



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES MARCH-APRIL 2014

During the November AYA Assembly in New Haven, the Class of 1963 received the AYA's Outstanding Innovation Award. The citation in the Assembly program read as follows: "For its 50th Reunion this year, the Class of 1963 created something new – the Yale College Class of 1963 Teaching Awards. Organizers asked class members to nominate teachers and mentors from their undergraduate days for recognition. Class members made a total of 145 nominations, and 19 of the nominees attended a special lunch during the reunion at which classmates read tributes to the teachers who could be present. Nominees were given certificates and VIP treatment, and a list of all nominees, living and deceased, was circulated. By allowing class members to express gratefulness and reflect on the teachers who had changed their lives, the awards infused a special spirit into the 50th Reunion. The Class of 1963 notes that the awards 'cemented the kind of emotional and intellectual bond which, we believe, best connects alumni with the Yale we remembered and the Yale we support today.'" Class AYA delegate Mike Skol, who accepted the award on behalf of the Class, later talked with President Salovey, who reiterated his appreciation for what we had done.

As previously reported, **Jerry Kenney** received the Lifetime of Achievement Award at the Blue Leadership Ball in New Haven on the Friday evening of the Harvard weekend. Among the classmates who were on hand to honor Jerry were **Dan Arons, Jud Calkins, Ed Dennis, Denny Landa, Hank Higdon, Michael Freeland, Nelson Luria, Ian Robertson, Fred Schneider, Victor Sheronas, Mike Skol, Jim Thompson, Neil Thompson, Peter Truebner, David Weinstein, and Ty Welles.**

Leo Damrosch, Research Professor of Literature at Harvard, has published a critically acclaimed biography of Jonathan Swift. Leo explains his choice of subject as follows: "I've read and admired Swift ever since I was an undergraduate 50 years ago, and I've taught his works often over the years. He fascinates me as a great writer who also had a profound influence in the social and political world. As Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, he catalyzed resistance to oppression by England, and did much to create an Irish national consciousness."

Tony Elson's book, "Globalization and Development – Why East Asia Surged Ahead and Latin America Fell Behind", has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan. It is closely related to a course on comparative economic development which Tony has been teaching for a number of years at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC. The book is a companion volume to Tony's previous book, "Governing Global Finance", as the themes of both books reflect Tony's many years of experience at the International Monetary Fund. Tony hopes that classmates with an interest in globalization, economic development, East Asia, or Latin America will have occasion to read the book and let Tony know what they think.

Mike Lieberman has published a new book of poems, *Bonfire of the Verities*, put out by Texas Review Press in both a print and a Kindle edition (Amazon). As Mike explains: "What speaks here is doubt and the commitment to cast aside the apparent truths we all accumulate. These verities are what are tossed onto the bonfire." For a YouTube video of Mike discussing and reading from his poems, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKfuBOTqN6k>.

Bill Nordhaus has been designated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston for 2014. Bill previously served as Vice Chairman.

Robert H. Nichols, a prominent labor union lawyer, died Friday, November 22, 2013, after battling cancer for a year and a half.

Bob lived the bulk of his adult life in the Kenwood area of Chicago, where he and his long-time wife Jean Christy Nichols raised their four children, Marc, Seth, Ethan, and Rebecca . The Nichols divorced recently after more than 40 years of marriage. Jean was a school teacher in the Chicago Public School System and one of the pioneers of the Head Start program in the mid-'60s.

Bob was a graduate of the Harvard School for Boys in Chicago, where he was a high-scoring forward on the basketball team, making the All-State small school squad in his senior year. At Yale, a knee injury cut short his basketball career, causing him to switch to the lightweight crew. After graduation from Yale, Bob spent a year in San Francisco, earning a certificate in public affairs from the Coro Foundation and whetting his interests in public service and the labor movement.

After earning a law degree at the University of Chicago in 1966, Bob joined the well-known union-side law firm of Cotton, Watt, Jones and King. During his career there, he represented various locals of the Meat Packers Union and the Airline Pilots Association (ALPA). Bob became an expert on airline merger and seniority list integration issues. He was most proud of the litigation he helped mount that won for the first time female flight attendants' right to continue to fly after marriage.

When his law firm dissolved in 1995, Bob went to work full-time at ALPA ultimately becoming its senior staff person for the United Pilots. These were contentious and troubled times, culminating in United's descent into bankruptcy between 2002 and 2006, which resulted in steep wage cuts and loss of pensions for the pilots. Bob also played a key role in United's subsequent merger with Continental, helping to win a decent collective bargaining agreement for the pilots and achieve seniority integration of the two pilot groups. "Trying to get a bunch of pilots to agree on anything isn't like herding a bunch of cats – it's more like taming a bunch of mountain lions," points out **Jonathan Laing**, Senior Editor for Barron's and Bob's brother-in-law. Bob was respected by management negotiators for the fairness and pragmatism of his advocacy.

Bob was an avid sailor for more than four decades, sailing out of Monroe Street Harbor in Chicago. He also liked to spend time in his summer home in New Hampshire.

Ed Walsh recalls that Bob was the driving force behind his attendance at the 50th Reunion. Ed adds: "I suspect that his desire to attend the Reunion kept him going after his diagnosis."

Perhaps a posting on the ALPA website summed up Bob's life most succinctly: "Bob was a great lawyer, a good friend and a big, humorous, engaging personality with lots of interests."

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