



# William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale 2013-2014 Annual Report

## Message from the Chairman of the Board, Roger Kimball M. Phil '82

It has been a great year for the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale. Lauren Noble, the Program's Founder and Executive Director, will fill you in on the specifics of our activities and accomplishments. I'd like to say a few words about the Program's guiding vision.

Bill Buckley was instrumental in creating and perpetuating so many institutions and conservative initiatives that a program dedicated to preserving and disseminating his intellectual legacy faces a daunting task. Multifarious though Bill's interests were, however, all his work revolved around a tidy core of animating principles. One of those principles concerned the importance of nurturing individual liberty in an age of encroaching statism. In 1959 in *Up From Liberalism*, Bill articulated this principle with crisp precision:

What then is the indicated course of action? It is to maintain and wherever possible enhance the freedom of the individual to acquire property and dispose of that property in ways that he decides on. To deal with unemployment by eliminating monopoly unionism, featherbedding, and inflexibilities in the labor market, and be prepared, where residual unemployment persists, to cope with it locally, placing the political and humanitarian responsibility on the lowest feasible political unit. . . .

Is that a program? Call it a No-Program, if you will, but adopt it for your very own. I will not cede more power to the state. I will not willingly cede

more power to anyone, not to the state, not to General Motors, not to the CIO. I will hoard my power like a miser, resisting every effort to drain it away from me. I will then use my power as I see fit. I mean to live my life an obedient man, but obedient to God, subservient to the wisdom of my ancestors; never to the authority of political truths arrived at yesterday at the voting booth.

A preference for the local-most feasible authority in negotiating life's trials and opportunities is a leitmotif in Bill Buckley's work. Another leitmotif is his commitment to vigorous and open debate. Not for nothing did he host *Firing Line* for all those years. Open debate has particular relevance in the life of the liberal arts, which is one reason that the rise of political correctness with its demand for political conformity has had such a deadening effect on our colleges and universities. The appalling spectacle this past spring of various distinguished personages being disinvented from speaking on college campuses because they might offend the sensitivities of some self-appointed victim group would have exercised Bill Buckley's prodigious powers of rhetorical condemnation.

Bill Buckley dedicated his career to fostering free and open debate and to highlighting the existential advantages of individual liberty and its chief political guarantor, limited government. The William F. Buckley, Jr. Program seeks to carry on in Bill's footsteps, perpetuating those values not only at Yale but at other college campuses and in the national conversation about the direction of America.

I hope you will support our work and help us broadcast Bill Buckley's invigorating intellectual legacy.

The 2014 Student Board (pictured below)



## WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR. PROGRAM AT YALE

111 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510  
[www.buckleyprogram.com](http://www.buckleyprogram.com)



Joe Scarborough speaks at a Buckley Program event in April. Photo credit: *New Haven Register*



Carly Fiorina joined us for an event in November 2013. Photo credit: *Yale Daily News*

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## Message from the Founder & Executive Director, Lauren Noble '11

It's difficult to believe that another year has gone by for the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale. Three years ago, the Buckley Program had just concluded its first semester ever. What was then a small speaker series on a shoestring budget has since emerged as a thriving institution on campus.

Today, we've hosted nearly fifty events, from Firing Line debates to lectures to seminars; we've hosted three major conferences; we've funded summer internships for Yale undergraduates at both publications and think tanks. With almost one hundred student fellows now among our ranks, it's safe to say that we've come a long way from our founding during a residential college seminar in the fall of 2010.

We remain committed to the cause of promoting intellectual diversity in higher education at a time when it is not simply absent or unfashionable, but actively silenced by those who claim the mantle of tolerance and open-mindedness. The flurry of disinvitations on campuses across the country that prompted headlines earlier this year only scratched the surface of the problem, and serves as a reminder that we have our work cut out for us.

More than sixty years ago, our namesake wrote in *God and Man at Yale* that "Truth can never win unless it is promulgated. The cause of truth must be championed, and it must be championed dynamically." That is precisely the cause the Buckley Program has taken up. We have set out to build a strong institution that balances one-sided discourse and bolsters the principles of a free society on a permanent basis.

In our growth from a small student organization to one that now occupies its own headquarters, we have been extremely fortunate to benefit from the generosity of many people who care about our mission, Bill Buckley's legacy, and the ideas for which he was such an articulate and effective champion. We are grateful to speakers who have offered their time and ideas, to donors who have provided the essential resources to carry out our efforts, and to volunteers and friends who have given their energy and counsel. I also want to thank our Board of Directors as well as the student leadership for their invaluable contributions.

We still have a long way to go, and I hope you'll read this report to learn more about our activities. This past academic year featured many exciting and enlightening events, from our third annual conference on the future of conservatism to a Firing Line debate on the lessons of the Constitution. We were also pleased to be able to expand our popular internship program.

Most significantly, we moved into our first headquarters, the William H. Taft Mansion on Whitney Avenue. This building represents an incredible opportunity for the Buckley Program's future. We have a lease with an option to buy on the property, and we enthusiastically welcome any and all support in our capital campaign.

We hope that you'll be able to join us at one of our events this fall. On November 14th, we'll be hosting our fourth annual conference on the 50th anniversary of James Burnham's *Suicide of the West*. You can find out more information on page 3.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com with any questions or comments. On behalf of the Buckley Program, I wish you an excellent summer and look forward to keeping you updated on our progress.



Buckley fellows at the *National Review* booth at CPAC. Photo credit: *National Review*

## Message from the Student President, Rich Lizardo '15

Collegiate America is suffering from amnesia. The very professors and students who once fiercely advocated for academic freedom are now shunning it. In its place is their intellectually bankrupt notion of "academic justice" to couch their own intolerance – fodder spiced only by their hypersensitive "trigger warnings." With disinvitations having been doled out en masse, even Mayor Michael Bloomberg raised an eyebrow.

Mother Yale is far from immune to this academic plague. To take but one example, this past semester saw the undergraduate pro-life group become the first organization in recent memory to get rejected from joining the on-campus Social Justice Network; the group's volunteer efforts to help mothers in need apparently failed to qualify as "social justice." This instance and more leave no doubt: The mission of the Buckley Program – to promote intellectual diversity, to foster open political discourse, and to expose students to differing viewpoints – is every day more relevant and critical.

Fortunately, the Buckley Program has undergone tremendous growth in just this past year. Not only did we move into our charming new home, but our organization also doubled in size, claiming by the end of the year a whopping ninety-nine student fellows! And, of course, we hosted a series of amazing events.

Whether it was seeing Speaker Newt Gingrich clash with Professor Akhil Amar, or listening in on Arthur Brooks' and Carly Fiorina's fascinating lectures, or enjoying a Master's Tea with Dean Glenn Hubbard, or hearing from Ted Bromund and Congressman Ron DeSantis over meals; whether it was attending CPAC, or dining together at Yorkside, or volunteering at a soup kitchen – each of these and more kept students and friends of the Program highly engaged both with one another and with compelling ideas. Each of these and more furthered our mission, all while shedding a little more Lux on a little more Veritas.

To be sure, none of these successes happened overnight. While Lauren, the Student Board, and other fellows have put in hard work and dedication, it is thanks to the support of friends like you that our project is possible. With your support, so long as there is a void to be filled, we will continue to grow.

# 2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR Events In Review

This past academic year, the Buckley Program hosted fourteen events, including lectures, seminars, Firing Line debates, and more.



Buckley fellows with Dr. Ted Bromund, Senior Fellow in Anglo-American Relations at the Heritage Foundation, who spoke on the topic, "Was Churchill a Neoconservative?"

## FALL 2013

- Firing Line Debate, Newt Gingrich and Professor Akhil Reed Amar, "What are the lessons of the Constitution?" September 16, 2013
- Lecture, Scott Rasmussen, "Conservatism and Changing Demographics," September 26, 2013
- Lecture, Robert Kagan, "America's Role in the World," September 30, 2013
- Conference, "The Future of Conservatism," October 18, 2013. Speakers included: Senator John Barrasso, William McGurn, Judge James Buckley, Jonah Goldberg, Craig Shirley, Michael Barone, Mary Kissel, Bret Stephens, Ryan Anderson, Roger Kimball, William F. B. O'Reilly, Lawrence Perelman, James Panero, Neal B. Freeman, Linda Bridges, Rich Lowry, Reihan Salam, Heather Mac Donald, and Professor Steven Smith.
- Lecture, Senator Evan Bayh, October 28, 2013
- Lecture, Carly Fiorina, "The Conservatism of Empowerment and Reform," November 5, 2013

## SPRING 2014

- Lecture, Arthur Brooks, "The Secret to Happiness," January 21, 2014
- Master's Tea, Glenn Hubbard, "The Economics of Great Powers," January 28, 2014
- Dinner, Donald Devine, *America's Way Back*, February 5, 2014
- Lunch, Congressman Ron DeSantis, February 15, 2014
- Seminar, Diana Schaub, "Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln," February 21, 2014
- Dinner, Ted Bromund, "Was Churchill a Neoconservative?" February 27, 2014
- Open House, William Howard Taft Mansion, March 29, 2014
- Lecture, Joe Scarborough, April 16, 2014

## Save The Date: November 14, 2014

Please save the date for the Buckley Program's fourth annual conference on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Burnham's *Suicide of the West* on Friday, November 14, 2014 at Yale University.

The afternoon and evening will feature panel discussions followed by a reception and dinner with a keynote address.

Speakers will include Prof. Donald Kagan, James B. Burnham, John O'Sullivan, Steven Hayward, Roger Kimball, James Pethokoukis, R. R. Reno, Prof. Noël Valis, KT McFarland, Ibn Warraq, Prof. Charles Hill, and more.

Further details will follow. A block of hotel rooms is available at the Omni Hotel (203-772-6664). Please mention the Buckley Program when you call. Reservations may also be made online using the group code 14600110698.

Be sure to check out our website at [www.buckleyprogram.com](http://www.buckleyprogram.com) for video footage of some of these events.





Buckley Fellows enjoying dinner with Donald Devine, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management under President Reagan.

## Buckley Program Commissions 50th Anniversary Reprint of *Suicide of the West*

In advance of its fall conference, the Buckley Program has commissioned a 50th anniversary reprint of James Burnham's *Suicide of the West*. The reprint, which will be published by Encounter Books, will be available at the conference.

## Conference 2013

On October 18, 2013, the Buckley Program hosted its third annual conference. The conference, which featured four afternoon panels as well as a reception and dinner, examined the future of conservatism. The evening keynote addresses were delivered by *New York Post* editorial page editor William McGurn and Senator John Barrasso. Approximately 245 students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the Program attended the conference. The entire event can be viewed on our website.



Buckley Fellows and young alumni at the 2013 conference.



Newt Gingrich and Prof. Akhil Reed Amar at our September Firing Line debate. Photo credit: *New Haven Register*

## Essay Contest

In the fall 2013 semester, the Buckley Program sponsored an essay contest on the question, "What is a 21st century conservative?" Judged by Yale professors E. Donald Elliott, Charles Hill, and Danilo Petranovich, contest winners received awards during the conference dinner. Dimitri Halikias won the first-place prize of \$1,000, Courtney Hodrick won the second-place prize of \$500, and Christian Vazquez won the third-place prize of \$250.



Student president Rich Lizardo '15 presents Dimitri Halikias '16 with his essay contest award.

## New Headquarters

Earlier this year, the Buckley Program moved into its new headquarters, the William H. Taft Mansion, located at 111 Whitney Avenue in New Haven. The Program has a lease with an option to buy on the property, which was once owned by President Taft. The building has event space, a conference room, offices, a library, and ample parking.

The Program hosted an open house this past March. Over one hundred students, alumni, and friends of the Program joined us to celebrate this new chapter in our history.

We are currently raising funds to purchase the building as well as strengthen and expand programming. We are extremely grateful for any and all support. If you are interested in receiving more information about our capital campaign, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Lauren Noble at [Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com](mailto:Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com).



The main room of the Taft Mansion. Photo credit: *New Haven Register*



Dr. Robert Kagan gives a talk on "America's Role in the World." Photo credit: *Yale Daily News*.

## Student Fellows Program

Through our student fellows program, Yale students get the opportunity to meet with guest speakers over a meal, attend conferences, and more. In March 2014, for example, the Buckley Program sponsored 19 Yale students attending the Conservative Political Action Conference.

## Internship Program

This summer, the Buckley Program is sponsoring seven Yale undergraduates completing internships at *National Review*, *The New Criterion*, the Manhattan Institute, *Forbes Opinion*, *Gingrich Productions*, *National Review Institute*, and the *Ethics and Public Policy Center*. Interns receive a stipend of \$4,000, making the experience affordable to students of all backgrounds. Past interns have also worked at *StudentsFirst*, *Fox News*, and *The American Spectator*.



Buckley Fellows chat with Senator John Barrasso at the 2013 conference reception.



From left to right: former student president Harry Graver '14, student vice president Mark DiPlacido '15, and student president Rich Lizardo '15.

## What Students Are Saying...

We asked some of our current student fellows to say a few words about the Buckley Program.

"The Buckley Program has been one of the highlights of my Yale experience. From the grand debates to the small discussions, all of the Program's events have been refreshing and enlightening. Outside of these, I've made many friendships by meeting fellows at service events and informal dinners. I'm glad to see that we're growing even stronger with the opening of the Taft Mansion; here's to another wonderful year!"

— MATTHEW RIBEIRO '15

"Coming to Yale, I pledged to avoid politics. My high school years had been charged with political activism, culminating in my designation as 'most conservative' in senior superlatives. Yet my experience felt retrospectively insignificant. Democrat and Republican students would hold forums together, but leave as divided as they had arrived. Students responded to views without honestly considering them. My outlook changed this fall at the Buckley Conference. Taken aback by the elevated level of discourse, I saw what political discussion could be. Enriching, not rigid, and wholeheartedly open-minded, Buckley commits itself to a mission of intellectual diversity. Since becoming a Buckley fellow, I have relished the opportunities to meet with leading thinkers and take part in conversations that rank sound reason above partisan rhetoric. I am so excited to be a part of this program as it expands into new frontiers."

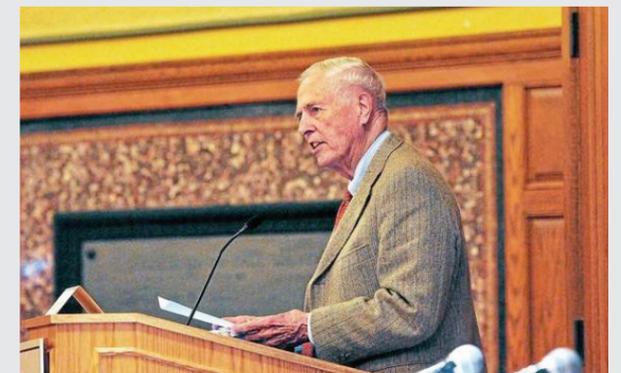
— ZACH YOUNG '17

"My favorite Buckley event this semester was with Arthur Brooks, the president of AEI. Brooks was engaging and insightful. He challenged students to think about the duty that accompanies a college degree and the sort of life we should seek to enrich ourselves, our families, and our country. The sizeable and diverse audience was evidence of the Buckley Program's growing reputation on campus as a home for serious intellectual discourse, especially as students had to battle a raging blizzard to attend the lecture. The Buckley Program has continued to be a valuable educational resource and I am excited to be helping the institution develop to better serve Yale students."

— CAROLYN HANSEN '16

"The Buckley Program continues to play an absolutely indispensable role on Yale's campus. At a time when intellectual diversity and vigorous inquiry seem increasingly rare in the academy, the Buckley Program's speaker series, fellowship opportunities, and seminars remain absolutely essential to combat the reigning liberal hegemony of the day."

— DIMITRI HALIKIAS '16



Judge James Buckley delivers opening remarks at the future of conservatism conference. Photo credit: *New Haven Register*



# The Buckley Program Welcomes Three New Directors

The Buckley Program is pleased to announce the addition of **L. Brent Bozell III**, **James Freeman '91**, and **John Spagnola '79** to its Board of Directors. We are delighted to have their wisdom and experience as we expand our efforts.



**L. Brent Bozell III** is the Founder and President of the Media Research Center, the largest media watchdog organization in America. Since its launch in 1987, the MRC has developed the largest video archive in the world; the popular NewsBusters.org blog site; the CNSNews.com internet news service; the Business and Media Institute; and the Culture and Media Institute; and in April of 2014 launched MRC Latino. In 2010,

Mr. Bozell founded ForAmerica, an organization committed to restoring America to its founding principles. In 1998, Mr. Bozell founded and was the first president of the Parents Television Council, the largest group in America dedicated to a restoring responsibility to Hollywood. He founded the Conservative Victory Committee PAC in 1987. Before founding the MRC, Mr. Bozell was the finance director and later the president of the National Conservative Political Action Committee.

Mr. Bozell's bi-weekly column is syndicated by Creators Syndicate to over 50 media outlets nationwide. His writings have also appeared in a number of other outlets including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *National Review*, and *USA Today*. He is the author of many books, including *And That's the Way It Is(n't)* (with Brent Baker), *Weapons of Mass Distortion*, and *Whitewash* (with Tim Graham). His most recent book, *Collusion: How the Media Stole the 2012 Election* (with Tim Graham), was a national bestseller. Mr. Bozell serves on numerous boards of public policy, religious and artistic organizations. He received his B.A. in History from the University of Dallas.



**James Freeman '91** is assistant editor of *The Wall Street Journal's* editorial page. He writes about business and finance among other issues and supervises the *Journal's* online opinion pages. Before joining the *Journal* in September 2007, he served as investor advocate at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, where he encouraged the transformation of financial reporting technology to benefit individual investors.

Before joining the SEC, he was the legislative and communications director for Rep. Chris Cox, working in particular on tax and Internet issues. Earlier, he created the Amazing Braino! Site on AOL's Kids Only Channel, and was the producer of the award-winning PBS series, "TechnoPolitics." He is a graduate of Yale and serves on the Board of Education of Summit, N.J.



**John Spagnola '79** graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in Political Science. He played three years of varsity football, was two-time All-Ivy First Team, and finished his career as the all-time leading receiver with 88 receptions and 1554 yards. Drafted in the 9th round by the New England Patriots, Mr. Spagnola was released at the end of training camp and picked up by the Philadelphia Eagles in

time for the season opener. Mr. Spagnola spent the majority of his pro career in Philadelphia, playing for nine seasons, eight active and starting for five seasons. In 1988, Mr. Spagnola played a year with the Seattle Seahawks and finished his career with the Green Bay Packers in 1989. During his career, he also served as a player representative and executive vice president of the NFL Players Association.

After his playing days ended, Mr. Spagnola pursued a career in broadcasting, working for ABC Sports and covering college football. For eight seasons he served as a color analyst, sideline reporter and studio analyst. He also started an investment consulting business in 1992. This company was later sold to the PFM Group where Mr. Spagnola serves as a Managing Director. Mr. Spagnola has taught courses on managing public funds for the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, St. Rose of Lima Parish, and the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

## About Us

Launched in January 2011, the mission of the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale is to promote intellectual diversity on Yale's campus. Named for *National Review* founder William F. Buckley, Jr. '50, the Program offers a speaker series, conferences, Firing Line debates, seminars, funded summer internships for Yale undergraduates, and more.

# Thank You

The Buckley Program would like to recognize those donors who contributed to our efforts between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

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# Recent Graduates Reflect

We asked some recent graduates and former Buckley fellows to reflect on the Program and its impact on their experience at Yale.

"As I have now graduated (they weren't kidding when they said the bright college years glide by swiftly!), I can see clearly the impact the presence of the Buckley Program made on my four years at Yale. The Buckley Program at Yale certainly provides incredible opportunities for Yalies to meet conservative intellectuals of all stripes. I myself have had the opportunity of having dinner with George Will, Harvey Mansfield, George Pataki, Mitch Daniels, Charles Murray, and even Buckley's two siblings James Buckley and the late Priscilla Buckley. In addition, I have met so many amazing conservative Yale alumni at the Buckley Program's annual conference, and I have gone to CPAC twice courtesy of the Buckley Program. All of these things made the Buckley Program an invaluable part of my Yale experience and education, but I believe the most important role I have seen the Buckley Program play at Yale is in its uniting us conservative students. I am only sad that I will not be at Yale to see the way the new Taft Mansion will foster further unity and friendship."

- ELIZABETH HENRY '14

"One of my favorite events that the Buckley Program has outside of its speaker series is the Buckley gala, a formal dinner event we have hosted at the Omni Hotel in New Haven that features a prominent conservative speaker. As one would expect from an event hosted by the Buckley Program, the dinner features excellent food, a classic venue, and sartorial splendor. The best part of the evening, however, is the company. The dinner brings together the diverse member's of Yale's conservative student body and faculty, as well as prominent conservative thinkers, businessmen, and politicians to mingle and discuss topics as varied as the next Presidential election and last week's episode of Mad Men. Through my involvement with the Buckley Program, the benefits which I've most enjoyed are the access it gives us to great conservative figures whom we wouldn't otherwise see on campus and the sense of security and belonging it fosters among its student fellows and members. It's been a blessing and a privilege to learn (so much) and grow amongst these brilliant young conservatives, with whom I hope to stay in touch for a long time."

- BRENDAN HARRINGTON '14

"The Buckley Program not only provided me with some of the most enjoyable evenings of those I spent at Yale - like Mitch Daniels' address at the 2012 gala and George Will's fantastic company over dinner at Union League - but architected a forum for substantial conversations that are encumbered elsewhere in the university. In the spirit of what Buckley called "honest intellectual combat," we gathered frequently to discuss virtue, responsibility, and that marvelous collection of truths at the core of liberal education. I found inspiration in the intellectual vigor of the members and guests of the program, and their combined enthusiasm always made the Buckley Program feel like the winning team."

- CATHERINE WHITTINGHILL ILLINGWORTH M.A. '13

## Contact Us

Interested in joining our e-mail list? Have a question about our programs? Please feel free to contact our executive director, Lauren Noble, at [Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com](mailto:Lauren@BuckleyProgram.com). To learn more about our efforts, you can also visit our website, [www.buckleyprogram.com](http://www.buckleyprogram.com).

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