Dear Friends and Alumni of Yale Gymnastics,

It’s hard to believe that it’s 2016 and the season is already underway! The team will continue to face tough competition in the upcoming season and I hope that you are able to make it to a meet, either here in New Haven or on the road. That’s what this association, the program’s alumni and friends, is all about. Support. There are a number of ways to do it: make a gift, cheer from the stands, become a mentor, stay involved.

I am very encouraged by the start of the season and the enthusiasm I hear from Barb and see in our team. Please check out the schedule and consider joining us for a meet — home or away! Please do let me know if you’ll be able to make it and I will try to connect you with other alums and friends in attendance.

The work of this association provides critical support for Barbara, Jason, and directly for our gymnasts. Your generosity will help them maintain and propel the excellence of the program we all helped build and hope to continue moving forward. No gift is too small to help the program achieve our goals. There are multiple ways to show your support, and while a gift is only one small component of giving back, it is critical to maintaining the legacy of Yale Gymnastics. You may give in the following ways:

- Write a check payable to Yale University and mail it to Yale Gymnastics Association, P.O. Box 1844, New Haven, CT 06508-1844.
- Visit giving.yale.edu to pay by credit card and be sure to select ‘Athletics’ and ‘Gymnastics’ from the drop down menus.
- You can also visit our association page for more information: www.yalebulldogs.com/information/alumni/associations/gymnastics.

Thank you in advance for supporting Yale Gymnastics. I hope to see many of you during the upcoming season and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or to share stories, past and present, of what Yale Gymnastics means to you. We’d love to feature your memories (and pictures!) throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you during the upcoming year!

Shoshanna Engel ‘03
President, Gymnastics Association
Hello to all of our Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

We are well into the 44th season of women’s gymnastics here at Yale. Next year will mark the 45th year, and with it an exciting way to celebrate as we will be hosting the Ivy League Championships.

We’ve hit the half way mark of this year’s competition, and so far the team is doing a great job. Despite a few injuries and without our complete line up, the team scored a 192.275, winning our home senior meet last weekend against West Chester and Rhode Island. We honored our two seniors, Captain Camilla Opperman from California and Brittany Sooksengdao from Kansas. Both of the women left their home crowd cheering, with outstanding performances including Brittany’s beam score of 9.650 and Camilla’s Floor score of 9.825.

Looking ahead to March, we hope to have a good showing at the Ivy Classic at Cornell in March and at ECAC’s at William and Mary. We hope to qualify for USA Nationals held in St. Louis. Please follow our Yale Gymnastics Facebook page for updates throughout the next few weeks. If you haven’t seen it yet, be sure to watch the latest team video that we posted. It really shows the caliber and strength of the 2016 team. You’re in for a treat!

On January 30th we welcomed alumni, friends and family back to New Haven for the Don Tonry Invitational. It was great to see so many men and women that worked with Don return to celebrate his life. A special thank you to a few of the dedicated alumni who are always supportive of gymnastics - Paula Gifford McKenzie, Esther Fong who traveled from California, Dale Strominger Parenti who traveled from Philadelphia, Ray Kinoshita who traveled from Canada, and Rich Murahata who traveled from the Chicago area. It was great to see them at the reception and of course, dinner at Mory’s afterward. I hope next year we can have ALL of you return with your teammates. Wouldn’t that be wonderful!

I want to thank you all for your generous gifts and let you know how much we appreciate your donations. They enable us to continually upgrade our program in terms of recruiting, travel and equipment. We do have a fundraising goal for 2016, and I hope you can help us reach this goal. Even a small gift helps!

I’m eager to know what you and your family have been up to. Please send me a personal email or Facebook message. Either way, keep in touch! The Yale Gymnastic Alumni were Don’s and my family, and I have fond memories with all of you.

I hope to hear from you all soon.

Barbara
On January 30, I was lucky to attend the second annual Don Tonry Invitational gymnastics meet held at Payne Whitney Gymnasium. It has been almost 40 years since I graduated in 1977 and the one constant over all those years has been Don and Barbara. I am lucky to live in Philadelphia and to have been able to see Yale Gymnastics dual meets with Penn, and the occasional Ivy League or ECAC championship meets over the years. I’m not so far from New Haven that I couldn’t come back for meets from time to time, and my daughter attended Yale (class of ’11) which gave me even more reason to come back to New Haven. Visiting with Don and Barbara, hearing about the team’s successes, the inevitable injuries, and exciting new prospects has kept me connected to Yale gymnastics in a way I never dreamed I would.

Since Don’s passing in 2013, my Yale gymnastics “family” has become even more precious. The Don Tonry Invitational meet is a standout on my calendar for many reasons. It attracts some high quality gymnastics teams making for a very exciting competition. It’s fun to sit with other alumni and chuckle about how much the sport has changed, the equipment, the uniforms, the judging, but the reality is that these girls today have taken the sport to another level and it’s both humbling and thrilling to watch.

At the reception following the meet, I love having the opportunity to meet the current team members and share their excitement and passion, and to meet their parents (who are now younger than me) and share their pride in their daughter’s accomplishments. It’s great to connect with returning alumni, some from my own era and some that I have followed over the past 40 years, and challenge each other to remember the names of the athletes on the display of team photo posters going back to the early 1970s. And of course, it’s always a treat to share a memory laden meal at Mory’s, reminisce about the good old days, belt out a rendition of Bright College Years, and toast Don and Barbara for all they have meant to Yale gymnastics.

I’m already looking forward to next year, and hope I’ll meet even more alumni, team members and parents.

Go Yale!

Dale Strominger Parenti, ’77

CAPTAIN’S CORNER: CAPTAIN CAMILLA OPPERMAN ’16

What’s your outlook on the 2016 season? The team this year has such incredible potential, and we are looking forward to building on our performances from these past few weekends, continuing to improve our consistency, and moving forward to break school records. Our biggest expectation is winning the Ivy Championship. We created the hashtag #14get15in16 to motivate us - 14 girls, get YGT's 15th Ivy title, in the year 2016!

How would you describe this year’s team in one word? Resilient. We have had so many obstacles thrown our way this year, particularly with a number of girls being injured. Despite all the injuries, the team has remained so positive and continued to work in overdrive to ensure that we achieve our goals. The mental toughness of this team in the face of adversity has truly been amazing.

What does it mean to you to be a captain at Yale? It is such a huge honor to represent such a talented, harmonious, and motivated group of girls. The gymnastics program also has so much incredible history, and being a part of that legacy is really exciting.

What are your plans after graduating? After graduation, I will be doing research at a start-up in NYC called L2, which is a member-based business intelligence firm that benchmarks the digital performance of brands. I’m excited that I’ll be so close to Yale; I’m planning on coming back for all YGT’s home meets next year!

Best Coach Tonry memory? Every day is a fabulous adventure with Barb. She is an extremely talented coach, is so incredibly invested in the team, and has hilarious stories about the history of the gymnastics program at Yale. The team fondly remembers last year at ECACs when some alumni bought her navy blue stilettos as a gift; seeing Barb rock those shoes was such a treat!
## REMAINING 2016 SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 02/28/2016</td>
<td>at Cornell, Ivy Classic</td>
<td>1:00 PM EST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 03/06/2016</td>
<td>at Maryland w/TWU, GW and Pitt</td>
<td>2:00 PM EST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, 03/10/2016</td>
<td>at Bridgeport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 03/13/2016</td>
<td>at George Washington w/ Kent State</td>
<td>1:00 PM EST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, 03/19/2016</td>
<td>at William and Mary, ECAC Championships</td>
<td>12:00 PM EST</td>
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<td>Sat, 04/02/2016</td>
<td>at NCAA Regional Championships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 4/8 - 4/10</td>
<td>at USAG National Collegiate Championships</td>
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Use the app to stay connected with Yale Athletics. Fans earn points for a variety of activities including attending events, sharing Yale Athletics social media posts, posting game-day photos, stopping by a concession or merchandise stand and much more!

Points can be redeemed for merchandise and other items.

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