HAA Clubs and SIGs Awards

The HAA Clubs and SIGs Committee Awards honor both individuals who provide exemplary service to those groups, and groups that have themselves organized exceptional programming. This year’s awards were presented to the following recipients at the HAA board of directors’ winter meeting on February 5.

Peter Mazareas ’73, of Nahant, Massachusetts. Starting in 2009, Mazareas became president of the Harvard Club of the North Shore and established a leadership team that developed a plan that has revitalized it. Activities that explore New England’s attractions and local landmarks, along with events featuring congressional leaders, have consistently drawn new members. Mazareas also created “Making the Curriculum Real,” a program that links alumni with children in local schools. As an HAA director for northern New England, Mazareas has also convened regional club events to foster a stronger alumni community.

Giulia Stellari ’03, of Port Jefferson, New York, and Nicole Buckley ’08, of Omaha. The alumnae founded the Harvard Alumni for Agriculture SIG in 2011; it has since grown to more than 300 members across 39 states and a dozen countries. Through a dedicated group of board members, the club has focused on investment, mentorship channels, networking, communications, fundraising, and philanthropy. Their efforts have led to a robust website; a webinar series featuring U.S. secretaries of agriculture and executives in the bioenergy and bioengineering fields; and involvement in the AgInvest Conference in New York. Students, faculty, alumni, and corporate mentors can now network and collaborate on agriculture-related projects, bolstering their own professional bonds along with their connection to the University.

Since its inception in 1977, the Harvard University Club of Houston has grown to include more than 4,500 alumni, 450 of whom are recent graduates. Events cater to the diverse interests and fields represented and have recently included Global Networking Nights, an event with Jeremy Lin ‘10 (now of the Los Angeles Lakers), tours of the Houston Federal Reserve Building, and “Back to School” picnics for members and new students, and their families. The club hosts Young Alumni Happy Hours and partnered with the Houston Yale Club for a celebratory event around The Game. Last October, the club also drew crowds for “Your Harvard: Texas,” a gala featuring alumni musicians and faculty panels on the arts, healthcare, energy policy, and the future of cities.

In the last three years, the Harvard Club of Hungary has become a vibrant organization offering unique events such as a reception at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest featuring Mallinckrodt professor of physics emeritus and Nobel laureate Roy J. Glauber. The club also focuses on strengthening relationships with alumni in neighboring European countries. Members helped organize the first Central European Harvard Club meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, and plan a Central European Harvard Ball. Moreover, it has joined with other Central European alumni in annual interactive video conferences with Harvard faculty members. A new initiative, “Back to Your School,” enables Hungarian club members to return to their secondary schools to discuss their experiences and the importance of higher education.

A Special Notice Regarding Commencement Day
Thursday, May 28, 2015

Morning Exercises

To ACCOMMODATE the increasing number of people wishing to attend Harvard’s Commencement Exercises, the following guidelines are provided to facilitate admission into Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement Morning:

- Degree candidates will receive a limited number of tickets to Commencement. Their parents and guests must have tickets, which must be shown at the gates in order to enter Tercentenary Theatre. Seating capacity is limited; there is standing room on the Widener steps and at the rear and sides of the Theatre. For details, visit the Commencement office website (http://commencement.harvard.edu).

Note: A ticket allows admission, but does not guarantee a seat. Seats are on a first-come basis and can not be reserved. The sale of Commencement tickets is prohibited.

- A very limited supply of tickets is available to alumni and alumnae on a first-come, first-served basis through the Harvard Alumni Association (http://alumni.harvard.edu/annualmeeting). Alumni/ae and guests may view the Morning Exercises over large-screen televisions in the Science Center and at most of the undergraduate Houses and graduate and professional schools. These locations provide ample seating, and tickets are not required.

- College Alumni/ae attending their twenty-fifth, thirty-fifth, and fiftieth reunions will receive tickets at their reunions.

Afternoon Program

The Harvard Alumni Association’s Annual Meeting, which includes remarks by its president, Overseer and HAA election results, the presentation of the Harvard Medals, and remarks by President Drew Gilpin Faust and the Commencement Speaker, convenes in Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement afternoon. For tickets (which are required, but free) visit the HAA website or call 617-496-7001.

~The Commencement Office