

# YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL News Release

**CONTACT: Gustav Spohn, Director of Communications and Publications,  
203-432-3466, [gus.spohn@yale.edu](mailto:gus.spohn@yale.edu)**

**For immediate release: October 9, 2007 (revised October 23, 2007)**

## **Grants totaling \$1.5 million to boost financial aid at Yale Divinity School**

NEW HAVEN, CT—Yale Divinity School is the recipient of two grants in support of financial aid totaling \$1.5 million, one in honor of the Rev. Sidney Lovett, and the other a challenge grant that will provide matching funds for endowed scholarships. Made possible through the generosity of two Yale alumni who wish to remain anonymous, the grants provide significant momentum for the school's ultimate goal of making a YDS education tuition-free for all.

Rev. Lovett, who died in 1979, was the renowned chaplain at Yale University from 1932 to 1958. The \$1 million Sidney Lovett Scholarship Fund is open for additional contributions from alumni and friends who wish to honor his memory.

In announcing creation of the Lovett Scholarship, Harold Attridge, dean of Yale Divinity School, said, "The extraordinary generosity of these donors will have an immediate impact on students by establishing an endowment that will provide the equivalent of at least two full-tuition scholarships annually. In the long term, it moves us closer to our goal of offering tuition-free education to all accepted students."

In addition to his duties as chaplain, Rev. Lovett, known affectionately as "Uncle Sid," also taught biblical literature and was master of Pierson College. A pacifist, he was active in social concerns for peace and, during World War II, served as president of the World Student Service Fund. In retirement, he was executive director of Yale/China in Hong Kong. In honoring Lovett's memory, former Yale president A. Bartlett Giamatti said, "Sid Lovett embodied all that Yale stands for and wants to be. Perhaps no Yale person in this century touched as many lives in this community and beyond."

The \$500,000 challenge grant, to be known as the *Divinity School Challenge*, will provide matching funds for endowed scholarships at the school. Under the grant, contributions from alumni and friends to the Divinity School in the \$10,000-\$100,000 range will be matched on a one-to-one basis.

Yale Divinity School Dean Harold Attridge expressed confidence that the challenge grant will serve as an incentive for alumni to give to YDS, realizing that the value of their gifts can be doubled through the match. The Challenge will offer donors naming opportunities for gifts of \$50,000 or more.

At present, Yale Divinity School provides scholarship money to cover, on average, approximately 65 percent of total tuition costs for each student. The two grants will significantly enhance the Divinity School's ability to enroll talented and dedicated students.

Attridge announced the grants on Oct. 9 at the conclusion of his annual "State of the School" address during the YDS Convocation and Reunions. The launch of the Divinity School's *Gift of a Lifetime* planned giving initiative also occurred on Oct. 9. Planned gifts, which involve bequests, trusts and life income agreements, are also eligible for a match under the challenge grant, but those gifts must be \$25,000 or higher to qualify.

Yale Divinity School is an interdenominational school of theological education that draws its faculty from the major Christian traditions, preparing students for service in lay and ordained ministries, other professions, and academic careers. It is one of 11 graduate and professional schools at Yale University. Each year, some 140 students graduate with one of three degrees offered by the school: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religion, and Master of Sacred Theology.

#####