



# Record Numbers of Applicants to Yale for 2008

We have a total of thirty-five applicants to Yale this year, a record number. The come from four of counties and cover from 15 schools, them from Pine School (another and there is one schooled student. these students Early Action; of two were The home-student, Molly was one of those the other being Silverstein out of Episcopal School Bradenton. The applicants were



applicants our five students nine of View record,) home-Seven of opted for the seven, admitted. schooled Silverstein, admitted, Molly St. Stephens in other five deferred.

Dale Peterson, St Stephens Episcopal School,

The admissions Office has made a determined effort to defer more of the non-admitted Early Action applicants in order to broaden the regular decision pool. Your Alumni Schools Committee has completed the process of interviewing each applicant; the deadline for submitting those reports was February 15. The students this year appear to be an exceptionally strong group with a variety of interests, but quite uniformly high abilities. We will learn the results late in March

Wes Finer



Above:  
Gil Waters is honored as having  
been begun his membership in 1949,  
before formal charter was obtained.



Right:  
Wes Finer was honored for his long and praiseworthy  
leadership role in the Yale Club of the Suncoast. He  
has served as President in '83-'85, '86-'87, and in  
'93-'94.

Below:  
Mike Lasche receives the Association of  
Yale Alumni Medal from Frank  
Samponaro for distinguished service to  
our Club.



Left:  
Also recognized for his long and loyal  
service to the Club is Art Ferguson.



# Yale Club 50th Anniversary

On February 3, 2007, eighty-eight members and guests celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Yale Club of the Suncoast, known until 1998 as the Yale Club of Sarasota, at a gala



Harry and Patricia Riley at the Gala

dinner at the Sarasota Yacht Club. When those who attended arrived, they entered a dining room festively decorated by a committee chaired by Susan Kelly that included Marsha Samponaro and Beverley Wadsworth. Before they sat down for dinner, they had the opportunity to view numerous photos of recent Club events taken by Liz Troutman that were displayed on a large screen television.

After cocktails and an excellent dinner, Frank Samponaro '62, our delegate to the Association of Yale Alumni, read a letter from President Richard Levin of Yale. He congratulated the Yale Club of the Suncoast for reaching an important milestone in its history and saluted it for its many achievements in service to the University and the local community over the past half century. An awards ceremony followed. Mike Lasche '91M BA, our hard-working treasurer, received the Association of Yale Alumni award for distinguished service to the Club. Gil Waters '47 was recognized for having regularly participated in the Club's activities since 1949,

eight years before it obtained its charter from the State of Florida and formally came into existence. Art Ferguson '53 was also recognized for the length of his affiliation with the Club. A former president, Art can claim the unique distinction of having been a member continuously since the Club's incorporation in 1957. Wes Finer '52, who chairs the Alumni Schools Committee, was given an award for because of the important leadership role he has played in the Club for many years. Among his many contributions Wes has served as president for a longer period than anyone else (from 1983-85, 1986-87, 1993-94).

Following the conclusion of the awards ceremony, members and guests joined in a spirited, if slightly off-key sing-along of Yale songs including the "Whiffenpoof Song," "Bulldog," and "Bright College Years." Before they left for home the eighty-three individuals who participated in the celebration of the fiftieth anni-



Happy party crowd

versary of the Yale Club of the Suncoast learned that they had helped make a bit of history themselves. They had attended the largest evening event in the history of the Club.

Frank Samponaro

# Jack Kahn Charms Yale Club Cruise

An overflow crowd of Yale Club of the Sun Coast members and guests, laughed their way through Jack Kahn's hilarious anecdotes about his family's famous Longboat Key resort Far Horizons, during our February Marina Jack luncheon cruise.

Over 75 Elis and significant others heard the 'inside story' about how West Germany's Willy Brandt and his entourage regularly visited the nationally recognized Gulf Front resort during his cold war rise from Mayor of West Berlin to Chancellor of West Germany in the 60s and 70s.

Jack who graduated in the class of 1958 recalled that a Yale friend steered Brandt to him for an Easter holiday in Florida. "I went to the airport to be part of the welcoming party and somehow I was one of only three of us who showed up so I became the local host. I was liaison with the press and got my German chef to talk with him about his meal preferences."

As Brandt's international star rose- he was awarded Nobel Peace Price in 1971,- he returned to Far Horizon and chose the week between Christmas and New Years for one visit. "His group included personal staff plus six German body guards and 36 US Secret Service agents. The trouble was, the New England Life Insurance Company had booked the hotel months earlier."

"I called the head of the Insurance Company. The chairman gave up his suite. Others doubled up and I got the nearby Colony Beach Club to help out with the rooms and we made space for the Chancellor's party."

Jack praised Brandt: "When he heard about what the insurance carrier did, he asked what he could do in return, You could make an appearance at one of their sessions, I said." "He did and talked to them for 45 minutes."



Everything turned out for the best. The insurance company had been planning to have their next year's convention in the Caribbean but rescheduled again for the Far Horizon.

The bright-eyed cheerful Eli joined his father, Jack Senior in Sarasota right after graduation and took charge of the front at the 75 room pioneer beach front resort

and gourmet dining room. The Far Horizons is given credit for first attracting affluent Northerners to Longboat Key.

He recalled being in the lobby when a dusty VW van with a California license and a casually dressed family emerged. "The man asked for information and I told him we could take all of them for \$ 30.00 a night. The man opened his wallet, took out 9 hundred dollar bills and said 'we'll stay for a month.' I did not even have to say "if you stay six days you get the seventh day free." The guest turned out to be the famous Robert Morrison, his wife and three children."

Jack recalled that when Arvida was building Bird Key they offered Susanne and himself a lot free if they would build in a year. They chose Harbor Acres instead and lived there for the next 30 years.

Cont'd on pg. 6



# Yale Club Sarasota Bay Cruise



Jack Kahn, cont'd from pg. 4

Later he described the time famed pianist and comedian Victor Borge was performing at the Swan Ball in Nashville. "He had everyone in the room laughing uncontrollably- except one lady who sat through his routine without a smile. Susanne went over to her and asked: 'Why aren't you laughing, Madam?' She replied: 'I am Mrs. Borge and I have heard all his stories many times before.'"

Still in the cold war Jack reminisced about a high ranking FBI agent who became a friend and guest; Walter Boyle.

"He was active in gaining intelligence information in Moscow and once told me, that if I ever got on a plane and saw him aboard, I should get right off and take the next flight because he carried a .45 caliber pistol and if there is a hijacker on board he was supposed to shoot him."



Jack, whose remarks preceded an excellent luncheon under way on the new Marina Jack, informed Sarasota newcomers to the club that 'Old Sarasota' used to have two railroad lines.

He went on to tell how our Performing Arts Center got its name." Bobby Van Wezel was a resident of St.Armands Key and a long time friend and when the project cost more than the City budgeted it, a



citizens committee was appointed by Jack's friend, then Mayor David Cohen. Van Wezel's estate paid the difference with the provision that it would be called Van Wezel Performing Arts Center."

For his work in helping to bring this project to reality, Jack was named Chairman of the Hall's Advisory Board, a position he held for 15 years.

Brian Kelly, class of 61, who thought up this highly successful 50th Anniversary Event praised Jack and said he has enough stories on old Sarasota for three or more future trips. The crowd applauded.

Gil Waters: '47

**We note with sincere regret the passing of Mr. Ed, our Club's printer for many years and the longtime good friend of many members. Mr. Ed Higginson, III succumbed on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, to an illness he fought valiantly for many years. He will be missed.**

**Financial support for bluLINES is generously provided by Bank of America**

# DR. DONALD MENZEL ADDRESSES YALE CLUB

Donald C. Menzel, Ph.D., Director of the USF Institute for Public Policy and Leadership, spoke to a large Yale Club luncheon gathering at the Sarasota Yacht Club on January 18, 2007. He was introduced by our Club President, Dr. Peter L. French, and spoke on “Challenges to Ethical Governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”.

Dr. Menzel listed several factors affecting ethical governance in public administration. The major challenges are (1) privatization (he indicated that free enterprise concentrates on results and not so much on methods or accountability), (2) wide, unregulated access to information (people learn private facts about others; anonymous internet media allow more depersonalized, aggressive and devious behavior without much downside consequence), (3) globalization (redefines the nation-state and diminishes the central government as a source of ethical authority), and (4) weak ethics education (what little exists is mostly directed to “how to stay out of trouble” instead of “why and how to do what is right”). Dr. Menzel seeks more intensive ethical training for public officials and better governance structures for public institutions.

Asked during the question period for a definition of ethics, Dr. Menzel offered several possibilities without making a firm pronouncement. His equivocation reflects the literature on the subject. Much of it simply substitutes one mystery for another, defining ethics as “values and principles that guide right and wrong behavior”, or “morality in action”, or “I know it when I see it”.

Dr. Menzel suggested a “smell test”, or whether an action would “look good” if publicized.

The systematic philosophy of ethics, not part of Dr. Menzel’s presentation, distinguishes “normative ethics” from “meta-ethics”. Normative ethics addresses the life we should live and the things that have ultimate value. Meta-ethics, which was Dr. Menzel’s area of discussion, applies normative ethics to practical affairs. Here thinkers differ. Some, the “objectivists”, say there are principles of right and wrong that should govern all societies. Others, “relativists”, claim nothing is absolutely right or wrong, even if all cultures believe, for example, that murder is evil. Still others, “subjectivists”, line up with relativists, on the ground that because many moral disputes appear to be insoluble, there is no objective justification in ethics.



For another day, a separate line of inquiry might consider more important concerns than public administration, such as divinity; immortality; whether we are born innocent of hostile desires toward each other (Rousseau) or into a life that is brutish, nasty and short unless we submit to an overbearing state government (Hobbes); control of embryonic life; restrictions on human sexual behavior; capital punishment; war; end-of-life issues; wealth and income inequalities; or the famous research by Yale’s Stanley Milgrim, who showed how almost any of us might be induced to torture others. Our reactions to such concerns form a basis for our judgments when we are confronted by ethical choices in public administration or elsewhere.

Dyer S. Wadsworth