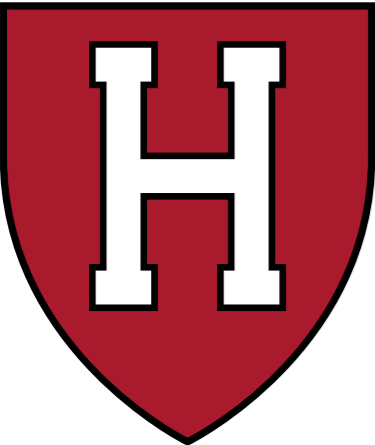




Anna Juul '21 received the NCAA's Elite 90 Award as the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA participating at the NCAA Championships.



The men's cross country team placed 15th at the NCAA Championships, the third-best finish in school history and highest since taking 9th in 1968.



OUT OF THE BLOCKS

The Official Newsletter for the Friends of Harvard Track

OUT OF THE BLOCKS

The Official Newsletter for the Friends of Harvard Track | January 2020

Hello Friends of Harvard Track and Field!

I hope you had a great holiday and you got to spend some quality family time. I know I did, and it was a great way to end 2019 and gear up for 2020. This is always an exciting time of year for me as the students come back from the holiday break and we start to ramp up the indoor season.

This past cross country season was one of the most successful campaigns Harvard has ever had. For the first time in program history, we had both the men's and women's squads qualify for the NCAA Cross Country Championships in the same season. This is definitely one of the highlights of my career at Harvard. Coach Gibby did an amazing job in getting both teams ready to perform their best when it mattered most. As a result, Coach Gibby was named the Men's and Women's Northeast Region Coach of the Year! He was the only coach in the country to win both the men's and women's awards this season. Here is a great [recap of the meet](#) and [Coach Gibby's honor](#). This meet came two weeks after both men's and women's teams both placed a strong second at the [Ivy League Heptagonal Championships](#) at the famous Van Cortlandt Park. **Anna Jull '21** (West Chester, PA) earned first team All-Ivy and first-year **Colin Baker '23** (North Charleston, SC), **Kieran Tuntivate '19-'20** (Wilmington, DE), and **Mathew Pereira '21** (Kildeer, IL) all earned second team All-Ivy.

Both teams finished up the season at the NCAA Championships at Terre Haute, Indiana, on November 23 on a cold and blustery day. The men finished 15th, the best for our program since 1968. That '68 team finished an impressive ninth in the country—a mark our returning harriers are eyeing! Tuntivate became just the seventh Cross Country All-American in Harvard's history with his 28th-place finish. Plus, Baker finished just eight spots off of All-American with his 48th-place finish and was the second true first-year to cross the finish line! On the women's side, the squad was led by Juul's 94th-place finish. On top of this, she was awarded the NCAA Elite 90, which is awarded to the athlete at the meet who has achieved the highest of standards in both athletics and academics. Anna is just the third athlete in Harvard history to receive this award. Please see the release about this honor [here](#). A recap of the NCAA meet can be found [here](#).

As we transition to the Indoor Season, we have an exciting schedule with trips to compete against national caliber teams at the Clemson Invitational on January 17, the Dr. Sander Invitational-Columbia Challenge at the Armory in New York on January 24, and the Clemson Tiger Paw Invite on February 14. We will also be hosting the Harvard Multi Meet on January 10 and the Beantown Challenge on January 11. It will be a great weekend, as we will also be hosting our Awards Banquet on the evening of January 11 and the Leslie Cooper Golemme '86 Friends and Family Meet on January 12. I hope to see many of you this weekend. Also, this year's Ivy League Championships will be held on the weekend of February 29 at Cornell in Ithaca, New York. Please come and cheer us on as we compete for the Ivy League title!

We have some exciting athletes competing this year led by our two returning All-Americans in **Simi Fajemisin '20** (Oxford, UK) in the jumps and **Sam Welsh '22** (Lunenburg, MA) in the throws. Other Field event athletes to watch will be captain **Erick Duffy '21** (North Andover, MA) and **Alana Carroll '22** (Averill Park, NY) in the pole vault as well as **Kyle Murphy '22** (Shepparton, Victoria, Australia) in the jumps and first-year throwing standouts **Estel Valeanu '23** (Ramat Gan, Israel) and **Alexander Kolesnikoff '23** (Strathfield, Australia). On the track side, our long sprinters will lead the way for the men with **Jovahn Williamson '22** (Dix Hills, NY) and **Rodney Agyare-May '22** (Worcester, MA) aiming to make it to the NCAA meet this year in the 400. On the women's side, our tradition of excellence in the sprints will continue with captain **Livia Gauntlett '20** (Bath, UK), **Olivia Okoli '21** (Lagos, Nigeria), **Kelisa Cain '22** (Mechanicsville, MD), **DaLoria Boone '22** (Milledgeville, GA), **Katina Martin '22** (Decatur, IL), and **Tina Martin '22** (Decatur, IL) looking to dominate the sprints in the Ivy League.

It is shaping up to be a great indoor season for Harvard track and field. Again, I can't thank you all enough for the continued support of the program. Your continued involvement makes our Harvard track special. Please come out and see us as you never know when you might witness something like Tuntivate's gutsy performance from last year's indoor season which was recently highlighted in [Sports Illustrated's Top 100 Plays for 2019](#).

Go Crimson!

Jason Saretsky
The William W. "Bill" McCurdy Director of Track and Field/Cross Country

FOLLOW THE TEAM!



A NOTE FROM OUR FRIENDS CHAIRS

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season and are as excited as we are about 2020!

The beginning of this calendar year comes with a change in the Friends of Harvard Track executive leadership. After 20+ years serving in various roles and capacities on the FoHT Board, **Joseph Ciollo '99** will be stepping down from his role as co-chair, a position he has held since 2011.

Joe's efforts and leadership have been critical to the success and growth of the FoHT over the past two decades. While he leaves fleet spikes to fill at co-chair, the Friends are delighted that he will remain on the Board in an at-large capacity.

We are thrilled to announce a familiar name and face as the newest FoHT co-chair, **Brian Panoff '98**. Brian has served as treasurer of the Friends of Harvard Track since 2014, but is better known for his unofficial title of "Team Photographer." Many congratulations to Brian! We know he will do a tremendous job.

This coming weekend, Harvard Track and the FoHT kick off 2020 with a series of events, starting with the Beantown Challenge on Saturday (Jan. 11), the XC/Indoor/Outdoor Combined Banquet at the Harvard Club (Jan. 11), and the annual Leslie Cooper Golemme '86 Friends & Family Meet (Jan. 12). **It's not too late to sign up.**

We also plan to have several events heading into spring, including an event in New York City later in January, a tentative event in Houston (March), the Harvard-Yale Parents' Tailgate as we take on our rivals at home (April), and we are delighted to host reunion classes' return to campus in May.

Be sure to connect with the FoHT on **Facebook** to stay up-to-date with the latest information. And please consider **contributing to the Friends of Harvard Track**. All donations count towards Reunion and Class Credit.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends!

Evan Favermann Eisert '09 and Brian Panoff '98
Co-Chairs, Friends of Harvard Track

CRIMSON CLUB -- pledge by June 30, 2020

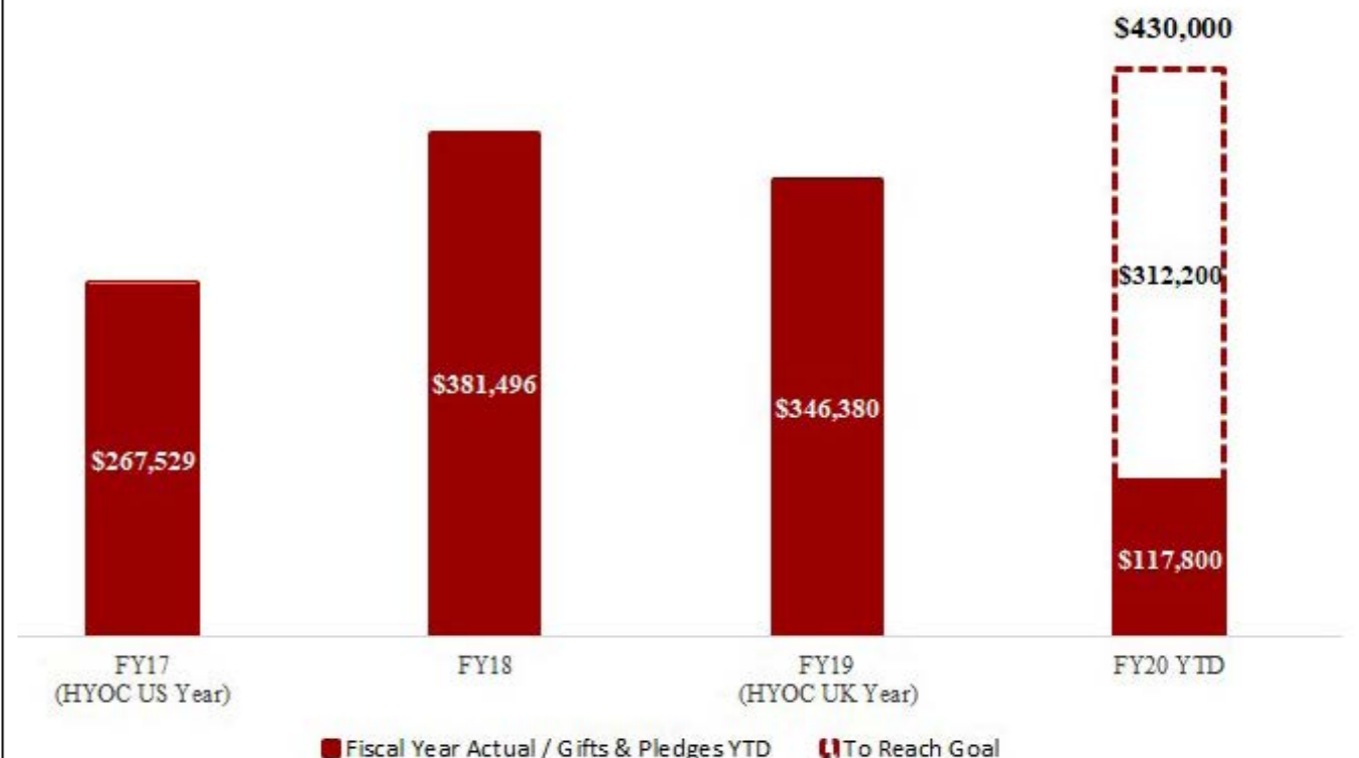
Join the growing list of 28 members of the Crimson Club and have your name (or someone you want to honor) displayed on a new plaque that will be hung in the Gordon Indoor Track.

Giving levels are included below. Gifts can either be one-time outright gifts or 5-year pledges—both are welcomed and encouraged (levels are spelled out below as 5-year pledges):

- Varsity Member - for gifts starting at \$2,000/yr for 5 years
- All-Ivy Member - for gifts starting at \$5,000/yr for 5 years
- All-East Member - for gifts starting at \$10,000/yr for 5 years
- All-American Member - for gifts starting at \$20,000/yr for 5 years
- NCAA Champion Member - for gifts starting at \$50,000/yr for 5 years

Let us know of your interest by clicking **HERE**.

Friends of Harvard Track Annual Contributions



LIVIA GAUNTLETT '20

Hometown: Bath, UK

High School: Kingswood School

Event: Hurdles

Concentration: Philosophy

When asked what my most memorable moment on the Harvard track and field team is, the first thing to spring to mind is the HYOC 2019 trip. This unique opportunity brought two rivals together as one team to continue the legacy of the oldest transcontinental international track and field meet in the world. For me, it was a trip of many firsts, which came as a surprise to me as an English native. I was excited to show the team my home country, but this trip was so much more than a tour of where I grew up and a chance to compete at track meets. I got to see the cities and sites in a whole new light which I had previously taken for granted and race on a team with athletes I am usually running against. I got the chance to explore the historical cities of Oxford and Cambridge, which, when on your doorstep, it is easy to say "I'll go there one day." And when you are surrounded by a team, for whom most was their first time in England, you realise all there is to offer only a short drive away.

Two firsts that stood out for me were punting in Cambridge and visiting Ireland. Contrary to the stereotype, the rain stopped and the sun shone, well at least for the most part. The group I was in for our punting experience opted for the professional to steer the boat. We came to this decision after hearing 10 minutes prior that one of our teammates was in charge of steering the boat and fell in. So we got to sit back and relax as we were toured through the colleges of Cambridge whilst hearing the history and anecdotes of the infamous University. HYOC also took me on my first trip to Ireland. In the quaint city of Limerick, we got the taste for true Irish traditions and hospitality. We learned an Irish jig, or at least we tried, and we experienced life on the edge of the breath-taking Cliffs of Moher.

A definite highlight of the trip was the HYOC meet day, marking the 125th anniversary of the rivalry. The sun was blazing, and the champagne and strawberries were flowing in true English style. I have never been, nor will I ever be again, involved in such an incredible sporting experience. This day was more than just a track meet, it was a chance to be a part of a long-standing tradition that upholds the true meaning of sportsmanship and companionship. And I loved sharing and comparing my experience of University in America with new English friends on the opposing team.

This trip taught me the importance of exploring what is right in front of you and to continue to experience firsts. To tour your home country in a new light with a team of your closest friends is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and one I will never forget. For me, Harvard track and field means friendship, inclusion, and balancing hard work with fun, and HYOC was the epitome of this.



Photographs courtesy of Brian Panoff '98

ERICK DUFFY '21

Hometown: North Andover, MA

High School: North Andover

Event: Pole Vault, Hurdles

Concentration: Psychology

My first exposure to Harvard track and field was as a high school student, through Coach **Brenner Abbott**'s New England Pole Vault Club. I took a liking to Coach Abbott's coaching style (as he took me from 11' 6" to 15' 3" in a single season) and decided to register for a meet that Harvard track would be attending. At that point in my college decision process, I wasn't even considering Harvard. To my surprise, I was welcomed with open arms as a part of the team, even as a high schooler. That day I learned that Harvard track and field is a family. I was instantly hooked on how it felt to be a part of something bigger than myself.

Now a junior in college, I find myself as one of the captains of that same family. One of the jobs I take most pride in is fostering a culture that makes people feel the way I did at that season opener four years ago. At times, we have struggled with team unity, full commitment, and finding time in our busy schedules for each other. However, throughout my time here, we have taken huge steps to minimize those problems and promote team cohesion. It is my belief that in order to consistently win championships, a team must work together as a single unit. My ultimate goal is for us to be a team where your teammate's success excites you as much as your own.

It is in Harvard's nature to attract those who have exceptional skills, and thus our team has never lacked people who are fantastic at their events. And yet, we have been unable to win a men's Heptagonal Championship title in over 30 years. Since the team has never lacked in talent, the disconnect must be elsewhere.

In my first year at Harvard, the men placed 6th at both the Indoor and Outdoor Heptagonal Championships. The team was discouraged, but ready for something better. Then, my sophomore year, we saw glimpses of something special: 3rd place at both Indoor and Outdoor Heps. And yet, we still had that feeling of dissatisfaction—we were hungry for more. To top the year off, we sent seven men to the NCAA East Preliminary Meet and four to the NCAA Championships, the most qualifications in our recent history. Yes, it is partly due to our talented group of guys and amazing coaches, but also the culture shift.

As for this year, I can say with certainty that our team has never been better. Not only is the team more talented and more driven, but we care about one another, we know one another, and we are committed to a singular goal. In short, we are coming into this track season with ambition to not just place top 3 at both Indoor and Outdoor Heps, but to win.

I am so lucky to be a part of this team at such an exciting time in our history. Coming off of the historic season our cross country team had this year, we as a

unified team are looking to make the most of the opportunity with which we have been presented. It will take everything that we have, but if any group of men can do it, we can.



Photographs courtesy of Brian Panoff '98



CRIMSON OPENER MEET

DECEMBER 7, 2019 | GORDON INDOOR TRACK

photographs courtesy of Brian Panoff '98



Kyle Murphy '22



Katina Martin '22 (l), Kelisa Cain '22 (c), DaLoria Boone '22 (r)



Sarah Omoregie '23



Alexander Kolesnikoff '23



Collin Fullen '23



Rachael Estell '21



Morgan Lawton '20



Karina Joiner '20



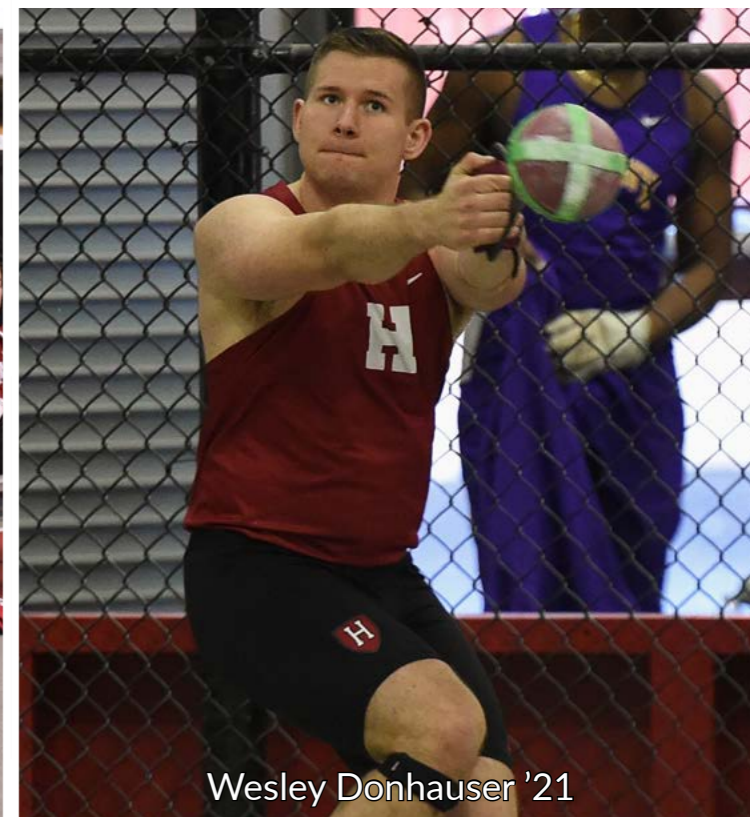
John Minicus '22



Chelsea Offiaeli '22



Kylie Hilton '22 cheered on by Jacob Ali-Wertheimer '21, Josh Glauser '21, Erick Duffy '21, Nick Parsons, John Minicus '22, Ian West '19, and Brenner Abbott



Wesley Donhauser '21



Kylie Hilton '22



Jada Jones '22 (l) and Karina Joiner '20 (r)



Charles Lego '21