



# HURAnews

HARVARD UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XL, No. 3

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2025

## Garber installation celebrated in December

**O**n December 7, 2024, Alan Garber was installed as Harvard's 31st president in a celebration at the Harvard Art Museums attended by colleagues, University leaders, family, and friends. The event was not open to the public or the press.

About the Holyoke Chair [that presidents sit in during the inauguration], he remarked that "it's not really as uncomfortable as I expected it to be, but it was surprisingly warm when I sat on it during Commencement. It seems to be growing hotter by the day."

He spoke of the important lessons that have guided him to this point "... what it means to be part of the higher education community and to be a part of this university; what it means to be an academic, an economist, a physician, a leader, a human being; what it means to meet the present guided by purpose and to imagine a future lit by possibility."

He noted that he had returned to Harvard from Stanford in 2011 to be



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE MITCHELL/HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Alan Garber has become Harvard's 31st president. At left, "the President's Chair," also known as the Holyoke Chair.



HARVARD ART MUSEUMS/FOGG MUSEUM

Loan from the President and Fellows of Harvard College.

provost, and he thanked former president Drew Faust, who was present, "for seeing something in me that I didn't see in myself, and for being both persistent and persuasive. Someday, other people will know the whole story.

"At Harvard," he said, "we are always conscious of our long history. That history—approaching 400 years, making us one of the oldest

institutions of any kind in North America, and, for the last century or so, one of the most influential in the world—shapes the way we think and act now, as well as the possibilities we imagine for our future.

"The work done at Harvard—the good it does in the world—the good it will do in the world—is wonderfully abundant. People inside and outside of academia pay attention to what Harvard does—and what Harvard fails to do. While our institutional

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# Harvard's master plan for Allston

In mid-January 2024, Harvard began a yearlong process of filing a new Institutional Master Plan (IMP) with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) for its property in Allston, sketching out major renovation and construction plans for the next decade, as required by the zoning code of the City of Boston.

In a meeting hosted by the BPDA, Harvard representatives announced six major projects totaling 138,000 square feet of renovation and 720,000 square feet of new construction—approximately half the area of the 2013 master plan.

Generally renewed every 10 years, IMPs aim to keep expansion plans by

Boston's large nonprofit institutions, such as hospitals and universities, transparent and favorable to the area around them, especially if plans involve residential neighborhoods. They require institutions to document what they own or are planning to build, how that will impact the neighborhood, and what the institutions will do to offset those impacts.

Harvard's main holdings subject to the IMP are concentrated in lower Allston. The new IMP process also means Allston residents will have a process for negotiating community benefits from Harvard.

A task force of Allston residents is looking to prioritize the following:

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## COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, February 23, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

**Sanders Theatre, Handel & Haydn**

**Society, The Brandenburg Concertos**

by Johann Sebastian Bach, a collection

of instrumental

works presented by

Bach to Christian

Ludwig, Margrave

of Brandenburg-

Schwedt, [pictured

here] in 1721.

They are widely

regarded as some of the greatest

orchestral compositions of the Baroque

era (1600-1750).

A registration flyer was sent by email in

late January.



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

**April: Tour of the Gibson House**

on Beacon Street, Boston

<https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/>.

**Thursday, April 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Readings by HURA poets** at Phillips

Brooks House to celebrate National Poetry

Month.

**Later this spring:**

**Boston Pops** Spring concert

**A guided tour** of Mt. Auburn Cemetery

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025,**

**11:30-2:00 Loeb House, HURA**

**Annual Meeting,**

with special guest,

Harvard University

President Emerita and

Arthur Kingsley Porter

University Research

Professor Drew Faust, talking about

her recent memoir, *Necessary Trouble:*

*Growing Up at Midcentury.*



### BEING PLANNED

One or two **book talks** by Zoom from the

Burlington Public Library.

**March: St. Patrick's Day Luncheon**

# Garber named Harvard president

*Continued from page 1*

self-importance may, on occasion, be overblown, our institutional self-consciousness and self-reflection are justified and necessary if we are to avoid falling into complacency.

“We forfeit opportunities when we feel as though the University cannot

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## "People inside and outside of academia pay attention to what Harvard does — and what Harvard fails to do."

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make a move without considering every possible ramification. An excessive aversion to risk is a risk itself. We must keep in mind always that the mistakes we have made may have been plentiful, but we have our long history to celebrate because they have never been fatal. We need to think not only in years and decades, but centuries.

“Despite the challenges we face, we will discover; we will learn; and we will make the world a better place. With our efforts, may Fair Harvard, ever guided by Veritas, grow fairer still.”

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*Full text of Garber’s remarks:*

<https://www.harvard.edu/president/speeches/2024/installation-remarks/>

*Campus coverage of installation:*

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2024/12/garber-installed-as-harvards-31st-president/>

## Eventbrite program registration

**F**or many years, HURA members have asked for a means of paying event fees by credit card and of registering online. Eventbrite is an online application that allows this. It also provides the option of paying by check. It is new for HURA, but feedback from most members suggests that it is working.

Eventbrite uses data security and payment technology to ensure safety for both organizers and attendees.

The process is simple.

**1.** Click on the Eventbrite link in the HURA program announcement that you receive on your computer or mobile device.

- 2.** The Eventbrite screen will show
- Name, date, and time of the event
  - Description of the event
  - Event fees, if any
  - Organizer’s contact information
  - Information about refund policy.

**3.** In the upper right corner of the screen, select the number of tickets you want—usually one for you and one for a guest. (Most HURA events do not require actual printed tickets. This just lets the organizer know how many people are coming.)

**4.** Click the “Checkout” button just below the ticket order.

**5.** The next screen will ask for your credit card, Venmo, or Paypal payment information. It will also tell you where to mail a check if that is your preferred method of payment. It is here where you will be asked for your name and email address (double check the spelling).

**6.** This screen may also ask for additional information (e.g., will you take the HURA bus to the event or are you arriving on your own? What is your meal selection? Do you require assistance?).

**7.** Once you have provided all requested information, select “Place order” at the bottom of this screen.

**8.** You will immediately receive an email that confirms your reservation and allows you to access tickets. NOTE: For HURA events, there is usually no need to access tickets. Organizers will receive your registration information directly from Eventbrite.

**9.** Save the confirmation email as a reminder of the event details and of your registration. Also, there is a link in the email to “View ticket information.” It will take you to a screen where, among other things, you can cancel (unregister) or request a refund if you paid by credit card.

**10.** Contact the program organizer if you need any help or guidance.

Efforts to find a way for you to renew HURA membership and pay annual dues online are ongoing.

## IN BRIEF

### Institutional neutrality

The University of Michigan Board of Regents, that is elected by state constituents, voted last October to adopt a bylaw establishing a new policy of institutional neutrality for university leaders.

This move means the university will adopt a heavy presumption against institutional statements on political and social issues that are not directly connected to internal university functions. The bylaw, which was approved unanimously, applies to the president, members of the president's leadership team, deans, directors, department chairs, and others authorized to speak for the university or an academic unit.

### Scam warning

The FBI is warning about a scam that involves texts or emails reportedly from Amazon or the U.S. Postal Service saying there was a problem with your delivery, and prompting you to click a link. Of course, this is a scam as no delivery service would send such a text message. So don't click on the link.

### Trump administration's threats to Harvard

In a recent closed-door meeting with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard President Alan M. Garber said the turn against higher education in Washington posed a greater threat to the University than anything in recent memory, making his most direct comments yet on the Republicans' sweep to power.

Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications Paul Andrew described what University officials consider to be key legislative threats to Harvard—such as an endowment

tax, congressional probes, and threats to federal research funding.

In previous remarks to faculty, Garber described an increase to the endowment tax as the "threat that keeps me up at night."

Reported by *The Crimson*

### Threats from afar

Phone and text message scams commonly come from one of these area codes or country codes. If you don't recognize a number when you get a call or a text from one of them, it's best to let them go unanswered or delete them.

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| +1 (246) | Barbados                   |
| +1 (284) | British Virgin Islands     |
| +1 (441) | Bermuda                    |
| +1 (473) | Grenada                    |
| +1 (649) | Turks and Caicos           |
| +1 (758) | St. Lucia                  |
| +1 (809) | Dominican Republic         |
| +1 (868) | Trinidad and Tobago        |
| +1 (876) | Jamaica                    |
| +7       | Russia                     |
| +27      | South Africa               |
| +40      | Romania                    |
| +63      | Philippines                |
| +86      | People's Republic of China |
| +90      | Turkey                     |
| +91      | India                      |
| +92      | Pakistan                   |
| +98      | Iran                       |
| +232     | Sierra Leone               |
| +234     | Nigeria                    |

[+ International Calling Code; + 1 mobile prefix in parentheses.]

From *Truthfully.com*

*From the Editor:* Microsoft reported that in just the three-day period December 17-19, 2024, unsuccessful attempts to sign into my computer came from Brazil (+55) 8 times, and one each from Iraq (+964), Russia (+7), Kyrgyzstan (+996), Morocco (+212), and Libya (+218). Your soft-

ware may protect you, but the threat is still there.

### Tuition and fees waived, a growing trend

Harvard University waives tuition for families earning below \$85,000 annually. For families who earn between \$85,000 and \$150,000 annually, the expected contribution does not exceed 10 percent of their annual income.

Harvard's current tuition in the College is \$56,550. The total with room, board, and fees is \$82,866. Twenty-four percent of Harvard students pay nothing to attend. Harvard's application process is entirely need-blind, which means that applying for financial aid will have no impact on the admissions decision.

Beginning next fall, students at MIT and the University of Pennsylvania will pay no tuition if they are from families earning up to \$200,000 a year. At MIT, students whose families earn less than \$75,000 a year will also not pay for room, board, or books. The University of Massachusetts said tuition and fees would be fully covered on all four of its campuses for families earning less than \$75,000 annually.

### Required Minimum Distributions

If you turn 73 this year (or 75 if you were born in 1960 or after), you must begin taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from certain tax-deferred retirement accounts. The first RMD must be taken no later than April 1 of the year following the year you reach age 73. A significant tax is applied if you fail to take the RMD on time.

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# HURA offered a variety of fall programs

In a combined total, 496 HURA members and guests attended HURA's fall programs. These included a discussion about mindfulness with Prof. Ellen Langer at the Faculty Club; the Annual Fall Reception, also at the Faculty Club; a Crimson vs. Princeton football game; a bus trip to the Worcester Art Museum; two tours of the Massachusetts State House; the HURA Holiday Luncheon at the Oakley Country Club; Holiday Pops at Symphony Hall; and two book talks via Zoom in collaboration with the Burlington Public Library.



Place settings at the Holiday Luncheon. This popular program is managed by HURA Director Diantha Brown.



John Collins offers a few words of welcome at the Fall Reception.



Left to right: Michael Wick, Director of the Burlington Public Library; HURA Director Margaret Carayannopoulos; Daniel Barbour, Programming and Marketing Librarian at the Burlington Public Library; HURA Membership Secretary Coral Sullivan; HURA Recording Secretary Sandra Spanier; and HURA Managing Editor Malcolm Hamilton gather at the Holiday Luncheon. Barbour and Carayannopoulos manage the popular Zoom author series.



Full house at the Worcester Art Museum.



HURA Director Ann Flentje still smiling after a climb up the stairs to the sixth floor of the Broadway Garage on Harvard's campus.



Closure of the main entrance required HURA members to enter the State House by the side door for the first tour.

## HEALTH MATTERS

### COVID and flu on the rise

The *Boston Globe* recently reported that “COVID and flu are on the rise, but fewer [are] getting shots.” Massachusetts is experiencing moderate rates of influenza but high rates of COVID-19 as determined by wastewater analyses. Fewer than two-thirds of people ages 65 to 79 have had their flu shots, but only 45 percent of those over 65 have received the new COVID vaccinations.

### Blood tests for colorectal cancer approved

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first blood test for the detection of colon cancer, offering a new way of screening for a leading cause of cancer deaths.

The FDA approved Guardant Health’s Shield test for screening in adults age 45 and older who have an average risk of colon cancer. The test isn’t a replacement for colonoscopies but provides a noninvasive approach to screening.

Doctors can already order Shield for patients as a laboratory test with an out-of-pocket price of \$895. But FDA approval is expected to increase coverage by private and government insurance, such as Medicare B, which would offer the tests at no cost to participants.

The test looks for DNA fragments shed by tumor cells and precancerous growths. In a study, the test caught 83 percent of cancers but only 13 percent of the precancerous growths, such as polyps, found by colonoscopy, which catches about 95 percent of them. The blood test performance is on a par with that of stool-based tests. Colonoscopy remains the gold standard for colon cancer screening.

Reported by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Consumer Reports On Health*, and *Harvard Health Letter*, October and November 2024

### Harvard study of olive oil consumption and dementia deaths

Few studies have looked at the relationship between olive oil consumption and dementia-related mortality. A team led by Harvard scientists at

the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health set out to address this gap.

They found that consuming olive oil is associated with lowering the risk of dementia-related death compared to rare or no consumption of olive oil—regardless of overall diet quality. The findings also suggest that an eating pattern that incorporates olive oil may support brain health.

For the current study, researchers analyzed data from a subset of 92,383 participants observed over 28 years, including 60,582 (65.6 percent) women and 31,801 (34.4 percent) men. Participants were categorized by olive oil intake frequency: never or less than once per month; some olive oil, defined as greater than zero to less than or equal to 4.5 grams per day; greater than 4.5 grams per day; and greater than 7 grams per day.

The researchers calculated how much olive oil participants consumed over the span of 18 years. After analyses of the data, they found that participants with the highest olive oil intake had a lower risk for dementia-related death.

National Institute on Aging;  
*Research Highlights*  
10/31/2024

## IN BRIEF

*Continued from page 4*

### HURA poet gives reading

HURA member Steven Riel recently gave readings of his poetry at Bates College and Assumption University. A former manager of serials cataloging in Harvard Library’s Information & Technical Services department, Riel has published poems in five books, including *Edgemere* (2021), *Fellow Odd*

*Fellow* (2014), *Postcard from P-town* (2009), *The Spirit Can Crest* (2003), and *How to Dream* (1992). His poetry has also appeared in *The Minnesota Review* and *International Poetry Review*.

Watch for an announcement of HURA’s National Poetry Month readings by Steven Riel, Raymond Comeau, and other staff member poets coming up in April.

## Harvard’s master plan

*Continued from page 2*

1) affordable housing, 2) supporting artists and small businesses along Western Avenue, and 3) replacing Allston’s beleaguered Jackson Mann Community Center. The task force would also try to respond to the neighborhood’s rising cost of living and changing demographics.

Following an initial public comment period, Harvard spent months preparing the IMP, including another comment period, before submitting the IMP last November to the BPDA Board for approval.

# HURA PROFILE 2024

This report includes statistics of nearly 1,400 HURA members on November 1, 2024

|  |            |   |           |
|--|------------|---|-----------|
| <b>JOB FAMILY, WHEN THEY RETIRED</b>                   |            |   |           |
| Alumni Affairs & Development                           | 36         | General Administration                        | 435       |
| Academic (Faculty)                                     | 138        | Health Care                                   | 43        |
| Arts   | 7          | Human Resources                               | 39        |
| Athletics  | 1          | Information Technology                        | 83        |
| Communications   | 59         | Library                                       | 153       |
| Facilities   | 65         | Museum  | 19        |
| Food & Dining  | 13         | Research                                      | 29        |
| Financial  | 111        | Technical                                     | 16        |
| Faculty & Student Services                             | 87         | None; predate Job Families                    | 63        |
| <b>STATES WHERE FIVE OR MORE HURA MEMBERS LIVE</b>     |            |   |           |
| California   | 10         | New Hampshire                                 | 26        |
| Florida  | 38         | New York                                      | 5         |
| Illinois   | 6          | North Carolina                                | 8         |
| Maine  | 30         | Pennsylvania                                  | 5         |
| Massachusetts  | 1217 (87%) | Rhode Island                                  | 6         |
| <b>MASSACHUSETTS CITIES WHERE 30 OR MORE LIVE</b>      |            |   |           |
| Arlington  | 87         | Lexington                                     | 46        |
| Belmont  | 40         | Medford                                       | 30        |
| Boston   | 59         | The Newtons                                   | 32        |
| Brookline  | 40         | Somerville                                    | 44        |
| Cambridge  | 185        | Watertown                                     | 36        |
| <b>E-MAIL STATUS</b>                                   |            |   |           |
| With email   | 1361       | No email                                      | 36 (2.6%) |
| <b>HURA MEMBERSHIP STATUS</b>                          |            |   |           |
| Employee   | 1336       | Surviving spouse                              | 61 (4.3%) |
| <b>WHEN RETIRED</b>                                    |            |   |           |
| 1980-1989  | 6          | 2020-2021                                     | 245       |
| 1990-1999  | 68         | 2022-2023                                     | 127       |
| 2000-2009  | 390        | 2024  | 65        |
| 2010-2019  | 493        | [3 with no dates]                             |           |
| <b>RETIREES, BY DEPARTMENT FROM WHICH THEY RETIRED</b> |            |   |           |
| Affiliated agencies (LASPAU, Villa I Tatti, etc.)      | 16         | Harvard Law School                            | 56        |
| Central Administration                                 | 261        | Harvard Medical School                        | 168       |
| FAS Departments  | 273        | Harvard Pres. & Fellows (no job family)       | 25        |
| FAS Museums  | 25         | Harvard School of Dental Medicine             | 4         |
| Harvard Art Museums                                    | 18         | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health     | 64        |
| Harvard Business School                                | 125        | Harvard University Health Services            | 55        |
| Harvard College Library*                               | 73         | Harvard Univ. Library (Central Dept.)*        | 40        |
| Harvard Divinity School                                | 20         | Harvard Univ. HUBL (Unknown Dept.)            | 23        |
| Harvard Kennedy School                                 | 51         | HUCTW   | 2         |
| Harvard Graduate School of Design                      | 13         | HUL (inactive)                                | 2         |
| Harvard Graduate School of Education                   | 43         | Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study        | 16        |
| Harvard John A. Paulson School of Eng. & App. Sci.     | 24         | *All persons in all libraries (by Job Family) | 153       |

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
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## HURA Fall Events

Each fall, HURA kicks off its programming year with a meet-and-greet reception at the Faculty Club. Harvard presidents often drop by this event to welcome HURA members and to express their thanks to retirees for their former and continuing contributions to the work of the University.



Above, Prof. Ellen Langer after her talk on mindfulness. She is wearing her HURA hat and carrying a gift box of chocolates. Photo at left, Jackie Benson Jones and Kathy Jones.



François Braun, banquet manager of the Faculty Club, and Sandra Spanier, HURA Recording Secretary.

HURA is a tax-exempt 501(c)7 all-volunteer organization. Membership is open to benefits-eligible retirees of Harvard University and is complimentary the first year until the renewal period the following June 30. Thereafter dues are \$20 annually. Visit HURA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HUretirees](http://www.facebook.com/HUretirees) or at [www.HURA.harvard.edu](http://www.HURA.harvard.edu).