The 50th Anniversary Weekend Program

A brief overview of the weekend’s schedule as it stands to date is available below:

**THURSDAY:** For classmates who arrive early, an informal program during the afternoon and evening is planned: a variety of tours of campus spaces and museums, an open house for the exhibit on coeducation in Sterling Memorial Library, and a panel of current Yale College students. This will be followed by an early evening reception with Yale Deans and faculty, hosted by Mory’s, and a casual buffet dinner at Pauli Murray College with time to connect with friends and classmates. The evening will end with “Movie Night” – popcorn included – and the screening of a number of classic short films about coeducation at Yale.

**FRIDAY** begins with an examination of the history of Yale’s decision to admit women undergraduates, including the process/events/reaction surrounding this transformation. Margaret Warner ’71; former Chief Global Affairs Correspondent, PBS NewsHour will moderate. Panelists include Nancy Malkiel, Dean Emeritus, Princeton and the author of “Keep the Damned Women Out.”

Late morning brings a presentation of the Survey of the Women in the Classes of ’71, ’72, ’73; we expect there will be a lot to learn about who we were and who we are – and maybe even a few surprises.

Friday afternoon will feature a panel, led by Yale Professor Beverly Gage, a historian of 20th-century American history, exploring Yale and society in the 60’s and how men and women navigated the world in which coeducation occurred. Panelists will include classmates, historians, and astute observers of the era such as journalist, Linda Greenhouse.

Late afternoon highlights include a tea hosted by Marta Moret at the President’s House celebrating the founding of the cultural centers at Yale, and encore opportunities to participate in the “Women at Yale: A Tour,” explore the “new” Yale campus and the new residential colleges with student guides, experience Yale’s museums, or attend the open house for the coeducation exhibit at Sterling.

There’s a festive evening reception and buffet dinner where classmates can mingle and share stories. And after dinner, a “fireside chat” with Sam Chauncey, a central figure in the administration of the day who was instrumental in shaping coeducation at Yale, caps the evening.

**SATURDAY** begins with a breakfast hosted by President Salovey and Marta Moret at the President’s House before moving to a morning program of discussion and reflection by classmates on the experience of the first years of coeducation. The moderator for the session is Anne Perkins, author of the forthcoming book, “Yale Needs Women: How the First Group of Girls Rewrote the Rules of an Ivy League Giant.”

Afternoon events feature a thoughtful program entitled “Why Coeducation Matters” with opening remarks by President Salovey, and moderated by Karen Lawrence ’71, President of The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, and former President of Sarah Lawrence College. Panelists include Marvin Chun, Dean of Yale College; Richard Brodhead, former president of Duke and former Dean of Yale College; Catharine Hill, Senior Trustee of the Yale Corporation, Director of Ithaka S&R, and former President of Vassar; and Kim Goff-Crews, Secretary and Vice President for Student Life at Yale.
A spirited commemorative program follows, showcasing live performances, mixed with video, narration, and imagery that reflect on and celebrate our time at Yale. Immediately afterward, at the dedication of the “Threshold Stone” at Phelps Gate, we will mark the anniversary with spoken words by Elizabeth Alexander, poet, essayist, playwright and President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the unveiling of a tablet honoring the women who came to Yale in 1969.

A memorable evening completes the day: a gala dinner with remarks by President Salovey, to which classmates are welcome to bring a pre-registered guest, will segue to a lively “block party” on Old Campus where we will celebrate the anniversary with music, dancing, and cheer in the company of Yale College Students.

**SUNDAY:** A nondenominational Service of Remembrance for classmates begins the morning, followed by a farewell brunch – and the invitation to return to campus for an array of *50 Women at Yale* 150 events, performances, and exhibitions that will take place throughout the 2019-2020 year.