

“A frog in a well cannot conceive of the ocean.”  
ZHUANG ZHOU

# Jaehong Kim, an engineering professor, named next head of Berkeley

BY HAILEY YOUNG & ANAYAH ACCILLEN  
STAFF REPORTERS

The Berkeley College community gathered in the dining hall on Monday to welcome their next head of college, Jaehong Kim, an engineering professor who previously chaired the Chemical and Environmental Engineering Department.

At the announcement ceremony, Kim was joined by his wife, Yanghee Kim, and his daughter, Hazel Kim '25, a recent graduate of Yale College who was in Berkeley.

“I got to know Berkeley a lot more than other residential colleges because Hazel already spent four years here,” he said, referring to his daughter.

In that time, Kim was able to learn about Berkeley’s student body, facilities and resources, as well as the widespread admiration the current head, David Evans, holds within the college, Kim said.

“I will do my best to convince Hazel and all of you that I can be just as cool as David Evans,” Kim said to the group gathered in the Berkeley dining hall.

Kim admitted that “becoming cool” will not be his primary goal as Berkeley’s head of college.

“I’ve been a professor for 24 years, and the most fulfilling part of my career has been helping students grow and watching them become more capable, more confident and more themselves,” he said. “And that is the reason why I’m so excited about becoming the head of college.”

Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis also took a moment to present

Evans and his wife, Associate Head Lely Dai Evans, a plaque recognizing their leadership and service to Berkeley College over the past ten years.

“He is to all who know him, an avid Berkeley enthusiast,” Lewis said about David Evans, while praising Lely Dai Evans for her “love for Berkeley, talent and music.”

In his speech, David Evans highlighted the gratitude he and his wife hold for the Berkeley community.

“Lely and I have been thoroughly touched and transformed by our decade of living and raising our children right in the vibrant center of undergraduate life, sharing all these experiences,” Evans said. “Jaehong and Yanghee, you will have the time of your lives,” he added.

Kim said he will make himself as visible as possible to students, promising to open his office to connect with students over academic affairs or personal conversations.

“I will help support and sustain a community — a community where you can exhale after a long day, where you are going to be heard and taken seriously, where your conversation goes way beyond what’s in the textbook and where you know you can ask for help when you need it,” Kim said. “My goal for Berkeley: to be the place you are proud to call your home base, your community and your people.”

Kim said he is hopeful that he and the Berkeley students will begin “searching for these answers together” in the fall. He expressed confidence that as he learns more



HAILEY YOUNG / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER  
In a Monday ceremony, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis announced that Jaehong Kim, a chemical and environmental engineering professor whose daughter was in Berkeley College, will be the next head of college.

about what makes Berkeley unique, “we can continue the tradition of being the best residential college at Yale.”

Bedirhan Ozmen '29, a Berkeley senator, said in an interview that although he was saddened by the departure of Evans, he was optimistic about Kim beginning his role as Berkeley’s head of college.

“Ever since coming here so many months ago now, he made it really fun and exciting to be

here,” Ozmen said about Evans. “However, I do not feel that distraught because according to the speech I heard just now, we’re essentially just getting another amazing one, just taller,” Ozmen added, pointing to Kim.

Hazel Kim '25 said in an interview that she feels lucky for the unique opportunity of getting to return to Yale.

“I grew up around here, and I always got to see my parents, who

were 20 minutes from here,” Kim said. “Now, when I come home, I just get to be here. I never have to miss a Harvard-Yale game. All of my friends are excited about this too.”

Berkeley College opened to students in 1934.

Contact  
**HAILEY YOUNG** at  
hailey.young@yale.edu and  
**ANAYAH ACCILLEN** at  
anayah.accilien@yale.edu.

# David Brooks delivers lecture on moving from Trump to humanism

BY ARIA LYNN-SKOV & LEO NYBERG  
STAFF REPORTERS

David Brooks delivered his third — and so far best-attended — of four talks of the semester to a packed Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall auditorium Tuesday afternoon.

In January, Yale announced that University President Maurie McInnis

had selected Brooks as the inaugural fellow for the new Presidential Senior Fellowship program. Leaving his role as opinion columnist at The New York Times, he began his five-year appointment in February.

After his first lecture detailed his conservatism and current politics, the second moved from politics and instead focused on ambition. He

returned to politics in his Tuesday lecture, which was titled “How America Recovers from All This: A Hopeful Vision for our Common Future.” Around 250 people attended — a mix of students, staff and community members.

Brooks framed his discussion of modern politics in terms of a series of cultural “paradigm shifts” since World War II. A culture of “moral realism” in the 1940s morphed into the “liberation” culture of the 1960s and ’70s, then the “bourgeois backlash” that followed in the 80s and finally today’s “decade of resentment,” he said.

He said that President Donald Trump is “resentfulness personified” and believes that Trump has capitalized on a “loss of faith” in the American dream.

Brooks, however, remains optimistic.

“One option is that in the decade ahead we will see levels of distrust, alienation and resentment we have never seen before. I don’t think that’s going to happen,” Brooks said. Instead, he thinks people will look at this “moment of frustration” and move back towards a “humanistic core” involving theology, literature and philosophy.

“And so I think there will be a humanistic turn,” Brooks said. “Humanism is the perfect antidote

to nihilism.”

While much of Brooks’ lecture was about cultural history, he focused during the question-and-answer portion on charting a path forward after Trump.

Brooks said he thinks Democrats should try to be the opposite of Trump’s style. Instead of emulating Trump, they should try to frame themselves as morally sound, as former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and New Jersey Senator Cory Booker LAW ’97, Brooks said.

Brooks also heaped praise on New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. Brooks said he disagrees with Mamdani on almost all political issues but praised the mayor’s positivity and willingness to work for New Yorkers.

“I’m a political foe of Mamdani’s but a personal admirer,” Brooks said.

One audience member asked why America has not yet elected a female president.

Brooks said he thinks America could elect a female president, but the Democrats’ two female nominees had “flaws in their campaigns.” He said former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton LAW ’73, the 2016 nominee, failed because she “was seen as the epitome of the establishment” and Kamala Harris only had 100 days to run her campaign.

“I think a flaw of the Democratic Party is they pay too much attention

to demographics and not enough to positions,” Brooks added.

Attendees told the News they enjoyed the event.

“I really appreciated the talk,” Ami Gillon ’27 said. “I appreciated especially the optimism, almost the unbridled optimism that Brooks brought to the talk, but I do think it might be a little trickier than what was outlined to get to the cultural shift that Brooks looks for.”

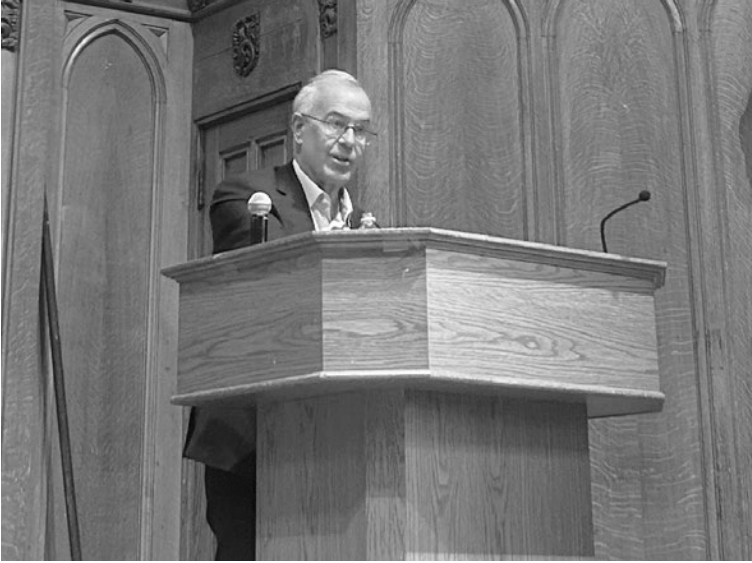
Brooks also drew New Haven resident superfans.

“Over the last two years he has helped me maintain my belief in humanity, my belief in our country, my belief in myself,” Julia Merkt, a New Haven resident, said. “His wisdom is so profound, he is so open to the different aspects of our lives and what’s going on and you never feel like he is being overly conservative or overly progressive.”

After the event, Brooks held a seminar-style discussion exclusively for students.

Brooks’ final lecture of the semester, “How to Fall in Love with Someone,” is scheduled for April 20 in Luce Hall.

Contact  
**ARIA LYNN-SKOV** at  
aria.lynn-skov@yale.edu and  
**LEO NYBERG** at  
leo.nyberg@yale.edu.



LEO NYBERG / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER  
Brooks, Yale’s inaugural presidential senior fellow, spoke about America’s cultural history, contemporary politics and the future after Trump to a large audience Tuesday afternoon in the third installment of his lecture series.

# Lewis talks Canadian identity, says U.S. shaped his views on liberty

BY HAILEY YOUNG  
STAFF REPORTER

On Monday, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis spoke about being Canadian in an intimate talk hosted by history professor Jay Gitlin ’71 MUS ’74 GRD ’02.

Before a group of about 20 students, staff and alumni, Lewis contrasted Canadian collectivism with American individualism and talked about higher education in the two countries, including the discrepancy between Canadian admissions and highly selective American universities.

“I’ve lived pretty much my whole adult life in the U.S., and I’ve actually been in Yale for half of my life, as of next year,” Lewis said. “But being Canadian, I think, shapes a lot of my basic political assumptions, although I think those have been tempered by my time here. I also think it shapes some of my personality in the sense of how I interact with people.”

Lewis reflected on how his international perspective — shaped by differences he has encountered in political systems, cultural norms and

education — continues to shape his identity as a Canadian at Yale.

Lewis said Canada’s parliamentary system emphasizes “consensus and polls,” which he contrasted with the heavy polarization and individualism found in American politics. He said the Canadian model shaped his communication and leadership styles of working towards agreement rather than emphasizing conflict.

Lewis also shared that his grandfather Andrew Brewin was a civil liberties advocate who served as a member of Parliament.

His extensive time in the United States has come to shape the way he views liberty, Lewis said, adding that he considers Canadian manners and their emphasis on collective outcomes as well as an American focus on individual rights.

Lewis said he considers himself “a strong First Amendment, free speech kind of person,” explaining that he now tends to be more on the side of “allowing the freedom, even if it offends people, or even if it causes some conflict or some instability.”

Lewis also discussed his

undergraduate education at McGill University and reflected on the structural differences between the Canadian and American education systems. Canada publicly funds a small number of colleges, he said, with largely equal opportunities across each institution, while the American system is more decentralized and unequal.

These distinctions, Lewis said, are manifest in the different admissions practices.

“They don’t leave room for what we call holistic admissions, where we take into consideration people’s leadership opportunities and potential,” he said, while acknowledging challenges in the approach of elite American universities, such as upholding “fairness in a holistic admissions system.”

For Canadian student Claire Zhong ’28, having Canadian voices highlighted through the speaker series Gitlin runs was particularly exciting. Zhong resonated with Lewis’ reflections on navigating

cultural differences in education and government systems.

“It’s neat to see Canadian representation in university leadership and I feel like this series, along with other Canadian studies and club events, adds to a sense of Yale as a home away from home for

Canadian students,” she said.

Lewis was appointed as dean in 2022 and previously served as Yale’s vice president for global strategy.

Contact  
**HAILEY YOUNG** at  
hailey.young@yale.edu.



HAILEY YOUNG / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER  
In an event with history professor Jay Gitlin, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis discussed how his identity and beliefs have been shaped by growing up in Canada and working for years at an American university.