YALE Bulletin & Calendar

SPECIAL ISSUE *Spring/Summer 2002*

YALE & NEW HAVEN

A PROGRESS REPORT

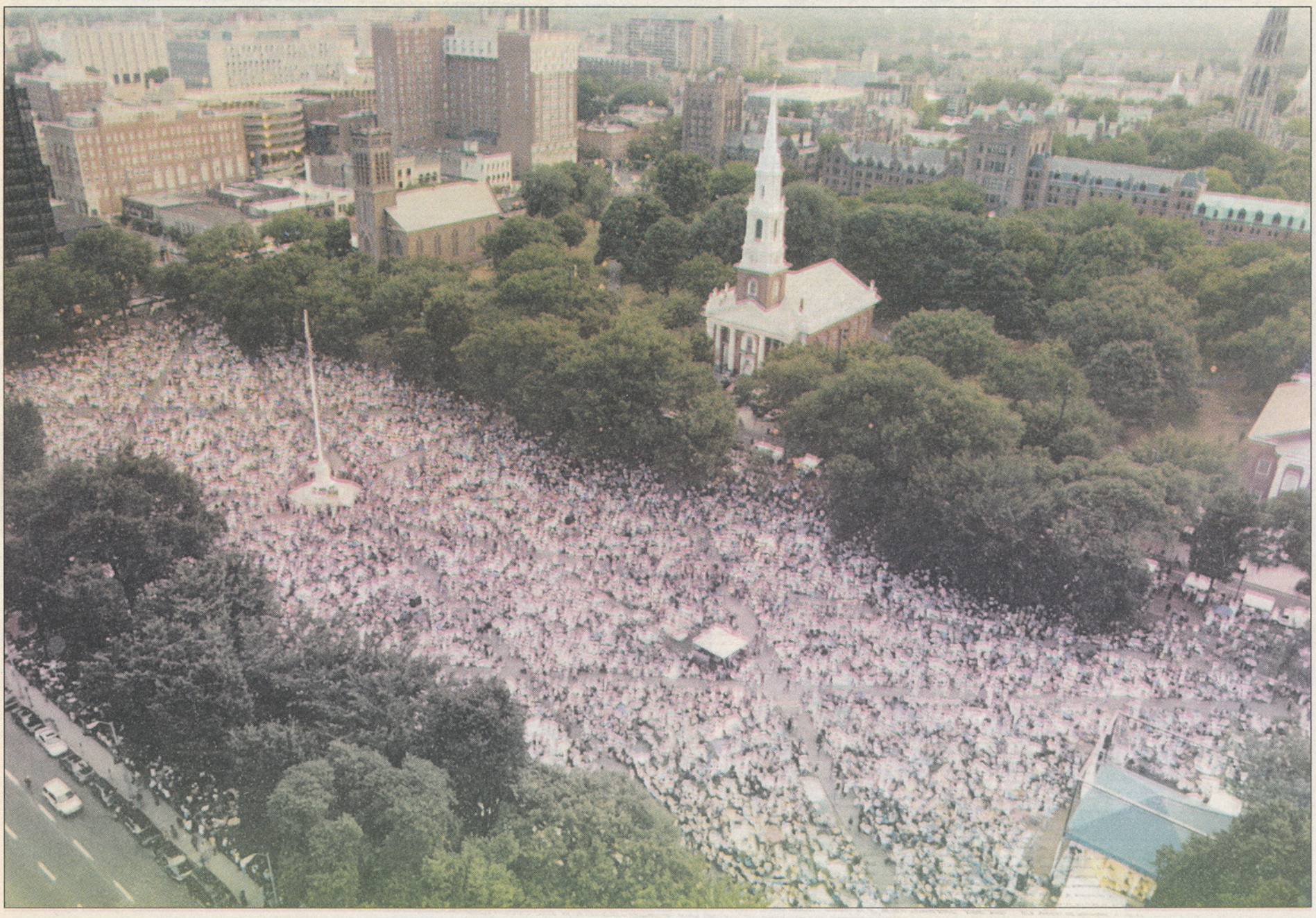
When I became President in 1993, I made it clear that New Haven would be one of the University's highest priorities. Because Yale's future was inextricably linked to the strength of our city, I called for Yale to become an active partner to promote economic development, improve the public schools and revitalize New Haven's downtown and neighborhoods. With the strong and continuing support of the Yale Corporation, thousands of students, faculty and staff members have joined in these efforts, and millions of dollars have been invested to support educational outreach, downtown improvements, homeownership and the development of science-based industry.

Today, more than 10,000 New Haven Public School students participate in academic and athletic programs on the Yale campus every year, nearly 500 University employees have purchased homes in the City with the assistance of the Yale Homebuyer Program, there is a thriving retail district on Broadway and Chapel Street, and a burgeoning biotechnology industry in New Haven with 15 companies that in recent years has attracted over $1.5 billion of venture capital. This summer, as in previous years, Yale University will sponsor several events including the New Haven Jazz Festival and the International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

This special issue of the Yale Bulletin & Calendar reports on the progress of our New Haven Initiative.

PRESIDENT RICHARD C. LEVIN

New Haven's Broadway area has been transformed into a vibrant shopping district through a Yale-led revitalization effort that blends national chains with numerous local businesses and restaurants.



The New Haven Green was filled to capacity last summer for a performance by New York's Metropolitan Opera Company. The free performance was part of the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, an annual event co-sponsored by Yale that brings over 100,000 people to the City every summer.

Yale has made its home in New Haven for 285 of its 300 years. The University's Harkness Tower has been part of the City's skyline since 1917. Twice daily, the bells in the tower's carillon serenade passersby.

Yale's Office of New Haven & State Affairs

The University's 'Front Door' To Building Community Partnerships

As part of its commitment to strengthening and expanding town-gown partnerships, Yale established the Office of New Haven and State Affairs (ONHSA) in 1995.

ONHSA serves as a "front door" to the University and its resources for the people and organizations of Greater New Haven. By bringing under one roof those in the Yale administration who work with the City, the office is a place where members of the Yale and New Haven communities can build partnerships for economic development, neighborhood revitalization, education and human development.

The office is headed by Yale Vice President Bruce Alexander '65, who was responsible for such successful examples of urban revitalization as the South Street Seaport in lower Manhattan, Harborplace in Baltimore and the Riverwalk in New Orleans.

Working in conjunction with other University departments and New Haven businesses and organizations, ONHSA has helped spearhead Yale's involvement in such areas as:

Revitalizing Downtown

The University works actively with the City and local businesses to expand the retail and dining attractions in New Haven's downtown area.

With City encouragement and support, Yale has invested in key downtown properties on Broadway and in the Chapel Street district. In recent years Yale has renovated its Broadway properties to create a mix of both local businesses and national chains, including Origins, Ivy Noodle restaurant, J. Crew, Cutler's and the greengrocer/deli Gourmet Heaven, which is open 24 hours a day — transforming the area into a vibrant shopping area and late-night gathering spot.

Yale has also joined with the City and local businesses to create Town Green Special Services District, an organization dedicated to enhancing New Haven's downtown, a 27-block area with the New Haven Green at its center. The University is also a sponsor of Market New Haven, a strategic campaign to promote the City by fostering a more accurate perception of its strengths.

Building Biotechnology

Discoveries being made in Yale laboratories have spawned 15 start-up companies in the Greater New Haven area. These new local companies not only bring new jobs and taxes to the City — raising more than $1 billion in private capital investment for the New Haven region in the year 2000 alone — they also hold the promise of new treatments and cures for human disease.

Some of the new ventures are clustered in the 300 George St. technology center that is currently undergoing a $20 million renovation. Others are locating at Science Park, a Yale-sponsored business incubator, where every square foot of available lab space is now occupied (and more is being created).

Experts at the Enterprise Center, a partnership between Yale and City businesses, are helping budding entrepreneurs from the University and beyond build successful enterprises in New Haven by providing consulting services such as strategic business planning, market research, financial structuring, capital source development and management assistance. Four companies, with 80 employees, have been founded so far.

Revitalizing Neighborhoods

Yale has taken an active role in the neighborhood revitalization efforts that are making New Haven even stronger.

Through Yale's Homebuyer Program, established in 1994, nearly 500 Yale employees have purchased homes in New Haven with a total value of over $55.4 million.

Working with members of the Dwight neighborhood, Yale secured a $2.4 million HUD university partnership grant that has helped to establish the Greater Dwight Development Corporation; to construct a much-needed addition to Dwight Elementary School (a project that received an additional $40,000 in matching funds from the University and design help from the Yale School of Architecture); and to develop a shopping center featuring Shaw's Supermarket (a project aided by pro bono services from the Yale Law School).

In the Hill neighborhood, Yale works with neighborhood partners to increase homeownership. Yale was also part of a library-business-university partnership to found, equip and staff the state-of-the-art Technology Access Center at Stetson Library in the Dixwell neighborhood, where community members can receive training in computer technologies. That center led to a 300% increase in community usage of the library. The partnership was so successful that a second center opened in a Fair Haven library.

Yale literacy tutors gather with their 3rd-grade partners at the Dwight Elementary School addition, which was designed by students at the Yale School of Architecture in cooperation with neighborhood residents.

Strengthening the Public Schools

ONHSA also plays an active role in many of Yale's programs and collaborations in the New Haven Public Schools (see page 5). Each year, more than 10,000 New Haven schoolchildren participate in Yale University-sponsored academic programs. ONHSA coordinates America Reads, for example, with 100 Yale student literacy tutors working in the Dwight Elementary School, while more than 200 students in the Hill Regional Career High School take part in programs with the Yale Schools of Medicine and Nursing. (See page 6.) ONHSA sponsors a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) team for the national Robotics Competition, which immerses high school students in the world of science and engineering. The City's Career Magnet High School has incorporated the FIRST program into its curriculum.

Celebrating Town-Gown Ties

ONHSA helps coordinate two programs that celebrate the vital relationship between Yale and New Haven. The office works with students on Communiversity Day, which brings City residents to the campus each spring for a day of fun and educational activities, entertainment and free food. ONHSA also oversees the annual Seton Elm-Ivy Award program, which honors individuals and groups in the Yale and New Haven communities who have strengthened town-gown partnerships. Since the awards were established in 1979 by Fenmore Seton '38 and his wife, Phyllis, nearly 230 individuals and organizations have been honored.