Silliman College
Class of 2019
Undergraduate life at Yale College is organized around twelve residential colleges where students live, eat, attend seminars and workshops, and participate in intellectual, artistic, and social activities. Each college is a cohesive community with its own character and traditions. A Master and Dean live in each college with their families, and there are apartments where faculty members live as Resident Fellows.

Silliman is the largest college at Yale, occupying most of a city block. Whereas other colleges house their freshmen on Old Campus, freshmen in Silliman College and Timothy Dwight College enjoy the privilege of living in their own colleges. Silliman’s courtyard alternates as an informal athletic field, a site for college festivities, and a place for quiet repose. Over one hundred members of the faculty, staff, and administration are Fellows of Silliman, and they are invited to eat in the college dining hall and participate in college activities. The aim is to promote interchange between faculty and students.

Silliman offers a wide range of activities and is known for the enthusiasm of its students. It is a truth universally acknowledged that Silliman is the coolest college at Yale. Through participation in college activities, conversations in the dining hall, and a wide variety of social occasions, students create the intellectual and cultural atmosphere that is the foundation of college life.

What to look forward to...

This newsletter contains information about the accommodations, facilities, and activities in Silliman College. It also contains important practical information to keep in mind. You will find it a useful guide during the first days of college. Silliman is a vibrant place, alive with diverse activities, facilities, traditions, and people. Master Nicholas Christakis, Associate Master Erika Christakis, Dean Jessie Royce Hill, the staff and the students of Silliman are eager to get to know you.

Follow Silliman @Silliman2
Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864), Yale Class of 1796, was one of America’s pioneers in science. Although Silliman graduated knowing nothing of the natural sciences, President Timothy Dwight asked him (to avoid hiring a foreigner with whom Puritan manners and morals might not sit well) to become Yale’s first science professor, teaching chemistry and natural history in 1802. Silliman proved to be eminently capable and delivered Yale’s first science lecture in 1804. Soon afterward, President Dwight sent him to Europe to purchase scientific equipment, books for the College Library, and a cabinet of two thousand minerals to begin the study of mineralogy at Yale. After his return, he played a leading role in the foundation of the Yale Medical School, the Peabody Museum, and the American Journal of Science, a scientific periodical still published today. In 1852, Silliman was instrumental in the founding of the Yale School of Engineering, a pioneering event in professional scientific education in the United States. To honor such a towering figure in the history of science at Yale and in America, our college was named after Benjamin Silliman.

Silliman College opened in September of 1940. It was the last of the original ten Yale residential colleges to be completed. The Vanderbilt-Sheffield dormitories and Byers Hall (now the Common Room, Dining Hall, Sillibrary, and Master’s and Dean’s Offices), dating from the early 1900s, were retained in the plans. All of the brick structures, including the Master’s House, were built between 1938 and 1940. Over the years, our college has evolved from a dormitory intended for science students to a diverse yet cohesive residential community. Sparing its freshmen from the disorder of living on Old Campus, Silliman is the largest in area of all the colleges. Our buildings boast a tremendous array of facilities, including a movie theater, digital arts lab, art gallery, library, kitchen, aerobics and dance studio, art studio, basketball court, weight and fitness room, sound studio, game room, and buttery.

The colors in Silliman’s seal refer to the four elements of the ancient philosophers: red represents fire; white, air and water; and green, the earth. It also carries the golden acorns from the family crest of Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Yale Class of 1876, whose bequest funded Silliman’s construction. Because of its legendary associations with fire, the salamander was selected as the college symbol. Our friends call us Sillimanders.
Master Nicholas A. Christakis

Officially, Masters are charged with setting the "intellectual, social, and ethical tone of the College." On a practical level, I am here to support you, our wonderful Silliman students. I spend time trying to get to know and advise students; working with our amazing residential staff to foster college life; and hosting social and academic events. I also devote energy to anticipating needs, whether they involve space allocation, resources, or new programs to meet students' interests. Oh, and I deliver sweets at odd hours.

I'm a physician and sociologist with joint appointments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (in the Department of Sociology and of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), at Yale Medical School (in the Department of Medicine), and at SEAS (in the Department of Biomedical Engineering). For many years, I was a front-line hospice doctor taking care of terminally ill patients; nowadays, I run the Human Nature Lab (which does work in the field of biosocial science, particularly focused on social interactions and social networks), and I co-direct the Yale Institute for Network Science. I teach Sociology 126, "Health of the Public."

I want students in Silliman to feel that they can talk to me any time, about any subject. I am especially interested in getting to know you as people -- to know about your individual interests, hopes, aspirations, quandaries. As a graduate of Yale College, I have distinct memories of residential life. And as a researcher, my main objective is to learn how communities form and how they affect our lives. I hope to put all this background to use in helping Silliman students to have a stimulating and fulfilling experience during their years at Yale.

You can find me in our dining hall and courtyard. The best way to reach me is at nicholas.christakis@yale.edu.

Associate Master Erika Christakis

The role of an Associate Master is hard to define, but I stand ready to support the Silliman community in any way I can. I am an early childhood educator with a background in public health, counseling, and journalism. Currently a Lecturer in Yale’s Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy, which is part of the Yale Child Study Center in the medical school, I am excited about the ways people learn at all stages of the lifespan and am especially passionate about teaching Yale undergraduate courses in child development and early education.

A licensed teacher and former preschool director, I am a graduate of Harvard College (shhh...) and have amassed a small collection of master’s degrees in various un-lucrative but rewarding fields. I’ve also written extensively for the popular press on issues related to children, families, and culture. I am very eager to get to know "Sillimanders" and welcome a chat at any time, and about any topic.

Nicholas and I have three grownup children, and when I'm not working on child-related issues, I enjoy traveling to far-off places, and spending my down time with family in Vermont.

The best way to reach me is at erika.christakis@yale.edu
The Dean is the chief academic and personal adviser to students in the college. She oversees academic progress, advising on intellectual development through courses and internships, and supports students on personal matters.

Dean Hill has a B.A. in European History from Barnard College and a Master of Science degree from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. Prior to coming to Silliman she served as Associate Director of Yale Undergraduate Admissions for eight years, where she also directed the on-campus interviewing program (looking for a great job, rising seniors?). Dean Hill worked as a journalist for National Public Radio (NPR) and wrote and edited for newspapers in Massachusetts before coming to Yale. She teaches narrative nonfiction writing in the English Department and has been known to belt out a tune at parties upon occasion.

The Dean lives in the college on the second floor of entryway H. Her husband, Dan Goren (not Mr. Hill!), is also a recovering journalist and works as an attorney at Wiggin & Dana. When billables are up he dons his cleats on the IM soccer field. Their daughters are Lily (10) and Ada (7), and the latest addition to the family is Wilma the pup.

The Dean’s Office is located on the first floor of Byers Hall.
Freshman Counselors

These knowledgeable, kind, rad seniors have been appointed to assist and advise incoming members of the Silliman community, and to help them adjust to life at Yale. While you are assigned a counselor who lives on your floor, all of the freshman counselors are available to help you.

Entryway E
- E-21 Dan Nahum
- E-31 Jessica Hallam
- E-41 Madeline Landon

Entryway F
- F-24 Jordan Bravin
- F-34 Molly Wolf

Entryway B/A
- B-23 Merita Beriashi
- B-33 Colin Webster
- B-43 Kelsey Miller

Entryway C
- C-12 Renita Heng
- C-22 Jeremy Liu
- C-32 Maxwell Wilkinson
- C-42 Rachel Wilkinson

Writing Tutor

Elizabeth Sledge. The Writing Tutor can help students with all types of writing, but especially with course papers. She can assist at every stage of the writing process, from an outline to the final product. Visit her with your papers even if you do not have writing problems; even very talented writers can benefit. Her office is on the fourth floor of Byers Hall and her office hours will be posted in September.

Math/Science Tutor

The Math/Science Tutor provides assistance for students with questions about math and science, whether related to courses or self-generated. You may also visit tutors in other disciplines such as chemistry, biology, and molecular biology in various colleges. The Math/Science Tutor’s office is on the fourth floor of Byers Hall. Office hours are in the evenings and will be posted in September. Find more information at www.yale.edu/mstutor.
Basic Information

Shipping
When shipping boxes please use the following address:

United States Postal Service (USPS):
Your name
Your P.O. Box #
New Haven, CT 06520-last 4 digits of P.O. Box #

All Other:
Your name
Yale University
Silliman Residential College
135 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511

All students letters and boxes sent via UPS, Fedex, or any other carrier other than USPS will be picked up at 135 Prospect Street. USPS will go to the Yale Station post office. The Student Package Center at 135 Prospect is located across from the Yale Hockey Rink (aka The Whale). Always provide all the information above when sending a shipment to ensure that you get it without delays. You'll be notified by e-mail when the packages arrive.

Rooms
Room Keys: Freshman room keys (and IDs) will be available in the courtyard from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28. All students must return their room keys at the end of the year. A $25 fine is imposed by the University for lost keys or failure to return keys.

Excessive Noise: Amplifiers, speakers, musical instruments, and the like should be used with consideration for other college residents. They must not be played so loudly as to invade the rights of others. Quiet hours are in effect after 11PM Sunday-Thursday and after 1AM Friday and Saturday. Violators risk disciplinary action, and persistent offenders may be required to vacate University housing.

Pets: Unfortunately, students are not allowed to keep pets in the college.

Smoking: The colleges at Yale are smoke-free zones. Smoking is not permitted in any building in Silliman, including student rooms, entryways, etc. Please smoke outside and only where cigarette receptacles are located.

Smoke Detectors: As the first line of defense against fire, these should be operating at all times. Never remove batteries from detectors. Tampering with smoke alarms or removing the batteries is punishable by a $100 fine; this is sufficiently serious that you may also be required to vacate University housing.

Security: For your own safety, the Master and the University Police strongly urge you to keep your room locked at all times. Entryway and basement doors and the four gates to the College should also be kept locked at all times. Please do not prop doors open, and certainly not the college gates. Broken locks should be reported without delay to the Master’s Office.

Insurance: Yale University does not carry insurance on personal property and is not responsible for any items belonging to students. Insurance on property must be arranged privately.

Custodial
Facilities Superintendent — Ms. Jeanne Dechello is the Custodial Supervisor at Silliman. She is responsible for supervising the cleaning and maintenance of the entire College. All questions about maintenance, bathrooms, and furnishings should be addressed to her email or her office in the Grove Street Archway (203-432-0706).

Room Inspections: During the year, the Fire Marshal periodically makes fire and safety inspections of rooms. For reasons of health and safety, students should maintain reasonable standards of cleanliness and order in their rooms. Health and fire hazards will not be tolerated. Remember that occupants are held responsible for all property damage within the suite, including damage caused by guests. Electrical space heaters, cooking equipment, microwave ovens, and other heavy-duty electrical appliances violate the fire code and are subject to confiscation by the Fire Marshal. Explosives, firecrackers, and firearms are prohibited.
Facilities

Silliman is constantly improving its facilities and, after our recent renovations, Silliman now has some of the best in Yale College. The Master works closely with students to determine how to make Silliman even better. We’re eager to hear your ideas! Most of the facilities and activities in Silliman are coordinated and organized by students, and you’re encouraged to get involved in as many ways as you can. Just remember to be respectful of the guidelines for the space.

**Art Studio/Book Binding Room**
The art studio is located in the basement of Entryway A and is fully stocked with art supplies and book binding equipment.

**The Sillidome (Basketball Court)**
A half-court basketball court is located in the basement of Byers hall. Your room key opens the Sillidome door. Students are welcome to play during open hours. Be sure to wear sneakers!
The Buttery
Reported by our spies to be one of the best on campus, the Buttery is a student-operated late-night eatery and home to a large-screen television, assorted games, and all the fried food you could ever want. The Buttery is located in the basement of Byers Hall and is open from 10PM-1AM Sunday-Thursday. Contact the managers if you’re interested in staffing a shift.

Courtyard
Our courtyard, with its grass, old beech trees, swing, chess table, hammocks, and picnic tables is one of the glories of the college, enjoyed by all. Impromptu games of frisbee, football, stickball, volleyball, and even cricket have been known to take place here. Please help maintain it by not littering and by being careful not to destroy the grass. The Master is known to offer a premium to students who use the courtyard in inventive ways.

Common Room
The main Common Room in Byers Hall contains two Steinway parlor grand pianos. In the Dining Hall, there is a Steinway concert grand piano that is reserved for recitals. The Common Room is open for informal student use. In order to avoid conflicts in scheduling, groups who wish to use the Common Room must sign up in the Master’s Office in advance. Please put the furniture back in order at the conclusion of your meetings; those who book the Common Room are responsible for any damages.

Computer Room
Our computer room on the 3rd floor of Byers Hall, contains PCs and Macs for student use. One Mac is a desktop-publishing station with a color flatbed scanner. All computers can be used for word processing, and each is networked, allowing access to e-mail, education software, and internet services. The Student Techs (STs) are available to make sure that the computer room—and students’ personal computers—are always in working order. If you have computing questions, please contact any ST.
DANCE STUDIO
Silliman has an excellent dance studio with a sprung floor located in the basement of Byers Hall adjacent to the Game Room. Contact the dance coordinators if you want to use this room.

DIGITAL ARTS LAB
The digital arts lab, created during the 2006-2007 renovation of Silliman, is fully-equipped to edit digital photos and films. It is located on the third floor of Byers Hall. Contact the Operations Manager to arrange for access to the Digital Arts Lab.

GAME ROOM
The game room is in the basement of Byers Hall adjacent to the Buttery and houses a variety of games, such as ping-pong, air-hockey, foosball, and billiards.

LIBRARY
The “Sillibrary” is located on the third floor of Byers Hall. It offers a quiet study space and a beautiful reading room.

MAYA’S ROOM
Named in memory of Maya Hanway SM’82, Maya’s Room is the only art gallery on campus run by undergraduates. The Gallery is located on the first floor of Byers Hall. Exhibitions change frequently during the term.
**Music Practice Rooms**
Silliman has four student practice rooms. The Music rooms are located in the basement between Entryways H and I. Three of the four practice rooms contain an upright piano, whereas the fourth is the Band Room, equipped with state-of-the-art electronic gear. Keys to the Music Rooms are available in the Master’s Office. Please note that a fine is imposed on all students who do not return these keys.

**Silliflicks**
Silliflicks is Silliman’s movie and television theater. Located in the basement of Entryway C, Silliflicks boasts stadium seating, a giant projection-screen television, a full array of cable channels, a DVD player, and a collection of several hundred movies on DVDs. Silliflicks is available to all Silliman students, as long as they follow rules posted on the SM website. There are also organized events in Silliflicks, including weekly showings of popular shows, movies on weekends, and student film screenings.

**Lumry-Wengerd Sound Studio**
This state-of-the-art sound studio has been made possible through the generosity of Loren and Amanda Wengerd SM’01, Rufus and Patricia Lumry, and the Silliman Parents Fund. It is the first studio of its kind ever constructed in a university. The studio is a room within a room, able to be tuned to perfect pitch, and suitable for all types of sound recording needs.

**Sillikitchen**
Located in the basement between Entryways M and N is the expansive student kitchen, equipped with essential cooking equipment. Just remember to clean up afterwards. Your parents aren’t around, which is all the more reason to clean up.
AERBICS & WEIGHT ROOM
The gym in the basement of Byers Hall includes weight and cardio machines, free weights, and more. Many of the treadmills and bikes have individual TV screens to watch while exercising. A recent Yale Herald article named the Silliman gym the best college fitness facility at Yale!

LAUNDROMAT
There are two laundry rooms, one in the basement of Entryway M, and the other on the first floor of Entryway F. They are operated by and maintained by the Student Laundry Agency (203-432-1889).

Programs

COLLEGE SEMINARS
Each residential college sponsors seminars taught by regular faculty members or by distinguished guests. College seminars carry regular course credit in Yale College. Recent Silliman College Seminars have included “Race and Gender in Policing and Criminal Justice” and “Bioenergy,” to name a few. In the coming year, we plan to have seminars in screenwriting and other topics. The seminars are proposed and selected by a committee of students and Fellows of the College, acting in cooperation with the Master. Contact the Seminar Committee if you want to help with the interviewing and selection of instructors.

MASTER’S TEAS
The Master invites guests to the College to talk informally with students over tea at the Master’s house. We have welcomed prominent persons from the worlds of art, sports, literature, cinema, politics, science, and many other fields. Our guest list has included Jerry Greenfield (of Ben & Jerry’s), Baz Luhrman, Anna Quindlen, Kishore Mahbubani, Richard Hatch (of Survivor fame), Andrew Mondshein (acclaimed film editor) Ken Auletta (New Yorker columnist), Ken Starr, The Roots, Conan O’Brian, Martina Navratilova, Kurt Vonnegut, Michael Dukakis, Madeleine L’Engle, The Indigo Girls, Chris Bohjalian, Randy Fenoli (of Say Yes to the Dress), Bronson Pinchot, Rafi, and Denzel Washington.

Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington, known for his role in films such as The Hurricane and Training Day, was a Master’s Tea guest.

Randy Fenoli, from TLC’s "Say Yes to the Dress" and "Randy to the Rescue" is pictured here with two Silliman students before his Master’s Tea.
Activities

In Silliman, dances, films, plays, contests, concerts, receptions, and teas take place throughout the year. Announcements appear in the Master’s emails, on posters you will see on bulletin boards around Silliman, and on the Silliman website (www.silliman.yalecollege.yale.edu).

The Silliman round table, from where SAAC reigns...

SILLIMAN ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACTIVITIES COUNCIL (SAAC)
All enrolled Sillimanders are invited to become members of SAAC, and are entitled to attend meetings and vote. The Council acts as a forum for the discussion of matters important to the Silliman community, allocates the Student Activities Fund, and organizes most of the social events that take place in Silliman throughout the year. SAAC has sponsored events such as dances, a haunted house, a ski trip, a karaoke night, fellow’s dinners, a trip to Six Flags, a volleyball tournament, a trip to a baseball game, a trip to Broadway and the Apollo theatre, and a year-end carnival known as Sillifest. Come to the meetings to help plan these activities, or to suggest ones of your own. Council officers are elected each semester, and freshmen are especially encouraged to run for office. Look for signs and emails and come get involved in the ins and outs of your college. This is a great way to get to know other people, to discuss improvements to the college, and to eat free pizza, soda, and candy. Meetings are Mondays at 10:00 PM in the SAAC room.

Fall Sports: Coed and Men’s Touch Football, Men’s and Women’s Soccer, Coed Ping-Pong, Coed Tennis, Coed Volleyball, Women’s and Men’s Cross-Country, Golf.

Winter Sports: Coed Inner-管 Water Polo, Coed Ice Hockey, Men’s A, B & C Basketball, Women’s Basketball, Men’s and Women’s Volleyball, Men’s and Women’s Swimming, Coed Bowling, Men’s and Women’s Squash.


Intramurals
Get in touch with the secretaries, and try to play at least one sport each season. It's good for you and is a great way to meet people. Play soccer against Pierson or inner tube water polo against JE! All students — regardless of ability — are invited to defend the Silliman banner against other colleges in intramural competitions. The college that scores the most points in Intramural competition is awarded the prestigious Tyng Cup. You don’t have to know how to play: we will explain the rules of the game to you, so don’t be shy! It’s a wonderful opportunity to have fun and take a break from studying. Check the IM white board in Byers Hall for announcements and schedules, and to see which sports are in season. IM secretaries are listed on the Silliman website, so feel free to contact the secretaries for more information.

The 2012 Intramural Ping-Pong Champions!
Sillirgingers

James Osborn, a former Fellow of Silliman, gave the College a magnificent set of Schulmerich handbells which offer a chromatic range of three full octaves. Anyone interested in performing in a group with these handbells should contact the Master’s Office. Performances by the Silliringers — who, in the words of former Master Brownell, “practice for minutes and minutes” before performing — is a holiday tradition.

Sillisibs

Each year, some upperclassmen volunteer to be “Sillisibs” for incoming freshmen, and you too will be a part of a “Silli-family.” Towards the beginning of the year, there will be a social event in Silliman for Sillisibs to get to know one another. Towards the end of the year, there will be an opportunity for you to extend your Silli-family and volunteer to be a Sillisib to someone in the Class of 2020.

TIES

Tutoring in Elementary Schools (TIES) is the largest community service organization at Yale. Founded in 1990 by a junior in Silliman, it has since spread to every other residential college. Silliman’s TIES volunteers may choose either to tutor a child at Celentano, the elementary school with which Silliman is affiliated, or to teach an after-school class there through the Extended Day program.

Fellows

Silliman College has over 100 Fellows — faculty members — representing most of the departments and schools of the University. There are also over 100 Associate Fellows — distinguished members of the New Haven community. The Fellowship offers the faculty an opportunity for greater contact with students. A Silliman Fellow will serve as your freshman academic advisor. They also give seminars, join the students for social occasions, and participate in many events in the College. Experience has shown that members of the faculty and student-body are reluctant to impose upon one another, but the barriers of reserve are easily removed if you take the initiative. Invite a Fellow to join you for a meal — he or she will probably be delighted to accept.

The College also provides a relaxed atmosphere where members of different departments can become acquainted. A physicist and a classicist may find that they have much in common and become fast friends. These interludes are significant in building unity and spirit within the University and in making it an exciting place to work — all of which results in a stronger faculty, to the ultimate benefit of the students.

Silliman also has two residential Faculty Fellows. This year, they are Amin Karbasi, Assistant Professor or Electrical Engineering at SEAS, and his wife Marjan Karbasi; and Jason Hirschhorn, Instructor in Computer Science.
Students representing Silliman at the Freshman Olympics!

Sillimanders dressed up for Halloween (above and upper right) and enjoying food at our end of year party in the courtyard (bottom right)
Dates to Remember

August 28: Residences open to freshmen

August 28 - September 6: Freshman Orientation

August 29: Freshman BBQ

September 1: Freshman Dinner

September 2: Fall-term classes begin

September 25-27: Family Weekend

October 21-23: October recess

November 21: November recess begins

December 11: Classes end, 5:30 p.m.; Reading Period begins

December 17: Final examinations begin, 9 a.m.

December 23: Examinations end, 5:30 p.m.; Winter recess begins

Check out [http://silliman.yalecollege.yale.edu](http://silliman.yalecollege.yale.edu) for news, information, pictures, and more!

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