

Harvard Club of Western Pennsylvania

A 501(c)(3) Organization

619 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

<http://hcwesternpennsylvania.clubs.harvard.edu>

Newsletter

2020-21

GREETINGS

Dear Fellow Harvard Alumnus and Alumna:

I truly hope that this finds you and your family safe and healthy. As you may have read, Harvard College courses are being taught fully remotely; however, freshman and some upperclassman (by special permission) are living on campus for the fall semester. Plans for the spring semester have not yet been determined. The graduate schools are mostly operating remotely as well.

The Harvard Alumni Association has recommended that Clubs and SIGs conducted their activities primarily remotely. All interviews of applicants to the College and related receptions for admitted students will be conducted remotely this year.

Despite the current inability to host in-person events, I am hopeful that there will be improvements in the spring that may enable us to host some in-person events in the spring/summer. However, in the interim, we are working on organizing some remote events. Please save the date for three upcoming remote events: 1. Lecture via Zoom on **Thursday November 19th** from 7:00-8:30pm by Dr. David Harris, Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School; 2. First Ever Harvard vs. Yale Bagel Bowl via Zoom with Ohio valley clubs on **Saturday November 21st** from noon to 1:45pm; and 3. Global Networking Night on **Thursday January 21, 2021**. Once finalized, additional details for these and other events will be posted on our website and email list.

Since current students were mostly home this summer, there was increased demand for our sponsored Summer Community Service Fellowship. This past summer, we sponsored two local students: Lainey Newman Class of 2021 (Adams House, Pittsburgh Obama) and Cooper Tretter Class of 2022 (Mather House, North Star High School).

Lainey worked as an intern for the Western Pennsylvania Federal Public Defenders. Her primary assignment throughout the summer was a capital case in which her client is currently on death row (in a state other than Pennsylvania). The attorneys on this case are currently appealing the sentence on multiple grounds. Her main project throughout the summer was to write a comprehensive research memorandum for the attorneys on the case about the capital clemency process in the state in which her client is currently imprisoned. The final product was an 80-page research memorandum that included information on everything from the history of the death penalty in this particular state to a review of previously successful strategies for clemency petitions in this state.

Cooper worked in the recently formed Conviction Integrity Unit of the PA Attorney General's office. Cooper was able to use his passion for the intersection of the social sciences and technology to build technology infrastructure so that criminal case review can be carried out faster and more accurately, thereby achieving more prompt and more precise social justice.

Both students are grateful for our support which enabled them to pursue their interests.

We anticipate increased demand from local students again for our sponsored Community Service Fellowship, and plan to utilize your support from dues and dedicated donations to this program to fund additional students next summer. Typically, direct donations for the Community Service Fellowship program provided less than half of the funding needed for one position. We utilized dues and additional donations to support the program this past summer and anticipate utilizing even a greater percentage of dues to support the program for the Summer 2021. Accordingly, we would greatly appreciate your continued support in renewing your dues and make additional contributions to our Club.

Enclosed is your Dues and Financial Support form. We greatly appreciate your support. You can return the form and contribution in accordance with the instructions or renew your Dues electronically on our website at <http://hcwesternpennsylvania.clubs.harvard.edu>

Stay well-

Nick Picarsic, '03

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SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

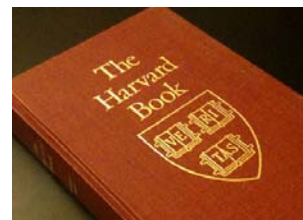
The following Western Pennsylvania students were admitted to the College Class of 2024:

Bana Almoussa	Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy
Camille Baker	Blackhawk High School
Cole Bayless	Reynolds High School
Aaron Berger	Taylor Allderdice
Eva Dorr	Mount Lebanon High School
Alexandra Friedlander	Winchester Thurston
Ella Hilton	Hampton High School
Jacob Lugg	North Allegheny Senior High School
Nicholas Marcenelle Perez	North Allegheny Senior High School
Taruna Singh	Quaker Valley High School

Last year's Harvard applicant pool of 40,248 was one of the largest in Harvard's history and 1,980 were offered spots in the Class of 2024. The corresponding admission rate – 4.9% – is one of the most competitive in the history of the College. We attracted talented applicants from more than 82 public and independent high schools, and a few who were schooled at home. Although many of the applicants reside in or near Pittsburgh, many others come from surrounding communities including as Slippery Rock, Greenville, Mt. Pleasant, Beaver, Johnstown, Somerset, Hollidaysburg, Waynesburg, Bradford, and Uniontown.

HARVARD PRIZE BOOK PROGRAM

In Spring 2020, the Schools and Scholarships Committee awarded the Harvard Prize Book to students at 53 schools across Western Pennsylvania. The committee would like to thank all the alumni who contributed to last year's Harvard Prize Book Program. We look forward to another great year and to the potential to expand the program to more schools to recognize outstanding student achievement. If you have any questions about the program or are interested in presenting a Prize Book to a local student at your alma mater, please contact Nick Picarsic '03 at picarsic@gmail.com or 412-607-0291



You can help the HCWPA Schools Committee and students at your alma mater, or at any local high school of your choosing. Simply check the box on the Dues & Contributions form to donate a prize book. Doing so will encourage more local applicants and may well lead to the application of more Western Pennsylvania students to Harvard College. Thank you for your generosity and for your Harvard pride.

EMAIL LIST

If you are not already on our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to Mike Dukovich at mjdukovich@gmail.com so that we can send details and reminders to you about upcoming events.