

1999-2009: Celebrating Ten Years of Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Yale and in New Haven



Founded in 1999, the Yale Entrepreneurial Society (YES) is Yale's principal business organization. YES is a completely undergraduate-student-run, independent 501(c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the greater Yale community. YES coordinates and supports educational resources, seed capital, and networking and mentorship opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs to bring Yale ideas and innovations into the world and create dynamic new ventures that contribute to the revitalization of New Haven.

Y50K Entrepreneurship Competition

YES manages a \$50,000 business plan competition, the Y50K, with three divisions covering for-profit, social entrepreneurship, and life sciences startups. In addition to giving student and faculty teams the opportunity to organize and seek seed funding, the Y50K provides a year-long program of educational seminars, teambuilding evenings, speaking events, and mentorship opportunities. Winners routinely receive additional funding and the competition has been featured nationally in Business 2.0, BusinessWeek, the New York Observer, and the Wall Street Journal. After nine years, the Y50K has generated numerous exciting successful businesses including Veritas Prep, Off the Map Press, Elmseed Enterprise Fund, Mercado Global, and BioRelix. In its first decade, YES's Y50K will have awarded more than half a million dollars to new Yale ventures.



YES Conferences

YES hosts regional conferences each year featuring well-known speakers for students, faculty, alumni, and professionals. Organized in cities around the country—including New Haven, New York, Boston, Silicon Valley, and Omaha—and comprised of receptions, dinners, panel discussions, and keynote addresses, these events enhance YES's regional presence, encourage continued alumni involvement in YES, and facilitate cooperation between Yale and other universities across the country. Past speakers include Warren Buffet, John Thain, Jeff Taylor, Rob Parson, Lewis Ranieri, Bing Gordon, and John Stossel. YES's conferences have been featured in local and national newspapers as well as on TV and radio. Each April, YES holds a two-day conference—the Innovation Summit—in New Haven to celebrate Yale's dynamic entrepreneurship community.



The Yale Entrepreneur Magazine

YES publishes the Yale Entrepreneur (YE), Yale's leading business publication, a full-color fifty-page magazine of business and innovation. With material written by both students and professors and edited and published exclusively by YES staff, the YE contains articles and features covering innovative business news as well as information concerning entrepreneurial events and opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. YES distributes a new issue of the YE each semester across Yale's campus and throughout its extensive network—comprised of more than two thousand undergrads, graduate and professional students, faculty and administration members, alumni, and professionals around the country. YES also publishes a weekly email newsletter distributed to members and staff featuring YES event and conference announcements and details.



Social Entrepreneurship

YES's leadership in the field of Social Entrepreneurship—the application of entrepreneurial drive and discipline to the creation of ventures that have a charitable mission and stress social responsibility above any profit goal—distinguishes it from other university entrepreneurship organizations. The Y50K Social Entrepreneurship Division has funded a number of nationally-acclaimed fair trade and global health organizations in recent years. In 2007, we launched the YES-New Haven High Schools Entrepreneurship Initiative to reach out directly to the New Haven community and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in local high schools. YES staff spent the semester leading entrepreneurship educational seminars after school, and the program culminated in the spring with a business plan competition for teams of high school students.



With nearly 100 staffers and a \$100,000 annual operating budget, YES is one of the most involved undergraduate organizations on campus, actively shaping the culture and future of Yale and New Haven. We are building a strong entrepreneurship community and a culture of innovation on campus and in the city. Our staffers' endeavors and our entrepreneurs' enterprises are contributing to the rapid economic development of New Haven and to Yale's ability to compete for and produce the innovators and leaders of tomorrow.



Get involved as a member, staffer, or contestant. Learn more at: www.yesatyale.org
 Join the YES Network. Register at: www.yesatyale.org/yesnet
 Sign up for our weekly email newsletter or subscribe to the Yale Entrepreneur magazine. Contact: yes@yale.edu
 Visit us at our office in New Haven on the corner of York and Elm at 254 Elm Street

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