

HPAC@CHC to Move to an Alternating Event Schedule

Dearest magical friends,

Beginning this Fall 2023, we will be shifting to an alternating conference schedule:

- Odd-numbered years will be online-only (“digi-HPAC”) in real-time
- Even-numbered years will be a two-day, in-person-only event at Chestnut Hill College (“HPAC@CHC”)

Change is exciting and uncomfortable all at once. It is for us too. So let us explain three facts.

1. Your support has never wavered.

Each year, we are floored by the love and support of you, our attendees, and how you give of your time and talents to make HPAC happen. We are making this change for the following two reasons – *not* because we don’t have enough help.

2. Academic landscapes are changing.

Our country is experiencing extreme change in higher education. Chestnut Hill College is no exception. Changes at the college have resulted in increased administrative responsibilities for CHC faculty, in addition to our duties as teachers, researchers, advisors, and the coordinators of HPAC. Additionally, CHC will be inaugurating its new president in October this year, and space and staff are at a premium for the entire month.

3. Our fandom is changing.

We are so impressed by how HPAC presenters rose to the occasion to address the major threat to our fandom these last few years. Looking broadly at the fandom, this threat and the cancellation of further *Fantastic Beasts* films have contributed to lower attendance at many Harry Potter-themed conferences and events. Fortunately, HPAC attendance remains strong, and we remain committed to offering an annual venue for future scholarship. We also anticipate new interest in the HP fandom once the new HBO series premieres. Our fandom and conference both continue strong! This is why we are ready to try this new form of the conference.

More detailed logistics to come but keep October 20 and 21, 2023, marked for digi-HPAC, and save the date for next year’s in-person event, HPAC@CHC October 18 and 19, 2024.

Please send all questions, comments, and concerns to the conference email address, harrypotterconference@chc.edu. We will be assembling an FAQ of any responses received.

We solemnly swear that we aren’t going anywhere.

Karen and Patrick