Greetings to All  From graduates as far away as Japan, Singapore, Greece, and Israel, came messages of concern and support to us here at the Yale Law School after the explosion on May 21. Who would have thought it could happen here?

Notes from you described your relief that students, faculty, and staff were unscathed. Many of you asked questions: Exactly where is the damage? Will fall classes and fall events be held or postponed?

Extensive damage to Room 120 (the last classroom on the right side of the main hallway before you get to the Levinson Auditorium), to the Alumni Reading Room (the lovely new room with portraits of faculty and graduates on three walls, and books written by alumni and faculty, located next to the Student Lounge), and to the staircase (leading from the lower level, L1, where the computer clusters and the Rare Book Room are located), is already being repaired and should be completed by September. According to plans, classes will begin as scheduled and all other events, including Alumni Weekend 2003 on October 31–November 2, will take place here at the Law School.

Fortunately, most of the books written by you and donated to the Alumni Reading Room were recovered and are being treated so they can be placed back on the new shelves. The portraits are in the hands of an able conservator who worked on the portraits some years ago during the renovations; only a few of them were seriously damaged. Our videotape collection is now in the hands of experts and the 450 rare books that were damaged are in the process of being rehabilitated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our graduates for the many messages and well wishes. The Yale Law School community spirit is strong, and we look forward to welcoming you back to New Haven.

Toni Hahn Davis ’92 LLM
Associate Dean

The YLSA of Southern California brought alumni a little closer to the glitz and glam of Hollywood when the Yale Club kicked off its Yale in Hollywood Series for 2003 in February and invited area YLS graduates. The group played host to a panel of distinguished Yale alumni who discussed “How I Got Into the Biz.” The speakers included Walter Parkes, Bob Bookman ’72, Don Granger, Ralph Sall, Robinee Lee, and David Steinberg. The evening started off with mingling followed by an informative and entertaining discussion.

In February, a group of northern California graduates were invited to the beautiful campus of Santa Clara University for a luncheon with Kenneth Roth ’80, executive director of Human Rights Watch. Ken was on campus for the day as a visiting scholar as part of the school’s yearlong Institute on Globalization. The lunch was held at the Adobe Lodge on the university campus.

Alumni living in the Los Angeles area were invited to a lecture at the Brentwood School by Stephen L. Carter ’79, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law.
Almost 300 alumni and guests and current students converged on The Culture Project on Bleecker Street in New York City in February for a performance of the acclaimed play, \textit{The Exonerated}. The docudrama was created from public records and interviews conducted with former death row inmates from all over the country, and featured a rotating cast of actors portraying the condemned and telling their stories.

Larry Sorkin ’67 was the moving force behind the event, discovering the play, arranging for the purchase of almost the entire block of tickets for that night’s performance, and introducing the after-performance speaker, YLS Visiting Lecturer Stephen B. Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights and one of the nation’s foremost death penalty experts.

Attendees raved about the moving theatrical piece and Stephen Bright’s thought-provoking remarks. Alumni wrote: “A wonderful and inspiring evening.” “The Exonerated made me want to stand up and cheer (in fact I did, along with all the others in the audience)” “I thought Stephen Bright was charismatic and effective...as a prosecutor recently turned defense attorney, I found the program especially provocative. Congrats.”

Alumni generously purchased their tickets at full price, which helped to subsidize the cost of tickets for 50 current students.
In January, Dean Kronman was on hand to greet alumni at a dinner on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools in Washington, D.C. Ian Ayres ’86, William K. Townsend Professor of Law, delivered a talk entitled “Why Not?: Discovering Simple Ideas to Transform the World.” Drawing on several writing projects, Professor Ayres talked about a new approach to business ideas, government, and everyday life—solutions determined by asking how things can be done differently. The reception and dinner was held at the Sequoia restaurant in Georgetown. Washington-area alumni also attended a discussion by Brett Kavanaugh ’90, Associate White House Counsel, in April. Brett’s talk concerned the selection and confirmation of judges, and was held at the home of Amy Jeffress ’92 and Casey Cooper.

The ylsa of the PenJerDel Region held a gathering in January in The Justice Roberts Room of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP in Philadelphia. John Francis Gough ’60 was host. Tax expert and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy Michael J. Graetz, currently Justus S. Hotchkiss Professor of Law, gave the group the details of his recently published and timely Yale Law Journal tax reform essay, “100 Million Unnecessary Returns: A Fresh Start for the U.S. Tax System.”

John G. Simon ’53, Augustus E. Lines Professor of Law, gave a tea-time talk to the Yale Law School Association of New York City in March on “McCarthy and the Army.” Ronnie ’72 and Samuel Heyman invited graduates to their home for the event. The tea was such a success that Professor Simon agreed to give an encore presentation in April at the home of Ellen Liman, much to the delight of many alums who missed out on the March talk. April showers and winter temperatures did not keep graduates away from The Yale Club on April 11, where more than 160 alumni turned out for the annual New York City luncheon to hear Professor Stephen L. Carter ’79, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, give his talk, “Is the Confirmation Process of Federal Judges Beyond Repair?” Guests enjoyed mingling before the lunch and many signed up for New York State CLE credit. Dean Kronman also updated those in attendance on developments at the Law School.

On a cold and snowy night in February, the YLSA of New England invited guests to spend an evening with Lafayette S. Foster Professor of Law Kate Stith Cabranes and The Honorable José A. Cabranes ’65, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, for a conversation on “Judges and Politics: A Case Study.” Guests enjoyed a reception and dinner at the home of Esther and Arnold Messing ’65 in Newton, Massachusetts. On April 23, the New England group held a reception, dinner, and panel discussion entitled “Challenges Facing the Health Care System—Premiums, Drug Costs, and Law Suits.” Greg Schwartz ’98, a physician from Massachusetts General Hospital, served as moderator of the panel. Panelists included Brent Henry ’73, chief counsel, Partners Healthcare System, Wendy Waring ’83, executive vice president, UMass Memorial Health Care, and former commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Medical Assistance; and Michelle Mello ’00, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Law, Harvard School of Public Health. The event was held at Hale and Dorr in Boston and hosted by Linda Ricci ’94.

Several alumni attended a symposium and reception sponsored by the YLSA of Paris this past January to hear Yale University President Richard Levin, Yale Center for the Study of Globalization Director Ernesto Zedillo, and Yale University Secretary Linda Lorimer ’77. The symposium was followed by a reception at the residence of the Ambassador, Howard H. Leach. On February 19, the Yale Club of Paris Law Section gathered to meet J. L. Pottenger, Jr. ’75, Nathan Baker Clinical Professor of Law. Jay spoke about the Law School’s role in furthering the developing rule of law in the People’s Republic of China, and his work to help develop clinical legal education programs there. Yale College graduate Michael M. Ostrove and Debevoise & Plimpton kindly hosted the lunch at the firm’s Paris office.

(Clockwise from right) Arnold Messing ’64 (far left) and his wife Esther (center) held a dinner for Judge José Cabranes ’65 and Professor Kate Stith, who discussed “Judges and Politics”; David Davis (left) and Arnold Zack ’56; Greg Schwartz ’98, Gloria Tan ’98, and Michelle Mello ’00; Judge José Cabranes.

Professor Amy Chua speaks with YLSA Central Connecticut President Harry Mazadoorian ’63 at a reception in April.

Panelist Brent Henry ’73 chats with Linda Ricci ’94 and other graduates during a YLSA of New England health care panel in April.