Prospect Research is partnering with the Association for Yale Alumni (AYA) and the Office of the Secretary for a year-long effort called “Project Prominence.”

Our group traditionally identifies Yale Alumni and others affiliated with the University who have had great success as measured by financial gain. However, Yale Alumni, both living and deceased, have made significant and often extraordinary accomplishments in ways and in fields which are not always recognized through compensation. The University is justly proud of the award-winning playwrights, cutting-edge research scientists, and Fortune 500 CEOs alike, who have studied here.

Though we can all name some of Yale’s most prominent alumni at the drop of a hat—especially those in the entertainment world and the oval office, there are myriad others whose achievements span the globe and run the gamut. Who are they? What have they done? We’d like to know, and we’d like to give recognition where it is due.

A major part of this project—which should benefit everyone in Development—is the uploading into BERT of 20,000 biographies from Marquis Who’s Who!

C & F SPOTLIGHT: CORPORATE GIVING TRENDS

In 2005, American businesses gave a whopping $3.7 billion to charitable causes—an increase of nearly 6% over the previous year (A Surge in Corporate Giving, COP 8/17/06). Much of this generosity was prompted by disaster relief efforts and the growing economy.

Increasingly, companies are being challenged to question the practice of aligning support strictly with business goals and being encouraged to tackle more endemic problems, such as domestic poverty. Some companies are moving to narrow the scope of their philanthropic programs (e.g. focusing on math and science education) and some have begun to direct their grant-making efforts toward promoting volunteer programs.

Many companies set their giving budgets based on the previous year’s earnings; whether corporate giving will continue to increase at a comparable rate remains to be seen.

~Natasha
Continuing Education & Research

Continued education is a task that the Research team takes seriously! We are pleased to congratulate Dorian Harding-Morick who is in her first semester of pursuing a Master of Library Science degree at Southern Connecticut State University. Dorian expects to take complete her degree at the end of 2007.

Also, Mike Lasala was accepted to the Masters in Business Administration Program at the University of New Haven, where he will begin classes in April 2007—nice job, Mike! In addition, Rich Horne, our resident Eli Whitney Scholar, expects to resume taking classes towards his BA in January, with a graduation date of May 2008.

Many of the other researchers are also taking advantage of the opportunity to audit classes while working at Yale:

- Kristin Anderson and Dana Ciccone are taking Professor Risa Sodi’s class on Italian prose, which is conducted completely ‘in Italiano’.
- Michele Whitney is taking a course in early cinema (pre 1907) with Professor Charlie Musser, co-chair of the Film Studies Department.
- Jenni Whitfield is attending “The Genesis and Collapse of Old World Civilizations” with Professor Harvey Weiss.
- Patty Gonzales Lazarte is auditing “Greening the Industrial Facility” with Professor Thomas Graedel.

Yale Trivia!

ALICE is the database used by Stewardship and some groups outside of the Development office that can tell us almost anything we need to know about a fund (its official name and market value, who established it, how frequently reports go out, etc.)

Many of us refer to ALICE when we want to learn more about endowed scholarships and professorships.

But can you tell us what ALICE stands for?

Please email answers to: prospectsearch@yale.edu. One correct respondent will win a prize!

Malone Center Visit

Persisting in our efforts to gain institutional knowledge of the schools and centers of the University, the Research Team toured the Daniel L. Malone Engineering Center during the last week of September.

The center houses the new Department of Biomedical Engineering, which brings together in full partnership faculty from Engineering and the School of Medicine. The Department addresses a range of health care issues, among them the design of biomaterials for tissue engineering, development of drug delivery systems to treat cancer, development of nanoparticles that are targeted to cells in the immune system, analysis of cell and tissue structure with multiphoton microscopy, and the use of integrated anatomical and functional imaging to guide neurosurgical procedures.

The Research Team visited some of the laboratories and heard first hand about some of the cutting-edge investigations that we have been working to fund; primarily through research on corporations and foundations.

We thank Elna Godburn for arranging the visit, along with the graduate students and post-doctorates who gave us a wonderful and informative tour.

Congratulations to Julie Braverman for correctly identifying these notable 2010 parents:

- Cybil Shepherd—who once dated Elvis, has acted in films with Robert De Niro and Robert Downey, Jr., and starred in two TV shows
- Jeff Hawkins—who invented the Palm Pilot
- Lisa Goldman and John Sexton—who are both Presidents of prominent organizations: Lisa of the Revson Foundation and John of New York University

Nice work, Julie!