Greetings and happy new year to you, our dedicated ASC volunteers across the globe! In many ways 2014 has been a momentous year here in New Haven. In my first full year as Dean, we reviewed a record number of applications to Yale College, saw a big jump in the percent of students who accepted our offer of admission, and welcomed to campus one of the largest and most diverse freshman classes in Yale history. Riding this momentum into the new year, we strengthened our outreach efforts to high-achieving, low-income communities across the country. Our outreach combined targeted mailings, a new ASC portal, and over 400 student ambassador visits to inform prospective students of Yale’s unparalleled educational opportunities, vibrant and high-energy campus life, and generous financial aid. Naturally, we had very high hopes for the Early Action round of admission, and the applicants did not disappoint! With an incredibly strong applicant pool from which to choose, we have already admitted 753 students to the Class of 2019. In addition, we matched with 40 QuestBridge finalists, a 67% increase over last year and the highest number of match offers Yale has made since becoming a QuestBridge partner in 2007. As many of you know, QuestBridge is a non-profit organization that helps identify high-achieving, low-income students, connecting them with universities such as Yale that provide generous need-based financial aid. Just as with our Early Action admitted students, the QuestBridge matches are now free to apply elsewhere, but we expect to matriculate a high percentage of them.

Of course, with the holidays behind us we turn our attention to the full set of 30,000 applications for the Class of 2019. We still need your help to ensure that these applicants have the opportunity to interview with a Yale graduate. We ask that you continue to embrace the new technology platform and to take great care in your reporting. Please encourage the newest members of your ASC to experience for themselves the reward of meeting promising young students and helping to promote Yale’s unique opportunities.

Dean Jeremiah Quinlan with Tom Gottshall, ASC Director, Columbia, SC, and the Orlando ASC (led by ASC Director Natalie Holzer ’97). They are superb examples of the commitment that so many of you make year after year. That commitment is significant, and I hope you will accept my sincerest gratitude for your dedication and enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, I wanted to use this space to address a serious misconception I encountered this fall when speaking with several alumni groups. It was clear to me that some ASC members did not fully realize the impact of their efforts. During a recent presentation at the AYA Assembly in New Haven, a loyal ASC volunteer asked, “Do my reports even matter?” Without hesitation, I responded, “Absolutely!” She then said, “But I hear that the interview view is only important for a small number of students.” I responded, “Absolutely untrue!” In an age when college applications are often extraordinarily crafted and groomed by students, parents, and even hired consultants, the increasing importance of the ASC program as well as your invaluable feedback prompted the overhaul of our alumni interviewing platform over the last year. Many alumni have expressed their appreciation for the easier log-in process, intuitive design, and comprehensive personal and applicant profiles provided by the ASC portal. What you may not see from your end, however, is that the new portal also provides our Admission Committee with immediate access to your reports and real-time tracking of your progress in meeting candidates. In addition, your ASC director can now make interview assignments by your geographic proximity to an applicant, making the interview process more time-efficient and convenient for our interviewers. We also designed the ASC Orientation and an improved interview report form to provide better guidance to you as you craft your reports. Interview reports are therefore becoming increasingly critical to the admissions process. They are also some of the most frequently viewed documents in our Admissions Committee meetings, flashed up on a big screen so that all members of the committee can read them. As alumni you understand the unique character and values of Yale and we welcome – no, need – to incorporate your insights into our decision-making process.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we also endeavored to expand the reach of the ASC program. Our new “virtual ASC members” met with 6% of Early Action interviewees via video chat technology, connecting with students in parts of the world or the U.S. that were previously unreachable. Likewise, we aggressively recruited several thousand Bulldogs of the Last Decade (BOLD) into local ASCs. These new volunteers accounted for over a quarter of Early Action interviews.

Of course, with the holidays behind us we turn our attention to the full set of 30,000 applications for the Class of 2019. We still need your help to ensure that these applicants have the opportunity to interview with a Yale graduate. We ask that you continue to embrace the new technology platform and to take great care in your reporting. Please encourage the newest members of your ASC to experience for themselves the reward of meeting promising young students and helping to promote Yale’s unique opportunities.

We applaud your efforts to adapt to these many changes! Thank you as always for your patience, persistence, flexibility, and leadership.

Sincerely yours,

Jeremiah Quinlan
Dean of Undergraduate Admissions

Important Dates

| Jan. 1: RD application deadline | Feb. 14-16: YES-Weekend for STEM likely students | late March: RD decision release |
| Feb. 15: deadline to submit RD interview reports | Apr. 20-22: Bulldog Days program for admitted students | May 1: admitted student reply date |

Written and edited by: Jonathan Martin ’12, John Yi ’12+1, and Bowen Posner
Layout Design by: John Yi ’12+1