

## Background and History of Harvard Prize Book

The Harvard Alumni Association first made Harvard Prize Books available in 1910. Members of the Harvard Club of San Antonio, which began in 1917, recall many years from that time in which the club presented prize books. In 1988, Xavier Rodriguez initiated a strong revival of the program, and Greg Flores continued its strength into the 1990s.

Dr. Nichols Grimes revived the club's program in 2003 and made it the model for other clubs. At that time, the outreach mission of the program was clearly defined—*To inspire and reward academic and character excellence in our region by presenting books with along with a powerful encomium to secondary-school juniors and teachers.*

Among our innovations are an increase in the number of teachers we honor and the addition of awards to enlightened academic leaders. Another innovation is The Great Harvard Prize Book Texas Barbecue held each fall, to which we invite those who received books earlier in the year, past teacher recipients, donors, and club members.

We present books in the classroom or in assembly both to enable our recipients to be honored by their peers and to inspire other students, teachers, and leaders. Anyone can become a donor whether Harvard connected or not, and we honor schools outside our region. Joy Jauer is now Chair of the program. She has improved the infrastructure of the program, greatly streamlining its effectiveness. In particular, she has increased the number of club members who participate as captains and administer the books, as well as the number of recipients—this year over ninety.

One of our recent advances is our alliance with the Texas Virtual School program, which allows us to honor recipients over a much larger area.

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