ASC Awards and Recognition

At last month’s AYA Assembly, we honored several ASC members with the annual ASC Excellence and Ambassador Awards to recognize them for their deep commitment to the ambassadorial mission of the ASC. For many Yale applicants, the alumni interview is a rare opportunity (and in some cases the only opportunity) to meet a member of the Yale community and to gain a deeper understanding of the values and character that define the University. Regardless of whether they gain admission to Yale or not, these students will remember the positive impression of Yale from your conversations, which can result in a significant ripple effect.

Thank you to all of our ASC members who have interviewed applicants in this round as well as past admissions cycles. Your efforts to reach these students, promote Yale, and provide insights to admissions remain critical to our process. We look forward to honoring your tremendous service for many years to come.

John “Jack” Walsh ’67, ASC Director of Buffalo, NY
Laura Farwell ’85, ASC Director of the Upper Peninsula, MI

In addition to the above ASC awards, this year’s AYA Assembly also bestowed the Yale Medal to Barbara Wagner ‘73 who served as the ASC Director of Cincinnati for 25 years. Alongside her work for the Yale Day of Service, the AYA Board of Governors, and as President of the Cincinnati Yale Club, Barbara cultivated a committee of volunteers who annually interviewed over 95% of local applicants to Yale during her time as Director. Her additional work promoting organized student receptions, creating networking opportunities for local undergraduates, and administering a local summer scholarship program all speak to her true dedication as a real flagbearer for Yale. Furthermore, Barbara continues to lead the Yale Alumni Schools Ambassadors (YASA) as a producer for the upcoming trip to the south Caucasus. The Admissions Office is thrilled for Barbara, who certainly is deserving of the AYA’s highest recognition.

Please join us in congratulating the recipients of this year’s ASC Excellence and Ambassador Awards.

The United Kingdom ASC

Led by ASC Directors Richard Burston ’82 and Alexandra Burston ’13, the United Kingdom ASC is the largest international committee with nearly 400 members. Richard has been a stalwart leader and volunteer for 15 years, and he was joined by his daughter Alexandra this past year in directing an ASC that sees 400+ applicants annually. The Burstons are extremely hands-on and inspiring leaders, often contacting each interviewer separately to follow-up any interview requests. It is such leadership that drives the United Kingdom ASC to interview roughly 95% of its applicants each cycle. The Burstons also bring this sense of commitment into their own home, personally hosting two admitted student events. The Admissions Office is deeply grateful to the Burstons and the United Kingdom volunteers for their exemplary service.

The Burstons make leading the United Kingdom ASC a family effort

ASC Excellence Award: For the Alumni Schools Committee that exhibits overall excellence, including a strong commitment to an ambassadorial mission, superior volunteer participation and reporting to the admissions committee, and creativity in programming.

The United Kingdom ASC

ASC Ambassador Award: For the Alumni Schools Committee volunteer leader who exemplifies the ambassadorial mission of this initiative; inspires superior participation by engaging both new and experienced volunteers, and facilitates creativity in programming and communications.

John “Jack” Walsh ’67, ASC Director of Buffalo, NY
Laura Farwell ’85, ASC Director of the Upper Peninsula, MI

Jack Walsh ’67 has been a member and Director of the Buffalo ASC for over 35 years. He has personally interviewed over 800 applicants to Yale, and year after year he takes responsibility for making sure that virtually every applicant to Yale from the Greater Buffalo region receives an admissions interview. Jack consistently writes some of the best interview reports we receive. He truly has a gift for identifying and affirming a person’s unique strengths. While Jack has served on a spectacular number of Yale boards, we are incredibly fortunate to benefit from Jack’s leadership of the ASC Program – there is no one else we’d want flying the Yale flag in Western New York.

Laura Farwell ’85 leads the Upper Peninsula ASC in Northern Michigan – a region with an area extending over 1600 square miles. Laura has brought a strong Yale presence to the area and encourages the best and brightest to consider Yale seriously. Her interview reports go above and beyond, as she provides the admissions committee with important town, regional, and family context. Beyond her impact in admissions, Laura helps Upper Peninsula students at Yale find housing in Connecticut during school breaks, assists in securing jobs locally, and is dedicated to issues surrounding rural poverty and educational access in Michigan. As a true ambassador, Laura is most deserving of this recognition.

Barbara Wagner with her Yale Medal and President Peter Sidlowy Ph.D. ’80

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Important Dates

With the new year right around the corner, please keep these ASC-related dates in mind!!

January
Jan. 1: RD application deadline

February
Feb. 15: deadline to submit RD interview reports
Feb. 27-29: YES-Weekend for STEM likely students
Feb. 20: RD decision release
Mar. 26: late March: RD application deadline
May 1: admitted student reply date

March
Apr.
May
Apr. 25-27: Bulldog Days program for admitted students

Written and edited by: John Yi ’12+1 and Bowen Posner
Design by: John Yi ’12+1

The ASC is a network of alumni volunteers who share a passion for Yale and conduct interviews on behalf of Undergraduate Admissions with the goals of:

1) Providing crucial information about applicants to Yale so that the admissions committee can make better decisions as it shapes the freshman class, and
2) Establishing a Yale presence to educate the local applicants and community about Yale’s unique opportunities, values, and character.

asc.yale.edu | asc@yale.edu | 203.432.9316