In October, the Yale Law School Association of Fairfield/Westchester Counties held its inaugural meeting and met Dean Harold Hongju Koh. This new regional group of Yale grads was greeted by founder and organizer Jeff Cooper ’93, who hosted the event at the law offices of Cummings & Lockwood LLC in Stamford, Connecticut. While reconnecting with one another and meeting new fellow area alums, graduates and their guests enjoyed cocktails and dinner as they became better acquainted with the new YLS dean. Dean Koh discussed with them the challenges facing the Law School as well as his own plans and hopes for new directions and initiatives.

“Bountiful mother” is the Latin meaning of alma mater, one’s former school, the place where one received intellectual nourishment. Not surprisingly, second only to their classmates, YLS alums fondly remember intellectual stimulation and excitement in their classes. The Latin verb alere means to “nourish” or “bring up” and is the root of alma; it is also the root of alumnus and alumna, former male and female students respectively.

Today there are some 11,867 Yale Law School graduates who call YLS their alma mater. Many stay in touch with the School and their classmates in countless ways. At no time in the School’s history have the connections between this alma mater and its alumni been stronger.

Every week there are events across the U.S. or abroad bringing alumni together. “Inside the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (‘The 9/11 Commission’)” and “Covering the White House” were two recent D.C. events.

Other summer and fall events took place in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hartford, New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, Stamford, Birmingham, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Berlin, with Law School guests that included Dean Harold Hongju Koh and many faculty.

Honored at YLS events were The Honorable Edward Becker ’57, The Honorable Drayton Nabers, Jr. ’65, and former deans Abraham Goldstein ’49, Harry Wellington, Anthony Kronman ’75, The Honorable Guido Calabresi ’58, The Honorable Louis H. Pollak ’48, and the then dean-designate Harold Hongju Koh. Alumni David Boies II ’66, Larry Lucchino ’71, Daniel Marcus ’65, and Stanford Professor Hank Greely ’77 spoke at YLS area gatherings. And in the fall, some 1,000 graduates and their guests returned to New Haven to reconnect with their classmates and the School at Alumni Weekend 2004, with record numbers of non-reunion-year graduates attending. It was primarily our own alumni who served on the seven stellar Weekend panels.

The Law School Master Calendar is replete with lectures and conferences, often featuring an alumnus or alumna. You are heartily invited to attend them! The Law School’s Career Development Office sponsors programs for current students highlighting prominent YLS graduates who come back to the School to speak about their particular areas of expertise.

And, coincidentally, an alumna just called me on the phone to ask for help in using our Alumni Mentoring Network, another way in which our alumni can stay connected to other graduates or to current students seeking career advice. And pages and pages of class notes in each Law Report are indicative of the ties among classmates and their connection to the Law School.

Please continue your relationship with your alma mater, Yale Law School. Return for Alumni Weekend 2005 on November 4–6, 2005, attend one of the local Law School gatherings in your area, return to YLS to participate in the many events here in New Haven, and join the YLS Alumni Mentoring Network.

If you need help getting connected, please call me at 203 432-1690 or visit our website at www.law.yale.edu for the Master Calendar, regional alumni events, and the Alumni Mentoring Network.

Toni Hahn Davis ’92 LLM
Associate Dean
June brought a gathering of the Yale Law School Association of Central Connecticut, which invited area alumni to hear Carol Rose, the Gordon Bradford Tweedy Professor of Law and Organization at YLS, talk about “The Road to Shelley v. Kraemer: Racial Deed Restrictions from the City Beautiful to Levittown, 1900-1948.” Guests enjoyed cocktails and dinner, as well as a lively discussion with Professor Rose that brought back memories of classroom debates during Law School.

The YLSA of New York City invited alumni and guests to a welcoming reception and discussion in late June. This was a meeting for all alumni, including 2004 graduates and YLS summer associates in the New York City area. It was the first time that a New York City alumni event was held during the summer, when both new graduates and current Law School students could join more seasoned New York YLS graduates. The group gathered to hear the attorney David Boies II ’66 informally discuss some of his nationally known cases.

In November, Yale Law School Professor Amy Chua met with the YLSA of New York City to discuss her best-selling book, World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability. Rhonda Joy McLean ’83 graciously hosted the event at the Time & Life Building, in a large room with three walls of windows overlooking Rockefeller Plaza. After her formal presentation and a question and answer period, Professor Chua continued her discussion with area graduates and their guests over a wine and cheese reception.

Record numbers of YLS alumni in New England were given a special treat in September, as Larry Lucchino ’71, president and CEO of the Boston Red Sox, welcomed them to the .406 Club at Fenway Park for a reception and dinner. Gazing out through huge glass windows directly onto the playing field, guests, including children of YLS graduates, had a very pleasant evening at the park of the eventual World Series champion Red Sox. They were even greeted with a large billboard welcome sign in bright lights over the entire outfield. After dinner, Larry gave some reflections of his own before responding to queries from the many attendees.

(From top) Professor Carol Rose discusses Shelley v. Kraemer over dinner; Guests enjoyed dinner together after listening to Professor Carol Rose’s talk in Connecticut.

(Above) The Red Sox put the YLS name up in lights; (left) Larry Lucchino ’71 welcomes alumni to Fenway Park.

David Boies II ’66 in New York City with Barry Garfinkel ’53
The YLSA of New Jersey held its spring meeting in June, inviting graduates to enjoy dinner with soon-to-be dean Harold Hongju Koh at Gaebel’s Restaurant in New Brunswick. Dean Koh’s talk was titled, “Yale Law School: Quo Vadis?” Jack Wenik ’85, president of the group, was the organizer of the event.

Dean Koh welcomed Philadelphia-area graduates and their guests to a portrait unveiling of the Honorable Edward R. Becker ’57, Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals, in November at the United States Courthouse in Philadelphia. Remarks were given at the ceremony by Chief Judge Anthony J. Scirica, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; Anthony T. Kronman ’75, Sterling Professor of Law and former dean; Chief Judge Carolyn Dineen King ’62, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; Judge Louis H. Pollak ’48, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and former dean; and Judge Guido Calabresi ’58, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and former dean.

In October, the YLSA of Washington, D.C., greeted Daniel Marcus ’65 at the home of Chris ’97 and Jeannie ’97 Rhee. Guests enjoyed an intriguing and timely talk on “Inside the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (9/11 Commission).”

One month later, Washington, D.C.-area graduates were invited to join a discussion, “Covering the White House,” featuring Dana Milbank, Yale College ’90. Milbank is a White House correspondent for The Washington Post. His mid-week talk broke up the workweek as guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres, beverages, each other’s company, and Milbank’s descriptions of his experiences as a journalist at the White House.

The Yale Law School Association of Chicago welcomed alumni and their families to a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Millennium Park’s Harris Theatre for the Performing Arts on November 14. Principal designer Thomas H. Beeby ’65 M. Arch. and former dean of the Yale School of Architecture gave a fascinating presentation about the history of the theatre prior to leading the tour.

Guests were amazed to learn that the theatre is built about twenty feet below water level, with two external walls equipped with pumps between them to keep the theatre dry.

Afterwards, alumni gathered over a luncheon at the nearby Park Grill.

The Hon. Drayton Nabers, Jr.’65, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, visited with fellow area graduates in Birmingham in November. Mr. and Mrs. Beverly P. Head III ’66 invited alumni and their guests to a reception at their home in honor of the new Chief Justice. Judge Nabers spoke briefly about the influence of Yale Law School on his own career, one which was punctuated by very different positions over the years.

The YLSA of Southern California invited alumni and guests to “Yale Law School in Los Angeles Day” on June 14. The event featured Dean Anthony T. Kronman ’75 and...
dean-designate Harold Hongju Koh, and YLS Associate Professor of Law Richard Brooks, Nicholas deB. Katzenbach Professor of Law Reva Siegel ’85, and David Boies Professor of Law Robert Post ’77. The event was held at Le Merigot Beach Hotel overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, and Dean Koh kicked off the seminar portion of the day with a discussion of “The Supreme Court’s International Term.”

The Yale Law School Association of Northern California invited all Northern California Law School graduates and their companions to “YLS in San Francisco Day” on June 15. The event was held at the beautiful Carnelian Room in San Francisco and began with a series of presentations and discussions with Professors Richard Brooks, Robert Post ’77, and Reva Siegel ’85. Dean Koh was the keynote speaker at the dinner held later that day. The seminar and dining area featured wraparound views of the entire Bay Area, including the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges, Alcatraz, and the TransAmerica Pyramid.

The Northern California contingent also welcomed all Bay Area alumni to a fall get-together on November 17. They enjoyed a dinner with and presentation by Hank Greely ’77, the Deane F. and Kate Edelman Johnson Professor of Law at Stanford Law School. Kyle ’01 and Emmeline ’01 Graham hosted the event at their home. Professor Greely is director of the Center of Law and the Biosciences and co-director of the Program in Genomics, Ethics and Society at Stanford. He discussed the ongoing revolution in neuroscience and its striking implications for law and society.

It was a Law School “first” for alumni when, on November 22, YLS grads met abroad in Berlin, Germany, with John Langbein, Sterling Professor of Law and Legal History at YLS. Nine graduates, a mix of academics and practicing lawyers, met for dinner and lively conversation, which reportedly was still going strong at 11:30 p.m. Bardo Fassbender ’92 LL.M. said that the group enjoyed hearing about Professor Langbein’s interests, along with catching up on news of the Law School in distant Connecticut. 

Washington, D.C., played host to five Law School former deans on June 29, while welcoming Dean Harold Hongju Koh as the School’s newest leader, a post he would take on a few days later. Former deans Abraham S. Goldstein ’49, Harry H. Wellington, Anthony T. Kronman ’75, The Honorable Guido Calabresi ’58, and The Hon. Louis H. Pollak ’48 were all in attendance and each spoke briefly about his own deanship era, followed by Dean Koh, who spoke on “A Pride of Deans: Yale Law School’s New Millennium.” The event took place at the National Press Club, where record numbers of alumni and guests had a wonderful time reminiscing about the history of the five Law School deans while also focusing on the School’s future under Dean Koh.