Bruno Baggetta

In his seven years at Market New Haven, Bruno Baggetta has been instrumental in ensuring that It All Does Happen Here in New Haven. As Marketing Manager, Bruno has coordinated popular events such as New Haven Restaurant Week, Music on the Green, and the New Haven Open at Yale. (And Bruno would not be pleased with me if I failed to mention that restaurant week in New Haven kicks off on April 15th this year!).

Funded in part by the City through its Board of Alderman, by Yale University, by Yale-New Haven Hospital and by some other local businesses, Market New Haven itself is a true collaboration of Elm and Ivy efforts and Bruno embodies this spirit of partnership and takes it to heart. Whether it’s urging Yale alumni to rediscover New Haven, encouraging and welcoming hundreds of visitors to New Haven, and most recently, asking people to Make a Night of It in New Haven by bundling theater offerings with restaurant promotions, Bruno is one of New Haven’s biggest fans and advocates.

Those of you who know Bruno recognize that his energy is abundant and his creative and critical eye oversees the production of brochures, campaigns and extraordinary efforts in communicating that New Haven is a wonderful place to live, work and play.

In recognition of his commitment to market New Haven as a great place to visit, shop, and dine, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present Bruno Baggetta with an Elm Award.
Nan Bartow

From the Sahel of Chad to the classrooms at High School in the Community, Nan Bartow has dedicated herself to a life of service. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa and retired New Haven English teacher, Nan shares her love of teaching and land conservation with all in her path.

Since 2004, through the Urban Resources Initiative’s Community Greenspace program, Nan has welcomed Yale student interns to partner with community volunteers every summer. Together they replace invasive plants with native species and clean up litter that enters the ponds through storm drains after major rain events. At the end of every summer, Nan invites community members to her home hosting a thank you party for the Yale intern. Many appreciate interns’ support yet it perhaps rarer to hold annual events in their honor.

Nan has been instrumental in creating a permanent collaboration between Yale students and community members by initially encouraging all incoming Forestry and Environmental Studies students to spend a day at the Beaver Pond Park and lend a hand alongside the Friends of Beaver Pond Park group. Additionally, working with both Yale faculty and City administrators, Nan pushed to have a catch basin installed on the storm drains, thereby reducing pollution in the ponds.

For approximately a decade, every Wednesday evening during the summer Nan has led a group of volunteers to care for Beaver Ponds. Nan’s leadership is inspiring as she takes the time every week to document every volunteer’s contribution in a thoughtfully drafted message. It is only fitting that today Nan should finally be the one to receive recognition.
In recognition of her history of service and ability to engage and unite Yale students and the community in conservation efforts, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present Nan Bartow with an Elm Award.
Robert Smuts

Robert Smuts’ interest in politics began while an undergraduate at Yale. An active member of the Yale College Democrats, Robert served as its president and coordinated numerous voter registration drives. As a student, he worked to establish relationships between other Yale students and local government officials. Now, as one of those local government officials, Robert continues to facilitate positive communications between the University and the City.

In his role as New Haven’s Chief Administrative Officer, Robert is responsible for coordinating efforts amongst many different agencies and groups. His ability to work through challenging issues while strengthening and furthering relationships is a required skill set for his job and one in which he excels.

Additionally, Robert’s door always remains open for Yale students. He finds time to mentor Yale students and help raise their level of civic engagement. He is a frequent guest speaker at University sponsored events, offering his insights into city politics and encouraging civic responsibility.

In recognition of his commitment to creating an inclusive community through open and honest communication, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present Robert Smuts with an Elm Award.
James G. Boyle

As the co-founder and Director of the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute (YEI), Jim Boyle is right at home. While earning his PhD from Yale Jim started his own business. One could say that Jim was the embodiment of YEI before it even existed. Now with his same level of enthusiasm, drive, and passion, Jim guides Yale students to identify, develop and found similar innovative business ventures, while advocating for these businesses to find a permanent home in New Haven.

This summer marks YEI’s fifth class of students participating in its 10-week summer fellows program, in which about 25 student entrepreneurs who want to start businesses stay in New Haven, are paid a stipend on which to live, and are exposed to a wide variety of activities and perspectives ranging from entrepreneurial education to high-profile speakers and networking opportunities. By the end of the program, students have a solid business plan and are able to seek seed-stage funding for their projects. This year there were a record number of applicants, which comes as no surprise to those who know Jim and what he has helped build at YEI.

Since 2007, YEI has helped foster and grow over 45 student-founded ventures which have raised a total of $37 million of investment capital and created more than 130 full-time jobs, approximately one-third of which remain in New Haven. In order to start a new business, one needs access to a broad network of investors and capital. Jim makes that connection happen in New Haven and provides the ability for student start ups to stay in New Haven. New Haven has a long history of economic innovation, dating back to Yale graduate Eli Whitney’s perfection of the use of interchangeable parts in manufacturing. Jim helps Yale students continue that tradition today.
In recognition of his mentorship and leadership in creating an entrepreneurial climate in New Haven which fosters new business growth and economic development for the City, Mayor John DeStefano and President Levin will present James Boyle with an Ivy Award.
Girls’ Science Investigations

Bonnie Fleming and Sarah Demers

At a time when our nation needs more qualified scientists and engineers and women are making great strides in nearly every sphere but are behind in many Science Technology Engineering and Math (“STEM”) fields, Girls’ Science Investigations addresses a critical need.

The mission of Girls' Science Investigations (GSI) is to motivate, empower, and interest girls in developing the skills they need to pursue careers in science. Yale students and professors act as mentors and provide a context for exploring and understanding the various disciplines of science through hands-on activities in a laboratory environment. Through student scientific engagement and parental awareness, Girls' Science Investigations strives to close the gap in science found between males and females today.

The GSI program, now in its 5th year has brought hundreds of 10 -13 year old girls to the Yale University Physics department on Saturdays to conduct supervised experiments, see exciting demonstrations and begin to imagine their own future as a part of the world’s scientific community.

In recognition of their work creating and running Girls’ Science Investigations, Mayor John DeStefano and President Levin will present Bonnie Fleming and Sarah Demers with an Ivy Award for their work on behalf of Girls Science Investigations.
Gordon Geballe

Last year, Gordon Geballe taught a freshman seminar in which students conducted research not in a traditional lab but through interactions with New Haven business owners and city officials. The students partnered with the City to analyze components of the City’s new sustainability plan, such as greater waste recycling from small businesses. The seminar, titled “Urban Ecology with a Focus on New Haven” could aptly describe Gordon’s own personal pursuits. However, Gordon’s focus on New Haven extends beyond conservation and includes civic engagement in education, civil rights, volunteerism and arts and ideas.

Gordon serves as Chair of the Board of the International Festival of Arts & Ideas. The Festival, which draws over 100,000 visitors to New Haven each June showcases New Haven’s arts and educational traditions while bringing renowned international stars, newly-discovered artists, and a number of U.S. and world premieres each season. Over 80% of these events are free and open to the public. Gordon dedicates significant effort and personal commitment to help ensure the success and continuation of this event every year. From the New Haven Green to the courtyards of Yale University, New Haven becomes a Festival city with something for everyone.

Gordon is also a founding member of the Urban Resource Initiative and has continuously served on its board since inception in 1991. He actively recruits and mentors new board members and then encourages them to get involved with other non-profit organizations around New Haven. He also served as Chair of the Board of Dwight Hall, a non-profit which engages 3,500 Yale students each year in service and social justice activities.
Gordon’s commitment to New Haven and his community extend far beyond the non-profit boardroom. When he and his wife, Shelley, became empty nesters, Gordon began mentoring and tutoring New Haven kids.

In recognition of his consistent and significant involvement in New Haven organizations, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present Gordon Geballe with an Ivy Award.
Kurt Zilm

Kurt Zilm is a world recognized authority for his pioneering work in the world of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, a research technique that exploits the magnetic properties of certain atomic nuclei to determine physical and chemical properties of atoms or the molecules in which they are contained.

Although this sounds complicated, one of Kurt’s innate skills is clearly communicating his passion for science with New Haven school children. A staunch advocate of strong science education in K-12 classrooms, Kurt serves on the advisory council of the Yale-New Haven Teachers’ Institute. Kurt also serves on the steering committee of the Yale Pathways to Science initiative. With an overarching goal to inspire students to pursue a science major at a four-year college, Pathways opens the door for New Haven students to explore science at Yale University. Year-round Yale scientists, students and staff lead classes, demonstrations, tours and tutorials for hundreds of local students. The free, voluntary activities involve students directly in hands-on science and help them develop the skills, discipline and curiosity necessary for scientific inquiry.

Kurt has been a tireless supporter of and advisor to the many undergraduates interested in science outreach to the New Haven Community. His intelligence and enthusiasm benefits all who come in contact with him, whether they are his colleagues at Yale University, New Haven Public school teachers, pupils and their parents, or college volunteers.

In recognition of his tireless work to bring people together and to provide opportunities for all to learn about the magic and majesty of science, Mayor John DeStefano and President Levin will present Kurt Zilm with an Ivy Award.
The Neighborhood Health Project

On a typical Saturday throughout the year, one will find nearly 20 volunteers from the four Yale health professional schools - the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health, the School of Nursing, and the Physician Associate Program - and one faculty attending physician offering blood pressure, blood glucose, and BMI screenings as part of the Neighborhood Health Project (“NHP”).

NHP is a student-run free clinic that provides screening for hypertension and diabetes with the aim of providing education and improving access to health care for low-income patient populations in New Haven. Located in the basement of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul & St. James near Wooster Square, Neighborhood Health Project serves and interacts with a wide variety of patients, including young adults, veterans, newly arrived immigrants, and the homeless.

In 2011 alone, NHP saw 95 new patients. While the numeric results are important, the volunteers serve a vital role as medical brokers, explaining the context of a patient’s results and offering simple steps to improve a patient’s health status within his or her means. By ensuring access to community primary care centers in the New Haven area such as Hill Health Center, Fair Haven Community Health Center, and HAVEN Free Clinic, NHP plays a central part in providing continuity of care for those most at risk.

NHP was developed on the foundation of strong community partnerships. Over the past 10 years, NHP has become a critical part of the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry community, has been recognized by the New Haven Health Department as a pertinent site for flu vaccination, and has participated in community outreach projects such as the Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project and the Big
Food exhibit at the Peabody Museum of Natural History. Patients look forward to seeing the volunteers as much as volunteers eagerly await their arrival.

In recognition of Neighborhood Health Project’s collaborative approach to providing screenings and assistance in access to primary care for New Haven residents, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present NHP with a Graduate Ivy Award.
LaTisha Campbell ‘12

LaTisha Campbell is simply remarkable. She arrived in New Haven almost four years ago as a freshman from Ypsilanti, Michigan and has positively impacted hundreds of people in our community. As a scholar, an activist, a mentor, a community service advocate and a public school intern, LaTisha is passionate, cheerful and unfailingly positive.

Her significant interest in the connections between education and incarceration in the lives of urban youth has helped guide her involvement in New Haven. LaTisha is co-coordinator of Yale’s Prison Education Project and since her arrival in New Haven has tutored inmates working toward their GED. She has been Co-Coordinator and Treasurer of Dwight Hall’s Social Justice Network for nearly two years, encouraging other Yale student participation.

On the educational side, LaTisha worked as a public school intern and coordinator in New Haven over the last 2 years, serving as a liaison between New Haven Academy and the Yale community. She is also a volunteer tutor at the Urban Improvement Corps, an organization established in 1968 by a group of African American undergraduate students at Yale aimed to help New Haven students with their studies and serve simultaneously as role models and mentors.

LaTisha is a strong example of someone committed to public service. She cares deeply about her community and worked hard campaigning during the recent aldermanic elections.
In recognition of her role as a model citizen in our deeply linked city and campus and communities, Mayor DeStefano and President Levin will present LaTisha Campbell with an Undergraduate Ivy Award.