

**HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE
2014-15**

CORPORATION MEMBERS

Neal L. Keny-Guyer '82 M.P.P.M. (CHAIR)



Neal L. Keny-Guyer is a social entrepreneur and chief executive officer of Mercy Corps, among the world's largest international relief and development agencies. After graduating from Duke University, he began his career in public service with Cities In Schools, working with at-risk youth in Washington, D.C., and Atlanta. He then moved to Thailand for CARE/UNICEF to focus on Cambodia's refugees. After earning a degree from the Yale School of Management, he led high-impact relief and development programs for Save the Children in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. Mr. Keny-Guyer joined Mercy Corps in 1994 as CEO. Mercy Corps is known for its rapid relief-to-recovery humanitarian responses and for its efforts to catalyze social innovations in the world's toughest places. It provides assistance to more than 20 million people in 41 countries. Mr. Keny-Guyer is the board chair of InterAction and serves on the

ImagineNations board and the Nike Foundation Advisory Group. At Yale he serves on the President's Council on International Activities and is a member of the Board of Advisors for the School of Management. Mr. Keny-Guyer was elected Alumni Fellow in 2009.

Maureen C. Chiquet '85 B.A.



Maureen C. Chiquet is the global chief executive officer of Chanel, overseeing and coordinating all of its activities worldwide. She joined Chanel in 2003 and in October 2004 was named president of Chanel, Inc., in the United States. As president and chief operating officer, she directed all U.S. operations for fragrance and beauty, fashion, watches, and fine jewelry. Ms. Chiquet began her career at L'Oreal Paris in 1985 as a product manager. In 1988 she joined Gap, and in 1994 she moved to Old Navy as a divisional merchandise manager. In the following eight years, she advanced to executive vice president of merchandising, planning, and production, growing the brand from 35 to 850 stores. In 2002 she was named president of Banana Republic, where she

was responsible for overseeing the entire organization, including all stores and operations in the United States and Canada. Ms. Chiquet sits on the supervisory board and Human Resources Committee of Vivendi, the board of directors of children's clothing company Peek...Aren't You Curious, and the board of trustees of the New York Academy of Art. At Yale she is a member of the President's Council on International Activities and served on the University Council Committee on Reputation. She was named Successor Trustee in 2012.

E. JOHN RICE, JR. '88 B.A.



E. John Rice Jr. is the founder and CEO of Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT), a nonprofit organization that equips underrepresented minorities with skills, coaching, and relationships needed to become leaders in the corporate, nonprofit, and entrepreneurial sectors. After graduating from Yale with a degree in Latin American studies, Mr. Rice earned an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. He worked with the Walt Disney Company in new business development and then joined the National Basketball Association (NBA), first in Latin America as director of marketing and then in Tokyo as managing director of NBA Japan. While studying at Harvard, Mr. Rice had written the business plan for what was to become MLT, and in 1994 he launched a mentoring program for minority undergraduates. Six years later he resigned from the NBA to devote himself entirely to MLT, which began with fifty participants in 2002; today its programs serve more than 4,000 students and professionals nationwide. Mr. Rice is a director and Compensation Committee chair of Walker & Dunlop and is a cofounder and director of CareerCore, an early-stage technology company. He was appointed to President Obama's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans and has served as a member of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities since 2010. He also serves on a number of nonprofit boards, including LIFT, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, the American Management Association, and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. A former member of the University Council, Mr. Rice was elected Alumni Fellow in 2011.

KEVIN P. RYAN '85 B.A.



Kevin P. Ryan is the cofounder and chairman of GILT, an innovative e-commerce company with business lines in men's, women's, and children's apparel and accessories, as well as home decor and local services. An economics major at Yale, Mr. Ryan started his career in investment banking with Prudential Investment Corporation in New York and London. After earning an M.B.A. from INSEAD and working at Euro Disney, he returned to the United States to serve as senior vice president of business and finance at United Media, an editorial column and comic strip newspaper syndication service. From 1996 to 2005 he was the first president and then CEO of DoubleClick, the Internet advertising company that grew from fifteen employees to a publicly traded international leader with 1,500 employees by 2005; it was sold to Google in 2007. Mr. Ryan cofounded and serves as chairman of the online publisher Business Insider; 10gen, an open-source database; and Zola, an Internet wedding registry company. He serves on the board of Human Rights Watch and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. At Yale, he is a member of the Investments Committee, and he served on the President's Advisory Committee on Digital Yale and the University Council Committee on Reputation. Mr. Ryan was elected Alumni Fellow in 2012.

ALUMNI MEMBERS

William Schwalbe '84 B.A.



Will Schwalbe is the author of *The New York Times* Bestseller *The End of Your Life Book Club*. It was published in October 2012 by Knopf, and has been sold for translation into nine languages. It was a #1 Indie Next Pick, a Barnes and Noble “Discover Great New Writers” selection, and is #4 on Amazon’s Top Ten Books of 2012. In 2008, Mr. Schwalbe founded Cookstr.com, which aggregates recipes from many of the world’s major publishers. It powers recipe search for companies and organizations including the AARP, Bravo Television, Kaiser Permanente, and American Media. He served as CEO from inception until March 2011 and is currently chairman of its board. After graduating from Yale in 1984 with a B.A. degree summa cum laude in Classical Civilization, Mr. Schwalbe went to Hong Kong where he wrote for publications including *The New York Times* and *The South China Morning Post*. Subsequently, he held positions as Senior Vice President and Editor in Chief first of William Morrow and Company, where he worked from 1987 to 1997, and then of Hyperion Books, from 1997 to 2008. Authors he has published include David Halberstam, Nigella Lawson, Mitch Albom, Nikki Giovanni, Jamie Oliver, Rev. Peter J. Gomes, and Chris Anderson (THE LONG TAIL). He founded Hyperion East, the only imprint of a major trade publisher devoted to Asian literature in translation. He is also the co-author, with David Shipley, of *SEND: Why People Email So Badly and How to Do It Better* (Knopf 2007). Mr. Schwalbe is on the boards of Yale University Press and the Kingsborough Community College Foundation. He serves on the Hellman Hammett Committee, which gives awards to writers who have suffered persecution because of their writing. He was chair of the International Freedom to Publish Committee of the Association of American Publishers and was twice named a judge for the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Panel.

Laura R. Walker '87 M.B.A.



Laura R. Walker is President and CEO of New York Public Radio, the largest public radio station group in the nation. An independent and innovative nonprofit dedicated to providing high quality journalism, music and digital products, New York Public Radio reaches an audience of 14 million monthly. The organization has been honored with 7 George Foster Peabody Awards in the last decade and produces some of public radio’s most popular programming including *Radiolab*, *The Takeaway*, *Freakonomics Radio*, *On the Media*, *New Tech City* and *Death, Sex & Money*. These programs are heard on more than 500 stations nationwide, and through podcasts and other digital products. New York Public Radio owns and operates eight public radio stations, including WNYC and WQXR, the most-listened-to public radio station and the most-listened-to classical station in America, respectively. It also operates The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space, a 120 seat state-of-the art venue which is home to more than 150 events each year. She began her professional career as a print journalist and then a producer at National Public Radio, where she received a Peabody Award for Broadcast Excellence. In 1983, she joined the staff of Carnegie Hall, where she launched the award-winning series *AT&T Presents Carnegie Hall Tonight*. In 1987, she joined the Sesame Workshop (formerly Children’s Television Workshop). She was the Vice President of Development at Sesame and led the cross-departmental team that established the cable television channel Noggin. During the course of her career, she also worked at the Boston Consulting Group and Eurasia Press, where she wrote the organization’s first guide to China. In addition to the New York Public Radio Board of Trustees, she sits on the boards of The Tribune Media Company, Saint Ann’s School, The Women’s Forum, Inc., Yale Center for Customer Insights and The Eagle Picher Trust. She is the Chair of the Station Resource Group. Ms. Walker holds an MBA from the Yale School of Management and a BA in History, magna cum laude, from Wesleyan University where she was an Olin Scholar.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Tom A. Bernstein '74 B.A., '77 J.D.



Tom A. Bernstein is President and Co-Founder of Chelsea Piers, L.P., formed in 1992, to develop and operate the Chelsea Piers Sports and Entertainment Complex, a 30-acre waterfront sports village located between 17th and 23rd Streets along Manhattan's Hudson River. He is also Co-Chairman of Chelsea Piers Connecticut, a 450,000 square foot sports facility, which opened in Stamford, Connecticut in July 2012. Mr. Bernstein was one of the two principals of Silver Screen Management, Inc., and the affiliated Silver Screen companies, which from 1983 to 1998 financed 75 films with the Walt Disney Company, including such box office successes as "Beauty and the Beast," "Pretty Women" and "The Little Mermaid." From 1989 to 1998, Mr. Bernstein was one of the principal owners of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club with the ownership group led by George W. Bush. Mr. Bernstein has been actively involved in a number of pro bono activities. In September of 2010, Mr. Bernstein was appointed Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C by President Obama, where he has served as a Council Member, member of the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Committee on Conscience since his appointment by President Bush in 2002. In January 2010, Mr. Bernstein was appointed Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fund for Cities of Service, formed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Mr. Bernstein also serves as Chair of the Partnership for Public Service, Vice-Chair of Human Rights First and is a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Bernstein is also a member of the Board of Directors of several other non-profit organizations, including WNYC Radio (New York's public radio stations), The Fresh Air Fund and City Year New York. From 1978 to 1983, Bernstein was an attorney with the entertainment department of the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York. He served as a law clerk from 1977-1978 for the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein in Federal District Court in New York. Mr. Bernstein is a graduate of Yale College ('74) and Yale Law School ('77), where he was an editor of the Yale Law Journal. Mr. Bernstein serves as a member of the Yale University Council. They are the parents of three teenage children, the oldest of whom, Sam, is a member of the Yale College Class of 2014.

FACULTY

Elizabeth Alexander '84 B.A.

Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry; Professor of African American Studies and American Studies



A 1984 graduate of Yale College, Professor Alexander is a scholar of African-American literature and culture. She has read her work across the United States and in Europe, the Caribbean and South America, and her poetry, short stories and critical prose have been published in dozens of periodicals and anthologies. Professor Alexander is the author of four books of poems, "American Sublime" (2005), which was one of the American Library Association's 25 Notable Books of the Year as well as one of three finalists for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize, "The Venus Hottentot" (re-issued in 2004), "Antebullum Dream Book" (2001) and "Body of Life" (1997). Her collection of essays on African American literature, painting, and popular culture, "The Black Interior", was published in 2004.

Her verse play, "Diva Studies," was produced at the Yale School of Drama in May 1996 and she was a dramaturg for Anna Deavere Smith's play "Twilight" in its original production at the Mark Taper Forum. In 2008, she was selected by President Barack Obama to compose and read a poem for his inauguration on January 20. Professor Alexander has taught at the University of Chicago, where she won the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, New York University's Graduate Creative Writing Program, and Smith College, where she was Grace Hazard Conkling Poet-in-Residence, first director of the Poetry Center, and member of the founding editorial collective for the feminist journal Meridians. Professor Alexander is an inaugural recipient of the Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellowship for work that "contributes to improving race relations in American society and furthers the broad social goals of the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision of 1954." She teaches courses on African American poetry, drama, and 20th century literature, as well as the survey introduction to African American Studies.

Nicholas Christakis

Sol Goldman Family Professor of Social & Natural Science; Professor of Internal Med., General Medicine; Co-Director, Yale Institute for Network Science



Nicholas A. Christakis, MD, PhD, MPH, is a sociologist and physician who conducts research in the areas of social networks and biosocial science. He directs the Human Nature Lab. His current research is mainly focused on two topics: (1) the social, mathematical, and biological rules governing how social networks form ("connection"), and (2) the social and biological implications of how they operate to influence thoughts, feelings, and behaviors ("contagion"). His lab uses both observational and experimental methods to study these phenomena, exploiting techniques from sociology, computer science, biosocial science, demography, statistics, behavior genetics, evolutionary biology, epidemiology, and other fields. To the extent that diverse phenomena can spread

within networks in intelligible ways, there are important policy implications since such spread can be exploited to improve the health or other desirable properties of groups (such as cooperation or innovation).

Hence, current work in the lab involves conducting field experiments: some work involves the use of large-scale, online network experiments; other work involves large-scale randomized controlled trials in the developing world where networks are painstakingly mapped. Finally, some work in the lab examines the biological determinants and consequences of social interactions and related phenomena, with a particular emphasis on the genetic origins and evolutionary implications of social networks. The author of several books and over 150 articles, Christakis was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 2006 and was made a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2010.

Christine Hayes

Robert F. & Patricia Ross Weis Professor of Religious Studies; Chair, Religious Studies



Christine Hayes is Robert F. and Patricia R. Weis Professor of Religious Studies in Classical Judaica. Before joining the faculty in 1996, she was Assistant Professor of Hebrew Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University for three years. Her published works include several books and many articles in *Vetus Testamentum*, *The Journal for the Study of Judaism*, *The Harvard Theological Review*, and various scholarly anthologies. Her first book, entitled *Between the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmuds* (Oxford University Press, 1997) was honored with a Salo Baron prize for a first book in Jewish thought and literature, awarded by the American Academy for Jewish Research (1999). Her second book, *Gentile Impurities and Jewish Identities: Intermarriage and Conversion from the Bible to the Talmud* (Oxford University Press, 2002) was a 2003 National Jewish Book Award finalist. Her textbook *The Emergence of Judaism: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspectives*, was published by Fortress Press in 2010 and her *Introduction to the Bible* was published in 2012 by Yale University Press as part of the Open Yale Courses publication series. With the support of a New Directions Fellowship from the Mellon Foundation, she spent 2005-2006 at the Yale Law School and is currently completing a fifth book, entitled *What's so Divine about Divine Law?* She is active in professional and academic organizations, currently serving as co-editor of the *Association for Jewish Studies Review* and as an editor of the *Encyclopedia for the Bible and its Reception*. A specialist in talmudic-midrashic studies, she offers undergraduate courses on the literature and history of the biblical and talmudic periods (including *Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible* and *Introduction to Judaism*) as well as advanced text courses and graduate-only seminars. In 2005, Hayes was awarded the Sidonie Miskimin Clauss Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities. She has served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Religious Studies as well as for the Program in Judaic Studies. Recent university service includes the Committee on Yale College Education and the Committee on Majors. From 2004-2006, she was a fellow of the Whitney Humanities Center.

Richard P. Lifton

Sterling Professor of Genetics; Chair, Genetics; Professor, Internal Medicine, Nephrology; Investigator Howard Hughes Med Institute



Richard Lifton is Chairman and Sterling Professor of Genetics at Yale University, and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He also directs the Yale Center for Human Genetics and Genomics. He received his B.A. from Dartmouth, M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford, and trained in medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard prior to moving to Yale in 1993. Dr. Lifton's laboratory has used human genetics and genomics to identify causes of heart, kidney, and bone disease. By investigating thousands of families from around the world, his group has identified more than 25 human disease genes. These include key genes and pathways that are critical to the risk of heart attack, hypertension, osteoporosis, and stroke. These studies have provided new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to these diseases, which affect more than one billion people worldwide. Dr. Lifton also chairs the Scientific Advisory Board of Merck, the Medical Physiology Section of the National Academy of Sciences, and the NIH Advisory Committee for Large Scale Genomic Sequencing. He serves on the Council of the Institute of Medicine, the Scientific Advisory Boards of The Simons Foundation Autism Project, and The Gallo Foundation of the University of California, San Francisco. His honors include election to the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine as well as the highest scientific awards of the American Heart Association, the International Society of Hypertension, and the International Society of Nephrology; he is also the recipient of the 2008 Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Richard Lifton received a B.A. from Dartmouth College and an M.D. and Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Sekhar Tatikonda

Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering & Statistics, Yale School of Engineering & Applied Sciences



Sekhar Tatikonda is currently a faculty in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Yale University, with courtesy appointments in Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics. He received his BS, MS, and PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. He joined Yale in 2002. He works broadly in the areas of communications, networking, and machine learning. In particular he is interested in issues of coordination, cooperation, computation and learning in distributed and networked systems. He is a founding member of the new Yale Institute for Network Science, a multidisciplinary effort to advance the study of social, biological and physical networks. He is dedicated to both undergraduate and graduate teaching. He was awarded the inaugural Ackerman Award for Teaching and Mentoring for having a positive impact on students and contributing to the educational mission of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Yale.