

Puneet Batra '02 MS

Puneet Batra's dedication to the Yale Alumni Service Corps has been extraordinary. As chair of YASC — an alumni-run initiative that organizes service-based trips promoting sustainable development in underserved communities around the world — he has shown an uncanny ability to manage complex programs, such as YASC's summer service trips to Ghana in 2013 and India in 2014. As producer of these ventures he oversaw planning, marketing, logistics, budget, recruiting, communications and project management with skill and enthusiasm. He focused not only on practical ways of helping the communities visited but also on instilling a passion in his fellow alumni for the transformative joy in serving others.

Ruth Botsio '09

Ruth Botsio has been a true "Ambassador for Yale" in Ghana. She was a lead planner for the summer 2013 "Success to Significance" conference in Accra, cosponsored by the Yale Club of Ghana, the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale and the AYA, and was key organizer for the Yale Concert Band's visit to Ghana this past May to perform in support of the Ghana-Yale Partnership for Global Health. She helped coordinate last year's Yale Alumni Service Corps trip to Ghana, and has overseen student mentoring projects in both Accra and London. Upon hearing of a young man living in a remote fishing village who had received top scores on his high school exams, she personally brought college admissions officers to meet him, acting on behalf of the Yale Club of Ghana and its mission to be of service to the community.

Amber Edwards '82

Amber Edwards is the kind of powerhouse alumna who could only have emerged in "the new AYA." Her passion is American musical theater, and in 2012 she conceived and co-organized the "Cole Porter at 100" centenary celebration on campus whose success subsequently inspired her to found the Yale Musical Theater of the Air. In January 2014 the YMTA brought together over 100 alumni from Yale College, the School of Drama and the School of Music, as well as current undergraduates, faculty and staff, to mount two concert performances of "My Fair Lady" at the Shubert Theater for audiences of over 1,800 people. This unique enterprise demonstrates how the AYA Awards for Volunteer Innovation & Service aspiration of "a more unified Yale" can be achieved in innovative ways by engaging a broad and talented group from the Yale family.

Serena Flaherty '99, '06 MSN

Serena Flaherty remembers that back in 2006, when she was about to earn her MSN degree, she felt the lack of a mentor she could turn to for encouragement and advice. Years later, after joining the board of the Yale School of Nursing Alumni Association, she oversaw the creation of YSNAA's first mentoring initiative, which matched alumni with students in similar specialties. Through this now-permanent program, job connections have been made, friendships have blossomed, students have found confidence starting careers as nurse practitioners, and hundreds of YSN alumni across the globe have been re-engaged. As she steps into her new role as board president this fall, Serena has plans to build the program further and connect even more alumni back to Yale.

William A. Kolber '86

Even before joining the board of the Yale Alumni Association of New York a few years ago, Billy Kolber had a long record of engagement as a volunteer through YaleGALA and his singing groups. But he will now be remembered as the creator of Foodtober, a month-long festival of food-related events in October 2013 that brought YAANY into collaboration with numerous shared-interest groups, alumni organizations and community partners. Touching on food culture, creation, politics, business, media, history and science, Foodtober encompassed 16 events that attracted over 500 participants and raised \$7,000 for the Yale Sustainable Food Project and local nonprofits. The festival is becoming an annual item on YAANY's calendar, and Billy is using it to cultivate other alumni leaders, even outside New York.

Benjamin Slotznick '70, '73 Dra

The Yale Global Alumni Leadership Exchange (YaleGALE), an AYA initiative that brings alumni leaders from Yale and other universities together to discuss best practices in alumni relations, has found an enthusiastic proponent in Ben Slotznick. As the producer for YaleGALE's European tour this past spring, he organized major conferences in four cities and coordinated collaboration with Yale Clubs, consulates, universities and other groups in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Starting last year he has also been the producer of YaleGALE@Yale, an annual symposium held in conjunction with the AYA Assembly attended by 30 participants from 14 institutions in 10 countries. In addition, he is president of the Yale Alumni Association of Central Pennsylvania, and has served as reunion chair for the Class of 1970.