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The Mission of the Harvard Foundation

In 1981, the president and deans of Harvard University established the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations with the mandate to “improve relations among racial and ethnic groups within the University and to enhance the quality of our common life.” In pursuit of this mission, the Foundation seeks to involve students of all racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds in the ongoing enterprises of the University. The Foundation sponsors annual programs and activities that are designed to promote interracial understanding and intercultural awareness in the Harvard community, as well as highlight the contributions of students from all backgrounds.

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The insignia of the Harvard Foundation consists of five interconnecting circles in black, brown, red, white, and yellow, symbolizing the diversity of the human race under the Harvard motto *Veritas* (“Truth”). The symbol, “the unbroken circle of humanity,” was designed by Dr. S. Allen Counter in 1981.

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The Harvard Foundation Journal has been produced semi-annually since 1982. It is designed to inform University members about Foundation-sponsored programs that address topics related to intercultural, racial, ethnic, and religious harmony. The Journal is produced by the Harvard Foundation’s director, staff, and interns.
Race relations remains the most divisive issue in America today. Racism is still widespread in the political system, banking, housing, employment, penal system, and even academic institutions. Interreligious animosity is also still prevalent in our society. The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations was established by President Derek Bok and the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes in 1981, at a time when race and interreligious relations were the primary polarizing issues among students and faculty at Harvard. The Harvard Foundation was created (in lieu of third world centers and ethnic centers) to improve understanding, tolerance, and social interaction among student and faculty of different racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds. While tensions and discord among diverse racial and religious communities at Harvard College have been reduced as a result of numerous programs and projects created and conducted by the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation over the past 30 years, interracial and interreligious conflicts persist at Harvard and in the wider society.

Throughout its existence, the Harvard Foundation and its students and faculty have acknowledged the presence of diverse identities among our students, and have reached out to individuals and their affiliated groups to include them in the Foundation’s student membership. In fact, the Harvard Foundation’s student organization representation has expanded from the founding five minority student groups (Black Students Association; La Organization de Puertoriqueños, the Puerto Rican student organization; Harvard Radcliffe RAZA, the Mexican–American student organization; Native Americans of Harvard College; and the Harvard Radcliffe Asian American Association), to more than 80 different ethnic and cultural student organizations. Current membership, programs, and projects of the Harvard Foundation reflect concomitant changes in society and in Harvard’s demographics. Today, the Harvard Foundation’s student organization membership includes numerous identity groups such as: Harvard Armenian Society, Harvard Hillel, Harvard Latino Men’s Collective, Harvard Society of Arab Students, Harvard College Gay and Lesbian Caucus, Harvard Polish Society, Latinas Unidas de Harvard, Harvard Students for Israel, Harvard College Queer Students and Allies, Harvard South Asian Association, and the Harvard Nigerian Students Association, to name a few. The Harvard Foundation has welcomed these student organizations and sponsored numerous programs for each. Moreover, the Harvard Foundation has collaborated on a number of diversity projects with other Harvard College student centers, such as the Harvard University Native American Program, the Harvard College Women’s Center, and the Office for BGLTQ Students Life. I am certain that over the next decade, the Harvard Foundation will continue to welcome students of diverse ethnicity, religious faiths, sexual orientation, and other identity groups in the interest of inclusion and improving human relations.

While we are pleased with the increase in the number of ethno-cultural student groups associated with the Harvard Foundation, the proliferation of student organizations is accompanied by increased financial need to conduct the many cultural projects requested by our students. Many students have asked me about the limitations of the Foundation’s budget for support student cultural projects. Unfortunately, the budget allocated to the Harvard Foundation has remained the same for the last six years, and has not kept pace with the financial demand to support worthy student projects. The last substantial increase in the Harvard Foundation student grant budget, for example, and for the improvement in the physical office space of the Harvard Foundation, came from Harvard College Dean Benedict Gross, in 2006. In order to continue its present level of quality programs and support the worthy projects recommended by our student cultural organizations, the Harvard Foundation must receive a substantial increase in its present budget. Unlike fellow Ivy League universities that support their student cultural initiatives through designated “race centers,” such as Yale University’s African–American, Hispanic, and Asian Student Centers; and the third world centers at Princeton and Brown universities, all of which have separate, substantial budgets, the Harvard Foundation receives its limited funds entirely from the office of the Dean of the College. Over the past few years, I have personally raised more than $50,000 from external sources to pay for Harvard Foundation/Harvard College intercultural projects and programs.

A number of significant programs were conducted by the Harvard Foundation during fall semester of the 2013–14 academic year. Among the most salient was a series of panel discussions titled “Race and Justice in America: The Trayvon Martin Case.” Although conceived in the spring of the previous academic year as a result of discussions with student groups who wished to address the subject in the wake of the Trayvon Martin killing, the panel discussions were scheduled for the fall semester as part of a series of House-based discussions on race and justice. The first panel in this series was held in Cabot House under the auspices of House Masters Professor Rakesh and Dr. Stephanie Khurana and included Cabot students and resident tutors. The panelists included the distinguished Harvard psychiatrist Dr. Timothy Benson, who specializes in interracial social dynamics, and Professor Ronald Sullivan of Harvard Law School, who testified before the U.S. Senate on the self-defense and stand-your-ground laws. The program was by all accounts enlightening, informative, and instructive to students from both legal and psychological perspectives, as well as in social content.

Our second panel discussion on racial injustice in America was hosted in the Lowell House junior common room under the auspices of House Masters Professor Diana Eck and Dr. Dorothy Austin. This panel featured Harvard College students, and was moderated by Dr. Laurence Ralph, assistant Professor of Anthropology and African and African American Studies. Students engaged in a lively discussion regarding the perception of racial justice and injustice in America. This well-attended program was by all accounts a successful evening of civil discussion regarding race and the Martin case.

It should be noted that Sabrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, visited Harvard during this period as guest of the Harvard Law School for a public presentation hosted by Professor Charles Ogletree. She also attended a special church service at the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cambridge where she spoke eloquently about her sons and the ordeal of losing
Race and Justice in America: The Trayvon Martin Case

In the aftermath of the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case, Harvard students and affiliates gathered to discuss the role of race in the justice system. On October 30, Farah Stockman, Boston Globe journalist and Harvard College alumna, moderated a panel discussion on race and social justice held in Cabot House. The Harvard Foundation collaborated with Cabot House Masters Rakesh and Stephanie Khurana to host the first in a series of panel discussions that would be held across campus throughout the academic year. The discussion benefited from a wide range of perspectives, as professors and students served as panelists.

Professor Ronald S. Sullivan Jr., Director of the Criminal Justice Institute of Harvard Law School and Master of Winthrop House, helped to frame the discussion by highlighting legislation that contributed to the Martin decision. As the conversation unfolded, Sullivan outlined the historical underpinnings of Florida law, such as regulations on concealed weapons and the emergence of the stand-your-ground law.

To complement discussion of the legislative elements that led to the ruling, panelist Dr. Timothy Benson, clinical associate in medicine at Harvard Medical School, outlined the psychological consequences of the controversy within the African-American community. Benson argued that the role of power dynamics from the stand-your-ground law demonstrates the importance of psychology in race and justice.

Temitope Agabalogun ’15, Jasmine Gipson ’15, and Rodriguez Roberts ’15 grounded the discussion in terms of personal experience. Their contributions not only revealed the profound effects the Martin case had on individuals within the African-American community, but more specifically within the community of their peers. As in previous controversial legal cases at the crux of race and justice, such as the Rodney King and O.J. Simpson cases, for student panelists, the Martin case was a reminder of the continued presence of racial prejudice in America.

The audience actively participated in the open forum. Many in the audience focused on the technical details of self-defense in differing state jurisdictions. The event gave the panelists and audience an opportunity to engage with the complex social, political, and legislative issues that contributed to the verdict. This and future panel events related to race and justice represent the continued efforts of the Harvard Foundation to promote understanding of contemporary issues in race relations on campus.

Bianca Okafor ’14

Gideon’s Army: Movie Screening and Discussion on Race in the Justice System

On the evening of November 18, the Harvard Foundation, in partnership with the Winthrop House race relations tutors and Harvard Foundation associate Elaine Cheng ’15, hosted a screening of Gideon’s Army and a post-screening discussion on the American criminal justice system with Winthrop House Master and Harvard Law School Professor Ronald Sullivan. Following a panel discussion in Cabot House on the Trayvon Martin case, this event was the second in a series of discussions and other programming geared toward examining issues surrounding race and the role it plays in the justice system.

Gideon’s Army is a documentary that highlights the lives of public defenders in the South, focusing on the heavy case loads, strenuous and long hours in the office, and low wages that public defenders face. “Gideon” is a reference to the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in Gideon v. Wainwright to establish the right to legal counsel. In turn, “Army” is a reference to the 15,000 public defenders who represent many of the 12 million people arrested each year.

Following the screening, which took place in the Winthrop House junior common room, race relations tutor Carl Miller moderated a discussion with Sullivan, who talked about his experience as a public defender in Washington D.C.

This open discussion, framed in an informal question-and-answer format, explored many of the issues examined...
Criminal (In)justice Panel Discussion

On Thursday, November 7, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations hosted “The Criminal (In)Justice System: A Panel Discussion of Race and the Penal System in America.” The panel was composed of four scholars and activists based at Harvard and from the greater Boston area, including Diana Li ’14, Harvard College Social Studies Department; Philip Reason, Boston Workers Alliance (BWA); Jessica Simes, Harvard Department of Sociology; and Catherine Sirois, Harvard Kennedy School Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy.

To open the conversation, Foundation intern Eric Lu ’14 showed a clip of a TED talk by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson is an NYU professor and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit that provides legal representation to people who have been denied fair treatment in the criminal justice system. After watching the video, the panelists introduced themselves and shared how their work related to racial injustice in the American penal system. The discussion aimed to better explain why mass incarceration disproportionately impacts communities of color, particularly African-American males. Each panelist had extensive experience working with communities of color and studying the ways in which demographic background impacts a defendant’s treatment within the criminal justice system.

A particularly resonant point from the discussion was how mass incarceration, which disproportionately impacts black males, “others” African-American men out of civic participation. Sirois expounded on the impact, suggesting that mass incarceration negatively affects access to health care, electoral participation, and socialization. Simes suggested that, given the harsh changes to sentencing policies over the last 50 years and the de-industrialization of urban areas that has led to joblessness and economic deprivation, there is “too little social welfare and too much punishment.”

Li discussed “recidivism,” the tendency of people who were once incarcerated to be incarcerated again. She spoke about high recidivism rates in the U.S. and the challenges in combating those rates. She discussed the recent political push to lower recidivism rates, and suggested that action based in policy must be complemented by shifts in social norms.

While much of the conversation was sobering, there was also cause for hope. Reason shared that the BWA has done important work on reforming Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) forms, which has led to increased opportunity for previously incarcerated individuals to re-enter the workforce. This reform work was a part of the BWA’s “Jobs Not Jails” campaign. To this end, all the panelists agreed that there has been new political energy around reforming criminalization.

The panel conversation ended in agreement that, while mass incarceration is certainly a structural crisis with stark racial implications, there is increasing political mobilization around civil rights and equal treatment within the criminal justice system, though much more work remains to be done.

Cary Williams ’16
On the evening of November 13, the Harvard Foundation, in partnership with the Leverett House race relations tutors and the Harvard College Women’s Center, hosted an open discussion titled “Co-Existing Self.” The event was one part of a two-part initiative for students to explore this idea of multiple identities co-existing in one person.

The first part of the Co-Existing Self initiative was a video campaign, in which students spoke about their own identities on campus. The video interviews focused on each individual’s experiences with or conception of “passing” at Harvard. In the field of sociology, “passing” is defined as “the ability of a person to be regarded as a member of social groups other than his or her own, such as a different race, ethnicity, caste, social class, gender, intelligence, age, and/or disability status, generally with the purpose of gaining social acceptance.”

The co-existing self videos included student commentary on passing, and were launched on Facebook and YouTube to kick off the video portion of the initiative.

After the videos had been posted, the Harvard Foundation hosted an open discussion in the Fairfax common room to discuss these topics. Leverett House, race relations tutors Jessica Tollette and David Williams helped facilitate the event. Intern coordinators Grace Chen ’15 and Irfan Mahmud ’16 moderated the event.

The event began as people trickled in, chatted with friends, and enjoyed the desserts and refreshments. To begin the discussion, the group screened one of the videos posted to the online platforms. Grace Chen then facilitated an activity that gave attendees the chance to reflect on their own identities across the campus spectrum.

The four corners of the room were labeled “Social Life,” “Extracurricular Life,” “Residential Life,” and “Academic Life.” The first question posed to the audience was, in which of these spaces did students feel most comfortable and most truly themselves? The second question was, in which of these spaces did students feel they were best able to pass?

After learning more about how other attendees felt in these different spaces, the conversation began. Questions such as “Is passing necessarily bad?” and “How did your areas of passing change after you came to college?” arose. People developed the idea that passing is often used for purposes of privilege, convenience, or bridging gaps. The attendees approached passing from many angles of identity, from sexual orientation to racial and cultural affinity groups.

The event was a great opportunity for people from different pockets of campus life to come together to discuss how their identity has been formed at Harvard. It gave students a chance to reflect on their intellectual and social development while living on campus, and how a cohesive self forms as a composite of our co-existing selves.

Grace Chen ’15 and Irfan Mahmud ’16
As flute music piped through the speakers, students gathered around the television in the Queer Resource Center in Thayer Hall on Monday, October 28. The opening credits for *Two Spirits*, a PBS documentary, rolled across the screen. The event was a collaborative exploration of gender identity and expression as rooted in cultural and historical contexts. The International Women’s Rights Collective, the Harvard College Queer Students and Allies, and the Foundation co-sponsored the event, which was funded in part by the Harvard College Women’s Center.

The film focuses on the history of gender identity in Navajo and other indigenous American communities, and particularly on the life of Fred Martinez, a young Navajo who was targeted because he was a nádleehí, a feminine-expressing, male-bodied person.

In the cross-cultural dialogue between indigenous and majority white communities across the country, a lack of cultural literacy can foment misunderstanding, discrimination, and violence. But the intersection of two oppressed identities “is a dangerous place to live,” as indigenous gender-activists in the film remind us.

The discussion that followed focused on the idea of “gender” as a colonial construction - a binary of male/female simultaneous expressions and personal identity that was transplanted across borders, languages, and culture. Students commented that the transplantation of the gender binary that we now take for granted can be considered both a colonial imposition and a cultural export, evacuating cultural understandings of the nuance that often surrounded different gender identities in various cultures. Expressions of masculinity, femininity, and anything beyond the two sex-based constructions, have cultural roots and implications that are far from negligible.

Through race, ethnicity, language, “tradition,” and other intricacies of expressive performance, gender is part of constructing one’s own identity and story.

On the note of our personal stories, and those we identify with, participants raised the question of how are certain narratives privileged over others. What does it take to “become big” with a film, or a novel, that tells a story of oppression and self-assertion? Why is it that certain “perfect cases” (i.e., hate crimes that warrant and receive public attention) rarely include one of the many cases of transgenedered people of color killed at alarming rates? *Two Spirits* is a step toward addressing the issues, but these questions remind us of our obligation as a community of students to seek alternate perspectives and realities in the silences of history and the oblivion created by discriminatory violence.

We must examine the ways in which institutional oppression continues to manifest itself in our lives and how Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy can help us combat injustice with nonviolent protest and action; and how truly important it is to keep pushing the envelope in regard to issues of equality.

*Kirin Gupta ’16*
In partnership with the Office of Career Services and the Office of International Experience, the Harvard Foundation hosted a moderated panel discussion that explored student experiences with racial identity while living abroad. This event was initiated last year and brought back this year to include more countries and new perspectives. This year’s six student panelists shared their experiences and insight gained from travels to Brazil, Vietnam, India, South Africa, Spain, and France.

The first question the panelists and audience members discussed revolved around individual expectations prior to travelling abroad. Panelists were asked how they imagined their racial identity would play into their experiences, from the outset and each agreed that they had expected each country to address race differently. But some were surprised to learn how this deviated from the understandings we share here in the United States. From listening to the diversity of experiences and stories shared by panelists, it was clear that the differences in how various communities address race and race relations should not be a deterrent to international travel and cultural immersion. Instead, each panelist spoke of how these differences provided them with unique opportunities to grow, forge new friendships, and adjust within a new culture.

For Edward Escalon ’14, who spent most of his time abroad in Spain, the questions he was asked about American stereotypes provided him with opportunities to form friendships by teaching his new friends about his culture.

Eventually, the conversation shifted to how other facets of student identity, such as gender and sexuality, impacted their daily lives while living abroad.

After a while, audience members joined the conversation, asking panelists how food, family, and music played into their experiences abroad. Students posed questions and solicited recommendations about specific regions and countries. Panelists provided personal stories and strategies they had used to overcome some of these differences. One suggested technique was to enter another culture with an open mind, ready to listen, to learn, and to share.

Yolanda Borquaye ’14

Sustained Dialogue

Sustained Dialogue (SD) went through an exciting transition this year. Continuing to focus on moderating external events and campus outreach, this semester’s SD team implemented a new moderator-training program. Involving regular student-led trainings in issues of social justice, diversity, inclusion, and problem-solving, the semester-long trainings have made the 2013 cohort of moderators the most qualified ever.

In addition, SD also held a very successful De-Stereotype Me Week in late October/early November. The week featured dialogues on religion and spirituality, career choices, and Halloween costumes. With numerous co-sponsors and the benefit of faculty engagement, De-Stereotype Me Week 2013, an expansion of past De-Stereotype Me Day events, brought dozens of community members together to spark earnest conversations on issues that are still difficult to talk about productively.

With a new leadership team for 2013 elected in December, SD looks forward to restarting dialogue groups in the spring and continuing to spread the message of dialogue in the Harvard community.

Yolanda Borquaye ’14

Humza Bokhari ‘14
On November 8th, 2013, a super typhoon ravaged the Philippines. Entire regions of the island nation were torn apart. In the immediate aftermath, more than 10,000 people were found dead, while another 600,000 individuals were deemed missing or displaced. Those numbers continued to rise in the following days.

Without hesitating, the Harvard Philippine Forum mobilized to contribute to the relief efforts. In less than a week, they organized a benefit concert titled “Singing in the Rain.” More than 20 student groups from the Boston area volunteered their talents, from Harvard College a capella and martial arts groups to a Bhangra group from Harvard Law School. Adding to the mix were dance groups from Wellesley College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others. At the door, guests were asked to give a $5 donation to directly benefit current relief efforts in the Philippines.

Over 400 people packed the Quincy dining hall to see the show, sitting cross-legged on the floor and spilling out into the hallway. Philippine Forum co-presidents Michelle Ferreol ’15 and Shannen Kim ’15 served as emcees, starting the evening with news footage of the damage the typhoon created, followed by a performance of the Philippine Forum.

The audience was enthusiastic and supportive, especially with the announcement halfway through the show that over $3,500 had been raised at the door, with another $3,000 collected online. In addition, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations pledged $5,000 in support. The evening was a success in more ways than one, as it showcased student talent, brought the community together for a common purpose, and raised valuable funds toward the relief effort.

The Harvard Philippine Forum’s work on behalf of the typhoon victims did not stop there. Working with the Harvard University Asia Center, the group designed a T-shirt that incorporated elements from the Filipino flag as well as the slogan “Our Spirit is Waterproof.” The T-shirts went on sale at the end of the semester for $15, with all proceeds going to UNICEF. The Philippine Forum also had big plans for follow-up events in the spring, hoping to remind students of the tragedy and the ongoing need for help. The Forum’s tireless work on behalf of the typhoon disaster relief demonstrates the impact even a small group of committed students can have, and the support from the greater Harvard community was heartwarming to witness.  

Avni Nahar ’17
Instead of sending guns, send pens. Instead of sending tanks, send books. Instead of sending soldiers, send teachers,” Malala Yousafzai told a packed audience in Sanders Theater on Friday, September 27. Yousafzai, a Pakistani human-rights and education activist, was honored as the 2013 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian of the Year. At 16 years old, she is officially the youngest person to receive the award by more than a decade.

Yousafzai was only 11 years old when she began to blog for BBC Urdu about life in Swat Valley, Pakistan, under the Taliban. Under the pen name Gul Makai, Malala discussed the struggles that girls in her community faced on a daily basis, and her own family’s fight for girls’ education. In October 2012, Yousafzai was targeted by the Taliban and shot in the head as she was returning from school on a bus. Yousafzai miraculously survived and has since continued to champion universal access to education. She has spoken at the U.N. and elsewhere, and has established The Malala Fund, an organization implementing education programs in disadvantaged communities. In 2013, she published a book titled I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban.

The youngest person to be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, Yousafzai is also one of Time Magazine’s “100 Most Influential People In The World” and she has received Pakistan’s National Youth Peace Prize, along with numerous other honors.

It is no surprise then, that this incredibly inspirational young lady received a standing ovation from the 1,200 people in Sanders Theatre the moment she walked on stage. The evening commenced with tributes from Margaret H. Marshall, former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and the first woman to hold that position, and Dr. Paula A. Johnson, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Executive Director of the Mary Connors Center for Women’s Health and Gender Biology. Immediately after, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, presented Yousafzai with the award, generating yet another standing ovation.

Yousafzai adjusted her signature tangerine scarf and began with an endearingly playful comment about the absence of Harvard President Drew Faust, whom she had met with earlier in the day. This elicited a chuckle from the audience, which soon became completely silent as Yousafzai dived right into her life in the Swat Valley under the Taliban. She spoke of her family, experiences as a girl, time in school, and the day she was shot. She spoke of how this traumatic experience only intensified her resolve to campaign for girls’ education, and she urged the West to assist Pakistan by expanding education, not by waging war.

Yousafzai concluded her remarks with a rallying call for everyone to stand up for their rights, to dream big, and to act on their dreams: “Let us remember that even one book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world. Let us dream today, a dream of a bright future where every girl and every boy is going to school, where women’s rights are respected, where there is equality and justice. Let us stand up for our rights, and let us fight for them. We are going to be the future, and let us make our future now.
And let us make today’s dreams tomorrow’s realities.”

These remarks gave rise to standing ovation number three. And rightly so: Many in the audience have likely never heard a speech delivered with that much passion, that much power, and that much love.

The event continued with encouraging words from Dr. Jeffrey S. Flier, Dean of Harvard Medical School and Caroline Shields Walker Professor of Medicine, and Dr. Junaid Khan, the neurosurgeon who performed Yousafzai’s life-saving surgery. Dr. Flier presented Dr. Khan with the Harvard Foundation Award of Appreciation for his efforts to save Yousafzai. Maya Dorje ’15, an intern at the Harvard Foundation, concluded the program with a moving account of her experiences teaching Tibetan girls health education in Yunnan Province, China.

As the event wrapped up and members of the audience started to file out, some remained for a while, awed by what they had just experienced. It was difficult to process that the young lady receiving the Humanitarian of the Year Award was only 16, and yet had already made such an incredible impact in the world. We cannot wait to see what she will accomplished in the years to come.

Rahim Mawji ’15

“I’m not supposed to tell you this … but I fight with my brothers,” said Malala Yousafzai when asked what she did during her free time. She continued, “They tell me, ‘Malala, you say that you have forgiven the Taliban. Why won’t you forgive us?’” The crowd burst into thunderous applause and heartfelt laughter multiple times as Ms. Yousafzai engaged with more than 100 people during the question-and-answer session at the Humanitarian of the Year Award Dinner. The dinner was held in Winthrop House’s dining hall and was filled to capacity with Harvard students, faculty, and affiliates eager to honor both Yousafzai and Khan.

The dinner began with opening remarks made by Harvard Foundation intern Rahim Mawji ’15, followed by a welcoming from Harvard Foundation’s Director Dr. S. Allen Counter. After thanking both supporters of the event and the honorees, Dr. Yousafzai’s life, echoed praise for her in his address. He said, “The greatest thing for me, is to see Malala here alive and recovering.”

The night reached its apex as Ms. Yousafzai took the podium to begin the Q&A. Questions ranged from lighthearted ones, such as “What is your favorite school subject?” and “Will you apply to Harvard?” to introspective inquiries like, “Who inspires you?” and “How do you think girls perceive themselves differently as they grow older?” Ms. Yousafzai effortlessly entertained and enlightened the crowd. Though she said she loves all subjects, her absolute favorite is physics, and she intends to apply to Harvard when she begins the college applications process. As for her inspirations, Ms. Yousafzai named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and “all of you, all of you have qualities that inspire me as well.” Ms. Yousafzai shared thoughts that inspire her: “God, when he chose whom to give the right to give birth to a new life, he asked, ‘Who has the power? Who can do it?…He decided that only powerful people could do it. That is why he chose women; he did not choose men.” As the room filled with applause and laughs, Ms. Yousafzai quickly added, “I don’t want to say it … I want equality … but women are more powerful than men … but still, I believe in equality!”

Nader Daoud ’16

Dr. Junaid Khan speaks at the dinner after being honored at the Humanitarian Award ceremony for his medical achievements in saving Malala Yousafzai’s life in 2012.

“I don’t want to say it … I want equality … but women are more powerful than men … but still, I believe in equality!”

Counter introduced Winthrop House Master Ronald Sullivan Jr. Professor Sullivan commended Ms. Yousafzai for her bravery, determination, and precociousness. In his address, he voiced a thought in the minds of all those in attendance that evening: “I can’t wait to see what you do next.” Rabiya Ather ’15 of the Pakistani Student Association, Graham Topol ’14 of Winthrop House, and Asmaa Rimawi ’14 of the Harvard Islamic Society also delivered individual tribute speeches highlighting how Yousafzai’s actions had affected them personally. Common to all of their words was a sense of awe and inspiration stirred by Ms. Yousafzai’s passion for women’s rights and education.

Khan, the physician who was honored for his instrumental role in saving Ms. Yousafzai, echoed praise for her in his address. He said, “The greatest thing for me, is to see Malala here alive and recovering.”

Having charmed everyone present, Yousafzai retired as senior admissions officer David L. Evans closed the dinner with a few more remarks, and a final congratulatory standing ovation for the honorees.

Nader Daoud ’16
Clockwise From Top Left: Malala Yousafzai signs the guest register at the Marshal’s office with Jackie O’Neill. Rahim Mawji ’15 amongst the audience in Sanders Theatre. Dr. Counter and Dean Flier present Dr. Khan with an award of appreciation. Maya Counter presents Yousafzai at the dinner. Rahim Mawji ’15 speaks at the dinner. Yousafzai’s mother waves to the crowd after being recognized at the dinner. Dr. Counter introduces Yousafzai to the admissions office. Yousafzai makes acceptance remarks at the Humanitarian Award Ceremony.
Malala Yousafzai signs the guest register at the Marshal’s office with Jackie O’Neill. Rahim Mawji ‘15 speaks at the dinner. Yousafzai’s father amongst the audience in Sanders Theatre. Dr. Counter and Dean Flier present Dr. Khan with an award of appreciation. Maya Dorje ‘15 speaks at the Humanitarian Award Ceremony. Members of the Pakistani Student Association join Yousafzai at the dinner. Rahim Mawji ‘15 speaks at the dinner. Yousafzai’s mother waves to the crowd after being introduced to the admissions office. Yousafzai makes acceptance remarks at the Humanitarian Award Ceremony.
FAC/SAC Meeting Update

The fall 2013 semester saw the largest Student Advisory Committee (SAC) in the Harvard Foundation’s history, with more than 80 cultural and racial organizations represented. Additionally, by the end of the semester, six additional organizations were voted into the SAC, including the Harvard Undergraduate Brazilian Association, Harvard College Iranian Association, Harvard Canadian Club, Harvard College Students for Bangladesh, Harvard Italian-American Association, and Harvard Dis-Orient Players.

The semester started with a successful social event in the Barker Center Thompson Room, during which SAC representatives mingled and discussed their upcoming plans for the semester and the events they were working on.

Each of the monthly SAC/FAC meetings went well. Guest speakers included Dr. Tom Dingman, Dean of Freshmen; Dr. Paul Barreira, Director of University Health Services; and Tara Raghuvir, Undergraduate Council President. The November meeting was held in the Office of Career Services, where SAC representatives learned about diversity in post-graduation opportunities.

The fall SAC grant cycle ran smoothly. The 51 SAC groups that applied for grants had requested a cumulative total of $55,000, and the Harvard Foundation was able to provide $25,000, which supported more than 200 events and other programming related to the mission of the Harvard Foundation. The average group award was $490.

This semester, Harvard Foundation and the SAC board reinstated the SAC Liaison Program, in which Foundation interns are paired with five to seven SAC groups. These interns become the point of contact between the Harvard Foundation and the SAC organizations. The purpose of the liaison is to foster collaboration, promote cultural dialogue on campus, and facilitate event planning and logistics.

Overall, we have made many strides toward our goal of furthering cohesion among the Student Advisory Committee groups and between the SAC and the Harvard Foundation. We look forward to continuing our work next semester and furthering the mission of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. It has been an honor to serve as co-chairs this semester.

HF SAC Board Co-chairs

Student Health with Dr. Paul Barreira

On Wednesday, December 4, during the last SAC meeting of the semester, student group leaders and members of the Faculty Advisory Committee gathered to hear from Dr. Paul Barreira, Director of Harvard University Health Services (UHS). During his presentation, Dr. Barreira expressed his unwavering commitment to the undergraduate students at Harvard and highlighted some of the challenges faced by the on-campus health services. He also expressed his strong desire to connect more directly with students and gather feedback on how UHS could improve its care.

The short talk led to a candid discussion around students’ issues related to UHS. One question posed was how UHS could take a more proactive approach to student health, especially those related to mental-health. Another student asked about minority mental health counselors, who might be able to connect with students on a psychological as well as cultural and personal level.

Dr. Barreira respectfully expressed his commitment to improving these areas and discussed existing resources and initiatives, such as UHS contacts within the houses and the availability of peer counselors. His visit was an important opportunity for students to hear his perspective, as well as engage in dialogue on how their experience could improve.

Eric Lu ’14

Above: Representatives of the Student Advisory Committee gather at a preliminary meeting in the fall. Left: SAC board members Cary Williams ’16 (secretary), Maya Dorje ’15 (co-chair), Irfan Mahmud ’16 (co-chair), and Christina Vourakis ’16 (treasurer). Right: SAC members participate in an ice-breaker activity taking the opportunity to get to know members of other student groups.
Throughout the semester, members of the Black Men’s Forum, have tackled many issues that affect minorities. We discussed our role as minorities at an elite university and how we have a unique opportunity to help provide others with the same opportunity. We analyzed the effects of hip-hop on the perceptions of the black male. We had notables with us to discuss navigating in a mostly white political space and the health disparities seen across racial lines. We had a heterogeneous group of freshmen interested in joining our events, so we look forward to the work we can do in the future.

QUEER STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Queer Students Association just finished this semester’s elections cycle for the upcoming Spring and Fall terms. Thus far, we have held biweekly study breaks, cosponsored 15 events (including Not Crying on Sundays - A free Mary Lambert Concert, #Queers, and Queer Tea with Lowell House), and started a series of gender awareness events (holding a Gender 101 at a general meeting with the Women’s Center and bringing in Avory Faucette to follow up). The most exciting update we had was bringing Laverne Cox from “Orange is the New Black” to campus in the spring semester on February 24. We are working with the Foundation, the Women’s Center, Trans Task Force, and Blackcast.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION

This semester the Catholic Student Association started a new speaker series, Theology by the Slice. We invited a variety of speakers to talk about many aspects of Catholicism in casual discussions over pizza. For our first event, we hosted Leah Whittington, English professor at Harvard, who talked about forgiveness. For our second event we worked with four other groups to co-host Dr. Peter Kreeft of Boston College, who gave a talk titled, “Hookup Culture: Slavery or Freedom?” For our third event we hosted Dr. Alessandro de Franciscis, head of the Lourdes Medical Bureau, who is in charge of authenticating miracles.

Each semester, the Harvard Foundation provides grant funding to member organizations of the Student Advisory Committee. Any of the undergraduate student organizations officially recognized by Harvard College with a mission of improving race relations and promoting intercultural awareness and understanding may apply to join the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee. Once the organization has been voted in as a member of the Student Advisory Committee by a group of peer representatives and Faculty Advisory Committee members, the organization may submit grant applications for programs and projects that enlighten the Harvard community on aspects of race, culture, religion, and ethnicity. At the end of each semester, the organizations that received grants from the Harvard Foundation are asked to submit grant summaries. A selection of these summaries is included in the biannual Harvard Foundation Journal.
HARVARD SOCIETY OF BLACK SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

Our ninth annual mentorship luncheon, consisting of a panel and networking opportunities, was held on October 26th in the SOCH. The luncheon gave our members the opportunity to find mentors in STEM fields within underrepresented minority populations. The Summer Opportunities Fair was held December 4 in Sever Hall, and served as an opportunity for students to learn about various summer programs and internships available for the summer of 2014. Students also received an informational packet filled with information about local and international opportunities for lab research, corporation internships, and volunteer programs.

LATINAS UNIDAS

Latinas Unidas hosted a variety of events this semester. The Seventh Annual Latina Empowerment and Development (LEAD) Conference was held on November 16, with more than 80 attendees of various races and genders, both from Harvard University and Boston-area colleges. The conference was an exciting one-day event that aimed to address women’s issues by promoting female empowerment and expanding the career development of Latinas through panels, speakers, and networking opportunities. We started the day with our Women in Leadership panel with Helen Cajigas, founder of the Hispanic Medical Association; and Ana Navarro, a visiting fellow with the Institute of Politics and CNN correspondent. The two women brought different perspectives and experiences on being a leading minority woman in their respective fields. Throughout the day, pre-professional panels and workshops were held on a variety of topics such as law and public policy, the humanities, medicine and health, and business. During lunch, Dr. S. Allen Counter of the Harvard Foundation introduced our keynote speaker, Carmen Ortiz, the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts. Ortiz gave an empowering speech on maintaining strength and focus to further your goals and dreams.

Another event Latinas Unidas hosted this year was a discussion with LMC on latino issues in the Harvard community. We also held an LU Night aimed at promoting culture and community and LU Soiree to introduce the upperclassmen and the freshmen. Our discussion on women and higher education promoted a strong network of minority students promoting higher education for all. One of our missions as an organization is to create a stable network of professional women and role models as a means to empower our members to work hard, stay focused, and live out their dreams.

DHARMA

This semester, Dharma held the fall Puja series, Diwali, Hungama, a spiritual group, and a discussion series. The grants have been really useful in helping make all of the events happen. We have definitely received a lot more people at each event than expected, which is really amazing! We are actively promoting discussions with different organizations on campus and generating greater awareness for Hinduism and coexistence with different religions.

BLACK.C.A.S.T.

BlackC.A.S.T.'s fall showcase “Spotlight,” drew audience members from across the University to partake in the performance of spoken and visual art of the African diaspora. The pieces shared were truly phenomenal, ranging from a light-hearted reinvention of the “friend zone” to discussions of identity and diversity, including the question, “Can I touch your hair?” Complimentary warm beverages and pastries were served to add to the intimate, coffee-house ambiance of the evening. BlackC.A.S.T. will be hosting another showcase in the spring – stay tuned for dates!

This semester the Nigerian Students Association held many events that celebrated and shared Nigerian culture on campus. We aimed to educate the Harvard community about different aspects of Nigerian culture, from entertainment and food, to the history and current issues. Our luncheon with Hafsat Abiola examined the activist ideas of past and present revolution in Nigeria and sought to increase student interest in Nigerian affairs. The November general meeting extended the discussion to current events across the African continent and increased student interested in African affairs.
CONCILIO LATINO

During the fall semester the Concilio Latino continued bringing the Harvard Latina community together. We screened *Latino Americans*, the first major documentary series to chronicle the rich history of Latinos. We also held the Latino Heritage Month Gala, the culminating celebration of Latino Heritage Month. We also planned professional-development opportunities, one of which was a resume-building workshop to help us get ready to apply for summer opportunities. Lastly, our final event of the semester was our annual holiday dinner, which gave us a chance to relax and enjoy delicious food.

BALLET FOLKLORICO DE AZTLAN

The mission of Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán (BFA) has always been to preserve and share our culture with the rest of the Harvard community. This semester, BFA had the opportunity to share our love for traditional folkloric dancing at our two large events: Dia de los Muertos and Sights & Sounds. Although we did not receive money from the SAC specifically for Sights & Sounds, we split funds from Dia de los Muertos in order to make this event possible. We also had a small social where our members were able to welcome incoming freshmen.

HOLOIMUA O HAWAII

This semester further turned these Hawaiian students into a Hawaiian ohana (family). Ask any Hawaiian what he or she most misses from home. Sun? Yes. Ocean? Probably. Food? Definitely. This is the motivation behind our Aloha Friday dinners. We got together three times this semester to make our favorites from the purely Hawaiian Spam Musubi to some authentic Loco Moco. The dining halls may try, but they’ll never get that true taste that comes from growing up in a Chinese kitchen. Additionally, we often met to practice the dances of our islands, the hula, and to perform in April at our annual luau.

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY

This past semester we organized our annual fall Fika. Fika is a hallmark of Scandinavian culture, a time to sit and talk with friends, colleagues, and family over coffee while eating delicious Scandinavian baked goods. We had homemade cinnamon buns, Swedish chocolate balls, and kladdkaka (molten chocolate cake), as well as elderflower and lingonberry drinks. The event repeated last year’s success. We were happy to host members of the faculty, college, and graduate students (both Scandinavian students and students interested in Scandinavian culture).

CHINESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Chinese Student Association hosted a variety of great events this past semester. Events such as the Chinese BBQ Study Break and the Chinese Afternoon Tea and Pastries Workshop warmly introduced the Harvard undergraduate community to Chinese delicacies, and gave students an opportunity to take a break from academics. Our annual Mid-Autumn Moon Cake Festival was a fun and engaging way to celebrate this holiday tradition in the Science Center Observatory overlooking the city of Cambridge. Students enjoyed watching *Kung Fu Hustle* one night, as well as having an intimate discussion during our intercultural speakers dinners.

HONG KONG SOCIETY

Our group gathered several times with the Harvard undergraduate community to share in our love of Hong Kong culture, especially different aspects of Hong Kong cuisine! A highlight was our international tea-tasting event, for which we invited other cultural groups across campus to come together and share with the Harvard community different teas from all around the world. It was an amazing opportunity for students identifying with various cultural groups to meet and get to know one another and celebrate this wonderful beverage that unites us all.

POLISH SOCIETY

This semester was a very positive one for the Polish Society. Our events attracted many new students to our organization, most notably from the Polish-American population (under represented in the past and hence being targeted this year). We welcomed a small but significant number of non-Poles at a few of our events, a trend that we aim to continue in the coming semester. The close-knit and enthusiastic nature of this year’s Society resulted in many spontaneous, informal gatherings, keeping us very busy and prompting us to postpone the Polish Grill and Piano Performance events to the spring.
HELLENIC SOCIETY

We started off the semester by hosting the Eliot Stein Club, where we taught college students traditional Greek dances and shared Greek food with them. Right after that, we hosted a big event to celebrate the national “Oxi” day, with the aim of exposing non-Greeks of the Harvard community to this unique facet of Greek culture. The celebration was attended by about 150 members and was generally very successful. Finally, we collaborated with the Italians to hold a mixer that was very successful in promoting the two cultures, as well as strengthening the ties between the two societies.

VIETNAMESE ASSOCIATION

This year has seen great success for the Harvard Vietnamese Association (HVA). Old traditions such the Banh Mi Workshop are going strong and getting better with more input from the Harvard community and new members of HVA. Newer events such as the Fear Factor event on Halloween day have gotten firmer grounding as established HVA events, with even more people showing up than in the previous year to experience foods ranging from the dreaded durian to fertilized duck eggs. HVA has also been able field its own identity discussions, contributing to ongoing debates about identity and culture on campus!

HARVARD ORGANIZATION FOR LATIN AMERICA

The fall semester was very productive and successful. After an active recruiting period, we were able to welcome many new members, not only from the freshman class, but upperclassmen as well. We’ve engaged new members through insightful dinner talks by professors about diverse topics such as political parties and drugs in Latin America. Through movie series, we’ve introduced our members to new and fascinating topics and provided a space for socializing; and an alumni event has helped give our members a perspective of the future. Finally, our weekly study breaks have nurtured strong friendships.

DOMINICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

This semester, we focused on strengthening our relationships with other student organizations on campus. We are going to be the hosts of the National Dominican Student Conference in spring 2014, and we would really like to have the support of other organizations. We understand that reciprocity is of essence, so we have made it our goal to help and collaborate with as many organizations as possible. This semester, we co-hosted several events with organizations like Fuerza Latina, Harvard Initiative for Latin American Relations, La O, Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association, and the Harvard Haitian Alliance, to name a few. We also hosted our fair share of events, to include two study breaks, Noche Buena and Making Mangu. During the study breaks, guests were able to cook and eat Dominican food. Following the food-themed events, we had a collaboration dinner in which members of other student groups were asked to join us for a night of dining and festivities. Furthermore, we also had the honor of bringing Madelyn Rodriguez, a journalist who works for the two most important and well-known Spanish corporations for television and radio in the United States, to a casual discussion. Two of our other events, Arts of Hispaniola and the Initiative for Latin American Relations, focused on some different themes. The former focused on the different fine arts that stem from the Dominican Republic. We hope to grow this event with our spring 2014 conference. The latter was a conference that tackled many of the issues that Latin America is facing today.

Asian American Association

One of the fall semester’s biggest events for the Asian American Association (AAA) was the annual Feast that united various Asian clubs on campus for a night of great food and performances. Other social highlights included ying-yAAAnn, rAAAge, and Classy Affair, all of which fostered community between club members and the wider Harvard community. Taiko Drumming featured a performance and panel, while Reunion and Friday Fusion sought to build and foster relationships among members of the Harvard community, neighboring schools, and alumni. Other activities included ice-breakers, discussions about Asian-American social issues, and a breakout session for networking.

GLOW

This semester we encouraged “Safe Zones,” where we discussed the politics of coming out, being out in different circles, cultural appropriation of costumes, mental health, media representation, and racial exotification. Each Safe Zone gives members, both new and old, an opportunity to discuss issues in a private environment where best intentions are assumed, all identities are respected, and self-reflection is encouraged. Each Safe Zone follows a similar format, with a few minutes of casual conversation followed by a structured discussion around topics that can be shaped by the interests of the present members.

Asian American Dance Troupe

Over the course of the fall semester, the Asian American Dance Troupe has been preparing for our annual show, Eastbound.
We have also purchased additional props, including traditional flags and fans, so student choreographers and performers can engage with performance practices from different geographical and historical traditions in Asia. We performed our pieces at different events around campus, including the AAA Feast and Harvard-China Care’s annual benefit. In addition, we also held two socials for community members to learn more about AADT and Asian dance.

**TEATRO**

David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies hosted a series of artistic events on Democracy and Memory in Latin America during the fall. TEATRO’s production was part of the final event, celebrating the holiday Dia de los Muertos, at the Peabody Museum. Our performance was a mix of dramatic spoken word and contemporary dance based on political poetry from Latin America. The poems and dance touched on the deprecation of the American indigenous culture, and on the deprivation of civil rights, such as freedom of speech, during military dictatorships in Brazil and Peru.

**UNITED WORLD CLUB**

All members of the club got together during our United World Welcome Celebration to celebrate the beginning of the academic year by discussing what it means to be a united world, and what can be done to work toward peace. We played a variety of international music and served refreshments from different parts of the world.

The United World Club (UWC) at Harvard hosted an event open to the community to celebrate World Peace Awareness Day. Together with all those who attended, we set to create a tapestry composed of around 400 12-inch square pieces of fabric on which the participants wrote short messages about what peace means to them and what peace they would like to see in the world. We then sewed the pieces of fabric into a giant tapestry for peace that we sent to UWC Atlantic College to be put on permanent display. Professor Charlie Clements, Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, joined us and gave a talk regarding the state of peace and human rights in our time. We served food from different parts of the world.

Members and friends of the UWC got together to discuss the current state of peace and human rights during the United World Peace Talk. Members prepared short presentations about a specific issue related to these topics in which they were particularly interested to share with the others.

The United World Globe Reception, hosted together with the Harvard Admissions Office, was the culmination of our year. All members and friends got together to honor the new United World Scholars of the Class of 2017, who received globe statues donated by the Davis Foundation for Peace. We also presented the finished tapestry that we began creating at the World Peace Day celebration.

**SOUTH ASIAN MEN’S COLLECTIVE**

For our Study Break, we ordered Indian food from Tanjore to allow students to take a break and eat some delicious food outside of the dining hall. For Carrom Night, We met on a Saturday, November 2, in the room of two of our senior members. We brought a few Carrom boards and pieces to the event to play for about 90 minutes, and snacks and drinks were provided. Lastly, after Raunak, we all headed over to a senior room, where South Asian Men’s Collective had a reunion. The main purpose of this reunion was to maintain and strengthen alumni/undergraduate relationships.

**KOREAN ASSOCIATION**

The year started off excellently with an introductory event, the Korean Open House, that gave groups like Harvard College Korean International Student Association, Harvard Human Rights in North Korea, Gaongil, and Harvard College Korean Adoptee Mentorship Program a chance to talk about their organizations with students looking for communities to join. Throughout the semester, we continued to provide opportunities for Harvard students interested in Korean culture to meet. The Sib-fam event, Freshmen Lock-In, and study breaks allowed members to develop bonds, while the film screening provided an opportunity for students to discuss issues.

**KUUMBA SINGERS**

This year’s Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas concert was held in Memorial Church, the traditional site of Kuumba’s Christmas concert. This year, a group of about 60 Kuumba members sang for an audience of 1,600, in an exhibition that showcased traditional hymns, spoken word, and negro spirituals that celebrated the joy of the season, as well as beautiful dance. Our director, Sheldon K.X. Reid, narrated the evening for the guests, who, at certain points, got to their feet and sang and danced.
A Faculty Advisory Committee Perspective

Over the years, the Harvard Foundation has hosted a number of distinguished guests who serve as role models and symbols of excellence in leadership for the students and faculty of Harvard. These men and women who have been honored by the Harvard Foundation with awards of special recognition for their achievements and contributions include heads of state, authors, academic leaders, outstanding teachers, athletes, and heroes such as Captain Chesley Sullenberger. Through Harvard Foundation initiatives created by its director, Dr. S. Allen Counter, our students and faculty have had the opportunity to interact with the great social leaders of our time, such as Nobel laureates Bishop Desmond Tutu, José Ramos-Horta and Eli Weisel; international leaders such as Mary Robinson, president of Ireland, and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of Mexico; labor leaders such as Dolores Huerta; U.N. Secretaries General Kofi Annan, Boutrous Boutrous-Ghali, and Javier Pérez de Cuéllar; leaders in the field of science such as Hans Rosling, Mario Molina, Jaime Escalante, Lisa Randall, and Neil Tyson; and leaders in the arts such as Sharon Stone, James Earl Jones, Denzel Washington, and Salma Hayek. Each of these honorees brought something special to Harvard College that they could share with our students.

It was in keeping with this fine tradition that Dr. Counter invited Malala Yousafzai to Harvard to receive the 2013 Harvard Foundation Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award. Yousafzai came to international attention and prominence at age 15 in 2012 after she survived an assassination attempt by extremists in her native Pakistan for advocating equal opportunity in education for girls. Last year, Dr. Counter nominated Malala Yousafzai to the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Harvard Foundation and student leaders to receive the annual Humanitarian Award. In the early spring of 2013, he reached out to his colleagues in Sweden and in England, where Malala was residing, to contact the Yousafzai family, and extended an invitation to them to visit Harvard University for Yousafzai to be honored as Humanitarian of the Year. Following a series of special efforts through contacts, he spoke with the family directly and obtained an affirmative response. After consultation and correspondence with Yousafzai’s father, Pakistani schoolteacher Ziauddin Yousafzai, Dr. Counter located Dr. Junaid Khan, the neurosurgeon who is credited with saving Yousafzai’s life immediately after the shooting, and stabilizing her for travel to a hospital in England. Dr. Counter invited Dr. Khan to travel to the United States with Malala to receive an award of appreciation from the Dean of Harvard Medical School for his outstanding service and care in Yousafzai’s medical intervention.

Rarely have we witnessed at Harvard such an outpouring of warmth and welcome as that extended to Yousafzai and her family during her visit to Harvard on September 27, 2013. She and her family were welcomed to Massachusetts Hall by President Drew Gilpin Faust. Following their meeting, Yousafzai and President Faust faced scores of reporters at a microphone and podium set up for a press conference. In her public introduction of Yousafzai to the press and Harvard community members, President Faust stated, “We educate girls and women because it is the smart thing to do. We educate girls and women because it is the right thing to do.”

Following the meeting with the president, Yousafzai was taken to Sanders Theatre, where an audience of more than 1000 students and faculty greeted her. The Sanders Theatre program was most impressive, with tributes being presented to Yousafzai by Chief District U.S. Judge Patti Saris ’73, the director of the Center for Women’s Medicine and Gender Biology; Dr. Paula Johnson ’83; and Harvard Foundation student representative Maya Dorje ’15. After Dr. Counter formally presented the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award to Yousafzai on the Sanders Theatre stage, she stepped to the podium to deliver her acceptance speech, and addressed the audience with the poise and eloquence of a seasoned orator. During her speech, Yousafzai received several standing ovations.

Dr. Jeffrey Flier, dean of the faculty of Harvard Medical School, stepped to the podium and delivered an eloquent tribute to Dr. Junaid Khan for his life-saving medical intervention and surgical care of Yousafzai. Dean Flier then presented Dr. Khan with the Harvard Foundation Award of Appreciation for extraordinary medical service. The program ended with the presentation of a bouquet of roses to Yousafzai by a symbol of “girls’ education,” Cambridge Peabody School sixth grader Maya Cuéllar. It was a magnificent program, unparalleled in the experience of many at Harvard.

The Sanders Theatre program was followed in the evening with an honorary dinner for Yousafzai at Winthrop House, hosted by House Masters Professor Ronald Sullivan and Stephanie Robinson. More than 100 students and faculty attended. Following a series of moving tributes presented by students of the Harvard Foundation, the Pakistani Students Association, and the Harvard Islamic society, Yousafzai addressed those present with cheerful anecdotes about her life and her family. It was a rare opportunity to see a more personal side of this courageous young woman who has achieved such respectful recognition from people all over the world who share her belief in gender equality. Numerous students crowded around the guest of honor with expressions of appreciation and handshakes, posing for photographs. In the expressions of many Harvard students and faculty, the day was a tremendous success.

Dr. Leo H. Buchanan
Audiology Clinic, Department of Otolaryngology
Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee
In the fall semester, we continued with the Harvard Foundation Associates Program. This program is designed to increase diversity in the various student communities on campus. By having Foundation Associates plan events and cultural programming in their own Houses and dorms, these students aim to bring about diversity within smaller, more intimate campus communities, as a large majority students’ time is spent within their housing community.

Twenty students were selected to serve as associates in the fall of 2013. Using their creativity and passion for cultural diversity, they will go on to plan many programs and events for their houses and dorms. This past semester, associates organized a variety of programming in the Houses and the Yard that included a screening of *Gideon’s Army*, a discussion and movie outing to see *12 Years a Slave*, a Brazilian samba and food-themed study break and dance class, a discussion and DIY session surrounding gift-giving in class and culture, and a study break with food from various cultures. In spring, associates will continue planning events and programs for their Houses, while also working together to plan larger collaborative events.

Yolanda Borquaye ’14

**Co-Existing Selves**

Leverett House held a jointly sponsored event titled “The Co-Existing Self: An Exploration of Identities at Harvard.” The event was facilitated by two Foundation interns and consisted of an open dialogue about the complexity of our identities as Harvard students. We discussed overlapping social, academic, and residential identities. A key part of the discussion was reflecting on the term “passing” and what it means “to pass” in certain contexts and spheres of Harvard life. We talked about the good, the bad and the challenges of passing, and what this means for our experiences on campus.

**Gideon’s Army**

Quincy House students and tutors gathered in the newly renovated basement of Stone Hall for a screening of the documentary *Gideon’s Army*. The film derives its title from the landmark Supreme Court case *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which guaranteed Americans facing criminal charges the right to counsel even if they could not afford an attorney. The Quincy House Race Relations Committee chose to show the film out of a belief that criminal justice inequities are one of the nation’s most pressing racial and civil-rights challenges. One in ten black men in America is currently incarcerated, and one in three will be incarcerated in their lifetime. The audience stayed for a lively discussion on issues of personal responsibility, the purpose of the criminal justice system, and inequities in policing, prosecution, and sentencing.

**12 Years A Slave**

Residents of Adams House watched the film *12 Years A Slave*, which depicted the experiences of Solomon Northup, a free black man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery. After viewing the movie, we returned to campus and for over an hour discussed the film, its accuracy and implications, and participants’ reactions to the viewing. Foundation associate Marc Shi organized the event and tutor Jonathan Gramling was the key discussion facilitator, adeptly infusing the conversation with African-American history and cultural studies.

**Unity Table**

The Adams House Unity Table is a recurring dinner discussion in the dining hall that touches various topics related to race. This November, around 20 students and tutors discussed “Sports and Race.” Race-relations proctor Greg Rudolph was the invited guest.
In Memoriam

STANLEY JEYARAJA TAMBIAH

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation mourn the passing of Professor Stanley Jeyaraja Tambiah, who died on Sunday, January 19, 2014. Dr. Tambiah, the Esther and Sidney Rabb Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, was a distinguished member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, who served students at Harvard University as mentor, advisor, and professor for more than 30 years. Dr. Tambiah served as a member of the Harvard Foundation’s Faculty Advisory Committee, and played an active role in guiding some of the Harvard Foundation’s programs. In 1997, for example, he joined the director of the Harvard Foundation and Professor John E. Dowling, master of Leverett House, in hosting a reception for his Excellency Naresh Chandra, the Indian Ambassador to the United States, on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the independence of India.

The Harvard Foundation’s Portraiture Committee commissioned and installed a portrait of Professor Tambiah on January 22, 2009, in the Junior common room of Kirkland House, under the auspices of House Masters Tom and Verena Conley. “It was an pleasure for the members of our committee to honor Professor Tambiah and his enduring legacy at Harvard in portraiture,” said Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation and coordinator of the Portraiture Project. “In addition to being an outstanding scholar of anthropology at Harvard, he was one of the first South Asian professors appointed at the University. We were proud to have Professor Stanley Tambiah represented in our efforts to add diversity to portraits at Harvard.”

Student leaders of the Harvard South Asian Association participated in the portrait unveiling ceremony at Kirkland House, as did his sons Jonathan and Matthew Tambiah. He will be missed and appreciated by generations of students and colleagues who had the privilege of knowing and working with this great man.

RULAN CHAO PIAN

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation wish to express our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of Professor Emerita Rulan Pian, who died on November 30, 2013, at the age of 91. As a professor of music, with a specialty in Chinese music, and a teacher of Chinese language, Professor Pian had a profound influence on generations of Harvard students. As a graduate of Radcliffe, she returned to teach in 1947 and continued her service into the 1990s.

Appointed House Master in South House (now Cabot House) in the 1970s, she became the first minority house master. Her presence and service as house master were appreciated by students of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures. She frequently delighted students with evenings of delicious Chinese food, as a change from regular dining hall fare. “In the late 1970s, I served with Professor Pian as resident tutor in South House, where I came to appreciate her genuine efforts to reach out to different students and to make students feel welcome at Harvard College,” said Dr. S. Allen Counter. As a scholar, she authored several books in the field of Chinese studies. She is most noted for her work on Song dynasty musical sources and their interpretation. She will be remembered respectfully by generations of Harvard students and scholars in Chinese music and culture. We were proud to include Professor Pian in the Harvard Foundation’s portraiture collection, and to unveil her portrait in the Cabot House living room to her delight in 2008.

SEAMUS HEANEY

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation mourn the passing of Seamus Heaney, the distinguished poet and Nobel laureate in literature, who died in Ireland in August of 2013. Heaney served as visiting scholar and teacher in residence at Harvard beginning in 1981. He was an associate in Adams House, under the auspices of House Masters Robert and Jana Kiley. He was well known for his openness to students, and for reading his magnificent poetry in classrooms and many venues throughout the Harvard campus. He was, on numerous occasions, a guest of the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard Irish Cultural Society, where he shared stories and read his poetry. Students of all backgrounds enjoyed and admired his work, and he inspired generations of poets. One of his most memorable contributions was a poem that he had the director of the Harvard Foundation read at an honorary dinner in Winthrop House for Mary Robinson, the first woman to serve as president of Ireland. She delighted in listening to the poem and expressed her appreciation of Heaney’s poetry. He visited Harvard in the spring of 2012 to perform a reading at commencement. The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation were proud to have Heaney as a special guest, and we will always appreciate his generosity and kindness in sharing his beautiful poetry with the Harvard community.
one to violence. I had the privilege of meeting Ms. Fulton and speaking with her about our panel discussions on her son’s case, and she expressed her appreciation to our students and faculty for our efforts on her family’s behalf.

The Harvard Foundation programs for the fall semester of the 2013–14 academic year began with the annual Harvard Foundation Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award Ceremony. We were pleased to have as a guest of honor and recipient of the 2013 Humanitarian Award, Malala Yousafzai, the 15-year-old Pakistani schoolgirl who survived an assassination attempt by persons opposed to her active efforts to encourage education for girls in her country. Yousafzai was graciously welcomed to the Harvard campus by students and faculty of all backgrounds, and by University President Drew Faust, who greeted her and her parents in Massachusetts Hall. I had the honor of presenting Malala with the 2013 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award.

Prior to the event, I contacted Thorbjørn Jagland, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee, and requested a statement to be read to Yousafzai during the award ceremony. Mr. Jagland obliged, and sent me a moving tribute to honor Yousafzai and her advocacy for gender equality. To resounding applause, I read Chairman Jagland’s tribute: “Malala represents one of the strongest new voices in the world today. Her courage is sending a strong signal to women to stand up for their rights, which constitutes a precondition for peace.”

In addition to inviting Malala and her family to Harvard, I was pleased to invite, Dr. Junaid Khan, the neurosurgeon who first treated Yousafzai after she was shot, and who is credited with saving her life. Dr. Jeffery Flier, Dean of Harvard Medical School, presented Dr. Khan the Harvard Foundation Award of Appreciation for his extraordinary medical intervention and service in her treatment. Yousafzai and her parents also visited the Harvard Admissions Office, where she was greeted by Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid.

After learning of Yousafzai’s interest in physics, Dr. Alyssa Goodman, professor of Astronomy at Harvard, invited her and her family to visit the astrophysics center for a demonstration of the interplanetary project. On Saturday, February 28, the Yousafzai family was taken to Professor Goodman’s laboratory, where Yousafzai delighted in engaging interactive software that let her move planets around a large screen with a wave of her hand. Yousafzai and her family expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to visit Harvard University and for the honor of the humanitarian award. Their trip and her entire program at Harvard University were sponsored by a generous gift from the Will and Jada Pinkett Smith Family Foundation, through its director of philanthropy, Jana Babatunde-Bey.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. S. Allen Counter
Director of the Harvard Foundation

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THE HARVARD FOUNDATION TEAM
Staff, Interns, and Student Advisory Committee Officers

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Eric Lu ’14, Intern
Bianca Okafor ’14, Intern
Grace Chen ’15, Intern
Maya Dorje ’15, Intern,
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Rahim Mawji ’15, Intern
Aubrey Walker ’15, Intern
Nader Daoud ’16, Intern
Kirin Gupta ’16, Intern
Irfan Mahmud ’16, Intern,
SAC Co-chair
Tiffany Ramos ’16, Intern
Cary Williams ’16, Intern,
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Joanne Crandall ’17, Intern
Gurbani Kaur ’17, Intern
Avni Nahar ’17, Intern
Jonathan Sands ’17, Intern
Christina Vourakis ’16, SAC Treasurer

Staff: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director; Loc Truong, Assistant Director; Heidi Wickersham, Administrative Coordinator

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