Who We Were, Who We Are, Where We’re Headed

The Yale Class of '69
50th Reunion Survey

Tom Guterbock, SM ’69
TomG@virginia.edu

Mike Baum, TD ‘69
mhbaum@gmail.com
Point the browser on your smartphone or tablet to: 
www.questionpress.com/guterbock

You should see a message saying “No Open Session.”
With thanks to:
Reed Hundt, JP Jordan, Rich Tedlow, Wayne Willis;
The Reunion Triune;
The staff of the UVA Center for Survey Research;
Authors of the Class of ‘68 survey;
And to all the classmates who responded!
How the survey was done

• Drafted Fall/Winter 2017
• 9 sections plus Moral Foundations questionnaire
  • Some questions chosen for comparison to national polls
• Fully anonymous protocol
• Sent early 2018: emails, letters, then phone reminders
• Closed March 1, 2018
• 924 living class members; 579 responses
  • (63% of the list, about 70% of those with valid contact info)
• Margin of sampling error +/- 2.5 points
  • All residential colleges well represented
Overview

- Who we were
- Our values then
- What’s happened to us
- Our health
- Who we are
- Live political poll results
- Religious views
- Relationship with Yale
- About our underwear
- Where we’re headed
“Who we were”
What kind of high school did you graduate from?

- Public, 54%
- Private residential school, 27%
- Private day school, 19%
- Other (please specify), 0%
In which area was your major at Yale?

- Humanities: 53%
- Social sciences: 26%
- Natural sciences, math: 11%
- Arts, Music, Drama: 4%
- Admin Science or Econ: 2%
- Engineering: 2%
- Architecture: 1%
We did not ask . . .

Did you major in beer?

1962 Tang Cup competition
Back in the day, what activities did you participate in?

- College Sport Team: 41%
- Senior Society: 36%
- Fraternity: 25%
- Varsity Sport Team: 24%
- Local Volunteer: 20%
- Singing/Music Group: 17%
- Campus-wide Publication: 14%
- Political Union: 13%
Gender in 1969

100% Male
Tobacco and marijuana

• Based on our class survey, we can estimate that:
  • 45 percent of us smoked tobacco in our college years
  • 64 percent of us smoked marijuana in our youth
    • not necessarily in our time at Yale
General opinion about Yale then (1969):

- Very Positive: 45%
- Mostly Positive: 39%
- Somewhat Positive: 9%
- Neutral: 2%
- Somewhat Negative: 4%
- Mostly Negative: 1%
- Very Negative: 0%
“What finer place, what finer time, what finer friends could there ever have been?”

--Tom McNamee’s ClassBook essay, “Time & Change”
Our values then
LIBERAL VS. CONSERVATIVE IN 1969

- Liberal, 34%
- Extremely Liberal, 19%
- Slightly Liberal, 15%
- Moderate, 15%
- Slightly Conservative, 7%
- Conservative, 11%
- Extremely Conservative, 1%
PARTY AFFILIATIONS IN 1969

- Strong Democrat: 55%
- Weak Democrat: 9%
- Lean Democrat: 11%
- Independent: 6%
- Lean Republican: 6%
- Weak Republican: 6%
- Strong Republican: 7%
Vietnam.
Which statement best sums up your attitude toward the war in 1969?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immoral</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not immoral but a mistake</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not immoral or a mistake but fought the wrong way</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A noble cause</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DID WE BELIEVE IN GOD IN 1969?

- Yes, absolutely certain, 16%
- Yes, fairly certain, 22%
- Not very certain, 27%
- Don't know, 7%
- No, 28%
Yes, absolutely certain, 16%
Yes, fairly certain, 22%
Not very certain, 27%
No, 28%
Don't know, 7%

Nationally in 1969, only ~5% did not believe in God.
How would you describe your religious affiliation in 1969?
(6 most common responses)

- **Mainline Protestant** (42%)
- **Jewish** (20%)
- **Roman Catholic** (11%)
- **Agnostic** (8%)
- **Atheist** (7%)
- **Spiritual, no church** (5%)

[Graph showing the percentages for each affiliation]
How would you describe your religious affiliation in 1969? (6 most common responses)

- Mainline Protestant: 42%
- Jewish: 20%
- Roman Catholic: 11%
- Agnostic: 8%
- Atheist: 7%
- Spiritual, no church: 5%

Yale has the highest percentage of Jewish students among US colleges (Hillel)
HOW IMPORTANT WAS RELIGION IN 1969?

- Very important, 11%
- Somewhat important, 19%
- Not too important, 32%
- Not important at all, 37%
Afterlife belief in 1969

- Believe, absolutely certain: 11%
- Believe, fairly certain: 16%
- Don't believe: 44%
- Don't know: 28%
“What’s happened to us?”

Significant life events
US military service

- Was drafted and served: 3%
- Volunteered (Active Duty): 14%
- Volunteered (NG/Reserves): 7%
- 4F or other deferment: 34%
- High lottery number: 29%
- Avoided some other way: 11%
- US draft didn't apply: 1%

Avoided some other way: 11%

High lottery number: 29%

4F or other deferment: 34%

Volunteered (Active Duty): 14%

Was drafted and served: 3%
How many times have you been married?

- Never: 5%
- Once: 59%
- Twice: 32%
- Three times: 4%

84% of respondents are currently married.

About 3% of classmates came out as gay at some point in their life.

As a class, we’ve been married to an estimated 1171 people.
Be Fruitful and Multiply

• As a class, we’ve had an estimated:
  • 1,749 children
  • 468 stepchildren
  • 1,888 grandchildren
  • 511 step-grandchildren
  • 121 great-grandchildren
  • 95 step-great-grandchildren

. . . Total offspring as of Spring 2018: 4,832
Were you ever fired or laid off?

- No, 63%
- Once, 20%
- Twice, 11%
- Several times, 6%
12 most common fields we’ve worked in since graduation

- Education: 30%
- Law: 27%
- Healthcare: 19%
- Finance: 15%
- Business: 15%
- Government: 13%
- IT/Computers: 11%
- Research: 10%
- Media/communications: 8%
- Construction: 6%
- Manufacturing: 6%
- Entertainment: 6%

55% of people entered their chosen career and stayed with it.
What advanced degrees do you have?

Advanced Degrees

- Master's degree: 21%
- MBA: 13%
- JD: 26%
- Medical degree: 13%
- PhD or Doctorate: 15%
- BA/BS only: 13%
Other stuff that happened

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Since graduation, have you ever...</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Published a book or article in a scholarly journal?</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published regularly in the media, print or electronic?</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Won an election?</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cong. John Yarmouth

Mayor Kevin McKeown
“How did we do?”

Looking back on our lives and careers

• About 50% of us started a business at some point.
  • About 5% have taken a company public.

• 23% have sat on boards of for-profit companies

• 62% have sat on boards of non-profit organizations

• 5% served with Peace Corps or some other volunteer initiative for 6 months or more at some point.
What's your household net worth today?

- $< 500k, 9% 
- $500k - $1m, 11% 
- $1m - $5m, 43% 
- $5m - $10m, 19% 
- $10m - $25m, 13% 
- > $25m, 6%

Our estimated median household net worth is $3.7 million.
Now some questions for you . . .

On your tablet or smartphone, point your browser to

www.questionpress.com/guterbock

The survey is anonymous. Nobody’s answers are identifiable.

In a few minutes, we’ll look at how the group answered today . . .
“How are we?”

Health and health issues
Body Mass Index: then and now
A standard obesity measure calculated from self-reported height and weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Class in 1969</th>
<th>Class in 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Underweight</strong></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 18.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normal Weight</strong></td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.5-24.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overweight</strong></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Obese</strong></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 and above</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Body Mass Index
A standard obesity measure calculated from self-reported height and weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Class in 1969</th>
<th>Class in 2018</th>
<th>College educated US males aged 65-75</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Weight</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About how many pills do you take every day?

- 53% take 1-5 pills a day
- 26% take 6-10 pills a day
- 15% take none
- 6% take more than 10 pills

Half take 5 or more pills a day.

Who's counting?
What serious ailments have you had in your life?

- High blood pressure: 46%
- Arthritis: 25%
- Heart trouble: 23%
- Cancer: 22%
- Type 2 diabetes: 9%
- Autoimmune disease: 7%
- Stroke: 4%
- HIV/AIDS: 1%

Only 1% of respondents say they are in poor health.
Have sex?

- About once a month: 31%
- About once a week: 23%
- More frequently than once a week: 7%
- Who's counting?: 10%

36% of respondents who have sex use medication regularly to help with sex.
Speaking of health . . .

Owning a pet could be good for your mental health.
So let’s look at our pet ownership live results.
Which of the following pets do you currently have in your household?

- No Response (15) 17%
- Dog (26) 30%
- Cat (12) 14%
- Bird (2) 2%
- Fish (0) 0%
- Small mammal (0) 0%
- Reptile (0) 0%
- other (0) 0%
- NO CURRENT PETS (30) 35%

69 Responses
From the full class survey . . .

Pets we’ve had since 1969

- Dogs: 66%
- Cats: 48%
- Birds: 11%
- Fish: 16%
- Small Mammals: 11%
- Reptiles: 5%
- None: 15%
Percent “Very Happy”
(National data)

Happiness is a warm dog
Percent saying they're "very happy," by type of pet owned

- Dog only: 36%
- Dog & cat: 28%
- Cat only: 18%

Source: General Social Survey, 2018

THE WASHINGTON POST
“Who we are”

Personal changes from then to now.
Smoking habits or lack thereof.

- Never smoked: 55%
- Used to smoke, but quit and didn't start again: 40%
- Still do occasionally: 4%
- Did and never quit: 1%
- Quit so many times I've lost track: 0%

45% of the class has smoked at one point in their life.
Pot patterns - use of marijuana.

- Never used it (no, really), 36%
- Did back then but quit, 50%
- Use occasionally for recreation, 8%
- Use regularly for recreation, 3%
- Use for medical purposes, 2%
Vietnam.
Which statement best sums up your attitude toward the war, looking back?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It was fundamentally wrong and immoral</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was not immoral but a mistake</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It could have been won but we lost the political will to win it</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was not immoral but was lost because we fought it in the wrong way</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attitudes towards Vietnam War

- Not immoral or mistake: 13% (1969), 11% (Now)
- Mistake (not immoral): 40% (1969), 46% (Now)
- Immoral: 41% (1969), 48% (Now)
Liberal vs conservative—then and now

![Bar chart showing the distribution of political views in 1969 and today.](image-url)

- **Extremely Liberal**: 19% (1969) vs 18% (Today)
- **Liberal**: 34% (1969) vs 35% (Today)
- **Slightly Liberal**: 15% (1969) vs 15% (Today)
- **Moderate**: 15% (1969) vs 14% (Today)
- **Slightly Conservative**: 7% (1969) vs 7% (Today)
- **Conservative**: 11% (1969) vs 11% (Today)
- **Extremely Conservative**: 3% (1969) vs 1% (Today)
Party Affiliation—then and now

- **Strong Democrat**: 55% in 1969, 50% today
- **Weak Democrat**: 9% in 1969, 11% today
- **Lean Democrat**: 11% in 1969, 13% today
- **Independent**: 6% in 1969, 6% today
- **Lean Republican**: 6% in 1969, 7% today
- **Weak Republican**: 6% in 1969, 7% today
- **Strong Republican**: 7% in 1969, 6% today
Live polling results: Presidential candidates
Which one would you most LIKE to see as US president in 2020?

- No Response (29) 34%
- Donald Trump (2) 2%
- Mike Pence (2) 2%
- A centrist Republican (3) 3%
- An independent or 3rd-party candidate (0) 0%
- A centrist Democrat (24) 28%
- A left-leaning Democrat (21) 25%
- Other (3) 3%

55 Responses
OK, but here’s a different question:
Which one do you think is MOST LIKELY to be elected as US president in 2020?

- No Response (31) 36%
- Donald Trump (10) 11%
- Mike Pence (0) 0%
- A centrist Republican (0) 0%
- An independent or 3rd-party candidate (1) 1%
- A centrist Democrat (28) 33%
- A left-leaning Democrat (12) 14%
- Other (2) 2%
Do you think the House of Representatives should begin impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump before the 2020 election takes place?

- No Response (30) 35%
- Yes, as soon as possible (13) 15%
- Yes, but wait a bit (21) 25%
- No (18) 21%
- No opinion (2) 2%
“For Whom, for country, and for Yale?”
Do you believe in God?

- Yes, absolutely certain: 16% (1969), 18% (Today)
- Yes, fairly certain: 17% (1969), 22% (Today)
- Not very certain: 27% (1969), 19% (Today)
- No: 28% (1969), 37% (Today)
- Don't know: 7% (1969), 9% (Today)
Do you believe in God?

Nationally, only 5% of college graduates say they don’t believe in God.

- Yes, absolutely certain: 16% (1969), 18% (Today)
- Yes, fairly certain: 22% (1969), 17% (Today)
- Not very certain: 19% (1969), 27% (Today)
- No: 37% (1969), 28% (Today)
- Don't know: 7% (1969), 9% (Today)
How would you describe your religious affiliation? (6 most common responses)

- Mainline Protestant: 42%
- Jewish: 23%
- Roman Catholic: 20%
- Agnostic: 19%
- Atheist: 13%
- Spiritual, no church: 15%

[Comparison with 1969 data]
How would you describe your religious affiliation? (6 most common responses)

- **Mainline Protestant**: 42%
- **Jewish**: 23%
- **Roman Catholic**: 19%
- **Agnostic**: 11%
- **Atheist**: 10%
- **Spiritual, no church**: 7%

43% of those who identified as Christian in 1969 no longer do.
How important is religion in your life?

46% give none of their income to their church or religious causes.
Do you believe in an afterlife?

- Believe, absolutely certain: 11% (1969) vs. 12% (Today)
- Believe, fairly certain: 16% (1969) vs. 10% (Today)
- Don't believe: 44% (1969) vs. 50% (Today)
- Don't know: 28% (1969) vs. 27% (Today)

[Graph showing the percentage distribution for each category over time]
Aside from weddings or funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

- More than once a week: 2% (1969), 4% (Today)
- Once a week: 8% (1969), 13% (Today)
- Once or twice a month: 10% (1969), 6% (Today)
- A few times a year: 23% (1969), 19% (Today)
- Seldom: 30% (1969), 27% (Today)
- Never: 31% (1969), 27% (Today)

More attend regularly. And more never attend.
Aside from weddings or funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

Compare to U.S. college grads.

Nationally, 50% of college grads attend services at least once a month (much higher than Western Europe).
“Boola boola.”

Relationship with Yale
How many previous class reunions have you attended?
About how many Yale classmates do you currently consider close friends?

- 0: 36%
- 1: 17%
- 2: 17%
- 3 to 4: 18%
- 5 to 9: 9%
- 10 or more: 3%
General opinion about Yale, then and now:

- **Very Positive**: 45% Today, 36% 1969
- **Mostly Positive**: 39% Today, 36% 1969
- **Somewhat Positive**: 14% Today, 9% 1969
- **Neutral**: 6% Today, 2% 1969
- **Somewhat Negative**: 9% Today, 4% 1969
- **Mostly Negative**: 6% Today, 1% 1969
- **Very Negative**: 2% Today, 0% 1969
What do you like most about Yale today?
What do you like least about Yale today?
Current giving to Yale

- Regular, 43%
- Occasional, 22%
- Not currently giving, 35%
Other Sentiments about Yale

• 71% of classmates believe their time at Yale played a “pivotal role” or an “important role” in bringing them success.

• 82% said that Yale would still be one of their top choices for a college to attend if they were 18 today
“Boxers or Briefs?”
Laetitia Thompson demanded that the president reveal his underwear preference:

"The world is dying to know - is it boxers or briefs?"

"Usually briefs," William Jefferson Clinton IV told his gleeful audience of 200 college and high school students.
Time for you to guess!

What percentage of men in our class wear *boxers*?

Point your browser to:

[www.questionpress.com/guterbock](http://www.questionpress.com/guterbock)

Please *refresh* the screen,

or type the whole URL in again to see the question.
What's your best guess on the great underwear question?

What percentage of Yale '69 class members do you think currently wear BOXER SHORTS as underwear?

- No Response (20) 26%
- Less than 35% boxers (13) 17%
- 35-39% (5) 6%
- 40-44% (6) 8%
- 45-49% (4) 5%
- 50-54% (6) 8%
- 55-59% (8) 10%
- 60-64% (4) 5%
- 65% boxers or more (9) 12%
THIS QUESTION IS ONLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF '69:
"The world wants to know: Boxers or briefs?"
What kind of underwear are you wearing today?

57 Responses

- No Response (18) 24%
- Boxers (20) 26%
- Briefs (28) 37%
- Some other kind (4) 5%
- None of your business (0) 0%
- NOT A YALE 69 CLASS MEMBER (5) 6%
The Yale ‘69 world has been dying to know . . .

Underwear Preference

- Boxers 41%
- Briefs 59%
Who wears boxers?

• About half of our class . . .
  • Belonged to a fraternity, and/or
  • Played sports on a residential college team

• In this group, about half (49%) wear boxers

• Among all other classmates, only a third (33.9%) wear boxers
Be fruitful? . . .

The average number of biological children reported in the class survey:

• For classmates who wear boxers: 2.14
• For classmates who wear briefs: 1.88
  • Difference is statistically significant! (p = .000)
  • But correlation is not causation
  • Experts disagree on actual effect of underwear

*Your presenters are impartial!*
“Where we’re headed”
Are you retired or still employed?

- Retired, 38%
- Working full time because I have to, 5%
- Working full time because I want to, 30%
- Working part-time (partially retired), 26%
What are your plans for retirement (from “gainful employment”)?

- Already retired, 43%
- Planning to completely retire soon, 13%
- Planning to semi-retire soon, 11%
- Will probably keep working as long as I can, 33%
In retirement or semi-retirement, how do you use or plan to use your spare time?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer or pro-bono work</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor sports and activities (hunting, hiking, etc.)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pursuing a hobby other than art</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making art (including fine crafts like furniture)</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic events (marathons, cycling events, etc.)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Life, the Universe, and Everything

• 81% plan to stay where they enter(ed) retirement
• 96% plan to live in an ordinary community
• 69% say “there are still some things to do and accomplish”
• 8% feel their kids are doing significantly worse than they were at the same age
• Only 2% of respondents feel they’re struggling financially
• Only 1% believe they “messed up”
At this point in your life, how important are these things to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-being of my family</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My personal happiness</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying in close touch with family and friends</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-being of friends and community</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping others, giving back</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal creativity</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal reflection/contemplation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal achievement</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting my ideas out to the world</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary success</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Don’t forget to build relationships. The people in your life will turn out to be way more important than your solo achievements.”

- from “Notes to Self” responses
Who We Were, Who We Are, Where We’re Headed

The Yale Class of '69
50th Reunion Survey

Tom Guterbock, SM ’69
TomG@virginia.edu

Mike Baum, TD ‘69
mhbaum@gmail.com