



Out of the Blocks

The Official Newsletter for the
Friends of Harvard Track

May 2015 GIVE A GIFT ONLINE AT: gocrimson.com

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*Photos Courtesy of Brian Panoff '98
and Athletic Communications*

NEWS LINKS

[Korolev '14 Competes at IAAF XC
Championships](#)

[Saretsky Named Ivy League Women's
Coach of the Year](#)

[Track and Field Qualifies 16 for NCAA
East Regionals](#)

A NOTE FROM COACH SARETSKY

Dear Friends of Harvard Track and Field,

Last week marked the conclusion of the outdoor track and field season for the majority of the Crimson squad. On Wednesday after Heps, we gathered for our annual awards banquet and recognized the outstanding 25 seniors who will soon graduate and join the ranks of Crimson Track and Field alumni. Though they will be leaving Harvard, this class' impact on Harvard Track and Field will be felt forever.

On May 10, the Ivy League said goodbye to the most successful sprinter in conference history, as Danielle Barbian '15 (Sussex, WI) set her second all-time Ivy League record and won her first 100m Heps title in 11.59, leading the women to the outdoor Heps title. Barbian has been the foundation for five Heps championships over the last six seasons (three consecutive indoor, back-to-back outdoor). For these heroics, Barbian was honored as the team's MVP and as the Rita Raju Memorial Award winner (coaches' award). The team's most outstanding performer went to Nikki Okwelogu '17 (Fresno, CA), who set the all-time conference and meet record in the shot put of 56' 10" and won the discus, also breaking the meet record with her new personal best throw of 176' 5". Okwelogu took home her second consecutive field event performer of the meet.

For the men, senior co-captain Jarvis Harris (Ama, LA) closed his Ivy League career in style. After winning the 60m hurdles indoors, Harris only managed a third place finish in the 110m hurdles outdoors but followed that performance with an inspiring run in the 400m hurdles. Harris set a personal best by over 2 seconds and won the Heps title in his last Heps individual event, running an outstanding 51.1 seconds.

From Ashley Collinsworth (Fort Thomas, KY) and Molly Renfer (Esher, Eng.), to Hannah Mayer (Allendale, NJ) and co-captain Ben Glauser (Athens, GA), there are too many incredible seniors to profile here. Many will continue on and represent Harvard at NCAAAs and at Harvard-Yale-Oxford-Cambridge this summer. And all 25 will carry the lessons and triumphs of their experience as Crimson athletes into their post-collegiate pursuits. For those of us who remain at Harvard, we will work to build on all that they leave behind.

What they leave behind is not just trophies, banners, and records; it is an attitude and mindset that says: Harvard track and field has arrived. That moving forward, our program will strive for results of a higher standard and prepare to challenge for Ivy League supremacy and the best the NCAA has to offer.

We look forward to the remaining competitions this season and to carrying on the legacy of this year's seniors with our fantastic juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and incoming recruits.

As always, we are grateful for your support and excited to share in the future successes of Harvard Track and Field. We are especially thankful to our hosts in the Houston area who make our annual training trip possible.

Continued Success!

Jason Saretsky
The William W. "Bill" McCurdy
Director of Track and Field/XC at Harvard



CHAIRMEN'S REPORT

Greetings from the Friends of Harvard Track (FoHT)! It is an exciting time for the FoHT Executive Committee as we make the final turn for home in another successful year of "Friend-Raising and Fund-Raising." Of course, these achievements have been made possible only because of the ever-increasing interest and involvement of our outstanding alumni and the energetic support of the parents of the student-athletes.

The most severe winter in recent history disrupted many events throughout the Northeast, but the FoHT Alumni and Family Meet was not one of them. Holding strong to the annual tradition, over eighty alumni and children once again gathered at the Gordon Indoor Track in early January for a festive day of friendly competition and good cheer. In late February, Harvard hosted the Indoor Heptagonal Championships for the second time in three years, and the weekend's trifecta of FoHT social events, highlighted by the FoHT Reunion @ Heps Fundraising Dinner, attracted alumni from all over the country. Given the great success of the Heps social events in 2013 and 2015, we hope to make them fixtures of future Heps at Harvard. In April, the family of Vito Cannavo '10 once again sponsored a FoHT social event in New York and also spearheaded a successful Donation Challenge. Also in April, Harvard's outdoor home meet against Yale was combined with a tailgate luncheon hosted by Bill and Eileen Looney P '12, '15 (pictures from event on page 4). The last Saturday in May will include another informal mini-reunion at the track offices within the Gordon Indoor Track. If you are in town for your reunion and have not been back to the indoor track in at least a few years, be sure to stop by and enjoy the impressive updates to the facility. Finally, in June, a FoHT social event will take place in London as the team travels to the UK for HYOC. Stay tuned for further details soon!

Just under a year ago, we set an ambitious fundraising goal—our highest ever—for this fiscal year, in large part due to team travel expenses associated with the upcoming 45th edition of the Trans-Atlantic Track and Field Series between Harvard-Yale and Oxford-Cambridge. The response and support from FoHT alumni and parents has been nothing short of spectacular, as we stand to have our most successful fundraising year ever, meeting the elevated goal in the process. The generosity demonstrated by scores of donors also continues to foster the growth in the men's and women's programs, particularly the opportunities afforded to student-athletes to experience national caliber competition at numerous out-of-region venues.

Looking ahead to the 2015-16 fiscal year, the FoHT Executive Committee is excited to expand the ways in which we connect our alumni with each other and enhance the collegiate experience of the student-athletes. We are always looking for volunteers to host gatherings in their home cities, so please contact us if you are interested in such a role, and we will provide organizational support. We will also seek to provide mentoring and career opportunities for the student-athletes through the FoHT community. Giving back to the men's and women's programs can be done in more ways than one, and we strive to provide these opportunities for all FoHT alumni!

Finally, we extend our gratitude to those alumni and parents who have already donated to the FoHT during this fiscal year. With just about a month to go, if you have not yet donated, please consider contributing to the success of the Harvard track program!

We thank you all for your continued generosity and support of the FoHT!

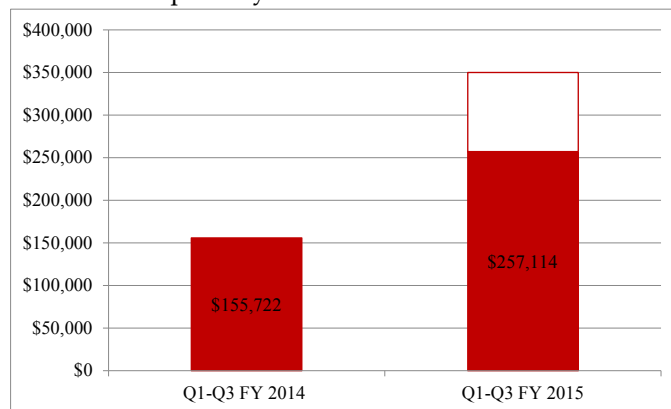
Joe Ciollo '99 and Leslie Cooper Golemme '86



Many thanks to Vito Cannavo '10 and his family for hosting an alumni event in New York City on April 10. The Cannavos generously donated \$100 per attendee and matched donations made that evening. The event raised more than \$50K. Again, a huge thank you to the Cannavos for their generosity.

TREASURER'S REPORT – BRIAN PANOFF '98

Harvard Track & Field continues to break records on and off the track and field. Indoor Heps brought not only another championship to Harvard but also a record-breaking FoHT Reunion @ Heps Fundraising Dinner. The event adds to the year's strong momentum and puts the FoHT in position both to exceed FY 2014's fundraising record and to reach this year's goal of \$350,000. Through the end of March, fiscal year 2015 contributions to the FoHT are up nearly 65% over 2014.



The program's tremendous success is directly attributable to your generosity and would not be possible without the recruiting capabilities, high-quality coaching, and out-of-region competition opportunities enabled by the FoHT. Friends' gifts are especially valuable this year as a Harvard-laden team will soon travel to Oxford and Cambridge to carry on the storied tradition of HYOC—a tradition funded by the Friends of Harvard Track.



REMINDERS

Update Your Contact Information!

If your contact information has recently changed, please log on to post.harvard.edu and update your information. Don't miss out on the latest and greatest!

Support the Team!

To give to Friends of Harvard Track and Field:

By credit card, [CLICK HERE](#)

By check, send donations to:

Friends of Harvard Track and Field
65 North Harvard St.
Boston, MA 02163.

Donations eligible for class credit!

All gifts to Harvard Athletics Friends groups receive class and FAS campaign credit.

The Department of Harvard Athletics, the Friends groups and Harvard Varsity Club encourage all alumni to make an additional gift to the Harvard College Fund to support the overall experience for our student-athletes, which includes the College's commitment to financial aid.

STAY CONNECTED!



Twitter: [@HarvardTrack_XC](#)

Facebook: [Friends of Harvard Track and Field](#)

2014-15 AWARD WINNERS

Francis J. Haggerty Award for Excellence in Women's Track and Field: Molly Renfer '15 (Esher, Eng.) and Autumnne Franklin '16 (Owings Mills, MD)

Women's Most Valuable Performer Award: Danielle Barbian '15 (Sussex, WI)

Women's Most Outstanding Performer Award: Nikki Okwelogu '17 (Fresno, CA)

HY Track Prize: Nikki Okwelogu

Pappy Hunt Improvement Award: Whitney Thornburg '15 (Asheville, NC)

Hennessy Mile Relay Award: Autumnne Franklin, Gabrielle Scott '15 (Irvine, CA), Christi Scott '16 (Englewood, CO), and Jade Miller '17 (Temecula, CA)

Women's Beyond the Call of Duty Award: Itzel Vasquez-Rodriguez '17 (Lake-wood, CA)

Bingham Relay Award: Autumnne Franklin, Gabrielle Scott, Christi Scott, and Jade Miller

Women's Unsung Hero Award: Taylor Mae duPont '15 (Fayetteville, GA)

Rita Raju Memorial Award: Danielle Barbian

Little Shot Put Award: Nikki Okwelogu

Watters Mile Award: Molly Renfer

McLaughlin Award: Matt Miller '18 (Lafayette Hill, PA) and Courtney Smith '18 (Westchester, PA)

Treasurer's Award: Matt Hurst '18 (Newport Beach, CA)

Jannergren "Overcoming Physical Adversity" Award: Hannah Mayer '15 (Allendale, NJ) and Ben Glauser '15 (Athens, GA)

Nelson Unsung Hero Award: Connor Reck '15 (Santa Barbara, CA)

McCurdy Beyond the Call of Duty Award: Jarvis Harris '15 (Ama, LA)

Helmus Improvement Awards: Jay Hebert '18 (Ticonderoga, NY), Mark Hill '16 (Sutton, MA), Matt Miller

Carver Hammer and Weight Award: Taylor Mae duPont

Gourdin Broad Jump Award: Elliot Safo '17 (Caterham, Eng.)

Ohiri Triple Jump Award: Efe Uwaifo '17 (London, Eng.)

Robert W. Harwood Pole Vault Award: Andrew Roney '17 (Mahomet, IL)

Rand Hurdle Award: Jarvis Harris and Autumnne Franklin

Schick Sprint Award: Danielle Barbian and Malcolm Johnson '18 (Sylvania, OH)

Ed Stowell Award: Madison Hansen '16 (Plano, TX) and Ben Glauser

Westmore Wilcox 440 Award: Matt Hurst and Autumnne Franklin

2015-2016 CAPTAINS

Women's team: Autumnne Franklin '16 and Paige Kouba '16 (Eugene, OR)

Men's team: James Lim '16 (Seoul, Korea/Los Angeles, CA), Tom Purnell '16 (Gloucestershire, UK), and Andrew Roney '17

Below are photos from the alumni and parent tailgate at the Yale outdoor meet in April. Friends of Harvard Track is grateful to Bill and Eileen Looney P '12 '15 for once again hosting the tailgate and for all of their incredible generosity and support!



Peter Alpert P '18, Rebecca Drill P '18, Bill Okerman '76, and Ralph Hallo '78.



Sarah Angell '17 with parents Martha and John Angell P '17.



Jade Miller '17 and her father Tony Miller P '17.



Carl Ward '15, Fred Ward '15, Gerty Ward P '15, and Eric Ward P '15.

SAVE THE DATE!

SPRING REUNIONS—SATURDAY MAY 30!

The FoHT is hosting a Track & Field reunion during the scheduled "Mini-Reunion time" on Saturday, May 30 from 3-5pm across the river at the Track Lounge at the Gordon Indoor Track. It's a great chance to mingle with other track and field and cross-country alums from your class and across the years! The plan is for a casual affair where we can all mingle, recall the good ol' days, tour the state-of-the-art upgraded track and field facilities, and meet the coaching staff. The more, the merrier! Guests and alums from non-reunion classes are also encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP to Leslie Golemme '86 at lesliegolemme@gmail.com.

Date & Time: 3–5 pm on Saturday, May 30

Location: Gordon Indoor Track Lounge

HARVARD TRACK COMES TO LONDON!

As part of the FoHT outreach beyond Cambridge (MA, that is), the FoHT with the help of London-based Chris Lambert '03 and Tara Keck '01 will be hosting an alumni gathering across the pond in London Wednesday, June 24. The Harvard team will be in the UK for the HYOC series (Harvard is bringing 37 of the 60 total athletes), and we would love to have local London alums get together to meet the coaching staff and to reconnect with other alums in the London area. If you would like to get involved in helping plan this event or would like some more information, please email Leslie Golemme '86 at lesliegolemme@gmail.com. We are working on finalizing the time and location and will send another email with more details - but for now, Save the Date!

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 24 (Time TBA)

Location: Local London Bar (TBA)