



Yale College

The Community Initiative

Alumni Profiles

Spring 2019



Hong Bui

Yale College '18

Current Occupation

Post-Baccalaureate Intramural Research Fellow

Current Residence

National Institute of Mental Health

Hong is from Austin, Texas and is the daughter of two amazing parents who immigrated to the U.S. as refugees from Vietnam. At Yale, she studied Psychology and was an Education Studies Scholar. Currently, she is finishing her first year as a research trainee at the NIMH, working in a pediatric irritability lab. hong.ntbui@gmail.com

Ryan Davis

Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences '18

Graduate Education

M.S. Chemistry

Current Occupation

Product Manager, Henkel

Current Residence

New Haven, CT

Originally from Los Angeles, CA, Ryan grew up in a low-income home with a drug-addicted father and is the first in his family to graduate from college. In his pursuit to earn a bachelor's, he worked 2-3 jobs as he started in community college system, eventually transferring to a university and then to Yale. He majored in Biology as an undergraduate and earned his graduate degree in Chemistry. Following graduation, he worked as a product manager at Eastern Tech Company and is currently a global innovation project manager at Henkel as well as running a tutoring company he started in college to help pay for his education. Ryan is interested in having a more direct role in FGLI programming and be involved in any way he can. ryan.davis@aya.yale.edu

Laura Estela Leon

Yale College '18

Graduate Education

M.Ed. Elementary Education Instruction, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Current Occupation

Teacher, Clark County School District

Current Residence

Henderson, NV

Laura is from Oceanside, CA but lives in Las Vegas, where she grew up in a predominantly Latinx low-income neighborhood and was the first in my family to attend/graduate from college. During her time at Yale I majored in Ethnicity, Race and Migration and was also in the Education Studies Program. She is currently a first-year corps member with Teach for America in the Las Vegas Valley where she is also getting her Master's in elementary education instruction. Let her know if you have any questions!

laura.leon754@gmail.com

José Yobani López Sánchez

Yale College '18

Graduate Education

M.Ed. Education, UCLA

Current Occupation

Graduate Student / Student Teacher

Current Residence

Los Angeles, CA

José Yobani was proudly born and raised in the Westlake barrio of Downtown Los Angeles, CA to two Mexican immigrant parents that abandoned their dreams of education at a young age to sustain their families. His father a sewer in the Fashion District and his mother a janitor and babysitter, José Yobani grew guided by two beliefs: that he would amount to something for the people he cared about; and that the people he cared about most suffered real consequences because of definitions of belonging.

This latter belief fueled his drive to excel academically and led him to organic chemistry classrooms as a first-year at Yale. However, with time his interest to improve educational access overshadowed his chemistry interests. With this switch, he began his academic career through the Education Studies program, and has since developed a close relationship to the FGLI community as a mentor, an advocate, and the founder of the Community Initiative as part of his Woodbridge Fellowship.

José Yobani is excited to return to the familiar setting of a low-income Latinx neighborhood in California to share messages of empowerment with younger public-school students, but he also plans to continue developing an intellectual understanding of how to revolutionize educational systems so that they are more inclusive of the students he considers family.

joseyobanilopez@gmail.com

Nina Mesfin

Yale College '18

Graduate Education

M.Phil. Social Anthropology, Cambridge University

Current Occupation

Graduate Student

Current Residence

Cambridge, England

Nina was born in Chicago where she was raised by a single mother who immigrated to the U.S. from Ethiopia. As an undergraduate, she was an Ethnicity, Race, and Migration major as well as a Mellon Mays Fellow. She was then awarded the Paul Mellon Fellowship to pursue an MPhil in Social Anthropology at Cambridge University. mesfin.nina@gmail.com

Katherine Oh

Yale College '18

Current Occupation

Postgraduate Light Fellow, ICLP in Taiwan

Current Residence

Taipei, Taiwan

Katherine was born and raised in Queens, NY and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. During her time in Yale, she was heavily involved in the dance community and the pan-Asian American community. She is currently studying Mandarin Chinese for an academic year at the International Chinese Language Program (ICLP) in Taiwan with the postgraduate Light Fellowship.

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Gabrielle (Gabi) Scarpa

Yale College '18

Current Occupation

Yale-China Teaching Fellow

Current Residence

Xiuning, China

Gabi hails from a small town of 115 people in rural Iowa. At Yale, she studied Art with a concentration in photography. As a first-generation, low-income student, Gabi was heavily involved with FSY on campus, both attending the program in 2014 and later serving as a counselor. Currently, she is living in rural China, where she teaches English with the Yale-China organization: a non-profit built on fostering positive US-China relations. gabrielle.scarpa@yale.edu

Kristen Wright

Yale College '18

Graduate Education

M.S. Medical Sciences, Boston University

Current Occupation

Graduate Student

Current Residence

Boston, MA

Kristen is from Boca Raton, Florida and is the first in her low-income family to go to college. She doublemajored in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB) and Psychology, and graduated from Yale with a Bachelor of Science in both majors. Currently, she is a graduate student pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Medical Sciences, a special master's program at Boston University, and will pursue medical school in the future. kristen.wright086@gmail.com

Jinchen Zou

Yale College '18

Current Occupation

Business Analyst, McKinsey

Current Residence

Washington, D.C.

Jinchen grew up in Houston, by way of China and Germany. A recent grad, she studied Economics and Global Affairs at Yale, with a focus on equitable climate change policy. Feel free to reach out with any questions on climate/econ, living in DC/being a young professional, entrepreneurship at Yale, and making the most of fellowships/research abroad opportunities. jinchenzou@gmail.com

Brittany Connolly

Yale Divinity School '17

Graduate Education

M.A.R. Religion and Ethics

Current Occupation

Director, Office of the Dean at the Yale School of Public Health

Current Residence

New Haven, CT

As a Latina of Mexican and Caymanian descent, Brittany began her academic career at community college and graduated *magna cum laude* in two years from the University of South Florida with a B.S. in Public Health and a B.A. in Religious Studies. She continued her studies at Yale Divinity School, where

she completed her Master's in Religion and Ethics focusing on the medical humanities in the Spring of 2017.

Propelled by Yale undergraduates' mobilization, she served as the Graduate Assistant (GA) for La Casa, where she developed intercultural programming for undergraduates, graduate, and professional students and held community discussions on race and identity, assembled panels, and led 250 students from Yale's four cultural centers and the Women's Center to the first annual Women's March on Washington. She also worked at the Center for Teaching and Learning as a graduate student at Yale. To support her supervisor, Dr. Karin Gosselink, she helped launch the Academic Strategies Program, which provides undergraduates with academic resources to excel in their coursework, campus life, and future careers.

Currently, as the Director of the Dean's Office at the Yale School of Public Health, she manages 2.5 staff members, directs the daily operations of the office, prioritizes school goals and initiatives, and develops various types of written correspondence on behalf of the Dean including letters, speeches, reports, and briefings. Brittany is passionate about higher education administration, and she's confident that she would not be where she is today without the guidance and mentorship of many. brittany.connolly@yale.edu

Leo Espinoza

Yale College '17

Current Occupation

Associate Consultant, The Bridgespan Group

Current Residence

New York, NY

Leo is from Topeka, Kansas and identified as a first-generation low-income college student during his time at Yale. He earned his B.A. in Political Science, and following graduation he worked as a College & Career Advocate in Topeka High School within Topeka Public Schools, KS. He is to begin his position as an associate consultant back in the East Coast soon. leo.espinoza@aya.yale.edu

Holly Robinson

Yale College '17

Graduate Education

M.P.H., Yale School of Public Health '18

Current Occupation

Associate Consultant, The Chartis Group

Current Residence

Boston, MA

Holly is originally from Lynn, MA and is a first-generation college student. She studied anthropology and Russian while at Yale, and then stayed on to do the 5-year B.A./M.P.H. program at the School of Public Health. She completed internships with and worked at various nonprofits while at Yale, and now works in healthcare consulting. Holly is happy to chat about anything Yale/first-gen related, especially around how it affects career decisions (public vs. private sectors). robinsonholly01@gmail.com

Aneesa Noorani

Yale College '16

Graduate Education

M.S. Business Analytics, University of Texas at Dallas

Current Occupation

Graduate Student

Current Residence

Dallas, TX

Aneesa identifies as a first-generation low-income college alum, and at Yale she majored in Psychology. Following her graduation, she began pursuing a career in healthcare technology and is also currently pursuing a part-time Master's in Business Analytics, with a concentration in Data Science.

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Sarah Jane Bever-Chritton

Yale College '15

Graduate Education

J.D., Yale Law School '20

Current Occupation

Law Student

Current Residence

New Haven, CT

Sarah Jane grew up low-income in Sedalia, MO, and though her parents eventually obtained college degrees, they were nontraditional students. At Yale she majored in Political Science and went on to work at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C. She has since come back to New Haven and is in her second year at Yale Law School. Given she did not have any targeted guidance or support when she was an undergraduate, Sarah Jane is very excited that FGLI students and alumni have organized to persuade Yale to do more to support current FGLI students. sarahjanebc@gmail.com

Martha Glodz

Yale College '15

Current Occupation

Field Marketing and Sales, Caulipower

Current Residence

Chicago,
IL

Martha's parents immigrated to the U.S. from Poland in search of education, job opportunities and a better life for their kids. Their intentions took an unexpected turn when Martha's dad had a stroke while she and her brother were still very young. Her dad was no longer able to work; her parents had to defer their

dreams to the next generation and accepted the new life upon them. Martha's motivation stems from an eagerness to construct a life that her parents could not.

Martha graduated from Yale College in 2015 as an Economics major and started working in financial advising immediately after. After a couple years, she realized how unhappy she was chasing income potential rather than her own happiness. She quit her job in financial planning, despite only having a part-time job lined up to work Field Marketing at KIND Snacks. She poured her heart into the work with KIND, trying to learn everything there was to know as fast as she could. The work rekindled her passion for creative marketing, event planning, and the healthy foods industry. She now works in Field Sales and Marketing for CAULIPOWER in Chicago and is grateful for having taken a (financially) risky leap to find work she loves.

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Rebecca Matsumura

Yale Law School '15

Graduate Education

J.D., Yale Law School '15

Current Occupation

Associate Attorney, Kind & Spalding

Current Residence

Austin, TX

Rebecca grew up in her hometown of Georgetown, TX, where her mother was a legal secretary for state agency and her father a manager for a furniture company. She attended University of Texas Austin and graduated in 2011. Rebecca was the first person in family to attend graduate school, and after law school she clerked in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) and worked in BigLaw firms. She now works as an associate attorney in Austin and is a proud mother.

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Hung Pham

Yale College '15

Current Occupation

Project Manager/Implementation Consultant, Epic

Current Residence

Madison, WI

Hung is from Vallejo, CA and majored in Art History at Yale. During his undergraduate experience he served as the Yale representative at the inaugural 1vyG Conference at Brown in 2015 (this conference, which brings first-generation college students from all Ivy League schools and increasingly more campuses, is now in its fifth year). Following graduation, Hung served as a teacher in the Bay Area through Teach for America (TFA) from 2015 to 2018. He is now a Project Manager/Implementation Consultant at Epic in Madison, WI. hpham1993@gmail.com

Christofer Rodelo

Yale College '15

Graduate Education

M.A. English, Harvard University '17

Current Occupation

Graduate Student/Teacher

Current Residence

Boston, MA

Christofer grew up in his hometown of Ontario, CA and identifies as first-generation, low-income, queer, and Latinx. At Yale, he double-majored in American Studies and Ethnicity, Race & Migration, and he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at Harvard University with an anticipated graduation year of 2021.

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Adriana Ortiz

Yale College '13

Graduate Education

M.B.A., Yale School of Management '20

Current Occupation

Graduate Student

Current Residence

New Haven, CT

Adriana, a first-gen American and first-gen low-income college student, grew up in Miami, FL as the daughter of two Paraguayan immigrants. While at Yale, she was deeply involved at La Casa, in the spoken word community, and was part of the final class of ER&M double majors before it became a free-standing major. She has worked largely in Higher Education (as a FroCo, Dean's Fellow at YaleNUS, and in the Yale College Dean's Office), but she has also dabbled in startups and design and innovation work. She is currently at the Yale School of Management, learning more about strategy best practices, design and innovation, and human capital work. Adriana shares that all her identities matter to her, and that she is excited to connect with students who are grappling with who they might be in college and after.

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Darian M. Parker

Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences '13

Graduate Education

M.A. African American Studies, '05

M.Phil. Anthropology, '05

Ph.D. Anthropology and African American Studies, '13

Current Occupation

Founder & CEO of Parker Academics

Adjunct Professor at NYU Division of Applied Undergraduate Studies

Current Residence

Boston, MA

Dr. Darian Marcel Parker has a passion for the “big questions” of human existence, cutting across several academic disciplines—astrophysics, anthropology, philosophy and mathematics, among others. His engagement with these questions is what inspires him to foster a sense of intellectual curiosity in others, both as an author and as an educator.

Consistent with these themes, Dr. Parker is the founder and CEO of Parker Academics, a Manhattanbased test preparation and tutoring company that maximizes students’ potential by focusing on the emotional and neurological dimensions of learning. Dr. Parker is the author of *Sartre and No Child Left Behind: An Existential Psychoanalytic Anthropology of Urban Schooling* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2015), and “The Haze”, which appears in *Pedagogies in the Flesh: Case Studies on the Embodiment of Sociocultural Difference in Education* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). He is also the editor of Rowman and Littlefield’s *Anthropology and Education* series, and is an adjunct professor in New York University’s Division of Applied Undergraduate Studies.

Dr. Parker serves on the advisory board of Ivy Life, and maintains active membership in the American Anthropological Association, Amateur Astronomers Association of New York, Society for Phenomenological and Existential Philosophy, and the Yale University Alumni Association. Dr. Parker graduated from Yale University with his PhD, M. Phil and MA in anthropology and African American studies, and *cum laude* from UCLA’s College of Honors with BA degrees in English literature (departmental highest honors) and anthropology. Dr. Parker is also a board member of Y-Apply, a nonprofit that identifies and supports talented public high school students in their application to top-tier colleges and universities. As a first-generation college student from Winston-Salem, NC, Dr. Parker is eager to use his experiences to help fulfill the mission of 1stGenYale.

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Trinh Nguyen

Yale College '11

Graduate Education

M.H.A. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health '16

Current Occupation

Training Operations / Learning & Development, Flatiron Health

Current Residence

New York, NY

Trinh Nguyen is a Training Operations & Content Specialist at Flatiron Health, a healthtech company focused on accelerating cancer research and improving patient care. Her team leverages instructional design and curriculum development to drive the standardization, learning, and documentation of Flatiron's products and services for both internal and external stakeholders. Prior to joining Flatiron Health, Trinh gained operations and project management experience in the ambulatory, hospital, and corporate setting at Northwell Health, the largest not-for-profit health system in New York State. She also previously held both teaching and administrative positions at universities in NYC and Hong Kong.

While at Yale, Trinh researched cancer prevention campaigns among AAPI populations as a Sociology major and Edward A. Bouchet Fellow. She was active in the Asian American Cultural Center (AACC) and its affiliate groups, the Davenport Pops Orchestra, and the Yale Public Health Coalition, and also served as a Cultural Connections Aide, Peer Liaison, and First-Year Counselor.

In addition to being involved with 1stGenYale/FGLI initiatives, Trinh is an Association for Asian American Yale Alumni (AAAYA) New York Chapter board member and is happy to connect with current students and alumni! trinh.nguyen@aya.yale.edu

Stanley Yu

Yale College '10

Graduate Education

M.B.A., The Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania

Current Occupation

Investor Relations, Leonard Green & Partners

Current Residence

Los Angeles, CA

Stanley grew up in Los Angeles and studied Economics & International Studies at Yale. After graduating, he lived in New York City and worked in financial services before attending The Wharton School for his MBA. Thereafter, he worked in management consulting before relocating back to Los Angeles to work in private equity investor relations. the.stanley.yu@gmail.com

Graduate Education**Flora Mendoza**

Yale College '08

M.P.A. '15

Current Occupation

Political Consultant, Change Research

Current Residence

Oakland, CA

Born in NYC and raised in the Poconos, PA, Flora identifies as a first-generation American with parents from Mexico and Spain, and as the first on both sides to get a college degree. She studied music and international studies at Yale and afterwards worked in Democratic politics and public affairs and nonprofit advocacy through a Coro Fellowship. Flora also freelances as a professional musician and voice actor.

flora.mendoza@gmail.com**Jason Ray**

Yale College '06

Graduate EducationM.A. Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Columbia University
'18**Current Occupation**

Graduate Student (Ph.D.)

Current Residence

New York, NY

Jason is from Glennville, GA, a small town in the rural South, and is the oldest of five children and the first in his family to attend college. He was a Theater Studies major at Yale, but earned an M.A. in Medieval & Renaissance Studies much later at Columbia. He worked in academic administration at Columbia as well as a bioelectronic systems lab administrator after earning his degrees, and Jason is now pursuing a PhD in English at Fordham University with a concentration in Medieval Languages and Literature. jase.ray@gmail.com

Kristina Jones

Yale College '05

Current Occupation

Analyst, Sierentz North America LLC

Current Residence

Stamford, CT

Kristina grew up on a family farm in Appalachian Ohio and was one of the only students from her high school to leave the state for college—much less attend an Ivy League school. Looking back at the fifteen years since she moved away from my hometown, including several years living in Europe and the Middle East, Kristina can easily say that her first two years of Yale were the biggest culture shock she has felt in her life. She managed to make it through her time there with a degree in history and a lot of gratitude for the amazing friends she met along the way.

After graduation, Kristina spent a year living in Beirut, Lebanon as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar with the original intention of getting a PhD in Middle Eastern History but changed course after taking a job as an oil analyst on the commodity derivatives desk at JPMorgan. She has spent the past 12 years working in various aspects of commodities trading and now work at a commodities focused family office in Connecticut focusing (ironically enough, she adds, considering her background) on agriculture investing. Kristina is be happy to speak to any first-generation students about culture shock, courses of study and subsequent impact on career choices, and working in finance. kristina.l.jones@gmail.com

Heather Ingram

Yale School of Management '04

Graduate Education

M.B.A., Yale School of Management '04

Current Occupation

Consultant

Current Residence

Arlington, VA

Heather grew up in Arlington, VA with her single mom twice-divorced. She attended Haverford College for undergrad where she majored in history. Following graduation, she tried several jobs, from education nonprofit work to Ad sales, to working for a Financial Advisor, to working for the Red Cross, before getting an MBA at Yale. She then moved from leadership training to Marketing to Internal process and data consulting to starting her own coaching and consulting business. She shares there have been highs and lows—but a lot of lessons learned along the way. heather.ingram@gmail.com

Liang Yang

Yale College '99

Graduate Education

Ph.D., Harvard University

Current Occupation

Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Current Residence

Illinois

Dr. Liang Yang grew up in a modest family in Shanghai. At Yale, he received full scholarship and worked 20 hours per week in the dining hall for living expenses. He majored in Physics at Yale and continued his graduate study at Harvard. After his postdoc work at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), Dr. Yang moved to UIUC as a junior faculty in 2012. brightsheep@gmail.com

Tara C. Smith

Yale College '98

Graduate Education

Ph.D. Microbiology, University of Toledo

Current Occupation

Professor, Kent State University

Current Residence

Kent,
OH

Dr. Tara Smith is originally from Northwest Ohio, where her father built tires and her mother stayed at home due to a chronic disease. She majored in biology at Yale and later obtained a PhD in microbiology at the University of Toledo and additional post-doctoral training in epidemiology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Smith spent 9 years at the University of Iowa before moving back to Ohio to take a position at Kent State University. tsmit176@kent.edu

Ben Arndt

Yale College '96

Graduate Education

M.B.A., Kellogg School of Business '07

Current Occupation

COO, Bell Incorporated

Current Residence

Sioux Fall, SD

Ben came to Yale from a small farming community in Iowa. Being the first in his family to attend (and later graduate from) college, he remembers realizing that Yale's annual tuition, room and board was approximately equal to their household income. However, thanks to Yale's generosity in Financial Aid (and many student loans) and his family's sacrifice, they were able to make it work. (Ben was fortunate enough to also have his sister join him at Yale as a freshman when he was a junior; she graduated in 1998 and is now working as a physician.) He graduated with honors in 1996 and has since been working in business for companies like Procter & Gamble and Microsoft. Ben shares that he and his sister are incredibly proud to be Yalies, incredibly thankful for the generosity of their parents and Yale Financial Aid, and are staying active in the Yale community as local reps and Alumni Interviewers.

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Henry Demers

Yale College '96

Current Occupation

Self-Employed

Current Residence

New Hampshire

Henry grew up in a working-class family in New Hampshire and was the first in his family to attend college or get a degree. At Yale he studied Math and Physics, and like many current FGLI students, he felt a bit isolated from many Yalies - partly from the fact that he had to send money home and participate in ROTC on top of a heavy course load. Henry was commissioned in the military upon graduation, working in the US Intelligence Community for more than a decade before a new family convinced him to settle down and leave that world. Henry is happy to share his experiences and advice with any current FGLI students: "There aren't many of us but we aren't alone ;)" henrydemers3@hotmail.com

Esther Zirbel

Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences '93

Graduate Education

Ph.D. Astrophysics

Current Occupation

Education Consultant

Current Residence

Boston & San Diego

Esther is a first-generation high school graduate, born in Istanbul to German parents who migrated to Turkey during the post-World-War-II years. At the age of thirteen she realized that education could be the key out of poverty. She fought to attend high school, secretly applied to college, and left when she turned eighteen. She attended college in England and had to catch up in every way. Her eventual success gave her the drive to go further and earn an award-winning PhD in astrophysics from Yale.

As a faculty member, she loved to see her students' eyes sparkle with excitement when they came to understand new concepts. Now she is coaching professors in teaching and learning. Her goal is to ensure that students of all backgrounds, especially FGLI students, receive the best possible education, are well prepared for the 22nd century workforce, have a chance to live full lives, and pass on what they have learned to others. ezirbel@gmail.com

Pablo Muñoz

Yale College '91

Graduate Education

M.A. Educational Administration, Teachers College at Columbia University '96

Current Occupation

Superintendent of School, Passaic Board of Education, NJ

Current Residence

Maplewood, NJ

Pablo Muñoz has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Passaic Public Schools in New Jersey since October 2013. Throughout his tenure in Passaic, he has led significant systemic change with the goal of creating a great school system.

Muñoz led a complete district rezoning and realignment across the PreK-8 schools. He led the district to acquire critical spaces that added 44 new classrooms to the district, reducing the severe overcrowding. Muñoz created and opened 3 new schools in 2015, the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy; and in 2018, the Passaic Preparatory Academy and the Passaic Academy for Science and Engineering.

He has also worked to ensure that instructional programming shifted to increase student engagement through cognitively challenging curricula. He has led a commitment to providing every student the

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opportunity to graduate high school with 15 college credits and/or a career certification. This has resulted in an Early College program that has led to dramatic increases in Advanced Placement and dual enrollment college course offerings.

As a first-generation high school and college graduate, Muñoz's personal experience fuels his passion for creating high quality school systems. He graduated from Elizabeth High School, Elizabeth, NJ in 1987 with academic and athletic merits, including All-State selection in baseball. He continued to excel at Yale University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Ivy League pitching honors. He graduated college passionate about supporting students, and began his career at Elizabeth High School as a teacher of social studies. In addition to his role as a teacher, Muñoz continued his studies at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he earned a master's degree in Educational Administration. He has served as Supervisor, Director, and Assistant Superintendent, before becoming Superintendent of Schools in the Elizabeth Public Schools in May 2005.

During his 8-year tenure in the Elizabeth Public Schools, Muñoz led a significant overhaul of the district, resulting in three National Blue Ribbon School awards from the US Department of Education. He oversaw a significant high school transformation effort culminating in the recognition of two high schools at the state and national level for commitment to preparing students for college with ranking among the best in the state by U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, and the Washington Post Challenge Index.

Muñoz was named 2008 Union County School Superintendent of the Year by the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce and was selected to be a member of the George Lucas Educational Foundation's 2008 Daring Dozen— a prestigious group of twelve educators “who are reshaping the future of education.”

Most importantly, Muñoz is the son of Luz and Pablo Muñoz, both originally from Aguada, Puerto Rico. He and his wife, Alanna, are proud parents of two daughters. munozpa@me.co

Curtis Sano

Yale College '88

Graduate Education

J.D., Berkeley School of Law '93

M.P.P., Goldman School of Public Policy '94

Current Occupation

Partner, Holland & Knight LLP

Current Residence

McLean, VA

Curtis grew up in a working class family that lived paycheck to paycheck on Maui, where his parents had some college experience but did not graduate. After graduating Yale in 1988 he went to law school and now practices in commercial real estate law.

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Osamu Watanabe

Yale Law School '85

J.D., Yale Law School '85

Current Occupation

General Counsel, Moelis & Company

Current Residence

New York

Osamu was born and raised in New York as a 5th generation Japanese American. His mother was a waitress and his father was a technician of sorts and died when Osamu was 13. Neither of his parents went to college, and his sister, uncles, and aunts also did not graduate college. Osamu stopped going to high school for a while, a period which he says marked the upswing in his education which led him to attend Antioch College (where he studied History) and, eventually, Yale Law School.

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Graduate Education**Cindy Holloway**

Yale College '84

Graduate Education

M.A. Social Work, University of Georgia

Current Occupation

Private Tutor

Current Residence

Brunswick, GA

One of seven children of a mill worker in southeastern Georgia, Cindy identifies as a first-generation, low-income alum. She served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force and has a master's degree in social work. She is half Portuguese, and is currently studying for a doctorate in Education as a 100 per disabled veteran at Capella University. mygeorgiatutor@gmail.com

Joann Delenick

Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences '83

Graduate Education

Ph.D. Biology

Current Occupation

Founding Member, Open Scholarship Initiative

Current Residence

Beacon Falls, CT

Dr. Joann Delenick grew up in her family's hometown of Saint Clair, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, where she graduated from the former Saint Clair Area High School in 1969 (which has since closed and became substituted by the neighboring Pottsville Area High School). She earned her undergraduate degree in biology from Johns Hopkins University with honors and then enrolled in the biology department at Yale as a doctoral candidate. Following graduation, she worked in contract research positions at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), OD, OBA—formerly Office of Recombinant DNA Activities, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies (USHMMCAHS) in Washington, D.C. and also as staff bioscientist with Intralogs/Patent Vision of

Woodbridge, CT. Dr. Delenick is credited with designing the first Adverse Events Reporting Format for Human Gene Transfer Protocols (a database) presently maintained by the FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). Presently she is a founding member of the Open Scholarship Initiative (OSI), a volunteer UNESCO-affiliated group developing standards, strategies and practices for advancing global open access to academic research publications and data. She also serves as a peer reviewer for the Oxford University journal Bioinformatics and maintains an interest in glycobiology. dnaoj@gmail.com

Lise Chapman

Yale School of Management '81

Graduate Education

M.B.A., Yale School of Management '81

M.A. School and Mental Health Counseling, Kean University '15

Current Occupation

Chair, 1stGenYale

Private Educator and Counselor

Current Residence

Short Hills, NJ

As a native of Los Angeles, Lise was fortunate to attend Stanford through work-study, loans, and scholarships, and later the same at Yale School of Management. She was an active student leader at school which gave her lots of on-the-job training and helped her succeed in a career in finance, first as a commercial banker and later as a Vice President in mergers & acquisitions in investment banking. Lise later married to a fellow Yalie, raised three children, and went back to school at night to earn a Master's in Counseling in 2015. While serving as Chair of the Yale Alumni Association Board of Governors, Lise founded 1stGenYale in 2016, an alumni group to support students who share being among (*continued*)

(*continues*) the first in the families to go to college or graduate school and are from low income underserved backgrounds. Prior, she founded Careers, Life, and Yale in 2015, now a YAA program, in which alumni are invited back to campus to share their career journeys on a broad range of fields with students. Both programs engage alumni and students from Yale College and Graduate & Professional Schools. She states she is grateful for her opportunities and wants to give back to help others succeed as people did for her. lpchapman@aya.yale.edu

Barbara Protacio

Yale College '81

Graduate Education

B.S., U.S. Naval Academy '86

M.A. National Security Studies, Georgetown University '87

Current Occupation

1st Grade Teacher

Current Residence

McLean, VA

Barbara (Quiñones) Protacio, Yale '81, B.A. Arch., Ezra Stiles; US Naval Academy '86, B.S.; Georgetown '87, M.A.; graduated from both Yale and the US Naval Academy, each in their first decade of admitting women. Barbara was adopted by US parents in Guatemala when she was 9 months old. She grew up in five countries in Latin America and began at Yale a few days after her 17th birthday. At Yale, Barbara earned a varsity letter as a coxswain on the Yale Women's Crew team and majored in architecture.

After graduating from Yale she worked for an architecture firm while applying to fulfill one of her other dreams – serving her adopted country and attending the US Naval Academy. She entered USNA one year after finishing Yale and later completed a MA from Georgetown in National Security Studies. She went on to serve as a US Naval Intelligence officer, retiring at the rank of Captain after 30 years of service. During that time, she directed Yale's Virginia Tidewater Alumni Schools Committee and raised two children, who followed in her footsteps to Yale (classes of 2014 and 2015). (*continues*)

(*continued*) Barbara is a 2014 Teach For America DC Corps alumna and now serves her community as a first grade teacher in northern Virginia. She is enthusiastic about serving on 1stGenYale's leadership team and is also a leader for its Washington, DC chapter. She looks forward to being a friendly resource for you! protacio@aya.yale.edu

Peter Gordon

Yale College '80

Graduate Education

M.F.A., Carnegie-Mellon '82

Current Occupation

Course Director, Full Sail University

Current Residence

Orlando, FL

Peter was born and raised in Brooklyn before it was hip, and was the first member of his family to attend Yale. He is grateful for the financial aid, term and summer jobs that made it possible. Peter majored in history but spent most of his extracurricular time working on various theater productions. He earned an MFA in Directing from Carnegie-Mellon, and after a few years directing and teaching theater launched a career as a “suit” in television programming and development, working for HBO, NBC, PBS, and independent production companies. He moved to Orlando, FL in 1994 to become the first Director of Programming at Golf Channel, where he created the programs and plans that enabled the channel from startup to a value of over \$1 billion. Peter still lives in the Orlando area and teaches Business of Film in Full Sail University’s Film Production MFA program. He is also a published poet and journalist. Peter remains very involved in alumni affairs as an ASC member, Day of Service coordinator for Florida, and Florida rep for 1stGenYale. petermgordon1@gmail.com

Barry Abramson

Yale College '77

Current Occupation

Financial Consultant

Senior Advisor, Saber Partners LLC

Current Residence

Scarsdale, NY

Barry came to Yale from a working-class family in Brooklyn, NY and attended his local public high school, New Utrecht High School. He received generous financial aid from Yale, but still needed to work part time while at Yale and during every summer as well. He majored in Economics and after graduation in 1977, he went straight to Wall Street, got a good entry level position as an analyst doing equity research, and moved up the ranks. After 25 years as a sell-side analyst, Barry moved over to the buy-side as a portfolio manager. Since 2016, he has been a consultant with Saber Partners.

bma1977@aol.com

Timothy J. Sullivan

Yale College '72

Graduate Education

Ph.D. Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School '80

Current Occupation

Retired

Current Residence

Berkeley, CA

Dr. Timothy Sullivan grew up in Brooklyn, NY, where his grandparents eventually settled. His Irish grandparents immigrated to New York City as teens around 1905 – his grandfathers were dockworkers and eventually firefighters and his grandmothers served as domestics until marriage. His father was a New York City policeman who did not go to college, his mother was disabled, and he grew up in a large ethnic household without much money (his family qualified for the free lunch program when it came to his school in the late 1950s). When Tim entered Yale, it was just beginning to accept students from nontraditional and low-income backgrounds. For him, Yale was a culture shock, and although it was clear that he did not fit in, Tim loved ideas and realized that this was a great opportunity for him. He went on to spend summers as a postal worker to help pay for school and did bursary work during the academic year. He majored in mathematics but found himself more interested in philosophy and government.

During his early days in New York, the banning of apartment incinerators, coal, and high sulfur oil improved air quality dramatically and attracted Tim to the then emerging environmental and energy policy. He applied to Harvard's Kennedy School of government, and studied energy and environmental policy, earning a Masters' Degree in 1976 and his Ph.D. in 1980. By the end of the Yale-Harvard experience, Tim felt that he did not fit into the community of his birth, but did not feel like a Yalie either. In 1980, he shares, California was a place to reinvent oneself, and after a brief time in Washington, D.C. he moved to California in 1981 and eventually had a career at the California Public Utilities Commission, working on energy, telecommunications, and environmental policy. Eventually he became Executive Director of the State Agency during Governor Brown's second administration, and worked on changing the organizational culture and expanding the mission to include greenhouse gas reduction and to reduce safety threats from the electric and gas infrastructure, particularly wildfires.

At this time, Tim feels very connected to Yale and knows that there are now many more students taking the FGLI path. Tim is now very grateful for the chance he had (which, he shares, was not always the case). His daughter attended Yale ("It is a shock to be related to a legacy"), and through her he has met students who were also the first in their families to go to college. Dr. Sullivan and his daughter shared some of his experiences with these students, and he has come to realize that just being able to talk with someone going through similar transitions can be helpful. During Tim's time at Yale, it was difficult to find people with the FGLI experience, and no one discussed it.

Tim Sullivan is glad to help in whatever way he can with FGLI students.

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