



PICTURING THE CLASS - YALE '71

.... REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

50TH ANNIVERSARY SURVEY PRESENTATION

May 8, 2021







50TH REUNION SURVEY / CLASS OF 71

OUTSTANDING SURVEY PARTICIPATION!

681 responses – 66% of known class members

Versus 313 responses for 45th – even that wasn't bad for a college survey

ANONYMITY / INFORMATION SENSITIVITY

- Strictly anonymous / no IP addresses / no personal id info
 - Survey is not a census "we" = those who participated

We've had reunions in the past

... & They have been memorable ...

For a moment, then, let's recall what that was like

WE GATHERED, DISCUSSED ...



WE GATHERED, DISCUSSED, DEBATED







AND, OF COURSE, WE SANG THE OLD SONGS

50TH REUNION SURVEY / CLASS OF 71

OK, enough memories ...

... that was then ... this is now ...

50TH REUNION SURVEY / CLASS OF 71

It must be observed that a couple of things from the past still apply now ...

More than Half of us are eldest children



None of us is a Veterinarian (0%)



TRUE - STILL SADLY TRUE ...

Class composition is still admissions-linked



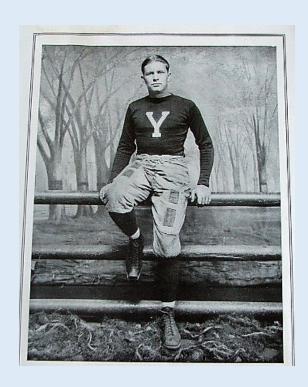
R. Inslee Clark Jr.
President

- And a noted transition at the College itself
 - R. Inslee ("Inky") Clark
 - Elga Wasserman

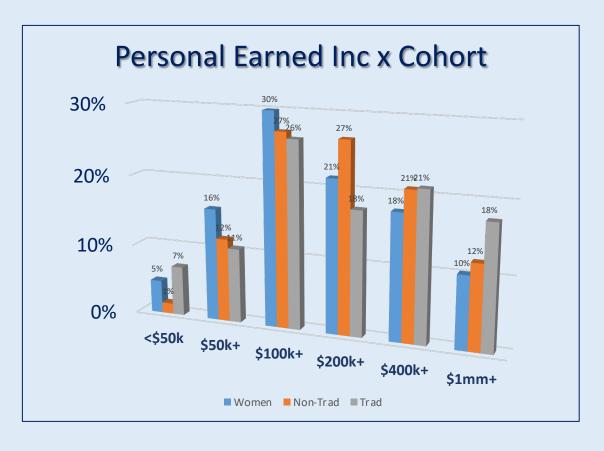
"No aspect of Kingman Brewster's presidency stirred up more anger and debate than the change in Yale's undergraduate admissions during the 1960s."

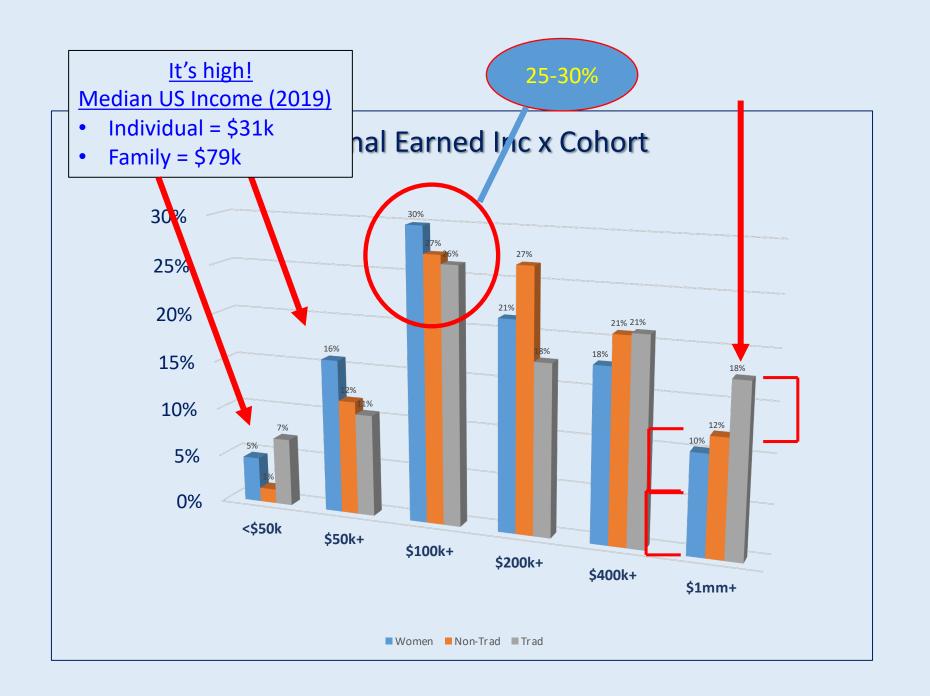


- At 45th Reunion, we compared 4 Class "Cohorts":
 - Traditional, Economic Assist, New Social Groups, Women
- This time, our focus is more on commonalities
 - But our experiences were not entirely uniform ...
 - So three selected groups:
 - Traditional Males
 - Other Males
 - Women
- Traditional Males
 - Different survey answers added up to produce a score
 - White; Protestant; Private; High / Very High Fam\$; Legacy

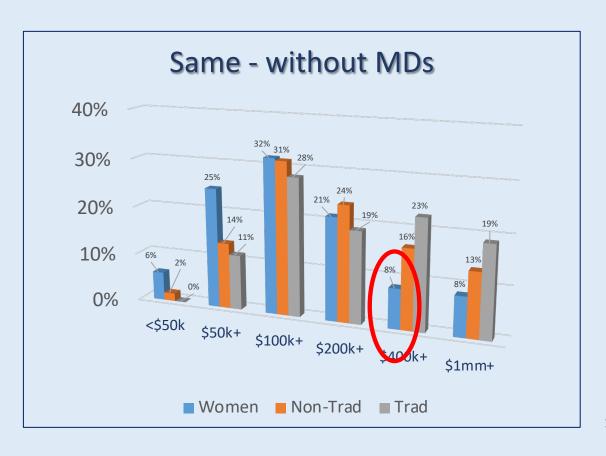


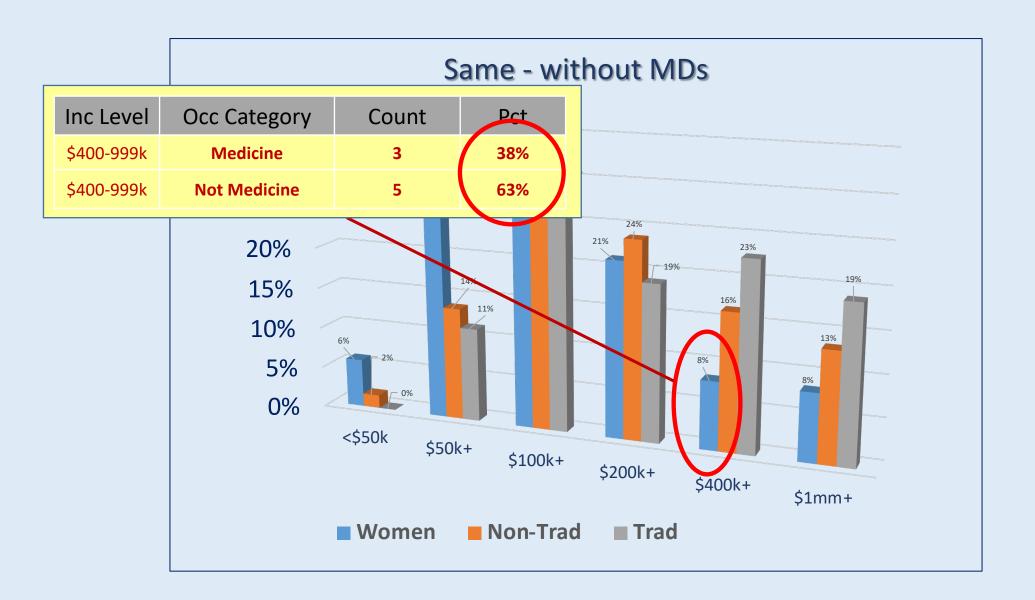
- Do cohorts like this really mean anything?
- Well, actually yes
- Consider some basic life factors:
 - Peak Personal Income

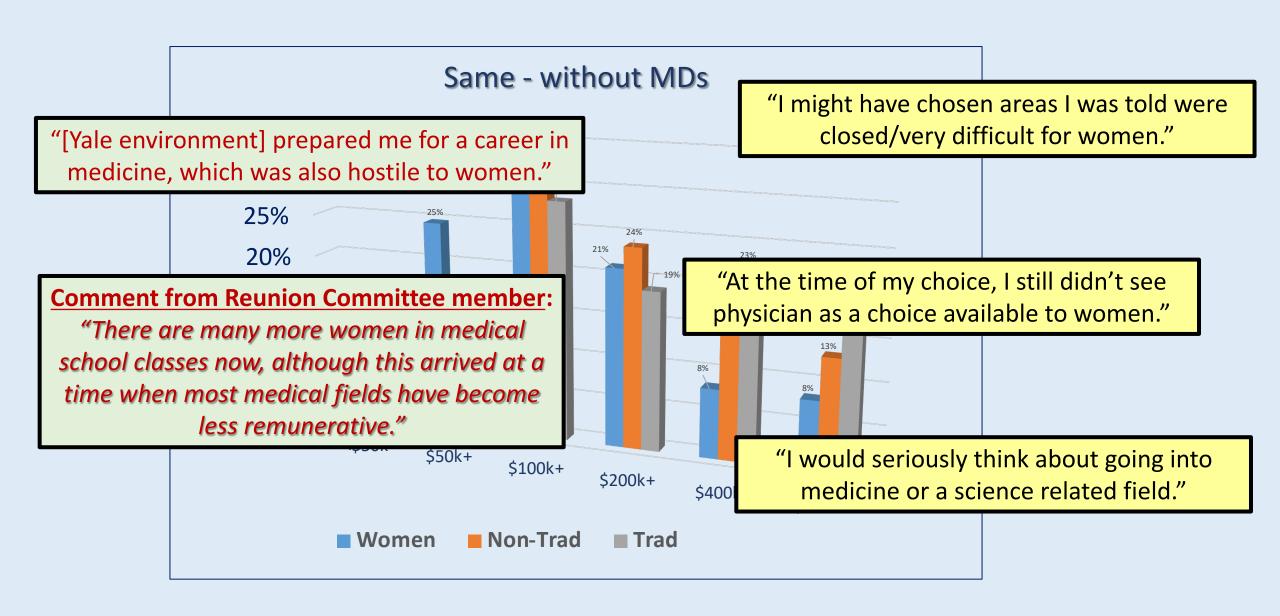




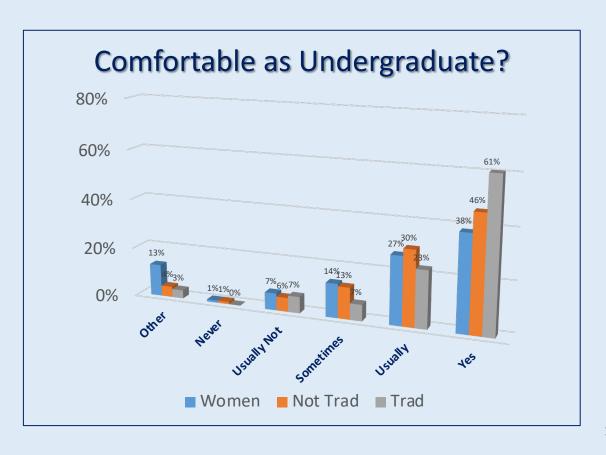
- Do cohorts like this really mean anything?
- Well, actually yes
- Consider some basic life factors:
 - Peak Personal Income
 - Traditionals > \$1mm (18%)
 - 1/3 greater other men (12%)
 - 70% higher than women (10%)
- With MDs removed

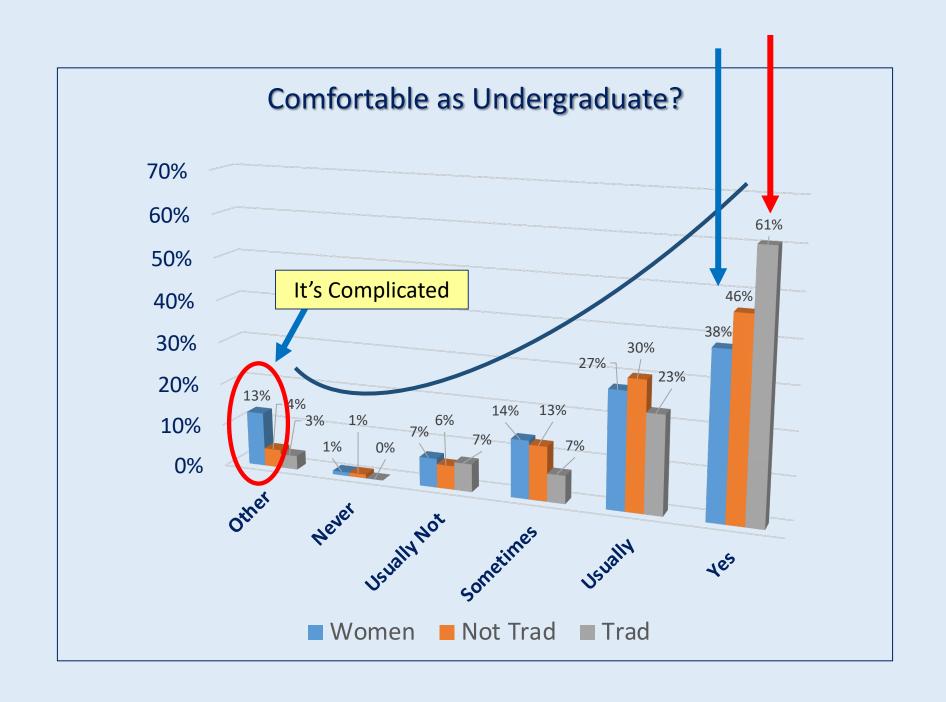






- Do cohorts really mean anything?
- Well, actually yes
- Consider some basic life factors:
 - Comfortable While at Yale?

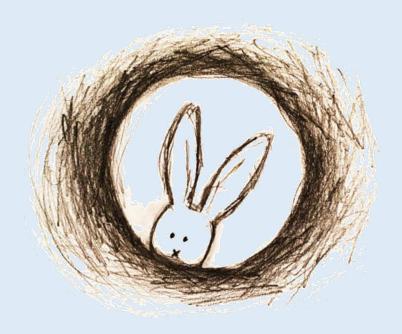




SOME CLASS TOPICS

- Let's look at some specific survey topics
 - More here than we can cover
 - Will keep it high-level
- Further insights available
 - Deck to be posted (w/appendix)
 - Basics discussed in Classbook
 - 45th survey deck still around
- So no need for notes

No rabbit holes!



TOPICS TO COVER

Survey Objectives

As said at 45th, looking for just two things here: Light & Truth

- Specifically
 - Approaching key challenges & life decisions – who are we?

2. Development as adults

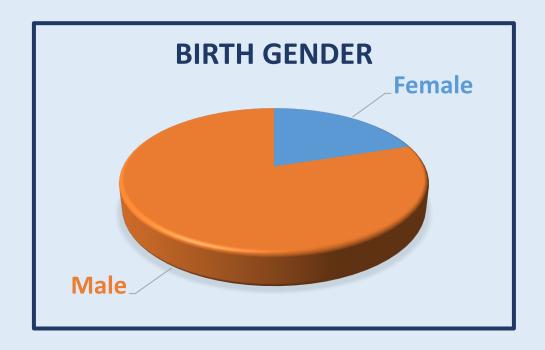
- 3. What lies ahead?
- 4. What does it all mean?

- Identity
- Relationships & Family
- Education Yale & Beyond
 - Adult Life Paths
 - Politics & Religion
 - Retirement
 - Reflections

>> IDENTITY - GENDER <<

Birth Gender:

• 20% / 80% split



>> IDENTITY - GENDER ORIENTATION <<

Gender Preference:

Largely 'Opposite'

Note: One respondent suggested an additional category option:

"Post-Sexual"

<u>Orientation</u>	ALL
Opposite	97%
Same	2%
Either/Both	1%
Other	1%

Fairly high non-response rate (7%)

If all NOYDB males were "same" the male percent would double to 4%

Did HIV losses in 1970s affect these statistic?

>> IDENTITY - ORIENTATION <<

- Being Gay at Yale 1967-71:
- Generally positive, but difficult for gays
- Was Yale comfortable?
- Most important influences ...

I was gay but closeted

I'm gay, was not out to myself, and there were no visible gay men.

The most dramatic influence was a Women and Psychology seminar taught by lesbian grad students.

As the only hetero male in the course, I was attacked for every act of male chauvinism in Western history.

Out of that I became a firm feminist and civil rights believer.

I met several gay men who became friends.

Those friendships taught me a lot and exposed me to circumstances I had only heard of before.

The friendships continued long after graduation.

- How to Frame Responses?
 - Began with standard category sets
 - Encountered challenges ...
 - Same with Ethnicity

"Race" is nonsensical, changeable

I don't like to be identified by imposed lists

Once would have said white, but I believe there is no such thing as white - it's an unhelpful construct

American (we've been in this country too long to be anything else)

- 12th generation American
- Inclusive American
- Regular American

Ambiguities Abound:

- Ashkenazi Jewish heritage
- Not sure how to categorize this but Russian Jewish
- Frisian
- Black West Indian
- French Canadian
- Balkan
- American Mix
- Intergalactic

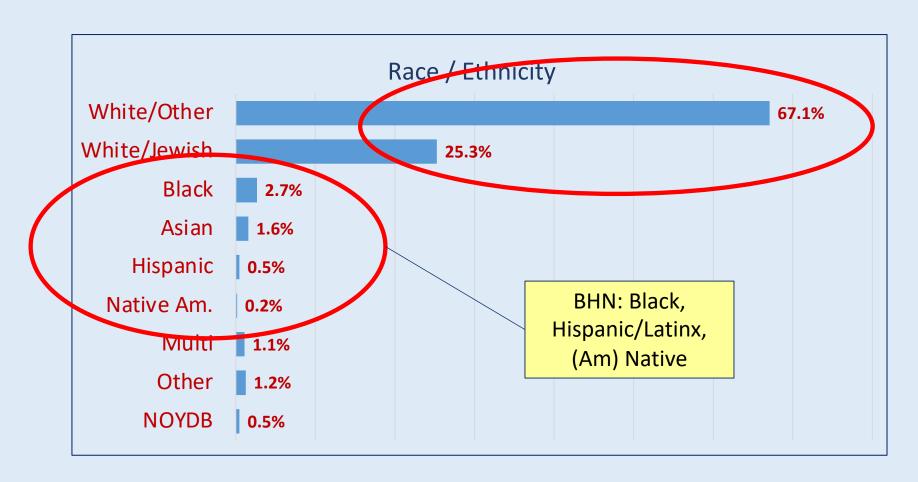
The **Frisians** are a West Germanic ethnic group indigenous to the coastal regions of the Netherlands and northwestern Germany. They inhabit an area known as **Frisia** and are concentrated in the Dutch provinces of Friesland and Groningen and, in Germany, East **Frisia** and North **Frisia** (which was a part of Denmark until 1864).

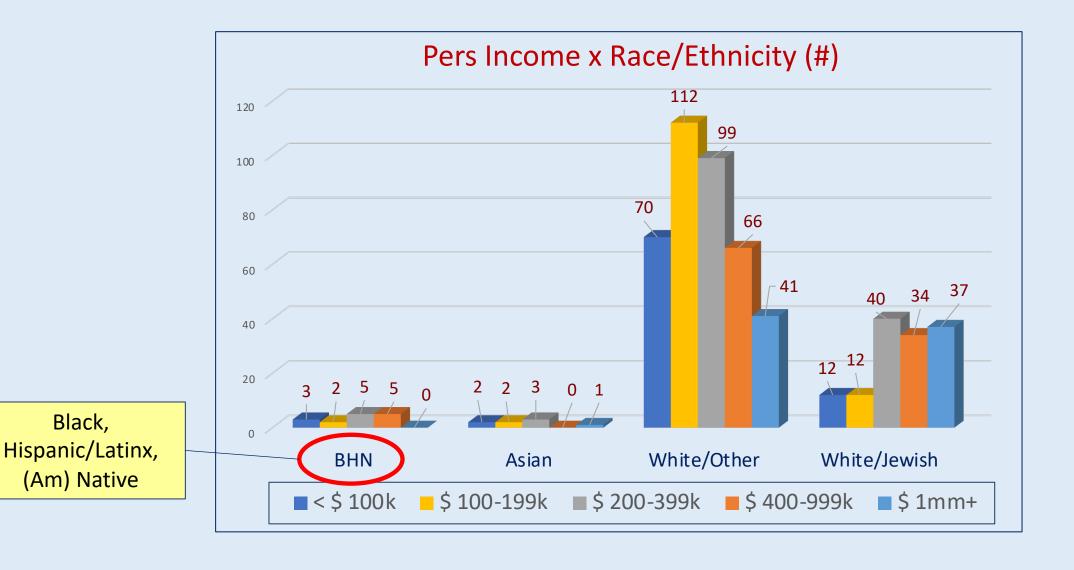


Ambiguities Abound:

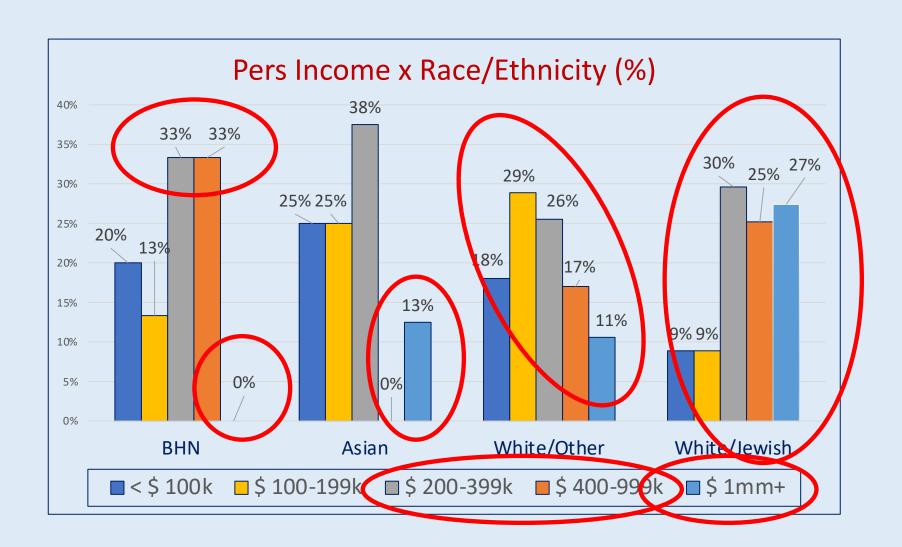
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Basic Figures





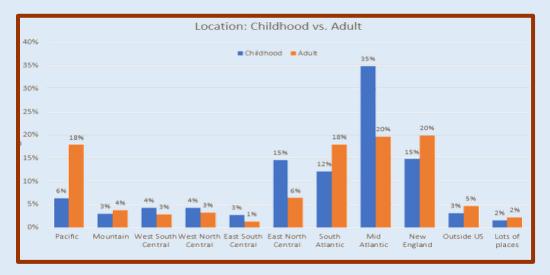
Black,



- Personal Demographics (Classbook Review)
 - We came mostly from Northeast / East Coast states
 - Afterwards, our regional center of gravity shifted toward the Southeastern (+6%) and Pacific (+12%)
 - Also New England (+5%)

60% of us ended up in regions different from those in

which we were raised

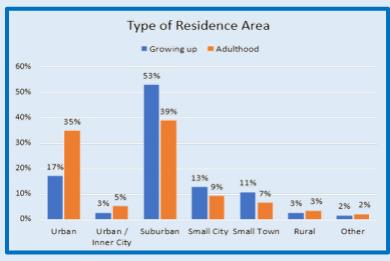


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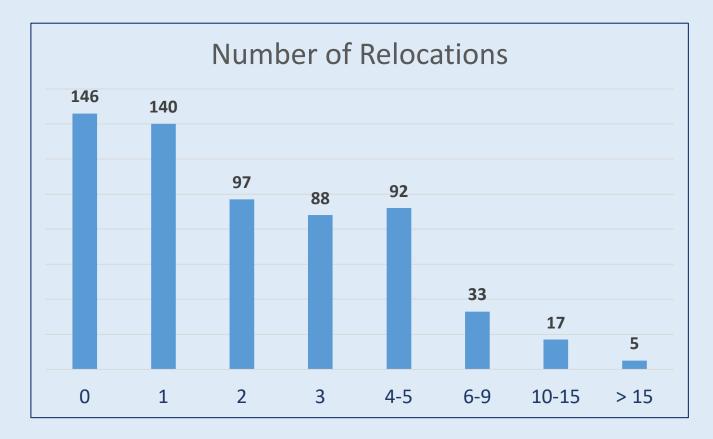
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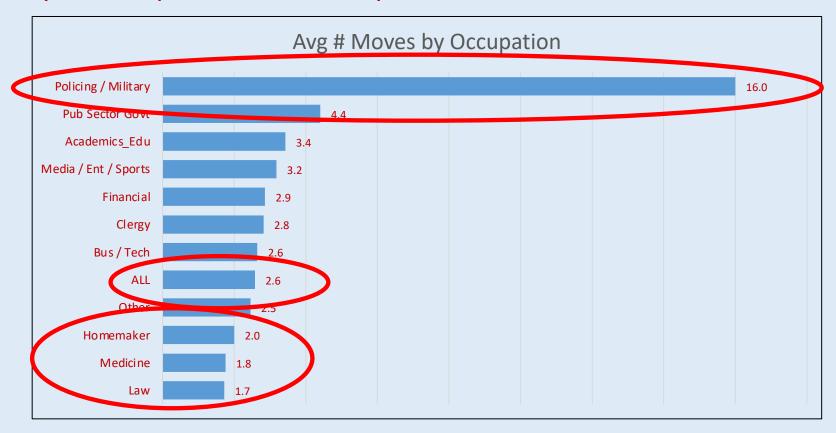
- Also came from suburbs (53%)
 - Still concentrated there (c. 40%)
 - But "urban" now a close 2nd (35%)



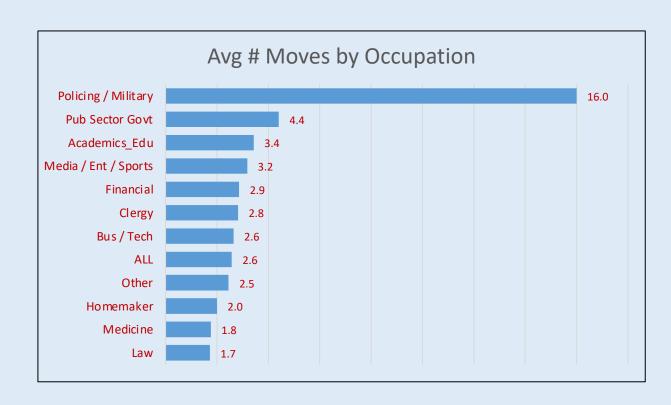
- How many times did we relocate after Yale?
 - Moved around a lot but hard to see a pattern
 - Maybe occupation had an impact?

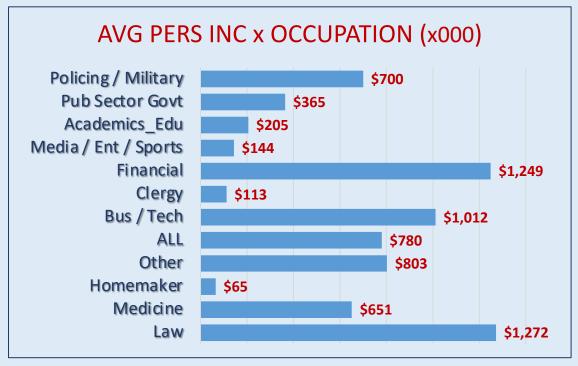


- How many times did we relocate after Yale?
 - Moved around a lot but hard to see a pattern
 - Maybe occupation had an impact? Yes!



- How many times did we relocate after Yale?
 - Moved around a lot but hard to see a pattern
 - Yes, but no relation between # of moves and income

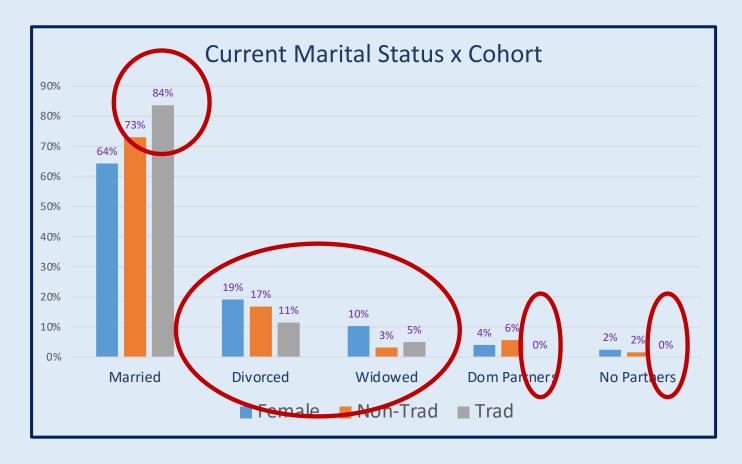






- Marital Status (classbook review)
 - As of the survey date (June, 2020)
 - 83 percent of us were married or in domestic partnerships
 - 12% were widowed or divorced (/not remarried).
 - 5% said they were never married

Overall, marriage status is consistent across cohorts



- Women more likely to be widowed or divorced than men (x2)
- Traditionals 20% more likely to be married than women, 11% more than Non-Trad'l.
 - No Traditionals were domestic partners; and none were "Never Married"

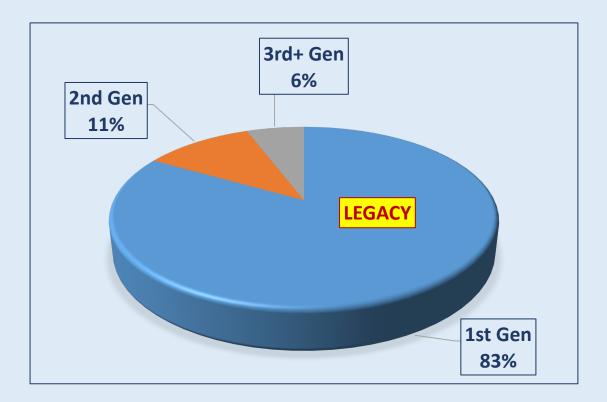
>> PROGENY CHILDREN <<

- We raised 1,289 children our own, adopted & step-children
 - 12% of us had no children, for those who did, average about 2.5
 - Peak age for 1st child around 30
 - Many now have graduate degrees and are in professions
- Grandchildren also in View
 - We reported 356 grandchildren (as of June, 2020)
 - Numbers ranged from 0 to 18
 - Grandchildren began arriving when our children were about 30 –
 just like us.

>> YALE LEGACY <<

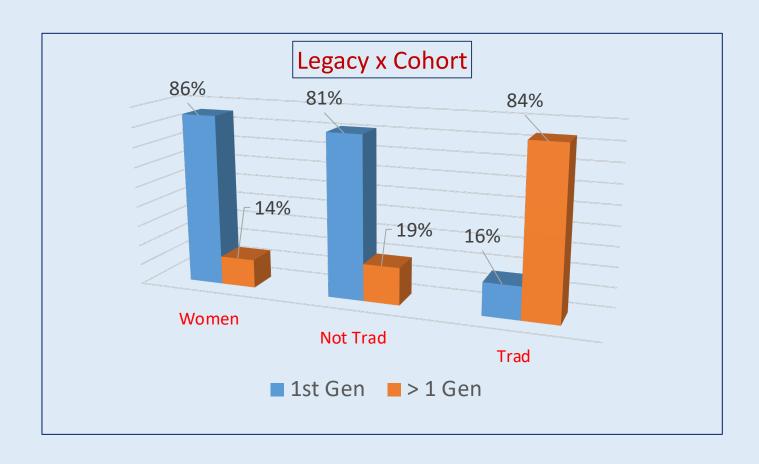
Generations at Yale

- A number of our classmates were Yale "legacy" (17%)
 - Some 2nd generation (11%), or 3rd + generation (6%)



>> YALE LEGACY <<

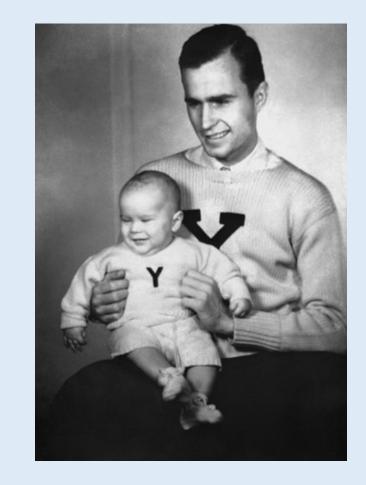
Generations at Yale



>> LEGACY - OUR CHILDREN<<

New Generation Legacies

- We asked whether or not a respondent had any children who went to Yale
 - 20% of YC71 men reporting, and 25% of YC71 women had at least one child who went to Yale.
 - There was little difference in "new generation legacies" based on whether or not the parent was a legacy
 - This provided only a 3% edge
 - But depends on what you bring to the table ...



Legacy POTUS's

- Relationships Along the Way
 - For women who formed first long-term relationship at Yale,
 - Counterpart was usually a Yale student (92%)
 - For men, the counterpart was seldom a Yale student (35%)
 - This was a matter of statistical availability
 - But this may not assuage the bruised or startled egos of male underclassmen
 - All in all, 21% of respondents indicated they have had a longterm relationship with another Yalie

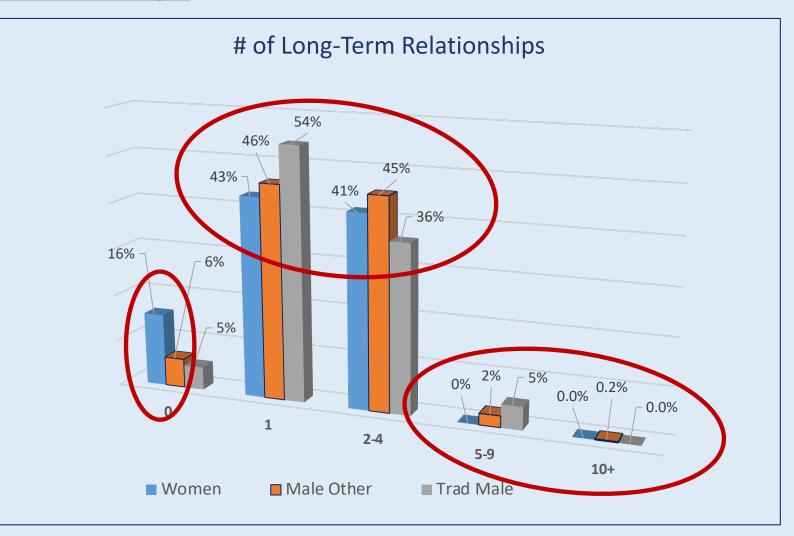


- Relationships Along the Way
 - Did classmates "marry or had a long-term relationship with someone of another race"?
 - 79 classmates (12% of respondents) said "Yes"
 - Similar for men and women
 - Separately, 4 men (1%) and 3 women (2%) reported relationships with faculty



How Many Long-term Relationships

- Most reported 1-4 long-term relationships (avg = 1-2)
 - No women reported > 4
 - Higher categories dominated by men
- Question: Did men and women mean the same thing when they defined "long-term relationships?"
- Many women reported no long-term liaisons (16%)
 - Did they mean marriage?



>> HARASSMENT & ASSAULTS <<

- Classmates reported sexual harassment and/or assaults at Yale
 - This question was not included in 45th survey, but was requested for 50th
 - Percentages are based on number of respondents saying either 'yes' or 'no' (634)
 - Results show distressing abuse levels among women, to be sure, but also to a lesser extent among men

Sex / Group	Harassed?	%	Assaulted?	%
Female	36	28%	8	6%
Male	29	6%	6	1.2%
Not Stated	1			
ALL	66	10%	14	2%

Undergraduate Studies

- 2/3 of class clustered in 2 focus areas
- Women lower in science / econ / tech

	Male	Female	UNK	Total	%
Arts & Humanities	42%	61%	60%	307	45%
Social Science	24%	18%	18%	155	23%
Science/Technical	17%	7%	7%	103	15%
Economics/Ad Sci	8%	5%	9%	47	9%
Interdisciplinary	9%	9%	5%	59	7%
Religion	0.90%	0%	0%	5	0.70%

- How did we feel about the academic options we chose?
 - First, did we think we chose the right majors?
 - About half-and-half (49% said "I chose well")
 - Would we have preferred a more academic focus, or more practical?

	Would have preferre		
Choice of Major Good?	More Applied	More Academic	Value > 0 means wanted 'more applied'
I Chose Well	-		
Maybe Tweaks	53	31	22
Serious Rethink	47	33	14
Reset Button	9	6	3

- Insights into academic choices enlightening
 - Many felt swept along, not well-guided would have chosen differently

More vocational training.

More Science. Fewer guts.

I would rethink the wisdom of taking French which I took because you had to have a foreign language.

I would probably choose Spanish.

I majored in American History.

If I had known what I now believe, I would have majored in Engineering.

Broaden my horizons.

Less emphasis on rigorous science, more on people and arts.

Fewer advanced/highly specific courses (i.e., math and physics), more life/conceptual thinking.

I like conceptual science (the origin and development of the universe and of life).

I've never used matrix algebra or solved a differential equation.

Would have gone into the sciences because having a specialized career is easier. [Really?]

Lessons Learned with Time & Hindsight

I would have spent most of my time in a subject I discovered I really liked (History) rather than trying to think ahead to a future that did not unfold the way I had anticipated.

I came to Yale as a female, 3rd-year math major....In hindsight, I later realized sexism drove me out of math---couldn't picture working long-term with such hostile people/men.

I now know how to better deal with this and would rethink mathematics. I would explore options I never thought to consider. I am now aware of so many more professional paths than I knew of as an undergraduate.

Now I might consider something like marine biology.

I think that combining the arts and the humanities with economics would have made excellent sense

---- really, economics works so hard to try to understand how human beings function together.

It is fundamentally an extension of the Arts and Humanities!

Economics to prepare for future financial employment

Psychology to help me understand people in my actual employment

Medicine or Science to prepare me for worthwhile employment

Lessons Learned with Time & Hindsight

"Oh boy – the world is so full of a number of things."

A philosophy major?

- Before we leave this...
 - Many lamented absence of computer sciences in their curricula

I might have gone into computer science instead of law -- I just never even thought of it as an option.

Actually, it wasn't an option...

Yale's computer science offering at that time – a single, one-semester, poorly-taught course – was awful.

Would have completed the computer course I started but was overwhelmed by.

Note: Did this commentator forget the Saga of the PDP 10?

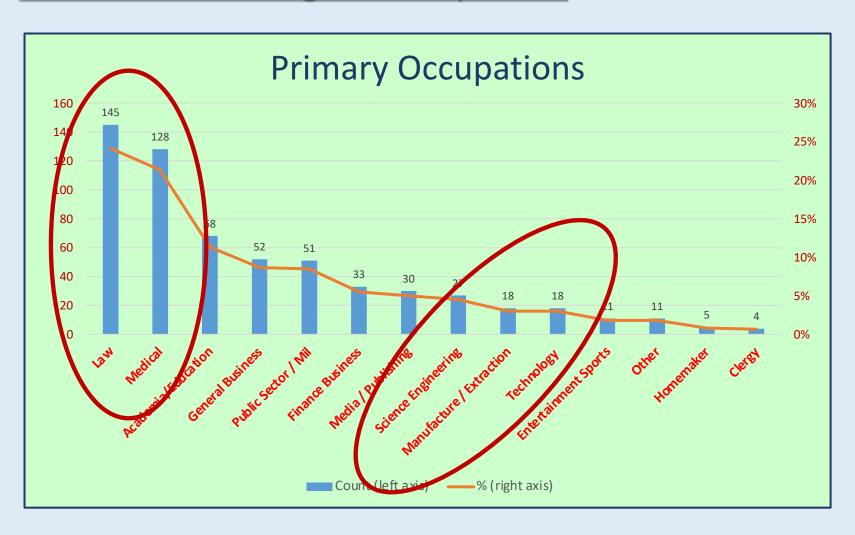
I would have spent more time on computers and electronics, less on other interdisciplinary subjects.

more computer science

More computer programming, if available.

Taking courses in photography and computers because afterwards I have had to learn it by myself since they play an important field in my profession.

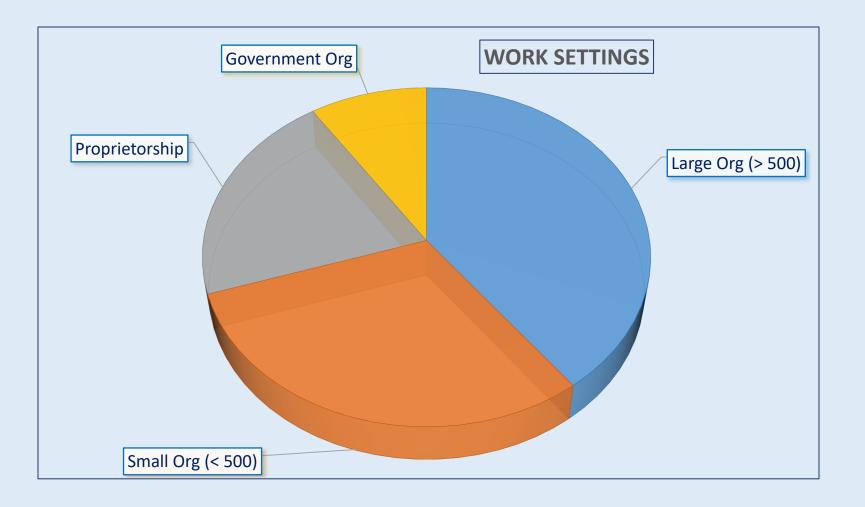
We had a wide range of occupations



- We had a wide range of occupations
 - Average of 2 occupations per working respondent
 - For men, 12% of spouses were homemakers
 - For women, 2.4% of spouses were homemakers



Where did we work?



ORG Environment	Pct
Large Org (> 500 employees)	40%
Small Org (< 500)	30%
Proprietorship	21%
Government Org	9%

Achilles' Choice – a short, glorious life, or a long, dull one

- It Matters Where You Work
 - Highest incomes in Large Organizations (lowest in Government)
 - Also highest chance of being fired (except for Government!)

Peak Personal INC	Large Org	Sm Org	Prop	Gvt
\$1mm+	16%	7%	11%	3%
\$400k+	21%	21%	14%	3%
\$200k+	29%	27%	21%	10%
\$100k+	26%	26%	26%	48%
> \$100k+	8%	19%	19%	31%

	Ever Fired?	Large Org	Sm Org	Prop	Gvt	
(Yes	32%	30%	25%	37%	
	No	68%	70%	75%	63%	

Leadership

- Yale is a leadership breeding ground right?
- Respondents had some doubts (asked if Yale prepared us for leadership) ...

While leadership was a principal focus of the admissions criteria (See Kingman Brewster's admissions criteria letter from 1967) it is astounding to me that as best as I can determine there were no undergraduate courses taught on leadership skills

Going to Yale has to do with privilege, and I was privileged to be there - the leadership thing is overrated!

This expectation was a burden.

I did not feel like I was being prepared for leadership.

No more than any other college would have.

I got a superior education, but this had nothing to do with leadership

Leadership became unattractive when knowledge of realities supplanted ignorant fantasy.

I don't know how to answer this question and don't like the question.

Leadership

- Yale is a leadership breeding ground right?
- Others found positive aspects ...

I always knew that other privileged people had the advantage of backgrounds with money and connections, but I learned they were not smarter than I.

One left with a feeling of equality to most, at least as a person, and not be overawed by someone's cv.

I'm a Beta guy, but that's not Yale's fault. I'd generally rather do the work than lead others getting it done.

It gave me the confidence to take on challenges of any sort.

The campus and its history really made me LOOK at the world, and wonder why things happened historically.

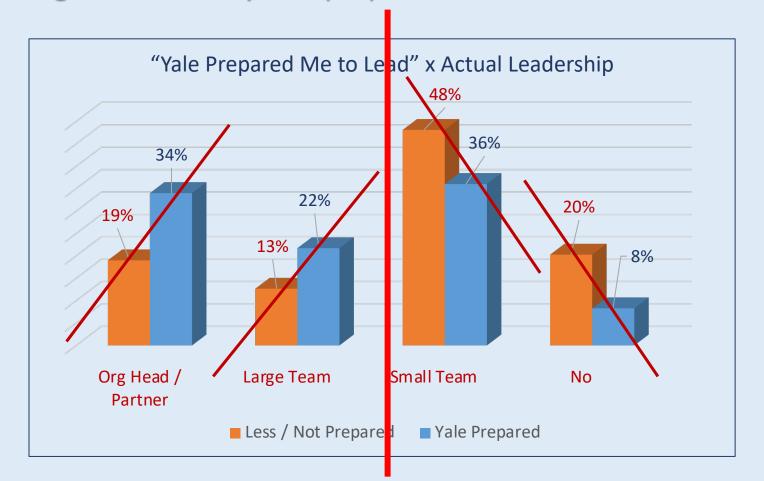
Only in terms of opening some doors.

Brand recognition helpful overseas.

- Leadership
 - Quite a large segment of the class has held management roles



- Leadership
 - Managers tend to say Yale prepared them for their role



By a 15% margin, organization heads thought Yale prepared them for leadership (versus didn't)

Just the opposite for those with less management responsibility

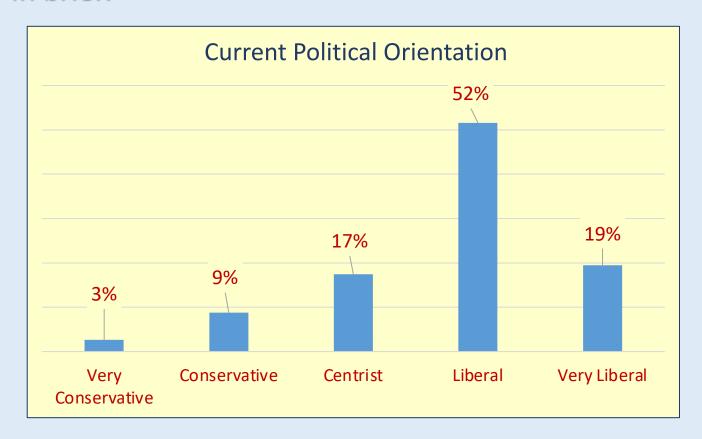
Leadership

- Beneath all this what exactly is "leadership"
 - Directing others, teaching, inspiring, setting an example, leading oneself?
- Many who did not pursue traditional leadership still "led"
 - To name a few examples:

Leadership roles	Participation Level
Professional training (internal/external)	95%
Publication – Fiction	9%
Publication – Non-Fiction / Technical	51%
Publication – Media	19%
Special Awards / recognition of contributions	61%

>> POLITICS & RELIGION <<

- Politics Overview
 - Classbook is the primary source on basics of this topic
 - In brief:



>> POLITICS OVER TIME <<

	Count Entering Yale	Current Count	Change	Move to Extreme	Move to Center
Very Conservative	6	17	11	11	
Conservative	94	56	-38		
Centrist	182	111	-71		-32
Liberal	251	328	77		
Very Liberal	62	124	62	62	
Not Political	33	3	-30	73	-32

Net move of 41 from center to extreme

>> RELIGION <<

Devotion

• In brief:

No Islamic

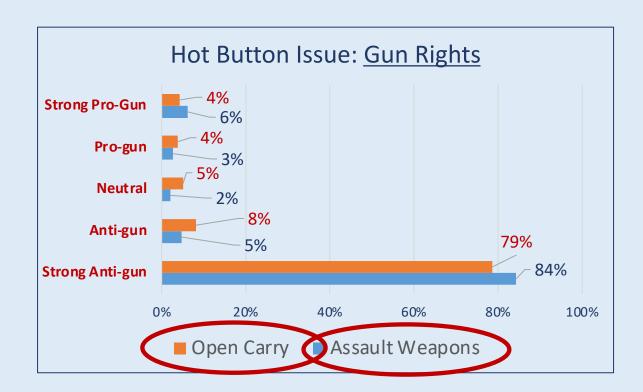
Count		
252		
162		
90 🔷		
71		
41		
40		
9		
5		
5		
3		
2		
1		

Current Religion	Count
Protestant	→ 138
Jewish	→ 137
Agnostic	89
Atheist	86
Blank	55
Lapsed	52
Catholic	→ 47
Non-denominational	26
Other	23
Evangelical	12
Buddhist	11
Hindu	3
Orthodox	1
LDS	1

Again, a drift to less conventional religious affiliations

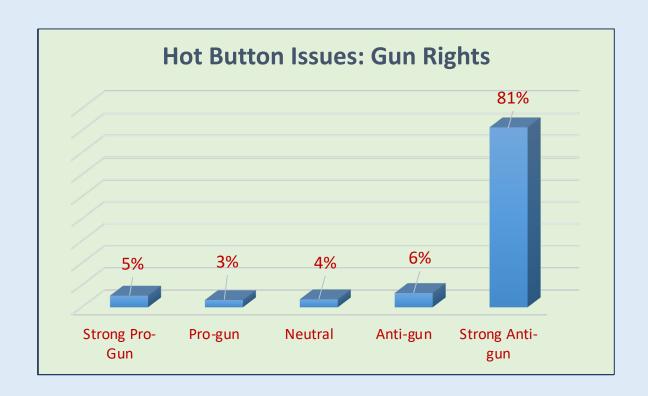
And away from religion – 1/3 now Agnostic, Atheist, Lapsed

- Hot Button Issues Selective Review
 - Too many topics to review here
 - Focus on attitudes around two issues gun control and 1% wealth tax



- Legalize "open carry" of firearms
- Ban assault rifles

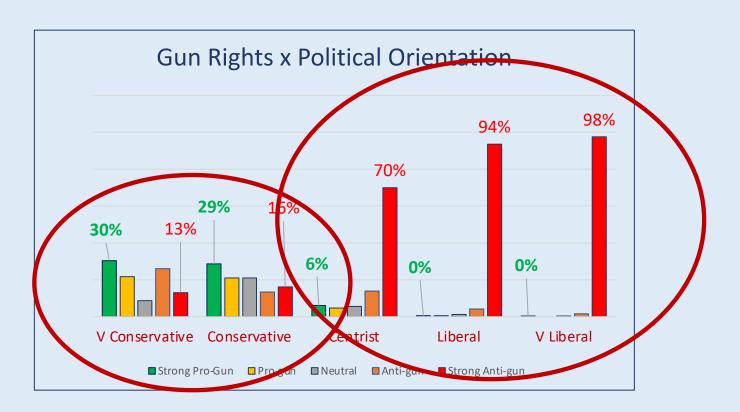
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Strong overall sentiment in favor of limiting gun rights

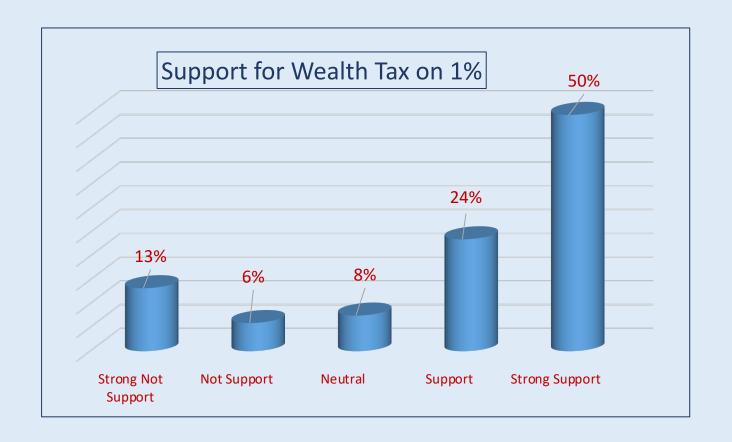
Aggregate of all views other than "strong anti-gun" = 18%

- Hot Button Issue Gun Rights
 - Too many issues to review here
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Clear alignment with general political attitudes (esp. among liberals)

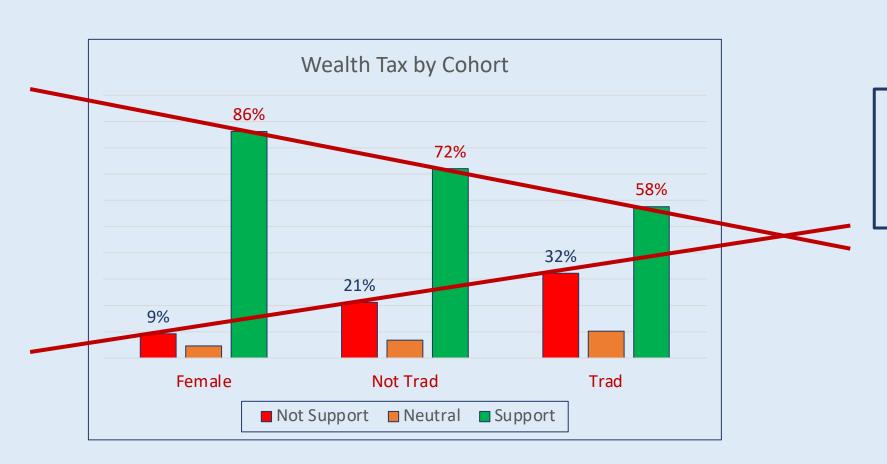
- Hot Button Issue 1% Wealth Tax
 - Does wealth tax have same 'dynamics' as gun rights?



Initially, attitudes
appear more
equivocal than around
gun rights

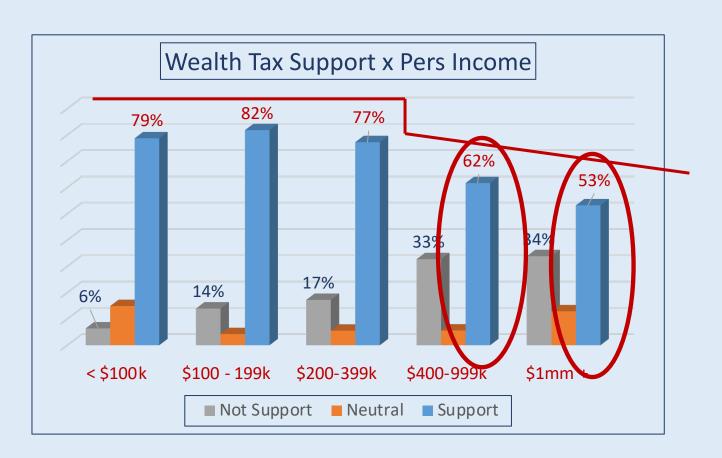
(50% "strong support" for wealth tax, versus 81% for gun control)

- Hot Button Issue 1% Wealth Tax
 - Here, there is a useful comparison by cohort:



Moving across cohorts, support levels decline and opposition rises

- Hot Button Issue 1% Wealth Tax
 - What about support relative to Peak Personal Income?



Starts support in upper 70s to low 80s

Then a gradual decline

Still: Most of those over Biden's \$400k threshold *do* support a wealth tax

- Hot Button Issue 1% Wealth Tax
 - What about support relative to Peak Personal Income?

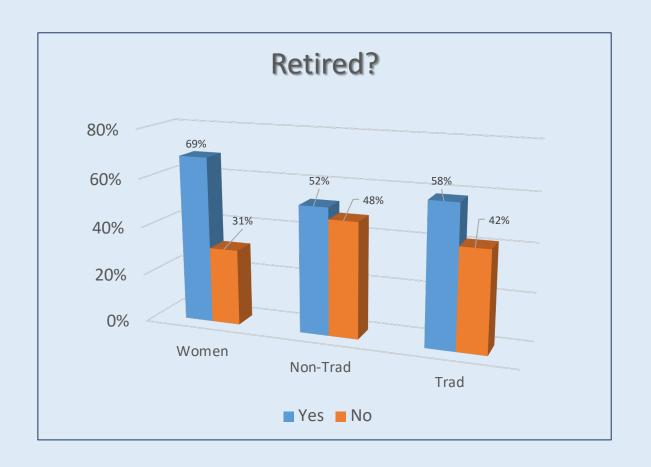


Still, altruism has its limits

>> RETIREMENT & THE LONG VIEW <<

Who is Retired?

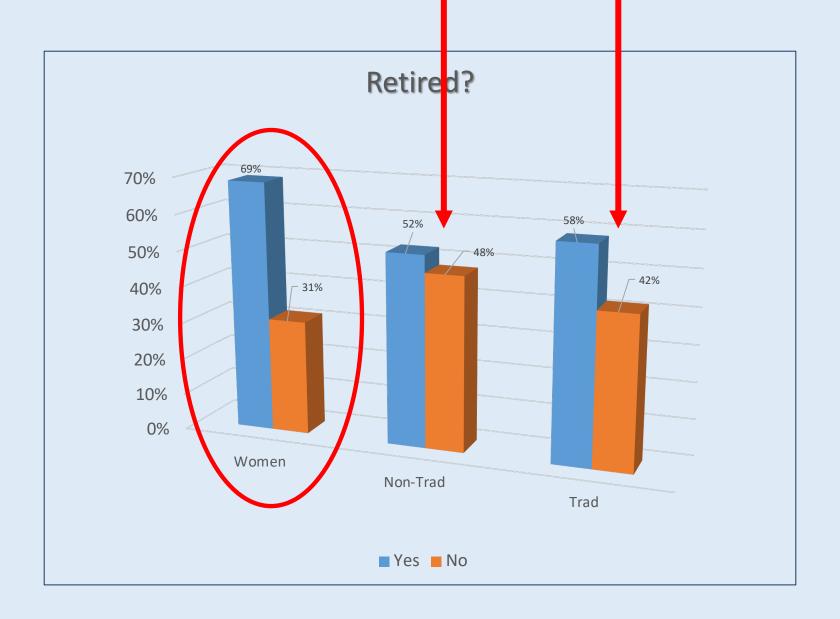
And maybe more to the point, why? (Apart from factors such as health issues.)



56% of class members were retired as of survey date, versus 43% not retired

[Survey date - June 2020] [adj. to eliminate inapplicable cases]

Note: A third of retirees report they have relocated



Who is Retired?

What occupations most / least likely to be retired

Occupation	Retired %
Finance / Banking / Markets	69%
Media / Journalism / Public Relations	70%
Government / Public Sector	74%
Clergy	75%
Community or Social Services / NGO	82%
Sports / Athletics	85%

Occupations with high retirement

Medicine / Health Care / Psychology	50%
Law	46%
Food Services	40%

Occupations with low retirement

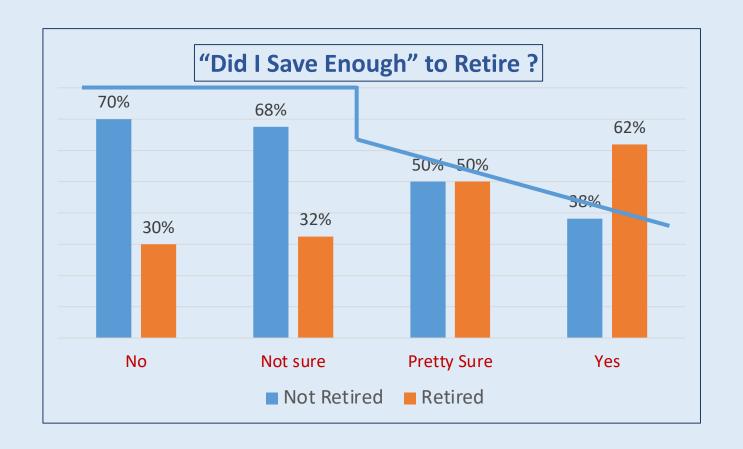
- Who is Retired?
 - Was personal income a factor?



Apart from \$1mm+ group, those with higher incomes were less likely to be retired!

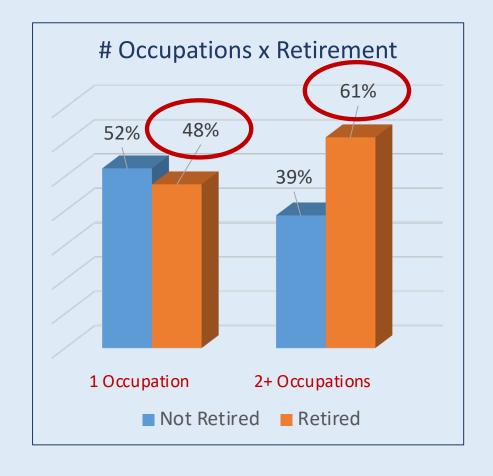
Were structured retirement programs a factor?

- Who is Retired?
 - Did those who retired feel more financially secure?



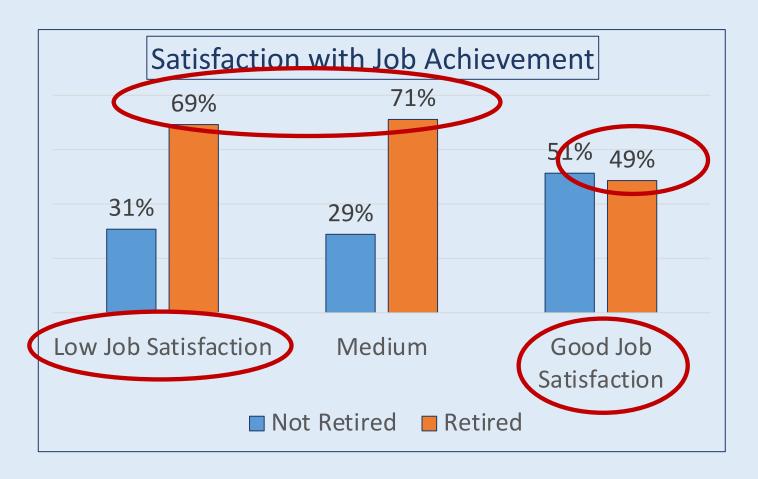
Subjective sense of financial security does appear important in retirement decisions

- Is that All There is to It?
 - Have I worked to live, or lived to work?



Those with one occupation considerably less likely to be retired

- Is that All There is to It?
 - Does it matter if the work we pursued mattered to us?

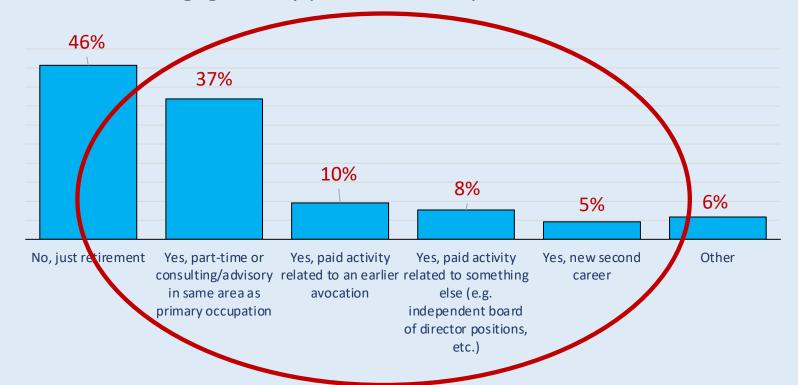


Career savings are not everything!

Of those satisfied with their careers, less than half are retired

- Is that All There is to It?
 - Moreover, even among the retired, ambitions continue on!
 - About half plan remunerative activity post-retirement

Plan to engage in any paid activities, post-retirement?



So What's Next?

As we go on, inevitabilities loom

A good moment to take stock

Bad memories fly back –

Bad choices, missed opportunities,

Things we said ...

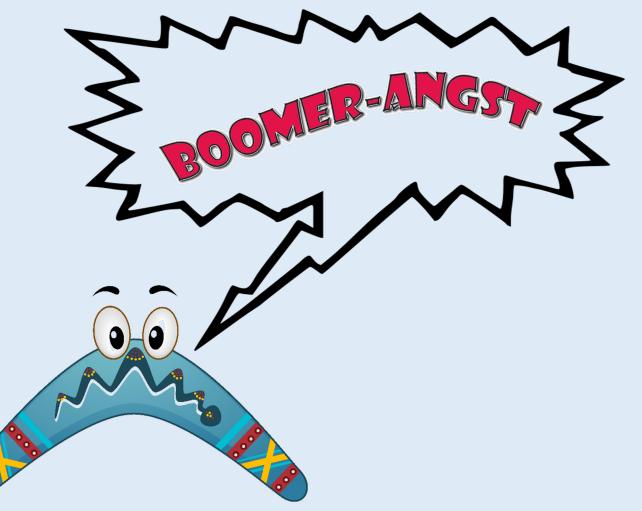
Thing we should have said ...

Market peaks we missed.

We can brood on such things
 This condition is has a name:

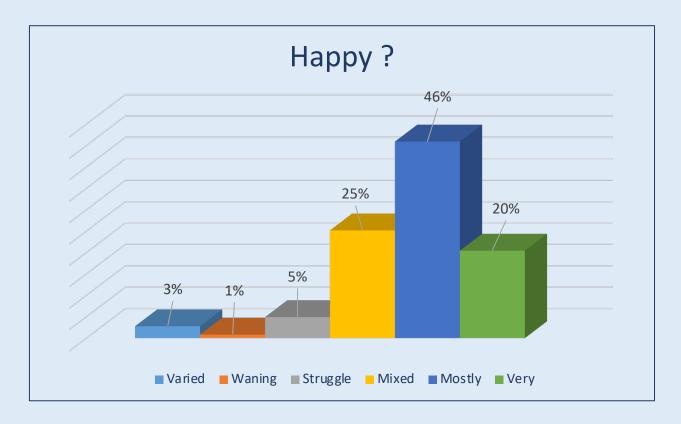


Assuming we are ever be able to get together in person again!



- So how do we size it all up?
 - The survey included 4 or 5 open-ended "reflection queries"
 - We received hundreds of responses far too many for this short discussion!
 - Will publish later

- For the moment ...
 - Respondents answered questions on how we summed it all up for ourselves
 - Here, in brief, is what we said –



More to Happiness Nuances than the Graph Shows

Loss of my daughter complicates my happiness index

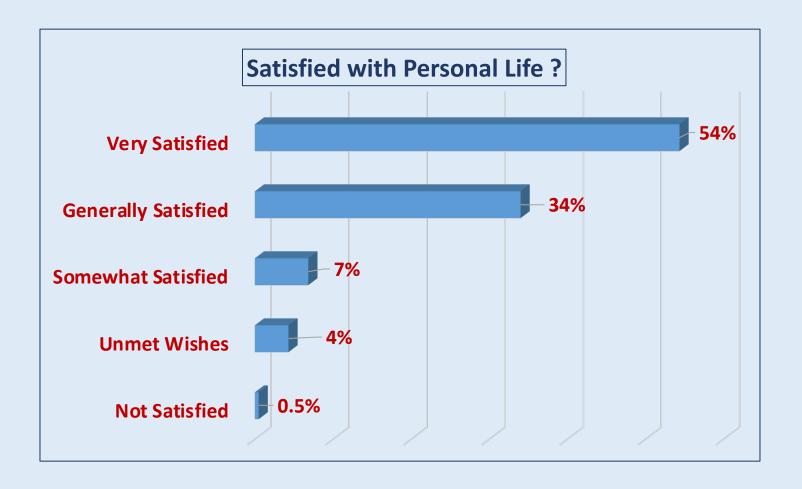
Notwithstanding being very happy person, the pandemic has me very troubled.

Very, very troubled. Distressed, really

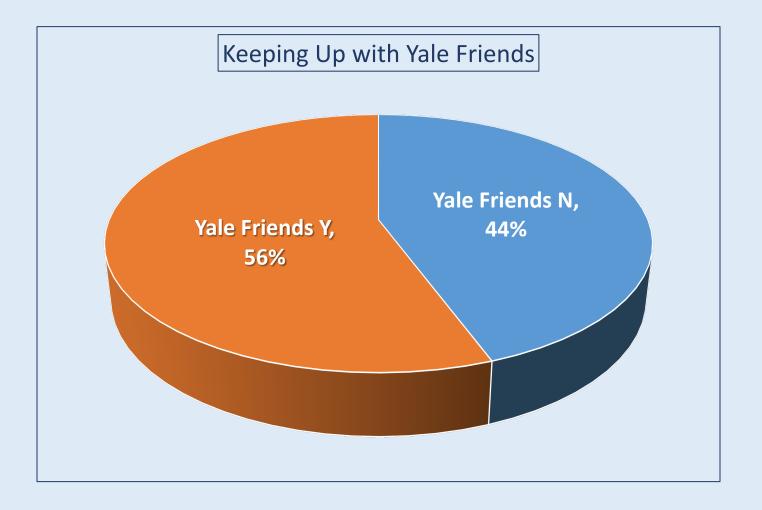
Feeling powerless in the context of impending climate change, and Trumpism.

You don't allow for radical changes, like the death of my wife of 44 years.

How Satisfied with Personal Life?

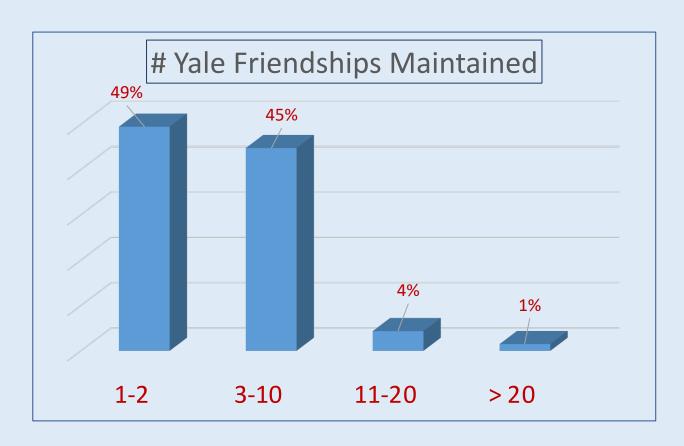


Class of 1971 Friendships Maintained



More than half of us keep up with college friends

Class of 1971 Friendships Maintained



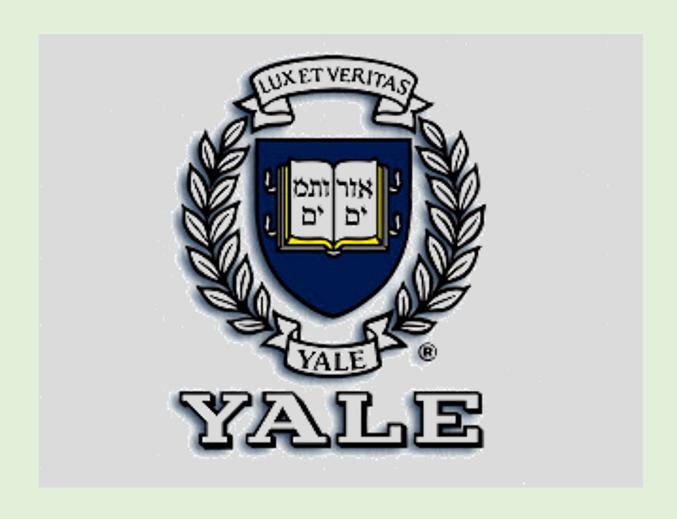
Of those who do, we often keep up with many.

Lifelong friendships are a durable and rewarding personal legacy

Note: Includes those who maintain any friendships

>> Summing it All Up <<

- So...who are we?
 - Complicated which is good
 - Diverse
 - Varying positions and attitudes
 - But a clear sense of "the center"
 - Most cohort differences are secondary
 - How did we approach the world?
 - Participated in the march of the generations
 - Raised families, pursued occupations
 - Distinguished ourselves in our pursuits
 - Check out the Classbook bios!
 - Continuing dialogue is appropriate to explore the diversity and depths of YC 71



Thanks to

Survey respondents (all 681)

Class reviewers

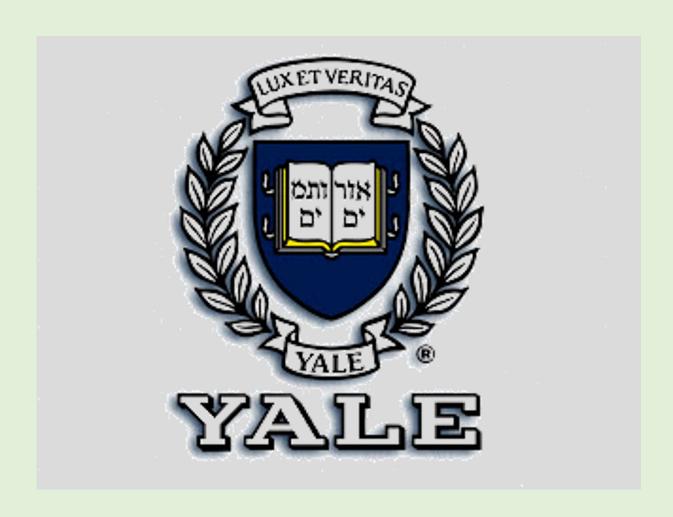
Bob Bruner

Tim Powell

Lupi Robinson

Dori Zaleznik

Center for Survey Research (UVa)
Kara Fitzgibbon



Dedicated to memory of Chris Argyris (1923-2013)

Beach Professor of Administrative Sciences Chair, Administrative Sciences Department

Chris was a valued mentor in learning to understand and interpret human and organizational behavior.

Rick Cech