NEWS

"Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast."
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE PLAYWRIGHT

One Marine, two Army fellowship positions set to end

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"Yale continues to maintain that the university makes a significant contribution to the education of military officers and Senior Service College Fellows should be able to choose Yale," Hermes added.

When asked in a Tuesday interview with the News to respond to Hegseth's criticism, University President Maurie McInnis touted Yale's partnership with the armed forces.

"Yale University has a long-standing and productive relationship with both our active duty and our veteran communities," McInnis said, citing the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program and veteran students. "Those individuals are an incredibly important part of our community, as are the current 24 active duty members of the armed forces who are part of the educational opportunities here."

Pressed about whether Yale practices "woke indoctrination," as Hegseth has alleged, McInnis said: "I believe that we provide access to an education that brings diverse viewpoints, that brings many voices to the table, that welcomes open debate and dialogue."

In the February memo, Hegseth lists new potential partner institutions, including Liberty University and several public universities. According to the memo, the alternative institutions meet the criteria of "intellectual freedom, minimal relationships with adversaries, minimal public expressions in opposition of the Department, and Graduate-level National Security, International Affairs, and/or Public Policy Programs."

A Marine Corps fellow at Yale's Jackson School of Global Affairs studies international history and security studies, such as the Grand Strategy class — a year-long course on statesmanship and geopolitics — while conducting research.

John Gaddis, a professor of military and naval history who has taught Grand Strategy, wrote in an email to the News that the Pentagon's move to cut ties with Yale was misguided.

"The Marines are and have long been a war-fighting organization. But to expect them to fight -- or to prepare to fight -- with no knowledge of lessons to be learned from wars previously fought, as well as wars providentially avoided, would be more than short-sightedness: it would be self-blinding. Yale has provided such lessons for well over a decade. What possible benefit can there be now from having that relationship severed?" Gaddis wrote.

The Jackson School, founded in 2022, hosts programs such as the Blue Center for Global Strategic Assessment and the Schmidt Program on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies and National Power, which both conduct research with defense applications.

McInnis said the Jackson School is the latest home to Yale's "long history of studying national security, statecraft, important international issues."

In addition to opportunities for undergraduates, military involvement at Yale includes active duty service members at a variety of schools, such as the Jackson School, the School of Management and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Some are here through shorter fellowships, like the year-long Marine Corps Visiting Fellows program, while others are pursuing yearslong doctoral degrees.

Brandon Colas GRD '15 '27, a lieutenant colonel, is pursuing a doctoral degree at Yale's Political Science Department, researching trends in military recruitment through the Army's Advanced Strategic Planning and Policy Program.

Next year, Colas said in an interview, he is continuing his degree with Yale but will be stationed at the Fort Knox Army base in Kentucky, working with the Army's recruiting command. Yale requires political science doctoral students to live near Yale for three years, with many students going elsewhere to do research or other groups for the final years completing their degrees.

Colas stressed the value of being able to do military research at Yale, highlighting his collaboration with faculty. While none of his colleagues "have worked directly on military recruiting systems before," Colas said, "they're just really good at what they do."

"So when it comes down to, like, statistical modeling, or if I want to understand more about American demographics, I've always got someone that I can ask," Colas said.

He called the expertise at Yale in statistics and game theory "invaluable" to his research.

"It took a lot of work to put the military back on Yale's campus, and I don't think we should walk away from that," Colas said.

The ROTC program returned to Yale in 2012 after a four-decade hiatus.

In March, Major Nicholas Dockery JGA '23, who graduated from the Jackson School in 2023, was approved by Congress to receive the Medal of Honor for his actions in Afghanistan in 2012.

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Hwansoo Kim named next Morse head of college

BY ARIA LYNN-SKOV
STAFF REPORTER

A religious studies professor, Hwansoo Kim, will be the next Head of Morse College, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis announced in a crowded Morse dining hall on Monday evening.

Lewis, Kim and current Morse Head of College Catherine Panter-Brick spoke at the announcement ceremony. Panter-Brick is one of three college heads set to step down at the end of the year, and she is the first whose replacement has been announced.

"As the next head, I hope that Morse will always be a place for the true exchange of ideas, genuine friendship and small kindnesses to others," Kim said to an audience that included Yale students and faculty.

Kim has been at Yale since 2018, and he is currently teaching the classes "Buddhist Monastic Experience" and "Readings in Korean Religions."

Kim is married to Rev. Sumi Loundon Kim, who has served as the Buddhist chaplain at Yale since 2018. They have two children, a daughter who is a current sophomore at Yale and a son who is an incoming first year in the class of 2030, according to an email Lewis sent to Morse College students shortly after the dining hall announcement.

Kim was appointed to a five-year term that begins on July 1, Lewis announced in his email.

Kim studies East Asian religious history and Korean Buddhism. He is the author of several books, including "The Korean Buddhist Empire: A Transnational History, 1910-1945." Kim was the director of graduate studies for Duke's graduate program in religion, and while at Duke, he spent nine years as faculty-in-residence. Kim spoke fondly about his memories living on Duke's campus and said he is looking forward to living in Morse.

After Panter-Brick spoke, students applauded and chanted "Head PB!"

"I want to enjoy myself at Morse from today until graduation," Panter-Brick said in an interview after the ceremony.

Panter-Brick has been Morse's head of college since 2015, having served the maximum 11 years allowed. When asked what piece of advice she would give to her successor, Panter-Brick stressed being in the moment.

"We plan so much in life," she said, emphasizing that it's important to "savor the moment."

"That's what students taught me," she added.

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Jaeha Jang, Contributing Photographer
At a ceremony on Monday evening in the Morse College dining hall, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis announced that religious studies professor Hwansoo Kim will start as the next head of Morse College on July 1.

Davenport dean to step down for Divinity School position



Will Qian, Staff Photographer
Davenport College Dean Adam Ployd announced on Thursday that he accepted an offer to be an assistant dean at the Yale Divinity School. He will depart from his role in Davenport College in June.

BY HAILEY YOUNG
STAFF REPORTER

The dean of Davenport College announced in a Thursday email to Davenport students that he will be departing from his role in June.

Adam Ployd, a divinity and religious studies lecturer at the Yale Divinity School who was appointed to the residential college dean role in 2023, is stepping down after accepting a position as the Associate Dean for Spiritual Formation at the divinity school, according to his email. According to Ployd, the divinity school extended him the offer "within the last few weeks," and the school first advertised the position in December 2025.

"I will always carry Davenport in my heart and will strive to 'do better' and to model gnomelike behavior in all that I do!" he wrote in his announcement, referring to Davenport's mascot, the gnome.

Ployd is the latest residential college administrator to announce plans to step down. In recent weeks, the Berkeley College dean left her role and Silliman College's dean announced that she would be stepping down at the end of the academic year. College heads from Saybrook, Morse and Berkeley are also set to step down in June.

Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis has also recently announced changes to advising and course registration for incoming first years, which are set to be piloted over the summer and fully integrated by 2027. Under the changes, residential college deans will become first years' primary academic advisors.

Ployd stressed, however, that his move was not related to the institutional shifts within Yale College.

"My decision to join the Div school was fully driven by my passion for graduate theological education and not by any of the changes within Yale College," he wrote to the News.

Ployd, who is an ordained deacon with the United Methodist Church, has previously held positions in graduate education, most recently serving as the vice principal of Wesley House at the Methodist Theological College, according to his biography on Davenport's website. He has also held positions as an assistant professor at the Eden Theological Seminary and as a lecturer at the University of Cambridge.

In his message to students, Ployd described his departure as "bittersweet," highlighting his appreciation for the Davenport community.

"My time as a gnome has been one of the most important and rewarding periods of my professional life," he wrote.

Ployd especially emphasized the role students have played in shaping his "incredible" tenure as a dean.

"It is the students that really make the residential college community what it is," he wrote. "You have trusted me with some of your most delicate difficulties and shared with me your highest triumphs."

This balance of trust and care, he wrote to the News in an email, was extended both ways, as Ployd was also met with an outpour of support amid personal loss last year.

"I hope I have been able to show a modicum of that same support in my role as dean," he Ployd wrote to the News. "I hope that the kindness and care that I strived to show will continue to be reflected in the kindness and care that Davenport students show one another and the wider world around them."

Ployd also reflected on how he strove to balance the responsibilities he held as an enforcer of academic and undergraduate regulations while prioritizing students' wellbeing.

For Zachary Jacobus '26, a Davenport first-year counselor, those values were reflected in Ployd's attentiveness to students.

"He genuinely cares about helping students however he can. In my capacity as a Davenport student, I have always received good advice whenever I have come to Dean Ployd with questions," he said.

Aaron Lin '28, a Davenport senator and college aide, echoed the descriptions of Ployd's accessibility and responsiveness.

"Dean Ployd is really easy to talk to and a great listener. I've had a lot of questions about course requirements for my major, and he is very quick to reply to emails. I can also sometimes just pop into the office to talk with him," he said. "I think Dean Ployd was really amazing as dean. I think it is really sad that he is leaving."

Davenport College was founded in 1933.

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