



**WILLIAM F.
BUCKLEY, JR.
PROGRAM AT YALE**

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William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale

2012-2013 Annual Report

Message from the Founder and Executive Director, Lauren Noble '11

Another productive year has flown by for the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale, and I'm excited to bring you up to speed on our progress.

Through our speaker series, we hosted a wide range of guests on campus, from Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George Will to Governor Jon Huntsman to former presidential candidate Steve Forbes. Our conference on Whittaker Chambers' *Witness*, featuring a keynote address by Governor Mitch Daniels, was a great success. Buckley Fellows also enjoyed special opportunities to engage with guests over meals and participate in one-day seminars led by noted thinkers. This summer, the Buckley Program is sponsoring six interns at a variety of think tanks and publications.

To learn more about what we've been up to – and to hear what students are saying about it – I encourage you to read this newsletter. As a non-profit, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors. Barely two and a half years ago, we were little more than an idea. You took a chance on us and allowed us to grow and thrive. "Thanks" doesn't quite cut it, but it will have to suffice for now.

And our future looks even brighter. We are proud to announce that in January 2014, the Program will establish a headquarters at the William Howard Taft Mansion, located at 111 Whitney Avenue in New Haven. For those who care about intellectual diversity at Yale, this is a historic development. For the Buckley Program, this marks the beginning of a critical chapter in our efforts to maintain a permanent presence on campus. Please stay tuned for more information about an open house once we move-in.

In the meantime, I hope you'll mark your calendars for our next big event, our third annual fall conference on October 18, 2013. The subject of the conference is the future of conservatism, and it will feature a slate of distinguished speakers. You can find out more about that event on page 2.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com if you have any questions or comments. Once again, thank you for your support, and I look forward to staying in touch.



Message from the Student President, Harry Graver '14

In some parallel universe, three years ago, Lauren Noble never bumped into Nathaniel Zelinsky in a library or sent an eager, conservative freshman an email about a potential speaker series. In that world, Yale would be a very different place: missing what has rapidly become an integral component of her campus dialogue.

The Buckley Program has flourished since launching at Yale, growing due to big ideas, a passionate group of student Fellows (now over fifty), and the guidance of invaluable advisors. Be it the Program's powerful speaker series, internship offerings, social events or seminars, the name Buckley has once again become regularly associated not only with intellectual diversity, but with the true meaning of what a liberal arts education means.

Having now had the privilege to lead the Program for a semester, as its student president, I have had the opportunity to see these powerful forces in action, creating deep, lasting memories on campus. Because of the Buckley Program, Donald Kagan could give his fitting farewell, only to be drowned out after his remarks by hundreds of thankful admirers; Jay Nordlinger could talk with a seventeen-year-old liberal prospective student for thirty minutes about affirmative action, because she was so intrigued by his arguments after an event; and George Will could stand in a crowded lecture hall for hours, engaging with each last questioner who approached the microphone.

The Buckley Program exists, though, because of you. Speaking on behalf of the students involved, we cannot express a deeper thanks -- both as people who are passionate about our message, and also love our university.

After many have come away from some time with the Buckley Program, one message rings true across their experiences: it's working. Students, conservative or liberal, political or apolitical, have rallied around and bettered from our work. Here's to more of the same.

2012-2013 Academic Year *Events In Review*

This past academic year, the Buckley Program hosted fifteen events, including lectures, seminars, debates, and more.

FALL 2012

- Master's Tea, Governor George Pataki, September 18, 2012
- Irving Brown Lecture, Steve Forbes, "How Capitalism Can Save America," September 20, 2012
- Master's Tea, Judge James Buckley, October 3, 2012
- Seminar and Lecture, Dinesh D'Souza, "The Role of Religion in American Politics" October 12, 2012
- Rosenkranz Debate, Michael Lind and Christopher Caldwell, "Is Free Trade Good for the American Middle Class?" October 18, 2012
- Seminar, John O'Sullivan, "The Anglo-American Relationship. What is it?" November 9, 2012
- Conference, "Whittaker Chambers' *Witness*: 60 Years Later," November 30, 2012.

Speakers included: Governor Mitch Daniels, Lee Edwards, Professor John Gaddis, M. Stanton Evans, Professor Danilo Petranovich, Elliott Abrams, Max Boot, Jay Nordlinger, Professor Charles Hill, Peter Berkowitz, Norman Podhoretz, Alfred Regnery, and Roger Kimball.



Governor George Pataki speaks at a Pierson College Master's Tea. Photo Credit: Yale Daily News



Panel three of the *Witness* conference. From left to right: Peter Berkowitz, Alfred Regnery, and Norman Podhoretz.



Governor Mitch Daniels delivering the keynote address at our November 2012 conference.

*Be sure to check out our website at
www.buckleyprogram.com
for video footage of some of these events.*

SPRING 2013

- Lecture, George Will, "Up From Liberalism, Yet Again," January 17, 2013
- Seminar, Charles Murray, *Coming Apart*, February 15, 2013
- Dinner, Congressman Rob Simmons, February 20, 2013
- Master's Tea, Governor Jon Huntsman, February 26, 2013
- Master's Tea, Amity Shlaes, *Coolidge*, March 28, 2013
- Rosenkranz Debate, David Brooks and Jay Nordlinger, "The Future of Conservatism," April 15, 2013
- Farewell Lecture, Professor Donald Kagan, April 25, 2013
- Lunch, Rich Lowry, April 30, 2013

Save The Date: October 18, 2013

Please save the date for the Buckley Program's third annual conference on the future of conservatism on Friday, October 18, 2013 at Yale University.

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

Speakers will include Jonah Goldberg, Michael Barone, Craig Shirley, Professor Robert P. George, Bret Stephens, Roger Kimball, Neal B. Freeman, Rich Lowry, Heather Mac Donald, Professor Steven Smith, Professor Beverly Gage, Professor E. Donald Elliott, Linda Bridges, James Panero, and Larry Perelman, among others.

An invitation and further details will follow. A block of hotel rooms is available at The Study (203-503-3900). Please mention the Buckley Program when you call.



Conference 2012

Building on the success of our conference on *God and Man at Yale* in November 2011, the Buckley Program hosted its second annual conference in November 2012. The conference, which celebrated the 60th anniversary of Whittaker Chambers' book, *Witness*, attracted an audience of over two hundred students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the Program. Following an afternoon of panel discussions about the book, its relevance today, and modern conservatism, Governor Mitch Daniels delivered the keynote address. The entire conference can be viewed on our website.

Internship Program

This summer, the Buckley Program is sponsoring five Yale undergraduates completing internships at *National Review*, the Manhattan Institute, *The New Criterion*, *The American Spectator*, and StudentsFirst. Interns receive a stipend of \$4,000, making the experience affordable to students of all backgrounds.

A competitive program, the median number of applications received for each position was fifteen. This is our second summer offering this program.

In addition to our regular internship offerings, we are also proud to be supporting an intern at Fox News this summer. In light of the popularity of the internship program with students, we hope to expand the number of opportunities available next summer, offering funding for internships students obtain on their own as well as ones arranged through the Buckley Program.

Buckley Program Moves Into William Howard Taft Mansion

In January 2014, the Buckley Program will move into the William Howard Taft Mansion, located at 111 Whitney Avenue in New Haven. The property, which was once owned by 27th President of the United States and former Supreme Court Chief Justice William Howard Taft, promises to be a great new home for our rapidly expanding program.

We plan to hold an open house after we move into the space. Please stay tuned for updates.

Buckley Program Welcomes William F. B. O'Reilly

The Buckley Program is pleased to announce the addition of William F. B. O'Reilly to its board of directors. Mr. O'Reilly is the executive vice president of Nicholas & Lence Communications in New York City. The nephew of our namesake, we are delighted to have him on board.



The Buckley Program enjoys lunch with Governor Jon Huntsman at Mory's prior to his talk in February.

What Students Are Saying...

We asked a few of our current undergraduate fellows to say a few words about the Buckley Program. Here is what they had to say:

"I sat down to write this blurb during a break at my internship. I feel luckier than most students this summer because I am working at an internship where I have actual responsibility. I am contributing actively to the product we produce, my work is being showcased, and I am working in a field I love. I am also lucky because this internship was made possible in part through the Buckley Program.

Fox News in New York City is my home for the summer, and I owe a great deal of that to the Buckley Program. Directly, the financial help that I received from the program has made my unpaid internship possible. Without that assistance, I might not have been able to accept my internship and start my career in the broadcast industry.

I received a generous contribution, one that can only be outshined by the immeasurable amount of information and experience I have gained from the Buckley Program. Contrary to what you might believe, the banquets and speakers are not the things that have taught me the most. Rather, it has been my peers who I constantly engage in political debate.

Please don't get me wrong. The speakers and events make the program, but my freshmen year, before I had applied to the program, I recognized myself shying away from political discussion. I felt as though I did not have enough evidence or experience to successfully argue ideas against the army of students that faced me. It is easy to stand in a crowd and yell, but it is difficult to stand alone and reason convincingly.

Because of the William F. Buckley Program I can do just that. I have the knowledge to question my peers and the ability to debate after having done so this past year with guests like former Governor Mitch Daniels and conservative commentator and author Dinesh D'Souza. What's more, I have a community that also supports me in my political endeavors. I now know that I am not alone in the discussion, even if I am the only conservative in the classroom, professors included.

I know it is too early for me to look back and reflect on my college experience, yet I can say with confidence that applying to the William F. Buckley Program has been one of the best decisions I have made during my time at Yale. The discussions, events, and friendships that this program has created are unparalleled and have shaped my Yale experience. I am so glad and grateful for this, and happy to know that they will continue to do so, even after I graduate."

-MADISON ALWORTH '15

"In my two years (and counting) here at Yale, I have found the Buckley Program to be an invaluable part of my college experience. It doesn't matter what the event is -- whether it's a lecture with a big-name guest or a debate between knowledgeable scholars or just a social hour with other Buckley fellows -- I've learned and grown a lot with this organization."

-RICH LIZARDO '15

"As a rising junior, it's been fantastic to watch the Buckley Program grow so rapidly into a major centerpiece for campus intellectual thought. Donald Kagan's Last Lecture--which packed the entirety of SSS 114--allowed me to understand just how far-reaching our impact on the student body has become. On a more personal note, the Buckley seminars (especially that with Charles Murray) have fostered some of the most influential discussions in my time at Yale--I'm thrilled to see what we have lined up for the future."

-ELAINA PLOTT '15



Recent Graduates Reflect...

In May, the Buckley Program bid farewell to an outstanding group of seniors. We asked a few of them to reflect on the Program and its impact on their experience at Yale:

"The Buckley Program left an indelible mark on my Yale experience. The speaker series, debates, annual conference and other events introduced me to a conservative intellectual community that I did not know existed on Yale's campus. I am extremely thankful for the program and am excited for its bright future at Yale."

-SARAH SCOTT '13

"Upon arriving on campus in the Fall of 2009 I had heard all of the stereotypes about Yale and other elite institutions and the general disdain for all political persuasions not considered progressive enough or outright leftist. I found some truth to these assumptions at Yale, although it was markedly more of a skew of political persuasion than anything that could resemble an institutional consensus. It was enjoyable to discuss differences of opinions with just about everyone but eventually I sought out discussion with fellow conservatives to develop more nuanced views. The constituent parties of the Yale Political Union proved promising for my first two years but they were too divisive to have a deep conservative dialogue—the YPU as a whole even more so.

It coincided that the Buckley Program was becoming an important force on campus as I found myself seeking out a conservative forum. It seemed that conservatives on campus were coming out of the woodwork to listen to figures as different as Huckabee and Huntsman. During my junior and senior year I immersed myself in talks, a trip to CPAC and Master's Tea's that were all coordinated by the Buckley Program and it thoroughly enriched those two years. From Southern Republicans, to Libertarians and Northeastern Conservatives the program helped me make contact and discuss topics from so many different perspectives that I can honestly say it was critical toward my exposure of the Big Tent that constitutes modern American conservatism. As a recent graduate I'll be working as a Woodbridge Fellow for Yale and I look forward to seeing the program continue to expand and attract a new class of Yalies."

-CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ '13

"It was a great joy to be part of the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program these past few years, and it still amazes me how much it has grown from that first lunch with Norman Podhoretz in the Penn Club of New York to the bustling, well-known, and provocative organization it is today. There are few other organizations on Yale's campus as committed to true and profound intellectual dialogue, and even fewer as bold and restless in their activity. At every avenue available, the Buckley Program challenged students, many complacent in the surety of their collegiate dogma, to actually fulfill Yale's implicit promise of inciting minds to question their assumptions. At the very core, I am proud of the Buckley program in how Lauren Noble created it, how Nathaniel Zelinsky and a large team of committed students further built it, and in what Harry Graver and many more will help it achieve. As I have graduated from Yale and still worry about the intellectual and political stagnation of the students and university as a whole, the Buckley Program gives me hope, and I cannot wait to continue watching the Program push Yale to be what is once was and is still meant to be."

-ALEC TORRES '13



Thank You

The Buckley Program would like to recognize our donors between July 1, 2012 and July 30, 2013. Without your help, our efforts on campus simply would not be possible. We are grateful for your continued and generous support.

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