



HARVARD ALUMNI DAY 2025

Friday, June 6, 2025

Harvard Yard

Moitri Chowdhury Savard AB '93, President, Harvard Alumni Association

Sarah C. Karmon, Associate Vice President and Executive Director, Harvard Alumni Association

ORDER OF PROGRAM

Alumni Parade from the Old Yard

Call to Order

Peter J. Koutoujian MPA '03, Sheriff of Middlesex County

Welcome Remarks and Introductions

Moitri Chowdhury Savard AB '93

Volunteer Recognition

Sarah C. Karmon

"Radcliffe, Now We Rise to Greet Thee" by Floretta Elmore AB 1909 and Emily Coolidge AB 1908

Performed by alumni members of the Harvard Din & Tonics, Harvard Glee Club, Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, Harvard University Choir, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, Radcliffe Choral Society, and Radcliffe Pitches

Report to the Alumni by the President of Harvard University

Alan M. Garber AB '77, PhD '82

"Tesknota Za Ojczyzna Marsz" (Polish Traditional) Etudes-Caprice Op. 18, No. 4 by Henryk Wieniawski

Danilo "Dacha" Thurber AB '25 and Sava Thurber '27

Presentation of the Harvard Medals

Alan M. Garber AB '77, PhD '82

Address by the Harvard Alumni Day Speaker

Atul Gawande MD '95, MPH '99

"Fair Harvard" by Samuel Gilman AB 1811 and Janet Pascal AB '84

Performed by alumni members of the Harvard Din & Tonics, Harvard Glee Club, Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, Harvard University Choir, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, Radcliffe Choral Society, and Radcliffe Pitches

HARVARD MEDAL RECIPIENTS

The Harvard Medals have been bestowed by the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) since 1981 in recognition of extraordinary service to the University.

KATHY DELANEY-SMITH

Kathy Delaney-Smith, the winningest coach in Ivy League history, transformed Harvard women's basketball with 630 career victories, 11 Ivy League titles, and 16 postseason appearances over a remarkable 40-year tenure. A pioneering advocate for gender equity, she became the first woman inducted into the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and had Harvard's head women's coaching position renamed in her honor upon retirement. Known for her "act as if" mantra and progressive use of sports psychology and mindfulness, Delaney-Smith shaped generations of players on and off the court, inspiring alumnae to request her memoir, *Grit and Wit: Empowering Lives and Leaders*. Before Harvard, she amassed a 204–31 record at Westwood (MA) High School and fought for equal resources for girls' sports. She also coached USA Basketball's women to gold at the 2005 World University Games. A cancer survivor, Delaney-Smith is also a dedicated advocate for early cancer detection and has been honored with the Gilda Radner Award for her contributions to the American Cancer Society.

PAUL J. FINNEGAN AB '75, MBA '82

Paul Finnegan has been a dedicated leader and advocate for Harvard for over four decades, serving in top roles such as University treasurer, Harvard Corporation member, chair of Harvard Management Company, and president of the HAA. Renowned for his financial expertise, Finnegan helped guide Harvard's governance and financial stability, leading significant changes at Harvard Management Company and serving 12 years on the Corporation. As executive committee co-chair of The Harvard Campaign, he played a central role in raising a record-breaking \$9.6 billion. Finnegan also contributed as a member of the Board of Overseers, enhancing alumni engagement and global outreach as HAA president. His commitment spans multiple Harvard Schools, where he has held advisory roles and championed improvements to the undergraduate experience. Beyond Harvard, Finnegan is a longtime supporter of Teach For America.

CAROLYN HUGHES AB '54

Carolyn Hughes, a dedicated Harvard volunteer and ambassador for nearly 50 years, has championed educational access by interviewing countless high school students and leading the Harvard Club of Long Island. Raised in Boston's Allston neighborhood, she attended Radcliffe thanks to the encouragement of a teacher and her own resourcefulness, later pioneering as one of the first women in computer science and systems design. Hughes began volunteering in the late 1960s, visiting 120 New York high schools, and has since served in numerous leadership roles, including president of the Harvard Club of Long Island, HAA director for Clubs and Shared Interest Groups, and chair of Harvard's National Schools and Scholarship Committee. She has strengthened alumni outreach, trained Harvard interviewers, and organized counselor programs, now serving as co-chair emerita of the Club's Schools and Scholarship Committee. Hughes's steadfast service has garnered her several honors, including the HAA Award, the Hiram S. Hunn Award, and the HAA Clubs Award.

DAVID JOHNSTON AB '63

David Johnston, the 28th governor general of Canada, is a distinguished public servant, university president, and law professor who has dedicated his life to his country, academia, and Harvard, where he was president of the Board of Overseers and the first non-U.S. citizen to hold the role. Growing up in a mining town in Ontario, Johnston was recruited to Harvard for his academic and athletic promise, graduating magna cum laude and becoming a two-time All-American in ice hockey. He has remained a steadfast volunteer, serving on class reunion and gift committees, as an HAA Elected Director, and on numerous Overseers visiting committees. In his honor, the Harvard Club of Ottawa established the David Johnston Financial Aid Fund to support Canadian students. His career has also included service as dean of law at Western Ontario, principal and vice-chancellor at McGill University, and president of the University of Waterloo. Married for 61 years, Johnston and his wife, Sharon, have five daughters, all in public service, and 14 grandchildren.

HARVARD ALUMNI DAY SPEAKER

ATUL GAWANDE MD '95, MPH '99

Atul Gawande is a renowned surgeon, author, and public health leader committed to reimagining how medicine is delivered to improve outcomes for all. He served as assistant administrator for Global Health at USAID from 2022 to 2025 and is a professor at Harvard Medical School and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. As a pioneering researcher and advocate, he cofounded Ariadne Labs and Lifebox and developed the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist, which has saved countless lives worldwide. Gawande is also a longtime staff writer for

the *New Yorker* and the author of four *New York Times* best-selling books, including *Being Mortal*. He served as CEO of Haven, the joint Amazon–Berkshire Hathaway–JP Morgan venture to transform health care in the U.S., and has played a leading role in public health crisis response, including the COVID-19 pandemic. His work has earned him a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship and recognition as one of *TIME*'s most influential thinkers.

CHIEF MARSHAL OF ALUMNI

DARA OLMSTED SILVERSTEIN AB '00

Food sustainability expert Dara Olmsted Silverstein is a leader in environmental policy and food systems. She spent eight years at Harvard's Office for Sustainability and led the Dining Services' Food Literacy Project, advancing education on sustainability, nutrition, and food preparation across campus and in the Cambridge community. Silverstein holds a master's degree in environmental policy from Tufts

University, has written for the *Boston Globe's Green Blog*, and later managed Stanford University's sustainable food program, where she educated and collaborated with faculty, staff, and students. An active volunteer, she has held numerous class leadership roles, served as an alumni interviewer, and supports education and financial access through philanthropy and editorial work with organizations like Kiva.

MUSICAL PERFORMERS

DANILO “DACHA” THURBER AB '25

Dacha Thurber is an award-winning violinist from New Hampshire known for his solo and orchestral performances around the world. A recent Harvard College graduate who studied music and computer science, he is also a violin coach at the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras and an advocate for music's power to inspire youth. Outside of music, Dacha enjoys cooking, birding, and sailing.

SAVA THURBER '27

Sava Thurber is a violinist from New Hampshire currently studying environmental engineering. Former concertmaster of Phillips Exeter Academy's Symphony Orchestra, he has performed with all Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) string ensembles, serves as the lead teaching assistant for violin at BYSO, and was a Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition semifinalist with his Accenti Trio.

Additional musical performances will be provided by alumni members of the:

Harvard Din & Tonics

Harvard Glee Club

Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum

Kuumba Singers of Harvard College

Harvard University Choir

Radcliffe Choral Society

Radcliffe Pitches

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