

The Harvard Club of the United Kingdom

21 June 7.00 pm



◆ News & Notices ◆ July / August 2008

Letter from the President

Over the years not only have more students from the UK been admitted and matriculated at Harvard but more and more are coming from outside the M25 and without American connections. Aaron Deardon who is from Bedfordshire and just finished his freshman year reports on how he came to learn about Harvard, the application process, and his memories of freshman year. I first heard of Aaron while I was on a train and received a very excited call from Rob Genieser who had just interviewed Aaron and wanted to share his enthusiasm. The signal kept breaking up, so every few minutes my phone would ring, and Rob would go, “and then we talked about this . . .”

Brandon Bradkin AB '89, JD '92

I was first made aware of the option of applying to overseas universities when I attended the Eton Summer School. Although I had researched and was familiar with British universities, the idea of studying in the US had never been suggested to me. I obtained most of my information about Harvard from the College Open Day, hosted by the Fulbright Commission in London. It gave me the opportunity to speak to representatives from Harvard and other American universities.

Harvard's website had a considerable amount of information about the application process for international students. The only difficulty I had was understanding some of the terms that are not used in the UK. My state school in Wootton, Bedfordshire had no history of students applying to study abroad, so was unable to provide me with any further information on the US university system or the application process. They were extremely supportive of my decision to apply and were happy to complete all the references that were required.

The SATs were very different from the A Level and GCSE tests that I had taken in the past. The questions covered a wider range of topics than I had studied in school but covered each of them in less depth.

I was unsure of my chances of being admitted to Harvard so I was delighted when I received a letter offering me a place in the class of 2011. I also had the option of attending several other British and US universities, including Cambridge and MIT, so it was important that I made the correct decision. After attending the April visiting program and meeting my future classmates, my decision was made a lot easier. I was impressed by the positive attitude of the students, the varied curriculum and the facilities available. I was also made to feel very welcome at Harvard.

At the beginning of September I arrived at Harvard excited by the opportunities that were on offer and with great anticipation for the year ahead. Cambridge is very different from the quiet village in Buckinghamshire

where I grew up. I was more used to living in a rural area, however I quickly settled in to Wigglesworth and formed strong friendships with my three roommates and the other occupants of my entryway.

I have enjoyed studying new subjects alongside those that I had taken at A Level. One of the many academic highlights of the year was taking a freshman seminar on the Atomic Bomb. This was a unique opportunity to be taught by Professor Glauber, a Nobel Prize winning physicist, and to hear his first hand account of the work at Los Alamos during World War Two. The curriculum is very different from what I would have experienced if I had chosen to study in the UK. I was attracted by the option of studying a broad range of subjects at Harvard rather than completely specialising as I would have done at Cambridge.

I was fortunate to join the varsity swimming team when I arrived in September. It has been a memorable year, training and racing with such an enthusiastic and successful team. We finished the season undefeated and hope to repeat our success next year.

The infectious enthusiasm of other students and the variety of opportunities available has meant that Harvard has surpassed my expectations. I am already looking forward to the next school year, settling into Cabot House and becoming a physics concentrator.

Aaron Deardon

Upcoming Events

◆ 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

See also events listing on www.hcuk.org

John Harvard Dinner

On 21 June 2008, the Annual Harvard Dinner took place thanks to the continuing hospitality and generosity of the Master of Emmanuel, Lord Wilson of Dinton GCB, and the Emmanuel Development Office with the Harvard-Cambridge Scholars presiding: Moira Weigel, Alexander Bevilaqua and Matthew Smith. The Harvard graduates, guests and the Emmanuel Society's Lionel de Jersey Scholars were treated to an amusing and erudite talk by Dr Melissa Lane of King's College, Cambridge on the ties of the two 'Cambridges' with anecdotes of the Oxford – Cambridge rivalries over the centuries. There are few scholars as able to reflect on the Cambridge ties as well as Dr Lane with an AB summa cum laude in Social Studies from Harvard and an M.Phil and PhD in Philosophy from Cambridge, where she studied as a Marshall and Truman scholar. Her work has focused on the history of political thought and political philosophy, with distinctive strength in ancient Greek political thought, spanning both the ancients and the moderns, which was wonderfully reflected in her talk. It was a pleasure to have both Dr Lane's and the Harvard Lionel de Jersey Scholar, Moira Weigel's parents with us on the evening to share in a truly collegial event.

Joan Porter MacIver '75

Book Event

The HCUK – Lansdowne Club Book Event on 1 July featured *Panther Soup – A European Journey in War and Peace* with acclaimed travel writer, **John Gimlette**. The attendees of the book talk on the author's journey from Marseilles to the Austrian Tyrol via Alsace with World War II veteran, Putnam Flint and his grandson, were enthralled by the stories and details. The event vied with Wimbledon and a beautiful summer evening but for those who did get there, we all felt that the evening was well worth it and it provided a special insight into a time that is important for us all to remember – John made the history accessible and fascinating. I wish to thank him on behalf of both Clubs and also to thank The Lansdowne Club for its generosity in providing the venue for a very exceptional albeit intimate event.

Joan Porter MacIver '75

Longwood Symphony Orchestra

On Tuesday June 24, members of the Boston-based Longwood Symphony Orchestra, whose mission is to support medical charities through musical partnerships, performed a chamber music concert for the Harvard Club. The event was hosted by Don and Sue Guiney (herself a former LSO member) at the offices of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

Led by Music Director Jonathan McPhee, the concert included an outstanding performance of Bach's Concerto for Two Violins by Harvard medical students Sherman Jia '12 and Sandra Mong '09 and an amusing flute quartet purportedly written by Mozart's long-lost great, great grandson.

As the culmination of its 25th anniversary season, Longwood Symphony, a unique orchestra made up primarily of medical professionals devoted to supporting medical charities through musical partnerships, was in London for the week to present "Bridging the Atlantic: Artful Innovations in Cancer Care." Through a series of medical talks and musical encounters, LSO musicians shared medical knowledge on cancer with their UK colleagues in addition to performing three full-length concerts and many smaller chamber music performances, all in support of cancer care.

Read more about the LSO and its unique musical and medical tour to London - visit www.longwoodsymphony.org

Dr. Lisa Wong '79, pediatrician and violinist



Travel writer John Gimlette at the Book event with HCUK member Dr Linda Humphrey MBE (MPH 78) and Lansdowne Club Member, Gillian Bateman.