

ELEVENTH ANNUAL



STAR FAMILY PRIZES

for

EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING

ESTABLISHED BY JAMES A. STAR '83





Advising Programs Office

Academic Advising at Harvard College

The Star Family Prizes for Excellence in Advising were established by James A. Star, AB 1983, to recognize and reward individuals who contribute to the College through their exemplary intellectual and personal guidance of undergraduate students.

In addition to the recognition that they receive, winners of the prize also receive an honorarium. Each year, we ask them to share a brief reflection on the characteristics of successful advising of Harvard College undergraduates.



2022 RECIPIENTS

FIRST-YEAR ADVISING

Matthew Thomas

Evan Smith

Alee Lockman

SOPHOMORE ADVISING

Siobhan Greatorex-Voith

Brittany Petros

Kirin Gupta

CONCENTRATION ADVISING

Melissa Franklin

John Boonstra

Michael Brenner

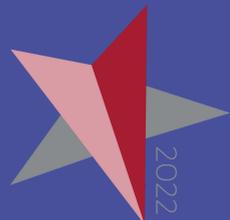
FACULTY ADVISING

Jane Kamensky

Ryan Flynn

Nicole Noll





MATTHEW THOMAS

HOUSE AIDE IN KIRKLAND HOUSE

I think the best advisors are present, resourceful, and good listeners. They listen to their advisees, ask thoughtful questions to learn about their interests, help them reflect on what they want from their experience, and connect them with the right resources to help them grow. At Harvard, I've had wonderful advisors and mentors who have done this for me, and I've just tried to follow their lead and make them proud.



EVAN SMITH

SENIOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEER FOR ACTIVE LEARNING

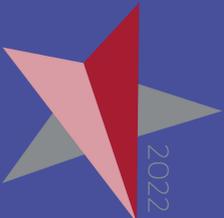
I believe it is helpful to build a relationship rooted in candid (unfiltered even) conversation to create space for genuine thoughts, concerns, and ambitions to be expressed. Put another way, I think it is helpful to remove any expectation that there is a correct answer or way of approaching something and to foster enough comfort to be able to address things that are genuinely uncomfortable (for example, what are you afraid of or anxious about?).



ALEE LOCKMAN

FIRST YEAR PROCTOR;
PHD CANDIDATE IN HEALTH POLICY

I work to foster a welcoming environment where all students feel comfortable and know they are part of a larger community that values all the things that make them unique. I also prioritize active communication and being accessible, while also being quick to acknowledge the limitations of my knowledge and expertise -- and then promptly connecting students with individuals who may be a better resource. And as much as I hope my students learn from me, I too have benefited from getting to know them! Harvard students are incredibly talented, intellectually curious, and able to tackle just about anything -- and as an advisor, I work to empower them to do just that.



SIOBHAN GREATOREX VOITH

RESIDENT TUTOR, ELIOT HOUSE;
PH.D. CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY;
TEACHING FELLOW, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Meet students where they are. Not all students know where they want to go, but many do without knowing how to get there. I think of advising as helping students to discover all of their possible options and to reflect on their values and personal goals as they decide which to pursue. While revealing Harvard's hidden curriculum and connecting students to resources are a large practical part of advising, being a soundboard for students as they make their own decisions is just as important.

BRITTANY PETROS

MD-PHD CANDIDATE (HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL,
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)



1. Learn not just what your advisees have done, but who they are. How does the advisee want to change the world? What drives the advisee? What does a fulfilling college experience mean to the advisee?
2. Create purposeful space for reflection. What worked (and what didn't work) this semester, academically or personally? How have your coursework or extracurricular activities moved you towards your goals, or helped you discover new goals? Given what you've learned about yourself over the last few months, what do you want to change moving forward?
3. Be your advisee's cheerleader. Advocate for them, and celebrate milestones, big and small.



KIRIN GUPTA

ACTING ALLSTON BURR RESIDENT DEAN,
WINTHROP HOUSE

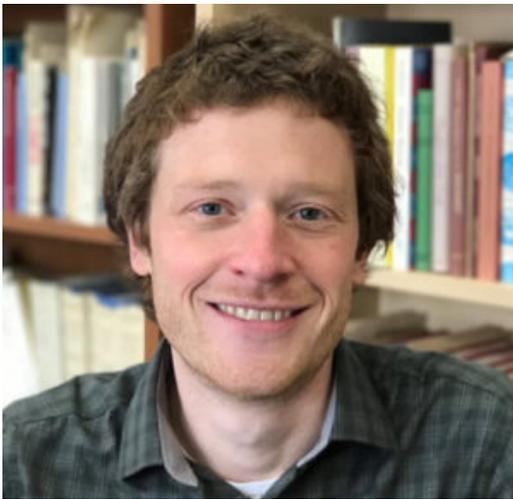
In so many dimensions, Harvard College undergraduates come to college prepared to be excellent students in traditional, receptive forms of learning. Advising these students as future scholars is often a matter of amplifying the confidence that they have in their own ability to seek answers to the furthest reaches of their curiosity.



MELISSA FRANKLIN

MALLINCKRODT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

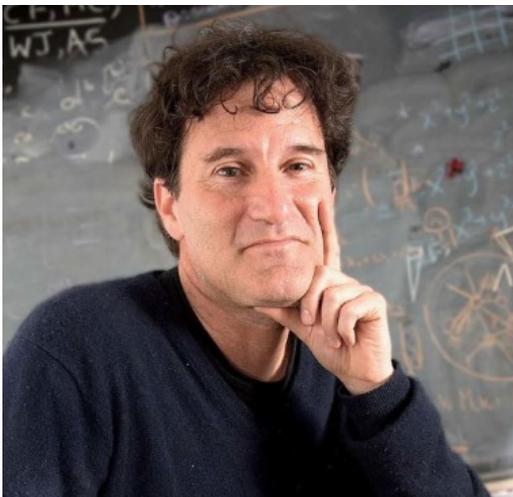
I think that good advising requires taking the time to listen and making a serious attempt at honesty.



JOHN BOONSTRA

LECTURER ON HISTORY AND LITERATURE

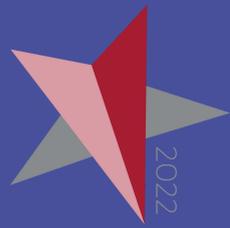
In my experience advising Harvard College undergraduates, I've been pleased to work with a diversity of students, each of whom brings their own interests, modes of working, and preferred style of advising. I try to adapt my role as an advisor to a particular individual's goals and needs, and I seek to make our process of working together as collaborative as possible, from start to finish.



MICHAEL BRENNER

MICHAEL F. CRONIN PROFESSOR OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS AND PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

For me, the greatest pleasure of being at Harvard is interacting with undergraduates, helping them think through their passions, challenges, and opportunities. As an advisor, I try to be humble, understanding, and helpful, with a goal of helping students navigate Harvard and the world.



JANE KAMENSKY

TRUMBULL PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Decades ago, during my first year of graduate school, a professor who had thought an unusual amount about teaching told me that we often treat learning as if it resembles dancing, when in fact, it's more like carpentry. By this he meant: learned skills rather than indwelling gifts, planning over feeling, craft, not art. It was so reassuring, to be reminded that nobody was born knowing anything. Our students have boundless potential, but they don't know the recipe. Remember that you, too, had to learn the recipe. Retrace the steps. Break it down.



RYAN FLYNN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF STEM CELL AND REGENERATIVE BIOLOGY

Learning the goals, working to establish goals, and importantly helping to enable the goals of students I advise is a core focus of mine. The earlier one is allowed space and time to develop a long-term vision, the faster they can begin to achieve it; this is an exciting process to be a part of and help cultivate.



NICOLE NOLL

SENIOR PRECEPTOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

What I have valued most about my own mentors is when they have helped me understand myself better, whether academically or personally, and have centered my development rather than their own opinions; that is what I try to do with mentees. In my experience this involves time, patience, creativity, and (sometimes) restraint. Harvard College students tend to be experts at seeking and following the advice of others, but many of them are less skilled at identifying and pursuing their own values, interests, and desires. A mentoring relationship can be a space where they learn to listen to and trust themselves.

Congratulations to all of our 2022 Star Prize Nominees

Remo Airaldi | Carlos Argüelles-Delgado | Jacob Barandes | Matthew Basilico
Anya Bassett | Selim Berker | Andrew Berry | Ann Blair | **John Boonstra**
Michael Brenner | Cheryl Chen | Charles Clavey | Adam Cohen | Julia Coyoli
Morgan Day Frank | Nicole Dejong Newendorp | Thomas Dingman
Samuel Dolbee | Hassaan Ebrahim | Megan Entwistle | **Ryan Flynn**
Melissa Franklin | Rachelle Gaudet | Howard Georgi | Gonzalo Giribet
Claudia Goldin | **Siobhan Greatorex-Voith** | Ryan Gunderman | **Kirin Gupta**
Edward Hall | Melissa Hancock | Stephen Harrison | Mark Hatzenbuehler
Amie Holmes | Robin Hopkins | Jordan Howell | Karen Huang
Symone Isaac-Wilkins | Jay Jasanoff | Walter Johnson | **Jane Kamensky**
Steven Kasperek | Sean Kelly | Philip Kim | Cynthia Kim | Ian Kirby
Heather Leader | Richard Lee | Émile Lévesque-Jalbert | Debra Levine
Alee Lockman | Angela Maione | Jarad Mason | Samantha Matherne
Courtney McCann | Ryan McKittrick | Nefyn Meissner | Na'Shantéa Miller
Alex Miller | Naohito Miura | Sarah Mohamed | Charles Nelson | **Nicole Noll**
John Nowak | Bryan Panzano | Verene Parker | Parimal Patil | **Brittany Petros**
Michael Puett | Samuel Quinn | Matias Ramos | Vidyan Ravinthiran
Kathy Richman | Matthew Schwartz | Weilu Shen | **Evan Smith**
Ryan Solís | Anne Marie Sousa | Georgia Stirtz | **Matthew Thomas** | Anh Tran
Gregg Tucci | Saul Urbina-Johanson | Katherine Van Kirk | Raj Vatsa
Katherine Veach | James Waldo | Yingxue Wang | William Whitham
Anca Wilkening | Bryan Yoon | Catherine Zhang

