

# What is **HAGA?** (Harvard Alumni for Global Action)

- Harvard Alumni for Global Action (HAGA) is an independent organization open to all Harvard alumni and current students. HAGA encourages the University to use a portion of alumni donations to reduce global educational disparities, through the creation of targeted class gifts. HAGA members believe that Harvard's prominence and wealth make it uniquely able to strengthen higher education in developing countries.
- HAGA was formed (originally as Harvard Alumni for Social Action, or HASA) by members of the class of '81, during their 25th reunion year of 2006, who saw an opportunity to use their reunion gifts to influence Harvard in living up to its stated mission of global educational leadership.
- HAGA has over 700 members and has raised over \$400,000. Members range from the Classes of 1954 to 2011.
- Harvard has created a "HASA Fund to Support Graduate Students from Africa," to which alumni can direct some or all of their class gift, thereby influencing how Harvard spends their donation.
- Independent of Harvard, HAGA has created an African University Strengthening Fund which has made significant grants to the Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) University College of Education.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, '82, writes "What a great idea! And it strikes me that [the HASA Fund] benefits not only Africans but also Harvard itself. A firmer Africa connection and more African graduate students will help round out Harvard and make it a more diverse and stimulating place."
- Join HAGA today! No dues, no requirements - just the opportunity to show loyalty to your alma mater and class and at the same time influence how Harvard spends YOUR money.

**Two  
opportunities  
to meet, greet,  
and learn more  
about HAGA  
during the  
Class of 1984  
Twenty-Fifth  
Reunion:**

**Friday, June 5,  
2-4:30 pm,  
Grafton Street  
(pub &  
restaurant)  
corner of Mass  
Ave. and Bow  
St. (across from  
Lamont Library)**

**Saturday,  
June 6, 2-4:30,  
also at Grafton  
Street**

Dear HR '84 Classmate,

This is an exciting time. Many of us are together for the first time in a quarter century! What a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, and to reflect on the experiences and opportunities we have enjoyed thanks to our affiliation with Harvard.

Harvard, too, has grown and changed in the decades since we were students. The University has become more international. It is far wealthier. (Yes, even now!) Harvard, however, remains notably under-engaged in Africa, where its intellectual and financial resources could be put to extraordinarily productive use. Therefore, we invite you to learn more about Harvard Alumni for Global Action (HAGA – see [www.HAGA-now.org](http://www.HAGA-now.org)). If you are making a Reunion gift, we encourage you to designate all or part of it to a fund that will immediately benefit today's under-served scholars, while also positioning Harvard for continuing leadership in global knowledge networks.

Harvard's mission is emphatically international. The lead statement on the University's homepage concludes, "Harvard University generates knowledge to benefit the global community," while the undergraduate admissions homepage declares, "Undergraduates benefit from the University's position as a national and international crossroads for intellectual, political, cultural, and artistic exchange." And yet, only 2 percent of Harvard students are African.

While Harvard has numerous research collaborations with African universities, its efforts to build capacity and infrastructure at these universities have been minimal.

Harvard's endowment is currently about \$25 billion, far more than any other university in the world. The money Harvard has lost in the past year exceeds the entire peak endowments of all but six colleges. While Harvard's development office will be working hard to replenish the University's coffers (that's their job!), as potential donors it is our job to make sure our money is spent as effectively as possible. Institutions that lack Harvard's financial cushions are suffering more dramatically.

The Chinese government is aggressively cultivating business relationships in Africa, but many other international relationships with African partners are being scaled back.

Harvard can and should be a global leader in higher education. Harvard could be directly addressing global educational disparities and the devastating impact of AIDS on university faculties in many African countries. Now, more than ever, Harvard's investments in Africa could achieve impressive results.

Alumni have formed an association, Harvard Alumni for Global Action (HAGA), to convince Harvard to allow members of reunion classes to use part of their class gift to increase the number of African graduate students at Harvard and to build the capacity of African universities that collaborate with Harvard.

Earlier classes have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships for graduate students from Africa and to build a computer lab at the Dar es Salaam University College of Education, in Tanzania.

Getting involved with HAGA is both a rewarding way to reconnect with classmates and to help guide an institution with the power to effect real change. In honor of our 25th reunion, we urge you to consider joining HAGA and directing your Harvard gift to a HAGA fund. The more alumni get involved with HAGA, the more seriously Harvard will take its engagement with Africa.

We invite you to:

1. **DESIGNATE YOUR HARVARD GIFT FOR HAGA!** It's simple to designate all or part of your class gift contributions to this fund (see instructions at [www.HAGA-now.org/donate](http://www.HAGA-now.org/donate)). Even if you have already given money to Harvard, you can ask that it be re-designated.
2. **JOIN HAGA.** Sign up here at the Reunion, or go to [www.HAGA-now.org](http://www.HAGA-now.org) and show your support for HAGA by adding your name to our member list. No dues. No obligations.
3. **COME TO ONE OF THE HAGA MEET-UPS.** HAGA members from '84 and other classes will be gathering at Grafton Street (across from Lamont Library) on both Friday and Saturday from 2 to 4:30 pm.
4. **REACH OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS** in the class of '84 who weren't able to attend the reunion. No pitch is more effective than one that comes from an old friend.

HAGA offers us an important alternative to "business as usual" for alumni. We alumni can make a difference in reducing global disparities in education. We hope you will join us in this terrific initiative!

Katie Janssen '84

Rosemary Pugh '84

Harry Stahl '84