholz '27, said veterans abdicate a "remarkable lack of control" in service of the country and discussed his own journey as a Marine sergeant.

"Service members place themselves into an organization much larger than themselves, which must prioritize its own needs and the good of the country above their need as an individual," he said.

Buckholz, who studies astrophysics at Yale, served in the Marine Corps from 2017 to 2022. In an interview with the News, he said he and other veterans continue with their mission of creating a better tomorrow while at Yale.

The ceremony also paid tribute to Lawrence M. Lipsher '62, a United States army veteran and founding member of the Yale Veterans Association who died last year. Lipsher's engagement with the Yale community earned him the Yale Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the Yale Alumni Association for service and leadership.

Emma Sky, the director of the Yale International Leadership Center, said the ceremony was very moving, adding, "it was good to see so many of our students here in uniform." She said she attends the ceremony every year.

"It's always impressive," political science lecturer Michael Fotos '78 said of this year's iteration of the ceremony, which he said he has long attended. "It's become much more ceremonial, shall we say, since ROTC came back to Yale."

The Reserves Officers' Training Corps Program, which trains students to become commissioned officers in the United States military after graduation, was reinstituted at Yale University in 2012 after a four-decade hiatus.

Fotos said that McInnis' remarks were "very appropriate" and that her understanding of Yale's history and the history of military service among its alumni was "touching."

In the ceremony's closing remarks, Goff-Crews reiterated Yale's pride in its veterans.

"Now, as we return to class, to work, to our daily activities and our very busy lives, may it be with a renewed sense of gratitude for those who have taken oaths to protect and serve," Goff-Crews said.

Veterans Day is a federal holiday.

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Grade inflation policy delay relieves juniors, worries sophomores

BY JOLYNDA WANG
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After Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis confirmed that pending policies to combat grade inflation would not go into effect until fall 2028, juniors expressed relief that their class would not be affected and sympathy for underclassmen.

The committee tasked with researching grade reform is set to present its initial findings to faculty this week, Lewis wrote to the News on Monday. A report on grading policy, which a senior associate dean said in September would be released this month, has been delayed until early next year and any approved changes would not go into effect until after the class of 2028 graduates, Lewis said. Asked about the timeline, 10 juniors and sophomores interviewed by the News expressed reactions ranging from relief to skepticism.

"As a junior, I won't even be here when the grade changes happen, but I still sympathize with the underclassmen," Emily Munoz-Gonzalez '28 said in an interview. "This could change the whole course of academia."

Munoz-Gonzalez said she did not personally agree with changing the grading policy, adding that Yale is already an "intense and competitive" environment and that students who earn high grades deserve them. A new policy, Munoz-Gonzalez said, could discourage students from continuing to take challenging courses.

Parker Ellison '28 said he was "relieved" that he would graduate before new rules could take effect, but expressed concern for current sophomores, who would experience the ramifications of any grading changes during their senior year.

"Since I've only had this current grading policy while I've been here, it would feel abrupt to change it," Ellison said. "I'm lucky that it's not me, but one more year later, it could have been."

Noah Ripke '28, a mathematics major, said he has not felt affected by grade inflation, though he said high grades at Yale do not necessarily reflect how much a student has learned. He added that he thinks grades are an imperfect system because students can easily cheat or use artificial intelligence to earn higher marks.

In a September report, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Senate urged the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Advising to develop a grading policy that minimizes potential harm to students, particularly during the policy transition period. The report said that grades are a "significant source" of stress for students.

Current sophomores, who would experience any approved grading changes during their senior year, expressed concern about the proposed timeline for a new policy.

Jaden Blankenship '29 said that as a pre-med student, he is concerned about potential grading changes given the importance of a student's GPA in medical school admissions. He said the policy could require him to devote more time to his academics and could make his Yale experience less enjoyable by taking away from the time he spends on extracurricular activities.

Luke Benjamin '29 said his opinion on potential grading changes would depend on the specifics of the committee's proposal, while Elham Shure '29 said she hoped the College would "wait one more year" before implementing any new policy.

In May, Harvard faculty voted to impose a roughly 20 percent cap on A grades for undergraduates.

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