

Comings and Goings

HARVARD CLUBS offer a variety of social and intellectual events around the country. For information on future programs, contact your local club directly; call the HAA at 617-495-3070; or visit www.haa.harvard.edu. Below is a partial list of spring happenings.

On May 3, the Harvard Club of Eastern New York hosts astronomy professor Alyssa Goodman, who lectures on “Seeing Science.” On May 12, McKay professor of computer science Harry Lewis discusses “The Future of Liberal Education” at the Harvard Club of Minnesota. Lewis also elucidates “Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion” for members of the Harvard Club of St. Louis on June 5.

On June 1, the Harvard Club of Princeton welcomes Robert Sackstein, an associate professor of dermatology and medicine, for a discussion of “What Everyone Should Know about Stem Cells.”

HAA Reviews Classes

THE Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) is reorganizing the way it reaches out to

College alumni by focusing on generational class cohorts grouped according to related life-cycle experiences.

To aid that process, the HAA has conducted its first-ever comprehensive class-governance review, examining class structures, leadership development, reunions, other class activities, and other alumni needs; the results were to be presented at the annual spring meeting of HAA directors on April 15.

“This is not a ‘gotcha’ game of ‘How much money do you raise?’” says Timothy P. McCarthy ’93, HAA vice president for College affairs, a longtime class secretary, and a lecturer in the faculties of arts and sciences and of government. “It’s an ambitious effort to characterize on a much deeper level than we ever have before the landscape of alumni activity at the class level...with an eye toward integrating and fortifying the relationship among classes, the alumni population, and the HAA as an organization.”

The review, overseen by McCarthy and Robert P. Fox Jr. ’86, among others, has involved surveys sent to their fel-

low class secretaries (which yielded an 80 percent return rate), and a gathering of class data that includes histories on reunion attendance figures, gift-giving, and information from class reports. Class leaders and secretaries, among others, will attend the class leadership conference in Cambridge in September.

The reorganization has also created four new and more clearly defined HAA alumni-outreach committees grouped into stage-of-life cohorts: “Building New Communities” (undergraduates through fifth reunion); “Strengthening Alumni Foundations” (sixth through twenty-fifth); “Broadening Alumni Engagement” (twenty-sixth through fortieth); and “Maintaining the Connection” (forty-first and beyond). Previously, the HAA committees were “Classes and Reunions,” “Undergraduates,” and “Recent Graduates,” but “The ‘one-size-fits-all’ committee approach wasn’t really working,” adds McCarthy. “We need to do a better job at serving alumni at different stages of their lives.”

Alumni Sing Out

The newly formed Jameson Singers, a Boston-area choral group of 52 members—47 of them alumni (39 of the College, 8 of the graduate schools)—were scheduled to make their debut on April 10 at the Payson Park Congregational Church in Belmont, Massachusetts. Singing music by Brahms, Monteverdi, and Samuel Barber, the group will be conducted by its founder, retired Harvard choral director Jameson Marvin.

“It’s been amazing getting back into singing and not just using the muscles, but that piece of the brain,” says Juliana Koo ’92, the group’s manager and a former member of the Collegium Musicum. “I sang a little after I first graduated, but then life takes over—and if you don’t have it in your work life, music goes by the wayside.”

That’s a common experience, judging by the number of alumni who’ve joined the group to rekindle the passion for choral music they felt as undergraduates working with Marvin, whose tenure spanned more than 30 years. “I wanted to recreate the same high-quality musical experience we had at Harvard not only for myself, but for them,” he says. “It can be very uplifting for the audience and for members to experience that.”

Very few of the choir members are professional musicians;



Jameson Marvin

Marvin could think of only one. The others are mainly lawyers, doctors, or business consultants, like Koo, who seek a “great musical experience,” she says. More singers are needed, she adds; the group is open to members of the community as well as Harvard affiliates. Weekly rehearsals are required—as are annual dues of \$100 (to cover the costs of rehearsal space, sheet music, and an accompanist). For more information, singers and music lovers can visit the group’s website at www.jamesonsingers.org.



Visit harvardmag.com/extras to hear the Jameson Singers rehearse for a spring concert.