Bulldog Days 2015

From April 20th through 22nd, the Admissions Office hosted nearly 1,200 admitted students and an additional 800 family members for Bulldog Days 2015. While inclement weather on the first day gave the program a rainy start, nothing could keep the vibrant Yale spirit from pervading throughout the campus. As in past years, this event aimed to showcase the unparalleled undergraduate experience to our admitted students in anticipation of their final college decisions on May 1st. All hands were on deck to ensure smooth sailing during the busy three days, and special thanks go to Mark Dunn ’07, Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Outreach and Recruitment, for his leadership and vision throughout.

Attendees stayed on Old Campus and in the residential colleges with student hosts. This provided a tangible feel for the sense of community that so many of our students cite as having been critical in their decision to come to Yale. Program highlights included the following events:

• **Welcome Showcase:** A packed audience in Woolsey Hall enjoyed a welcome address from Jeremiah Quinlan ’03, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, and performances by some of Yale’s most renowned student performing groups.

• **Academic Forums:** Admitted students had the opportunity to attend a wide variety of forums on the arts, humanities, sciences, engineering & computer science, social sciences, and some of Yale’s special academic programs.

• **Academic Fair & Extracurricular Bazaar:** Payne Whitney Gym hosted both the Academic Fair and Extracurricular Bazaar, at which admitted students learned about our many academic departments and student extracurricular groups.

• **Residential College Life Panels:** Attendees joined the Masters and students of various residential colleges for an inside look at one of Yale’s most celebrated features.

• **Master Classes:** Some of Yale’s most notable professors presented lectures on topics ranging from “Black Holes, Galaxies, and the Evolution of the Universe” to “America’s Constitution, Written and Unwritten.”

• **New Haven Pizza Party:** At the unofficial closing event of Bulldog Days 2015, students sampled pizzas spread throughout Old Campus from eight of New Haven’s famous pizzerias.

The success of Bulldog Days involved the efforts and coordination of the entire Yale community. This year’s event serves as a testament to the collaborative spirit that we hope you remember fondly from your Yale experience. We sincerely thank you for your help in encouraging our admitted students to attend. As an expression of their gratitude towards your volunteer efforts, a few of our admitted student attendees had some thankful words to share with you all. We hope you watch the video below to celebrate your positive impact on our newest Yalies!

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Mark Dunn ’07 and student employees of the Admissions Office celebrate a successful first day at the Bulldog Days Photo Booth.

Shelly Kagan, Clark Professor of Philosophy, engages with admitted students during his Master Class.

500+ Yale College undergraduates hosted nearly 1,200 admitted students

Attendees represented 48 U.S. states & 20 countries

100+ events offered by student organizations
New Standardized Testing

As many of you are aware, The College Board will be offering a redesigned SAT exam starting in spring 2016 following many calls for revision and change. In light of this redesign, the Admissions Office has taken the opportunity to revise the standardized testing requirement for applicants to Yale College in hopes of making the application process even more clear and open to students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Please find below a comparison between the old and new standardized testing requirements.

**Old Requirement**
- The SAT and any two SAT Subject Tests
- The ACT Plus Writing Test

**New Requirement**
- The SAT (Critical Reading, Math, and Writing)
  - or -
- The ACT Plus Writing Test

Under the revised standardized testing requirement, SAT Subject Tests are **recommended but not required**. Applicants who do not take SAT Subject Tests will not be disadvantaged in the application process. However, applicants who may wish to demonstrate proficiency in a subject area are welcome to take SAT Subject Tests of their choosing.

We recognize that the offering of a redesigned SAT exam in March 2016 may create confusion as to which versions of the exam will fulfill our standardized testing requirement. The following charts provide clarification regarding which exams will be accepted for the next three admissions cycles.

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<th>Applicants to Class of 2020</th>
<th>Applicants to Class of 2021</th>
<th>Applicants to Class of 2022</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current SAT or ACT with Writing</td>
<td>Redesigned SAT with Optional Essay</td>
<td>Redesigned SAT with Optional Essay</td>
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<td>SAT Subject Tests</td>
<td>SAT Subject Tests</td>
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<td><strong>Recommended</strong></td>
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| **Note:** The current SAT (offered before March 2016) will not fulfill the testing requirement for the Class of 2022.

While standardized testing is just one of the many parts of a holistically-reviewed application to Yale, we are pleased to keep our ASC members updated with the latest developments. Dean Jeremiah Quinlan ’03 recently penned an op-ed regarding the upcoming SAT redesign, and we encourage you to read his thoughts below.

The redesigned SAT, recently announced by the College Board, has been receiving a great deal of well-deserved media attention. And no wonder. For years now critics across the country from every affected constituency have been talking about the need for change. Now here it is.

Over the past several years, I have been expressing an opinion that I imagine most of colleagues in the college admissions community share: We need an SAT that is more open and transparent. We need an SAT that more closely correlates with work students do in the classroom. We need an SAT that inspires students to prepare for college by developing skills they truly need to grow intellectually. And we need a process that ensures that low-income students receive the customized, targeted support for the college application process that matches the support available to wealthier students.

Granted there are important attributes such as imagination, originality, and the capacity and will to engage ideas that are not revealed in a student’s transcript, or by standardized testing. These, as well as other important personal qualities, such as character and leadership, must be evaluated in other parts of a student’s college application. Nevertheless, testing at its best, alongside classroom achievement, can help reveal readiness and accomplishment.

Will this SAT be able to do that? Details are still forthcoming and it will take time to know whether this bold experiment can succeed. Change always has risk. Nevertheless, I am one of those pleased to see these issues being addressed in a concrete and serious way. I applaud the College Board’s efforts to promote equity and excellence by redesigning the SAT to better reflect the challenging work students do in the classroom each day. I am pleased to see that every income-eligible student who takes the SAT will receive four fee waivers directly from the College Board for college applications. I am looking forward to working with the College Board to make the college application process more clear and open to the most promising students from the widest possible variety of backgrounds, talents, interests, and experiences.

These reforms send an important signal to high school students across America. If you work hard every day in the classroom, you will significantly improve your chances of doing well on the SAT, getting into the college of your choice, engaging and profiting from your work there and graduating. Getting ready for college should never be about tricks or last minute cramming. I believe that the redesigned SAT is on the right path in its transparency and openness, and that it sends the clear signal that if you work hard and achieve, we in higher education will work to open doors for you.

Jeremiah Quinlan
Dean of Undergraduate Admissions
Yale University