



Gerald Clark

Business and Community Leader

Gerald Clark is the President of the Greater New Haven Business and Professional Association, the “chamber of commerce” for the African-American business community and a long-time leader in the Dixwell neighborhood. As the oldest African-American professional association in the city, Mr. Clark continues the Association’s commitment to economic empowerment throughout the region.

Under his direction the center has helped provide small and minority-owned businesses with training, education and small-business support. He has helped build bridges between the Dixwell neighborhood and Yale community and champion minority participation in economic development along the Dixwell Avenue corridor. The renaissance of Dixwell owes much to his steadfastness of purpose and vision. He combines persistence with patience and by the power of his own example inspires others to get involved, stay involved, and get the job done.

In recognition of his commitment to economic development and strengthening neighborhoods, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will now present Gerald Clark with an Elm Award.



Claire Criscuolo

Entrepreneur and Community Builder

Claire Criscuolo has been a vibrant part of the New Haven and Yale community for three decades through her devoted work as founder, owner, and operator of Claire's Corner Copia. Located at the nexus of town and gown at Chapel and College Streets, the restaurant brings people together with a consistent combination of high-quality, healthy, and reasonably priced food. Claire and her husband, Frank, will celebrate 30 years in business in September, making theirs the longest-running, family-owned vegetarian restaurant in the nation.

Claire's spirit is infectious. Her restaurant reflects her friendliness and openness. Thousands and thousands of Yalies have enjoyed the culinary delights provided by this vivacious institution, going there for meetings, dates, birthdays, and more. Her lasting impact is seen by the number of alumni who return to Claire's when they visit campus as well as by those who seek her out to tell their own favorite "Claire's story" when she speaks in other cities.

But Claire is more than just a chef and businesswoman. She is a community activist who shares her talents with organizations devoted to young people and health care, and she has been a catalyst for New Haven's growing organic food movement. Claire also generously sponsors numerous Yale student organizations with donations of food and advertisement. And she is a devoted champion for New Haven, reflected most recently in her investment in opening Basta on Chapel Street.

For the joy she brings to campus and community through her delicious food and for the inspiration she provides by giving back to her hometown, President Levin and Mayor DeStefano will now present Claire Criscuolo with an Elm Award.

May 2, 2005



Daniel Diaz

Community Cultural Activist

Daniel Diaz freely admits, “I am love with two places – New Haven and Puerto Rico.” Since moving to New Haven in 1979 at the age of 14, speaking no English, he has seen New Haven grow and accommodate the needs of the city’s changing population.

Concerned about the integration of Latino and Spanish-speaking communities into New Haven’s mainstream civic and cultural institutions, he served as the president of the board of Junta for Progressive Action in Fair Haven and was the catalyst for rejuvenating Junta’s building, staff, and programs. It is now a revitalized center that serves thousands each year and enjoys growing partnerships with students and staff members from Yale, including the annual Fiesta Latina with the Yale Peabody Museum.

With pro bono help from the Yale Law School, Danny and his partner, David Greco, founded the nonprofit, Arte, Inc. to use art to bridge cultural divides. Though a new organization, Arte has become a vital part of the local cultural scene, hosting visual art exhibitions at venues across town, including space borrowed from Yale University Properties. Arte has held arts workshops, produced a play by an Argentine playwright, sponsored the first-ever exhibit of Latino art and culture at the New Haven Historical Society and provided more than \$5,000 in scholarships for study and materials to ten Latino artists – most of them young students.

In recognition of his work in building bridges and using the arts to strengthen the community, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present Danny Diaz with an Elm Award.



Doris Dumas

NAACP

Doris Dumas has provided ten years of dedicated service on the staff at Yale University, now working as is a Clinical Practice Specialist in the Department of Anesthesiology. Her dedication in the workplace is matched by a dedication to serving her community and she embodies the University's tradition of celebrating cultural enrichment and understanding.

Doris is an officer of the Greater New Haven Branch of the NAACP, the largest branch in New England of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. She is unstinting in her service, serving on committees, organizing events, and doing any and all of the behind the scenes work necessary to keep the NAACP a vibrant force in the public.

Doris also helps connect the Yale campus and the broader community. This year, as but one example, she helped organize the Martin Luther King Celebration at the Wexler Grant School and worked with Yale Peabody Museum to support Yale's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration.

For service to the NAACP and many other community organizations, President Levin and Mayor DeStefano will now present Doris Dumas with an Ivy Award.



Victoria Nolan

Managing Director of the Yale School of Drama and the Yale Repertory Theatre

Victoria Nolan has been a leader in the Yale School of Drama and the Yale Repertory Theatre for a dozen years. Throughout, she has also been an active citizen in New Haven and a leader in helping nurture the community's role as the cultural capital of Connecticut.

Community outreach from the School of Drama and Yale Rep has reached new heights with Vicki's leadership and support. The Dwight-Edgewood Project has become a well-rooted and much-beloved community program that brings together students from the Yale School of Drama with neighborhood young people, many of whom enjoy their first experience with the theater in this program.

Thousands of young people have been introduced to Shakespeare's work through WillPower, which provides teacher workshops and special matinee performances for school groups. Vicki has also made the theater more accessible to new audiences through support for an innovative audio description program for the blind.

Vicki's community service includes stalwart leadership of the Arts Industry Coalition, which unites New Haven arts institutions and promotes their shared interests.

In recognition of how she has brought the Yale Rep and the Yale School of Drama into the community and how she has welcomed New Haven on to the Yale campus, President Levin and Mayor DeStefano will now present Victoria Nolan with an Ivy Award.

May 2, 2005



Ainissa Ramirez

Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Ainissa Ramirez discovered what some have called a “holy grail” of metallurgy: a universal solder that can bond metals to ceramics, glass, diamonds, and particularly the oxide materials used in semiconductor fabrication. Her solder will impact the electronics, optoelectronics, and MEMS industries and has led to her being recognized as one of the world’s top 100 young innovators by the *Technology Review* magazine.

A staunch advocate for improving the quality of science education, Ainissa dedicates herself to changing the public’s understanding of science by finding ways to get lay audiences excited about science. This year Ainissa contributed her time and talents to establishing a program called Science Saturdays. The program offers a series of engaging lectures by Yale researchers for the general public.

Her intelligence and enthusiasm benefits all who come in contact with her, whether they are her colleagues at Yale University, New Haven Public School teachers, pupils and their parents, or college volunteers.

In recognition of her work to bring Yale scientists and the public together and to provide opportunities for all to learn about the magic and majesty of science, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present Ainissa Ramirez with an Ivy Award.



Thomas Whitaker

Frederick W. Hilles Professor Emeritus of English, Professor Emeritus of Theater Studies

Professor Thomas Whitaker is an accomplished scholar, teacher, writer, and leader among the Yale faculty. In addition to his success as a professor, Tom has been amongst the most active citizens of New Haven, providing valuable service to the community and inspiring his peers on the faculty to join him in this work.

For the past 25 years, he has contributed significantly through the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute. Professor Whitaker has led thirteen seminars in the Institute – five more than any other individual on the faculty. These seminars have assisted dozens of New Haven teachers in developing curriculum units and honing their own teaching skills to better serve thousands of New Haven public school students.

In addition to setting an unmatched pace as an Institute seminar leader, Tom has been a tireless worker behind the scenes through his service as a member and co-chair of the Institute's University Advisory Council and its executive committee. In this role, he has recruited and recommended many other members of the Yale faculty who have themselves led seminars for New Haven school teachers. His service also includes the documentation of the Institute's national work and the leadership of the editorial board of *On Common Ground*, the Institute's nationally circulated journal.

Beyond his contributions to the public schools, Tom has been a loyal volunteer with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic and has served on the board of the Long Wharf Theatre.

In recognition of his quarter century of service to the New Haven and Yale through the Teacher's Institute, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will now present Professor Thomas Whitaker with an Ivy Award.



Sean Glass, Miles Lasater, Mark Volchek

Entrepreneurs

Sean Glass, Miles Lasater, and Mark Volchek are, respectively, graduates of the Yale College classes of 2003, 2001, and 2000. Five years ago these students were studying for finals while juggling responsibilities at Higher One, a company they had just founded to serve universities and their students. They are three examples of how Yale student entrepreneurship can have a positive economic impact for the City of New Haven.

Higher One is based on the combination of three ideas: providing purchasing power with the student ID card, creating simple online banking focused on students, and helping universities make financial disbursements more efficiently. Sean, Miles, and Mark decided created a company that provides services that enable students to bank with convenience and simplicity, while helping universities function more efficiently, thereby helping them save money. In five short years, these three have raised over \$6 million in startup funding, and now run a company that employs 41 people in New Haven with contracts at 21 universities serving over 100,000 student cardholders.

While they were students, Sean, Miles and Mark also founded the Yale Entrepreneurial Society to encourage and support student entrepreneurship. YES is now one of the largest student organizations on campus and holds an annual competition which awards seed money to help support startups, many of which choose to headquarter in New Haven.

For their efforts in promoting economic development and creating jobs and taxes which help support city services and a strong private sector economy, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will now present Sean Glass, Miles Lasater and Mark Volchek with Elm Awards.



Jonathan Farmer
Timothy Dwight College, Class of 2005

Jonathon Farmer is a true champion of educational opportunities for the children of New Haven. He has spent the past two summers in New Haven working on behalf of the city's youth.

As a Presidents Public Service Fellow, he designed and implemented children's programs at the New Haven Reads Free Community Book Bank. Last summer, Jonathan led the Ulysses S. Grant Program and as director breathed new life into one of Yale University's oldest programs.

Since 1953, Grant has drawn on the experience and enthusiasm of Yale undergraduates to challenge students so they can acquire the academic preparation and skills they will need to enter and succeed in college, while also helping students to excel in their current school environment. Jonathan created an environment for 65 middle school students that was exciting, special, safe and secure. Over the course of the summer students built their own rockets, learned algebra, mastered chess, slept in the woods, painted great murals, learned to write, listened to Mozart and read great books.

In recognition of his work on behalf of young people in New Haven, President Levin and Mayor DeStefano will present Jonathan Farmer with an Ivy Award.



Baolu Lan

Ezra Stiles College, Class of 2006

When Baolu Lan describes walking in to Sterling Library for the first time she recalls that she trembled with joy. The daughter of a Chinese academic she and her family immigrated to America when she was six years old. Her father took whatever jobs he could find in South Bend Indiana to support his young family. When she was in middle school her public school principal recognized her gifts and later helped her to apply and earn a scholarship to Phillips Academy Andover.

Baolu's commitment to give back the community she finds runs deep. She joined America Reads as a tutor the first semester of her freshman year at Yale University and clearly demonstrated her passion and gift for working with young children. At the end of that year she was hired as the programs youngest co-coordinator. She has served in this role for the past two years and will continue next year. Through this program, hundreds of Yale students have served as literacy tutors in the New Haven Public Schools.

In recognition of her commitment to social justice and educational opportunity, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present Baolu Lan with an Ivy Award.