



# The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

FALL 1987

VOL. VII, NO. 1

## Welcome Brunch for Harvard Freshmen

The Harvard Foundation hosted its fifth Annual Freshman Brunch on September 13th, 1987 in the Science Center's spacious Green House Café and Atrium. The event was a great success and attracted over nine hundred incoming freshmen and their parents from all cultural and racial backgrounds.

Dr. Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, distributed copies of the Foundation's bi-annual newsletter, posters, and gave a brief narration of the Foundation's history. In his address, he explained that the Foundation sponsors the brunch in an effort to encourage students from different cultural and racial backgrounds to establish friendships, develop appreciation, and work in unison to improve racial and cultural understanding during their college careers.

The Foundation hopes that the bonds established between the students during this time will have both positive and enduring effects.

—Robert Henry '90

### In this issue:

Welcome Brunch for Harvard Freshmen/1; Panel Discussion: Issues Concerning Minority Women on College Campuses/2; South Asian Film Series and Lecture/4; Fred Houn '79 Conducts Performance Art Sessions/5; Raza Conference at Columbia/5; An Evening of Irish Entertainment/5; The Kuumba Singers 1987 Christmas Concert/6.



Dean Michael Spence poses for photograph with freshmen in the Greenhouse Café.



Regina Osborne, Nigel Jones '91, with Tom, Addie, and Yvonne Jones partake in food and conversation at the freshman brunch.





Dean L. Fred Jewett talks with students and parents at the Harvard Foundation sponsored freshman brunch.



Professor of Biology Fotis Kafotis with wife Sarah and daughter enjoy the assortment of doughnuts at the freshman brunch.

## Panel Discussion: Issues Concerning Minority Women on College Campuses

On December 3rd, 1987 faculty and students assembled in Boylston Auditorium for a panel discussion on "Issues Concerning Minority Women on College Campuses."

Ms. Rita Nethersole '74, Director of Student Affairs at the University of Massachusetts, chaired the panel. In her opening speech, she stated that there were a number of pressing issues facing minorities, women in general, and the student community. However, Ms. Nethersole added "it's the combination and synergy of (these concerns) resulting in traumatic situations for minority women that we intend to discuss."

The question of stereotyping was raised several times. Ms. Kei Nakamura, Harvard Drill Instructor in Japanese, asked the question, "Can there be positive stereotyping?" Positive stereotyping, or elevated expectations of one minority group, exerts detrimental pressure on the victim and the society at large.

The need for minority women as role models was strongly and repeatedly emphasized by all members of the panel and audience. Dr. Beatriz Manz,

Associate Professor of Anthropology at Wellesley College stressed the importance of having minority women as role models. "Tenured minority women faculty are an essential step to break down the barriers and stereotypes existing between male and female students on college campuses," said Dr. Manz.

Dr. Raquel Bauman, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, offered one reason for the lack of minority women role models. She said that out of thirty thousand faculty members in the United States only ten of them are Latin women. She admitted that it was difficult to recruit minority women for faculty posts with this kind of grossly under-representative number.

Dr. Betty Haskins, Director of the American Indian Program at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, discussed relationships between minority men and women on campus. In addressing the topic of inter-ethnic relationships, she made it clear that ethnic, cultural and personal differences must be discussed for an inter-ethnic relationship to work.



Two panelists pose for a photograph, Camille Holmes '89, and Kei Nakamura, Harvard Drill Instructor in Japanese.

Also participating in the panel were student representatives Camille Holmes '89 (Black Students Association), Mary Moreland '89 (American Indians at Harvard), Mariana Ortiz-Blanes '89 (La Organization), Eva Lum '89 (Asian American Association) and Sylvia Torres '89 (Raza). Eva Lum recounted a personal story in which a



man at the university, while being introduced to her, knelt down a little and shook her hand very softly. She voiced her distaste for negative stereotyping of Asian women as being quiet, meek and passive.

After the formal panel discussion was over, the floor was opened up to the audience. Men and women alike posed questions and engaged in interesting conversation about experiences of minority women on the college campus.

The issue of role models was raised with such consistency that it appeared to be a problem of great concern. One benefit of this panel discussion was that students and faculty agreed on the necessity for more minority women role models. It was clear, by the responses of the audience, that many students from the general community were unaware of this situation. The panel discussion was informative, interesting, and successfully illuminated the concerns of minority women on college campuses.

The Harvard Foundation plans to hold a workshop on "Assertiveness Training for Minority Students and Leadership Skills" in the Spring term. Hopefully, its success will equal that of the "Issues Concerning Minority Women on College Campuses" discussion in its informative value, wide range of topics and high level of participation.

—Denise Padín '90

—Rodolfo Ruiz '89



Panelist Dr. Betty Haskins, Director of the American Indian Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, discusses various points with a graduate student following the panel discussion.



Panelist Dr. Raquel Bauman discusses a point with Diana Davila '88.



Invited panelists from left to right: Sylvia Torres '88, Camille Holmes '89, Dr. Beatriz Manz, Ms. Kei Nakamura, Dr. Betty Haskins, Chairperson Rita Nethersole '79, Dr. Raquel Bauman, Mary Moreland '88, Mariana Ortiz Blanes '89, and Eva Lum '89.



Students Rudy Ruiz '89, Eva Lum '89, Wei-jing Zhu '90, and Annette Chin '88 converse at the reception held in Phillips Brooks House following the panel discussion.



## South Asian Film Series and Lecture

The South Asian Association is a small group that addresses the interests of students from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We hosted a series of films and a lecture, in various South Asian languages, dealing with South Asian countries. We wanted to both educate the college community and provide entertainment.

The two films shown at the onset of the series were "Sholay" and "Bobby." The first film, "Sholay," tells the story of friendship, duty and revenge. It depicts the recurrent theme in South Asian films of the fight for justice and elusive search for freedom. The well attended film was thoroughly enjoyed by a diverse group of students.

The second film, "Bobby," was a light film about a teenage romance. It also was much appreciated. Our future plans include presenting an English movie, "The World of Apu," produced and directed by renowned Bengali artist, Satyajit Ray; a Hindu movie, "Saaransh," about destiny and the future; and "New Delhi Times," an educational film about corruption underlying the Indian Press.

On December 10th, as a part of the program, "Education for Social Change—To the Roots," Dr. Radha Jalan, representing the South Asian Association, spoke about "South Asian Students on College Campuses." The talk took the shape of a workshop that addressed several questions about culture, experienced by children of ethnic groups growing up in America.

Everyone participated and the discussion led to candid confessions by several students about problems they have had in the past, and the ways in which they have dealt with them as foreigners. Dr. Radha Jalan, Ph.D. in cross-cultural education, handled questions calmly, offering all perspectives. She spoke as an Indian who came to America as a graduate student wife, as a mother trying to bring up Indian children in a Western environment, as a teacher of Indian culture and

philosophy, and as an administrator in the Western system of education.

Her closing remarks were that adaptation to an American lifestyle is necessary, but so is preservation of the parent culture. She strongly encouraged students to study their respective history and culture before making compromises.

—Michelle Mirchandani '90



Dr. Radha Jalan



John Kuo '89 with the Masters of Cabot House at the reception for Fred Houn '79.



Fred Houn '79 with Dr. S. Allen Counter, and students Wei-jing Zhu '90 (left) and John Kim '88 (right).



## Fred Houn '79 Conducts Performance Art Sessions

Fred Houn '79, the 1987-88 Peter Ivers Visiting Artist, held a series of Performance Art Sessions from Monday, October 19 to Friday, October 23. The daily three-hour sessions culminated in a final performance. Participants examined how culture and art can be a catalyst for social change. Ironically, the workshop sessions coincided with the "Black Monday" stock market disaster.

The final performance was held in the Bertrum living room at Cabot House. As the usher led the audience into a dim room, a poem was read to introduce them to the difference between the present society and the "might-be" society after a more serious stock market crash. Direct contrasts of two cultures were presented.

Many aspects of daily life were portrayed in different skits depicting contemporary lifestyle, media, education, music and the arts. The audience became part of the set when they were asked to stand next to the performers.

During the question and answer period after the performance, the

audience expressed its enjoyment of humorous scenes, music, and the interpretations of society's shortcomings. Most of the performers were amazed at the success of the event. They had not only dramatized real life situations, but had derived great enjoyment from performing the scenarios. The creativity and commitment on the part of student participants, under Fred Houn's expert guidance, made the ses-

sions a worthwhile experience.

The Harvard Foundation held a reception in honor of Fred Houn the night before the performance in Cabot House. The reception provided an opportunity for students and those interested in Houn's work to talk with him on all aspects of his development into a multi-media performing artist.

—Wei-Jing Zhu '90

## Raza Members Participate in Columbia Conference

Seventeen Raza members participated in a Mexican-American Conference at Columbia University on October 2-4, 1987. Eight East Coast schools attended the conference which served as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information related to Mexican Americans in Higher Education. Several one-hour seminars which addressed salient issues facing

Mexican-American college students were especially interesting.

In "Administration: Friend or Foe," administrators at different universities and Ivy League alumni discussed how minority recruiters and heads of minority organizations could better work with faculty and administrators.

"Strengthening Organizations" dealt with specific organizational techniques. These techniques included identifying an agenda, establishing goals, and developing an understanding of the personalities and political situations on campus.

Other seminars were entitled "Chicanas in Leadership," "Regional Workshops," and "Retention." Though not related as a topic, this conference brought Joe Razo's case to attention. Razo stands indicted of armed robbery in Los Angeles. As a former Mexican-American Harvard student, the situation has invited national attention. Various approaches in dealing with this topic were discussed amongst the students.

The one hundred students who participated in the conference had the unique opportunity to interact and network between schools. Raza is grateful for the support of the Harvard Foundation for making their participation in the conference possible.

—Sylvia Torres '88

## An Evening of Irish Entertainment

Forty members of the Harvard community gathered around the warmly lit Reid Tonkins Room at Winthrop House for an Evening of Irish Entertainment on a chilly November evening. They sipped Irish coffee and tea as they waited. Soda bread and other native Irish refreshments were served.

At 8:20 P.M. a hush came over the crowd. Teresa Lawlor, a solo-harpist formerly of Bunratty Castel, Ireland, enchanted the crowd with her playing. Ms. Lawlor played a haunting rendition of "O'Carolans' Farewell to Music," a light ditty called "Lament and Hornpipe," and other ancient and modern ballads. After almost an hour,

the crowd was so awed by the beauty of her playing that no one moved for several minutes.

Everyone had a chance to speak with Ms. Lawlor and mingle until nearly ten-thirty. She even allowed one eager Harvard freshman to play her harp for a while. Students, faculty and members of the Harvard and Cambridge community, of both Irish and non-Irish background, were brought together to experience the beauty of the Irish culture and each other's company. The event was sponsored by the H/R Irish Cultural Society and the Harvard Foundation.

—Theresa Finn '89

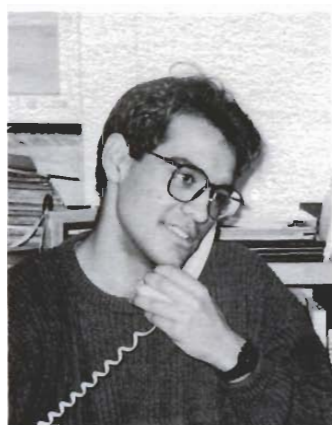


## The Kuumba Singers 1987 Christmas Concert

The Kuumba Singers of Harvard/Radcliffe University presented their seventeenth annual Christmas concert in Memorial Church the evening of December 11, 1987. Thanks to the assistance of the Harvard Foundation, and the support of members of the Kuumba family, the performance was attended by one of the largest audiences of the past decade. Harvard students, students from area schools, faculty members, various Harvard affiliates, and visiting family members were among the several hundred persons that filled the pews in Memorial Church. The concert enabled us to reach out to the Harvard community and share black spirituals through joyous song. The Kuumba singers heartily thank the Harvard Foundation for their generosity and support, and for making our seventeenth annual Christmas concert one that we will always remember.

—Sonja A. Trent '89





### The Staff of the Harvard Foundation

Clockwise from upper left: Harald Ruda '88, Student Assistant; Claudia Hill, Project Coordinator; Grant Habata '89, Student Volunteer; Denise Padin '90, Student Assistant; Rudy Ruiz '89, Student Assistant; Adrienne Dingee, Staff Assistant; Eva Lum '89, Student Assistant; Robert Henry '90, Staff Assistant.

### The Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee

#### Yolanda Barrera

Freshman Proctor  
Assistant Director of Two-Year Programs  
John F. Kennedy School of Government

#### William H. Bossert

David P. Arnold Jr. Professor of Sciences  
Division of Applied Sciences

#### Philippa Bovet

Dean of Radcliffe College

#### Stephen E. Cornell

Associate Professor of Sociology

#### John E. Dowling

Professor of Biology

#### Archie C. Epps III

Dean of Students, Harvard College

#### David L. Evans

Senior Admissions Officer

#### William R. Fitzsimmons

Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

#### Margot Gill

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

#### Hilda Hernandez-Gravelle

Assistant Dean of Harvard College  
Counselor at the Bureau of Study Counsel

#### Roderick J. Harrison

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies and  
Sociology

#### Marvin Hightower

Recording Secretary  
News Office

#### L. Fred Jewett

Dean of Harvard College

#### Richard C. Marius

Director of the Expository Writing Program

#### Keiko Nakamura

Drill Instructor in Japanese

#### Peter Roby

Head Basketball Coach

#### Wei-Ming Tu

Professor of Chinese History and Philosophy

#### John B. Williams III

Assistant to the President

#### Robert M. Wollacott

Professor of Biology

#### Dr. S. Allen Counter

Director of the Harvard Foundation

### Student Advisory Committee, 1987-88

Mariana Ortiz-Blanes '89

Shannah Braxton '88

Robert Henry '90

George Ho '90

Mark Kuo '90

Manuel Lopez '89

Mitzi Meriwether '90

Michelle Mirchandani '90

Mary Moreland '88

Raul Perez '90

Laurence Schreiber '88

Jean Fox Tree '88