

The Harvard Club of the United Kingdom



◆ News & Notices ◆ May / June 2008



Letter from the President

Brooks Newmark AB'80 MBA '84 (pictured left) has been a stalwart of the HCUK for decades, and as in the past month he achieved two milestones (turning 50 and completing the London Marathon), it seemed the right time to profile Brooks in the club newsletter.

I have known Brooks for many years, and he has never been happier since being elected in the 2005 General Election as the Conservative Member of Parliament, representing Braintree (in Mid Essex). Brooks is the third American to be a MP following Nancy Astor (who was both the first American and the first woman in the 1920's) and Chips Channon (in the 1940's). He will happily corner you in any room to explain at length the Conservative platform.

Brooks was born in Westport, CT and came to England in 1967 aged nine. He was educated at Bedford School and in 1976 entered Harvard College, where he studied American History. After graduating the College in 1980 he went on to study politics at Oxford University, where he met his wife Lucy Keegan (daughter of Britain's leading Military historian Sir John Keegan). He subsequently returned to Harvard to the Business School and received his MBA in 1984. He was obviously a great advocate for the UK as the majority of his rooming group decided to relocate here. Brooks initially went to work for the family business, which was located in Southwark, within sight of the Cathedral where John Harvard was both born and baptised. Brooks was a key driver in the refurbishment of both the Cathedral and the John Harvard Chapel. Brooks also cut his political teeth in Southwark, where he was the local Conservative Party Chairman at the age of thirty.

Brooks married Lucy in 1985 and they have five children, the oldest of whom Benjamin is a rising junior at the College. One of Brooks' endearing qualities is his uncertainty of where he needs to be at any given moment, and Lucy has inherited her father's military precision to keep the entire Newmark household and particularly Brooks pointed in the right direction.

Early on, Brooks became involved in the re-establishment and re-invigoration of the Harvard Club in London and became President in 1997 succeeding Jim Baker, who ultimately became President of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA). With Brooks's help, the club became one of the largest and most active international clubs, serving over 5,000 alumni. Brooks went on to become the Regional Director for Europe for the HAA and in June 2005 was elected a Director of the HAA (to add to his other election win the previous month). This May he was appointed the Director-at-Large for the HAA.

Jim Baker was a legendary runner for Harvard and appeared on the cover of Harvard Magazine when he set the mile record for Harvard. As Brooks moves up the HAA hierarchy, he set himself the challenge of running the London Marathon. Brooks is not blessed with Jim's model stride but running to raise funds for PARC*, the Play and Resource Centre charity based in Braintree, Essex, of which he is Patron and, (to use Brooks' words), "notwithstanding the fact that I was passed by an Emu, a camel, two rhinos and a bottle of pop", successfully completed the course.

Please join me in wishing Brooks Hearty Congratulations and Warm Birthday Wishes.

Brandon Bradkin AB '89, JD '92

** PARC provides play and recreation facilities for children with severe disabilities in Essex, in addition to providing respite care for their families and carers. The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP has congratulated the team at PARC saying, "It is great to see the range of services that are available to children with disabilities, and I am sure all your work will continue to give enjoyment to many children as well as providing valuable respite care for families." For more information on PARC visit www.parc-esssex.org. If you wish to add your support and make a donation for this worthy cause go to <http://www.justgiving.com/brooksnewmark>.*

Upcoming Events

◆ **18 June 8.30 pm**

HCUK Recent Grads Drinks

Location TBA Contact Mark Best

markbest@post.harvard.edu

Tel: +44 7769 725 391

◆ ***19 June 6.30 pm**

**Illustrated Lecture by William Dalrymple
'From the Holy Mountain: A Journey in
the Shadow of Byzantium.'**

BP Lecture Theatre, The British Museum

Contact Joan McIver: jpmaciver@post.harvard.edu

harvard.edu

◆ ***21 June 7.00 pm**

John Harvard Dinner,

Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Contact: Moira Weigel Harvard Scholar

2007-08 [mgw32@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mwg32@cam.ac.uk)

◆ ***24 June 6.30 pm**

**An Evening of Music and Science with
the Longwood Symphony Orchestra from
Boston** at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer,

65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HS

Contact Evi Kaplanis: evi@kaplanis.com

◆ ***1 July 6.45 pm**

**Panther Soup - A European Journey
in War and in Peace. Illustrated Book
evening with John Gimlett** at The

Lansdowne Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place,

London W1J 5JD Contact: jpmaciver@post.harvard.edu

harvard.edu

◆ **4 July**

HCUK Recent Grads Drinks Independence

Day Picnic & Outing Location TBA

Contact markbest@post.harvard.edu

◆ **22 July**

West Side Story - the 50th anniversary of a

musical landmark at Sadler's Wells. Contact

Evi Kaplanis: evi@kaplanis.com

◆ ***25 July 7-9 pm**

The Third US Alumni Summer Reception

at The Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, London

W1K 4ER (nearest underground Bond

Street). Contact Natalie Teich: nmt4@cornell.edu

cornell.edu

** invitation enclosed*

See also events listing on www.hcuk.org

New Vice-President

We are very pleased to announce that Paul Viita, the HCUK website chair will succeed Yuko Thomas as the Vice-President for Administration. Following Martha Abbruzzese Genieser's move to New York, Yuko took on Martha's role as Club Secretary. Paul has been active in all three main areas of the club (Events, Outreach, and Administration) and has worked very closely with Yuko over the past several years. Paul will be a great addition to the officer team.

Paul Viita is originally from Boston and majored in Mathematics at Harvard graduating in 1970 and was on the Varsity Fencing team. He came to the UK as a Rhodes Scholar and completed an M Phil in Economics at Balliol College, Oxford in 1973. After Oxford, Paul stayed in England and began at Baring Brothers and moved in 1977 to Shell. In 1994, Paul joined Cable & Wireless and is now with Equant, a joint venture with Reuters and BT, where he is Commercial Director for their global financial community extranet business.

Paul's wife is English and works in the Civil Service (DCSF – Culture, Schools and Families) and they have three sons. Paul's hobbies include studying Mandarin at SOAS, reading French literature (2/3 of Proust so far), and taking singing. Please join me in welcoming Paul to this important role within the Club. **Brandon Bradkin AB '89, JD '92**

UK Admissions

As we approach the end of the admissions season we wanted to share some of the highlights of the UK's contribution to Harvard's Class of 2012.

This year not only represented Harvard's return to single-round admissions (no more Early Action), but also a surge in the number of applications – not just to Harvard but to other top colleges in the US as well. Total (global) applications to Harvard rose to 27,462 from under 23,000 just one year earlier. Demographics play a role (rising numbers of high school leavers), although more generous financial aid and aggressive recruiting are also encouraging greater numbers to apply. Overall, Harvard admitted 1,948 this year, or 7.1% of applicants, down from an admit rate of 9% last year, and expect to admit at least 150 from the Wait List.

Your Schools and Scholarship Committee was delighted by the participation of dozens of loyal HCUK interviewers, including many new interviewers this year, seeing nearly 300 applicants from UK schools over January and February. All of us were delighted that 26 students attending schools in the UK had been admitted. The number of applications from UK schools did not actually increase from the prior year, while our 'success' rate in the UK at 8.7% was somewhat higher than the University-wide acceptance rate. In addition, 13 students from the UK were placed on the Wait List, one of whom has now been admitted. You won't be surprised to hear that the quality of the applicants seems to rise each year.

Janet Irons, Senior Admissions Officer with responsibility for the UK, was again effusive in her appreciation for the efforts of all interviewers and of the very high quality of the reports received.

Please look in the next Newsletter for a more complete commentary on the important role your Club plays in the recruitment and interviewing of applicants to Harvard.

Keith Russell AB '80
Co-chair, Schools and Scholarship Committee

Oxford Dinner

On the 3rd of May, Harvard alumni and friends gathered at Exeter College in Oxford for the 8th Annual Oxford-Harvard Dinner.



Hosted by **Jesse Elzinga ('01)**, the night commenced in the Rector's garden and then moved into the main hall for dinner, where guests enjoyed a three course meal and wines carefully chosen from the college cellars. During dinner guests learned of the myriad ways in which Harvard graduates contribute to the Oxford community. One of the highlights of the evening was a tour of the Exeter College garden. The garden – a well kept secret in Oxford – offers stunning views of the Radcliffe Camera and St Mary's Church. The location of the 9th Harvard-Oxford dinner is to be determined, but inevitably it too will reveal further hidden gems in this ancient university. **Luba Mandzy '01**

Recent Grads

There is a newly formed Harvard Club of the UK Recent Grads Committee which now includes representatives from each of the recently graduated classes from 2002-2006.

We plan to increase the frequency and variety of HCUK Recent Grads events that are held in London and beyond. This will take the form of large and small gatherings, where London-based alumni can both catch up with old friends and meet new people. We will also provide a forum for you to communicate with the surprisingly large and growing community of recent grads in London.

We are holding launch evening drinks events in both May and June, starting on May 22 at Jewel, near Picadilly Circus. You may also have attended the special screening last week of Cashback, a newly released Oscar-nominated movie, produced by Harvard grad Winnie Li. We are updating our database of London-based alumni, so any recently arrived grads should make contact with Sarah Otner (sarah.otner@post.harvard.edu). The names and contact details of all members of the Recent Grads Committee are below. Please do get in touch with your class rep with any questions or suggestions you may have, and if you are interested in being more involved with HCUK then drop me a line.

Mark Best '02 markbest@post.harvard.edu

Sarah Eno '03 (eno@post.harvard.edu)

Mike Bookman '03 (bookman@post.harvard.edu)

Justin Gest '04 (justin.gest@gmail.com)

Julie Holderness '04 (julie.holderness@gmail.com)

Ian Mok '05 (ianmok@post.harvard.edu)

Sutha Satkunarajah '05 (sutha.satkunarajah@gmail.com)

Sarah Otner '06 (Sarah.Otner@post.harvard.edu)