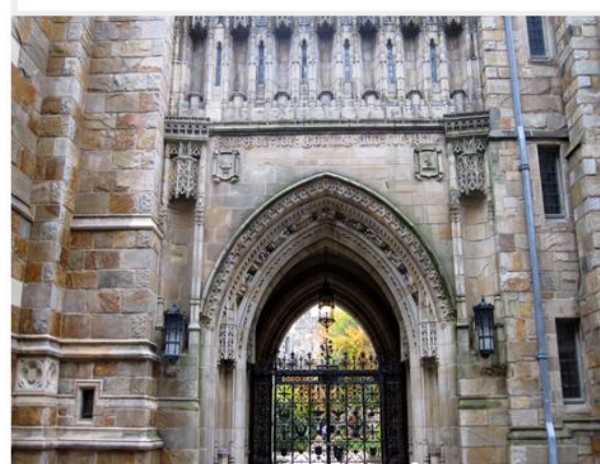


# How Does Liberal Arts Education Cultivate Leaders

## — The Yale Experience

T.P. Ma  
Raymond J. Wean Chair Professor  
Yale University

耶魯大學  
講座教授  
馬佐平



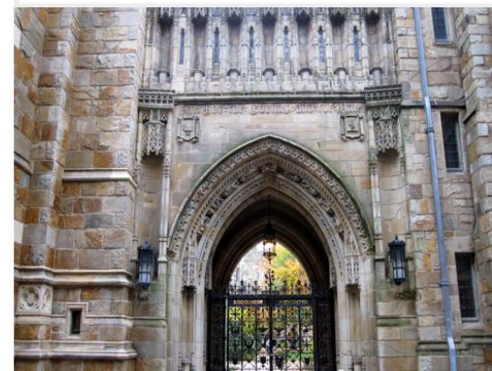
# Yale's Unique Contributions to Liberal Education

- The Yale Report of 1828
- The Residential College System



# The Yale Report of 1828

- One of the Most Influential Documents in American Higher Education
- Part-1: A General Discussion of Liberal Education
- The Liberal Education composes of 4 disciplines, that would
  1. form a man's proper character
  2. enable the educated man to act in an appropriate manner in the absence of supervision
  3. provide a man with mental discipline
  4. vigorously exercise a man's mental faculties



# The Yale Report of 1828

The Yale faculty denounced the concept of preparing its undergraduates for specific professional work. "Our object is not to teach that which is peculiar to any one of the professions; but to lay the foundation which is common to them all."

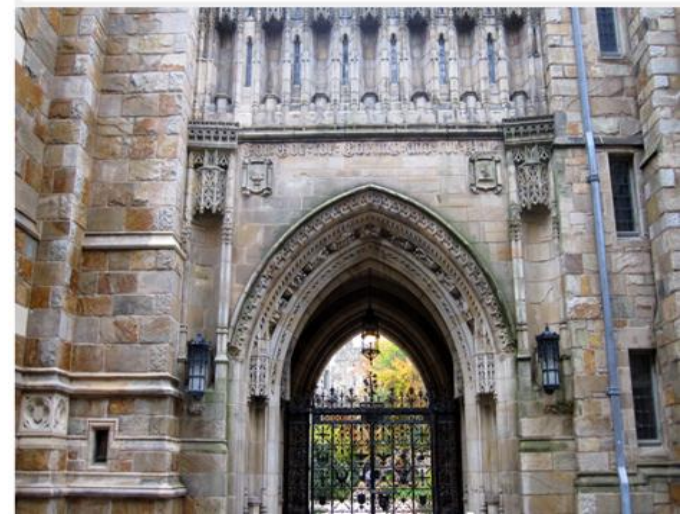
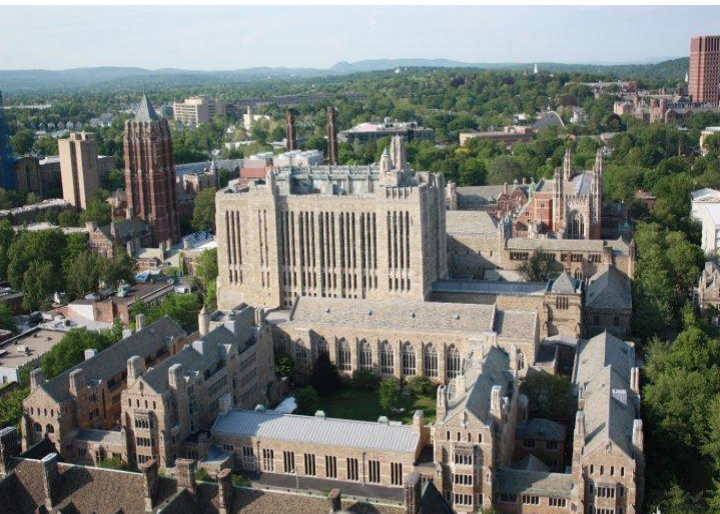
Advocates for the liberal education curriculum believed that exercising the mind and providing a general foundation common to all was more important than providing specialized education for a particular profession.





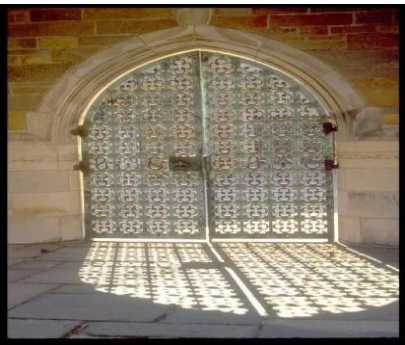
# Yale's Residential College System

- > 70 years old
- Affords cohesiveness and intimacy of a small school
- while still enjoying the cultural and scholarly resources of a large university



# How Does Residential College System Enhance Liberal Education

- Learning in Living Environment (Students spend 2/3 of his/her time in a residential college)
- Most of the students in a residential college are majors in different fields, which promote broad exchanges and offer opportunity for absorbing wide range of knowledge
- The composition of a residential college is a miniaturized version of Yale University, which enables students to develop ability to socialize, to interact with others, and to build up networks.
- Residential college setting affords students more intimate interactions with professors who are fellows of the college.



# Yale has 12 residential colleges



Berkeley, Branford, Calhoun, Davenport,  
Timothy Dwight, Jonathan Edwards,  
Morse, Pierson, Saybrook, Silliman,  
Ezra Stiles, and **Trumbull**

With 2 more nearing completion

# The key personnel of a residential college

- Every residential college has **400-450 students**, encompassing various majors affiliated with the same college in all 4 years
- **Master** (The head of the college; similar to Chairman)
- **Dean** (Chief executive; young faculty with family)
- **Operations Manager** (Nonfaculty)
- **Faculty Fellows** (~20-30 per residential college)
- **Residence Fellows** (young faculty members and family)
- **Freshman Counselors** (selected college seniors)
- **Graduate Affiliates** (selected graduate students)



# Master

- The head of the residential college; A distinguished professor
- His (her) whole family live in the Master's House
- Master is expected to foster and shape the social, cultural, and educational life and character of the college.
- Promote a variety of inter-collegiate contests and tournaments
- Weekly Lectures: invite distinguished professors to give speeches on various topics, as well as to interact with students.
- Master's Tea: Once or twice a month, a world renowned person in a variety of profession is invited by the Master to have tea at the college and interact with the students.



Margaret Clark, Professor of psychology  
Master of **Trumbull** College

# Dean

- the Principal Counselor for a student' life and academic affairs; usually a young faculty member
- The Dean's whole family reside in the residential college
- Every student's course selection, course withdrawal, course change, etc. must be discussed with the Dean and acquire his (her) signature before it's official.
- Must have sufficient acquaintance and knowledge of every student.
- Dean's Excuse: Only the Dean can authorize the sick leave from a class, make-up class, late submission of assignments, etc.。
- If needed, help the student find a tutor for a specific subject。
- Help the student to apply for various scholarships, study abroad, graduate school admission, jobs, etc.



Jasmina Besirevic-Regan, Dean of [Trumbull](#) College,  
a Assistant Professor of Sociology。

# Faculty Fellows

- Every residential college has 20-30 Faculty Fellows
- Selected from Yale University's faculty members from various departments who are recommended by 2 existing Fellows.
- Fellows are encouraged to come to the residential colleges to frequently interact with the students. (Fellows enjoy free meals at the residential colleges.)
- Most Faculty Fellows also serve as Freshman and/or Sophomore advisors.

# Residence Faculty Fellows

- Some young Faculty Fellows may be selected to live in the residential college to serve as “Residence Fellows”.
- Trumbull College has two Residence fellows.
- They have much more opportunities than other Faculty Fellows to interact with the students.
- They help the students in a variety of activities.

# Freshman Counselors

- Selected from seniors in the same college
- In Trumbull College there are 7 Freshman Counselors
- They are very helpful for freshmen's gradual integration into their campus life in academic, social, and cultural aspects.



# Graduate Affiliates

- Selected from Yale graduate students in various departments who are interested to serve.
- This year Trumbull College has 12 Graduate Affiliates
- Their main mission is to promote the interactions between undergraduates and graduate students.

# Liberal Education

## – Current Practice at Yale

- **Yale is committed to the idea of a liberal arts education through which students think and learn across disciplines, literally liberating or freeing the mind to its fullest potential.**
- **The essence of such an education is not what the students study but the result – gaining the ability to think critically and independently and to write, reason, and communicate clearly – the foundation for all professions.**

**Student Centric!**



# Liberal Education

## – Current Practice at Yale

- The student is encouraged to learn broadly and deeply. Depth is covered in one's major. Breadth is covered in three study areas (the humanities and arts, the sciences, and the social sciences) plus three skill areas (writing, quantitative reasoning, and foreign language).



# Distribution Requirements

True to the mission of liberal education, the curriculum is arranged to allow students the flexibility to achieve both breadth across the curriculum and depth in one or two areas of study.

- $\geq 36$  course credits required for graduation
- $\geq 2$  course credits each in (1) the humanities and arts,  
(2) the sciences or engineering, and  
(3) the social sciences
- $\geq 2$  course credits each in (i) quantitative reasoning  
(ii) writing, and  
(iii) courses for foreign language proficiency



# Choosing a Major

A Yale education instills in students the values, goals, skills, and knowledge they need to pursue inspiring work, to take joy in lifetime learning, and to lead successful and meaningful lives.

- 75 Majors offered
- No need to declare a major until end of sophomore : as it should be shaped by (and grow from) their academic experiences here.
- In most humanities and social sciences, there are few prerequisites: a variety of courses taken in freshman and sophomore year are likely to position students well for advanced study in these disciplines
- The natural sciences and engineering require more careful planning, as during freshman year, students lay the groundwork for these majors by beginning a sequence of courses that must be taken in a specified order throughout their four years of study





# “Shopping” for Classes

- Students are encouraged to try out different classes before registering.
- The first 10 days of semester are “Shopping Period”
- During Shopping Period, students meet with academic advisors to sort through the academic opportunities



# Teaching and Learning

- Over >70 departments and programs offer approximately 2,000 undergraduate courses each year
- Every tenured professor in Yale College teaches undergraduates
- Most undergraduate classes are small (75% enroll < 20 students)
- Students can expect their professors to be accessible and to take a personal interest in them



# Advising Networks

## **Residential College**

- Freshman Counselors
- Freshman Faculty Advisers
- Residential College Dean
- Residential College Head
- Residence Faculty Fellows

## **Academic Department**

- Freshman Faculty Advisers
- Sophomore Faculty Advisors
- Director of Undergraduate Study
- Course Instructors & Teaching Fellows



# Undergraduate Research

- 95% of undergraduate science majors do research with faculty
- \$1Million annual funding for undergraduate science research fellowships
- > 100 freshmen are awarded summer fellowships to do research
- > 800 science, math, and engineering labs at Yale offer undergraduate research
- Extensive possibilities for research around the world



# International Experience

64% of students participated last year,  
with \$6.4M Yale funding

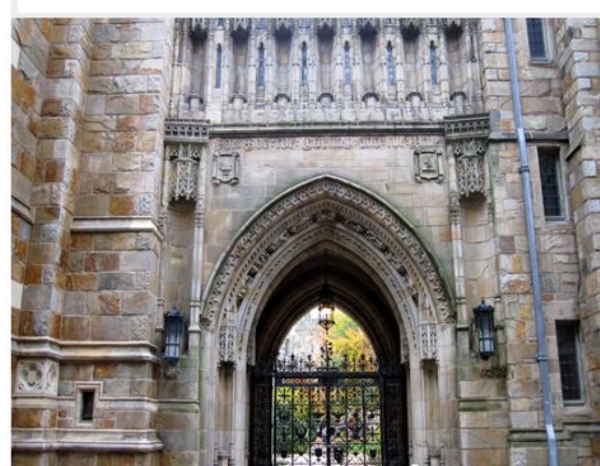
- Study Abroad
- Yale Year or Term Abroad
- Summer Internship Abroad
- Research Abroad
- Community Service Abroad





# Summary

- The principle of liberal education articulated in the 1828 Yale Report lives on today!
- The residential college system plays a major role for its implementation.
- “Student Centric” is at the core of curriculum design and implementation.
- Some nitty-gritty details of Yale’s current practice have been presented .



Thank you!

