To All NYC Columbia Alumni:

Hello! We are the NYC coordinators for Alumni Representative Committee (ARC). This is the group of local Columbia alumni who interview students at NYC high schools who have applied to Columbia College and The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and submit reports to the Admissions office summarizing our impressions and evaluations.

Some of you have been involved in ARC interviewing in the past, and many have not. Collectively, we have been doing these interviews for over 30 years, and over that time we have interviewed hundreds of applicants. It has been great fun talking to high school seniors about college in general and Columbia in particular. With very few exceptions, these students are smart, intriguing, probing, and all of them have accomplished incredible things in their young lives — and these are just the applicants! It also has been very gratifying to help our alma mater in continuing to attract the very best and the brightest applicants in our area.

Most of you know that year in and year out, applications to Columbia have increased and as a result, the percentage of these very wonderful kids who are admitted decreases. Meanwhile, the Admissions officers can meet only a small fraction of the applicants on campus or at school visits. The ARC interviewers provide invaluable services to the school in conducting these interviews locally, and providing the Admissions Office with our totally objective, “up close” impressions of the applicants.

Interviews are assigned by e-mail through the area chairpersons, and ARC interviewers usually spend 30-45 minutes talking to an applicant in a local Starbuck’s, pizzeria, or perhaps at one’s office. The number of interviews each ARC member conducts in a year depends on the ARC member’s preferences and is totally flexible. Some people do two interviews and others may do as many as twenty depending on their inclination and availability.

As you all know, we have many fine local high schools, both public and private, and we have a few thousand applicants per year in New York alone. We do not have enough ARC members to conduct interviews for all of these kids, and recently we have been running at 40-50% of applicants getting an interview. We very much would like to reach 100% so that every high school student with the good sense and fine judgment to apply to Columbia will get an interview as part of the application process.

So, we invite you to join the ARC. If you are interested, please sign up on the ARC Web site (www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/alumni/volunteers.php) with your UNI and password (alumni.columbia.edu/uni - if you do not know your UNI and password, please e-mail the Office of Alumni and Development at udar@columbia.edu and include
your name, school, and graduation year.) If you sign up right away, you will be able to conduct interviews for this interviewing season, which ends in late February. Please note that even if you live in Manhattan, you can request interviews in any of the other boroughs, where we need the most help. To learn how to request an interview, go to the Help section of the ARC site and view Training for ARC Members when you log in.

Thanks in advance for your assistance and commitment to Columbia.

ROAR!

Stephen Boatti ‘79CC
Bronx ARC Chair

Gerald Sherwin ‘55CC
Manhattan ARC Chair

Rabbi Ahmed ‘95SEAS
Queens ARC Chair

Yuri Shane ‘99CC
Brooklyn ARC Chair

John Luisi ‘81CC
Staten Island ARC Chair