

# AYA Assembly LXXI Report

Bud Preston, *AYA Delegate, Class of 1958*

*The Yale PhD: 150 Years of Leadership for Yale and the World*  
*November 17-19, 2011*



**Thursday.** Assembly LXXI honored the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the first PhD in North America by the Yale Graduate School and celebrated the remarkable legacy of educating those who have become leaders not only in teaching, research and education administration, but also in government, business, nonprofit work and so much more. The Assembly also considered the progress and future directions of the strategic plan for the AYA.

AYA Board and Assembly Chair Michael Madison '83 welcomed delegates and guests, gave his thoughts on the milestone being celebrated and introduced our moderator, Jon Butler, former dean of the Yale Graduate School. We then heard outstanding remarks from a panel which included a leader from each of the Graduate School's three divisions: Social Studies, Science and Engineering and Humanities.

Breakout Sessions were then held in each of the above three areas lead by PhD students. Gail and I attended a Humanities School

of Music Breakout Session: *The Myths Behind Oklahoma!* lead by Jamie O'Leary, PHD '11. In this session, illustrated by slides of rare archival items housed in the Beinecke Library Jamie O'Leary lead us in exploring the myths behind *Oklahoma!!* and why they exist today. Truly an outstanding presentation!

Perhaps the highlight of the day's presentations was the ***Doctorate Without Borders*** chaired by Dean of the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Thomas Pollard who opened by sharing his perspective on current efforts to improve graduate education at Yale. Fortunately there are videos posted herein allowing you to share in his presentation and those of members on the panel. Most interesting and well worth listening to them. Click on the link or copy and paste to your Internet connection.

Thomas Pollard

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gddUIqjXvvU>

Eric Fossum

Primary inventor of the CMOS image sensor used in digital cameras

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAW51Z6MXL4>

Joan Stewart

President of Hamilton College

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5NyQtvsKPE>

Jonathon Fanton

Former President of the MacArthur Foundation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dPDv9Izymg>

President Ernesto Zedillo

Yale Center for the Study of Globalization

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPrMfOLiq30>

**Thursday night.**The Yale Medal Dinner. The Yale Medal Inaugurated in 1952 is the highest award presented by the Association of Yale Alumni, conferred solely to honor outstanding individual service to the University. This year's honorees were: the Rev. Robert Beloin; Willard W. Britain, Jr. '70; Katherine Edersheim '87; Terry M. Holcombe '64 and John N. Scales '54.

**Friday** was dedicated to various Yale alumni programs and workshops serving various university and community needs.

**Friday night** Gail and I were invited to the Yale Athletics Blue Leadership Ball and George H.W. Bush '48 Lifetime of Leadership Award Presentations. This event honors alumni athletes who, in their lives after Yale, have made significant leadership contributions in their worlds of governance, commerce, science and technology, education, public service, and the arts and media. Each honoree is chosen by a broadly representative alumnus Honors Committee, based upon the candidates' individual lifetime leadership contributions in their respective fields. All have been graduated for more than 20 years and exemplify Yale's rich athletic heritage as an important component of the undergraduate educational experience. Among this year's honorees, and the first so honored posthumously, was our own **Jack Embersits**. Yes, there were tears in our eyes in hearing Jack so deservedly honored.

**Saturday:** *The Game*. Richie Case's Tailgate Extravaganza, as always such a delight, is all that we choose to remember on this November afternoon. Do not even want to report the score.

For the latest news of AYA visit their web site <http://www.aya.yale.edu/>

Respectfully submitted,  
Bud Preston

