



# TOTAL PRAISE

THE YALE UNDERGRADUATE GOSPEL CHOIR ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2009

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## President's Message

Dear Yale Gospel Choir Alumni,

Hello! I hope you are all doing well! Before our Alumni Coordinator, Brandon Johnson, takes you through the events from this semester, I would like to take a moment to share a few thoughts with you. First and foremost, on behalf of the entire Choir, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers while we were traveling on our Spring Tour last month. It was an amazing experience for all of us and I'm convinced that God worked tremendously through your constant prayers. I cannot explain how nice it was to know that an entire network of YGC alumni was praying on our behalf. Thank you so much for your support!

On a slightly different note, the Yale Undergraduate Gospel Choir is now, officially, an incorporated organization! Although we are very excited about our new status, we are not done yet! With the help of Richard Ramsay '04, the YGC executive board is currently in the throes of crafting the bylaws which will form the official constitution of the Choir as a nonprofit organization. We are taking this task very seriously and I ask for your prayers as we finish this endeavor. I also ask for your prayers for our executive board elections to be held on Wednesday, April 8, and for our Spring Concert on Friday, April 17.

The remainder of this document will highlight a few of our second semester

events, including our Alumni Dinner and Concert and our Spring Tour to the American Midwest. I hope you enjoy, and I look forward to joining your ranks in a few short months!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Mendoza '09  
President

## Upcoming Events

*Spring Concert*  
Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM  
Branford Common Room  
Branford College  
74 High Street  
New Haven, CT

Tickets \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door  
(e-mail our Publicity Manager at [kevin.beckford@yale.edu](mailto:kevin.beckford@yale.edu) for advance purchases)

*Senior Dinner*  
Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Afro-American Cultural Center  
211 Park Street  
New Haven, CT

For more up-to-date information, check out YGC's Google Calendar on our website at [www.yale.edu/yalegospelchoir](http://www.yale.edu/yalegospelchoir)

## Choir News

### *Alumni Dinner and Concert 2009*

On Saturday, January 31st, Choir held its fourth annual Alumni Concert and first ever accompanying Alumni Dinner. More than twenty alumni representing more than ten classes from all over the country returned to celebrate the legacy of YGC in food and song!



**YGC alumni display class hand signs during the Alumni Dinner**



**A hallway in the stacks in Sterling Memorial Library**

### *Rejoice! : YGC's New Praise & Worship Team*

Last semester, the YGC Board voted to form Choir's first praise & worship team, and thus *Rejoice!* was born! *Rejoice!* made its inaugural debut at the Alumni Concert, opened for Choir on numerous occasions during the Spring Tour, and will be featured in the Spring Concert later this semester.



***Rejoice!* warms up the crowd and ushers in the Spirit at Chester Christian Center in Chesterland, OH during tour**

## Spring Tour 2009: The American Midwest

Hello YGC Alums!

Thank you so much for all of your spiritual and financial support for our spring tour this year! The Lord was really faithful and gracious to answer our prayers, and we had a blast in Cleveland, OH and Chicago, IL!

In Cleveland, we had the opportunity to sing at the home churches of two of our graduating seniors, Elysa Chao '09 and Robbie Goehrke '09, in addition to another powerful, Spirit-filled concert at the home church of YGC alum Amy Broadbent '07. Choir also had the opportunity to perform at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and volunteer at the Cleveland Food Bank. During our whole stay, we enjoyed amazing hospitality from our various host families.

In Chicago, we performed at the University of Chicago with their Christian a capella group, Make a Joyful Noise. We also had a lot of fun participating in a Yale-club sponsored concert that featured YGC with the SOB's (Society of Orpheus and Bacchus) and OOTB (Out of the Blue). The Lord blessed us with amazing weather, as we enjoyed time together at the Lincoln Park Zoo and in downtown Chicago and Millennium Park. Other highlights included the now ridiculous tour tradition of the YGC Talent Show that effectively ended the political careers of all the members of the Tenor section (video can be found online on Youtube!), as well as an extremely worshipful final concert at Living Grace Church.

All in all, tour was just an amazing testament to the Lord's goodness and faithfulness in providing for YGC and showing us the amazing depth of His grace from beautiful weather to sustaining our voices to awesomely rich Christ-centered fellowship. I pray that you are encouraged by how God is faithful to answer our prayers and how He continually works in us and through us. Thanks so much for being a part of our ministry!

Grace and peace,  
Dan Zheng '11  
Vice-President and Tour Manager



**Choir performs at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, OH**



**Aysha Valery '11 observes an armadillo at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, IL**



**Tenor rendition of Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" at the second annual YGC Talent Show**

## Alumni Notes

Wondering what your fellow YGC alumni have been up to since graduation? Send information concerning graduate school, jobs, weddings, births, or anything else you would like to have announced to [brandon.h.johnson@yale.edu](mailto:brandon.h.johnson@yale.edu). We'd love to hear from you!

**Catherine Haist '98** has returned to New Haven to work for Young Life, an organization dedicated to introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith. She is excited to engage with the undergraduate population at Yale again while making a lasting impact in the greater New Haven area.

After graduation, **Ryan Alvarez '03** worked for three years as a program manager and grant writer for AIDS Project New Haven, primarily serving homebound HIV positive members of the greater New Haven community. He is currently a third year law student at American University and plans to work in the Energy practice area in the Washington, D.C. office of Alston & Bird, a national law firm.

After completing the Master's of Public Health at Yale EPH in 2007, **Nanlesta Pilgrim '04** proceeded to attain her Ph.D and is currently in her second year at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, focusing on Child Health and Adolescent Development.

**Kerrian Hudson '04** matched at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, CT in the field of family medicine. "I am really excited that I will continue to be in CT for at least another 4 more years," she says. "I am even more excited that soon I will graduate from medical school (less than 2 months away)!"

**Rachel-Maria Brown '06** is taking her medical licensing exam this June and will be starting third year rotations at Baystate Medical Center in Massachusetts. Miraculously, she finds some time to work part-time for Dynasty International, a local talent agency in Boston.

If you want to see the latest alumni updates, check out the YGC alumni page online at <http://www.yale.edu/yalegospelchoir/AlumniNews.htm>!

## Join the 1973 Club!

This year, the YGC Board is sponsoring a new initiative to allow our alumni to participate in our annual Spring Tour fundraising process. By donating just \$19.73, you will be recognized as a member of the Yale Undergraduate Gospel Choir Alumni 1973 Club in our concert bulletins and begin the tradition of giving back to Choir - even if you are a recent graduate still living on a "student's budget"! Of course, this amount should not be considered a maximum limit. The following donation amounts will afford you the opportunity to become an official patron of Choir and earn the following rewards:

*1973 Club: \$19.73*

Gain membership into the 1973 Club.

*Friend of YGC: \$20.00 - \$99.99*

Recognized as a "Friend of YGC" in our concert bulletins.

*Bronze Patron: \$100 - \$249.99*

Recognized as a "Bronze Patron" in our concert bulletins and on our website.

*Silver Patron: \$250 - \$499.99*

Recognized as a "Silver Patron" in our concert bulletins and on our website. Receive a free YGC t-shirt.

*Gold Patron: \$500 - \$999.99*

Recognized as a "Gold Patron" in our concert bulletins and on our website. Receive free access to all Choir concerts and a free YGC t-shirt.

*Platinum Patron: \$1000+*

Recognized as a "Platinum Patron" in our concert bulletins and on our website. Receive free access to all Choir concerts and a free YGC t-shirt. Honored with a certificate and framed portrait of Choir.

Please make all checks payable to "Yale Undergraduate Gospel Choir" and mail them to the following address:

Yale Undergraduate Gospel Choir  
P.O. Box 205184  
New Haven, CT 06520