



Classes - friendships based on Year of Graduation

The Class Connection Starts as Undergraduates

From the moment a student is accepted to Yale, he or she becomes affiliated with a



graduating class year. Before the first year at Yale begins, there is a week-long orientation for class members. Students live with other members of their class and participate in rich class traditions sponsored by the university, ranging from the Freshman Dinner to Senior Week. During undergraduate years, each class has a leadership council to arrange activities for members of that class. Class members experience arrival at the

university together, the same four years of cultural and social events at the university, and they have planned for their post-university lives together. Class members will remember being university students when the same world events took place and when the same music and fashions were popular. Class members have memories of four years together that no other person can share in quite the same way.

The Organizational Structure of the Class

Every five years, each class elects two officers. The Class Secretary reports news of classmates and the Class Treasurer collects money for class activities. Sometimes a group of representatives, a Class Council, helps the class officers. The first Secretary and Treasurer are elected just prior to the final year at the university, allowing class leadership to take root before graduation.

Class Activities After Graduation

Classmates scatter after graduation, but class officers preserve and strengthen friendships. They relay news of marriages, career successes, children and deaths through class notes published in the Yale Alumni Magazine. They may use class websites, email list-serves, blogs and Facebook pages to stay connected. Every five years, the class holds a multi-day reunion back at the university: listening to lectures or touring new facilities, meeting friends, dancing to music from university days (see photos). Some classes have gatherings between reunion years.



The Class Nurtures a Strong and Flexible Personal Network

The Class provides lifelong connections to peers. Because it cuts across academic majors and specific interests, it provides links to a broad and diverse range of resources. When these enrich your life or career you will feel loyalty -- and obligation -- to your class and your university.