

HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Elected Directors' Update

INAUGURAL ISSUE • JULY 2026

Welcome to the Elected Directors' Update!

The Elected Directors of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) Board have been working hard to foster engagement and build community among Harvard alumni this year. This *Elected Directors' Update* highlights much of that work, with the goal of informing our alumni constituencies about our accomplishments, providing additional clarity about our role as Harvard alumni ambassadors, and sparking conversations about how we can best serve you, the members of the Harvard alumni community.

The HAA Elected Directors are 18 elected Harvard alumni who serve three-year terms on the HAA Board. We span a wide range of generations, Harvard affiliations, and geographic regions. We strive to further the mission of the HAA: to foster mutually beneficial relationships among Harvard, its alumni, and students; to strengthen the common bond among Harvard alumni; and to advance the endeavors of Harvard University. We meet several times each year to plan initiatives that strengthen the alumni community, empower alumni volunteers, and elevate alumni voices.

Below is an overview of the Elected Directors' group and individual initiatives during the 2025–26 academic year. Please feel free to reach out to any of the Elected Directors if you would like to speak about the HAA or the Elected Directors' work.

Sincerely,

The 2025–26 HAA Elected Directors

“[T]o foster mutually beneficial relationships among Harvard University, its alumni, and students, to strengthen the common bond among Harvard University’s alumni, and to advance the endeavors of Harvard University.”

THE HAA'S MISSION

Group Initiatives

The Elected Directors' work this year was split into three subcommittees. Below are overviews of each subcommittee's initiatives.

Purposeful Ambassadorship Subcommittee

The Purposeful Ambassadorship Subcommittee finalized a Quickstart Guide for Elected Directors, providing guidance on how they can more effectively engage with their Harvard alumni communities and constituencies. Members of the subcommittee have implemented guidance from the Quickstart Guide by planning various alumni events. The subcommittee also organized a visit from Bob Bordone JD '97, a senior fellow at Harvard Law School and expert in negotiation, conflict resolution, and mediation, who conducted an in-person workshop on conflict resilience during the Elected Directors' meeting in June.

Election Subcommittee

Each year, Harvard alumni elect members to the Board of Overseers and the HAA Board. The Election Subcommittee's focus this year was to help increase voter turnout in the Harvard elections and to inform alumni about the importance of the elections. After reviewing current turnout levels and the HAA's election toolkit for volunteers, the subcommittee focused on one concrete goal: to galvanize all HAA Board members to vote. To achieve this, the subcommittee created a database of all HAA Board members and charged each member with conducting outreach to several Board members, encouraging them to vote and to amplify the Get Out The Vote campaign to the alumni groups they are affiliated with.

Communications Subcommittee

The Communications Subcommittee focused on two initiatives: (1) creating this inaugural *Elected Directors' Update* to be disseminated to Harvard alumni, and (2) establishing a set of best practices for Elected Directors to report what happens at HAA Board meetings to their alumni constituencies. We believe that these initiatives will help inform Harvard alumni about the work of the Elected Directors, clarify what the Elected Director role entails, foster communication between the Elected Directors and their constituencies, and promote alumni engagement with the HAA and Harvard.

Individual Initiatives

Beyond their group work, individual HAA Elected Directors led initiatives in their alumni communities, planning several of the initiatives using the Purposeful Ambassadorship Subcommittee's Quickstart Guide. Below are examples.

Angela Sun AB '96, JD '01 co-led the Elected Directors' group initiatives and planned a Harvard Law School alumni event using the Quickstart Guide.

Barbara Barreno-Paschall AB '07 focused on deepening alumni engagement with the two primary alumni constituencies with which she is involved. For example, she shared HAA updates and election information with Harvard Alumni for Global Women's Empowerment and with the Harvard Club of Northeast Ohio. She serves those organizations as board president and trustee, respectively.

Judy Norsigian AB '70 met with Harvard leaders about the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery Initiative and has engaged in outreach to members of the Class of 1970 about Harvard-related activities, including some class-specific activities.

Theodora Skeadas AB '12, MPP '16 organized a series of events with members of the Boston Chapter of the Harvard Kennedy School Women's Alumni Network, including monthly breakfasts and a December meet-up.

Yvonne Osirim AB '01, JD '07 worked on a subcommittee of HAA Executive Committee members and Elected Directors to develop guidelines and community expectations for how alumni engage in the Harvard elections process, served on her 25th Harvard College Reunion Committee, supported the Harvard Black Alumni Society in an advisory capacity, and prepared nominations for HAA Elected Director and Board of Overseers candidates.

Adrian Blake AB '88 organized pilot meetings of a Film SIG and Book SIG within the Harvard Club of Nebraska using the Quickstart Guide, is using the Quickstart Guide with the Gardening Club and Wine Club within the Harvard Club of Nebraska and is assembling a user manual for small Harvard Clubs that includes best practices and a menu of activities with planning tools.

Theresa Cho AB '90 worked with the Mignone Center for Career Success and the International Office to strengthen connections between global alumni networks and current students through internship and career support programming. She also secured full scholarships for Harvard College students attending summer programs in Korea and represented the Harvard Admissions Office at college fairs.

Basil Williams AB '14, JD/MPP '19 co-led the Elected Directors' group initiatives; interviewed several former Elected Directors regarding best practices, challenges, and opportunities for the Elected Director cohort; and conducted a review of communication infrastructure for Harvard alumni in the Detroit area with the goal of building on that infrastructure.

Theresa Chung AB '98, JD '02 has been involved in supporting the Harvard Club of Dallas Community Service Grant. This year, she arranged an event featuring the recipient of last summer's fellowship, a sophomore at Harvard College. The event was held at the nonprofit where the student interned, and the student discussed her internship and student life at Harvard with members of the Dallas community.

Vicky Leung AB '91 brought the United Kingdom alumni community to Harvard, representing U.K. alumni at HAA Leadership Conferences and International Leadership Workshops, and brought Harvard to the U.K. alumni community by organizing an event in London for the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs to increase the Center's global reach and alumni connections.

Colin Kegler AB '97 organized a pilot Zoom webinar for several Harvard classes to hear firsthand perspectives from faculty alumni on a topic of broad interest. The alumni group Crimson Courage adopted the pilot and offered a panel discussion to the Crimson Courage platform concerning research funding at Harvard.

Sanjay Seth MPA/MUP '19 served on the advisory board of the Harvard Alumni for Climate and the Environment Shared Interest Group, on the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability's Alumni Working Group, as a mentor for the Harvard Climate Internship Program, and as a guest speaker on climate policy in Harvard classes; advised the Harvard Climate Leaders Program and the Salata Climate Action Accelerator; and offered mentorship to students and recent graduates interested in careers in climate action.

Nick Melvoin AB '08 spoke with nominated Elected Director candidates about the election process and the experience of serving as an Elected Director, received the Harvard Club of Southern California's Educator of the Year Award, guest lectured for two Harvard Graduate School of Education courses, and served on the board to the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard Kennedy School.

Angela Ruggiero AB '04, MBA '14 supported a variety of events and fundraisers as part of the Harvard Varsity Club, the organization supporting Harvard's 30,000+ student-athlete alumni, provided career mentorship to dozens of current student-athletes and HBS students, and helped organize the Harvard Women's Ice Hockey Alumni Weekend celebrating the 48th season of Harvard Women's Hockey.

Ed Rocha AB '06 served as a co-chair of the Communications Subcommittee, working on this wonderful *Elected Directors' Update* and on best practices for communicating with our alumni communities, gave a stellar presentation on “Community Ambassadorship” at an HAA Board meeting, and reconnected with several of his classmates during his 20th Reunion year.

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING
Stay Connected with the HAA

[Visit the HAA Website](#)

[Follow
@HarvardAlumni on
Social Media](#)

[Join a Shared Interest
Group \(SIG\)](#)

[Join a Harvard Club](#)