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www.Yale1965.org

September 13, 2021

Dear President Salovey:

In your recent welcoming speech to the Class of 2025, this uplifting message strongly resonated with us:

*"Your college years are a **time to develop** your strengths and talents; to **challenge yourself** in ways you did not think possible; to **gain knowledge and understanding**; and to **explore**."*

We are mindful that it was exactly sixty years ago this month that we too sat in Woolsey Hall as President A. W. Griswold welcomed the Class of 1965 to the Yale community! It may be brash of us, but sixty years later we hold on to the belief that it still remains our time "...to develop...to challenge (ourselves)...to gain knowledge and understanding...and to explore."

It is in that spirit that we write to you today as coordinators of the Class of 1965 Monthly Zoom Series.

Invitation

We are pleased to invite you to be our guest speaker at our next scheduled event in the Y65 Zoom Hour series, currently set for October 20. Given the short notice, to fit your busy calendar we'd be happy to reschedule to a more convenient date, if not in October than perhaps later. We'd also be pleased to brainstorm potential topics that you might address that we believe would stimulate an engaging discussion amongst our classmates, a primary objective of this monthly program.

Background

Following the cancellation of our 55th Class Reunion in May 2020, our Class decided to launch regular virtual monthly events to keep us connected during the Covid pandemic. With YAA's encouragement and assistance, we kicked off the series last October and have held ten other meetings since. Six classmates have been featured speakers, and 27 other classmates have participated either as panelists or moderators. Our six guest speakers have featured two from other Yale Classes – James Hatch, Y22 and Karl Marlantes, Y67 – and four from Yale's administration and faculty – David Swensen and Professors Jason Schwartz, Nicholas Turk-Browne, and John L. Gaddis.

Format

Our meetings are conducted on Zoom, with pre-registration required to ensure security. The meetings are normally scheduled monthly on the third Wednesday at 4:00pm Eastern. The formal portion runs until 5:15 or 5:30pm, followed by an optional social period for classmates. Meetings typically include 25-40 minutes of remarks by speakers and panelists, followed by 20-30 minutes of interactive Q&A. The meetings are recorded and posted on our class website, <http://www.yale1965.org>; if interested, please take a look.

Results to Date

For your reference, attached are details of our eleven past meetings – plus a look ahead at the next few. Since inception, registrations by classmates, widows, and their immediate families have totaled over 1,500, averaging 138 per session, and over 20% of our remaining 850 classmates have attended at least one of our events – perhaps this is why YAA tells us ours is among the more successful Class alumni programs currently being offered. Reviews from every corner of our Class are enthusiastic, and the demand to continue is strong. Given our advancing ages, the virtual meeting format has allowed classmates from all across the US and from around the world to meet frequently, something simply not possible otherwise. We're proud that many attendees are classmates who have seldom or never attended previous in-person reunions, so classmates are making new ties almost 60 years later! In short, we've made lemonade out of lemons, and we're committed to keeping this series going indefinitely, well past the pandemic.

We are proud of the range and quality of the topics we have offered our Class. **We would be both excited and honored if your name were added to our list of Yale speakers!** As you consider our invitation, please let us know whether you would like to discuss this further, and we will arrange a call with you and those copied here.

Respectfully,

Bob Hammond, Y65 Zoom Hour Series Coordinator
Dennis Mack, Y65 Zoom Hour Series Coordinator
David Roscoe, Y65 Zoom Hour Series Coordinator

cc.

John Pinney, Y65 Class Secretary
Jennifer Julier, Associate Director, YAA