



December 2008

Dear Member of Harvard and Radcliffe Class of 1984:

Selection as Chief Marshal of the Alumni for Commencement is a signal honor, and the Harvard Alumni Association continues to follow the tradition whereby the 25th Reunion Class may elect one of its members to serve in this position. The Chief Marshal represents all of the Alumni of the University, presides at a Spread honoring the assembled dignitaries and guests, and leads the afternoon alumni procession.

Last August, your class officers were contacted and asked to select a Class Nominating Committee. The committee invited suggestions from the Class and screened candidates based on the following criteria: success in one's career(s), vocation(s) and/or avocation(s); contribution to one's community and the larger society; and service to the College. The following persons were recommended by the committee and approved by the Harvard Alumni Association as candidates for Chief Marshal. Each has consented to serve if elected:

Carla Ann Harris
William J. Patterson
Sarah P. Chayes
William M. Haney III
Alison H. Brown

Ann M. Blair
Susan Fales-Hill
Anthony Gregory Brown
Mark A. Hissey

Please review the profiles in the enclosed ballot and vote in numerical order of preference, starting with one (1), for as many candidates as you feel deserve the honor of Chief Marshal. Your second, third, and subsequent choices could affect the outcome of the election, since ballots will be counted by the vote-transfer method. If one of the candidates does not receive a majority of all first-preference votes, the votes for the candidate with the fewest number of first preferences will be redistributed among the other candidates according to their second choice. The process is repeated until one candidate acquires a majority.

To be counted, your ballot must arrive by **February 1, 2009**. The winning candidate will be announced to the Class in the next mailing following the count.

Please mark and return your ballot today in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope. I certainly hope you will return to Cambridge to attend your 25th Reunion, June 3-7, 2009. Please visit the class Website at www.HR84.com for reunion information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Reardon, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

John P. Reardon, Jr.
Executive Director of the
Harvard Alumni Association



Carla Ann Harris
 Managing Director
Degrees: A.B., magna cum laude, Harvard '84
 M.B.A., Harvard '87
Harvard Related Activities:
 Served on the Dean's Task Force for Undergraduate Resources and the Board of the Harvard Business School Alumni Association; serve on the Board of the HBS Club of New York; established the Carla Harris Fund; headed

Morgan Stanley's Undergraduate Recruiting Efforts at Harvard, 1989-2007; have continued to mentor many, many Harvard undergrads and alumnae, particularly those who have come to Wall Street.

Achievements and Honors: Lewis Rudin/Coro Leadership Award; Women of Power Award given by the National Urban League; Frederick Douglass Award, given by the New York Urban League; Harvard Business School Leadership Award; Pierre Toussaint Medal of Honor, given by the Archdiocese of New York; Bert King Award, given by the Harvard Business School African-American Alumni Association; Women's Professional Achievement Award, given by Harvard University; Ron Brown Leadership Award, given by St. John's School of Law; Corporate Leadership Award, given by Ebony Magazine; Bethune Award, given by the National Council of Negro Women; Blazing New Trails Award, given by the Robert Toigo Foundation; William H. and Camille O. Cosby Philanthropic Award, given by Associated Black Charities and the NASP; New York, Wall Street Hall of Fame Award.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Chair, Food Bank of NYC, Food for Survival; Chair, Morgan Stanley Foundation; Board Member, Executive Leadership Council; Board Member, A Better Chance, Inc.; Board Member, Mount Sinai Hospital; Board Member, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO); Board Member, Union Theological Seminary; Board Member and Treasurer, Apollo Theater Foundation; Board Member, Maya Angelou Research Foundation on Minority Health.

Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on Harvard: My Harvard undergrad experience educated me way beyond the books that I bought from the COOP or the classes that I had with esteemed professors. I learned an immense amount about the world, a world that I had not seen beyond the South, where I had grown up, and taught me a lot about who I really was as a person. My classmates from all over the world, taught me to really appreciate perspectives beyond my own and taught me to really listen and most importantly to appreciate other people, for who they are and the gifts that they bring. My Harvard experience gave me resilience and taught me to take chances. I learned to reach past what I thought I could do into possibilities I never could have imagined when I left Jacksonville, Florida, that I would be here, after 21 years on Wall Street, and continuing to forge new ground and create new businesses. I never imagined that I would sing in Europe, as a featured soloist with the Radcliffe Choral Society. I never imagined that I would have recorded, released, and sold two albums, and now stand at the precipice of releasing my first book, *Expect to Win*. I never imagined that I would be in a position to make an imprint and a contribution to the world around me through all of the non-profits that I have the privilege and honor to serve on. I never imagined that my Harvard experience would really be a turning point in further developing my faith walk and my relationship with my Creator, which has served me well in my Wall Street experience. I made friends that I still talk to today. People that will be lifelong friends. Who would have thought that at 18, with a jherri curl and a Southern accent, that I would be able to credit so much of who I am today as a person, as a business woman, as a thinker to those 4 years in Cambridge. It was an incredible building block to the foundation that my parents developed.

Yes, my Harvard experience opened me up to reaching past what I could see, what I THOUGHT I could do, into POSSIBILITIES. The decision to attend Harvard is one that I would repeat again without a thought.



William J. Patterson
 Managing Partner,
 SPO Partners & Co.
Degrees: A.B., magna cum laude, Harvard '84 M.B.A., Stanford '89
Harvard Related Activities:
 Co-Chair of the Class of 1984 Reunion Gift Committee for 25th, 20th, 15th, and 10th Reunions; FAS Committee on Technology & Education, 1998-2001; FAS Task Force on Academic Resources,

2006-2007; Committee on University Resources, 1997-present; Co-Chair, Senior Gift, 1983-1984; Co-Captain, 1983-1984, Varsity Lightweight Crew, 1981-1984

Achievements and Honors: Henry Crown Fellow, Aspen Institute; Honorary Trustee, Bay Area Discovery Museum.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Board Chair, California Academy of Sciences; Chair of the Investment Committee, Marin Community Foundation; Advisory Council, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University.

Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on Harvard: The experiences of the 25 years since we graduated have reinforced for me, in the most unmistakable fashion, the enduring value of our Harvard education and, equally, all of the experiences and friendships that have flowed from our time in Cambridge.

Even from the physically distant San Francisco Bay Area, where I have lived for the last 22 years, I have remained closely connected to the life of Harvard. Two things account for that: my continuing gratitude for the opportunities and inspirations of our undergraduate years, and the ongoing opportunity Harvard presents to students and scholars to make the world a better place. Toward that end, I have devoted some meaningful time and financial support to advancing undergraduate financial aid and teaching at Harvard.

My principal activity continues to be serving as a managing partner of the investment partnership I joined 19 years ago. I have enjoyed being able to translate my "day job" experience as a long-term investor and board member into volunteer service for non-profit enterprises. I am a believer that philanthropic capital can do a lot to advance positive societal change and benefit. Taking part in the Henry Crown Fellowship at the Aspen Institute, since 2005, has broadened my exposure to inspiring social entrepreneurs and deepened my commitment to directing my time, energy, and resources to things that really matter.

The world faces daunting challenges. Nevertheless, I retain an optimistic perspective. My optimism springs from the tremendous potential of the human, technological, and financial resources that we can harness, if we commit ourselves to finding solutions and act with urgency. The focus of my community and philanthropic efforts continues to be on educational and environmental conservation, particularly on efforts to address global climate change and other major threats to the world's biodiversity and sustainability. For the past 5 years I have been able to advance this through serving as a trustee and board chair of the California Academy of Sciences. The Academy's mission is to explore, explain, and protect the natural world, which it does through its scientific research and education programs. The Academy recently opened a new facility in Golden Gate Park; a 400,000 square foot building that houses an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a 4-story rainforest all under one roof. Designed by Renzo Piano, the new Academy has earned a platinum LEED rating for its sustainable design, making it both the greenest museum and the largest green building in the world. This \$500 million project has transformed the Academy, both physically and programmatically. Playing a part in the reinvention of the Academy has been deeply satisfying and a great learning experience. Perhaps the greatest value of those four years in Cambridge was the preparation they provided to keep learning, throughout our lives. Together with my wonderful wife, Liebe, nurturing and guiding our three children (ages 10, 14, and 17) through childhood has been the greatest adventure of all. I look forward to sharing experiences, memories, and inspiration with classmates and our families when we gather in June.



Sarah P. Chayes
 Paris, France
Degrees:
 A.B., History, magna cum laude, Harvard '84
Harvard Related Activities:
 Keynote Speaker, Center for Middle Eastern Studies 50th Anniversary, October 2004.
Achievements and Honors:
 Radcliffe College History Prize; Foreign Press Club and Sigma Delta Chi prizes for reporting on the Kosovo

crisis; Oprah Winfrey Chutzpah Award; ABC Person of the Week; Phillips Academy Fuess Award for Public Service; Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Ruth Adams Award for writing on strategic issues; The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban. (Penguin, 2006)

Major Charitable or Other Activities: I would not call it charity, since it's what I do with my life, and especially because I believe it is for the good of us all, and not just the "beneficiaries." I run a manufacturing cooperative in Afghanistan, as per the below. Our goals are to help reduce dependence on opium by expanding the market for licit local agriculture, to promote collective decisionmaking, and to work every way we can towards a peaceful, democratic future for Afghanistan. Our efforts have been rendered significantly more difficult by the deteriorating security situation.

Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on Harvard: "Getting stuck in." That's how the British would say it. Or, roughly, doing something. Since graduation from Harvard, I have followed a slow and often messy course away from the contemplative life we enjoyed as students, toward action. Toward trying to make a positive impact on events I used to observe. After leaving graduate school, ill at ease at its contemplative nature, I spent about a decade as a reporter, much of it for National Public Radio. I loved that job, revered my tape recorder and microphone, the tools of my trade. And yet, even before the terrorist attacks of 9/11, I was beginning to feel less than responsible making my living just reporting on people's dramas and moving along, never held to account for how the stories turned out. And so, after covering the fall of the Taliban in 2001, I decided to put my microphone down and stay in Afghanistan. Now I live in Kandahar, Mullah Omar's erstwhile fiefdom and target once again of a resurgent Taliban. I run what I call in moments of black humor a soap factory in a shooting gallery. There are 14 of us, 13 Afghan men and women and me. Using the fragrant seeds, nuts, and botanicals that grow locally almonds, apricot kernels, pomegranate seeds, wild pistachio, wild mint, and wormwood, *Salvia spinosa*, and *Rosa madagascariensis*—we create absolutely magnificent hand-made soaps and body oils for export. Last Christmas, a friend was gift shopping at one of our retailers in Manhattan. They were sold out. As she turned to leave, another customer entered, asking for "some of that fantastic soap from Afghanistan." That had to be one of the most rewarding moments of my life. To learn that residents of Manhattan, so recently traumatized by the horror-movie implosion of the Twin Towers, were thinking of Afghanistan in connection with fine skin care products, not terrorism. But terrorism visits us in Kandahar with increasing regularity. I write this note just two days after some schoolgirls had acid thrown in their faces. An indelible moment back in January 2002 was putting aside the story I was writing for Morning Edition to take the three little girls from the family I was staying with to school. From that high moment of joy and inspiration, Afghanistan has backslid. What I have discovered through my seven years of living here is that the situation has deteriorated not because Afghans are hostile to democracy, or "not ready" for it. Quite the reverse. After toppling the Taliban, we in the international community brought to and maintained in power a collection of venal strongmen who had been thoroughly repudiated by the population years before. And, as Afghans warned me they would back in 2001, these individuals have proceeded to treat their country as a place to pillage. In other words, the problem is not that we brought democracy to Afghanistan, but that we obstructed it. I have come to realize, on this journey, that my Harvard education has proven of more value to me than I could possibly have imagined. For it instilled in me, simultaneously, a curiosity about and respect for the diversity of cultures that make up our rich world, and a sensitivity to the fundamental values and aspirations that the vast majority of us, as human beings, share.



William M. Haney III
Filmmaker,
Uncommon Productions;
President, Infante Sano
Degrees:
A.B., cum laude in field,
Harvard '84
Harvard Related Activities:
Cofounder of Infante
Sano, a charity that works
closely with the Kennedy
School, School of Public
Health, and the Medical
School; Frequently screen
films and lead discussions

with students across the University; Co-founded Robin Tavistock Gift Fund; Board member, Kennedy School Energy and Natural Resource Program; co-chaired 5th and 10th Reunions.

Achievements and Honors: Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, 1997-2001; Gabriel Prize; Silver Hugo Award; Earthwatch Award; Marine Conservation Award; Amnesty International Award; Global Leader of Tomorrow, World Economic Forum; Humanitarian Award, Harvard Medical School; Distinguished Service Award, Senior Olympics. Nominated for Genesis Award, NAACP Image Award, and short listed for an Oscar. Voted Father Most Likely to Strike Out at Wiffleball by the children in our neighborhood.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Running Infante Sano, which provides health care services to mothers and infants, is my primary charitable activity right now. Serve or have served on boards or advisory boards for Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Natural Resources Defense Council, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund, US Department of Commerce, the Governor's Council of Massachusetts, the Huntington Theatre, and WGBH. Founding member of the EPA's National Advisory Board and the President's Circle of the National Academy of Sciences.

Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on Harvard: As the Frisbee left my fingers I knew there was a problem. It arced over George Biddle's head and straight through an open window in Harvard Hall. Pulling myself onto the window sill, I spotted no adults, saw the red Frisbee lying under the elegant room's desk and climbed in. I was lying on my belly groping for it when the door opened, and President Bok entered his office. As I scrambled to my feet, my excuses poured out. "Don't worry, Mr. Haney," he said. "We all make mistakes; the trick is recovering from them."

I started my first company out of our freshman dorm rooms with Gerrit Nicholas '84, marketing an air pollution control technology for power plants that I helped invent. I had no idea how to run a company and made mistakes aplenty. Now 450 systems are installed at utilities throughout the world, and, often with Ben Downs '84, I've helped start a dozen more firms.

I began making films to promote environmental change and now, working with Tim Disney '83 and Eric Grunbaum '84, I've written, produced, or directed 13 award-winning films on environmental issues, human and civil rights, or foreign policy—as well as a good old-fashioned thriller.

Seven years ago, a partner at Harvard Medical School and I co-founded Infante Sano, a non-profit dedicated to improving infant and maternal health care in Latin America. Supporting five hospitals and clinics now, to date Infante Sano has trained 1,000 health care professionals and helped some 35,000 mothers and children, with the generous support of many of our classmates. Our goal is to improve health care for the most vulnerable of Latin America's 10 million annual births.

My relationship with Harvard is woven throughout my life. I met my wife, Anne, while a sophomore, and our kids, Julia, Amelia, and Finn, all have godparents who went to school with us. I've played poker, golf, or squash with Tyler Jacks '83 for 25 years. And Derek Bok's simple code try—to do good, and get up if you fall down—still serves me. You can see why I find being nominated for our Class Marshal an incredible honor. Thank you.



Alison H. Brown
Musician/Co-Founder,
Compass Records Group
Degrees: A.B., cum laude
in field, Harvard '84
M.B.A., UCLA Anderson
School of Management '86
Harvard Related Activities:
I enjoy making the
independent music
world more accessible to
interested Harvard students
through Compass Records'
internship program,
participating with the class

in the Harvard Business School case study on Compass, and through workshops in conjunction with the Office of the Arts. (I was also very honored to play banjo at the inauguration of President Faust.)

Achievements and Honors: Grammy Award for Best Country Instrumental Performance, 2001; Performing Songwriter's 100 Most Influential Independent Artists of the Past 15 Years, 2008; Irish America Magazine's Stars of the South Award for the cultivation and preservation of Irish music, 2007; Touchstone Award for Women in Music, 2002; Association for Independent Music's Best Acoustic Instrumental Album, 2004; International Bluegrass Music Association Banjo Player of the Year Award, 1992; Composed and recorded "wake up" music for several NASA space shuttle missions.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Board of Directors, International Bluegrass Music Association, 2006-present; Treasurer, International Bluegrass Music Association, 2007-present; Adjunct Professor, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, 2005-present; Board of Directors, NARAS, Nashville Chapter, 2005-2007.

Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on Harvard: When I look back over the last 25 years, my greatest personal rewards have come from the lesson which in some ways has been the hardest for me to learn—simply to follow my heart. I've always loved playing the banjo and was drawn to Cambridge in part by the area's legendary folk community. Some of my most enduring memories of Harvard are music-related: co-hosting Living Traditions in Bluegrass on WHRB with classmate Will Carter and playing at the Nameless Coffeehouse with Crimson Bluegrass among them. But it took years after graduation and a detour into investment banking for me to believe that I could take a chance at building a life around the kind of music that I love. There has been a lot of serendipity involved in my journey and a lot of good fortune which I credit to my association with Harvard. When my second album came out in 1992, Melissa Block '83 helped to arrange an interview with Noah Adams on NPR's All Things Considered. That interview caught the ear of a Nashville-based HBS alum who became our angel investor when my husband, Garry West, and I founded Compass Records the following year. Since then I've had the tremendous privilege of building a music company that supports an international array of artists and musicians, many of whom fly beneath the radar of mainstream media, but whose music adds beauty and richness to the lives of people around the globe. I'm also out on the road a lot with my banjo, band, and two kids. Talking to members of the audience after a concert, many of them accountants, lawyers, and, dare I say, investment bankers, reminds me nightly of how lucky I am to have pursued my dream. To be able to create something that connects with other people, connects people to each other and makes them happy at the same time is in itself a great joy. It's never far from my mind how much Harvard has given me that has helped me on this unlikely journey.



Ann M. Blair
Henry Charles Lea
Professor of History,
Harvard University
Degrees: A.B., summa
cum laude history of
science, Harvard '84
M.Phil., Cambridge
University '85 (history
and philosophy of science)
M.A., Princeton University
'87 (History) Ph.D.,
Princeton University '90
(History)

Harvard Related Activities:

Since 1996 I have been a faculty member in the History Department at Harvard, specializing in intellectual and cultural history of early modern Europe (1450-1750). My teaching includes a core course (soon to become Gen Ed: Reason and Faith in the West), departmental courses, tutorials, and graduate seminars. I have served on many committees at the level of the Department, the FAS, and the University, including the Library Committee, the Committee on Degrees in History and Literature, and the Faculty Council. This year I am also a senior advisor in the Humanities to the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Achievements and Honors: Mellon New Directions Fellowship, 2004-2005; MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, 2002-2007; Radcliffe Junior Faculty Fellowship, Bunting Institute, 1998-1999; NEH Fellowship, 1995-1996; NSFNATO Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1990-1991.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Vice President and upcoming President of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha-Iota Chapter of Massachusetts (Harvard-Radcliffe); Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors, Journal of the History of Ideas.

Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on Harvard: I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to practice a profession I love—teaching and research in early modern European intellectual and cultural history—in a place that I love. When I arrived as a freshman in 1980, Harvard served as my main reintroduction to this country after I had spent most of the previous 12 years with my American parents in Frenchspeaking Europe. After graduation I lived in other parts of the country (grad school in Princeton and two years teaching at the University of California at Irvine) but always felt that Cambridge, Massachusetts, was home.

I can hardly believe that I have spent 17 years here, in four different capacities: as an undergraduate, a lecturer in History of Science, a junior faculty member in the History Department, and, since 2001, as a tenured member of the faculty. But I have never had the feeling of standing still: every year Harvard feels like a new place, as I gain new perspectives on the complex workings of the institution and get to know more of the amazing people associated with it. I never cease to admire the tremendous talent that Harvard attracts and retains among its undergraduate and graduate students, its wonderfully qualified staff, and my 750-plus colleagues in FAS.

I now realize that I missed out on important opportunities while an undergraduate, because I didn't form a circle of close friends at the time, but I have valued meeting and reconnecting with classmates ever since. One fellow alum of special significance is my husband Jonathan Yedidia ('85, Physics), whom I did not know as an undergraduate but met on my first day of graduate school at Princeton. We have two sons, Adam (now in eleventh grade) and Zachary (in fourth) who have brought great delight to the otherwise disconcerting awareness we have of being "real grown-ups." Harvard also played a crucial role in getting me oriented toward the field which I studied in graduate school and which has proved an excellent match for my interests and abilities. As an undergraduate I sampled a wide array of options from the course catalog and the libraries before settling, just in time for applications, on early modern European history. Since then, and thanks also to several years of research spent in Europe, I have developed a special interest in the history of the book as a physical form as well as a vehicle for knowledge. I am deeply grateful for the unique resources that Harvard offers in that area as in so many others, in its collections of rare and recent books, but also its expert librarians, students, and colleagues who eagerly delve in this field.

Harvard is constantly changing even as it transmits longstanding traditions. I look forward to participating in the festivities of the 25th reunion and helping to shape the tradition as it gets passed on.



Susan Fales-Hill

Writer/Producer/Author
Degrees: Baccalaureat
Academie de Caen '80
A.B., magna cum laude
special field, Harvard '84
Harvard Related Activities:
Committee to Visit the
College, 1994-2003;
Elected Director, HAA,
2003-2006; International
Studies Planning
Committee, 1998-2000;
Task Force on Women

and Leadership, 1996-2000; Committee on University
Resources, 2000-present; Co-Chair, 15th and 20th
reunions.

Achievements and Honors: Excellence and Heritage
Award, Dillard University, 1999; Nova Award, Most
Promising Producer, Producer's Guild of America,
1993; NAACP Image Award Finalist in nonfiction,
2003; Zora Neale Hurston Award finalist, 2003; Starred
review in Kirkus for Always Wear Joy: My Mother Bold
and Beautiful, 2003; novel to be published by Simon &
Schuster, 2010.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Vice Chair,
American Ballet Theatre Board, launched diversity
program to recruit African-American dancers; board
member, Studio Museum in Harlem, 1998-present;
member, Chairman's Visiting Committee, New York
Public Library.

**Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on
Harvard:** I had the immeasurable blessing of being
born into a multi-ethnic family. My late mother, a
Haitian-American, and my father, a White Anglo-Saxon
Protestant (whose namesake graduated from Harvard in
1711), imparted two indelible life lessons. The first was
that there is only one race, the human race. The second
was that those of us born in the age of opportunity have
a responsibility to at least try to build upon the progress
achieved by our antecedents, sometimes at the cost of
their lives. I still have "miles to go before I sleep," but
I can at the very least claim that throughout my career
as a writer, I have sought to shatter the stereotypes that
obscure the fundamental similarities among all people.
To this day, I meet young African-Americans who say
they went to college because they watched *A Different
World*, the spin-off from the *Cosby* Show set on a
university campus (I served as the show's Executive
Producer for three years). In my work as a head writer on
various television series, I have had the joy and privilege
of creating substantive roles for actors of color who too
often had been reduced to thankless secondary parts. I
was even able to cast my mother, Josephine Premice,
a pioneering singer/dancer/actress who, among many
other achievements, was the first to bring calypso music
to the United States. While she was dying of emphysema,
she encouraged me to write a book about her life. The
audience for the book was much smaller than those I had
been used to reaching through television, and yet letters,
such as the one from a fifty-year-old who had returned
to school to earn her bachelor's degree and felt inspired
by my mother's odyssey, or the one from the sixty-year-
old Connecticut matron who confessed the book had
made her face her own prejudices gave me a measure
of reassurance that somewhere, my mother was smiling.
Most importantly, even if the book never sells another
copy, my daughter, who was born two years after my
mother passed away, will have a written chronicle of her
indomitable grandmother's life. Harvard and my mother
taught me to seek the truth, to cherish friendships, and to
believe in the impossible.



Anthony Gregory Brown

Lieutenant Governor, State
of Maryland Preferred
Degrees: A.B., cum laude
in field, Harvard '84 J.D.,
Harvard Law School '92
Harvard Related Activities:
Since 1994, interviewed
approximately 70 applicants
for admission to Harvard
College; participated in
numerous high school
college fairs in Prince
George's County, MD,

trying to dispel the myth that Harvard is for the rich
and famous; Keynote Speaker, Harvard Black Policy
Conference, Kennedy School of Government, April
2008.

Achievements and Honors: Colonel, US Army
Reserves, 2007; Bronze Star Medal, 2005; National
Leadership Award, National Forum for Black Public
Administrators, 2008; Medal of Civic Honor, National
Conference of State Legislators, 2005; Wilmer Cutler
Pickering Pro Bono Publico Award, 1998.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Member,
Maryland House of Delegates, 1999-2007; Co-
Chair, Department of Veterans Affairs Review Team;
Presidential Transition Team, 2008; Chairman, Prince
George's Community College Board of Trustees, 1995-
1999; Board of Visitors, University of Maryland School
of Public Policy, 2007-present; Board of Directors,
Adoptions Together, Inc., 2001-2007.

**Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on
Harvard:** One of my greatest personal rewards, second
only to the privilege of raising my children, Rebecca
(14) and Jonathan (8), has been the honor of military
service to our country.

I remember our early days on the Yard when we were
assembled in Tercentenary Theatre and Dean Moses
spoke to what many of us were silently asking, "How
did I get here?" We were reassured that never before
in the entire 350 year history of the College had an
applicant been admitted who did not clear the high bar
of admission. Intuitively difficult to believe, yet some
of us were immediately (perhaps naively!) relieved. The
more enduring message that day, however, was that our
Harvard experience would not only change our lives for
the better but would also prepare us to improve the world
around us. . . or at least to try. So we've tried in many
different ways.

Having completed ROTC at MIT, I pinned on
lieutenant bars on the 40th anniversary of the Normandy
Invasion (standing in front of John Harvard's statue).
While I still wonder whether Harvard will ever invite
ROTC back to campus, I was extremely proud of our
classmates and faculty who supported the six of us who
participated in AROTC. I served a tour of duty—with
boundlessly patriotic men and women from across the
country—with the Third Infantry Division in Germany.
We believed that we were doing something important.
Every so often we let ourselves believe that we were
part of something bigger than what we did on any given
day. Two months after returning from Europe, the world
celebrated the fall of the Berlin Wall. I take no credit for
that one.

I missed all of you at our 20th reunion when I
deployed to Iraq with the 353rd Civil Affairs Command.
For 10 months, I worked with the Iraq Reconstruction
Management Office. We were unable then to establish the
conditions for rebuilding a war-torn country. Our efforts
to establish and open society with a representative form
of government were severely hampered by violence and
instability. We tried and will continue trying.

Today I am grateful for the call to serve that was
sounded for me at Harvard.



Mark A. Hissey

Senior Vice President,
Sebonack Neck Holding
Degrees: A.B., Harvard '84
Harvard Related Activities:
Vice Chairman of Special
gifts, 25th Reunion
Campaign; Chairman,
Class of '84 Associates
Program; Vice Chairman,
20th Reunion Campaign;
Treasurer, Harvard Club
of Long Island; Member,
Harvard Club of New York

City; Harvard Interviewer, 1988-2008; Member, Friends
of Harvard Rugby.

Achievements and Honors: Best New Golf Course,
2007 (Sebonack Golf Club), Golf Digest; MGA
Environmental Leader Award, 2008; USGA Women's
Open, 2013; Senior Vice President, Bank of America.

Major Charitable or Other Activities: Energeia
Partnership for Advocacy, Human Rights, Race, and
Ethnicity; Peconic Land Trust; Long Island Pine Barrens
Society; Chairman, Elwood Library Committee; Policy
Committee and Finance Committee, Elwood UFSD;
Fund for the Poor.

**Greatest Personal Rewards and/or Reflections on
Harvard:** I often wonder about my good fortune in
attending Harvard. In fact, it is rare that an hour of my
life goes by without thinking of it. I had never even seen
Harvard before my arrival but I was eager to make the
most of my opportunity. Many never knew this about
me, but I came from a very humble background in
Wales. I was the first from my extended family to ever
attend higher education of any kind, and the first native
of Wales to attend Harvard College. The pressure and
expectations were pretty high, but I handled them by
making sure I enjoyed every minute of those four years.

How I was admitted is a story in itself, one which
is too long to relate here, but involved a hand written
letter to President Bok and an interview in a pub in my
home town. I met my best friends for life within hours
of reaching Harvard Yard. The parties around Matthews/
Strauss/Mass Hall that first week told me that I had
made a huge change in my life; all of my classmates
were brilliant people whose company I'd enjoy and from
whom I'd learn so much. Needless to say, I tried to meet
everyone. I'm particularly proud of the fact that I had
many friends in every house, every organization, and
every sport. This may all sound a little too effusive, but
it really broke my heart to leave. Thankfully, I've kept
in contact with many classmates and for those I haven't
spoken to, I've thought about so many of you often.

Post graduation saw me move to New York and a few
years of immigration struggles while I tried to establish
a career for myself. My career advanced in a modest
consumer finance company which blossomed, went
public, and was subsequently sold to a large bank. My
second career has proved to be immensely enjoyable
and rewarding. I was commissioned to build a golf
course in the Hamptons, and I threw myself into it with
vengeance. Attending courses in the Harvard GSD was
an added bonus as I learned the intricacies of golf course
and clubhouse design and construction. It became a
passion for me but I wanted to really make a difference.
Sebonack Golf Club has received many accolades, but
where it is truly making a difference is in its relationship
with the environment. Protection of groundwater,
organic protocols, environmental restoration, and sound
agronomic management became cornerstones of the
project. What we have learned will benefit many and our
work with Cornell, Ohio State, Penn State, and Rutgers
Universities will help spread this knowledge. There
have been more golf projects since and more to come.

My family has provided me with the stability and
support that I have always needed. They have helped
me in ways that they can't imagine. The same can be
said of my friends at Harvard and in my homeland. Fort
that, I am eternally grateful.

It is an incredible honor to receive this nomination. I
don't think it possible for me to repay Harvard properly
for what they gave me, but I'm sure I will keep trying.
To be recognized by my friends and peers in this way
makes me realize how incredible this journey has been.