

C Harvard Community Connections

HARVARD UNIVERSITY / BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS / WINTER 2003

President Summers becomes principal for a day

There were two principals walking the halls of Jackson/Mann Elementary School on Oct. 28 — one who has helped to shape the school and its children over the past 12 years, and the other, a newcomer, who runs a school across the Charles River that those children may one day attend.

“Hi, my name is LARRY, and I’m the principal of a very big school that starts with the letter H. Does anyone know what school I’m from?” President Lawrence H. Summers said to a group of 5- and 6-year-olds, his voice booming above the chatter of a nearby class. “Harvard,” blurted a young girl, a step ahead of her classmates still contemplating the question.

It was Summers’ first visit to the Jackson/Mann Elementary School in Allston and his first-ever turn filling the shoes of an elementary school principal. Summers was one of 57 Boston CEOs, heads of nonprofits, hospitals, and government, who left their board rooms and conference rooms to take the reins of Boston public schools for half a day. Organized by the Boston Plan for Excellence, in coordination with the office of the mayor and the superintendent of public schools, “Principal for a Day!” afforded Hub leaders a chance to learn firsthand about changes in instruction and challenges Boston’s urban schools face, and to share ideas and insights with the teachers who are helping shape the next generation.

From 8 a.m. to noon, Summers accompanied Principal Joanne Russell on her morning tour of classes, ducking through doorways into bright rooms with walls covered in art, numbers, vocabulary words, and hand-drawn portraits of the



Staff photo by Justin Ide/Harvard News Office

“Principal” Summers works on some math problems with Larry Camillo (left) and Ednaija Lassiter as first-grade teacher Marie Ruff (center) lends a hand. “This has been a great day,” Summers later said.

“classroom community.”

“Everyone in a position of leadership in this city should spend some time in a public school. It will change their outlook,” Summers said later. “We all have the extraordinary opportunity, under Mayor Menino’s strong leadership, to work together to give Boston children every chance they need to be successful. We owe it to the children and young adults of Boston to be a strong community partner.”

Summers’ transition to elementary school principal quickly turned into a new challenge — trying his hand as an elementary school teacher.

Within an hour of his arrival at the school, Summers was on the floor with a circle of first-graders in Elizabeth Keenan’s math class challenging the children to think of all the ways they could make 10, using their fingers and hands as guides. Hands raised, the children volunteered their ideas — “one and nine!” said one. “Seven and three,” said another. “Let’s check,” said Summers. “Everybody put up seven fingers. How many do you have left?” “THREE,” said the class. “Very good.”

When not interacting with the children — including partnering with a much smaller Larry to build “towers of

10” with Lego blocks — Summers was questioning the teachers who observed the day’s lessons:

What was the thinking behind certain teaching methods? What were they hoping to achieve in this exercise? What did they think about the MCAS?

He commended the teachers on the job they were doing and the strategies they used to maintain order while cultivating a nurturing environment. When he asked the teachers what they thought people should know about the public schools there was a unanimous response: Boston school teachers are committed, but learning is not just about what goes on in the school. Success in learning very much depends on what happens at home.

“A lot of people say that public schools can’t work, to just forget about them,” said Ellen Guiney, executive director of Boston Plan for Excellence, the organization that coordinated the day’s visits. “We think if we can get opinion leaders like Dr. Summers into the schools to see what’s going on, we can widen the group knowledgeable about urban public schools and willing to support them. There is great teaching and great learning going on in Boston’s schools and we want people to see firsthand how they operate and the challenges faced and overcome in an urban education setting.”

“This has been a great day,” said Summers. “I’m impressed with the eagerness of the children in every classroom, from the autistic child pointing excitedly to a pumpkin in a book, to kids calling out numbers that add up to 10. They are so eager and well behaved ... it really increases the sense that our society should give them every chance they can get.”

An evening at Harvard honors Joe Tehan



Photos by Bob Sheehan of RSVP, Arlington

“An Evening to Honor Joe Tehan,” in support of the Vocational Advancement Center of Brighton, was held on Sept. 30 at the Harvard Business School’s Spangler Center. Since 1958, the Vocational Advancement Center (VAC) has been providing evaluation, training and employment services to people with disabilities and others in need of employment services to achieve career goals and to improve their quality of life. Joe Tehan was honored for his 20 years of service to VAC as a board member and former board president. Over the years he has worked on a number of projects, including helping VAC secure the financing needed to purchase its headquarters building. ABOVE LEFT, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Wil Luzier, VAC board member and Chief Counsel to Senator Steven Tolman, VAC honoree Joe Tehan, Diane Lantheaume, Executive Director of VAC, Ray Mellone, VAC Board Chair, and his wife, Barbara. ABOVE RIGHT, LEFT TO RIGHT: State Rep. Kevin Honan, Joe Tehan, State Rep. Brian Golden and Boston City Councilor Jerry McDermott.



Allston-Brighton Football Day

Nearly 400 Allston-Brighton residents and their families joined the Harvard Crimson at the 14th annual Allston-Brighton Family Football Day on Oct. 4. Sponsored by the Office of Community Affairs and the Department of Athletics, the event offers Allston-Brighton football fans, young and old, complimentary tickets and lunch at a Harvard home football game each season.

"This event has been a great way for Harvard to welcome our Allston-Brighton neighbors onto our campus for a day of fun, good food, and winning football. We look forward to hosting many more," said Kevin McCluskey, Harvard's director of community relations for Boston. In addition to many



Staff photos by Kris Snibbe/Harvard News Office

residents like the young fan above, enjoying the day were (at left, from left to right) Boston City Council President Michael Flaherty, City Councilor Jerry McDermott, City Council candidate Patricia White, State Rep. Brian Golden, and Kevin McCluskey.

Jan. 20: Save the date for the Allston-Brighton Skating Party



Photo by Steven Johnson

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004, from 6 to 8 p.m. is the time for the annual Allston-Brighton Skating Party at Harvard's Bright Hockey Center, a night of free family fun sponsored by the Harvard University Athletics Department and the Office of Community Affairs. Refreshments will be provided, but bring your own skates, since no rentals will be available. For more information, call 617-495-4955.

Allston and Harvard: Longtime neighbors

Harvard University is perhaps best known as a leading institution of higher education devoted to teaching, learning and research, but the University also plays a very important role as an engaged community neighbor. For more than 100 years, Harvard University has been part of the Allston neighborhood, and its connections to the Allston community continue to grow stronger each year.

The collaborative and mutually supportive nature of the relationship between Allston and Harvard is reflected in a host of settings throughout the community:

- In the community planning meetings at the Honan Library, where the Allston community, the city and Harvard work together to map out a mutually beneficial framework for future growth.
- In local schools such as St. Anthony's and the Thomas Gardner Elementary School, where Harvard students and staff volunteer to boost literacy and math skills and provide valuable mentoring.
- In after-school programs at the Jackson-Mann Community Center, the West End House and elsewhere, where support from the Harvard After School Initiative increases access and enhances the educational value of these important programs.
- At Harvard's Extension School, where the Harvard Community Scholars program expands access to educational offerings.
- At the Spangler Center of the

Harvard Business School, where Harvard hosts many important community events.

- In the games played by the Allston Little League, Allston-Brighton Youth Hockey and A-B Pop Warner, where Harvard supports the young student-athletes of the community.

- At annual special events where Harvard welcomes the community to its campus, e.g., Allston-Brighton Day at Harvard Stadium, the Family Skating Party, and the Allston-Brighton Youth Hockey Clinic conducted by the Harvard Varsity Hockey Team.

- In the local business community, where Harvard is actively engaged with the Allston and Brighton Boards of Trade and the Allston and Brighton Main Streets Programs.

- In a wide range of community organizations whose valuable work is supported by Harvard, including the Joseph Smith Community Health Center, the Veronica Smith Senior Center, the Friends of the Honan Library, St. Anthony's Parish and School, the Allston Brighton CDC, the Allston-Brighton Girl Scouts, Mount St. Joseph Academy, the Vocational Advancement Center, the Allston-Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition, and many more.

Harvard is pleased to be a partner in these vital community-building efforts, and looks forward to continuing its work as a good neighbor to the Allston-Brighton community.

Summers outlines ideas on Allston planning

In a letter to the community, Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers on Oct. 21 outlined a number of programmatic assumptions intended to guide the next phase of Harvard's planning for the eventual long-term use of its properties in Allston.

"This is a critical time in Harvard's history as it is for all of higher education," Summers said. "The pursuit of enduring knowledge and new ideas, and the preparation of individuals to lead lives of value, have never been more important to society. At such a time, the properties Harvard has acquired in Allston afford us a historic opportunity to innovate, to grow, and to build our long-term academic strength, while also contributing to the vitality of one of our important home communities. The choices we make in the coming years about this extraordinary opportunity will do much to shape Harvard for decades to come."

While it will be many years before much of the Allston land becomes available for University use, Summers wrote, Harvard expects to be in a position to begin some limited building within the next several years, and to pursue some additional development within the ensuing decade. It is useful now to outline a set of working hypotheses about the future use of the land, he wrote, both to sharpen discussion and analysis, and to ensure that the ultimate result is a coherent whole.

Summers outlined five programmatic elements that he described as considered hypotheses about the eventual use of the Allston properties:

- **Science and technology:** To maintain Harvard's excellence in the basic sciences, and to advance its strengthened commitment to the applied sciences and engineering, it will need substantially more space for science in the decades ahead. Given the developments driving much of modern science, this will include space flexibly designed to make collaboration easier, and space that can well accommodate the more sophisticated technology on which so much of science now depends. In light of the nature of the facilities needed, and a realistic appraisal of the long-term constraints on physical growth in Cambridge and Longwood, Harvard should begin planning with a view toward establishing in the long run a critical mass of scientific activity in Allston.

- **Professional schools:** Both the School of Public Health and the Graduate School of Education could benefit in a number of ways from eventual relocation to Allston, given both the nature of their academic missions and their current physical settings. In addition, Allston should be seen as a future home for wider collaborative efforts among the professional schools, in view of challenges common to the professions they serve.

- **Housing and urban life:** Especially in light of the difficult housing market, Harvard needs to increase opportunities for Harvard's graduate and professional school students to live in University housing. More such housing will improve students' lives and enhance the overall

To view the full text of the letter online, go to www.president.harvard.edu/speeches/2003/lhs_allston.html

educational environment. In addition, the Allston properties should incorporate elements essential to a vibrant urban community, such as restaurants, shops, open spaces, gathering places for special events, and reliable transportation. The extended campus should draw its energy not only from academic activities but also from the day-to-day activities of a lively urban neighborhood.

- **Culture and community:** Artistic and cultural activities contribute greatly to the character of the University, and also provide important links to the wider community.

Harvard should consider more concretely how the Allston properties might provide improved space for some of these activities, in ways that would both serve academic purposes and add to the vitality of community life.

- **Undergraduate life:** While this programmatic element is at this point more speculative than others, Allston might in time serve as a locus for facilities and activities aimed at enhancing undergraduate life, including the possibility of new undergraduate houses close to the Charles River. Such a development could help relieve crowding in the cur-

rent houses; provide more and better space for student activities; strengthen the bonds between the Cambridge and Allston parts of the extended campus; open up the possibility of someday relocating students from the Radcliffe Quad; and allow for the long-run possibility of welcoming more undergraduates from around the world.

While Harvard's internal planning process evolves, the University continues to work with representatives of the City of Boston, the Boston Redevelopment Authority and a task force of Allston neighborhood leaders and residents to identify shared guidelines for the development of Harvard's Allston land. These include proposed improvements in streetscape, goals to enhance and create more open space, and increases in housing for both the University and community residents.

The conversations that have taken place over the past two years through the North Allston Neighborhood Strategic Plan and the Mayor's vision for Allston unveiled this summer have been instrumental in helping shape the assumptions underlying the next phase of Harvard's Allston planning. These conversations will continue as Harvard's planning progresses. Continued input from throughout the community will be essential to the next phase of planning.

Comments, reactions, and ideas can be directed to allston@harvard.edu. For more information on Harvard planning and Allston go to www.allston.harvard.edu.

It takes a village to build affordable housing: Menino, Summers break ground for Allston units

In a show of community partnership, Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers stood shoulder-to-shoulder and shovel-to-shovel with Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and community, city, and state leaders on Dec. 4 to break ground for 50 future units of affordable housing in Allston.

The Brian J. Honan Apartments, named to honor the late city councilor from Allston-Brighton who died in 2002, will comprise nine buildings on a site once occupied by Legal Seafood's fish processing plant.

Harvard helped enable this project with a \$2.8 million grant, one of the largest grants ever made by a single private institution to an affordable housing project in Boston. But the array of politicians and community activists who delivered remarks, including U.S. Congressman Michael E. Capuano, repeatedly demonstrated that the housing success was a collaborative effort.

"It takes a whole community to get this housing done, and that's what we have here today," said Menino, recognizing the Allston Brighton Community Development Corp., which developed the project, as well as the support of Harvard and state and city organizations. Allston-Brighton, with a significant student population living alongside long-time family residents and newer immigrants, has long felt the squeeze of the high housing costs that burden the region.

Summers reiterated the University's commitment to the neighborhood.

"It is very important for Harvard, which is going to be a larger part of Allston-Brighton's future than it has been of Allston-Brighton's past, to do our part as partners in making this a wonderful place for all to live and to work," he said. Summers praised the work of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corp. as well as Menino's efforts.

"There is no mayor in this country who



During the groundbreaking for the Brian J. Honan Apartments on 33 Everett St. in Allston, (from left) Jim Creamer, Board of Directors, Allston Brighton CDC; Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Chris Clamp, President, Board of Directors, Allston Brighton CDC; Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers; and State Rep. Kevin Honan unveil the site drawings.

Staff photo by Kris Snibbe/Harvard News Office

cares more about his city, who does more every day, bit by bit, place by place, to make it a better place," he said.

Harvard's contribution, a gap financing grant in support of Menino's "Leading the Way" affordable housing program, made it possible for the Allston Brighton Community Development Corp. to purchase the 70,747-square-foot industrial property. Among the apartments, several will be three-bedroom units suited to families, four will be for people with disabilities, and five will be designated for homeless people.

Summers lauded the development's namesake, city councilor and Allston-Brighton resident Brian J. Honan, who died suddenly at age 39. "It gives me particular pleasure that we are able to name these apartments after someone whose life is a powerful example to all the students at Harvard today," he said.

Honan, whose political career was marked by a strong commitment to community and particularly to affordable housing, was represented at the event by many family members, including his parents and his brother, State Rep. Kevin G. Honan.

"Brian loved politics, but more than that, he loved people," said Kevin Honan. "This building will embody dignity, stability, and the notion of a community taking care of its own people. ... Brian would be so proud that this is his legacy."

Harvard's investment in Allston, which includes other affordable housing and education initiatives, helps solidify the University's role as a community partner in its future neighborhood. In the coming decades, Harvard will extend its campus onto the 200 acres it currently owns in the Boston neighborhood.

Harvard launches website on Allston: allston.harvard.edu

Are you interested in what's going in with Harvard in Allston? Did you want to attend the last public meeting for the North Allston Strategic Plan but were unable? Catch up on what's happening as planning for Harvard's new campus continues by logging on to the new Allston Initiative website at www.allston.harvard.edu

The website features Harvard President Summers' letter to the community outlining the next phase of Allston planning, a virtual tour of Allston, including neighborhood landmarks and key sites owned by Harvard, and interesting facts about Harvard's history in Allston including a *Harvard Magazine* article about the 100th anniversary of Harvard Stadium.

Recent news articles about Allston, summaries of presentations given to our Allston neighbors, maps and other materials are also available on the site.

To find out about events at Harvard, visit us at www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar

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FAR LEFT: Mayor Menino and President Summers celebrated the grand opening.

LEFT: Kevin McCluskey, Millie McLaughlin, Summers, Rita DiGesse and Allston Task Force Chairman Ray Mellone.

One Western Ave. advances community housing goals

This fall, Harvard University opened One Western Avenue, a new graduate student residence located on the corner of Western Avenue and Soldiers Field Road on Harvard's Allston campus.

A signature building designed by Machado and Silvetti Associates, architects of the acclaimed Honan-Allston branch of the Boston Public Library, One Western Avenue is a contemporary design that incorporates elements of the neighborhood's architectural heritage, with distinctive brickwork, attractive open courtyards and expansive lawns embracing the river.

The project represents an alignment of mutual goals among the City of Boston, the Allston community and the University. Accommodating 365 residents, One Western Avenue helps advance the university's goal to house 50 percent of its graduate, professional and medical school students in campus housing, reinforcing the University's commitment to maintaining a strong residential campus.

This goal is in keeping with Mayor Thomas M. Menino's call for Boston-area



Staff photos by Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard News Office
One Western Avenue

colleges and universities to house more of their students, thereby relieving pressure on the local housing market where residential vacancy is approximately 4 percent.

Planned in close collaboration with local residents and city officials, including the Harvard Allston Institutional Master Plan Task Force and the Boston Redevelopment Authority, One Western Avenue demonstrates Harvard's commitment to working with its neighbors in the planning and development of its campus.

"Harvard has been a responsive partner in the development of our community, engaging local residents in a collaborative dialogue and constructive exchange of ideas as it plans for its campus," commented Ray Mellone, chair of the Task Force composed of community residents, officials from the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and representatives from the Mayor's office. "The key to the success of the One Western Avenue planning process was our ability to work with the university to address the concerns of the community and help guide a positive transformation of the design."

Menino, Summers call for action on after-school programs

Programs for city children before, during, and after school are the battleground for the nation's future, and the quality of those programs will determine what kind of country we will be, Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers said Oct. 3.

Summers joined Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to open a conference on improving after-school programs. The two urged participants to not just talk about research, but to come up with an action plan.

"The battle for America's future will be won or lost in the next century in America's urban public schools," Summers said.

"It will be won or lost in American public schools because they are the crucible in which the young people who will comprise the largest part of our population a quarter century from now will be formed."

Just as critical as what happens to children in school, Summers said, is what happens to them during their preschool years, during the hours after school, and during their weekend, vacation, and holiday time.

"Those are the fronts on which this battle is going to be won or is going to be lost," Summers said. "The stakes here are very, very high."

Quality after-school programs provide an effective complement to class-

room activities, bolstering the efforts of teachers trying to educate children from diverse backgrounds and home situations, Menino said.

"After-school programs work and are vital to the success of our young people," Menino said. "They need that reinforcement. [After-school programs] help what goes on in the classroom, it can't just happen in five or six hours."

Menino and Summers opened "Learning With Excitement," a research and policy forum that attracted more than 100 researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners in after-school education.

Gil Noam, director of the Graduate School of Education's Program in After-school Education and Research, said research into after-school programs is becoming more focused and coordinated as people realize those programs' critical role in supporting in-school efforts.

That focus, coupled with a greater institutional commitment to improve after-school education, Noam said, has created the opportunity for positive change.

"We have an incredible opportunity before us," he said.

The event was not the first time Harvard and Boston have collaborated on after-school education.

Under Menino's leadership, Harvard and the city have joined forces in a partnership designed to improve learning after school gets out.



Staff photo by Justin Ide/Harvard News Office

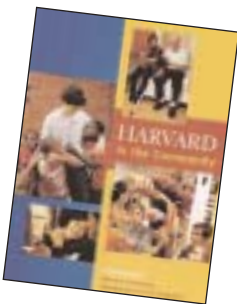
Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers (left) and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino (right) talk with Gil Noam, director of Harvard's Program in Afterschool Education and Research.

Called the Harvard After School Initiative (HASI), the collaboration supports the Boston After School for All Partnership, directing \$5 million in University funds and leveraging human

resources to deliver technical assistance from University researchers and experts in the field, to strengthen after-school programming in several city neighborhoods.

New directory lists community service programs

More than 260 Harvard community services programs are chronicled in the newly published "Harvard in the Community: A Directory of Harvard University Community Service Programs." For your free copy, contact the Office of Community Affairs at 617-495-4955 or go online to http://www.news.harvard.edu/community/harvard_in_the_community.pdf.



Allston-Brighton Community Scholarships, 2004 Spring Term Harvard Extension School Awarded by the Allston Civic Association Scholarship Committee

Deadline for Application: Friday, Jan. 2, at noon

Please read instructions carefully

The Allston-Brighton Community Scholars Program will award five Allston-Brighton residents full tuition remission on any one course at the Harvard Extension School for the Spring 2004 term. Scholarship recipients will be responsible for payment of the \$50 registration fee, books, course supplies and parking.

In order to be considered for selection, please write a short statement (no longer than one page) describing your life and involvement in the Allston-Brighton community. Applicants should write the last four digits of their Social Security number at the top of the personal statement – do not include your name on the personal statement, only on the registration form. Additionally, please complete a Harvard Extension School registration form, available in the back of the registration booklet, or available for download at www.dce.harvard.edu/extension/. Please be sure to include first choice and alternate course selections.

Applicants should submit their personal statements and Harvard Extension School registration forms in a sealed envelope to the Honan Allston Library at 300 North Harvard Street in Allston, no later than noon on Friday, Jan. 2. Applicants must submit both the personal statement and the registration form in order to be considered.

Upon review of the submitted applications, five Community Scholars will be selected by the Allston Civic Association Scholarship Committee for the spring semester. Applicants chosen to receive the scholarships will be notified by e-mail no later than Friday, Jan. 16 (if the recipient doesn't have an e-mail address, the scholarship committee will phone). For a list of scholarship recipients, please e-mail ogcpa_feedback@harvard.edu.

Please note: Previous Allston-Brighton Community Scholars may reapply for successive terms, but will only be eligible to repeat if there is a lack of applicants for that term.

Questions? Please e-mail ogcpa_feedback@harvard.edu.



West End House in Allston is one of 19 after-school programs in the HASI network.

Programs join After School Initiative

Nine after-school programs in Boston joined the Harvard After School Initiative (HASI) this fall, receiving more than a quarter million dollars in grants and the opportunity to work with Harvard Graduate School of Education (GSE) faculty and coordinators with other after-school organizations supported by HASI.

Marked by its web of collaborations among after-school practitioners, University faculty, and other Harvard resources, HASI was conceived in response to Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino's leadership to expand and improve after-school efforts in the Boston area.

This most recent round of grants

brings a total of 19 after-school programs in Allston-Brighton, Mission Hill, and the Fenway into HASI's Bridging Initiative, which is charged with improving learning in after-school by strengthening the connections between programs, schools, and families.

"It is clear that we can't do everything in the school day, so we are making a concentrated effort to find that magical balance between supporting the school-time learning process and making learning fun," said Ann McDonough, after-school director for the Hamilton School, which has been a part of the HASI Bridging Initiative for one year.

Middle schoolers explore Harvard Med School



Staff photo by Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard News Office

Associate Professor of Medicine Robert Sackstein spoke to eighth-grader Elliot Rojas and other Boston students about the benefits of a life in medicine on Oct. 28. More than 100 middle school students from eight Boston Public Schools participated in Harvard Medical School's Explorations program. Explorations is the youngest entry point into what organizers call a pipeline aimed to spark the interest of students — particularly those of underrepresented minorities — in careers in science and medicine.