

ANN MIURA-KO '98 B.S.

On the wall of Ann Miura-Ko's office are two photographs dating to March 1997, during her junior year in Yale College. In the first, Miura-Ko sits in Hewlett-Packard's headquarters in Palo Alto, California, next to Lewis E. Platt, then the company's chief executive. The second is nearly identical, except that the seat previously occupied by Miura-Ko is filled by Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

The pictures were a gift from Platt after Miura-Ko's 10-day visit to the HP offices, during which she shadowed the CEO, met other executives, and attended the announcement of a new partnership with Microsoft. To Miura-Ko, who majored in electrical engineering and went on to become a Silicon Valley pioneer, the experience was a harbinger of future possibilities, proof that "with a Yale education, anything is possible." It was also "a quintessential Yale story" — the setting in motion of "a series of events that literally changed my life." Had she not taken a work-study job with D. Allan Bromley, Yale's dean of engineering, she would not have been in Dunham Laboratory when the dean needed a student to give Platt a tour of the campus. Had she not led that tour, or mentioned that she hailed from the Bay Area, she never would have ended up in a whirlwind spring break externship at HP, witness to the burgeoning promise of the tech industry.

Today, Miura-Ko is a co-founder and managing partner of Floodgate, a venture capital firm that has provided initial funding for companies including Twitter, Twitch, Refinery29, and Okta. In 2010 Miura-Ko was the lead seed investor in Lyft, on whose board she sits. She is known for her visionary investments in marketplaces, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, work that has landed her on the Forbes Midas List for two years running. At Stanford University — from which she earned her Ph.D. with a focus on mathematical modeling of cybersecurity — she is a lecturer in engineering, teaching topics ranging from blockchain to intelligent growth for startups. She is a co-director of the competitive Stanford Mayfield Fellows Program, which trains undergraduates to become technology entrepreneurs, and a co-founding member of AllRaise, an organization dedicated to diversity in funders and founders. She co-leads AllRaise's Founders for Change, a group of more than 900 venture-backed founders committed to improving diversity and inclusion within their companies.

At Yale, Miura-Ko has served on the School of Engineering & Applied Science Leadership Council and as a non-trustee member of the Corporation Committee on Investments. The trustees, she observes, are called on to anticipate the future much as a venture capitalist does: "Yale can have an important voice in how we create our future leaders" — global citizens who combine technical literacy with civic engagement. The key question, Miura-Ko says, is: "How will education change in the future to reflect the needs of society?"

One of Miura-Ko's treasured Yale memories is of working feverishly on her senior project with three classmates. Together they designed a team of robots to compete in the Paris Robocup Tournament, reaching the quarterfinals. "We were young and inexperienced, but Yale gave us the resources to compete," Miura-Ko explains, adding: "At Yale you pursue the things that you love, because if you can pursue the things you love, you will be great at them, and if you're great

at the things that you do at Yale, then you will have many opportunities to do everything that you want to do in the future. That's a deep promise, and I've seen it fulfilled over and over again."

Miura-Ko and her husband — Albert Ko, also a member of the Class of 1998 — have three young children: Abby, Aaron, and Anton.

CAROL MCPHILLIPS ROBERTS '81 B.S.

When Carol Roberts arrived in New Haven in 1977, Yale College was on the cusp of celebrating its first decade of coeducation. Studying mechanical engineering and competing as a varsity athlete, Roberts quickly learned to thrive in arenas still relatively new to women at that point in Yale's history. It was, she recalls, "a formative experience for leadership." Over the course of three-plus decades, that experience would propel her through the ranks of the International Paper company, from which she retired as chief financial officer in 2017.

What was it like to spend an entire career with the company where she took her first job after graduation? For Roberts, it was an invaluable journey. She began in engineering and operations at the firm's paper mill in Mobile, Alabama, in 1981. Ten years later, she became International Paper's first female mill manager, and by 1997 she had risen to the first of her several vice presidencies with the company. Of her ultimate role as chief financial officer, which she held from 2011 until her retirement, she says, "It was a wonderful job, because it's at the heart of any organization — you've got to have the resources and make the right choices about how to apply them." During her tenure in that position, she was recognized as a top executive by Institutional Investor magazine for five consecutive years. Looking back, Roberts takes particular pride in having been a witness to — and participant in — a major global corporation's evolution from traditional to an engaging and progressive mindset: "I got to be a really big part of the development of that culture," she says. Today, Roberts is on the boards of Alcoa (whose audit committee she chairs), the VF Corporation, and Divergent 3D.

Roberts also finds ample opportunity to remain connected to her alma mater. She is a founding member of Yale WISER — the Women's Intercollegiate Sports Endowment and Resource, which supports women athletes in their training, competition, and post-graduation networking — and a board member of the Field Hockey Association. She meets regularly with current student athletes to offer mentorship and inspiration, and the Carol Roberts Field House — home to both the field hockey and softball teams — opened in 2018, a tribute to the vibrant sense of lifelong community that she found as an athlete. In 2009, Roberts received the Yale Athletics George H.W. Bush Lifetime of Leadership Award.

Away from the field, Roberts has served on the [University Council](#) (from 2015 to 2018) and the School of Engineering & Applied Science Leadership Council (from 2012 to 2017). This involvement, together with her diverse set of professional experiences, inspired her candidacy for the role of alumni fellow. She describes the Yale Corporation as a crucial strong partner in the governance and leadership of the university, and the trustees as a resource and sounding board: "Yale is a special place, blessed with incredible resources, and the importance of the Yale Corporation is helping to ensure that the institution is progressing towards the right goals and making good decisions for Yale's long-term success," she says.

Roberts and her husband, Craig, live southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, where the temperate year-round climate suits her active lifestyle. When she is not running outdoors, reading, or traveling, she is most likely to be found spending time with her two adult daughters, both of whom live nearby; her 4-year-old grandson; and her dog, Sampson. Family, she explains, is her "highest passion," but Yale, one senses, is a very close second. Coming here as a student,

Roberts says, was “the opening of a giant door — four years that changed the trajectory of my life.”