

# Yale ASC News

October 2013

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## From the Dean's Desk

by Jeremiah Quinlan '03, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions

Greetings again from a Yale campus that is basking in a bit of a post-inaugural glow. On Sunday, Peter Salovey, a former teacher of mine and a long-time leader at Yale, was installed as Yale's 23rd President. If you were in New Haven, New York, or New Delhi this past weekend, I hope you were able to watch Peter's inaugural address live and if not, I hope you get a chance to watch it on [Yale's YouTube channel](#), along with the incredible [Inauguration Celebration Concert](#), and [other highlights from the festive weekend](#). The fall weather was perfect in New Haven and was capped off by an inaugural address where President Salovey reaffirmed that Yale "is a research university that proudly and unapologetically focuses on our students."

Peter's inauguration is another event in what has already been a remarkable semester. Earlier this month, Yale's own James Rothman '71 was [awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology](#). Professor Rothman serves as the Wallace Professor of Biomedical Sciences and chair of the Department of Cell Biology. He is also a resident fellow in Branford College, where he lives with undergraduates and advises a group of freshmen every year. As a graduate of Branford College himself, Professor Rothman's commitment to undergraduates is neither surprising nor atypical of most faculty members at Yale. Also, Robert Shiller, Sterling Professor of Economics, [received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences](#) for his "empirical analysis of asset prices." He, too, teaches a popular course, "Financial Markets," to undergraduates.

Despite all of these headlines, perhaps the most transformative news was [Charles Johnson's \(Class of 1954\) pledge of \\$250 million](#)- the largest gift in Yale's history- to support the expansion of Yale College through the construction of two new residential colleges. A few days later, Provost Ben Polak announced a potential timeline for the new colleges to open, and for the Yale College student body to grow for the first time since 1969, by the fall of 2017.

The colleges will be located a block from the admissions office on Prospect Street, but their opening represents much more than new campus neighbors and a closer residential college dining hall for lunch meetings. As every loyal interviewer knows, Yale College has never been more desirable. Applications grew by 3,000 in the twenty years between the Class of 1980 to the Class of 2000. But in the 16 years since, they have grown by 16,000! Though applications to Yale College have approximately quadrupled over the past four decades, the size of the undergraduate population at Yale has remained relatively steady. Every year, there are far more deserving candidates than we can admit. By adding two new residential colleges and educating 200 more students a year, Yale will provide more of the outstanding applicants whom you interview with access to our world-class faculty and resources while preparing them to lead and serve in more communities and enterprises around the world.

Of course, Yale is not alone in its high-level desirability. Over the past 10 years, Harvard, Yale, and Princeton have all seen their applications increase by about 70%. The reasons behind these



increases are many and I hope the subject of another message from me in a future newsletter. It is worth noting, however, that many of our peer institutions have responded by expanding the size of their undergraduate populations: Harvard University swelled in size when the school combined with Radcliffe in the 1970s, Princeton increased its student body by more than 10% in the last decade, and, this summer, Stanford University pledged to increase its undergraduate population by approximately 100 students per year over the next several years. As Peter put forward in his address, "Yale has never had a stronger faculty; we have invested billions of dollars in our facilities; and we are fortunate to have remarkably generous alumni, parents, and friends. There are so many students reaching out for the opportunity of a Yale College education... We can offer some of them a life-changing experience, and we should."

But, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, I should close by returning to this fall and the upcoming Class of 2018. As more and more of my colleagues come back to Yale from the road, they all tell me about warm receptions from prospective students and parents but also from alumni volunteers from all over the globe who have been welcoming them into their cities, favorite restaurants, and homes. And for that, I thank you! In most cases, the hospitality and presence of our alumni conveys the true nature of Yale as much as any information session from a well-trained admissions officer. But if you have any suggestions about how we can improve our presentation about Yale to our audiences, please do not hesitate to write.

Next month, we will be talking about our Early Action applications. Where does the time go?

Best,

Jeremiah  
[jeremiah.quinlan@yale.edu](mailto:jeremiah.quinlan@yale.edu)

## ASC Director Recognition

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions would like to thank the following ASC Directors who have recently completed landmark years of service for Yale! We are indebted to them for their tremendous dedication to the ASC Program and for their enthusiasm as ambassadors for Yale.

James Blumstein '66 BA, '70 LLM, '70 MA	Nashville, TN	30 years
John Eure '71	Roanoke, VA	30 years
Mark Grossman '79	Oklahoma City, OK	30 years
Thomas Gottshall '67	Columbia, SC	25 years
Samuel Carmalt '66	Switzerland	20 years
Denton Marks '71	Eastern Wisconsin	20 years
Christie Morse '81	Hanover, NH	20 years
Alexander Macridis '84	Greece	20 years
Douglas Shanefield '91	Hawaii	15 years
Murray Wheeler '62	Boston, MA	15 years
Jeffrey Bigham '94	Lubbock, TX	10 years

## Learn from the best – You!

We have compiled a series of [best practices](#) for our interviewers from a handful of seasoned ASC members. You can find these best practices and many more on the new [ASC website](#).

“We make a difference in these kids’ lives, and we’re passionate about Yale and want the kids to realize how much of a gift it is to get into Yale. The most difficult decision I had to make was to send my son 3,000 miles away, but meeting so many great alumni has made that decision far easier!”

“Approach the interview with an open and generous mind. You should want to learn about the student, and, of course, sell Yale a bit!”

“Libraries move heaven and earth to help you find a quiet room. A nice public location, free, and quiet.”

“Our job is NOT to play admissions rep, rather to provide admissions with the sense of personality the applicant brings to the table. I sometimes tell volunteers that we are the Art needed to complement the Science of admissions.”

## Review of Single-Choice Early Action

The November 1st application deadline for [Single-Choice Early Action \(SCEA\)](#) is rapidly approaching. High School students often ask about Yale’s SCEA Policy. To clear up any confusion, here is what you need to know:

Students who apply early to Yale may not simultaneously apply for Early Action or Early Decision to any other school with a few exceptions. SCEA is non-binding, so students who are admitted to Yale can still choose to matriculate elsewhere.

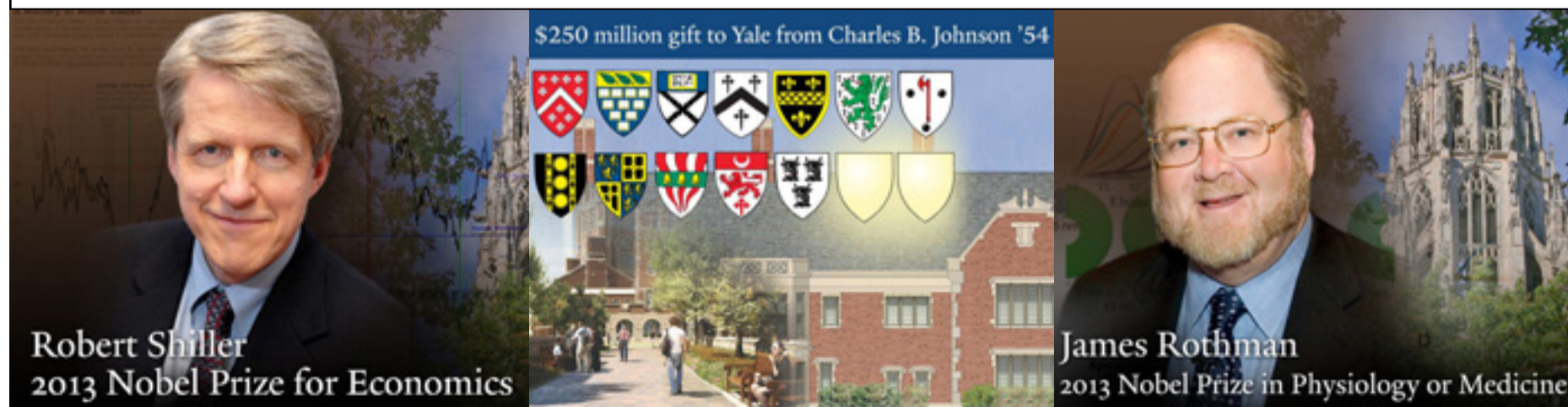
If a student applies early to Yale, she can also apply to another institution’s early admission program, but only as follows:

- Any college’s non-binding rolling admission program.
- Any public institution at any time provided that admission is non-binding.
- Another college’s Early Decision II program, but only if the notification of admission occurs after January 1. If admitted through another college’s Early Decision II binding program, the student must withdraw his/her application from Yale.
- Any institution outside of the United States at any time.

SCEA applicants will receive one of three decisions on the notification date:

- Offer of admission
- Denial of admission
- Deferral of admission – the admissions committee has deferred its decision until Regular Decision.

Finally, there is no advantage to applying early to Yale. Although the rate of admission has been historically higher than the overall admission rate, many of our strongest applicants apply through Early Action and use the entire summer to work on their application. If a student needs more time to work on her application, she can always apply through our Regular Decision process.



## Take the Virtual Tour

Has it been a while since you've been to your residential college? Curious about the new Center for Engineering Innovation and Design? See for yourself on a [virtual tour](#):

- Campus Tour
- Engineering Resources
- Athletic Facilities
- Residential Colleges
- Sciences at Yale

## 2013-2014 Viewbook

Available online, and with new content, updated profiles, statistics, and so much more, the [2013-2014 Viewbook](#) is a great resource to learn about current life at Yale and in New Haven.



## From the Mail Bag



**ASC Director:** "... I've received a request for direct help in putting together someone's Yale College application. My gut says that I cannot get seriously involved in this, although meeting with this student, discussing the Yale experience, and giving a few general pointers on the application would be OK. What do you suggest?"

**Yale Admissions:** ASC Members must **not** provide students with advice on putting together the Yale application. We suggest that you direct this student to the [advice section](#) on the admissions website. The role of ASC members is to provide general information about Yale and the admissions process as well as to evaluate candidates' interview performance, but they should not be in the business of helping individual students with their applications to Yale.

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**ASC Member:** "I interview for Stanford Business School, I assume that's OK?"

**Yale Admissions:** We require that ASC members interview for one undergraduate institution. Interviewing applicants for professional or graduate schools is OK.

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**ASC Member:** "My ASC Director just asked me to interview a student for QuestBridge's match program. What is this?"

**Yale Admissions:** Yale is partnered with [QuestBridge](#), an organization that links high achieving, low-income students with opportunities at selective colleges and universities. QuestBridge runs a National College Match Program that is similar to a medical residency match whereby qualified students rank their top choice schools, and college and universities rank their top QuestBridge candidates. In late October and early November, we will ask ASC members to interview QuestBridge finalists who have listed Yale as a possible match. If a student matches with Yale, he or she will be notified in early December, ahead of the Early Action decision release.

## Move-in Day at Yale

Hundreds of freshmen flocked to Old Campus during Yale's annual "[Move-In Day](#)." Some arrived on campus for the first time with their parents. Others spent the previous week attending one of the various pre-orientation events, such as Cultural Connections, FOOT, OIS, or Harvest. See how the actual event brought together the entire community in the most interesting and memorable way. Maybe you will recognize one of the students whom you interviewed!

