From the Yale Field Hockey Association

We are excited to announce the YFH 4 Life fundraising drive to benefit the Yale Field Hockey program. Our goal for the 2018-19 year is to raise $80,000 from over 100 individual alums, family, and friends of Yale Field Hockey! We are making a crucial pivot this year. Rather than holding a drive that features competition among teams of alums, we are uniting behind a YFH 4 Life theme.

We give back to Yale Field Hockey because what united us as Division I athletes still unites us as teammates across the generations, for life. We treasured each day, game, practice, and moment that we shared the same uniform and went out to defend our home field or snatch away victory from the opponent. We learned from our teammates, our coaches, our trainers, our wins, and our losses what was required to be a successful athlete. This was no easy feat. Every single year for four years we started over again to build trust, camaraderie, and common goals — on a team with a whole new set of faces. We know that these core Yale experiences shaped who we became upon our graduation day and have immeasurably influenced our lives ever since.

We also know that our bond is never broken, no matter how long it’s been since we have seen or talked to each other. Because when we do connect at a YFH alum weekend and the Fete in NYC, or in our personal and professional lives, we pick up the conversation without a hitch. That is the essence of why we wish to celebrate YFH 4 Life as our unifying theme this year.

And what a season the 2018 team had — showing terrific resiliency on its way to a 10-7 record, including 4-3 for 4th place in the Ivy League. We take great pride in the four seniors — Chaney Kalinich, Jackie Kisa, Marissa Medici, and Brooke Reese — and look forward to welcoming them and the whole team to our annual Fete evening in NYC on Friday, February 22.

The 2018 team’s win-loss record at home was excellent and we are not surprised. In September we saw Yale’s current and former Athletic Directors, Vicky Chun and Tom Beckett, and Yale College’s Dean Marvin Chun dedicate the brand new, history-making Carol Roberts Field House. This spectacular building fits into Yale’s landscape as if it has been there forever. It is a true home to players, coaches, trainers, alums, and supporters of Yale Field Hockey and Yale Softball. If you haven’t seen it in person, do come back soon and experience its magic.

And there is more celebrating to come during this year. 2019 marks 50 years since the first women undergraduates matriculated at Yale and found themselves hitting a hockey ball around Old Campus because they missed our sport. These pioneers from the Class of 1973 include Jane Curtis, Lawrie Mifflin, Andrea DaRif, Sally Dey, Mary Kraus, and Nancy Roberts.

These women helped found the Yale Field Hockey program, utilizing their strength, courage, and integrity. All three attributes have lived on through the decades and will continue to do so for each generation to come.

In line with the traditions of the program, we strive to exemplify strength, courage, and integrity to ensure that this vital women’s varsity program continues to thrive. In the past six years, we have raised nearly $370,000 in annual giving to support expenditures toward training needs, equipment, technology upgrades, travel, recruiting, and personnel. As a result, we contributed to the immediate necessities of the program and invested in the future of the program to ensure Yale Field Hockey maintains its status as a premier program in the Ivy League and in the nation.

We cannot thank you enough for all the contributions and support you have given Yale Field Hockey through the years. The history and traditions of this program run strong and deep. We hope that by your involvement in our YFH 4 Life effort we can ensure it continues for many years to come.

Go Bulldogs!
Heather Orrico Madden ’07
Chair, YFH Association

WAYS TO GIVE

MAKE A ONE-TIME Gift
a. Enter total gift amount in “My gift”
b. Select “View teams and other funds”
c. Select “Field Hockey”
d. Fill out the rest of the form.

ESTABLISH A NEW PLEDGE (Middle tab on gift form)
a. Enter total gift amount in “My gift”
b. Indicate number of payments
c. Indicate frequency of payments
d. Select “View teams and other funds”
e. Select “Field Hockey”
f. Fill out the rest of the form

WRITE A CHECK
Please send to Yale Field Hockey Association, PO Box 1844, New Haven, CT 06508-1844
Coach’s Corner

Carolyn Ruth Thompson ’02 Head Coach
of Field Hockey, Pam Stuper

A NEW HOUSE, SOME RAIN, A GREAT SEASON, AND YOU

The extraordinary gift that Carol McPhillips Roberts ’81 gave as the lead donor for our new Carol Roberts Field House (CRFH) has impacted the team and the program in the few short months we’ve been in our new home. As I said the day Carol made her commitment to the project, this is a game changer – a program changer! It has already transformed our team and program. We couldn’t be more grateful to Carol and the other alums and parents who contributed.

Here comes the rain! And the thunderstorms! And the gale force winds! And the monsoon! No worries – we have Carol Roberts Field House! It was a season of rain here in New Haven!! Virtually every Tuesday we had one or more of the above. Never seen anything like it in my two decades here at Yale! But not to worry. We practiced in it because we have to play in it. And when lightning struck, we headed into CRFH and watched film, chalk talked, and even one day took a nap! Thank you, Carol!! All those rainy, and sometimes chilling practices, prepared us for our BIG WIN against Columbia. Worst weather all season, and the Bulldogs prevailed after regulation, two overtimes, and penalty shootouts! If you haven’t seen the highlights from this game, visit our website. It was Senior Day and one of the most exciting games and performances in YFH history!

We had a great season going 10-7, our best record since our Ivy Championship season in 2011! We had incredibly exciting wins over Michigan State, Drexel, Columbia, and Brown, to name just a few! We had one player selected First Team All-Ivy: Bridget Condie ’20; three players selected Second Team: Holly Jackson ’20, Théodora Dillman ’22, and Sydney Terroso ’21; and one honorable mention: Imogen Davies ’21. Bridget was also recently named NFHCA Mideast All-Region First-Team. I am a firm believer that individual accolades are a result of great team performances! Stay tuned for 2019. There is more to come! We have great talent, incredible athletes, the finest young women in the NCAA, and a work ethic that will separate us from the pack! I see a championship in the near future!

Last and certainly not least, YOU help make us THE BEST ALUM TEAM in the nation and we couldn’t be more grateful! Your leadership, support, mentorship, and passion are so vital to our success. It was great to see so many of you at the Carol Roberts Field House Dedication in September! Others who attended games on the road as well as additional home games helped fill the stands with our 12th (wo)man and often cheer us on to victory!

We hope to see you at our annual Yale Field Hockey Alum Fete on Friday, February 22, 2019, at The Yale Club of NYC at 6:30 p.m. The Fete is FREE to all alums. The event is an incredible opportunity for alums, as well as our current players, to network. More information and a formal invite with registration link will be provided after the New Year. Come be part of this amazing network of incredibly gifted and successful Yale Field Hockey women!!

#yfh4life
Pam

2018 Yale Field Hockey team
Captain’s Circle

2018 Captain Jackie Kisa

LAST WISH

When coach Marissa Didio arrived at Yale in 1997, and Pam followed a few months later, the seniors were asked to take a significant role in the banquet. Seniors are responsible for the First Wish, Senior Award, Senior Class Reflections, and Last Wish. This tradition has been one of Pam’s favorites! The First Wish kicks off the evening and is in lieu of a prayer before dinner is served. The Senior Award is given by the senior class to a freshman team member. Senior Class Reflections can take any form, and through the years have been everything from a speech to a poem to a song to a video, and to this year’s “Most Likely” awards. The Last Wish ends the evening with final thoughts from the senior class. Every year is special, and the seniors help make the banquet a night to remember! Here is 2018 Captain Jackie Kisa’s Last Wish.

“To close out this banquet and, subsequently, this season, we just wanted to first express our sincerest gratitude toward the coaching staff. It was a tough ride for sure but one that was well worth it. You saw in our class what we hoped we could one day prove to our own selves: a step forward. From our freshman year to this season past, this team has become a step forward. I believe that a large part of that is due to your consistent belief in us, even when it truly didn’t seem possible. You’ve instilled in us a sense of pride for our field hockey careers, and for that we are grateful.

“To the team, wow, what a ride it was. There is so much to say in so few sentences, it’s nigh impossible to truly encapsulate how we feel towards you all. I remember all of your first practices, your first games, you first (dare I say it) celebrations. To me, you all will always be my family, and so it is with my deepest sincerities that I leave you with these final thoughts.

“Firstly, I want you to look around you at the faces beside you, because one day you will be playing your last game with them, your last away trip, your last corners of the future. You cannot see time until it is absent from your life, so take every day as a new day, and as a wonderful opportunity to play this crazy game. If I could go back, I would tell myself to cherish these moments, these teammates, those times when all you want to do is quit and give up. I would cherish those 6 a.m. lifts and those staggering breaths that flee your throat as you race across the field during your fifth run test of the spring. I would cherish them all, because now, I don’t get to go back and do them again. I have run my last run test. I have thrown my last tackle. Looking around, it is safe to say that this was the best team to end with, and I couldn’t think of better friends to ‘leave it all on the field’ with.

“Next, don’t sweat the negatives; learn from them. Losing doesn’t make you a bad field hockey team. It teaches you how to become the best one. It teaches you to see your potential. It makes you stronger. Take it from someone who has lost a lot of games over her hockey career. They are truly the best teachers. When you lose, and at some point you have or will, focus on what you can do better, not what you have done badly. Cheer each other on and pick each other up. This is a team and truly no other word could describe the 17 of you sitting here. Going into the spring, it’ll feel like you are constantly losing, but that is so you can get stronger, faster, better. We lose in the spring so that we can win in the fall, and I hope all of you can see that and embrace the feeling.

“Finally, and I’ll wrap this up before I get TOO carried away, I want to thank all of you. The four of us, your seniors, knew coming into these past couple of years that we may never get an Ivy League ring. Hell, getting a winning record was something we struggled for. But to leave behind this culture, this incredible family sitting in front of us, that is far better than any ring or any trophy. It’s better than any record and is far worth the blood, sweat, and tears left on that bright blue field. We are so proud of the direction you all are going and thus, it is with our sincerest regards that we say goodbye to you and leave you with this one favor for us: that even when our four names are forgotten in the CRFH locker room and perhaps we have all moved onto different worlds, please don’t ever forget the love you have for each other and for this crazy, brilliant game. YFH has changed all of our lives for the better and that is something that we will cherish forever. Thank you for letting me serve you as your Captain. I truly cannot wait to see the amazing things you will do in the years to come. Cheers.”

Bridget Condie ’20
First Team All-Mideast Region and First Team All-Ivy
When the Carol Roberts Field House Was Unimaginable

By Lawrie Mifflin ’73 and Andrea DaRif ’73

On Senior Day, with the superb Carol Roberts Field House protecting us all from torrential rain, we two were surprised to be pulled aside by a serious-looking man, the father of Alex MacKay ’20. Andrew asked if we were the alums from the first class of women at Yale (Yes, Class of 1973). Then he warmly thanked us for setting an example of “poised, accomplished women who overcame great obstacles,” and who return year after year to offer support and encouragement to their younger peers. Oh and, we’re sure we didn’t dream this: He got tears in his eyes!

Why do we come back? Partly because we have such a great time with our fellow alums, young as well as old. But both of us—who arrived on campus in the fall of 1969—remember a time when playing sports was considered “unfeminine” and “overly aggressive.” We enjoy seeing how far Yale field hockey has come. And we enjoy embodying that earlier era, so that it doesn’t get forgotten.

Andy: I remember being better at baseball than all the boys my age, and yet forbidden from playing Little League. There were few teams for women in my high school; I was captain of the tennis team (tennis was acceptable for girls!), but that wasn’t a team sport, with a team’s special joys. I still get butterflies when I look at that first team picture of us at Yale and see myself wearing a Yale sweatshirt. It really meant a lot to me to have a chance to play sports in college.

Lawrie: I was lucky; I grew up in the Philadelphia area, where playing field hockey was a given, as natural as taking algebra, and our high school girls’ teams were as well supported as the boys’ teams. When I got to Yale, more than once a guy said to me, “Field hockey? That’s for big klutzy bruisers! You’re so small!” But I couldn’t imagine fall afternoons without hockey, and so I was determined—with several others—to get a team started.

But you YFHA readers know the “origin stories.” What you might not know is the context. What was it like to be a woman at Yale in 1969–70? Most of us got used to being regarded as somewhat exotic creatures. Understandable, since all 250 of us were “caged” in Vanderbilt, with a security guard at the gate around the clock. And imagine this: there were no women’s bathrooms in Sterling Library! We often ran back to Vanderbilt if we had to go.

Most of the time, it was all harmless, even fun.

Not so fun was the Russian history professor who announced on the first day of class, “If there are any females taking this course who think they will earn anything higher than a Pass, they are sadly mistaken.” (In those days we were graded with Honors, High Pass, Pass, or Fail.) We had a friend taking that class, and naturally she worked super-hard to prove him wrong. She still got a “P.” And she transferred out of Yale after that first year.

Back then, freshmen had to eat in Commons. But early on, that could be unpleasant if you were alone. Suddenly all the clanking cutlery and rowdy male chatter would stop, and you’d feel the silence as several hundred boys watched you walk down the long, cavernous aisle. Andy remembers slinking out and going back to her room to eat crackers for dinner, rather than walk that gauntlet.

Of course, by the spring semester, you couldn’t tear us away; we had become best buddies with our male classmates, all of us enduring freshmen indignities together.

And when our residential colleges held mixers—where women from Smith or Wellesley or Vassar arrived on buses, all dressed up, to mingle with Yale men—we used to deliberately dress in tatty old jeans and T-shirts, to demonstrate that we belonged there. This was home for us.

And we still feel that way, nearly 50 years later. Especially in the Carol Roberts Field House!
From Yale Athletic Director Vicky Chun:

We had a very special guest at the Carol Roberts Field House dedication, Chickie Poisson. Chickie began officiating in 1949 and continued to officiate in five sports for four decades. She has been inducted into four Halls of Fame and earned national ratings in basketball, volleyball, field hockey, and lacrosse. Chickie earned an international rating in field hockey in 1979 and officiated several national championship games. She officiated many games at Yale, and we were thrilled when her son, Dr. Craig Poisson, the athletic director and most famous and popular professor at Springfield College, brought mom to the dedication.

Chickie had this to say about her visit to Yale:

“It was wonderful to return to Yale, where I have so many memories of umpiring Ivy League hockey games and refereeing lacrosse matches. When I walked up and saw Johnson Field’s blue turf lit up next to the stunning new Carol Roberts Field House, I was filled with pride and joy for the women of Yale and fans of field hockey. Before I knew it, I found myself in conversation after conversation with the many alums I knew. We reminisced and enjoyed the modern hockey game throughout the whole evening. Lorraine [Pratte Lewis] asked me about the encounter I had at age 16 with Constance Applebee, who brought hockey to America in 1901. After I had scored two goals on breakaway runs down the pitch, she pulled me out to give me a dribbling lesson. We chuckled when my son Craig said, ‘You had scored two goals. What needed fixing??’ I can sincerely say it was a first-class evening renewing old ties and I was honored to be a part of it.”
Words cannot adequately describe the joy I felt on dedication weekend. To see our new field house for the first time, to be there to celebrate with family and friends, and to watch our girls compete was incredible. So many people to thank, so much to be grateful for, so many wonderful memories of special times with dear teammates. As I shared with the group assembled at the dedication, playing for Yale was a dream come true, standing in our new field house a dream fulfilled—with the best yet to come as new dreams will be realized by future generations. To think that every field hockey and softball player will reside in this field house, to consider the impact and influence it will have on their athletic experience brings me such a sense of gratification and pride. To Yale, to our coaches, Pam Stuper and Jen Goodwin, to our alumni, parents, players, friends and family, thank you. We have made a difference that will be felt for years to come.
Carol Roberts Field House Dedication Weekend
2019 YFH Fete

February 22, 2019

Don’t miss the seventh annual Yale Field Hockey Fete: Food, Fun, Fellowship at the Yale Club of New York on Friday, February 22 starting at 6:30 p.m. This event, which is free to all alums and will be attended by the current team and coaching staff, includes a delicious meal and a program featuring Speed Dating, YFH style; a short address by a YFH alum; and roundtable discussions about different professions. A highlight of the evening, of course, is the opportunity for the current team to connect with their alum mentors. That, and the opportunity to see current and former YFH players all glammed up! Watch for an email in early January to get registered for an event that has become a cornerstone of the YFH Association.

Imogen Davies ’21 (above left), Honorable Mention All-Ivy  Junior Holly Jackson ’20 (above right), Second Team All-Ivy  Théodora Dillman ’22 (top right), Second Team All-Ivy
Big Bulldog Thanks to Our Fearless Leaders

Pam Stuper and the 2018 Team

On behalf of my team, players, and staff, and the Yale Field hockey program, a very special thank you to Association President Lorraine Pratte Lewis ’78 and Vice-President Jan Colarusso Seeley ’82. Their unconditional love, support, and dedication to YFH continues to impact our program in so many ways. These amazing women were instrumental in launching our Alum Fete in NYC and the continued planning of this annual event, organizing Alum Days at Yale, mentoring our current players and young alums around the country, creating and editing our newsletters and other pieces of communication, and fundraising both with our annual fund and capital campaigns. Both women attend multiple games each season at home and away and even provide color commentary for the Ivy League Digital Network. Lastly, their support for the Carol Roberts Field House with fundraising, planning, and dedication.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. #yfh4life
ALUM DIRECTORY

Attention YFH Alums! As part of the Yale Field Hockey Association’s initiative to facilitate networking among alums, we have created a short survey to gather information for the first-ever YFH alum directory. We plan to launch the Google forms survey in January 2019 and circulate the results to our alum community following the annual Fete in New York City on February 22. You will be able to search by class year, geography, career/personal interests, and more. Whether you are job hunting, attending reunions, moving to a new city, pondering grad school, and so on, there is more than likely a YFH alum who can help you. We encourage you to participate by completing the short survey! More details to come in January.

Save the Dates For Getting Together

2019 Fête: Food, Fun, and Fellowship
Friday, February 22, 2019
6:30 p.m., Trumbull Room
Yale Club of New York City
Yale Softball Association invites YFH Alums to the
2019 Yale Softball Alum Weekend
Yale vs. Columbia Doubleheader
Saturday, April 20, 2019
DeWitt Family Field, next to Johnson Field

We Need Your Updated Contact Information!

Please help us by keeping your contact information current so that we can continue communicating with you about Yale Field Hockey news and events. Two easy ways to keep your contact information up to date:

Preferred Method: Yale Alumni Directory
1. Go to http://bit.ly/2ysXxr0 and follow the instructions to register or log in.
2. Once you are logged in, click “Online Alumni Directory” in the left column.
3. Click “View/Update Your Alumni Directory Listing.”
4. From here, you will be able to update your contact information as well as any other information you would like to provide.

Secondary Method: Informing YFH Association
If you are unable to use the Yale Alumni Directory online, please email or call Erin M. Carter ’12 erinmcarter15@gmail.com 484-686-6321

WhatsApp

The first WhatsApp messenger service for the alums of Yale Field Hockey is coming soon! If you wish to join this new WhatsApp group, please email Lorraine at llewis20817@gmail.com. This communication tool will make it easier to communicate up-to-date messages about Yale Field Hockey events such as home and away games, the Fete in New York City, and the Alum weekends in New Haven.