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THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

SEPTEMBER 2023

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Networking Event at the Original Farmers Market

THU, SEP 7 @ 9:00AM

Michelina Artisan Boulanger (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash coffee bar

Harvard Alumni Culver City Sunset Hike & Hangout

SAT, SEP 9 @ 6:00PM

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook / Culver City

No charge

OC Annual Mixer 2023

THU, SEP 21 @ 6:00PM

Club Equinox (Irvine)

No charge, cash bar

Recent Grads Event: Welcome To Your City LA 2023!

WED, SEP 27 @ 5:30PM

Love.Life (Culver City)

No charge

FandangObon: Tracing the Original Indigenous Path of the L.A. River

SAT, OCT 21 @ 8:00AM

Along the LA River, culminating at the L.A. State Historic Park

No charge



Harvard Club Celebrates Entering Class of 2027

On August 6, 2023, Harvard Club board member Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89 hosted more than 30 incoming first year students and their family members at a send-off party before the students' departures to Cambridge for pre-frosh orientation events. HCSC Vice President, Schools, Harry Kim '86; Vice President, Radcliffe, Kay Park '87; and board member Jennifer Lee '95, also attended the event. The students acquainted themselves with each other and compared notes about their Harvard Yard housing assignments, which they had received earlier in the month.

“Harvard College continues to receive a high volume of applications, and we anticipate Southern California will continue to receive a large number of interview requests, especially since SAT and ACT tests are again optional this coming year,” said Mr. Kim. “Harvard Admissions views the alumni interview as a critical component of a candidate’s application, making it crucial for our area to have sufficient numbers of interviewers” to meet the demands of the applicant pool.

Alumni who are interested in serving as interviewers for the upcoming applicant season should contact Mr. Kim at areachairsfvarvard@gmail.com. Both undergraduate and graduate alumni of Harvard University are eligible to serve as interviewers. Interviews may be conducted in person or through Zoom, at the option of the interviewer and with the agreement of the applicant.



Message from Club President Gary Barkin

It's a new school year, and the Class of 2027 arrives in Cambridge this month. The University has a new President (Claudine Gay), and so does the Harvard Club of Southern California (yours truly). I leave it to Harvard Magazine and the many emails you receive from Harvard to inform you of the vision and many accomplishments of Harvard's new president. As for me, I only get to introduce myself in this newsletter, so here goes.

I graduated from Harvard College in 1986 with an AB in Psychology. I couldn't get enough of Cambridge, so I eventually returned to Harvard Law School, graduating in 1993. More recently, I became a Harvard parent when my son attended the College as part of the Class of 2022. I have been an alumni interviewer for decades as well as a long-time member of the Harvard Club of Southern California, serving as a member of the Club's Board of Directors for multiple terms, most recently as Treasurer, Executive Vice President, and now President.

But my connection to Harvard runs deeper than my crimson credentials. During my freshman orientation at Harvard, Martina Horner (then President of Radcliffe – back when there was a Radcliffe President) told us that the most important things we would learn at Harvard would not be from our professors, but from each other. For me, those words proved prophetic. Attending Harvard was like traveling the country - and the world - without ever leaving Harvard Square. The range of Harvard students' experiences, backgrounds and knowledge is staggering and exciting. My most enduring lifelong friendships are the ones that I made in Cambridge. I eagerly return for reunions. My continued alumni work for the Harvard Club has been a wonderful way to engage with the rich diversity of graduates in our area.

Geographically, our Club serves Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties – a vast area covering more than 33,000 square miles (twice the size of Switzerland!) and is home to over 16,000 Harvard alumni, many of whom are Club members. As a Club Board member, one of the requests I've heard from many alums is that they would like the Club to offer more networking opportunities. In response, our Programs Committee recently ramped up the Club's networking events – this summer we hosted six such events, in locations from Pasadena to the beach, and more are in the works. If there are other ways you feel the Harvard Club can better serve you, please reach out to any of our Board members (or you can contact me directly at garybarkin@gmail.com). And if there are events or activities you would like to plan or host, we encourage you to get involved. As a Club member, you are welcome to serve on the Club's various committees and to organize events.

I want to thank our immediate past president, Joan Chu Reese '85, whose stable hand steered our Club through much of the pandemic, increasing our membership, program offerings, and finances along the way. She is a tough act to follow, but I will do my best.

President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

Executive Vice President

Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

Vice Presidents Communications

Pooja Nair JD '11
Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84

Vice President Finance/Financial Aid

John Luna '03

Vice Presidents Membership

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Matthew Stasior '87

Vice Presidents Orange County

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A. J. Rogers MD '79

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Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

Vice Presidents Radcliffe

Elizabeth Gillis '82
Kay Park '87

Vice Presidents Schools

Harry Kim '86
Eva Plaza '80

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Kenneth S. Williams '78

CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan
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email: info@harwardsocal.org

This newsletter accepts items for publication. Materials must be submitted by the 12th of the prior month to appear in the following newsletter. Please include a phone number or email address with all submissions. Email submissions to: info@harwardsocal.org.

Harvard Club of Southern California
1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 204
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Recent Events

Breakfast Networking Event in Brentwood

On July 25, a group of alumni came together for a breakfast networking event hosted at the Coral Tree Café in Brentwood. The open-air seating and beautiful sunny weather provided the backdrop for meaningful discussions and connections. Local alumni and guests who journeyed all the way from Cambridge engaged in intellectual conversations on education, the future of AI, and the pursuit of happiness in our modern society.



Breakfast Networking Event in Santa Monica

Our series of monthly breakfast networking events continues to flourish. On August 10 our gathering took place at the delightful Tartine in Santa Monica. The event was attended by over 20 alumni representing a diverse set of Harvard schools, once again demonstrating the power of connections and shared experiences. Alumni rekindled old acquaintances and forged new connections over fresh-baked pastries and delicious coffee drinks. From conversations about our cherished Harvard Houses to engaging discussions about our current and upcoming projects, the morning was filled with an enriching exchange of ideas and experiences.



The HCSC and HBSAOC Huntington Beach Party

On August 12, Harvard alumni left the memories of those cold winters in Boston behind as they came together to celebrate summer at Huntington Beach. Attendees dined on brisket, ribs, lasagna, and slider sandwiches and basked in the warm California sunshine. Maria Ratanova AM '10, Ph.D. '16 said the event was “a wonderful, fun, and unforgettable beach party” with “an amazing crowd.” “I made some great connections,” Maria said. Stan Marcus MBA '81 agreed, adding, “I think this summer beach party should be an annual event.”



Les Misérables at the Hollywood Pantages

On August 17, twenty Harvard alumni gathered for a sold-out showing of *Les Misérables* at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre. Some group members enjoyed a delicious dinner and conversation at Running Goose restaurant before the show. The touring cast presented a fabulous and thrillingly dramatic show, which all attendees enjoyed from prime orchestra seats. Organizer Pooja Nair, JD '11 observed that “the outing to *Les Mis* at the Pantages brought a diverse group of alumni from many different schools to enjoy a great performance.”



Upcoming Events

Breakfast Networking Event at the Original Farmers Market

Join us for breakfast and network with fellow alumni in The Original Farmers Market. This event offers a fantastic opportunity for you to connect and network in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

THU, SEP 7 @ 9:00AM

Michelina Artisan Boulanger (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash coffee bar



Harvard Alumni Culver City Sunset Hike & Hangout

Join us for a 1.4-mile hike up the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. Enjoy a stunning LA sunset and good company with fellow Harvard alumni.

SAT, SEP 9 @ 6:00PM

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook; After-Hike Hangout in Culver City

No charge



OC Annual Mixer 2023

An after-work networking event in Irvine. Join your fellow Harvard alumni along with other Orange County alumni groups for a night of networking.

THU, SEP 21 @ 6:00PM

Club Equinox (Irvine)

No charge, cash bar



Recent Grads Event: Welcome To Your City LA 2023!

Join us for this special event for alumni who live in Los Angeles or have plans to move here. The event will welcome new arrivals to Los Angeles while providing an opportunity for alumni in the area to connect.

WED, SEP 27 @ 5:00PM

Time, Location and Cost: TBA

Contact: Madeleine Mejia, Madeleine_Mejia@post.harvard.edu



Upcoming Events

FandangObon: Tracing the Original Indigenous Path of the Los Angeles River

Please join us for this very special Los Angeles River walk and cultural celebration ending at the LA State Historic Park where the Fandango Obon dancing will take place.

SAT, OCT 21 @ 8:00AM

Along the LA River, culminating at the L.A. State Historic Park

No charge



Breakfast Networking Event at the Charming Leora Cafe

Join us for breakfast and network with fellow alumni in the heart of Beverly Hills. Feel free to bring along a friend or a colleague who might benefit from this event as well. Don't miss out!

FRI, OCT 27 @ 8:00AM

Leora Cafe - UTA Plaza (Beverly Hills)

No charge, cash coffee bar



Harvard Club Karaoke Night

Join Harvard alumni and friends in a private room karaoke experience in Arcadia! Space is limited, so reserve now to secure your seat and to take advantage of the early bird discount, which includes singing and appetizers.

SAT, NOV 4 @ 8:00PM

Moxie Lounge & Karaoke (Arcadia)

Early bird price (before Oct 15): \$35 (members); \$45 (non-members)

Regular price (deadline Nov 1): \$40 (members); \$50 (non-members)



Q & A from 02138:

Logan Bednar '24



Logan Bednar '24, a concentrator in Economics and member of the Harvard Crimson Football Team, was born in Irvine, California. He graduated from St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower, CA where he captained the Bosco Braves Varsity Football Team. Logan helped St. John Bosco to a No. 4 national ranking as a sophomore, a No. 3 ranking the following season, and a national championship in his final season in 2019. Former team captain, Bednar earned All-Trinity League accolades. A self-proclaimed sneaker head, he enjoys reggae, country, and rock music and the visual arts. He is a senior residing in Pforzheimer House. At Harvard, he is a member of the Crimson offensive line, Harvard College HAPA, and the Harvard Undergraduate Hawai'i Club. During the summers of 2021 and 2022, Bednar worked as an investment banking analyst for Roth Capital Partners in Newport Beach. In the summer of 2023, he was a summer analyst in Goldman Sachs' asset and wealth management unit in Irvine.

HCSC: What surprised you about being a student at Harvard?

LB: The people surprised me most. I hadn't had the slightest notion of how Harvard people interacted in real life. Growing up with various forms of entertainment like the *Legally Blonde* series, *Good Will Hunting*, and *The Social Network*, there was always a bit of a stigma worn by Ivy League characters. However, being at Harvard has brought me some of the best friends I have ever had; they are really amazing people; I will go a step further to say they are family to me. Far and away, they are people of high character and passion, as well as loyalty and respect.

HCSC: When was the first time you visited Harvard and what were your impressions?

BC: I first visited Harvard with my dad the summer before my senior year of high school. I was very intimidated by the aesthetics and history of Harvard, but I was excited to apply later that year.

HCSC: What has been your favorite class (or professor) and why?

LB: The first time I visited Harvard was during the summer of 2019. I was a rising high school senior, in the midst of my recruiting process, and I flew back east to visit various universities. I visited Holy Cross, Fordham, and each of the Ivy League schools over the span of two weeks. While each college was impressive, I knew from the moment I stepped on Harvard's campus that everywhere I had been before couldn't compare. I was enamored by everything Cambridge has to offer; from the architecture and the views I got by walking along the Charles River, to the people I met, to standing on the 50-yard line in Harvard Stadium. I knew immediately this was the place I wanted to call home for the next four years, and be proud to represent for the rest of my life.

HCSC: What was your favorite class (or professor) and why?

LB: My favorite class and favorite professor is EASTD 115: "Japanese Monsters." The course was taught by the incredible Bill Tsutsui, an award-winning historian and teacher, frequent public speaker and media commentator, and a seasoned academic administrator who holds degrees from Harvard (A.B. 1985), Oxford (M.Litt. 1988), and Princeton (M.A. 1990, Ph.D. 1995). At the time, he was a visiting professor from the University of

Kansas but he is now the President/CEO and Professor of History at Ottawa University in Kansas. The course focused on academic “monster studies,” and how they have boomed over the past twenty years. The course explored how Japan offers a rich example of a culture’s monstrous imagination, which has inspired (and in turn shaped) social, political, economic, and technological change. The course was an incredible experience with deeply engaging content and an incredible professor, and was geared perfectly toward my love for anime, video games, and monster movies that hold a special place in my heart.



HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

LB: Well, there was this one time where I met an MLB superstar. I have a really good friend on our Women’s Hockey Team, and she told me one day that this great guy she has been seeing for a long time and now dating is coming to campus. She invited me to meet him, which I gladly accepted. Weekend of, I completely forgot I was supposed to meet her new boyfriend. I am sitting in the Pforzheimer House dining hall for breakfast with some guys on the baseball team after an early workout. Mid-conversation, I saw some jaws drop and forks hit the table. I discovered their gazes were locked in just behind me. “Hey, Logan, I want you to meet someone!” she said. I turned around and found one of the MLB’s premier shortstops standing behind me with an outstretched hand and a smile on his face. After a brief moment of wild disbelief, we exchanged pleasantries and chatted for a while before the couple headed off to start their day, after which I spun back around to my cereal bowl to find my buddies still frozen and awe-stricken. All at once they snapped back to reality. An eruption of laughter and hollering followed, at the surreal moment where we realized we had met a professional baseball player with bedhead and sweatpants on.

HCSC: If you were President of Harvard, what would you change?

LB: I would allow for Harvard Football to participate in the FCS Championship Playoffs. Every year, Ivy League Teams are ranked highly in the FCS football rankings, yet we do not get to demonstrate our abilities in the post-season against teams we consistently dominate week in and week out.

HCSC: What do you miss most about Southern California (other than the weather, food and family)?

LB: I miss driving! Whether I’m sitting in the parking lot that is traffic on the 5 or cruising down PCH, having a drive to myself or with friends while the music is playing and the windows are down is something I miss desperately.

HCSC: How do you think Southern California will figure into your future after Harvard?

LB: In the long term, Southern California is where I want to be. I have no idea what the future holds, where I might start my career or if graduate school is in the crystal ball, but I’d like to live in Southern California, be with my friends and family, and raise a family of my own. Being brought up in Irvine was the best, and I couldn’t hope for anything more than the awesome upbringing my parents provided me.

HCSC: How did you manage the transition to virtual classes?

LB: It was a little strange to say the least. Virtual classes came around in the middle of my senior year in high school. We left school for spring break, and after the awesome thought of getting an extra week or two to stay at home, it was a shock to realize we wouldn’t return. I think I handled it quite well. Even though I began Harvard during the pandemic, I found the transition to be much easier than it might have been with a full-time college schedule, so the virtual classes (even though we couldn’t leave our dorms) were welcome as an introduction of sorts.



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information on events and general club news, visit the club website at www.harvardsocal.org.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Thu, Sep 7 9:00AM	Breakfast Networking Event at the Original Farmers Market	Michelina Artisan Boulanger Los Angeles, CA	No charge, cash coffee bar
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Wed, Sep 27 5:30PM	Recent Grads Event: Welcome To Your City LA 2023!	Love.Life Culver City, CA	No charge
Sat, Oct 21 8:00AM	FandangObon: Tracing the Original Indigenous Path of the L.A. River	Along the L.A. River / L.A. State Historic Park	No charge
Fri, Oct 27 8:00AM	Breakfast Networking Event at the Charming Leora Cafe	Leora Cafe (UTA Plaza) Beverly Hills, CA	No charge, cash coffee bar
Sat, Nov 4 8:00PM	Harvard Club Karaoke Night	Moxie Lounge & Karaoke Arcadia, CA	\$35, members; \$45 non-members