



# BLODGETT NOTES

Volume I, No. 1

The Newsletter For The Friends of Harvard Swimming & Diving

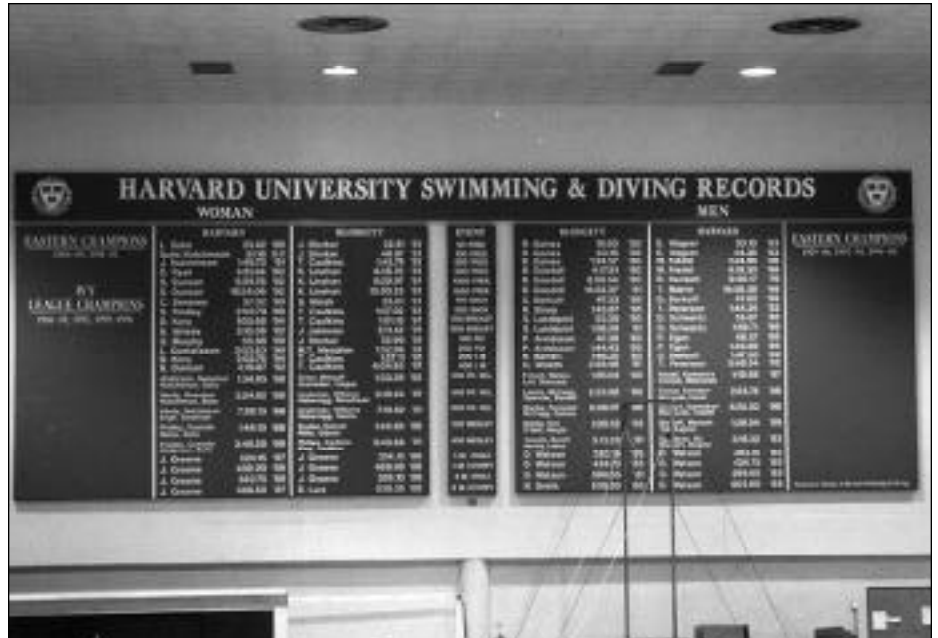
November 2000

## Exciting year ahead for Harvard swimming

**Greetings from the Friends of Harvard Swimming and Diving** The 2000-01 swimming and diving season is almost upon us, and both the men's and women's teams are looking forward to building upon the many successes of last year.

This is an exciting time for the Friends, as well. In the photo at right, you can see the new record board in Blodgett, a great gift from the Friends for Harvard. We also recently had several of our greatest athletes inducted into the Harvard Varsity Club Hall of Fame, who are included on the third page of this newsletter. Also included are season outlooks from the coaches and captains, who are all eager to start another successful season and look forward to seeing some of you cheering them on at Blodgett.

We hope many more of you will join us as we work to provide the best possible experience to our current undergraduates, and to keep Harvard swimming and diving alums involved with the program.



## From the Captains...

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We are very happy to welcome you all to a new season of Harvard Men's Swimming and Diving. This is the first season of the new millennium, and we are very confident that we will be able to continue the tradition of excellence you all worked so hard to establish in the last one. We have a fabulous group of young men in our freshman class who, although they will be asked to help fill the large gap left by the graduation of last year's very strong senior class, certainly look to be up to the task. Alongside this new crop of excellent athletes, the returning upperclassmen are more motivated and focussed than ever before, making it appear that this season will be an all out success in our dual meet schedule, Easterns, and the NCAA championships.

Our meet schedule is certainly not lacking opportunities for us to distinguish ourselves on the League and national level. Although we only have two home meets, our dual meet schedule will be very exciting. Our quest for a third straight undefeated season will take us through Princeton, NJ for the HYP meet. This is noteworthy, of course, because Princeton has never lost a dual meet at their loathsome DeNunzio pool and we believe we will be the squad to end this streak. However, even before HYP, we have an incredibly exciting opportunity to gain a higher profile on the national stage. In December, we

Dear Friends and Fans of Harvard Swimming and Diving,

Hello! As this year's team captains, we are proud to send out this update concerning the 2000-2001 Harvard Women's Swimming and Diving Season. Swimming is often seen as an individual sport, but on this team, we truly draw strength from each other to swim faster and dive better. Last February we finished the season with a 6-1 dual meet record and a third place finish at the Ivy Championships. This year we have already strategized about how we can improve on our record **and** send a strong team to NCAAs.

An enthusiastic class of 10 freshmen (seven swimmers and three divers) joins us this year, as well as one junior transfer from the University of Florida. In addition to these new members of the team, we also have a new volunteer assistant coach, Emily Wang. Emily just graduated from the University of Illinois and is now attending the Harvard Graduate School of Design. A sprint freestyler, she competed at the 2000 Olympic Trials in the 100 free.

Thanks to Steph, Katherine and Emily, we are already working hard in the pool and with our dryland and weight training. Although our muscles may be sore right now, we know that the hard work will certainly come to fruition a few months down the road.

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## From the Women's Coaches...

Dear Harvard Swimming and Diving Alumni and Friends,

We trust that you are well and hope that you are as excited about the 2000-2001 Women's Swimming and Diving season as we are. The team is working diligently to build off of last year's success and is confident, enthusiastic and focused on an Ivy League Championship. With the addition of seven swimmers, three divers and one transfer, we have substantial depth and are ready for an exciting season of fast competition. Our meet versus Brown on November 17 promises to be a closely contested match as we prepare to defend last year's victory. The excitement continues as we will attend an invitational at Notre Dame in December and compete against some of the top teams in the country. In February, we look forward to competing at both the HYP and Ivy Conference meets to be held at Princeton. With the talent on our team, we are striving to qualify both individuals and relays for the March NCAA's to be held on Long Island.

We realize that the strength of Harvard Swimming and Diving is due in part to the involvement of our alumni and friends. Last year, contributions to the Friends of Harvard Swimming enabled both teams with the opportunity to travel out of the region and expose our athletes to a higher level of competition. In addition, we were also able to accomplish one of our facility improvement goals by purchasing an exceptional record board. We truly appreciate your support and hope that you will continue to assist us in the future with our travel needs and our desire to create a lounge behind the bleachers for team meetings and alumni and friends gatherings.

On behalf of the swimmers, divers and coaching staff, thank you for your generosity. The support you have shown over the years has inspired us all, and we hope to see you at the alumni gathering before the Harvard/Yale football game and in the stands for our upcoming meets.

Sincerely,

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## Letter from the Men's Captains, *Continued from front*

will be travelling to the great state of Texas to compete in the University of Texas invitational. This meet is attended by numerous top 25 teams and is without a doubt the premier mid-season invitational in the nation. A strong performance there will go a long way in moving us up in the national rankings.

Another exciting addition to our schedule this season is the Alumni Meet, which will be held at Blodgett Pool on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Information on this meet can be found on-line at <http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~swim>. The meet is actually a part of an entire weekend of events, and we encourage all alumni and their families to come join us for a great time.

Following a successful dual meet schedule, we will look to cap off our season with impressive efforts at both Easterns and the NCAA championships. Easterns is at West Point this year and with a balanced attack from our strong corps on both boards and in every distance and stroke, we will look to further dominate the Ivy League, complete a perfect 4-0 Eastern record for this year's seniors and win our sixth straight Eastern title. Shortly following Easterns is NCAA's. The Big Dance will be played out at Texas A&M University, which has a wonderful, state-of-the-art facility. Harvard will hopefully have numerous individual qualifiers and bring strong relays into this meet to far exceed last year's finish.

Obviously, we are extremely excited about the upcoming season. We thank you for your unfailing support and invite you all to join us at our various meets to help cheer the mighty Crimson on to victory. Also, don't forget that you can track our progress and learn about this year's team at <http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~swim>. GO CRIMSON!

Sincerely,

Mike Groves and Matt Fritsch, 2001 Co-captains

## From the Diving Coach...

This year the divers comprise the strongest squad we've had in many years.

For the women, seniors Ali Shipley and Camila McLean, both finalists at the Ivy Championships for the last three years, return to lead the team. Also returning are Posy Busby '02, a member of the 2000 Ivy Championships team, and Kimberly Collins (San Luis Obispo, CA) '02.

They are joined by three freshmen. Brittany Garza (Pittsburgh, PA), was a repeat finalist at both the Junior Olympic (JO) Indoor and Outdoor National Championships, as well as attending the Senior National Championships three times. She has been a JO East National Champion on both 1 meter and 3 meter. Renée Paradise (Raleigh, NC), has been to the JO East and Summer National Championships 4 times, where she competed on all three levels, placing as high as 14th on platform. Also new to the team this year is Laura Cowen (Potomac, MD), who, while fairly new to diving, is a recent ex-gymnast with a strong list of dives. Laura comes from the Montgomery Aquatic Club in Rockville, MD.

On the men's side, we are fortunate to have Greg Walker '01, back from his year abroad in Germany. Greg placed 3rd at the EISL Championships in his sophomore year, and qualified for the NCAA Championships in both of his first two years. As a freshman, he placed ninth on 3 meter and first on platform at the NCAA Zone A Championships.

Greg is joined this year by returning EISL finalist Erik Patton '03, as well as Erik Frost '02, who also competed at the EISL Championships in 2000. Incoming freshmen Enrique Roy (Exeter, NH) and Tom Crahan (Louisville, KY) are also seasoned competitors and both promise to add to our depth. We expect to see some surprises from our freshmen this year!

We will spend our Christmas training trip in Orlando. Yale will be there as well so we hope to have a diving competition with them during the week!

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Keith Miller

## 2000 Hall of Fame Inductees

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, **Bobby Hackett '81, Hess Yntema '76('79), and Nancy Sato '75** were inducted into the Harvard Varsity Club's Hall of Fame. Former Crimson coach Joe Bernal introduced Bobby and Hess, and Harvard Assistant Athletic Director Pat Henry introduced Nancy. All three inductees spoke and a common thread for all of them was what a wonderful experience Harvard had been for them. Not only did they thoroughly enjoy the sport of swimming and diving while at Harvard, they spoke about the fun of being on a team, the exceptional opportunities they were given to broaden their lives at Harvard, and the lasting friends they made both in and out of the pool. It was a wonderful evening!

Bobby was a freestyler who set eight different school records at Harvard and won the 1981 William J. Bingham award. Additionally, he held the world record in the 800 free while at Harvard. One of his fondest memories of Harvard Swimming is the 1978 dual meet against Princeton that christened the opening of Blodgett Pool. Hess was a dominant force for Harvard Swimming winning Eastern titles in the 200 fly, 200 IM, and 200 free. Coach Bernal introduced him as the "gentleman of swimming", a title he truly deserves. Nancy was both a diver and a pioneer for women's athletics at Harvard. She began her diving career at Radcliffe under longtime Harvard diving coach John Walker. As a sophomore she was ranked number one in New England, a ranking she kept for the rest of her diving career. She lettered in swimming and diving in 1975, the first year the Harvard "H" was awarded to Radcliffe athletes and she was also the first recipient of the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association Award. The current women's team has an annual Nancy Sato award it gives to a senior whose actions and attitudes over the years reflect a strong commitment to the constant improvement of Harvard Swimming and Diving as reflected by Nancy Sato. Congratulations to the three inductees!

## From the Men's Coach...

Hello to Alumni and Friends of Harvard Swimming!

As we begin 71 years of Men's Swimming at Harvard, let me share some recent highlights with you.

Congratulations to two new members of The Harvard Varsity Club Hall of Fame, Robert W. Hackett Jr. '81 and Hessel E. Yntema '76.

Congratulations also go to Harvard's 13 athletes who competed at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials: Dan Bazylewicz, Rick Dewey, Kyle Egan, Ben Hanley, Michael Im, Tim Martin, Will Oren, John Persinger, Dan Shevchik, Brian Swintek, Cory Walker, Jamey Waters, and Ed Wagner. Dan Shevchik had the highest finish, placing eighth in the 200 Back; Will Oren finish ninth in the 200 Fly. Additionally, Andrew McConnell and Ryan Egan qualified but did not compete.

Jan Sibbersen and Mike Keidel competed in the German Olympic Trials. Mike represented the German Olympic Team in Sydney competing in the 800 Free Relay. Mike will be getting married in November.

We want to welcome our incoming freshman class:

James Lawlor	Greenwich CT.	Greenwich YMCA
Rassan Grant*	Orlando FL.	Trinity AC
Kemi George	Trinidad	Trinidad Marlins
Brad Burns	Kansas City MO.	KC Dolphins
Kevin Budris	Cheshire CT.	Cheshire YMCA
John Cole*	Harrington Park NJ.	New Jersey Wave
Jonathan Lin	San Gabriel CA.	Rose Bowl Aquatics
David Lippin	Scottsdale AZ.	Scottsdale AC
Tom Crahan	Louisville KY.	Exeter Academy
Rick Roy	Exeter NH.	Charles River Divers

*\*John Cole and Rassan Grant competed in the US Olympic Trials*

Sean Schimmel begins his second year as the Men's Assistant. We welcome Kevin Tyrrell from the North Shore YMCA to our staff as the Volunteer Assistant.

Our first ALUMNI MEET in recent history will be held on Saturday November 18 at 10 am. If you are in the area stop by to see our first meet of the year at 7 p.m. Friday November 17. We will have a barbecue on Blodgett beach following the alumni meet before heading over to the Harvard-Yale football game.

We sincerely appreciate the support you have shown throughout our History through the Friends of Harvard Swimming. Our efforts to continue the history and tradition of swimming excellence at Harvard are possible with your continued support. The Friends account recently allowed us to purchase a tremendous new record board. We plan on transforming the old weight room and entrance to Blodgett pool to a meeting room and walking history of Swimming at Harvard University. We are also in the early stages of planning an alumni function celebrating 75 years of Men's Swimming at Harvard. In an effort to seek out national competition our meet schedule this year includes a trip to the Texas Invitational in December. We will spend our winter training on the West Coast of Florida at the new Sarasota YMCA complex.

I have enjoyed meeting many of you during my first two years at Harvard. I hope you will have the opportunity to see us compete during our season. We will especially look for you at the HYP meet at Princeton this year. Thank you again and stay in touch.

Tim Murphy

## Letter from the Women's Captains,

### *Continued from front*

Away from the pool, we have also been spending a lot of time together. Recently, we began a new tradition of taking a team trip before the season officially begins, in order to better get to know each other. This year's trip took place in Essex, Mass., where we spent the morning kayaking. Everyone had a great time, and we had a wonderful opportunity to experience the beautiful New England coast.

We begin the season on November 3, with a scrimmage against Northeastern. Our biggest meet this fall will certainly be against Brown, where we hope to repeat last year's victory. Then, the first weekend of December finds us at the Notre Dame Invitational, where will we have the chance to compete against some non-Ivy League schools. Finally, we finish our dual meet season in February against Princeton and Yale, which is guaranteed to be an exciting meet. Almost all of our meets are away from home this season, including both HYP and Ivies, so we would love to see your Crimson support in the stands!

As always, we are incredibly thankful for your generous financial support and your involvement with our team. Our success would not be possible without you! We look forward to seeing you at our meets!

**GO CRIMSON!**

*Pia Chock*

*Angie Peluse*  
*Ali Shipley*

Pia Chock, Angie Peluse and Ali Shipley, 2001 Tri-captains

*Tim Murphy*

# From the Friends...

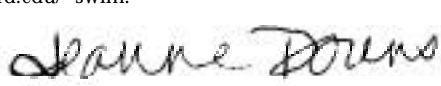
Welcome to another season of Harvard Swimming and Diving! As you can see, we have a new look! The Harvard Varsity Club is assisting us with this look ... two colors, pictures, and expert formatting (things that seem to be beyond our own computing "expertise.") In this newsletter, the coaches and team captains have written letters to you, our alumni and friends. We think you will agree that both teams are filled with talented swimmers and divers who are enthusiastic, hard working, and excited about this year's competition. It is wonderful to see!

As you know, the Friends group supplements both teams financially to allow for travel to non-league meets, purchase needed equipment, supplement recruiting expenses, and take the annual training trips. Both teams spend a great deal of time with fund-raising efforts during the year, and the money from the Friends group helps relieve some of that fund-raising pressure. Last year we successfully raised the \$20,000 needed to purchase a beautiful new record board as well as raising additional funds to supplement the teams' other expenses. This year we hope to supplement more team expenses. On the wish list for both teams is a new meeting room and attending a second out-of-conference meet or invitational, something that is cost prohibitive this year.

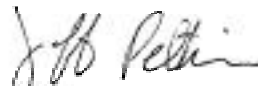
Each year our goal is to increase alumni giving to the group, and this year is no different. We hope to raise a new high of \$35,000 so that the swimmers and divers now and in the future are able to enjoy the same wonderful experience that we all had. Let's help the teams get to that second out-of-conference meet and get that new meeting room! The best way to increase the funds raised is to have more people give. Any amount given is greatly appreciated, really makes a difference, and is tax deductible!

We hope that you will help continue the tradition of support for Harvard Swimming and Diving. A contribution card is enclosed for your convenience. There are plenty of opportunities to see the teams in action. And of course, there is our Alumni get together the weekend of November 18<sup>th</sup> (dust off those suits and goggles!)

We hope to see you at Blodgett sometime soon! And remember, you can visit our web site at [www.hcs.harvard.edu/~swim](http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~swim).



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## **A Big Thank You**

Thank you to Rick Osterberg '96 who tirelessly maintains our web site, announces many home meets, and always pitches in to help organize alumni functions. He is a wonderful friend of Harvard Swimming and Diving and we are so grateful for all he does.  
Thanks Rick!

## **Do You Have Information about Harvard Cheerleading?**

Greetings to all Harvard Swimming and Diving Alumni! My name is Angie Peluse, and I am a senior and current co-captain of the women's team. I reside in Cabot House and am a Women's Studies and History concentrator, and am currently writing a senior thesis on the history of Harvard Cheerleading. Right now I am looking for any information on the first woman cheerleader or why women became cheerleaders for Harvard in the early 70's. If any of you could help me with this, I would be much obliged! My phone is 617-493-5848 and my email is [peluse@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:peluse@fas.harvard.edu) — I would love to hear from you and I hope to see you at some upcoming meets!  
Thanks, Angie Peluse

# 2000-01 Schedules

## ***Men's Swimming & Diving***

November		
17	COLUMBIA/ARMY	7 p.m.
December		
1-3	at Texas Invite	All Day
2	HARVARD DIVING INVITE	All Day
January		
6	NAVY	1 p.m.
27	at Brown	1 p.m.
February		
3-4	at Princeton w/ Yale	7 p.m./1 p.m.
10	at Cornell w/Dartmouth	12 noon
17	at Pennsylvania	1 p.m.
March		
1-3	EISL Championships at Army	All Day
9-10	NCAA Diving Zone Qualifying (at Navy)	All Day
22-24	NCAA Championships (at College Station, TX)	All Day

## ***Women's Swimming & Diving***

November		
3	NORTHEASTERN (scrimmage)	4 p.m.
11	at Cornell w/Dartmouth	12 noon
17	at Brown	5 p.m.
19	COLUMBIA	1 p.m.
30	at Notre Dame Invitational	All Day
December		
1-2	at Notre Dame Invitational	All Day
10	at Pennsylvania	1 p.m.
February		
2-3	at Princeton w/ Yale	7 p.m./1 p.m.
22-24	Ivy League Championships (at Princeton)	All Day
March		
15-18	NCAA Championships (at Nassau Aquatics Center)	All Day