

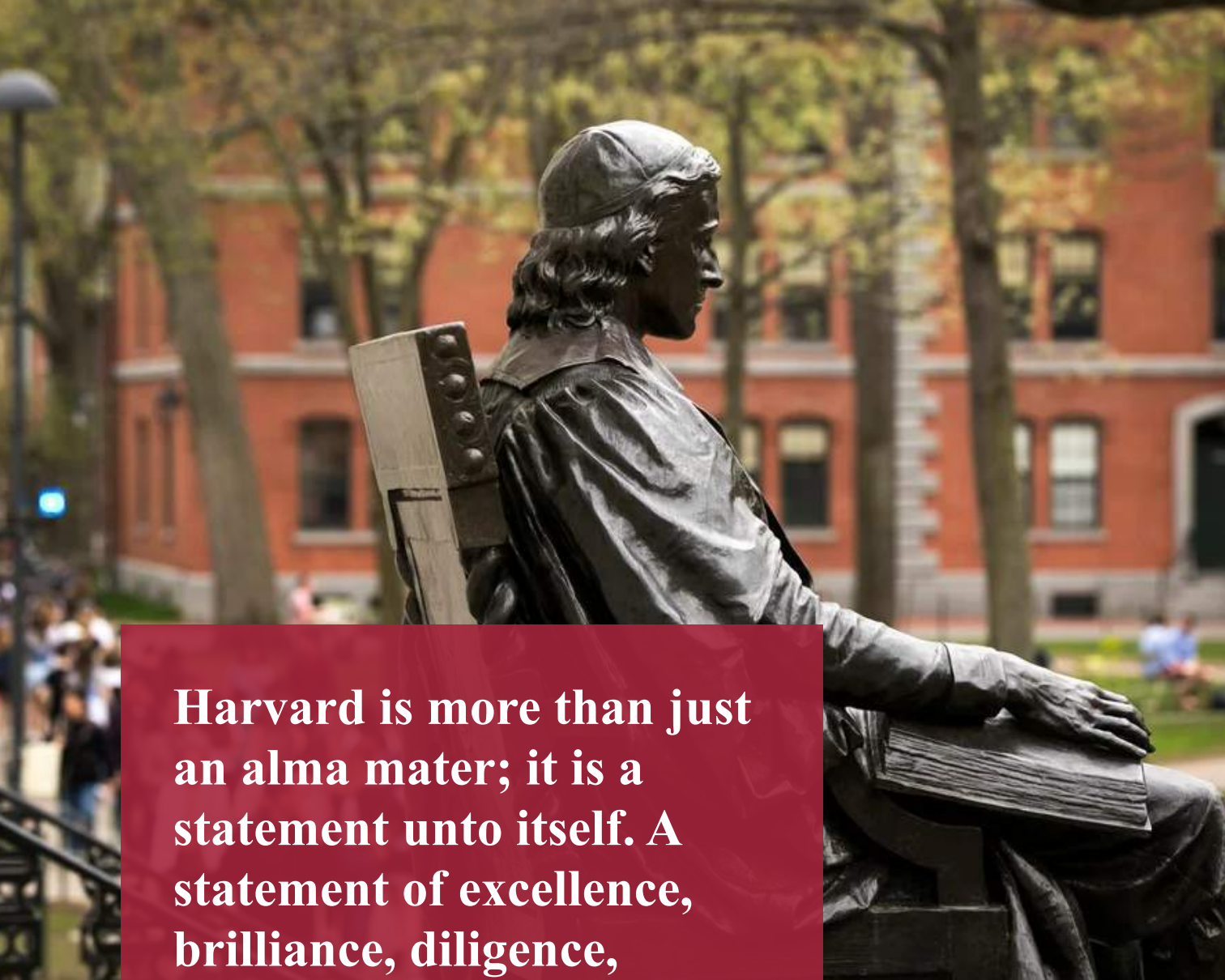


**Harvard Extension School**  
HARVARD DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

# Harvard Extension Alumni Association

**Board of Directors  
Annual Report 2022-23**





**Harvard is more than just an alma mater; it is a statement unto itself. A statement of excellence, brilliance, diligence, innovation, academic rigour, and global impact.**

As the first higher education institution established in the New World, Harvard University has historically attracted the creme de la creme of intellectuals and passionate students. The illustrious legacy the oldest American university has built over the past three and a half centuries is closely enmeshed with its glorious history.

Dear HEAA members and distinguished leadership,

Over the past two years, I've had a chance to get to know our alumni community a bit better, travelling to a variety of locations to hear from so many of you about what makes the alumni experience so very special. I've been awed by our rich, diverse and accomplished community and it has been a gift to hear about your continued journeys.

During this time, it has been an honor to have had the opportunity to work closely with the HEAA Board of Directors leadership. I am grateful to all of you for working tirelessly to provide an array of opportunities that enrich our community's personal and professional growth. I applaud our exceptional Alumni Award winners, the hundreds of alumni that are leading HEAA Chapters and Committees around the world, leading Harvard Clubs and HAA Shared Interest Groups, those mentoring current and future students and those sharing both their expertise and invaluable job opportunities. You are all incredible ambassadors for Harvard and steadfast advocates for our member's needs.

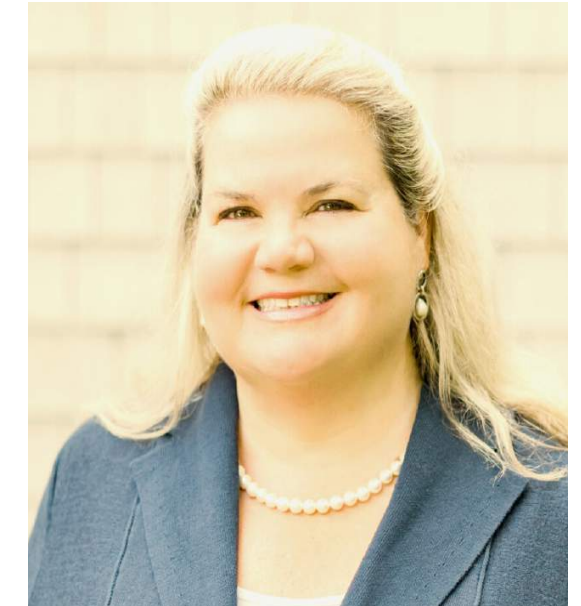
The joy of belonging to our alumni family and the depth of Harvard pride was abundant during my conversations with hundreds of our learners in cities around the world. I have seen this pride in the smiles and tears of each member of the Class of 2023 as I greeted them on stage at Commencement!

I am so very proud to be your Dean and look forward to an incredibly bright future, for the Harvard Extension Alumni Association and for our beloved Harvard Extension School.

Yours Sincerely,

**Nancy Coleman**

Dean of the Division of Continuing Education  
2020 - Present



## We Are Harvard

Since our founding in 1910, we have extended Harvard University to the world — to students diverse ages and backgrounds, who have the curiosity and drive to be challenged. HES serves students seeking advanced degrees or point skills to advance their careers or pursue an academic passion.

We are a fully accredited Harvard school. Our degrees and certificates are adorned with the Harvard University insignia.

They carry the weight of that lineage. Our graduates walk at University Commencement and become members of the Harvard Alumni Association. As one of 12 degree-granting institutions at Harvard University, we teach to the largest and most eclectic student body.

Our students come to us from every time zone, every culture and professional background, every age from 18 to 89.

Our students have one thing in common: the motivation to take the next challenging step in their lives. They find that challenge here, where our academic standards are high and our resources extensive.

**“Harvard is more than just an alma mater; it is a statement unto itself. A statement of excellence, brilliance, diligence, innovation, academic rigour, and global impact. As the first higher education institution established in the New World, Harvard University has historically attracted the creme de la creme of intellectuals and passionate students.**

**The illustrious legacy the oldest American university has built over the past three and a half centuries is closely enmeshed with its glorious history.”**

Started in the early 17th century, the university had humble beginnings with a mere 9 graduates in its first batch. It was also the first higher education institution in British North America to acquire the printing press. The college started steering increasingly towards intellectual independence under the presidency of John Leverett, making way for the Era of Enlightenment in its academic scholarship by the 19th century. Women started getting admitted to Harvard late 19th century onwards, reflecting a shift as well as a pathbreaking leadership in social change. The 20th century witnessed rapid growth for Harvard, with many leading intellectuals and prominent academics affiliated to the university. Harvard was one of the founding members of the American Association of Universities in 1900.

The second half of the 20th century and early 21st century proved to be a take-off stage for diversity and inclusion within Harvard’s student body. From upper-class to middle-class, predominantly white to increasingly racially diverse, the student body grew exponentially and heterogeneously. Reflecting the same, Harvard had its first female president, Drew Gilpin Faust, appointed in 2007. After a decade of successful presidency, she retired and made the way for Harvard’s 29th president, Lawrence Bacow. Claudine Gay has now been named

the 30th president and the first black leader of Harvard University.

Today, Harvard welcomes 21,000+ students from all over the world. Being a member of the prestigious Ivy League American universities, Harvard is consistently ranked as the world’s top university. Beyond rankings and numbers, what’s more important is that Harvard, to this day, remains one of the top dream universities of students across the world.

Living up to their expectations, fuelling their aspirations, igniting the fire of learning within them, nurturing their capacities, and influencing a lifetime of individual and social development, are the layers that bedeck the extensive prestige, achievements, and legacies associated with this premier educational institution.

We are proud to be a part of an institution that has significantly and pervasively contributed to the development and evolution of society, be it through humanities, business, national and international affairs, science, and technology. Harvard’s alumni boast an impressive roster of 8 U.S Presidents, 188 billionaires, 79 Nobel Laureates, 7 Fields Medal winners, 9 Turing Award laureates, 369 Rhodes Scholars, 252 Marshall Scholars, 13 Mitchell Scholars, 10 Academy Award winners, 48 Pulitzer Prize winners, 108 Olympic medal winners, and innumerable start up founders that have transformed the tech landscape of the world.



## Harvard Extension School (HES)

HES first opened its doors as a Degree-granting continuing education institution in 1910, and has always been animated by the vision Harvard University erudition should be shared with eager and mature learners in the general public. Initially, HES was managed by Harvard University Extension, and it is now under the direction of Harvard University Division of Continuing Education (DCE), yet the two organizations directing HES have always fostered a welcoming feeling in the HES community, where demographic differences are respected, fair treatment is expected, and a cooperative approach is the norm.

HES represents the third phase of the implementation of institutional change prompted by philanthropic gesture of a civic-minded benefactor responsible for the creation of an organization—the Lowell Institute—dedicated to make a Harvard University education available and accessible to people from all walks of life. We, as graduates of HES, and alums in the Harvard Extension Alumni Association (HEAA) living in 2023, are the beneficiaries of the philanthropic act to create the Lowell Institute, as we continue to reveal the brilliant qualities of eagerness and maturity in our vibrant, diverse, equitable, inclusive and truly global community.

Since HES is a star in the constellation of 12 Schools within the Harvard University system united under the banner of “One Harvard,”

HES shines brightly with the other stars in the Harvard University community. HES shines brightly because Harvard University faculty and visiting academics, bring their expertise, and the latest research findings and data, to the scholars in the HES community. HES shines brightly, as the scholars studying in the HES community are known to possess brilliant qualities of character and mind, including the qualities of eagerness and maturity, as the first Chairman on the Commission of Extension and Director of University Extension or Dean, James Hardy Ropes, said publicly we did more than 100 years ago. We, as HES alums in the HEAA, continue to exhibit our brilliant qualities of eagerness and maturity, as well as many more positive personal qualities, as we depend upon our Harvard University knowledge and acumen wherever we teach, study, work, play and live, to solve the most pressing concerns evident around us and make our common future more conducive to the realization of positive outcomes for each and every person we encounter.

The Harvard University Extension Division Ropes directed is now named DCE, responsible for the administration of three Harvard University institutions, identified in the order they originated--Harvard University Summer School, founded in 1871, HES, opening its doors in 1910, and Harvard University Institute for Learning in Retirement (HILR), launched in 2016.

Harvard University Summer School makes courses of instruction, educational programming and recreational and leisure pastimes available and accessible to the global community. In its 113th year, HES is a thriving, open enrolment Degree-granting continuing education institution, where eager and mature learners are given opportunities to earn Harvard University Degrees and Certificates. HILR is a non-credit granting continuing education option for retirees hoping to satisfy their intellectually curiosity as they age.

It is evident Harvard University Extension, now DCE, have always been dedicated to the proposition HES should be a community of scholars where we emphasize diversity, equity, inclusiveness and a welcoming approach to every imaginable international culture. In 1915, the first Director of Harvard University Extension, Ropes, accepted the invitation delivered to HES to become a member of a new association of continuing education schools, colleges and universities, dedicated to the ideas of diversity, equity and

inclusion and a welcoming approach to every imaginable international culture now known as the University Professional & Continuing Education Association, UPCEA. Each and every successor to Ropes as Director of Harvard University Extension, DCE, or Dean of HES, including the now Director of DCE and HES Dean, Nancy Coleman, has taken a leadership role in the organization now known as UPCEA, and promotes the inclusive educational philosophy institutions of continuing education, where learners of all demographic backgrounds and from every imaginable international culture are welcomed, treated fairly and given the help, support and encouragement to become scholars.

[Read full paper](#)

Credits: **Mark E. Benson**

1. Shinagel, The Gates Unbarred: A History of University Extension at Harvard, 1910-2009, (Hollis, New Hampshire: Puritan Press, 2009), 31.
2. Founding of Harvard University Summer School in 1871, Susan Nadaff, “150 Years of Harvard Summer School,” Harvard University Summer School, March 26, 2021, <https://summer.harvard.edu/blog/150-years-of-harvard-summer-school/>; Founding of Harvard Extension School in 1910, Shinagel, 29-30; and Founding of Harvard University Institute for Learning in Retirement in 2016, Harvard University Division of Continuing Education, Harvard Extension School 2016-2017 Course Catalogue, <https://wayback.archive-it.org/3671/20170601130154/http://www.extension.harvard.edu/>.
3. When the organization originally named the National University Continuing Education Association, or NUCEA, now known as the University Professional & Continuing Education Association, UPCEA, was founded in 1915, Harvard University Extension would band together with 24 other schools of higher education as charter members of an organization always committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in adult education. As current evidence suggests, including a February 2023, post on the UPCEA’s Facebook platform, the organization remains a leader in the educational community and will “continue to make conscious efforts to build diverse, equitable, and inclusive environments that are appropriate for their missions.” Banding Together with 24 Schools of Higher Education in 1915, Shinagel, 42-43; 2023 Facebook Messaging on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, University Professional & Continuing Education Association, University Professional & Continuing Education Association Facebook Page, February 9, 2023 post, <https://www.facebook.com/upcea>.
4. Nancy Coleman, “A Shifting World, A Shifting Leadership Paradigm,” Unbound, undated, <https://unbound.upcea.edu/leadership-strategy/people-in-the-field/a-shifting-world-a-shifting-leadership-paradigm/>

## Harvard Extension School: The Deans

### **James Hardy Ropes**

Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses  
Dean of University Extension  
1910 – 1922

### **Arthur F. Whitem**

Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses  
Director of University Extension  
1922 – 1946

### **George W. Adams**

Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses  
Director of University Extension  
1946 – 1949

### **Reginald H. Phelps**

Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses  
Director of University Extension  
1949 – 1975

### **Michael Shinagel**

Director of Continuing Education & University Extension  
1975 – 2013

### **Huntington D. Lambert**

Dean of Continuing Education and University Extension  
2013 – 2019

### **Nancy Coleman**

Dean of the Division of Continuing Education  
2020 – Present



## Nancy Coleman

Dean of the Division of Continuing Education

2020 – Present

Her impressive roster contains some of the biggest names in education such as Boston University (Director of Distance Education), the nation's largest PCO organisation University Professional Continuing Education Association (Board President), and online program management firm Keypath (VP Academic Services).



Our current Dean, Dr. Nancy Coleman, is a force of passion, commitment, and brilliance to be reckoned with. Having previously created the Extended Unit of Wellesley College for their summer school, professional and executive education, she is a senior PCO (professional, continuing and online education) leader. She also founded the Contemporary Women's Leadership Institute in 2017 to help undergraduates transform into adept leaders by exposing them to a global curriculum.

Her diverse leadership experiences across educational institutions, start-ups, and corporates have immensely improved innovation, quality of learning, access to opportunities, and global outreach of HEAA.

She holds a doctorate in Human and Organisational Learning from George Washington University, along with an MBA from Boston University.

## The Office of Advancement

Harvard Division of Continuing Education  
Harvard Extension School  
Harvard University

Celebrating the stellar efforts of those who are stepping up the game and maintaining an engaged community



**Jill Felicio**

Director of Advancement  
Harvard University | DCE



**Veronica Olsen**

Assistant Director of Special Events  
Harvard University | DCE



**Christine Natoli**

Coordinator of Alumni Communications & Events  
Harvard University | DCE



**Shealan Conway**

Manager of Volunteer Engagement  
Harvard University | DCE



**Darlene Tupta**

Coordinator of Alumni Data & Research  
Harvard University | DCE

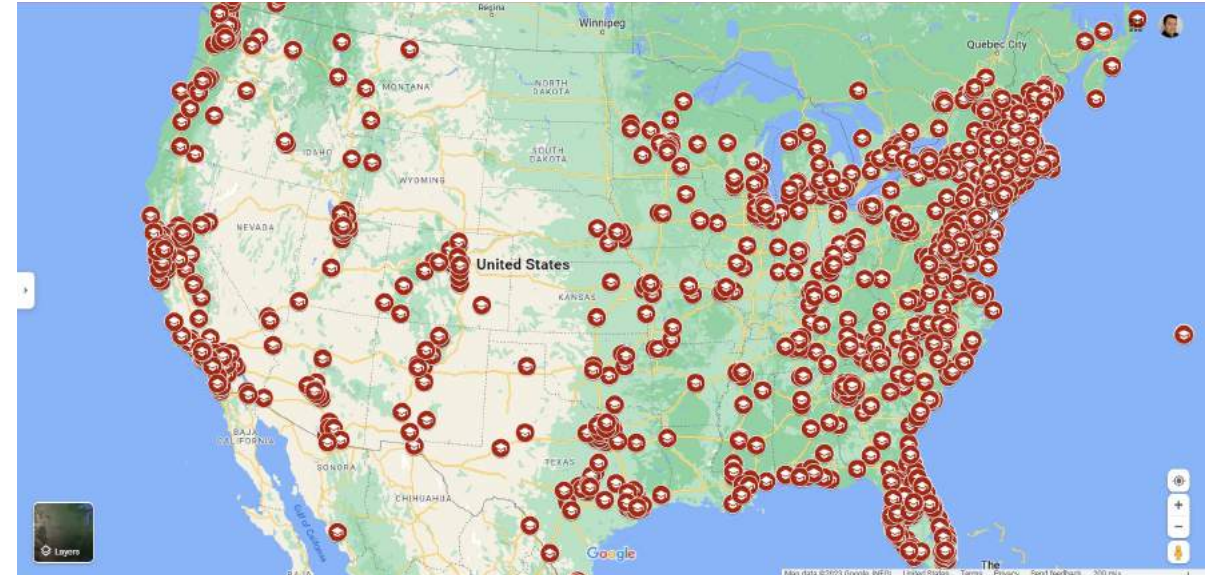
## Harvard Extension Alumni Association (HEAA)

HEAA is a vibrant, diverse, equitable, inclusive and globally harmonious community comprised of scholars of all ages and backgrounds numbering in the thousands and hailing from locations all over a given map of our world. Since the history of our HEAA began in 1968, our community of alums has followed the visionary leadership of our first HEAA President, Edgar Grossman, ALB 1966, to improve educational and career outcomes for each and every person we encounter wherever we teach, study, work, play and live and it is our legacy. Our first HEAA President was dedicated to the proposition our community of alums in our HEAA, consisting of eager and mature scholars, would be ready, willing and prepared to help, support and encourage our fellow HES alums, and the people we encounter each day, to press forward, press onward, to realize dreams for more education, more meaningful career placements and more opportunities to become educated, civic-minded and humane members of society.

In 2023, now 55 years after the formation of our HEAA, it is clear we are now governed by an enlightened leadership team with an HEAA Board managed by our HEAA Director of Advancement Jill Felicio, ALB 2000, ALM 2013, and HEAA President Michael Fabiano, ready, willing and prepared to continue to fulfill the strategic vision of our first HEAA President and guide our community of alums as enlightened HEAA leaders always did. We in 2023 celebrate an impressive history

and legacy at HEAA, and are ready, willing and prepared to write new stories of enlightened HEAA leaders and members eager, mature, ready, willing and prepared to make the future brighter for each and every person we encounter. The beginning of our HEAA dates back to a historic gathering on the occasion of the 1968 Harvard University Commencement. First and foremost among the assembled at the gathering were two recent HES graduates and classmates—Edgar Grossman, ALB 1966 and Ella Smith, ALB 1966.<sup>1</sup> They recommended a new organization for HES alums be formed, dedicated to the unique needs of each and every member of a demographically diverse population so HES alums, and all they encountered, would work cooperatively to improve educational and career outcomes for scholars taking courses at HES and Harvard University Summer School studying for a Harvard University diploma, as well as our fellow HES alums, and the people we encounter each and every day.

All assembled at the gathering were impressed with Grossman and Smith, and agreed a new organization like the one they recommended should be formed. Before the gathering, Grossman and Smith had already secured the wholehearted endorsement of Reginald Henry Phelps, the Chairman of the Commission on Extension, Director of Harvard University Extension and HES Dean. Then-HES Dean Phelps realized the time had come for an





organization for HES alums dedicated to the principles Grossman and Smith recommended should govern a community of HES alums ready, willing and prepared to help, support and encourage each and every person they encounter to dare to dream, to dare to realize more opportunities to become educated, civic-minded and humane members of society. With Grossman and Smith leading the way at the gathering, all assembled watched as a new organization was formed—our HEAA.

As the conversations at the gathering transpired, all assembled agreed the just-formed HEAA should have a leader. Grossman's name was forwarded as an appropriate nominee to become the first HEAA President. After an election slate was drawn, votes cast and tallied, Grossman was declared the winner, and was elected our first HEAA President.<sup>3</sup> (A couple of years later, his classmate Smith would succeed him as HEAA President.<sup>4</sup>) Our first HEAA President would welcome each and every new HES graduate receiving a Harvard University diploma in 1968 into our community of alums in the just-formed HEAA. The new HEAA inductees in 1968 included Allan Rohan Crite, ALB 1968, a creative visual storyteller later celebrated as the “Dean of African-American art.”

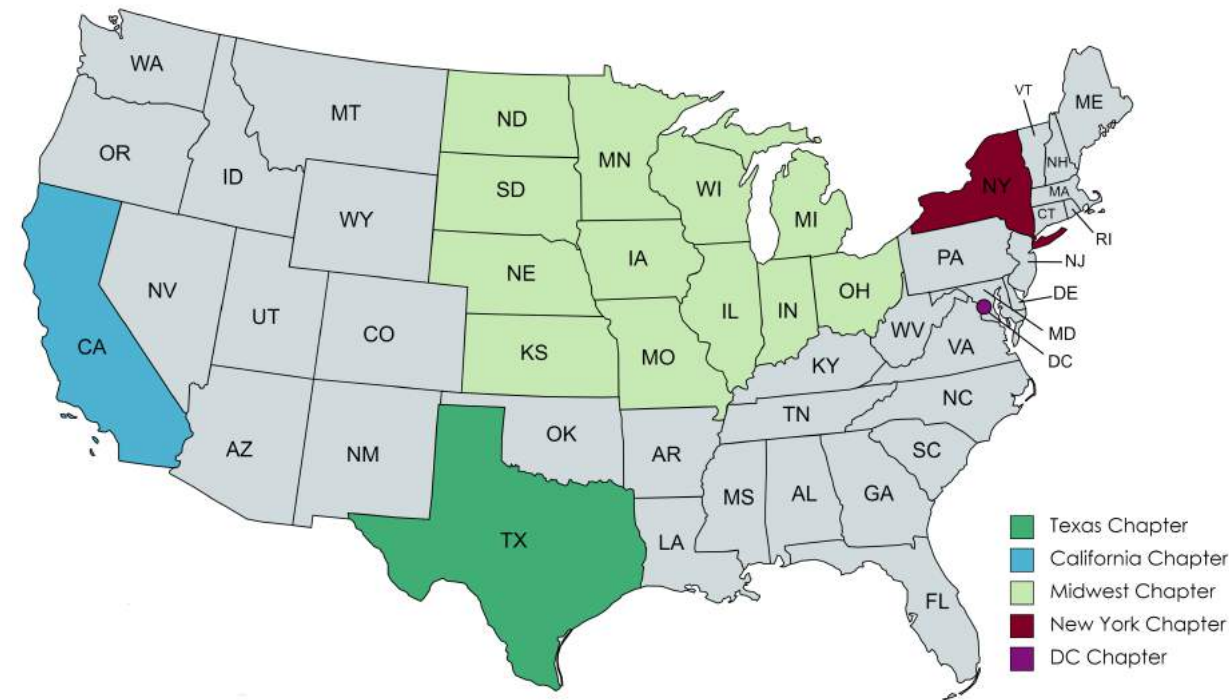
As would be suggested years later, the first HEAA President was enlightened, as would spend his career and life as an advocate for lifelong learning, willing to give help, support and encouragement to each and every fellow

HES alum. He was inspired to help, support and encourage people he encountered each and every and each day to press forward, press onward and dare to dream of more educational achievements, more meaningful career placements and more opportunities to become educated, civic-minded and humane members of society, and dare to make these dreams a reality. Grossman, his HES classmate Smith and Allan Rohan Crite are likely the most famous graduates of HES, and our most famous alums in the HEAA. They are also distinguished members of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA), an organization open to all recipients of an HES Degree and HES alums with an HES Certificate before 2010. All three were awarded medals from the HAA—Allan Rohan Crite at the 350th Anniversary of Harvard University Commencement in 1986, Grossman at a special ceremony in 1990, and Smith at a similar ceremony to Grossman in 2008.<sup>5</sup>

Each and every member of our community of alums clearly possesses two brilliant qualities—eagerness and maturity—propelling us forward in our daily lives and a commendable accomplishment in common—a Harvard University diploma. We as an HEAA Board would like to commend each and every member of the HEAA for putting in the hard work, revealing the eagerness and maturity they needed to press forward, press onward to earn a Harvard University Degree or Certificate.

[Read full paper](#)





Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the Harvard Extension School Board of Directors and Harvard Extension Alumni Association, I welcome your interest in the first ever HESAA annual report.

The idea for this report was born out of our new alumni board structure, that reflects a more modern and global workforce, celebrating our unique voices and encouraging collaboration and teamwork.

Our alumni association represents nearly 30,000 living around the world. Our purpose is clear - to reach, serve, and engage all Extension alumni; to foster a lifelong intellectual and personal connection between the school and its graduates; and to provide Harvard Extension School and Harvard University with goodwill and support.

As of June, I will be completing four years of volunteering for HESAA. I reflect on the incredibly talented alumni I have met around the world. Many of you have multiple degrees, military service, successful business careers, nonprofits – we are a dynamic bunch of talented people.

We all have weathered a historic global event together throughout the last two terms. I hope you found support through the Harvard network during this time. Harvard and the world saw the Harvard extension school platform shine so brightly, as a glimpse into of how the world could come together to receive education in a live online environment. It is our program, professors, and technology that was ready for this moment and has opened the door for a reimagining of primary and higher education.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be celebrating our incoming alumni members, the Class of 2023. To the new graduates, you will all become members of the esteemed ranks of both the Harvard Alumni Association and the Harvard Extension Alumni Association. You should be very proud to have earned a Harvard degree while balancing every demand of life.

In many cases, your success was made possible with the unconditional and enduring support of your amazing family and friends. Please remember to thank them or thank them again for their support.

While I continue to take pride in all that we have accomplished, what excites me today the potential of HES and the trajectory of our future.

We need to continue to think even bolder with purpose as we pursue an even more ambitious course for our university – powered by a strong alumni community we aim to amplify our positive impact on the world through our actions in business and our local communities that we represent.

HES alumni don't stand still. With the backdrop of an education from Harvard, we all endeavour to make an impact on society and building strong relationships. In our shield, Veritas stands for truth where we encourage civility and thought provoking debate.

Special thanks to current and past alumni board members, chapter leaders and volunteers. Your efforts to build the reputation of our school are noticeable and every action makes a difference.

I hope you are inspired by this humble first report and appreciate the work of our fellow alumni around the world.

Best,

Michael Fabiano  
 President Harvard Extension School Alumni Association  
 Graduate Director Harvard Alumni Association  
 email: [michaelfabiano@alumni.harvard.edu](mailto:michaelfabiano@alumni.harvard.edu)  
 linkedin: [www.linkedin.com/in/michaelfabiano/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelfabiano/)



## Harvard Extension Alumni Association: Board of Directors 2021 – 2023

### Leading the Way

Our Board of Directors have contributed towards a rock-solid foundation for HEAA to root itself indefinitely within the pillars of lifelong learning, open access to knowledge building, mentorship, events, regional engagement, and networking opportunities for alumni around the world. They are the newest stars of our ever-expanding universe



**Michael Fabiano**

ALM'16  
President



**Sol (Reyna) Girouard**

ALB'18  
Vice President



**Richard Pearl**

ALB'97  
Secretary



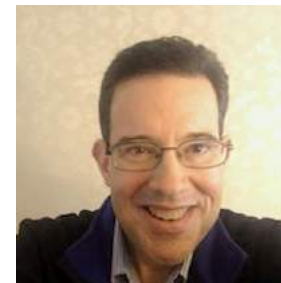
**Sunita Mittal Agarwal**

ALM'13, MCOM'15  
Director of Marketing



**Connie Askin**

ALB'93  
Director of Development



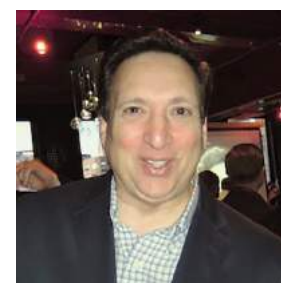
**Mark E. Benson**

ALM'11  
Director of Lifetime Learning (and Career Support)



**Evan Bernstein**

ALM'11  
Appointed HAA Director



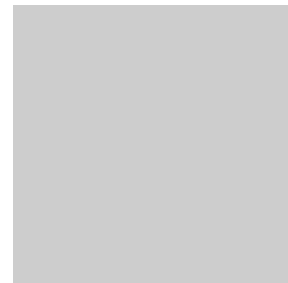
**Frank Caprino**

ALM'17  
Director of Regional Marketing



**Santiago Creuheras**

ALM'00, ALM'01  
Elected HAA Director 2020-2023



**Rob Friedman**

ALM'16  
Appointed Director of Governance



**Heather Friedmann**

ALM'09  
Director of Regional Engagement



**Ariel Gamino**

ALM'03  
Director of Regional Engagement



**Maria-Evelina Gutierrez**

CM'08  
Director of Events



**Svetlana Javakhyan**

ALM'20  
Director of Regional Engagement



**Barbara O'Reilly**

ALM'98  
Director of Awards and Recognition



## Harvard Extension Alumni Association: Legacy of our Awardees 2021



**Sunita Mittal Agarwal**

ALM' 13

Michael Shinagel Award for Service



**Kelly Burton**

ALM' 19

Emerging Leader Award



**Damion Digrazia**

ALM' 14

Military-Veteran Distinguished Service Award



**Heather Emerson**

ALM' 20

Emerging Leader Award



**Shawn Henry**

ALM' 18

Military-Veteran Distinguished Service Award

## Harvard Extension Alumni Association: Legacy of our Awardees

### Michael Shinagel Award for Service

- 2021: **Sunita Mittal Agarwal**  
ALM' 13
- 2020: **Fredica Williams**  
CSS'91
- 2019: **Mark Plotkin**  
ABE'67
- 2018: **Julius Dudley**  
EDM'85, CSS'88
- 2017: **Ruth I. Gove**  
ABE '67
- 2016: **Carlos De La Rosa**  
ALM'08
- 2015: **Ann warner- Harvey**  
CSS'01
- 2014: **Kenneth Brady**  
ABE '74

### Michael Shinagel Medal

- 2017: **Latanya Sweeney**  
ABL '95

### Emerging Leaders Award

- 2020: **Kelly Burton**  
ALM '19
- 2020: **Heather Emerson**  
ALM '20
- 2020: **Renee M. Greene**  
ALM '19
- 2020: **Diane Smith**  
ALM '17
- 2020: **Peter Thielen**  
ALM '11
- 2019: **Nicolas Tejera**  
ALM '15
- 2019: **Wilson Vorndick**  
ALM '15

2018: **Michael Fabiano**  
ALM '16

2018: **Maes Suwantra**  
ALM '08

**Military-Veteran Distinguished Service Award**

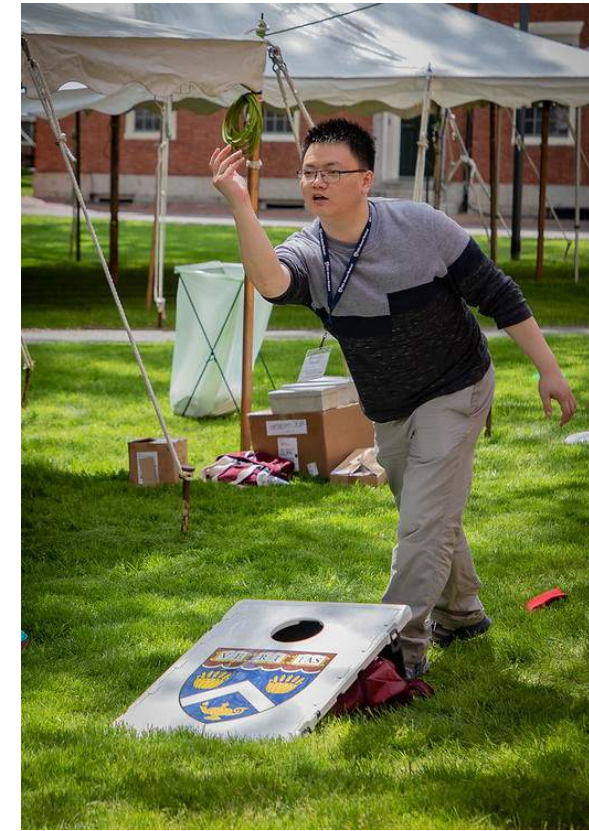
2019: **Damion Digrazia**  
ALM '14

2018: **Shawn Henry**  
ALM '16











# Harvard Extension School

HARVARD DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

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Donate: <https://alumni.extension.harvard.edu/donate/>

**Curated by Sunita Mittal Agarwal**

Director of Marketing

Harvard Extension Alumni Association