Barbara O’Reilly
Degree: ALM ’98
Residence: Washington, DC, USA

Barbara O’Reilly is a certified fundraising executive and founder and principal of Windmill Hill Consulting, a nonprofit fundraising consultancy she established ten years ago after spending sixteen years raising millions of dollars for organizations like Harvard University, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Oxford University in England, and the American Red Cross.

Volunteering and giving back are core values for Barbara. She currently serves as president-elect of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) DC Chapter, as a member of the Advisory Panel for Rogare, The Fundraising Think Tank, and as a member of the Government Relations Committee and Professional Development Committee for AFP International. In addition to her fundraising volunteer leadership roles, Barbara previously served on the Leadership Assembly Committee for Barnard College helping to plan the annual alumnae volunteer training weekend on campus.

Barbara is a member of the Harvard Club of Washington DC and the Harvard Club of New York and was a member of the Harvard Club of London when she and her husband lived in the U.K. She values the connection to the University and to the diversity of Harvard experiences in the alumni/ae she meets.

John Quincy Adams, a fellow Harvard alumnus, once said “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” Barbara’s professional career has been devoted to advancing important missions and causes by connecting philanthropists with opportunities to do just that—use their leadership example of generosity to inspire others to join them to solve problems, save lives, and transform communities. She believes that the education that we each gained at the Harvard Extension School enables us to become leaders in our own ways and in our own sectors.

If elected to the HEAA Board of Directors as Director of Awards and Recognition, Barbara would draw from her experiences in higher education advancement and social sector leadership to help celebrate and recognize fellow alumni achievements advancing social change broadly and as leaders within their own professions.

“Harvard has been an important foundation in my personal and professional life. It was the place where I began my career as a fundraiser and where I completed my academic journey with the ALM I earned while working at the University. This role on the HEAA Board of Directors is my opportunity to give back to the institution that has been such an influence in my life.”

Barbara and her husband, Dermot, ALM ’98, live in the Metropolitan Washington DC area with their daughter.