In response to a series of corporate scandals (e.g. Enron, Tyco), the Sarbanes-Oxley Act was passed in 2002 to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures. Commonly referred to as “Sarbox,” the legislation is generally limited to companies that report to the SEC, but nonprofits have recently felt pressure to change the way they operate as well.

A plus for nonprofits is that the law provides guidance about independent audit committees, conflict-of-interest policies, internal oversight of finances, and other regulations that can help charities become more transparent and improve their public reputation. A major downside is that giving budgets are likely to be impacted by costs associated with auditing and time spent on compliance.

In addition, there is a concern that it may become more difficult for nonprofit entities to find board members due to the potential for future personal liability exposure. Further, many believe that the heads of nonprofits carry even more of a burden of responsibility than corporate executives since they don’t have the usual check and balance of shareholders pointing out problems.

Stay tuned as state and federal legislators debate whether nonprofit groups should be required to follow some of these provisions. ~Natasha
**Name That Donor!**

His $15 million bequest in 1920, adjusted for Consumer Price Index to give a 2005 estimated value of $147.3 million, is among Yale's largest donations in both nominal (1920) and real (2005) dollars.

►Who is this donor?  
**Hint:**

Email your guess to: prospectresearch@yale.edu

The winner will receive a gift and be named in next month's [Short Report](#).

Congratulations to last month’s winner,  
Anne Thompson! She was one of 13 who correctly named Seth Goldman '95 SOM as the mystery donor.

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**Professional School in Focus: ysm**

Ben Vossler reports that the School of Medicine's Development Office is moving out of their offices in the Nursing School in early October. The new space at 135 College Street will again be shared with the Corporate & Foundation Relations group. Look for an announcement in the next few weeks of the move's completion and any changes in contact information.

Just in time for the relocation, Ben is joined on the Medical School side by Kristin Anderson YC '05 (replacing Erica Thomas, who recently matriculated at SOM). Welcome Kristin!

**Did You Know?**

Thanks in part to the hard work of the Development Office, Yale's endowment eclipsed $15 billion this year!

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**Researcher of the Month**

*Monica Keith* joined PRD in August to help guide our central research efforts. A graduate of the State University of New York, Albany ('98 B.A., '00 M.B.A.), Monica previously served as Director of Development Operations at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont. She recently resettled in Hamden with her husband, Blake, and two children, Liam and Nya.

**Q:** What attracted you most to Yale?

**A:** Yale! Specifically, opportunity to take my experience in systems and research to a new higher level. My former posts in higher education have been in small shops - which were very beneficial in gaining hands-on knowledge and experience in development. What interested me the most about this position was the opportunity to apply my knowledge in the areas above to assist Yale in this exciting time.

**Q:** Considering your extensive background in systems management, what changes might we expect in PRD's use of the Benefactor and BERT databases?

**A:** I am a big promoter of capturing *everything* in one's development database, including strategic segmentation of that information. Unstructured text is very easily lost, and more so with such a large relational system as Benefactor. I would like to see designated locations for very specific information related to prospects (ie. giving to other institutions, memberships, relationships, research assignments, etc.) along with the ability to track requests and to report more within the system. My priority is to find ways to make Benefactor and BERT work for us as one of many gatekeepers of information!