Changing Seasons
By M. Bowen Posner, Director of the ASC Program

Now that our entire admissions staff has returned from the road, I want to express my deepest gratitude to you for being wonderful hosts throughout the fall. Admissions officers were greeted by enthusiastic ASC volunteers at every stop, highlighting the camaraderie and enthusiasm that characterizes the Yale community!

It’s hard to believe that we have shifted our focus to reading the applications submitted by prospective members of the Class of 2018. How the time flies! Yale is more desirable than ever with 4,768 Early Action applications, and we hope that, as ambassadors for Yale, you are excited to meet with these students as the interview season moves into full swing.

This summer and fall, we took several steps to improve communications and the tools available to enhance your conversation with these tremendous students. You will find a much-improved ASC website, with various guidelines, tips & best practices, as well as an assortment of sample interview questions and interview reports to guide your work. I strongly urge you to explore these resources.

If our excitement is any indication, this will be another fantastic year. Boola Boola!
Tales from the Road

Before we shift completely to application reading, we wanted to share stories from the road this fall. In a few regions ASCs and admissions staff came together for workshops and breakfasts, all with the goal of strengthening our ASC education and ambassador networks.

Assistant Director Hannah Mendlowitz ’12 reported that over 100 alumni volunteers attended several Bay Area ASC workshops. Dean Jeremiah Quinlan ’03 “led a discussion of two case studies and walked alumni through the application review process.” ASCs were able to see what role the interviews serve within the greater context of how the admissions committee reviews applications. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with some ASCs shifting the way in which they see the work of the ASC and how they will approach interviews and reports.

Upon her return to 38 Hillhouse, Senior Assistant Director Dara Norwood remarked “I always love that [my ASCs] can point me to great local restaurants and share stories about their time on campus.” For many staff, ASCs were instrumental in coordinating information session venues and school visits; in some cases, ASCs even served as gracious hosts to our weary travelers.

Assistant Director Daniel Edeza ’10 hosted another session with Dara and Assistant Director John Yi ’12 at the Creative Artists Agency in Los Angeles. Close to 80 ASC members attended, pairing up for reviews of admissions cases before coming together for “mock admissions committee” in which they discussed the candidacy of these realistic applications.

Whether you were a host, an attendee, or someone who answered questions at the end of the many information sessions, we thank you for helping us with our fall outreach. Your assistance and companionship made our travel season fly by!

Reminder: DECEMBER 1 – SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR EARLY ACTION INTERVIEW REPORTS

Access a Wealth of Online ASC Resources

Wondering what types of questions to ask an applicant? New to writing interview reports? The ASC website provides numerous resources to assist you during the interview and reporting season. You can find a range of write-ups from very helpful to unhelpful reports. Or, read the sample questions that we have compiled for you. These resources are available to make your conversations with applicants both fun and informative.
ASC Volunteer: My husband is also a Yale alum, and we are really curious if we can conduct interviews together?

Yale Admissions: We require that ASC interviews meet with an applicant one-on-one. There are many reasons for this. We would like to spread our volunteers across as many applicants as possible. More importantly, the interview is usually a very stressful situation for our applicants, and even though you might be wonderful conversationalists, the presence of both of you might create an overly intimidating environment.

ASC Volunteer: I had a very frustrating interview this weekend. No matter what I did, the candidate simply wouldn’t talk! I asked open-ended questions and she had trouble focusing. I switched to direct questions and got very short answers. I went through just about every topic under the sun – from academics to her clubs to popular culture to current events. Nothing worked! We were done after fifteen minutes. Did I do something wrong?

Yale Admissions: Sorry to hear about this tough interview. We’re glad you tried lots of different avenues, and unfortunately, some kids simply cannot get through an interview. The only suggestion we have is to use the last fifteen minutes to talk about Yale and college generally. It may will relieve the pressure if all she has to do is listen. Once she sees how friendly you are, she may get over her initial reticence and have something to say. Hopefully this will also get you to the thirty minute mark so she won’t leave feeling completely deflated or as if she didn’t have a fair shot.

ASC Director: I’m always a bit confused about students with likely letters. I just received instructions about 3 recruited athletes in my area. Should I tell the interviewer to submit the report or not? Do I need to worry about NCAA regulations?

Yale Admissions: Students who have received a likely letter, whether a recruited student-athlete or not, should have the opportunity to interview with an ASC member. If nothing else, this gives them more information about the Yale experience. A recruited student-athlete can come to a yield event where there might be food provided, etc. just like any other admitted student. But an interviewer who hears about a recruited student-athlete shouldn’t make any additional effort to reach out to the student or take her out to lunch, etc. As long as an interviewer is not treating the recruited athlete any differently than other students through the ASC program, she will meet NCAA expectations.

ASC Volunteer: I know that you do not want us to conduct interviews at home, but the local café is noisy and full of kids from the local high school. Any better suggestions for an interview venue?

Yale Admissions: You’re right. We do not allow ASC members to interview applicants at ASC members’ homes, and we strongly discourage interviews from taking place at applicants’ homes. How about the local library? Many libraries allow patrons to reserve a private conference room. What about the candidate’s high school? The guidance counselor might be willing to let you use an empty office or classroom in the late afternoon (while the building is still open).