

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.
PROGRAM AT YALE

Message from the Chairman of the Board,
ROGER KIMBALL M. PHIL '82

Dear Friends,

The sage of *Ecclesiastes* observed that there is nothing new under the sun. A smart chap, that sage. And his words have a distinct pertinence to this communication.

Those of you lucky enough to have received the benison of this annual report from the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale these past few years will note a reassuring lack of novelty to the bulletins herein contained.

Under the enlightened guidance of our Founder and Executive Director Lauren Noble, the Program has gone from strength to strength this year. But then, that was true last year as well.

Another continuity: Lauren has this year overseen a steady expansion of the Program's activities: more lectures, symposia, fellows, interns, polls, reports, and sundry other initiatives. But, again, that was true last year as well. Lauren has the nitty-gritty, pleasingly set forth in charts, photos, summaries, and enjoinders elsewhere in this document. But you may rest easy that the basic message is the same this year as last:

With your support, the Buckley Program has scaled new heights, attracted many new partners and collaborators, and in general done more this year than last to broadcast the fructifying gospel of WFB, Jr. regarding the advantages of minimal and decentralized government and the maximum individual liberty consistent with public order.

Allow me to dilate on the protasis of the proceeding sentence, "*With your support.*"

Although Lauren is the *fons et origo* of our enterprise, all her efforts would be for naught without the generous interventions of you, our supporters, our co-collaborators.

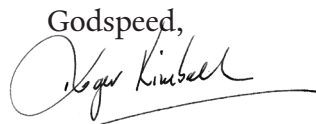
It is because you understand the extent to which free speech – and indeed, free minds – are threatened not just at Yale but at educational institutions throughout the country that Lauren is able to mobilize an effective resistance and demonstrate what an alternative narrative to the politically correct establishment looks like.

You provide the gas for the engine that drives the Buckley Program's many initiatives. Yale is busy covering up works of art at Sterling Library, what used to be called Calhoun College, and many other sites on campus. You help us power the klieg lights and detail the transgressions.

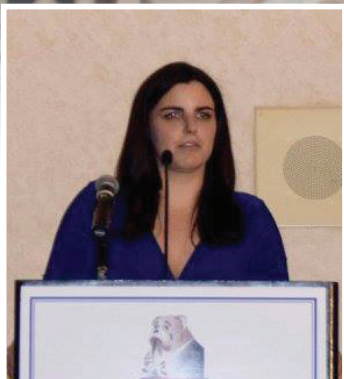
Yale sits atop a \$24 billion tax-exempt endowment. The Buckley Program is somewhat less lavishly provisioned. But what a factory for freedom you have helped us build! This past year, the Buckley Program has been active – and effective! – on more fronts than ever before. From our Third Annual Disinvitation Dinner honoring the great entrepreneur Peter Thiel to our many campus events for distinguished conservative speakers, the Buckley Program has not only been in the news but has been making news.

Thank you for helping to make our work possible. I hope that you will once again put pen to check book, click on your Paypal account, or call your broker about a stock transfer. There was a time when important thinkers thought the idea of zero was the work of the devil. But you know the power of that Sumarian invention I hope that you will bear it in mind as you contemplate helping us preserve and broadcast Bill Buckley's invigorating intellectual legacy.



Godspeed,

Roger Kimball
Chairman





Message from the Founder and Executive Director, LAUREN NOBLE '11

As the summer winds down, I am thrilled to share with you the Buckley Program's 2016-2017 Annual Report. Reflecting on our activities throughout the past year, I am deeply encouraged by the steady growth in our programming and the surging student demand. Not only did our number of student fellows rise to 283, but we also attracted record crowds to our lectures and hosted more events than ever before.

In the recently released second edition of the *Heterodox Academy Guide to Colleges*, which rates universities by viewpoint diversity, Yale ranked eleventh from the bottom out of 106 institutions. While that assessment is unsurprising, more concerning is the environment students encounter. Last fall, the *Yale Daily News* reported that three quarters of students found Yale unwelcoming to conservatives. Our own survey findings confirm that general perception of the campus intellectual climate. The Buckley Program cannot solve this problem alone, but our efforts are making a real difference.

I invite you to take a few minutes to read the pages that follow and learn about our impact on the campus discourse and in the education of many students. The regular episodes of dysfunction, intolerance, and overreaction at colleges and universities nationwide are common fodder for ridicule. Much of the effectiveness of the Buckley Program can be attributed to the fact that instead of merely responding with whining about political correctness or a lack of conservative voices, we offer a positive alternative. We expose students to the principles William F. Buckley, Jr. championed, puncture campus echo chambers, and model debates and discussions that are civil, open, and honest.

Our multi-day seminar program has truly flourished. These seminars give students the opportunity to study with top teachers over Yale's fall and spring breaks. This past academic year's subjects were the morality of capitalism and Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. As a result of glowing student feedback, this coming year we've doubled the number of seminars, adding one in August and another in January.

We have many exciting programs in store for this year, including our Seventh Annual Conference on Friday, November 3rd. I hope you can join us then or at another event. A preliminary schedule for the fall semester is available in this report. If you are interested in receiving event announcements, please contact me at Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com so I can add you to our e-mail list.

Finally, I am truly humbled by the generosity you've shown our cause. Contributions and revenue last year totaled \$818,461, a significant boost from 2015. Quite simply, our work would not be possible without your support. Thank you very much.



Message from the Student President, ALEXIS GURGANIOUS '18

The Buckley Program welcomed 140 new student fellows during the past school year. This milestone highlights how the Program's mission has resonated so well with Yale's undergraduate and graduate students. As I think back to my first Buckley Program event in the fall of 2014, I recall having no idea that debates about free speech were common on college campuses today. But in my short time at Yale, I have witnessed no shortage of controversy, and the Program's leadership on free speech issues has no doubt accelerated its growth.

The Buckley Program now boasts over 280 fellows from across the political spectrum, and I have been especially pleased to welcome students who value free speech as a foundational aspect of our society. Regardless of ideology, many Yale students are hungry for intellectual diversity on campus.

Even when they disagree, dozens of students and community members regularly attend our events because they value the discourse we provide. A great memory from this past year was witnessing hundreds of people wait to hear Dr. Ben Carson speak in SSS 114. The capacity crowd did not interrupt him, for his words captivated the audience. At a time when certain speakers lament the possibility of being shouted down, this event reinvigorated my faith in the smart programming that the Buckley Program pursues. Similarly, my favorite event was the lecture we hosted with *New York Times* best-selling author J.D. Vance in February of 2017. A record-breaking 800 guests joined us to hear him speak about his childhood lessons and Appalachian roots. Not only did the event resonate with me as a Tennessean, but it was also wonderful to see so many engaged in learning more about the region's fiscal challenges and partisan upheavals. We need speakers on college campuses who represent both sides of the aisle, and the Buckley Program provides balance to Yale's campus.

Given the current global political climate, the mission of the Buckley Program remains more important than ever. Many fellows have shared that their intellect has developed tremendously due to programming that not only articulates their views, but also challenges their prior assumptions. I speak from the heart when I express how thankful I am to have found the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale, and I sincerely thank you all for your generous support.



Student President Alexis Gurganious '18 introduces J.D. Vance in February 2017

“On the one hand, Yale University has been getting terrible publicity... for political correctness and a kind of really authoritarian enforcement of political correctness, and that's been all the press on Yale. Somehow or other, once you get in the crosshairs of the press on that one, you stay there. At the same time though, in the last three or four years, the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale is flourishing. Yale undergraduates who are conservative are just flourishing... You see a kind of conservative renaissance. Conservative kids finding each other and fighting back.”

-Peter Robinson, *The Ricochet Podcast*



Preliminary **FALL 2017** SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

We have a number of exciting events scheduled for this fall. If you would like to receive announcements about events, including times and locations, please join our e-mail list by contacting Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com. We are currently in the process of scheduling additional programs, so please stay tuned.

Monday, August 21st to Wednesday, August 23rd

August Seminar with Bradley Birzer, "From Edmund Burke to Russell Kirk"

Wednesday, September 6th

Seminar with Heather Hendershot on *Open to Debate: How William F. Buckley Put Liberal America on the Firing Line*

Wednesday, September 13th

Talk by Guy Benson and Mary Katharine Ham on *End of Discussion: How the Liberal Outrage Industry Shuts Down Debate, Manipulates Voters, and Makes America Less Free (and Fun)*

Thursday, September 28th

Lecture by Carly Fiorina

This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Irving Brown Lecture Series at Young America's Foundation.

Tuesday, October 3rd

Firing Line Debate on Brexit featuring Nile Gardiner and James Kirchick

Monday October 18th to Friday October 20th

Fall Break Seminar with Michael Uhlmann on "The Once and Future Presidency"

Thursday, October 26th

Lecture by Amy Wax on "What is happening to the family, and why?"

Friday, November 3rd

Seventh Annual Conference on "The Constitution and the Courts: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Future of Freedom"

Thursday, November 9th

Firing Line Debate on Iran featuring Michael Rubin and Brian Katulis

Thursday, December 7th

Seminar with Lee Edwards



2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

FALL 2016



Stephen Kotkin



Margaret Hoover speaks at our Sixth Annual Conference.



The first panel of our Sixth Annual Conference examined the history of the American party system.

During the past academic year, the Buckley Program hosted a total of 24 events, including lectures, conferences, seminars, and debates.

- **Lecture by Ben Shapiro on “White Privilege, Multiculturalism, and Other Leftist Myths”**
We are grateful for the generous support of the Irving Brown Lecture Series at Young America’s Foundation in making this event possible.
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
- **Firing Line Debate on Climate Policy**
Featuring Jeremy Carl, William Nordhaus, and Robert Mendelsohn
Monday, September 26, 2016
- ***Campus Speech in Crisis: What the Yale Experience Can Teach America* Book Launch Reception**
Featuring remarks by Judge José Cabranes
Saturday, October 1, 2016
- **Fall Break Seminar**
The Morality of Capitalism
Featuring Professor James Otteson
Thursday, October 20, 2016 to Saturday, October 22, 2016
- **Sixth Annual Conference**
“The Future of the Party System in America”
Friday, October 28, 2016
- **Firing Line Debate on School Choice**
Featuring Chester Finn, Henry Levin, and Elizabeth Carroll
Thursday, November 3, 2016
- **Discussion with Charlie Spies**
Co-Sponsored with *The Politic*
Monday, November 28, 2016
- **Lecture by Dr. Ben Carson**
“The Value of Common Sense”
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Video footage of many of these events is available on our YouTube channel.



Events In Review

SPRING 2017

- Seminar with Mary Eberstadt on *It's Dangerous to Believe: Religious Freedom and Its Enemies*
Wednesday, January 25, 2017
- Lecture by J.D. Vance on *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*
Wednesday, February 1, 2017
- Seminar with Charles C. W. Cooke on *The Conservatarian Manifesto*
Thursday, February 16, 2017
- Seminar with Carol Platt Liebau
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
- Firing Line Debate: "How Can the Affordable Care Act Be Fixed?"
Featuring Paul Howard, Alice Rivlin, and David Leffell
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
- Lecture by Stephen Kotkin on "Trump and Putin? What in the World Is Up?"
Friday, March 3, 2017
- Lecture by Michael Auslin on *The End of the Asian Century: War, Stagnation, and the Risks to the World's Most Dynamic Region*
Monday, March 6, 2017
- Spring Break Seminar
Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*
Featuring Patrick Deneen
Monday, March 13, 2017 to
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
- Firing Line Debate on the Minimum Wage
Featuring Stan Veuger, Rachel West, and Costas Meghir
Co-Sponsored with the AEI Executive Council
Thursday, March 30, 2017
- Seminar with Sally Satel
Wednesday, April 5, 2017
- Discussion with Alvin Felzenberg and Rich Lowry on *A Man and His Presidents: The Political Odyssey of William F. Buckley Jr.*
Wednesday, April 12, 2017



Rich Lowry and Alvin Felzenberg discuss *A Man and His Presidents: The Political Odyssey of William F. Buckley Jr.*

- Third Annual Disinvitation Dinner
Featuring Peter Thiel
Tuesday, April 18, 2017
- Firing Line Debate: "Privacy and Security in a Digital World"
Featuring Michael Mukasey, Laura Donohue, and Joan Feigenbaum
Thursday, April 20, 2017
- Student Panel on "Going Against the Grain: Thoughts on Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity at Yale"
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
- Reunion Weekend Panel: "The State of Free Speech and the Intellectual Climate on Campus"
Featuring Richard West, Aryssa Damron, Pranam Dey, Noah Daponte-Smith, and Lauren Noble
Saturday, May 27, 2017
- Reunion Weekend Panel: "The State of Free Speech and the Intellectual Climate on Campus"
Featuring Madeline Fortier, Cameron Koffman, Noah Daponte-Smith, Nathaniel Zelinsky, and Gene Dattel
Saturday, June 3, 2017



CONFERENCE 2016

On Friday, October 28, 2016, we hosted our sixth annual conference on The Future of the Party System in America. The afternoon featured a series of panel discussions and was followed by a reception and dinner with a keynote address by U.S. Congressman Ron DeSantis. Panelists included James Ceaser, Beverly Gage, Morris Fiorina, William Kristol, Henry Olsen, William Galston, Charles Hill, William F. B. O'Reilly, Ramesh Ponnuru, Roger Kimball, James Taranto, Margaret Hoover, and E. Donald Elliott. The event drew a crowd of nearly 240 students, alumni, faculty, and other members of the community.



U.S. Congressman Ron DeSantis delivers the keynote address



Conference attendees at the reception



Our second panel discussion explored the state of the party system in the early 21st century.

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

Please save the date for our **SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE** on *"The Constitution and the Courts: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Future of Freedom."*

The afternoon and evening will feature panel discussions followed by a dinner with a keynote address.

Judge William H. Pryor, Jr. will deliver the opening address. Panelists will include Ilya Shapiro, Mollie Hemingway, Michael McConnell, Ed Whelan, Randy Barnett, Jonathan Turley, Adam White, David French, Nicholas Rosenkranz, E. Donald Elliott, Carlos Eire, and Peter Schuck. Former U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte will deliver the evening keynote address.

An invitation with further details will follow. Until October 4th, a block of hotel rooms is available at the Omni Hotel (203-772-6664). Please mention the Buckley Program when you call.



LECTURE SERIES

Our public events continue to attract undergraduates and graduate students alike as well as other members of the Yale and New Haven communities. This past year, we filled one of Yale's largest lecture halls, SSS 114, multiple times. For example, our event with Dr. Ben Carson was so popular that we had to turn away an estimated 400 people at the door due to lack of space. We rented the ballroom of a local hotel to accommodate the incredible interest we received in our event with best-selling author J.D. Vance, which ended up drawing nearly 800 people.

A number of our events garnered media coverage, from the *Yale Daily News* to national publications and local television. We also filmed many of the programs. The video footage is available to watch on our YouTube channel and has received thousands of views online.



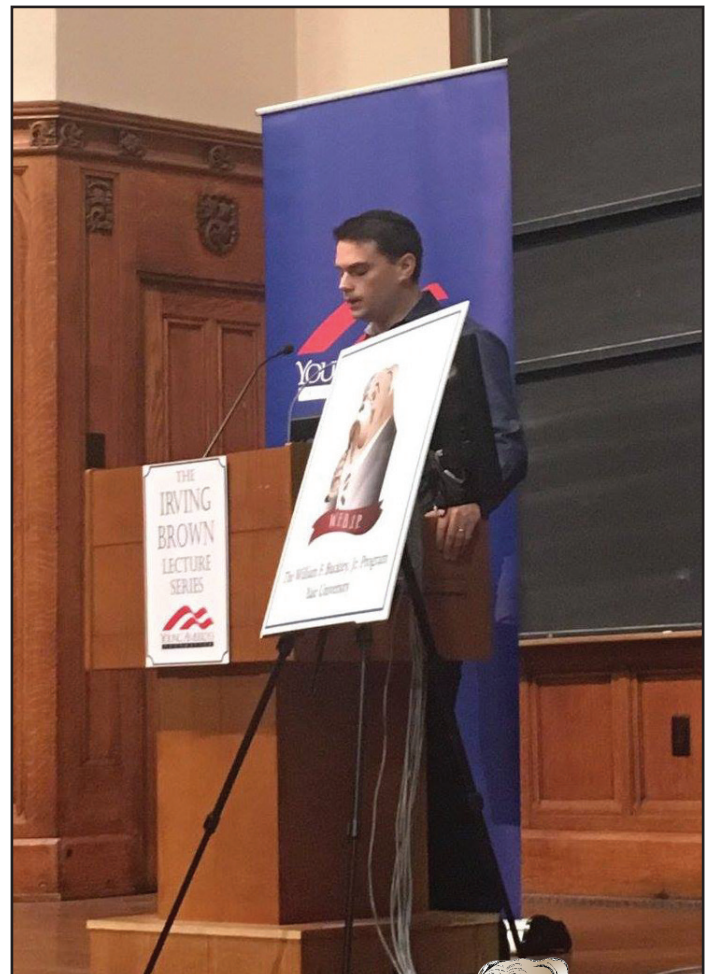
Dr. Ben Carson

“Without the Buckley Program, there’d be a real lacuna in terms of the ideas we engage with...The best ideas come when we all hear all sides. Hearing one side creates stasis, and I think the Buckley Program is an agent against stasis on campus.”

-Noah Daponte-Smith '18



A full house to hear J.D. Vance speak on his book



Ben Shapiro



FIRING LINE DEBATES

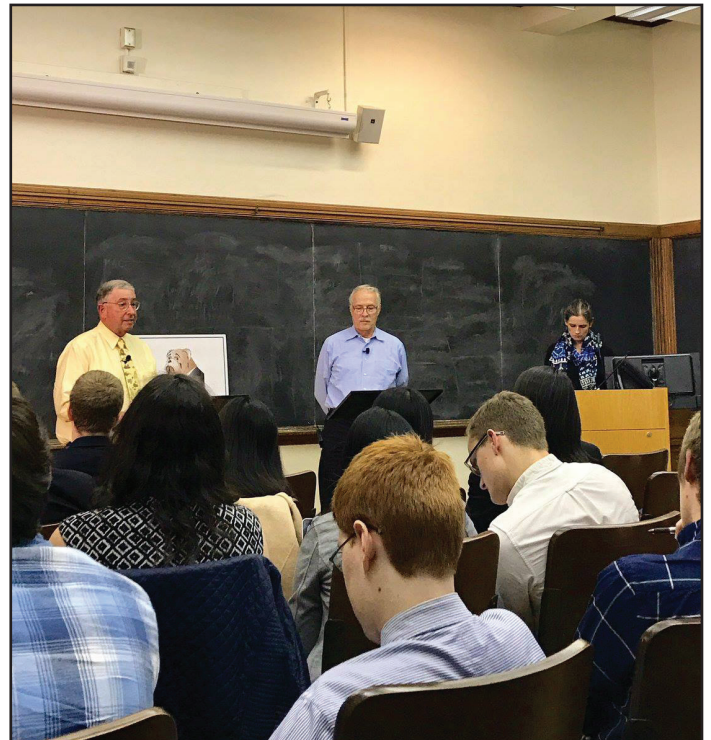
Many people had their first exposure to Bill Buckley and his ideas through his television show, *Firing Line*, launched in 1966. We are proud to keep this memory alive with our Firing Line Debate Series. Over the past several years, we've brought together academics, think tank fellows, and former government officials for charitable and engaging discussions on a host of issues.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, we hosted five debates, on topics ranging from healthcare policy to school choice. These debates often drew students and community members who might not otherwise attend Buckley Program activities. For example, our debate on climate policy attracted students from the School of Forestry.

We look forward to continuing this popular series during the fall semester of 2017, with debates already scheduled on Brexit and Iran.



Debate on Climate Policy



Debate on School Choice



Judge Michael Mukasey



Laura Donohue



Debate on Healthcare Policy



MULTI-DAY SEMINARS



Participants in our fall break seminar in 2016

Our multi-day seminar program has thrived since its inception in the spring of 2015. These seminars allow students to study important texts and ideas for three days during Yale's academic breaks. Admission to seminars is by application and we have been pleased to welcome both undergraduates and graduate students of varying academic fields.

Over fall break in October 2016, we hosted a seminar on the morality of capitalism taught by Professor James Otteson of Wake Forest University. Seventeen students participated in this seminar, which covered thinkers such as Adam Smith, John Locke, and F. A. Hayek, among others.

During spring break in March 2017, we hosted a seminar on Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* taught by Professor Patrick Deneen of the University of Notre Dame. Twenty-one students participated in the seminar. We received so much interest that we even had to wait list some students. One student put forward this powerful endorsement afterward:

Simply put, I get more out of these three-day seminars than a half-semester of most Yale classes, and I am at Yale to learn. The rigorous academic environment paired with the social aspect (I make several new friends every seminar!) makes these seminars a real version of what I imagined Yale would be like.

In light of this student enthusiasm, we are excited to double our multi-day seminar offerings this year. In late August, Professor Bradley Birzer of Hillsdale College taught a seminar focusing on the thought of Edmund Burke and Russell Kirk. Dr. Michael Uhlmann of the Claremont Institute will teach our fall break seminar this year on the American presidency. And in January, best-selling author Amity Shlaes will teach our second seminar addition on William Graham Sumner and "The Forgotten Man."



"It was Yale at its best—and it was a seminar organized by the Buckley Program."

-Leland Stange '19 writing in the *Yale Daily News*



STUDENT FELLOWS PROGRAM

In the 2016-2017 academic year, we saw incredible growth in our student fellows program. We recruited 140 new students, expanding our student membership to 283 students. That is a record number and an increase of over 100 students from our total at the end of the prior academic year.

Our student fellows receive access to special opportunities including seminars, dinners and receptions with guest speakers, free books, and subsidized opportunities to attend conferences such as the Conservative Political Action Conference.

This year, our fellows-only seminars featured Carol Platt Liebau, Sally Satel, Charles C. W. Cooke, and Mary Eberstadt. Held over dinner, these seminars gave student fellows the chance to engage with speakers and material in a more in depth way than a lecture might permit. Topics ranged from religious liberty to Connecticut's fiscal challenges.

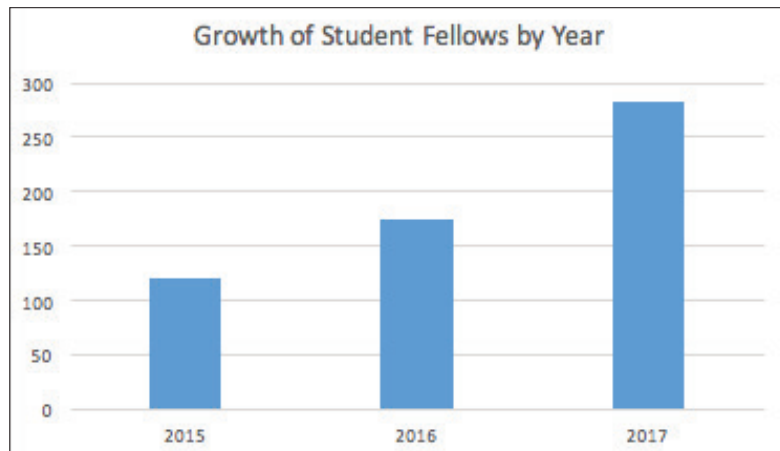
Our fellows also once again participated in a community service project. Through Splash at Yale, they taught short seminars on a variety of subjects for high school and middle school students.



Student fellows with Mrs. Candy Carson



Seminar with Sally Satel



Debate on "Privacy and Security in a Digital World"



Michael Auslin

THIRD ANNUAL

DISINVITATION DINNER



Peter Thiel



Katherine Timpf



Lauren Noble

On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, the Buckley Program hosted its Third Annual Disinvitation Dinner in New York City. The aim of the event is to provide a forum for a speaker whose voice has been silenced on a college campus. This year's honoree was entrepreneur and investor Peter Thiel. Nearly two hundred students, alumni, and supporters of the Program attended the dinner, which was held at the Pierre.



Student fellows



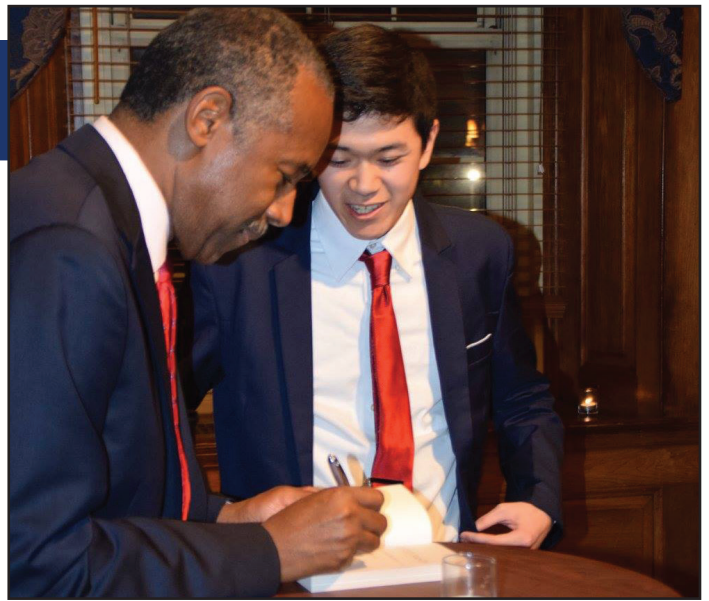
Former student vice president
Kyle Tierney '17



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Through its summer internship program, the Buckley Program sponsored Yale students at a variety of publications and think tanks. In the summer of 2017, we sponsored Yale undergraduates at *National Review*, *The New Criterion*, the Manhattan Institute, and Gingrich Productions. Each intern received a stipend of \$4,000, making the experience affordable to students of all backgrounds.

The program has a competitive application process, coordinated through the Yale Office of Career Strategy. Each position received an average of 19 applications. We also funded two partial stipends for two Yale students interning at *First Things* and the Cato Institute.



Reception with Dr. Ben Carson

REUNION WEEKEND

During the two Yale alumni reunion weekends, the Buckley Program hosted breakfast panel discussions focusing on the intellectual climate at Yale with both students and alumni. We were thrilled to welcome alumni from across the country, including new and old supporters, for a frank dialogue on the condition of free speech on Yale's campus. Undergraduates also relayed how the efforts of the Buckley Program have impacted their experience. Both panel discussions are available to watch on our YouTube channel. If you will be attending your reunion next year and have an idea for a Buckley Program event, please feel free to e-mail Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com.



Former student president Josh Altman '17

SUMMER EVENTS

In July, the Buckley Program held two evening receptions, one in Washington, D.C. and the other in New York City. With a number of our student fellows interning in these cities over the summer months, these were excellent opportunities for students, alumni, and other supporters to connect. Our reception in Washington included remarks from former Congressman David McIntosh.



Roger Kimball delivers opening remarks at our Sixth Annual Conference



What Students Are Saying...

“For me, the Buckley Program is not about partisan politics or aligning with a certain side of the aisle. It is about promoting the idea that whatever a person's views are, the right to hold and promote them as an exercise of free speech is contingent upon allowing others to do the same, and acknowledging the vital role this understanding has in upholding our democratic system in America as well as a healthy political environment at Yale. One unfortunate problem facing Yale's campus is a lack of true conversation, as many only complacently reinforce each other, echo peers without any genuine inquiry or reflection, and resist the entrance of opposing arguments. The Program brings together students and guest speakers of all backgrounds and ideologies and holds events which encourage conversation on all sides of issues and explore varying topics of discussion. By doing so, rational, free discourse is stimulated, and students are forced to challenge even their core beliefs, ensuring the presence of diversity of opinion at Yale and beyond. My participation in the Program has been incredibly rewarding, and consistently serves as a reminder of these important truths.”

-RACHEL WILLIAMS '20

“The longer I remain in university, the more I realize that intellectual freedom is in danger on Yale's campus. Initially wary of engaging in these debates, I'm now convinced that it's necessary to mobilize for free speech. The regressive and illiberal forces on campus are motivated and organized; we owe it to Western civilization to join the fray. The Buckley Program is doing excellent work on Yale's campus organizing and motivating those of us who still cherish the values enshrined in the Woodward Report.”

-ELI WESTERMAN '18

“In a time where it's easy, especially on college campuses, to encounter only ideas that we agree with, the Buckley Program serves as a breath of fresh air in a stale echo chamber. The Buckley Program supports students interested in intellectual diversity by bringing to Yale's campus a wide range of speakers who regularly attract huge audiences filled with students of all ideological perspectives. I can personally attest that my own experiences at Yale would have been far less enriching without the presence of Buckley events, and I hope that future Yalies can have the same experience.”

-PRANAM DEY '18

“This year sent the Buckley Program to new highs and I felt that the Program truly established itself as a force to be reckoned with on campus. I think a huge part of that were the J.D. Vance and Ben Carson events. The program not only drew in unprecedented crowds for both of the speeches, but it also drew crowds representing all swathes of the political spectrum. Liberals, conservatives, and centrists alike all came to listen and engage in a civilized discussion. Those events had a ripple effect as the publicity created campus-wide debates both inside and outside the classroom about the speakers' ideas. Reading fellow applications this past semester, I saw people of all different ideologies yearning to join the program and citing these strong events as reasons for doing so.”

-CAMERON KOFFMAN '19



STUDENT BLOG

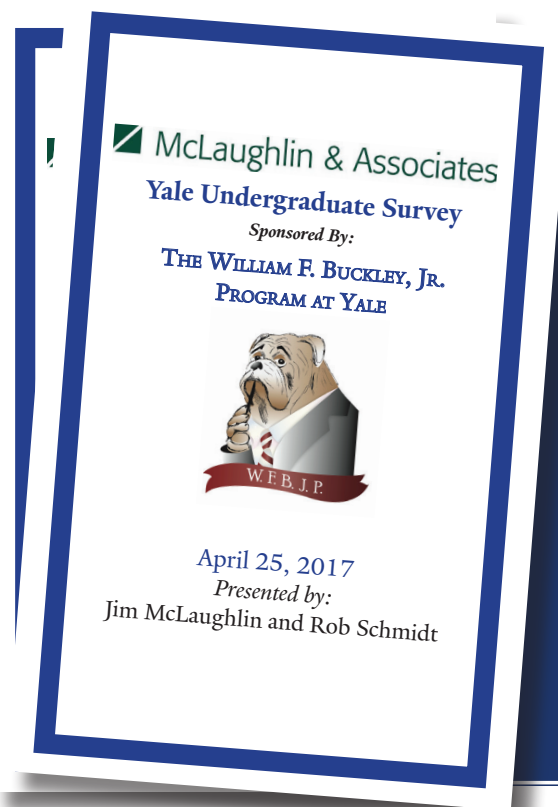
Throughout the year, our student fellows interviewed a number of the guest speakers we brought to campus. You can read these interviews, along with other reflections and the winning essay contest submissions, on our student blog, The Beacon. Interview guests include Sally Satel, Charles C. W. Cooke, J.D. Vance, Judge Michael Mukasey, Michael Auslin, Stephen Kotkin, Carol Platt Liebau, and Paul Howard.



Visit our student blog at www.buckleybeacon.com

YALE STUDENT SURVEY

In April 2017, we commissioned a survey of Yale student attitudes toward free speech and intellectual diversity. We mailed the results to Yale alumni and other supporters. The findings were also covered in *The Wall Street Journal*, *New Haven Register*, *The Washington Times*, and *New York* magazine, among others.



ANNUAL NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

In the fall of 2016, for the second year in a row, we commissioned a national poll of college students. Conducted by McLaughlin & Associates, this survey tested students' civics knowledge as well as attitudes toward free speech and related issues. Among other notable results, the survey found that more than half (53%) of U.S. college students felt intimidated in sharing beliefs that differ from those held by their professors. This number was up by four percentage points from the previous year. We will continue to monitor this "Classroom Intimidation Index" in the years to come. We plan to release another poll later this year.



Results for both surveys are available on our website, www.BuckleyProgram.com.

ALUMNI TRUSTEE INITIATIVE

In April 2017, the Buckley Program organized a petition calling for more information about where the Yale trustee candidates stand on the critical issues of free speech and intellectual diversity on campus. Over 400 alumni signed the petition, which received coverage in the *Yale Daily News* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Buckley Program executive director Lauren Noble and board member Richard R. West published an op-ed arguing in favor of repealing the gag rule Yale imposes on trustee candidates, noting:

But the current process is unfair to the candidates and the alumni. If university administrators will not provide the basis for both groups to help ensure an informed choice of trustees, what is the purpose of having an election?

American Council of Trustees and Alumni President Michael Poliakoff also released a statement in support of our petition, explaining:

By preventing trustee candidates from providing any information beyond biography, Yale is preventing alumni and students from participating in the board election in an informed and engaged manner. Controversies involving free speech have recently roiled Yale, and it's therefore no surprise that alumni are disappointed by the obstacles on campus to free expression. A healthy campus community rests upon shared governance and open communication. The board and university administration should lift the gag order and embrace a fairer election process that allows the alumni community to hear the ideas of the candidates in a free exchange of viewpoints.

The Buckley Program will continue to make the case for greater attention to these substantive issues in the trustee election process.

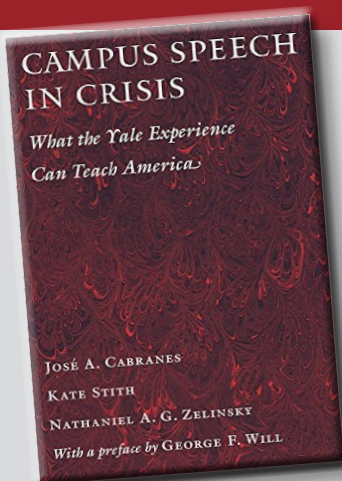


Judge José A. Cabranes

"Today's event is an occasion not just for alarm, but also for celebration—celebration of the Woodward Report, and of the efforts of the Buckley Program and Encounter Books to defend its enduring values."

—Judge José A. Cabranes on the publication of *Campus Speech in Crisis: What the Yale Experience Can Teach America*. Read his full remarks in *For Freedom of Expression, For Due Process, and For Yale: The Emerging Threat to Academic Freedom at a Great University*, Yale L. & Pol'y Rev. Inter Alia (01/13/2017)

WOODWARD REPORT REPRINT



In the fall semester of 2016, we released the second "William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale Book," which was a reprint of and commentary on the Woodward Report, Yale's policy on free expression published in the 1970s. Encounter Books published this booklet, titled *Campus Speech in Crisis: What the Yale Experience Can Teach America*. We hosted a book launch reception in October 2016 featuring remarks by Judge José A. Cabranes.

Throughout the year, we distributed copies to students on campus, including at the freshman activities bazaar. We continue to hand out copies of the booklet at various events such as our alumni reunion weekend panel discussions.



ESSAY CONTESTS

In October 2016, the Program offered an essay contest on the question, “Where is the American political party system headed after 2016 and why?” There were two contests: one for Yale College students and one for high school students. The winners received monetary awards at the November conference. The high school winners attended the event with their parents.

In March 2017, the Program offered another essay contest on the question, “What can we learn from William F. Buckley, Jr. today?” There were again two contests: one for Yale College students and one for high school students. The winners received monetary awards at our event examining Alvin Felzenberg’s new biography of William F. Buckley, Jr.

You can read the winning essays for both contests on our student blog, The Beacon.



Reception with Dr. Ben Carson



THE WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR. PROGRAM AT YALE PRESENTS
THE YALE COLLEGE ESSAY CONTEST ON THE TOPIC

*“What can we learn from
William F. Buckley, Jr. today?”*

“In this depressing state of public discourse, Buckley offers a much-needed model. During his 33 years as the host of *Firing Line*, Buckley committed himself to stepping outside his ‘echo chamber’ and engaging the brightest thinkers who disagreed with him. Buckley invited leading progressives, Beatniks, socialists, black nationalists, and others to participate in hour-long, televised debates. His most frequent guests included the Democratic politician Mark Green and liberal pundit Jeff Greenfield. With sparring partners from across the political spectrum, Buckley made a point of exposing his conservative outlook to scrutiny.”

—ZACH YOUNG '17

SPRING ESSAY CONTEST FIRST PLACE

“It was not something that came easily. [Buckley] determined to write *God and Man at Yale* after becoming fully cognizant of a dynamic that will immediately sound familiar to Yale students today: ‘the so-called conservative, uncomfortably disdainful of controversy, seldom has the energy to fight his battles, while the radical, so often a member of the minority, exerts disproportionate influence because of his dedication to his cause.’ But it was the following line, with all its emphasis, that moved me most, and that still echoes in my head more than two years after my first reading: ‘I am dedicated to my cause.’ Its power is not just as Buckley’s own proclamation of belief, but in the subtle, implicit question it forces each reader to ask him or herself: ‘Am I?’”

—BERNARD STANFORD '17

SPRING ESSAY CONTEST SECOND PLACE





The 2017 Student Board

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If you would like to hear more about our programs, we encourage you to join our e-mail list. Please feel free to direct any questions to our executive director, Lauren Noble, at Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com. You can also learn more about our efforts by visiting our website, www.BuckleyProgram.com.

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ABOUT US

Launched in January 2011, the mission of the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program is to promote intellectual diversity on Yale's campus. Named for *National Review* founder William F. Buckley, Jr. '50, the Program offers a speaker series, conferences, Firing Line debates, seminars, internships for undergraduates, and more.

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What Recent Graduates Are Saying...

“A place like Yale can be politically stifling, since so many of its students and professors are quite vocally on the left. But for me, the Buckley Program was like a surfactant for the liberal bubble. It gave me a space to express the kind of intellectual curiosity that once made American schools famous. I never felt out of place because I knew that, though some members were conservative and some liberal, all were sworn to mutual respect and to toleration of political diversity. The program as a whole sent a clear message: as long as Buckley is active on campus, this school will be Yale yet.”

-BERNARD STANFORD '17

“The Buckley Program has stepped up to fill the role of the much-needed campus organization that brings in speakers of diverse thought. In times when dialogue hits a wall and parties with different opinions become frustrated with each other, it helps to have a venue where we can all just sit together in the audience, listen to a new perspective, and pick the speakers' brains afterwards. The dinner and reception opportunities afterwards make the guests accessible and allow us to engage with them, which is something we don't always get to do in class.”

-JESSICA LIANG '17



Student fellows with Charles C. W. Cooke





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Third Annual Disinvitation Dinner



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