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Volume 3, Issue 2

# The Community Initiative

EMPOWERING FIRST-GENERATION LOW-INCOME STUDENTS AT YALE



## Happy First Week of Classes!

The end of Camp Yale marks the official start of the academic school year. Good luck to all students attempting to navigate Shopping Period for the first time and to those with multiple semesters under their belts. A friendly reminder to submit all necessary forms in time to avoid late fees. With all the chaos that is intertwined with the start of the semester, we hope you are finding the time to take care of yourself and your mental health! Take care of yourself and one another!

Once again, if you have any questions regarding the Community Initiative and its various resources and initiatives, please reach out to [fgli@yale.edu](mailto:fgli@yale.edu) or to [jorge.anaya@yale.edu](mailto:jorge.anaya@yale.edu). Good luck with classes!

## Meet the Community Initiative Ambassador Team!

The student ambassador team is an essential component to the Community Initiative as they serve as the main source of communication between current students and administration. Learn more about them below and visit them during their office hours in the second floor of 55 Whitney Avenue!



### Samantha Wood

she/her/hers

from Wolfeboro, NH - SY'20

### Why are you involved in the FGLI Community?

"I'm an FGLI Ambassador because I think that we are all brilliant, talented people and with a supportive community we can accomplish even more!"

### Henry Rosas

he/him/his

from Phoenix, AZ - TD'21

### Why are you involved in the FGLI Community?

"As FGLI students, we know that building community is essential for getting through the hardships and challenges that come with attending an institution like Yale. This year, I want to work on leveling the playing field for FGLI students so that we too can get the opportunities and experiences so many of us left our hometowns for. I hope to be more involved with our incredibly diverse community in order to build our presence on campus and make this space ours this year and in the years to follow."



### Esther Reyes

she/her/hers

from Brooklyn, NY - ES'21

### Why are you involved in the FGLI Community?

"I am involved in the first gen-low income community because I have been fighting for dignified spaces for my people my entire life. Growing up in a single parent household and entering predominately white, male spaces as soon as I got to high school made me realize that



**Alejandro Nuno**

he/him/his

from Anaheim, CA - GH'21

**Why are you involved in the FGLI community?**

"I am involved in the FGLI community because I believe that each of our unique backgrounds should be celebrated. Being first-generation, low-income is an identity that many students of different cultural backgrounds share and we should all celebrate our diversity of thought. Through our appreciation of our diversity, we will establish a strongly bonded community that shares our common identity as FGLI students. Through community building, we will remain resilient through the challenges that uniquely affect FGLI students."

my socioeconomic status did not have to determine my life. I was fortunate enough to experience constant affirmation at speech and debate tournaments and being there to affirm other low income kids on campus is how I pay it forward."



**Nadia Lartey**

they/them/theirs

from Lansdowne, PA - TD'22

**Why am you involved with the FGLI community?**

"Navigating a space that was built on classism and exclusionary practices in general can be difficult, but especially as a person who occupies identities many FGLI share, such as identifying as a person of color or a woman. Having role models, mentors, and friends who are FGLI and share some or all of my identities was a major inspiration for me as a first-year, and I want to



provide that same support for FGLI students across the university.”

### **Nathan Somerville**

he/him/his

from Stowmarket, U.K. - BK'22

#### **Why are you involved in the FGLI community?**

“As an FGLI international student, particularly from England, my role in the Yale community is a rather unique one, and I’ve found the transition from my hometown to an elite space like Yale to be incredibly rewarding, yet certainly demanding. It has been an unamenable journey, and in my role as Ambassador I hope to not only support others undergoing the same experience as I, but also to learn from them and how I can make the most of my time at Yale.”



### **Linh Le**

he/him/his

from Hanoi, Vietnam - BF'22

#### **Why are you involved in the FGLI community?**

“Inasmuch as Yale has striven to be cognizant of the experiences and struggles of FGLI students, there is still a long way to go for this institution to make the Yale experience inclusive and nonburdensome. I hope to be involved with this incredible community, allow our voices to be heard, and be a part of the positive force for change for Yale in the future.”



## **RSVP to our Fall Community Dinner!**

Celebrate the start of the school year and learn more about being FGLI at Yale by attending our Fall Community Dinner in Saint Thomas More this upcoming Tuesday, September 3rd from 6:30pm- 8:30pm! Please sign up for the dinner via this [Google Form](#). The event is open to all!

## Visit Our Website!

Go to [fgli.yalecollege.yale.edu](http://fgli.yalecollege.yale.edu) to access key resources for all FGLI students, including:

- A **financial guide** with advice on understanding your financial aid, approaching student jobs, and saving money.
- An **introduction** to our team of student ambassadors and administration.
- A **list** of academic and financial resources you can apply to.



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## Upcoming Events

Friday, Aug. 30th: Intercultural First-Year Mixer (6:00pm-7:30pm) @ AfAm House

Friday, Aug. 30th: Meet Your PLs Event (8:00pm-9:30pm) @ All Cultural Centers

Sunday, Sept. 1st: Yale College Student Activities Bazaar (12:00pm-2:30pm) @ Payne Whitney Gym

Monday, Sept. 2nd: Welcome Back Cookout (3:00pm-6:00pm) @ AfAm House

Tuesday, Sept. 3rd: FGLI Community Dinner (6:30pm-8:30pm) @ Saint Thomas  
More, register [here](#)

Wednesday, Sept. 4th: Beinecke Library's Open House for New Students (4:00pm-5:30pm) @ Beinecke Library, register [here](#)

Thursday, Sept. 5th: AACC Welcome Back BBQ (5:00pm-7:00pm) @ The AACC

Monday, Sept. 9th: Fresh Start Academic Workshop (6:00pm-7:00pm) @ Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, M104A, register [here](#)

Monday, Sept. 9th: Reading Effectively for STEM Academic Workshop (7:30pm-8:30pm) @ Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, M104A, register [here](#)

Thursday, Sept. 12th: Meet & Greet with your Health Coach (5:00pm-7:00pm) @ The Good Life Center (Byers 417)

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## FSY '19 & '18 Input on Banner Student Experience Project

If you are part of the First-Year Scholars cohorts of 2019 and 2018, please consider becoming a part of the Banner Student Experience. Below is a message from the Yale University Information Technology Services:

### Reimagine the New Student Portal with Us

*Evenings of September 17, 18, and 25 from 5pm – 7:30pm at 109 Grove Street in Rosenfeld Hall (entrance on Temple Street)*


Want to win Apple AirPods or receive an Amazon gift card? Want to help redesign how graduate students use the Student Information Systems (SIS) at Yale?

The University Registrar Office invites you to join a project advisory committee and provide input on a newly designed hub for student services. By attending three design workshops on the evenings of 9/17, 9/18, 9/25, where dinner will be provided, you will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and entry into a raffle for a chance to win a pair of Apple AirPods. You are also invited to attend a small number of advisory committee meetings throughout the academic year.

Sign up here <http://usability.yale.edu/be-heard> to participate

We know that the beginning of the semester is busy for all of us, and we value your time and input. With your help, we can help make these systems more intuitive and useful for all students. We thank you in advance for your willingness to help us in this effort.

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**CAREER SPEAKER SERIES**

**1st gen Yale**

1stGen Yale will launch their Career Speaker Series (CSS) this Fall, designed to complement student life initiatives by filling a need for career guidance geared specifically for FGLI students. CSS will help undergraduate students explore careers, find internships and land jobs that match their interests and skills. First-Gen alumni will serve as panelists, speakers, and informal coaches to students as they pursue their career interests.

If you are interested in the Career Speaker Series, please fill out this survey to

maximize the greatest benefits to students!

## Opportunities

STARS I (STEM academic mentorship): Application is open to all first-years and is due by Monday, September 9th at 11:30pm.

STARS II: Application is open to juniors and seniors and is due by Wednesday, September 25th at 11:30pm

Want to get a head start to your semester? Check out the resources available through the Poorvu Center's [Academic Strategies Program](#)! This program helps you identify and practice the approaches and techniques that will help you gain ownership and satisfaction in your academic work at Yale. Their resources include:

- **1-1 Mentoring:** De-mystify Yale's hidden curriculum! Meet with a junior or senior peer to discuss how to organize your schedule, study for exams, talk with faculty, and anything else that poses a challenge in Yalies' academic lives. Our online schedule goes live on Sept. 16th; if you'd like to schedule a meeting please email [academicstrategies@yale.edu](mailto:academicstrategies@yale.edu).
- **Workshops:** Last year, over 600 seats were filled in the Academic Strategies Workshops. Join them in their interactive discussions on "Time Management," "Managing a Heavy Reading Load," "Pathways for First Years," and "Creating a Timeline for Your Senior Project." Workshops are held multiple times over the course of the semester, and new workshops are added weekly. See the [Academic Strategies Calendar](#) for more information.

Questions? Contact Dr. Karin Gosselink, ASP Director: [karin.gosselink@yale.edu](mailto:karin.gosselink@yale.edu)

Calling all officers and members of student organizations! Help Yale students of the future understand and study your organization's role in college life. The Library is hosting a workshop on **Archiving Your Student Organization's Records**. The workshop will give an overview on best practices in selecting and preserving records of enduring historical value, and will cover steps for preparing materials for potential transfer and storage with University Archives. Enrollment is limited to 20 students per session.

Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 5-6pm, SML Lecture Hall

Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 5-6pm, SML Lecture Hall

Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 5-6pm SML Lecture Hall

RSVP for one of these dates at <https://forms.gle/hjAfCZ2iCZb2M8gQA>

## Tip of the Week

For many, acquiring an on-campus job is at the top of their priority list. However, navigating a balanced academic, social, and financial life on campus can be difficult. Here are a few tips intended to aid you on your job search and balanced student life.

- FGLI students seeking employment opportunities are encouraged to join the [Facebook group](#) to stay updated with announcements from peers.
- Search for various student employment opportunities through the [Yale Student Jobs](#) website, and apply to a wide range of jobs you are interested in.
- Do not become discouraged if you do not hear back from employers right away, as various students are applying at the same time. If this persists, email the employer directly showing your interest in the job.
- Many jobs will require you to submit a resume alongside the standard questionnaire, if you need help with your resume, check out the Office of Career and Strategies' [advice for resume building](#).
- Academic work should always be your top priority while at Yale, for this reason working up to 10 hours per week seems to offer the best balance for most students.
- Attend the [Academic Strategies](#) workshop on [Time Management](#) in order to learn more tips about planning both your academic and paid work ahead of time.
- For more tips, see the [YCC's Student Jobs Handbook](#) created in May 2017.

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## Inspirational Quote

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it," - Marian Wright Edelman, YLS'63



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