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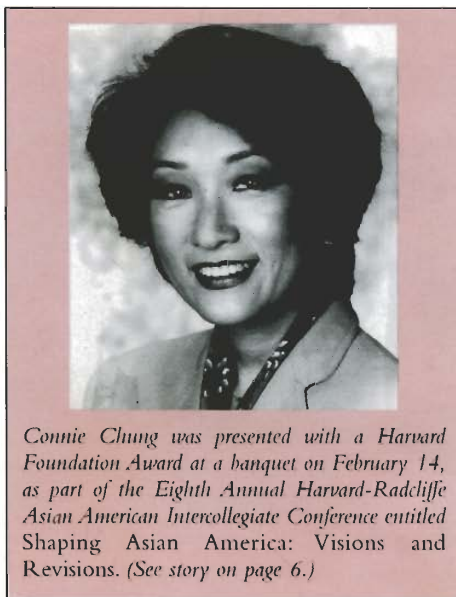
Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Honored by Harvard Foundation



Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson (center), Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), is presented with the Harvard Foundation Award by Harvard University President Neil L. Rudenstine in recognition of her contributions to the advancement of American Science and Intercultural Relations. (Left to right) Nana Coleman '98; Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation; Dr. James W. Johnson, Technical Assistant in Reactors and Research, NRC; and Sarita James '98 were also present to honor Dr. Jackson. Photo courtesy of the Harvard Office of News and Public Affairs.

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was keynote speaker and guest of honor for the Harvard Foundation's Fourth Annual Science Conference, "American Minorities in Science, Engineering and Mathematics in the Twenty-First Century." Dr. Jackson is the first woman and first African American to hold the position of Chair of the NRC. Dr. Jackson was welcomed at Pforzheimer House by students and faculty from Harvard, other New England colleges, and local high schools. Following a splendid reception, Dr. Jackson delivered the keynote address at a luncheon held in her honor. Through her inspirational speech entitled, "A Particular Passion: Science-Based Careers in the Twenty-First Century," Dr. Jackson shared with the students her journey from humble beginnings to MIT scientist and her beliefs about the importance of

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Connie Chung was presented with a Harvard Foundation Award at a banquet on February 14, as part of the Eighth Annual Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Intercollegiate Conference entitled Shaping Asian America: Visions and Revisions. (See story on page 6.)

Comedian Sinbad Charms Harvard at Cultural Festival

The Harvard Foundation was proud to name comedian David Adkins, better known as Sinbad, as recipient of the "1997 Cultural Artist of the Year" award. Sinbad follows a fine tradition of outstanding Harvard Foundation award recipients, including distinguished actress/dancer/film producer Debbie Allen, actors Denzel Washington and Andy Garcia, and others. Upon his arrival on the Harvard campus,

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Sinbad joins the Harvard undergraduate band, Soul Power, in a rousing rendition of "Brick House" at the Kirkland House reception prior to the Cultural Rhythms Festival.

Eleventh Annual David Aloian Dinner



At the annual David Aloian Dinner on April 24, Harvard Foundation Awards were presented to Joshua Demetrius Bloodworth '97, Ayanna Cage '97, Sewell Chan '98, Nana Coleman '98, Dana Dore '97, Monica Eav '99, Fatima El-Amin '97, Sarah Handeyside '97, Sarita James '98, Joel Kemp '97, Daniel Kim '97, Patrick Klemawesch '97, Vivek Maru '97, Rita Maxwell '98, Aaron Myers '97, Christopher Nicholson '97, Odoi Odotei '97, Kanakalakshmi Pattabiraman '97, Joshua Poire '98, Sheldon Reid '96, Nailah Robinson '98, Jamé Santos '99, Helen Skinner '98 and Kanairu Waceni '98. Another group of students, Summer Bartholomew '98, Supinda Bunyanich '98, Naudia Bryan '98, Saukok Chu '98, Dionne Fraser '99, Vikram Kashyap '97, and Ifan Siddiqi '97, were cited for honorable mention. Taziona Chaponda '97 and Holly Foster '97 received special Director's Award medallions. Heather Pars Campion, Forum Director at the Institute of Politics (IOP), John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Florence C. Ladd, Director of the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, were presented special commendations to recognize their notable contributions to intercultural and race relations at the University. Photo courtesy of the Harvard Office of News and Public Affairs.

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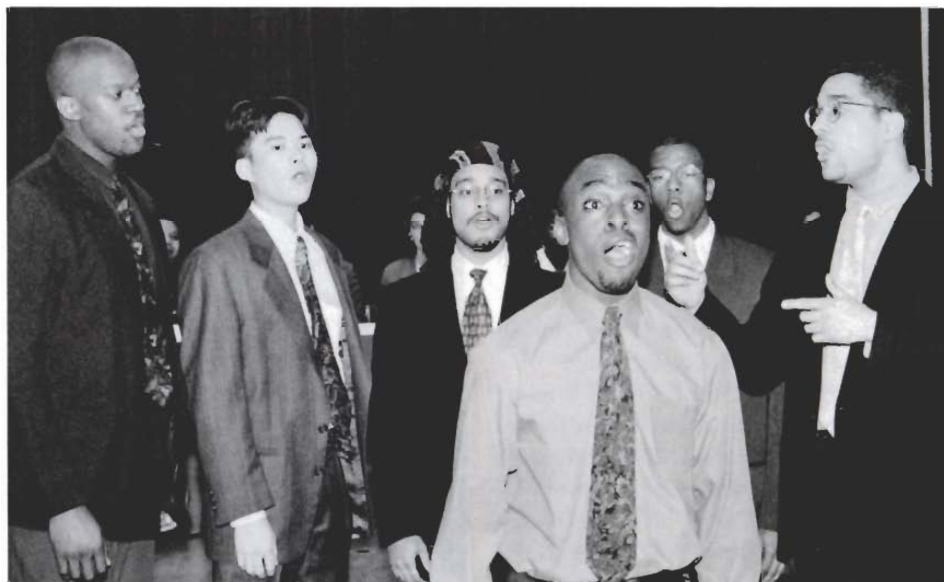
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The Harvard Foundation Pays Tribute to Student Leaders, Florence Ladd and Heather Campion for Achievements in Interracial and Intercultural Relations

On April 24, the Harvard Foundation's eleventh annual David Aloian Dinner was graciously hosted in the Quincy House dining hall by House co-Masters Dr. Michael Shinagel and Ms. Marjorie North. The dinner pays tribute to the late Quincy House Master David Aloian, who played an active role in the Harvard Foundation from its inception, helped to articulate the Foundation's mission and hosted some of its initial programs.

The evening began with welcoming remarks from Dean Shinagel, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Foundation, and Dr. Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College. Dean Lewis noted that the Foundation is the "jewel in Harvard's crown," largely driven by the interests and energies of undergraduates.

The evening took a surprise turn when students affiliated with the Foundation, led by Student Advisory Committee co-Chairs Sarita James '98 and Nailah Robinson '98, took time out to recognize Dr. Counter for his fifteen years of service as Director of the Foundation. Mr. David Evans, Senior Admissions Officer, and Dr. William Bossert, Master of Lowell House, attested to Dr. Counter's vision and leadership in setting the Foundation on its course. Wendy Bivens, the Foundation's staff assistant, was



The Brothers of Kuumba celebrate student awardees at the Annual Aloian Dinner. From left to right: Sheldon Reid '96, Scott Kim '98, Phillip Goff '99, Teddy Maynard '00, Victor Udoena '99 and Rey Fernandez '96.

cited for her commitment and contributions to the Foundation's programs.

The Brothers a cappella group of the Harvard-Radcliffe Kuumba Singers serenaded attendees with a rousing performance of "Something Within Me" and other spirituals. Kuumba is one of several stellar Harvard-Radcliffe cultural groups that have enriched Foundation events and that have been supported by the Foundation.

The Foundation awarded several students for their remarkable work in intercultural and race relations. Their accomplishments included coordinating an after school enrichment program in a low-income housing development; organizing a group that studies *Capoeira*, a traditional Afro-Brazilian martial art; gathering fellow musicians for impromptu and formal performances; preparing a directory of services for New York's American-Chinese community; coordinating community service efforts for a Muslim youth group; directing a program to enhance the social skills and self-esteem of inner-city youth through dance; planning a pan-Asian conference; teaching Indian folk and classical dance; and organizing a week of activities to highlight the richness

of Arab culture. Awardees were selected through a process based on nominations by House Masters.

Foundation awards were presented to Joshua Demetrius Bloodworth '97, Ayanna Cage '97, Sewell Chan '98, Nana Coleman '98, Dana Dore '97, Monica Eav '99, Fatima El-Anini '97, Sarah Handeyside '97, Sarita James '98, Joel Kemp '97, Daniel Kim '97, Patrick Klemawesch '97, Vivek Maru '97, Rita Maxwell '98, Aaron Myers '97, Christopher Nicholson '97, Odoi Odotei '97, Kanakalakshmi Pattabiraman '97, Joshua Powe '98, Sheldon Reid '96, Nailah Robinson '98, Janté Santos '99, Helen Skinner '98, and Kanairu Wacieni '98. Another group of students, Summer Bartholomew '98, Supinda Bunyanich '98, Naudia Bryan '98, Saukok Chu '98, Dionne Fraser '99, Vikram Kashyap '97, and Irfan Siddiqi '97, were cited for honorable mention. Tazona Chaponda '97 and Holly Foster '97 received special Director's Award medallions for demonstrating qualities that exemplify the spirit and mission of the Foundation. All of the students honored have exhibited strong leadership skills, social consciousness and a commitment to the



Dean Harry Lewis presents a Harvard Foundation Award for contributions to intercultural and race relations to Fatima El-Anini '97.



Sarita James '98 presents a special Harvard Foundation Award to Dr. Florence Ladd for her contributions to intercultural and race relations on campus.

Harvard community through their efforts to promote intercultural awareness.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Foundation Awards to two University administrators whose work has served to "enhance the quality of our common life." Heather Pars Campion, Forum Director at the Institute of Politics (IOP), John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Florence C. Ladd, Director of the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute of Radcliffe

College, were presented special commendations to recognize their notable contributions to intercultural and race relations at the University. In his introduction, Dr. Counter lauded Ms. Campion for her interesting, peaceful and enlightening programs, and efforts to ensure that IOP programs are multicultural and inclusive of all student groups. In her acceptance speech, Ms. Campion noted that the IOP and Foundation share a common passion in creating cross-cultural dialogue. The IOP, established as a living memorial to the late President Kennedy, was created to inspire young adults to enter politics. The IOP presents more than one hundred events per year, and the programming is created in part by a student advisory committee.

Dr. Florence C. Ladd, scholar, educator, psychologist and social activist, has been the director of the Bunting Institute since 1989. She has received numerous awards and has been recognized by many organizations, including the magazine *Mirabella*, in which she was named one of last year's 100 Fearless Women. Dr. Ladd, the author of the novel *Sarah's Psalm* (Scribner, 1996), will retire from her position this year to further her



Taziona Chaponda '97, former Chair of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee and the English Orator for Commencement 1997, addresses guests of the Aloian Dinner.

writing career. Cited for her gifts in nurturing the talents of hundreds of Bunting Fellows, Dr. Ladd graciously thanked the Foundation for her commendation and stated to students, "I salute you—you are our hope, you are our future, you are our better selves."

—Wendy Bivens

Harvard Honors First Native American Students

As I head for class each morning, I find myself going out of my way, wandering behind Matthews Hall to that spot where the Indian College once stood. I am looking for Caleb Cheeshahteumuck. I am haunted by this young man who has been dead for over three-hundred years, or, more accurately, I wish to be haunted by him.

—George, from the story "First Fruits" by Susan Power '83 JD '86

Author Susan Power returned to that spot in Harvard Yard on Saturday morning, but she was not alone. She joined more than 300 students, faculty, administrators and friends of the Harvard University Native American Program to honor and remember Harvard's first Native American students. The moving ceremony, held under threatening skies, featured the unveiling of a large slate plaque on Matthews Hall. At this site more than 300 years ago, Caleb Cheeshahteumuck and Joel Iacoomes of the Wampanoag Tribe of Martha's Vineyard

studied and lived in the Indian College, Harvard's first brick building.

Cheeshahteumuck (Class of 1665) was

the first Native American to graduate from Harvard, an honor he would have shared had Joel not died in a shipwreck just before



On Saturday, May 3, Harvard University dedicated a plaque in honor of the first Native American students to attend Harvard College. The plaque was placed on the wall of Matthews Hall, the site of the "Indian College" established at Harvard in the seventeenth century. The first Native Americans to attend Harvard College were Joel Iacoomes, Eleazar, Benjamin Larnell, John Wampos, and Caleb Cheeshahteumuck. Photo by Kris Snibbe.



Native American students and faculty wore traditional tribal garb during the day-long *Powwow* and commemoration of the Harvard Indian College. Photo by Jon Chase.

Commencement. Three other Native American students also studied with them, but two died before graduating and another left to become a mariner. The idea for the plaque came from Susan K. Power of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who is the mother of Harvard alumna Susan Power. The 1650 Commemorative Committee, under the leadership of the Harvard Native American Program Director Lorie Graham, spent two years bringing the idea to fruition for Saturday's ceremony. The plaque was donated by Ray Halbritter JD '90 of the Oneida Indian Nation of New York.

As a cold breeze blew papers and hats about, the audience heard remarks by grad-

uates, Harvard representatives and various tribe members. President Neil L. Rudenstine reflected on the growth of the Native American Program at Harvard and the new University-wide courses on Native American issues. The Indian College stood in the Yard from 1655 to 1698 and lodged students of both Native American and English origin, Rudenstine noted. It later housed the early printing press that published the first translation of the Bible into the Algonquian language. "As we think about these pieces of our past, I hope that we can also underscore our hopes for the future," Rudenstine said. "The Native community here at Harvard is a vital one—it

has responded to difficult challenges with a constructive spirit of generosity and with a will to create something for the days and years to come."

Jeremy R. Knowles, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, pointed out that although the Indian College building collapsed by the end of the seventeenth century, Harvard should continue to be inspired by those early efforts. "We do have common ground with [then] President Dunster," Knowles said, "in that we recognize education as enriching both the individual and the community. We're here to fulfill the mission that Harvard embarked upon three-and-a-half centuries ago to make Native Americans a vital presence here, and through our graduates, to make Harvard a vital presence in the Native American communities across this country."

Beverly Wright, chairperson of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, thanked the University for honoring the first students and other Native Americans attending the ceremony, and commented on the Wampanoag tribe's efforts for education and professional training. "Harvard University should be commended for the commitment they have made to Native Americans," Wright said. "Because we are a small tribe, dependent on the federal government, independence through education is a top priority."

Closing remarks offered by Pablo Padilla '97, a member of the Zuni Tribe and a government concentrator, ensured that the morning's ceremony was not entirely solemn. The Mather House resident commented on how Harvard has "changed my life." "I come from a home where English is rarely spoken, and I didn't learn to speak English until I was 10 or 11," he said. Now when he returns home, people tell him, "I walk too fast, talk too fast, and eat too fast!" On a more serious note, Padilla said, "A lot of people come to Harvard as a means to an end, but I'm glad to say I *lived* here."

The closing prayer was given in Navajo by Manley Begay, Director of the National Executive Education Program for Native American Leadership, which is based at the Kennedy School of Government. Said Dean of Harvard College Harry R. Lewis, "I was very pleased at the size of the audience and the people who came so far to be here."

—Susan Peterson, reprinted courtesy of the Harvard University Gazette

Television Journalist Connie Chung is Honored by the Harvard Foundation and the Asian American Association



(Left to right) Grace Shieh '98, Saukok Chu '98, Tony Wong '99, Dr. S. Allen Counter and Sarita James '98 present the Harvard Foundation Award to Connie Chung.

On February 14, the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association (AAA) honored Connie Chung for her contributions to national journalism with a reception and banquet in Eliot House. The evening began with a reception in the Eliot House Library, where students were able to meet Ms. Chung and talk with her about her experiences in the field of journalism. After enjoying freshly made sushi and the sounds of a string quintet, the students and



Two students enjoy the reception with Connie Chung.



Connie Chung is greeted by Sewell Chan '98 and Grace Shieh '98.

Ms. Chung proceeded to the dining hall, where the presidents of AAA and Professor Steve Mitchell and Ms. Kristine Forsgard, co-Masters of Eliot House, welcomed her to Eliot House. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Ms. Chung with a Harvard Foundation Award for her notable contributions to American Broadcast Journalism and Intercultural Relations. Later that evening, Ms. Chung gave the keynote address for the Eighth Annual Asian American Intercollegiate Conference in the Arco Forum at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Harvard Foundation Pays Homage to Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Joyce London Alexander

On April 2, the Harvard Foundation and the Association of Black Radcliffe Women (ABRW) hosted a reception, dinner and award ceremony at Cabot House for the Honorable Joyce London Alexander, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge, to celebrate her contributions to the American Judicial System and Intercultural Relations. Judge Alexander is the nation's first African American Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge.

Judge Alexander's achievements, tenacity and community spirit served as inspiration for Harvard students and faculty, as well as for the judge's family and friends who attended the dinner. Harvard faculty and members of the ABRW board welcomed the audience and the Reverend Howard McLendon, pastor of the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church in Cambridge, offered the blessing. In her introduction of the guest of honor, ABRW president Meredith Bell '97 highlighted several recent episodes indicating that African American women face special obstacles in the American legal and political systems, and thanked Judge Alexander for "having the courage to face the road less traveled and make all the difference." In a moving tribute for the evening, Kuumba soloist Miss Ruth Hamilton sang "Bless this House" and asked that we always "exemplify all those wonder-



Judge Joyce London Alexander (second from left) with (left to right) Meredith Bell '97, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Karyn Bell '99.

ful things that our ancestors wanted for us."

Speaking particularly to young women, Judge Alexander urged students to "lift as you climb," to rely upon and uplift one another, and to pay close attention to "what is happening with girls." Noting dwindling conceptions of "neighborhood" and "community" within urban areas, she pointed out that increasing numbers of African American girls are engaging in criminal activity and being placed in juvenile detention centers. The system shows little regard for rehabilitation, education, job training, or the struggles that these young women might

face upon release.

The judge warned students that they will experience racism, sexism, classism and, eventually, ageism as they pursue their professional journeys. She explained that her late mother's tokens of wisdom have often fortified her as she has faced hurdles. The judge's proverbs included: "You might not achieve a goal at a time that you wanted to achieve it—you might fail, but resiliency is the mark of character." "When God closes a door, he opens a window." "Sometimes a setback is a set-up for a comeback." "Sometimes our time isn't the Lord's time." She recalled that her mother urged that once a stated goal or milestone was accomplished, Judge Alexander should take joy in the moment, knowing that "your success may be the basis of someone else's achievement." Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Judge Alexander with the Harvard Foundation Medal for her notable contributions to the American Judicial System and Intercultural Relations.

In his closing remarks, Mr. David Evans, Senior Admissions Officer at Harvard-Radcliffe and Faculty Associate of the Harvard Foundation, pointed out that it is essential for community adults to pass on knowledge and to serve as role models for youth. He thanked students for having the wisdom and humanity to honor Judge Alexander, a superb role model for us all.

—Wendy Bivens



Judge Joyce London Alexander receives a bouquet of flowers from Holly Foster '97 (left) and Stacy Baker '98, members of the Association of Black Radcliffe Women.

Phylicia Rashad Reception and Dinner



Phylicia Rashad is presented with a bouquet by (Left to Right) Regina Mercado '99, Nailah Robinson '98, and Sarita James '98.



Ms. Rashad poses with Karen Hodges Walker, Director of Administration and Special Programs, and her husband, Ronald Walker, Senior Vice President at Fleet Bank.

On March 17, the acclaimed actress Phylicia Rashad honored us with a visit to the Harvard campus as a guest of the Harvard Foundation. She was hosted at the Faculty Club for a reception and dinner that was well attended by students and faculty. On behalf of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee, Sarita James '98, Nailah Robinson '98, and Regina Mercado '99 presented Ms. Rashad with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her visit. Ms. Rashad spoke of her work in the

performing arts and later talked with students about careers in theatre.

Known nationally for her role as Mrs. Huxtable in "The Cosby Show," Ms. Rashad was in Boston starring in the Huntington Theatre Company production of Pearl Cleage's play, "Blues for an Alabama Sky." Several of her fellow cast members also attended the reception. Harvard Foundation students said of her visit, "She is a gracious and excellent role model for all students."



Melvin Miller '56 and Phylicia Rashad enjoy the banquet together.



An excited student reception group poses with Ms. Rashad.

Dr. Shirley Jackson

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discipline and hard work.

The first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in physics from MIT, Dr. Jackson is a widely respected scientist. After her training at MIT, Dr. Jackson went on to become Director of the Batavia Accelerator Laboratory. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Physical Society, and is a member of several professional organizations. Dr. Jackson holds honorary doctoral degrees from Bloomfield College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Cheyney University and Villanova University. In 1993 she was awarded the New Jersey Governor's Award in Science, New Jersey's highest award to a state citizen. Dr. Jackson is a Life Member of the MIT Board of Trustees. She has served on the Secretary of Energy's Task Force on the Future of Department of Energy National Laboratories, research councils of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Advisory Council of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. She has also served on a number of high level commissions in the state of New Jersey.

Following the luncheon, Dr. Jackson was warmly welcomed at Massachusetts Hall by Neil L. Rudenstine, President of Harvard University. Accompanied by student hosts and science conference organizers, Dr. Jackson and President Rudenstine discussed science and public policy and the



Dr. Phillip DuBois '53 (right), physicist and Director of the Rowland Institute for Research, chats with Pforzheimer House Master Suzanne McCarthy at the annual Science Conference luncheon.



Dr. Jackson engages in conversation with fellow physicist Dr. Kennedy Reed.

University's role in preparing quality American scientists of both genders and all ethnic backgrounds.

Dr. Jackson also participated in an evening panel discussion at the Arco Forum of the John F. Kennedy School of Government on "Science Education and Training for African-American Youth: Seeking New Opportunities in the Twenty-First Century" (see article on page 13). Other panelists included Dr. Harold Amos, Professor *Emeritus* of Harvard Medical School; Dr. Roscoe Giles, Professor of Computer Sciences at Boston University; Dr. Ambrose Jearld, Chief Scientist, Northeast Fisheries Science Center; Dr. Kennedy Reed,



The Science Conference gave students and faculty the opportunity to have informal conversations about career options in science, mathematics and engineering.

Physicist, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Dr. Jean Stanley, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Wellesley College; and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Associate Professor of Neurophysiology, Harvard Medical School. The panel discussed a variety of strategies for encouraging more African-American elementary, high school, and college students to pursue careers in science.

A second panel discussion on "Science Education and Training for Native American, Asian American and Latino/Hispanic American Youth: Seeking New Opportunities in the Twenty-First Century"

was held at the Harvard Science Center. The participants on this panel were Dr. Walter Frontera, Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Howard Hu, Associate Professor of Occupational Medicine, Harvard School of Public Health; Mr. Luis Martinez, doctoral candidate in chemistry, Harvard University; Dr. Joseph Montoya, Associate Professor of Biology, Harvard University; Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, masters candidate in public health, Harvard School of Public Health; Ms. Carol Tomlinson, doctoral candidate in biology, Harvard University; and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Associate Professor of

Neurophysiology, Harvard Medical School.

The consensus of both panel discussions was that the United States and other industrial nations are rapidly becoming more technological and will need technologically trained citizens in the twenty-first century. African Americans and other minorities in the U.S. would do well to prepare themselves in the disciplines of science and engineering in order to ensure a viable economic future and to make important contributions to the technological advancements of the modern world.

—Nana Coleman '98 and Staff



The luncheon for Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson was well attended by students and faculty alike.



Dr. Ambrose Jearld of the Woods Hole U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Research Group speaks with a teacher from the Jeremiah E. Burke High School at the fourth annual Science Conference.



During the panel discussion entitled "Science Education and Training for Native American, Latino/Hispanic, and Asian American Youth: Seeking New Opportunities in the Twenty-First Century," Dr. Howard Hu shared experiences that piqued his interest in the field of occupational medicine. Other panelists included (seated l-r): Dr. S. Allen Counter and Dr. Ambrose Jearld (moderators), Ms. Carol Tomlinson, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Dr. Joseph Montoya, Mr. Luis Martinez; and (blocked from view) Dr. Walter Frontera.

A Particular Passion: Science-Based Careers in the Twenty-First Century

The following speech was delivered by Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, keynote speaker at the Harvard Foundation's Fourth Annual Conference: American Minorities in Science, Engineering and Mathematics in the Twenty-First Century. Dr. Jackson is a theoretical physicist and Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

I am deeply appreciative of the recognition that you have bestowed on me today. I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Harvard Foundation, and its distinguished Director, Dr. S. Allen Counter; to the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers; to Hispanics in Medicine, Engineering and Informational Sciences; and to Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe. It is also a great pleasure to participate in a conference dedicated to a purpose close to my heart: namely, increasing the participation of women and minorities in science, engineering, and mathematics. To see you, and to interact with you, is particularly gratifying given the recent College Fund report (*Washington Post*, 2/27/97, p. A22) on the status of African-Americans in American higher education. That report, in addition to revealing a huge gender gap in college attendance and college graduation among African-Americans, shows how much African-Americans lag the majority in receipt of bachelor's degrees (21% white for ages 25-60 vs 14% Black). In addition, the choice of studies for African-Americans is not in the sciences. At the graduate level, Black men tend to study education and Black women tend to concentrate in public administration. Only three percent of the recipients of doctorates are Black, and only five percent of university faculties are Black. It goes without saying then that I am very pleased—as a physicist, an African-American, an MIT alumna and MIT Life Trustee—to be here with you this afternoon.

Let me interject at this point that while many of my comments will refer to African-Americans, I believe that they have relevance to other minority groups as well. Lest there be any misunderstanding, my interest is, by no means, in the advancement

only of African-Americans; rather, it is in seeing that all of the historically disadvantaged minorities in this society receive a truly equal chance at educational, professional, and personal fulfillment.

As Dr. Counter has told you, I am an MIT graduate, and when I was at the "Institute," I must admit, we MIT students had a certain ambivalence about Harvard and Radcliffe. It was almost an article of faith for us that while we were tooling away, day and night, in the lab or in the library, those happy-go-lucky students up the street had nothing better to do with their time than row boats, throw frisbees, and loll in the sun on the banks of the Charles. Perhaps we exaggerated just a bit.

Actually, in our heart of hearts we knew that Harvard and Radcliffe were marvelous institutions, and those of us who cared about such things knew that they also had begun to take very seriously the need to encourage diversity in their student bodies. Those were the years, for example, in which President Bunting of Radcliffe was making a determined effort to increase the number of African-American applicants. In just six or seven years, the percentage of African-Americans in the Radcliffe entering class went from about one percent to almost ten percent. It is also a matter of record that when it came to awarding doctorates to African-American women, Radcliffe, which conferred a Ph.D. on Eva Dykes in 1921, was 52 years ahead of MIT. The Harvard Foundation, I know, owes its existence to Harvard's recognition, in the era of President Bok, that inclusion of people from across the whole spectrum of society is the path that must be followed, both for a great university and for society as a whole.

The years that I was an undergraduate in Cambridge—1964 to 1968—were tumultuous, sometimes triumphant, and all too often tragic. I arrived here at the end of what the history books recount as the "Freedom Summer," when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 became law. Hundreds of volunteers of all races went to Mississippi to help African-Americans, who had been disenfranchised all their lives, register to vote

for the first time. Not all of those volunteers went home alive. The spring of 1968, of course, was when the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. I remember well how that news shook the members of the MIT African-American community—all nine or ten of us, out of a student body of 8,000. The murder of Robert F. Kennedy took place the week I graduated.

In those years, as minority group members pursuing careers in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics, we were acutely conscious of just how few we were. Women, of course, represented a still smaller fraction: a minority of a minority. The smallness of our numbers was in some respects a major challenge. It takes a certain "critical mass," so to speak, for members of a group to feel that they form a community that can be supportive of one another, and in the early years, it was easy to feel isolated at times. Moreover, the universities in that era were still in the process of learning that, if they wanted to reach out to minority populations, and make them a part of their institutions, their obligations did not end when the acceptance letters went into the mail.

There was another side to the coin, however. Being—for want of a better term—one of the "pioneers" had its very positive aspects as well. For example, I went off to college with a modest scholarship from the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. I knew that the men and women and children of that church had invested their hard-earned money in my success, and only partly because they knew me and wanted me to succeed. They also saw me as a standard-bearer for the community of that church, and as someone who might help to lower barriers for other African-Americans coming after me. I knew, therefore, that I had the support of my community behind me; and at the same time, I also knew that I had taken on some real obligations, to people I could not think of disappointing.

What I am getting at is that, in those days, with the civil rights movement at its height, it was inevitable that those of us

who represented the tiny minority of African-American students in places like MIT would feel a sense of solidarity with that movement. This unquestionably was a source of strength for us, reinforcing our resolve to achieve our own goals. Thus, if we felt at times lonely and demoralized, or weighed down by others' expectations of us, we could remind ourselves that the struggle for equality was being fought on many fronts, and this was one of them. If we were taking emotional risks, we knew that there were others—like the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, and Medgar and Myrlie Evers—taking risks of a more direct kind.

I do not want to minimize at all the role of personal ambition as a healthy, positive, and indeed essential success factor. None of us would have "made it" without a strong internal drive to succeed, and no one should be ashamed of wanting to succeed, and to make her or his own mark—so long as that is not all that one cares about. In this context, I think of the famous saying of Rabbi Hillel, 2000 years ago: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am for myself alone, what am I?"

As I think about the challenges that we faced three decades ago, and how they compare with what confronts students from minority groups today, it is clear that some things are easier today. I wonder, though, whether the students of today have the same sense of identification with a broader movement that helped to sustain us. That is something I would like to come back to in a little while.

Turning to the question that is central to this conference—how to increase the number of women and minorities, specifically African-Americans, in the sciences and related fields—we have to start by asking why the numbers remain comparatively low.

The reason is emphatically not lack of innate ability. One needs only to look around at the careers that minority group members, and women, are making, and the impact they are making, both in the sciences and in a myriad of other fields, to have no doubt, whatever, that the necessary brainpower, talent, imagination, and drive are all there. It is just that those qualities are being directed, for the most part, toward careers in business, law, education, and the social sciences. Of those who study science

at the undergraduate level, many do so with the intention of going on to medical school, rather than making careers in such fields as physics, mathematics, or engineering.

Why, then, the low numbers? I would suggest several reasons, in no particular order. Obviously, education is expensive, and low-income students especially have reasons to be attracted by fields, such as law, that offer the prospect of comparatively few years in school and a rapid payoff.

The reasons are more than just economic, however. For one thing, it is only human nature that people feel more comfortable going into fields where they see others who are like them. Still, that is only part of it.

If we are honest, we will acknowledge that, in the African-American community, there is an intense need for security, probably born out of the collective experience of many generations of exclusion, discrimination, and marginalization. Making careers in science, especially in research, takes daring. All too often, I see people making choices below their capabilities because of fear—fear of taking risks, fear of failure. Furthermore, because it is human nature not to dwell on one's own insecurities, people may be selling themselves short without even realizing it.

Finally, there is powerful social pressure to choose a career that is clearly relevant to the needs of the African-American community. I ran into this often as a student. I would be challenged, sometimes rather forcefully, to explain just how physics—especially theoretical physics—was relevant to the Black community.

I do not mean to imply that the argument is a frivolous one. For example, where there are social issues needing to be addressed, it is important to have lawyers capable of bringing and defending cases, and drafting needed legislation, as a way to redress societal inequities. For that reason, law has been a natural pathway for motivated black achievers. The question is whether every minority group member entering a profession should feel bound to choose a field of direct and obvious benefit to his or her group.

Incidentally, it is a little ironic that, as I travel to other countries on behalf of the NRC, I encounter as many people with advanced degrees from MIT among the officials of foreign governments, as I meet in

the United States in the same period of time. Especially in the Third World, people see science and technology as the key to being players on the world stage, and when one looks at their governments, again and again one sees officials with advanced degrees, frequently in science. In the developing countries, therefore, there is no perceived contradiction between going into science and caring about the social progress of one's people.

That leads to the next question: Is the answer different in a developed society? So long as there are pressing social problems needing to be addressed, should minority group members in a developed society apply their talents to professions that directly and obviously benefit their own groups, and leave the physics, engineering, and mathematics to others?

I would answer that several ways: first, on an individual level. Part of what makes life worth living is to have something one is interested in passionately. When a field is a calling, whatever it may be—mathematics or African history or French literature—one cannot turn one's back on it without forever feeling spiritually impoverished to a greater or lesser extent. Moreover, what one cares about most is also likely to be what one does best. For one's own fulfillment, therefore, there is much to be said for giving great weight to what one's own heart and mind are telling him or her.

I also would argue that it is good for the nation, and for minority groups, that we have Native American, Hispanic, and African-American mathematicians, scientists, and engineers. I think all of us here know that the struggle against inequality and discrimination in this country is very far from over. For all the gains that have been made, there is much, much more to be done. Discrimination and racist stereotyping have not ended; rather, they continue in subtler and covert forms. One of the forms they take is the false and demeaning notion—not necessarily articulated out loud—that minority group members do not have what it takes for certain fields.

This also is true of discrimination against women, by the way. Ask yourself, for example, how many *Fortune 500* companies have a woman as C.E.O. Why is it, one wonders, that European and Asian nations can elect a Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi, or

Benazir Bhutto, whereas in our own country, only one woman has even been nominated for the Vice-Presidency of the United States by a major party, and that was seen as a radical step, never repeated. It is certainly not for any lack of talented women in American life.

Just as discrimination and injustice take subtler forms in today's world, I think we need to take a more subtle view of what benefits the minority community and combats discrimination and injustice. In my view, every African-American or Hispanic or Native American woman, or man, who makes a successful career in astrophysics or engineering, in microbiology or mathematical theory or organic chemistry, is contributing to the well-being of the community, even if the person's work does not have an immediately observable impact on the social problems of the ghetto, the barrio, or the reservation.

There are many ways to make an impact. Sooner or later, the message of a person's achievement will get through to his community, and it will be a source of pride to the elders, and of hope and opportunity to the young. The young, in particular, need to know that there is no field foreclosed to them and that they need feel inferior to no one. They need to feel that they can afford to dream, and that it is worth striving to make their dreams a reality.

Moreover, every such success sends a message to American society as a whole—serving to break down the prejudices, spo-

ken and unspoken, that say that minority group members lack the capability for this or that profession. When we contribute to diminishing those prejudices, we are benefiting not only the groups to which we belong, but the nation itself. The challenges facing this country, now and in the foreseeable future, are just too great for society to ignore or to undervalue the capabilities of entire groups within the population. Moreover, we all know that if we want to have a society worth living in, and worth passing on to our children and grandchildren, it will be one in which we appreciate one another as human beings for our individual qualities, instead of peering through blinders of prejudice, inherited from the past.

I mentioned earlier that when I was a student, those of us who were, so to speak, trailblazers in universities such as MIT felt a sense of identification with the civil rights movement. I think there is a place for the same kind of feeling today—that African-American and other minority-group students who are entering fields that traditionally have been closed to them can rightly see themselves as contributing to the group as a whole. I would urge you not to be dissuaded or disheartened by those who would tell you that your work in science and related fields is irrelevant to the broader social concerns of your communities. Such advice is off the mark. The inner city and the barrio and the reservation need schoolteachers, doctors, lawyers, and social workers, to be sure; but the scientists and

mathematicians make their own contributions, which may be just as valuable, if one takes the long view. Moreover, there are more immediate environmental, medical and social problems, whose resolution requires strong scientific and technological input. Minority groups in this country need to appreciate this, and to be supportive of those who choose the path of science and related fields.

For those minority-group students who know that their passionate interest is in science, mathematics, or engineering, I would urge you to follow that calling. Not only is it the most likely path to your own fulfillment, it is also a way to benefit your people and your country.

If you want to be sure that you are doing something for the communities you came from, let yourself be seen. Go into the schools—they will welcome you with open arms—and talk to students, tell them what you yourself are doing and let them know that it is worth the effort, and worth taking the risks, to make a career in science. Nothing teaches like example. You may not know until years later, if at all, whose life you touched, whom you inspired. You can be sure, however, that every time you help young people discover that the horizons open to them are wider than they had known, you have accomplished something—for them, for your community, for yourself, and for your country.

Thank you.

—Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson

Panelists Speak on Future of African Americans in Sciences

On April 4, a panel of distinguished African-American scientists gathered in the Arco Forum at the Kennedy School of Government to discuss the future of African Americans in science, engineering and mathematics. The panel focused on how to bolster the science and math skills of African American youth and how to cultivate the interest of students of color in those academic areas.

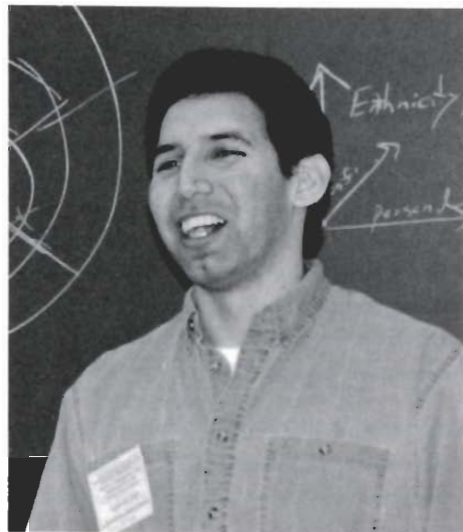
The event at the Arco Forum was part of the fourth annual conference on *American*

Minorities in Science, Engineering and Mathematics in the Twenty-First Century, sponsored by the Harvard Foundation. As part of the weekend conference, Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and a distinguished theoretical physicist, was given the Harvard Foundation Award for her outstanding contributions to American Science and Intercultural and Race Relations. Dr. Jackson, who is the first African American and the first woman ever to become Chair

of the NRC, had spoken earlier at a luncheon reception held in her honor at Pforzheimer House.

At the Arco Forum, panel participants were largely in agreement that students of color must be careful not to isolate themselves from other members of scientific communities. The participants also agreed that students must be flexible in their plans and ambitions to deal with the volatile job market in these areas.

The comments of one speaker, Dr.



Luis Martinez, doctoral candidate in chemistry, discusses career options during a Science Conference workshop on networking.

Harold Amos, Harvard Medical School professor of microbiology and molecular genetics *emeritus*, drew fire from a handful of audience members. "We [minority communities] have been finding excuses for not doing things. We have to encourage science in our communities," Amos said. According to Amos, there is not enough of an intellectual environment in the homes and communities of minorities for science to flourish. Minorities must take more responsibility for the lack of scientists among their numbers, Amos said.



Dr. Harold Amos welcomes students and faculty to the fourth annual Harvard Foundation Science Conference.

Despite the suggestion by a few audience members that the educational system, not the minority community, is to blame for the lack of minorities in the sciences, other speakers came to his defense. "There is a lack of exposure [to science], a lack of a success model in our community. In the end, we have to save ourselves," Jackson said.

In her remarks at the earlier luncheon reception, Dr. Jackson related her experience as a "trailblazer," at MIT, part of a small community of African-American students at the school during the '60s and early '70s. She was the first black woman to receive a doctoral degree in any subject from MIT. "In those years, as minority group members pursuing careers in the sciences, engineering and mathematics, we were acutely conscious of just how few we were. Women, of course, represented a still smaller fraction: a minority of a minority. The smallness of our numbers was in some respects a major challenge," Dr. Jackson said in her remarks.

Dr. Jackson said she believes that the lack of minorities in the sciences can partially be attributed to a propensity by minorities to go into fields of obvious relevance to their communities. Dr. Jackson recounted how she, as a young student, had been challenged to explain how a career in theoretical physics would benefit her people. She maintained, however, that such careers are of real value to the communities of those who pursue them. "There are many ways to make an impact. Sooner or later, the message of a person's achievement will get through to his community, and it will be a source of pride to the elders, and of hope and opportunity to the young," Dr. Jackson said.

In addition to the Pforzheimer House reception and panel discussion, the Friday, April 4 conference schedule included research presentations by current undergraduate and graduate science students and a gathering for students following the panel discussion. The conference continued Saturday with faculty research presentations and a series of workshops, including "Taking the GRE's/Applying to Graduate Schools," "The Future of Scientific Endeavors in Developing Nations," and "Strategies for Presenting Your Research." The conference concluded Saturday afternoon with a panel on the future of Asian-American, Latino-American and Native-American students in science, mathematics

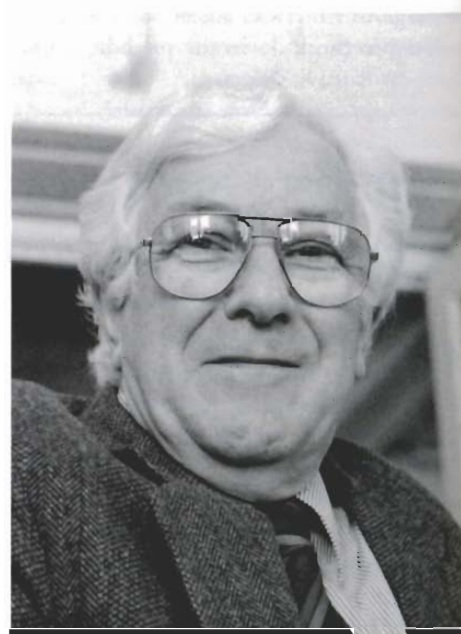


Dr. Maia Berkane, project director at Health and Addictions Research, Inc., co-facilitated a workshop entitled "In the Classroom: Challenges and Successes for Women in Science Academics" with Dr. Linda Grisham of Lesley College.

and engineering.

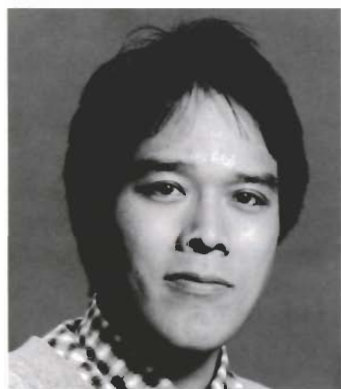
According to Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Foundation, the conference was larger this year than it ever has been in the past, with students attending from area high schools and other New England colleges. Conference organizers are also developing a new program, "Partners in Science," a mentoring program aimed at pairing local high school students with Harvard science concentrators.

—Robert J. Coolbrith, reprinted courtesy of the Harvard Crimson



Dr. Richard S. Wilson, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics, enjoys the luncheon in honor of Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson.

The Harvard Foundation wishes to thank the many distinguished professors and administrators who served as teachers and mentors during the fourth annual Science Conference, including Dr. Linda Grisham (upper right), Ms. Carole Tomlinson (right center), Dr. Jim Davis (lower right), Dr. Cynthia Friend (bottom), and (clockwise from upper left) Dr. Daniel Jay, Dr. Desmond Murray, Dr. Walter Frontera, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux and Dr. Howard Hu. Not pictured in this issue of the newsletter: Dr. Roscoe Giles, Dr. Jean Stanley, Dr. Gary Ruvkun, Dr. John Dowling, Dr. William Paul, Dr. George Field, Dr. Kevin Oden and Mr. Wilson Hunt.



The Pitfalls of a "Pure Meritocracy": Abolishing Affirmative Action Would Have Effects Beyond Race (Imagine an Orchestra with Only Violinists)

It is ironic that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's famous quotation — "My children . . . will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" — has become the mantra of those opposed to affirmative action. These advocates of a color-blind society (many of whom would never have supported Dr. King in life) claim that a strictly merit-based system is the best vehicle to realize Dr. King's dream. But, while noble-sounding, such a system would be extremely difficult to implement because few final decisions are between qualified and unqualified candidates. They are instead selections from groups of highly qualified applicants.

The Harvard University undergraduate admissions process is an instructive example, because eighty percent of the 16,000-plus applicants to the freshman class were admissible for a class of 1,600. This means that even if no students of color had been admitted or a purely random selection process had been used, there still would have been more than 9,000 qualified white students who were not admitted. There is a popular belief that subjective evaluations of any kind are patently unfair. But if all discretion were to be taken from decision makers and replaced with an uncompromising "meritocracy," there would be profound changes that reach well beyond the issue of race.

In higher education, the college experience would be drastically redefined and urban universities would encounter untold political problems with their surrounding communities. An age-old admissions process where the personal qualities and extra-curricular activities of qualified applicants have some bearing would be scrapped. And a college's ability to conceive of its class as a symbiotic whole would be compromised. The ideal mixture in which the poet converses with the scientist and the conservative philosopher debates topics like retributive justice with the liberal activist, would all depend on the luck of the draw in the admissions process or the third decimal



David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer

place of a grade-point average. If an orchestra or baseball team could be assembled from students chosen in this narrow manner, some years there might be only violinists or outfielders.

Town-gown relationships between urban colleges and the public schools of their host cities would be devastated. Colleges and universities are some of the few remaining corporations in the inner cities of America and they often employ thousands of workers. The host cities deem the presence of the colleges mutually beneficial and historically have granted them special tax exemptions. Today, some of these tax exemptions run into hundreds of millions of dollars and evidently must be worthwhile investments because few, if any, cities seriously wish to expel a major college or university. The colleges, too, know that their fate is connected to that of the cities where they are located and are ever mindful of this partnership. In Philadelphia, for example, the University of Pennsylvania awards mayor's scholarships to city students

and Temple University has allocated money for community housing as a *quid pro quo* for building its new Apollo Sports Arena. In New Haven, Connecticut, to cite another example, Yale University has created public service fellowships that pay a \$2,350 stipend to any student who volunteers to work in New Haven during the summer.

While competition for admission to many urban universities — especially Ivy League schools — has intensified to levels unimaginable a generation ago, most of the public school systems surrounding them have deteriorated markedly. It is not unusual to find school systems where few, if any, of the best graduates meet the minimum qualifications for the selective local institutions. When those institutions have four, five or even ten times more qualified applicants than they have places, an unyielding meritocracy could easily reject every local public school applicant, qualified or not. This would be morally indefensible, politically untenable, and utterly chaotic. It would create a "fortress-among-alien" scenario that would serve no good purpose.

Town-gown relationships and composition of a college class are but two issues that would be adversely affected if all discretion were taken away in the name of merit. Special consideration given by liberal arts colleges to applicants committed to the study of under-subscribed subjects such as classical Greek, Hebrew, and Latin would be called into question. And so would any particular attention paid to the children of alumni and faculty. These and other common-sense matters are threatened by the current race-centered, emotional debates over affirmative action.

Affirmative action is a "hot button" topic, but no matter how passionate and race-centered the current debate becomes, it is vital that the debaters realize that much more is involved than race alone. To ignore this would surely harm our cities and our schools, possibly irreparably.

—David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer,
reprinted from *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Sinbad

(Continued from page 1)

Sinbad attended a reception in his honor at Kirkland House. The undergraduate band Soul Power played a welcoming song for Sinbad, and as a special treat, Sinbad sang "Brick House" with them at the close of the reception. At the reception, a skit, written by Odoi Odotei and members of Harvard-Radcliffe Television, was presented and provided the audience with many laughs about the actor/comedian. Kirkland House Masters Professor Donald Pfister and Mrs. Kathleen Pfister and House committee officers presented Sinbad with a Harvard-Radcliffe sweatshirt in honor of his appearance at Harvard and in Kirkland House.

After the reception, Sinbad proceeded to Sanders Theatre and later to the Science Center for the twelfth annual *Cultural Rhythms Festival*, where, to the delight of the crowd, he playfully teased interns who were sweeping the stage, bonded with a technician, and praised the talents of student performers. During a brief intermission, he was presented with the Harvard Foundation Award by the Dean of Harvard College, Dr. Harry Lewis, and Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter. After receiving the award, Sinbad spoke on the importance of intercultural and racial understanding. His motto, "If you're not happy before you're successful, you're going to be miserable when you do become successful because all your problems just get magnified," reveals

why he was selected for this honor. Sinbad makes an effort to keep not only himself happy, but also those around him.

Although his first love was basketball, being named a "Star Search" finalist helped Sinbad launch his comedy career. Prior to this success, he went on what he calls his "Poverty Tour" and traveled from city to city by Greyhound and performed in various clubs. After appearing on "Star Search" he gained roles on "The New Redd Foxx Show," "A Different World," and hosted "It's Showtime at the Apollo." Sinbad has had a series of HBO Comedy Specials and produces an annual soul music festival in the Caribbean. Sinbad has also starred in a number of films. His most recent film was *Jingle All The Way*, co-starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Sinbad's interests outside of his comedy work vary. He holds a special interest in computer technology for children. Sinbad has six computer literacy affiliations. He has helped Howard University launch a new multimedia center. He also supports the Good Shepherd Foundation by providing accommodations for five of the teenage African-American members to be flown to Los Angeles to attend a large graphic arts convention. In addition, Sinbad participated in the National Action Council for Minorities in Education, Inc., (NACME) campaign to encourage children aged 8-13 in math and science. He participated in the ThinkQuest Internet awards and encouraged children to enhance their interest in

the Internet. He also hosted a symposium for teens with Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates. Through this symposium, \$1.1 million in cash and software was donated from the Microsoft Corporation to the Los Angeles Public Library and schools. Sinbad is also heavily involved with the promotion of IBM, Hewlett Packard, Apple, Silicon Graphics, Digital Universe and Protozoa products. He even has two sites on the world wide web: Sinbad Cybersoul Cafe and Sinbad's Soul Music Festival.

Children are of great concern to Sinbad. His work with computer literacy is part of his attempt to ensure that poorer children are not left out of the computer boom of the twenty-first century. Dedicated to speak up at high schools and elementary schools on violence and other social problems, Sinbad encourages a productive lifestyle for inner-city children.

Amazingly, this single father of three has time to balance work, home, and community service. He gets a great deal of assistance from his own family. Traveling with him to *Cultural Rhythms* was his father, the Reverend Donald Adkins, and his brother, Mark Adkins (an electrical engineer by training), who is also his personal manager. The entire family is involved in Sinbad's success as his brothers and sisters manage Sinbad's company, David & Goliath Productions.

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation were honored by Sinbad's presence on the campus, and proud of his contributions to computer literacy and his actions in support of inner-city children and minorities.

Cultural Rhythms Rock the Campus

The nationally-known comedian and actor Sinbad received the "1997 Cultural Artist of the Year" award from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations on Saturday while his father, the Reverend Dr. Donald Adkins, and brother Mark sat in the front row of Sanders Theatre with a camcorder. "It was all going great until my battery went down," Rev. Adkins said.

The awards ceremony was the highlight of *Cultural Rhythms*, an evening of dance, music and food presented by the cultural groups of Harvard-Radcliffe to a packed Sanders Theatre. The cultural performances

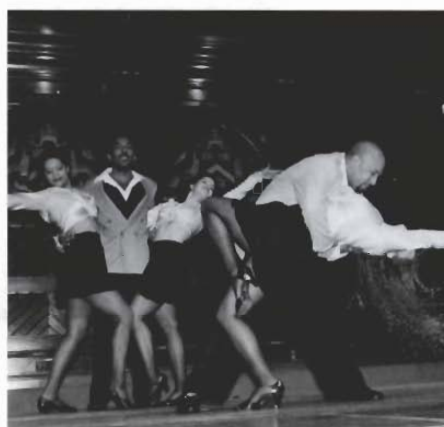
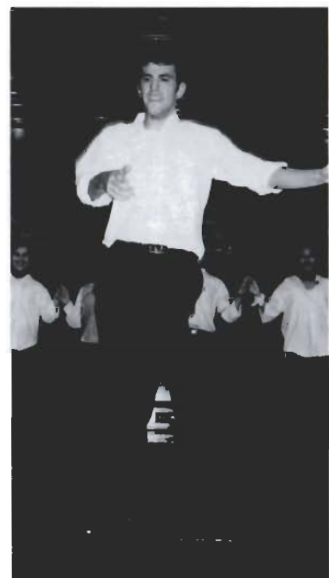


Sinbad greets students on the afternoon of Cultural Rhythms.

Cultural Rythm



is Festival 1997





Sinbad accepts the "1997 Cultural Artist of the Year" award, presented by (left to right) Dean of Harvard College Dr. Harry R. Lewis and Director of the Harvard Foundation Dr. S. Allen Counter.

were from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by a food festival and more performances which lasted until about 7 p.m.

According to Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation and associate professor of neuroscience, the Foundation chose to honor Sinbad because

he demonstrates "the best qualities of our society." The audience was filled with families and school groups, whose applause testified to his multi-generational appeal.

Sinbad said that he normally doesn't believe in awards. "If I was offered an Oscar, I wouldn't accept it," he said. "As I see it, it's just work—we do what we do. It means a lot to me that this award is for a humanitarian effort." Sinbad also praised the afternoon's performances. "The talent here is incredible, and it's incredible to see all of these cultures together at once," he said. "This event should be at [pre-frosh] orientation, to show new students what there is at Harvard."

Dr. Counter said he was pleased with the way Sinbad hosted the performances. "I think Sinbad is one of the greatest hosts we've ever had," he said. "I think he brought even more talent out of the students." Rita J. Maxwell '98, a stage manager for the cultural performances, said she was pleased with the event. "It went really smoothly," she said. "Sinbad was great, it was all a lot of fun."

Sulafa I. Bashir '99, a member of the Society of Arab Students commented that time was an issue. "It was difficult trying to fit four performances into five minutes," she said. "We were very pleased to get to perform, though."

Most students and performers said they were impressed with Sinbad and the perfor-



Sinbad meets John Harvard.

mances. Carolyn Nguyen '99 said she enjoyed the event. "I thought what he had to say was really great," she said. "It was exciting meeting Sinbad and sitting next to him." Lamelle D. Rawlins '99, president of the Undergraduate Council, said she was impressed with the performances and food fest. "It's an event that really shows that it is a community at Harvard that can come together," she said. "I'd like to see us do this more often."

A group of student activists distributed green armbands to performers and members of the audience "in support of the creation of a multicultural student center and a comparative race and ethnic studies department," said Ravi K. Dixit '00. Sinbad waved a green armband on stage after the Kuumba Singers performed. "I have the green ribbon," he said, then urged students to "fight, but know what you're fighting for." "You've got to find a medium ground," he said. "You know what you want, and the university knows what they want, and the answer's somewhere in the middle." The activists said they were not entirely happy with Sinbad's response to the armbands.

The activists said that they were satisfied with Saturday's program, but that it was not enough to promote race and intercultural relations. A sustained commitment is necessary, they said.

—Caitlin E. Anderson,

reprinted courtesy of the Harvard Crimson



(Center, left to right) Nana Coleman '98 and Rita Maxwell '98 present a Harvard sweatshirt to Sinbad as Harvard Foundation interns Sal Gogliormella '98, Jeloni Shabazz '00, and Charisa Smith '00 look on.

The 1997 Intercultural Film Festival

During the month of April, the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee co-sponsored "A View from Within: The Second Annual Intercultural Film Festival" with six student organizations. The Harvard African Students Association (HASA), RAZA, Japan Society, the Asian American Association (AAA), the Society for Arab Students, and the Brazilian Organization presented screenings of films that explored aspects of diverse cultures or issues confronting people of color in America. Student organizers invited speakers to present lectures or lead discussions of the films, and in an expansion of last year's festival, ethnic foods were also provided at many of these discussions.

HASA initiated the festival with a lecture by documentary filmmaker and professor Ali Mazrui entitled "The African Condition and the Human Condition: Internal Democracy and External Marginality" and screenings of two segments of his four part documentary series, *The Africans*. HASA also hosted a food festival directly after the lecture. The documentary, which explored the development of African nations, placed Professor Mazrui's lecture in context and added

depth to the ensuing discussion about where many African nations are today and the prospects for their future. A number of participants asked questions or made comments indicating their hopes for a better future for Africa.

The other documentary shown as part of the festival was the fourth segment of the PBS series *Chicano!*, which was included as part of RAZA's celebration of Latino History Month. This segment presented the history of La RAZA, a Chicano political group that gained power in the 1960's. In the discussion led by Alfred Fraijo '99, students explored the differences between the Chicano identity of the 1960's and of today and what the implications are for Chicano involvement and acceptance in contemporary society.

Dr. Kyu Hyun Kim, a postdoctoral fellow at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, introduced *Rashomon*, the Japan Society's film festival contribution and commented on director Akira Kurosawa's influence on American films. Dr. Kim encouraged the audience to consider that the real influence of *Rashomon* has been on Hollywood and that the movie is actually not a very good representation of

Japanese culture, given that Japanese audiences thought *Rashomon* was too overbearing in its theme. The film was produced in Japan in 1950 and has enjoyed a large American audience over the years. Participants shared Japanese sweets and further discussion of the film after the screening.

The Society of Arab Students presented the recently-recovered and restored film *The Broken Wings*, which depicts the romance between the poet Kahlil Gibran and his first love, Selma Karamy. After the film, Ayman el-Desouky, a preceptor in modern Arabic at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, gave a short lecture about Gibran's life, how closely the film depicted the reality of his life, and the cultural implications of the film.

AAA presented *Be Good My Children*, an independent film exploring the lives of an immigrant Korean family in New York City. The Brazilian Organization co-sponsored the classic film *Orfeu Negro* (*Black Orpheus*), which tells the tragic tale of Orpheus and Euridyce set to the vibrant and colorful music, dance and images of *car-nival* in Rio de Janeiro.

—Mariko Golden

Letter from the Dean of Harvard College

Dear Harvard Foundation Students:

I congratulate you on an outstanding year of programs and projects that have helped to increase intercultural and racial understanding at Harvard College. I have enjoyed attending the meetings of the Student and Faculty Advisory Committee of the Harvard Foundation and watching you develop these creative and important programs that offer all Harvard College students the opportunity to learn more about the wonderful diversity of cultures represented on our campus. I am happy that I was able to participate in many of these programs, and I, too, came to learn and appreciate new aspects of the ethnic and cultural backgrounds and interests of our students. I was also delighted to witness the level of participation in these programs by faculty and Masters of the Houses.

The Harvard Foundation has successfully integrated all of its programs into the existing Harvard College structure, including the House system, the lecture halls and the performance centers, making all of Harvard a multicultural center. The office of the Dean of Harvard College will continue to support the many excellent programs developed by our students and faculty to teach us about issues of culture, race and ethnicity and to improve racial understanding on our campus. I encourage students of all races to become active in the work of the Harvard Foundation and help Harvard College to continue its exemplary atmosphere of racial harmony among our students.

—Professor Harry R. Lewis '68,
Dean of Harvard College

Irish Cultural Society Award



Professor James J. McCarthy and Ms. Suzanne McCarthy, Masters of Pforzheimer House, welcome student leaders of the Irish Cultural Society: Sarah Handeyside '97 (l) and Patrick Arneson '97, and the Harvard Foundation honorary guest speaker, William Flynn, Chairman of Mutual of America and peace negotiator in Northern Ireland.

Patrick Arneson '97 presents a special Irish Cultural Society award to Mr. William Flynn to recognize his contributions to the peace process in Northern Ireland.



Harvard Native American Program Director



Members of the Native American Program at Harvard University congratulate Ms. Lorie Graham (4th from right), Director of the Native American Program, for a job well done. Ms. Graham, an attorney and educator, led an effort to develop a year-long course on Native American history and present day life, and was instrumental in having the University erect a plaque at the site of Harvard's 1665 "Indian College" in Harvard Yard (see page 4).

Jason Attaki '00, one of the many undergraduates involved with the Harvard Native American Program, shares a moment with Ms. Lorie Graham.



Harvard Foundation Spring 1997 Student Grant Activities

Discussion of the 2/28 Incident

On Saturday, March 1, the Harvard Taiwanese Culture Society sponsored the 2/28 Incident Lecture and Discussion. This event commemorated the 50th anniversary of the massacre of more than 30,000 Taiwanese by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Chinese Army.

The goal of the Taiwanese Culture Society is to expose the Harvard community to issues and challenges facing Taiwanese Americans. Many Harvard-Radcliffe students have parents, friends, or relatives who were personally affected by this tragic incident, arguably the single largest peacetime massacre ever. The keynote speaker, Dr. Sidney Chang, a professor at Harvard Medical School, provided historical documentation, narratives from personal accounts of survivors, and personal commentary. Information about this incident has been largely suppressed by the Chinese and Taiwanese governments over the last 50 years. Dr. Chang also discussed the current status of Taiwanese-Chinese race relations—still a major international issue.

The discussion that followed raised many concerns as to how such an incident will influence race relations and how the public acceptance and apology by President Lee Deng-Hui will affect national sovereignty questions as well as how it may be a step in reconciling interracial differences and tensions that currently exist.

All were encouraged to attend through extensive publicizing of the event. About 30 students attended the lecture and discussion from both the undergraduate community and the graduate schools.

—Michael Lai '98

Philippine Forum Dance Troupe

led by co-directors Lee Dalope and Aisha Haynie, the Dance Troupe has had several successful performances this past

year. We performed a small demo at our introductory meeting in September. Our first major event occurred during the annual FIND Dialogue held at Boston University. The Dance Troupe impressed the audience with its trademark dance entitled *Sinkil*, which depicts a courtship ceremony between a prince and a princess. The troupe also had the terrific opportunity to perform the *tinikling* for Governor Benjamin Cayetano of Hawaii in December. We also enjoyed giving a demo at a dance workshop event sponsored by the Minority Students Alliance. However, the highlight of our year was performing as the closing act of Harvard Foundation's twelfth annual *Cultural Rhythms Festival* at Sanders Theatre. Our last performance of the year occurred during the ARTS First weekend. We always welcome new members, regardless of previous dance experience. Please contact Aisha Haynie (haynie@fas) or Lee Dalope (dalope@fas) for more information.

—Paula Fernandez '98

Act '97 Student Activist Conference

Act '97, a student activist conference focused on people-of-color issues, was held at Harvard University from Friday evening, February 28, through Sunday morning, March 2. The conference was centered at Dudley House, with sessions taking place in the Lyman Common Room, Quincy House, and Emerson Hall, and was attended by more than 100 high school and college students from the Northeast.

The conference opened with speaker Anthony Chavez of First Circle, a Burlington-based race and culture education group. His speech was entitled, "Creating Racism-Free Culture and the American Campus: Turn-of-the-Century Challenges and Possibilities."

Participants in the conference chose one of four issue tracks (the Prison-Industrial Complex, Environmental Justice, Ethnic

Studies and Affirmative Action, and Poverty); all of them met in three sessions for a total of six hours over the weekend. Each track was facilitated by students and featured between three and 12 presenters, who gave a history of the topic and various perspectives on organizing around the issue. Presenters included professors, community activists, students, former prisoners and mothers of prisoners, welfare recipients, and others directly affected by the issues addressed by Act '97.

In addition to the issue tracks, participants were able to attend two sets of skills workshops and sensitivity trainings. The skills workshops offered were fund-raising, facilitation, civil disobedience, coalition-building, on-campus organizing, and the impact of race, gender and domestic violence issues upon communities of color. Three distinct anti-racism training sessions were offered: one for people of color, one for white students, and one for all participants.

The turnout and response to Act '97 was gratifying. We hope the inspiration created by Act '97 will remain strong as students from all over the Northeast continue to learn from each other and work together to address issues facing people of color.

—Swati Prakash '97

More Than Equals: Racial Healing for the Sake of the Gospel

On February 14 and 15, the Harvard-Radcliffe Christian Fellowship, the Graduate School Christian Fellowship, the River Bible study, and the Quad Bible study hosted a weekend conference on the importance of racial reconciliation to the Christian faith. Held in Sever Hall and Memorial Church, the conference was attended by more than 100 students from many ethnic and racial backgrounds and from various Christian fellowships on campus.

Friday night Chris Rice and Spencer Perkins—20-year partners in the ministry of racial reconciliation from Jackson,

Mississippi—spoke about the importance of racial healing to the Christian faith. They said that true racial reconciliation is more than diversity and meeting together; it is dealing with the pain and sin that have burdened our nation and world with racial and ethnic conflict.

Saturday night, in Memorial Church, the worship service involved several ethnic traditions. Alice Brown Collins—head of Black Campus Ministries for Interspersed Christian Fellowship in New England—preached a sermon calling on people to commit themselves to a ministry of reconciliation. After her sermon, there was a time for prayer and confession; for two hours, the congregation stood and confessed to God and to each other the ways in which they had been racist and embittered by the racism of others.

This conference brought the Christian community at Harvard together across racial and ethnic lines that are, sadly, seldom crossed and began a process of racial healing that campus Christians hope will continue.

—Paul N. Foster '97

The South Asian Association's Faculty Tea

At the end of April, the Harvard-Radcliffe South Asian Association presented its annual Faculty Tea, which attempts to bridge the gap between faculty and students by creating an informal atmosphere that encourages collegiality. In addition, students have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of South Asian culture, religion, art, politics and society. Because most of the invitations are given to faculty on the Committee for South Asian Studies and in the Sanskrit and Indian Studies Department, undergraduates get a more academic view of South Asia and have the chance to meet some of the most prominent scholars of the region.

The event also offers students another opportunity to meet professors outside the classroom. This year's Faculty Tea in Dudley House drew 10 professors and 40 undergraduates. Many students say that the Faculty Tea helps to eliminate intimidation factors that often come into play when an undergraduate

wants to speak to professors or lecturers. It also allows them to learn more about ongoing faculty research on South Asia.

—Nikhil Chandra '99

Ghungroo: SAA's Annual Cultural Performance

The Harvard-Radcliffe South Asian Association was proud to present its eighth annual *Ghungroo*, the annual cultural performance. *Ghungroo* is dedicated to providing both an entertaining and educational portrayal of the South Asian culture to the entire Harvard community. The activity also serves as an artistic outlet for approximately 250 South Asian undergraduates at Harvard University.

Throughout its short history, *Ghungroo* has been one of the finest ethnic shows on the Harvard campus. In the past, it has included exhibitions of both classical and modern dance, singing, music, skits, and other original performances of different genres. This year's performances at the end of February sold out the Agassiz Theater for two consecutive nights as performers put forth a dazzling display of new and unique acts that students created, choreographed, and wrote.

The desire to explore South Asia's artistic riches is the driving force behind *Ghungroo*. The production annually delivers a landmark performance involving literally hundreds of undergraduates in all facets of the program while also contributing significantly to the artistic mosaic of the Harvard community.

—Nikhil Chandra '99

The Woodbridge Speaker Series

The Speaker Series, one of the Woodbridge Society's most ambitious long-term projects, was launched in the fall of 1996. The aim of the project is to invite prominent speakers from around the world who have made significant contributions to furthering international understanding —

including heads of state, diplomats, authors, and academics — to speak at Harvard.

The panel of Faculty Advisors to the Speaker Series consists of Professors Samuel Huntington, Cornel West, Roderick MacFarquhar, Nur Yalman, and Michael Herzfeld. Also, President Neil Rudenstine and Dean Archie Epps both gave advice for and are enthusiastic about the project.

The inaugural event of the Speaker Series was held on February 10, 1997, with Professor Huntington speaking about the "Clash of Civilizations" at a lecture attended by more than 400 people in the Lowell Lecture Hall. Professor MacFarquhar introduced the Speaker Series and its goals to the audience.

We recently instituted a formalized structure for the Speaker Series. The project now has a semi-autonomous executive body affiliated with, but not dictated by, the Woodbridge Society. The new team has begun carrying out its plans and will be working actively throughout the summer.

—Kaustuv Sen '99

The International Senior and Alumni Reception

The Woodbridge Society, along with the Harvard International Office and the Harvard Alumni Office, hosted an open reception for the international students of the class of 1997, directors of Harvard Clubs from around the world (who were in town that weekend for the HAA conference), and all interested underclassmen. The event was held in the Eliot House Junior Common Room on Saturday afternoon, May 3. Wine, crackers and cheese, and other refreshments were catered by Crimson Catering. Approximately 75 people attended the reception.

This was an opportunity for seniors to meet interested underclassmen and each other to discuss the many small differences that make the international student experience a unique one at Harvard. The alumni directors—some of whom came from California, Paris, and Latin America—added an interesting perspective on what lies beyond graduation for many seniors.

The reception was also an opportunity for us to bid the seniors farewell and thank

them for doing so well at representing the international community in their four years at Harvard. At the reception, a database with the future addresses and plans of the graduating international seniors was made available to all.

—Kaustuv Sen '99

The Woodbridge Mentor Program

The Mentor Program matches incoming international freshmen with upper-classmen from the same regions of the world. The program aims to ease the transition for the freshmen by providing them with a friend who has probably experienced similar cultural and academic adjustments upon arriving at Harvard.

This year, we saw an increase in the number of mentors and their advisees who regularly see each other. This was probably facilitated by the several planned social occasions where the pairs could meet conveniently. The Admissions Office has provided us with the list of admitted international students to the Class of 2001, and we are finalizing the match-ups. We are trying to establish more meaningful contact between the mentors and mentees over the summer, since it is the time when the freshmen will most likely have questions.

—Zeynep Fetraci '99

The Woodbridge Barazas (Open Houses)

As scheduled at the beginning of the semester, we had five open houses this semester, with varying themes ranging from Turkish and Indian, Ethiopian and Middle Eastern to the desserts of the world.

The barazas adopt a particular cultural theme each time in order to inform and entertain participants in the diverse ways of people around the world. The themes encompass food, music, and sometimes even some form of entertainment.

The baraza held on February 16 had a Turkish theme. We had various delicacies,

such as sigara borek, dolma apt, mucuer apt, humus and baba ghanoush from the Istanbul Cafe on Beacon Hill (a favorite with Turkish food aficionados). Seventy-five people packed into Straus Common Room to begin the new semester. We offered them the lively strains of Turkish pop to swing to and had animated discussion in the room as freshmen mingled with seniors from countries across the world. Everyone had a lively time.

—Manjari Mahajan '98

Sa-i-gu: Explorations of the L.A. Riots

The film *Sa-i-gu* was shown at Emerson 305 on Thursday, February 6, 1997. Korean Americans for Culture and Community (KACC) sponsored this event because *Sa-i-gu* presents a unique opportunity to examine an aspect of the L.A. riots that was largely overlooked by the news media. The media continually portrayed Koreans as vicious, gun-toting aggressors, and neglected to explore the possible motivations behind these actions. The film presented the personal stories of three Korean women and their perspectives on the riots.

In seeking to understand the role racial factors played in the development of the riots, a discussion was held after the screen-

ing. Admission to the event was free and open to all, and about 50 people of diverse backgrounds attended. The discussion focused on the circumstances surrounding the riots and their implications. During the discussion, some of the inaccuracies of the media's coverage of the riots were exposed by people who were actually in L.A. at the time and gave personal accounts of the true conditions there. The film showing was successful in that some people said that they had no appreciation of the Korean perspective before our event took place. The film served as an introduction to this semester's weekly discussion of the L.A. riots in the KACC study group, and it was only the first event in KACC's semester-long exploration and presentation of the L.A. riots to the Harvard community.

—Azriel Rivers '99

KACC's L.A. Riots Panel Discussion

KACC also organized a panel discussion entitled "The L.A. Riots: Five Years After" that took place on Monday, April 14 in Emerson 105. Panelists included Bong Hwam Kim, a Korean American activist and member of the L.A. Black-Korean Alliance; Michael Jones-Correa, assistant professor of



Panelists explore the possibilities for post-riots community building in South Central L.A.

government here at Harvard; John Lie, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Patrick Joyce, a Ph.D. candidate in Harvard's department of Government.

Attended by over 100 students and community members, the discussion began with brief statements by each of the panelists, then a brief discussion among the panelists moderated by a student, followed by questions from members of the audience. These were some of the issues the panelists addressed: the L.A. riots as America's first multiethnic riots, urban poverty, immigration, community activism, and prospects for future improvements in community building in South Central Los Angeles.

We concluded the evening with a reception sponsored by the Harvard Foundation. The event was part of the IOP's Pizza and Politics series. Co-sponsoring organizations were the IOP, the Harvard Foundation, AAA, Black Men's Forum, BSA, *Diversity and Distinction*, E4A, KSA, RAZA, Latinas Unidas, MSA, and Yisei.

—Theresa Chung '98

T'ong-il Arirang, Benefit Performance

On Friday, April 25, Korean Americans for Culture and Community (KACC) held a benefit performance of dance, music, and poetry at Lowell Lecture Hall that included the Chunsan Fan Dance Troupe, KACC's traditional Korean percussion group, and special guests Mu SeChung and Yi NaMi. The performance aimed to achieve two goals: (1) to raise funds for the relief efforts currently being undertaken by the American Red Cross for North Korea's famine victims; (2) to increase awareness within the Harvard community about a crisis that the United Nations food aid agency has recently described as "one of the biggest humanitarian disasters of our lifetime."

Special guests Mu SeChung and Yi NaMi are two of Korea's leading avant-garde performance artists. Through dance and drama, they made a powerful presentation of the sorrows and pathos experienced by the Korean people from the division

within the nation, the fratricide of the Korean War, and the continuing separation of North and South.

The audience of about 100 people came from a diverse range of racial and ethnic backgrounds. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the American Red Cross North Korea famine relief program. KACC would like to acknowledge the Harvard Foundation, the Office for the Arts, the Undergraduate Council, and the Korea Institute for making this program possible.

—Eric Cho '98

KACC Study Group

KACC Study Group meetings were held every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. in Loker Room 31. Meetings began in the second week of February and continued until mid-April. Anyone interested in the topic of discussion was welcome to participate. Approximately 15 people of diverse backgrounds participated regularly in study-group discussions. This semester, the study group's focus was on the L.A. Riots. We explored issues such as Korean-Black Relations, media portrayal of Korean Americans in the L.A. Riots, and the Role of Koreatown as a Multiethnic Community. This semester, our study group was fortunate enough to have two guest speakers. Bong Hwam Kim was an activist involved in the L.A. Black-Korean Alliance at the time of the riots. He provided a firsthand account of events that surprised many study-group members. Patrick Joyce, a Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, spoke about his dissertation topic: Black-Korean conflict. Each week, the study group focused on assigned readings. This kept discussion limited to a certain sphere each week, but by the end of the semester, we had virtually left no stone unturned. In conjunction with discussing the L.A. riots in the study group, KACC sponsored a panel discussion on the L.A. riots in an effort to reach the larger Harvard community. Both the panel discussion and the study group were successful in increasing cross-cultural awareness and understanding. The Harvard

Foundation was the study group's only source of funding.

—Aziel Rivers '99

AAA Conference: Cultural Workshops

Thirteen cultural workshops were offered to conference delegates at the 8th Annual Asian American Intercollegiate Conference, sponsored by Harvard on February 14–16, 1997. The workshops were held in various meeting areas on Harvard's campus.

Approximately 50 delegates attended the Asian Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine workshop, led by instructors from the New England School of Medicine. In addition to learning about the fascinating procedures and effectiveness of these traditional Asian medical remedies, students at the workshop were also treated to live demonstrations of acupuncture therapy.

The workshop on Ch'an (Japanese Zen) meditation drew approximately 25 conference delegates. Guo-chou Shi, a monk from the Ch'an Meditation Center introduced students to basic theories and methods of Ch'an meditation. The theme of this workshop represented the goals of Ch'an Meditation—Peace, Wisdom, and Happiness. Seven students learned about the ancient Chinese art of restive healing known as Taichi under the instruction of the Harvard Taichi Club and the Taichi workshop. More than 12 students learned the intricate art of Chinese calligraphy using Chinese brushes and ink during an hour long workshop. A special feature of this workshop was that workshop attendees learned to write their names in Chinese calligraphy. Around 15 students attended a workshop on Chinese Brush painting, where they learned Chinese techniques and styles. These styles included Shansui painting. Approximately 20 students enjoyed a demonstration of a Japanese Tea Ceremony led by the Harvard Chado Society in the Japanese tea room in the East Asian Languages and Civilization building at 5 Bryant Street. Those who attended also enjoyed Japanese green tea and sweets.

One of the most popular workshops was

the sushi-making workshop organized by the Harvard Japan Society. The 50 students that attended enjoyed a well-organized workshop featuring a wide array of sushi ingredients. Those brave enough to try the raw fish variety also found this delicacy available. Several sushi-making stations allowed all who attended to make more than they could eat.

Marie Lee, instructor of Asian American creative writing at Yale University, gave Harvard students an opportunity to be introduced to Asian American creative writing, including a discussion on how Asian American writing is perceived. Discussion topics included authenticity and the "Amy Tan syndrome." The 30 students that attended also experimented with some writing of their own during the workshop. Around 30 students created and enjoyed Vietnamese spring rolls at the Spring-Roll making workshop. A quick lesson on rolling this tasty appetizer by Harvard Vietnamese Association members was given at the beginning of this workshop. Asian drinking games are a part of the culture of the more youthful Asian American population, and the 15 delegates that attended this workshop learned drinking games of several Asian nations. Non-alcoholic beverages were served to simulate the experience. Around 20 students watched the Harvard Kendo Club demonstrate this form of Japanese sword fighting. Workshop attendees learned how complicated cuts are executed, and were then allowed to try their way with the sword themselves. Twenty-five students learned to concoct lassi, a South Asian yogurt drink. This workshop, like the others involving food, was popular among all who attended. A gathering of about seven students learned to play Mahjong, a popular Chinese game played with tiles, which was led by a member of the Harvard Chinese Students Association.

—Kelly Yamanouchi '00

AAA Conference: Affirmative Action Panel

The affirmative action panel was a great highlight of the Eighth Annual Asian American Intercollegiate Conference. Held

at the Belfer Starr Auditorium at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 15, 1997, the forum consisted of five well-respected and well-published law professors speaking to the 250 people who attended.

The professors were invited based on their insights on affirmative action and how it applies to education and Asian Americans. Speakers included Sumi Cho, a noted law professor at DePaul College of Law, who writes from a critical feminist theory perspective; Akhil Amar, the second-youngest tenured law professor at Yale; Gabriel Chin, a law professor at Western New England and a graduate of Harvard Law; Viet Dinh, a law professor at Georgetown Law who came to the U.S. as a refugee and later graduated from both Harvard College and Harvard Law; and the moderator, Alfred Yen, a professor at Boston College Law School.

Overall, the panel was a great success. The speakers argued over the validity of the current status of affirmative action; Cho and Chin argued for increased affirmative action, and Dinh and Amar supported the status quo Bakke definition. Because of their legal backgrounds and extensive knowledge on the subject, the speakers gave precise and informative speeches on the issue, which facilitated the question and answer period that followed. Audience members, ranging from conference attendees to Harvard students to the local public, were stimulated by the professors' presentations. They showed their interest in the issue and in what the speakers had said by providing a challenging set of questions to the panelists.

—Saukok Chu '98

Closing Address by Kent Wong in Starr Auditorium, Belfer Building

In a speech titled "Building a Movement for Social Justice—the Role of Asian Workers and Communities," given on February 16, 1997, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) founder and national president Kent Wong managed to excite and inspire the diverse crowd of

approximately 150 into considering the greater implications of social justice.

As the final address of the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Intercollegiate Conference, Wong fervently explained to the students (from Harvard and other colleges across the country), adults, and community members assembled that we are all responsible for maintaining social equality and that severe violations of human rights can be found in every region of the country. With an impassioned and sincere manner, he educated the engrossed audience to the plight of the disadvantaged. He gave us a glimpse into the lives of those who work in sweatshops and factories for poverty wages, of those who must fend for themselves against the high-powered lawyers of the corporations and businesses, and of those who subsist without benefits or representation. He demonstrated overwhelmingly why there is such a desperate need for minority labor organizations, and why the social movement is so important.

Receiving a standing ovation for his remarks, Kent Wong further impressed the crowd by spending an extra hour afterwards to answer questions. For anyone interested in the human spirit and in maintaining social justice, the entire event was thoroughly educational, inspiring, and a worthwhile experience.

—Jessica Wang '00

Poet Sesshu Foster Hosted by AAA

Sesshu Foster's poetry reading was held in the Adams Upper Common Room on March 20 and was attended by more than 30 undergraduate students, graduate students, and even one student from UC Berkeley. Foster, an East L.A. Japanese/Chicano American poet has recently published a book called *City Terrace Field Manual*. His prose and poetry reflect upon growing up in an interethnic, working-class environment. Addressing issues ranging from the WWII internment of Japanese Americans to warfare on the streets of Koreatown, Mr. Foster has also recently appeared at the Annual Chicano Poets and Playwrights' Fest. Foster, who is known for

radically redefining "multicultural literature," selected poetry from his latest anthology, *City Terrace Field Manual*, reading works that describe the violence and the beauty of life in East Los Angeles with stark imagery, subtle humor, and dark wit. A half-hour discussion session was held after the 45-minute reading, when many students asked Foster questions about his thought-provoking poetry and his life growing up in a Japanese Chicano American working-class environment. Foster is an intriguing man, and all who attended enjoyed his poetry.

—Alexander T. Nguyen '99

AAA: A Visit by Dr. Ho Tran

Ho Tran, M.D., spoke at the 8th Annual Asian American Intercollegiate Conference on February 15, 1997, in the Starr Auditorium at the Belfer Center, John F. Kennedy School of Government. The title of her address was "At the Grass Roots: New Minorities and the Political Mainstream." Approximately fifty conference registrants and Harvard students attended the event. Her address provided various insights on the difficulties and future of minority voting and greater political involvement. She also shared the mission statements and focus of the Vietnamese Political Action Committee (VPAC), a nationwide grass roots organization of which she is founder and president.

On behalf of the 8th Annual Asian American Intercollegiate Conference Organizing Committee, we thank the Harvard Foundation for its funding and support of Dr. Tran's visit and address. Without the Foundation's support, the important message that she conveyed to her audience might have not been possible. Among the purposes of the Foundation, this event shed light not only on minority politics but also on its myriad implications for race and cultural relations. Her address provided a much needed view from the grass roots. The Foundation's support has allowed Dr. Tran's message of building minority politics from its deepest roots to be heard by the Harvard community.

AAA Players Present Chess

On April 3, 4, and 5, 1997, at the Agassiz Theatre in Radcliffe Yard, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association Players achieved new standards of excellence with their production of the 1980's rock musical *Chess*. Having performed various plays by Asian American playwrights and even one non-Asian work (Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*), the AAA Players had never before attempted a musical production. Yet the story of *Chess*, originally one of Cold War intrigue, romance, and politics, resonated well with parallel themes of the Communist presence in Asia and the issues facing Asians and Asian Americans in the '90s. Ultimately, the AAA Players' first venture into the world of musical theater proved very successful, attracting large audiences and garnering praise from all corners. The cast performed to a full house for two of four shows, the overall attendance reaching almost 600. There was this comment in a review in the Harvard Crimson by Jamie L. Jones: "Overall, the AAA players' rendition of *Chess* was a provocative, high-energy production. Imaginative staging and fine performances gave it a freshness that was extremely appealing."

This production was made possible by funding from the Harvard Foundation as well as grants from the Office for the Arts, the Undergraduate Council, and the International Relations Council. AAA Players are already planning their fall production, *Suzie Wong Doesn't Live Here: Two One Act Plays*.

Interethnic Study Break: The Model Minority Myth

On Tuesday, April 15, the Asian American Association, with the support of the Harvard Foundation, co-sponsored an Interethnic Discussion/Study Break with the Harvard Radcliffe Hillel in the Loker Coffeehouse. The topic of discussion was "The Model Minority Myth: Through the

Eyes of Asians and Jews," and kosher Chinese and Jewish food was provided for participants. About 60 students, among whom were Asians, Jews, and other interested people, attended the event, which consisted of an ice-breaker and separate presentations regarding the model minority myth by both the Jewish and Asian organizers. The discussion was then opened up to the interested and eager crowd. The discussion was designed to shed some light on varying aspects of the model minority myth and the different perceptions among the two racial and ethnic groups under scrutiny. This year's interethnic discussion served to connect Asians and Jews, two drastically different groups by societal standards but that share many common values and perceptions.

AAA Discussion Group: Contemporary Asian American Issues

The 1997 Asian American Association discussion group drew a committed and engaged group of students together to discuss contemporary Asian American issues on a weekly basis. Our core membership consisted of approximately 15 regular attendees, with 5-15 additional participants every week who were drawn to a specific topic. The topics covered were as diverse as was the population of Asian Americans they affected. Current issues ranged from religion to politics over intergenerational conflict and language barriers. Participants were male and female, ethnically Asian and non-Asian, immigrant generation and U.S. born, and both undergraduates and graduate students. Our discussions often included personal experiences and thoughts, although all focused on issues raised in the sourcebook readings that were provided in a free source book to all attendees. Texts were integrated into the discussion to a varying degree each week depending on the members' interest and preparation.

What every week had in common, though, was that individual participants expressed their ideas freely whether they were testing out newly formulated ones or debating passionately held beliefs. "The dis-

cussion group is providing Asian American students with a chance to learn more about and discuss contemporary issues which are playing an important role in the lives of Asian Americans," said Caroline T. Nguyen '00. "At Harvard, because the curriculum does not allow for pursuit of such discussions in the classrooms, the AAA discussion group provided us with an open forum for expressing our thoughts."

With Asian Americans as one of the fastest-growing minority groups in the United States (3% of the population) and facing a multitude of problems and issues, education is the main prerequisite for initiating meaningful social action.

The discussion group is a project that the Asian American Association hopes to continue in future semesters.

—Alexander T. Nguyen '99

AAA Educational Poster Series

Over the course of the spring 1997 semester, AAA has introduced posters and handouts every week that promote awareness of Asian American issues within the Harvard community. Educational and political in nature, the poster series employed a variety of approaches to discourse and dissemination of knowledge. These educational media addressed multiculturalism from a wide variety of perspectives and themes, relying on history, literature, and arts with particular significance for Asian Americans. The weekly posters and handouts were interspersed with activities that address some of the same themes: Asian American gangs, interracial relationships, Asian American political involvement, and the shattering of the model minority stereotype. In addition, we published a monthly newsletter that served as a forum for intercultural crosstalk and discussion as well as a way to announce upcoming events sponsored by various ethnic organizations. The posters, fliers, and handouts reached about 1300 students on the AAA membership list. We tabled in high-traffic areas and poster on the kiosks, in the freshmen dorms and upperclass houses, and in the Science Center. Our most successful tabling this semester was with the pamphlets

and petitioning we did in connection with the March 24 cover of the *National Review* magazine. We passed out 1,500 pamphlets and received more than 800 signatures.

Yisei: Summer Issue 1997

Throughout the spring semester, the Editorial board and staff of *Yisei Magazine: Voices of Koreans at Harvard-Radcliffe* have worked diligently to produce our summer 1997 issue. This issue contains feature articles, fiction, personal essays, poetry, photography, and translations of English articles into Korean and Korean articles into English.

The goal of *Yisei Magazine* is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues that affect both Korean Americans and non-Korean Americans here at Harvard. For example, an article written by Young In '98 explores the issues she faces as a Korean American growing up in Texas. An interview of Korean American congressman Jay Kim examines the political issues that Korean Americans face. Furthermore, *Yisei* aims to expose the Harvard community to Korean and Korean American culture and art. The summer issue contains several poems and a short story written by Korean American students.

Meetings were held every Monday evening in Sever Hall 101. Issues such as article topics, funding, and layout were often discussed at the meetings. Every member of the Harvard community was invited to attend and participate during the weekly meetings. The layout of the magazine is being completed and will be sent to the publisher shortly. Copies of the final issue are at distribution centers around the campus and free to members of the Harvard community.

This issue was funded by the Harvard Foundation, Undergraduate Council, and the International Relations Council.

Arab Cultural Evenings

The Arab Cultural Evenings are intended to be a series of informal gatherings that will allow students to learn about and

to appreciate Arab culture through their exposure to Arab films, food, and music, as well as through general conversation with Arabs and others interested in their world.

The first Arab Cultural Evening was held on Friday, March 7, in the Quincy House Junior Common Room. We viewed an Egyptian social comedy starring the well-known actor Adel Imam as well as a Syrian musical. A small spread of Arabic food, including hummus, za'tar, labany, baba ganoush, and goat cheese, was provided.

The second Evening took place in the Adams Lower Common Room on Wednesday, April 12. We made a special effort to reach out by telephone and e-mail to other Arab and Arab-American students at Harvard, and conversation at the event revolved around issues of mutual concern on campus. Arabic food was also provided. Both evenings met our goals of cultural education and awareness.

Bi-Annual Arab Awareness Week

The Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students presented its bi-annual Arab Awareness Week on April 20-26. This series of events, co-sponsored with the Harvard Foundation, the Undergraduate Council and the International Relations Council, included a multitude of activities.

A poster exhibit was set up in the Science Center for the entire week. Posters and flags were changed daily to reflect different themes such as Arabic calligraphy, the Levant, North Africa, and old Arab cities. The exhibit also included a "Did You Know?" aisle, which contained different facts about the Arab world. Students tabled outside the Science Center, distributing fact sheets and serving Arabic coffee and snacks.

Arab Awareness Week also included a dance workshop in Winthrop House. Members of the Society of Arab Students gave lessons in traditional Egyptian, Lebanese, and Saudi dancing. The following day, Professor Atif Kubur gave a lecture entitled "Economic Development in the Arab World." The week's events concluded with a "Leila" of Arab dance and music in Adams House.

Harvard students from various backgrounds were exposed to the week's events, particularly through the poster exhibit and the tabling activities. To a great extent, Arab Awareness Week shed some light on the myriad aspects of Arab culture that are seldom explored in the United States.

—Ahmed el-Gaili '98

Arabic Cooking Workshop

Our Arabic Cooking Workshop took place on Thursday, April 24. The workshop was intended to teach participants about one aspect of Arab culture (i.e., food preparation) and introduce them to the flavor and richness of Arabic cuisine; it was scheduled as part of our Arab Awareness Week. A diverse audience of persons interested in Arabic cuisine met at 5 p.m. in the Adams House student kitchen. Leila Kavar '98, the best cook in SAS and one of its most dedicated members, taught us how to prepare fattoush (a traditional Levantine salad); hummus, a rice-based vegetable dish; and nammoura, a delicious desert made from semolina. We had dinner after preparing the food and ended the meal with traditional Arabic coffee flavored with cardamom. The workshop was a friendly, relaxed, and enjoyable learning experience for all.

—Mayssam π '98

Second Annual Intercollegiate Arab Students Conference

Under the slogan "We CAN have an impact," Arab students throughout New England attended the second annual Intercollegiate Arab Students Conference (IASC 97) on Saturday, April 5. The conference, held at MIT's Tang Center, presented an opportunity for Arab Students from different universities to learn about important issues in the Arab world today and to share their insights on these matters.

Dr. Munir Fasheh, former dean of Birzeit University and founding director of Tamer Institute for Community Education, deliv-

ered an inspiring keynote address to an attentive audience of one hundred and fifty participants. Participants then chose from among eight workshops facilitated by lecturers from various universities and organizations. Workshop topics included the following: Education, Human Capital Formation, and Brain Drain; Foreign Investment and Private Sector Development; The Development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; Arab Women: Achievements and Challenges; Representations of Arab Society in Literature; Civil Society in the Arab World; On Being Arab American and Religious and Secular Elements in Contemporary Arab Thought. Following the workshops, participants attended a plenary session, followed by a dinner reception and a screening of the film *Omar Gatlato*.

IASC 97 stimulated Arab students to think about the critical problems facing the Arab world and to help resolve them. Co-sponsors of IASC 97 included the MIT Arab Students Organization, Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and the Harvard Foundation.

—Ahmed el-Gaili '98

Kapatiran

"Kapatiran," which means "brotherhood" in Tagalog, is the Harvard Philippine Forum's (HPF) second attempt at a publication with a new twist. Several years ago, HPF produced four issues of a journal entitled, *The Filipino-American Journal*. Unlike the PAJ, which included primarily academic articles, *Kapatiran* welcomes scholarly and political work as well as art, poetry, and fiction that focuses on a central theme. Our magazine also includes other related issues such as current events, arts reviews, and a youth profile highlighting a Filipino college student who contributes greatly to our community.

The staff of *Kapatiran* will be releasing its first two issues in May. Our first issue is entitled "The Filipino in America: Finding a Voice" and the second is entitled "Opportunity and Discrimination." We have been fortunate in receiving a wide variety of submissions from a diverse group of writers, ranging from Harvard students to professionals from the New York Arab Students

Conference, and including an interview with Filipino American Governor Ben Cayetano and excerpts of thesis work by Harvard seniors. We hope that you enjoy our premiere issues, and we welcome your comments or suggestions.

—Paula V. Fernandez '98

The First Annual Capoeira Encounter

Following their presentation at *Cultural Rhythms '97* and their interactive encore performance at the Science Center, members of the Harvard Brazilian Organization's Capoeira group hosted a daylong workshop in the history, music, and movements of Capoeira. This event took place in the Winthrop House JCR on February 23, 1997.

The goal of the Harvard Brazilian Organization's Capoeira group is to inform and expose the Harvard community to Afro-Brazilian dance ritual. Capoeira was developed by escaped slaves in late-seventeenth-century Brazil as a form of cultural resistance to Portuguese colonialism. Although Capoeira was created outside the institution of slavery, it was preserved under slavery by being disguised as a playful dance. Thus, Capoeira combines the gracefulness of dance, the agility of acrobatics, and the cunningness of sparring.

The workshop featured seven mestres and professors of Capoeira from Brazil, each of whom lead a 30- to 45-minute class. The encounter culminated in a roda, the traditional format of Capoeira in which players enter a circle in mixed pairs to execute the movements of Capoeira. Nearly half of the participants were Harvard-Radcliffe students; the rest were the students of the visiting mestres and professors.

Chinese Students Association New Year's Banquet 1997

On Saturday, February 8, the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students

Association (HRCSA) held their annual Chinese New Year's banquet in the Leverett House dining hall. Approximately 200 guests joined in the celebration. The banquet provided food and entertainment as well as cultural education to usher in the Year of the Ox.

HRCSA co-presidents Andrew Chung and Harrison Lin performed as masters of ceremony. They provided educational background on the significance of the celebration and kept the evening's agenda moving at a quick pace for the enjoyment of the guests. Among other acts, Andrew and Harrison involved the audience in a contest based on a popular Taiwanese game show.

The other performers included the Asian American Dance Troupe, who performed two dances, an exhilarating sword dance, and a flashy dance involving poles. Christine Lay '97 performed on the traditional Chinese zither to the delighted ears of the guests. The MIT Lion Dance Troupe performed the finale with a spectacular lion dance to the beat of drums.

—Alexander Green '00

Singapore and Malaysia Association's Annual Spring Food Festival

Far away from home, Singaporeans and Malaysians are a deprived group of people—deprived, that is, of the luxury of wonderful Southeast Asian food that scorns the bystander who shudders at anything hot and spicy. Thank goodness for events such as the Singapore and Malaysia Association's annual spring cookout. This year's event was held on Saturday, April 19, near Bertram Hall, Cabot House.

Once again, there was no shortage of traditional Malay food that we had all been missing for months, prepared by a private caterer. The dishes ranged from a special chicken curry prepared in a unique lemon gravy, and sautéed prawns in chili sauce, to simple dishes such as sprouts stirfried with tofu, and agar agar, a popular jelly desert. And mercifully for the slightly more unadventurous, the skies held out and burgers hot from the barbecue grill provided yet another item on an already varied menu.

The event attracted almost 40 students from the Harvard campus, graduates and undergraduates alike. Curious Quad residents mingled with the crowd. Also, present among the guests was Andrew Fung, center director of the Singapore Student Office in Boston. All were delighted that the food was homecooked.

Overall, the day was a success despite the gloomy weather that had threatened to dampen the event. Many thanks to the Harvard Foundation, the Undergraduate Council, and the Singapore Student Office for the grants that made the cookout possible. If anything, the event only served to reaffirm the fact that food is a central part of life in Singapore and Malaysia, and the spicier it comes, the better.

—Davin Chor '00

Minority Students' Alliance Diversity in Dance Workshop

The second annual MSA Diversity in Dance workshop was held on Saturday, March 15, from 2-4 p.m. in the Kirkland House Junior Common Room. The event was co-sponsored by the Society of Arab Students and the Harvard Philippine Forum. SAS began the afternoon with a performance of *dabkeh*, a Lebanese dance form. The strong and fast-paced rhythm appealed to everyone in the room, and soon we were all joining in. The SAS members walked us through each step, accepting nothing less than perfection. When they finished teaching a few steps and asked if we wanted to stop, several people insisted we go on and learn even more difficult steps. It took a lot of fancy footwork and practice, but in the end everyone knew the dance and felt almost ready to go on stage.

After the SAS segment of the workshop HPF took over and began teaching *tinikling*, a dance involving banging bamboo sticks on the floor and dancing in between them. The HPF dancers made it look a lot easier than it was, and it took a few ankle-smashing mistakes to learn the steps. They were very excited to share this dance form, however, and made sure we all could do at least the simplest step.

Following HPF, an unplanned session took place. A freshman whose family is from the Bahamas volunteered to teach us a fun dance commonly performed there.

Especially after enjoying delicious snacks (olive leaves, falafel, and hummus) from Skewers Restaurant, everyone who attended the dance workshop agreed it was a wonderful event. We came away with not only new dance steps but new friends and an appreciation for the art forms of three different cultures as well. With generous and much appreciated grants from the Harvard Foundation, we will definitely continue this tradition next year.

—Devi SenGupta '98

Kuumba's Spring Concert

Founded in the African American tradition, The Harvard-Radcliffe Kuumba Singers seek to introduce the world to spirituals, hymns, gospel music, and other traditional and nontraditional art forms. The group is made up of people from various ethnic groups. This has allowed them the freedom to perform everything from German folk music to contemporary Rhythm and Blues. Kuumba has been blessed with the keen ability to bring different people together through music, poetry, and drama. Kuumba is special in many ways, but especially because it teaches people about what the beauty of culture really is.

With that said, it should be noted that the Harvard-Radcliffe Kuumba Singers are in their 27th year of existence on the Harvard campus. They are an established group of accomplished singers who are recognized in such cities as Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Charlotte and Richmond. In this same legacy and spirit, the Kuumba Singers held their annual mid-winter, now spring, concert. The event was held in Paine Music Building and the singing, in conjunction with the poetry and scripture, made the evening memorable.

Kuumba is more than a singing group; it is a culture-embracing entity on this campus. Kuumba stands as one of the best representations of African American culture. Its legacy will live on forever, and the 1997 spring concert was just the beginning. The Kuumba Singers look forward to the fall as

a time of preparation for the Christmas concert. If what took place in Paine Hall on April 12 is any indication of things to come, Harvard better watch out because Creativity is on its way.

Diversity & Distinction

When I came to Harvard I knew I didn't want to get involved with any student ethnic groups. It was not that I disliked groups like the Asian American Association, Raza, or the Black Students Association, which help to create vibrant communities of color on our campus. Joining just didn't appeal to me. I had been fortunate to have a strong Asian American community in my hometown high school, and I wanted a broader experience. In some ways, I simply wanted to get away from questions of race and ethnicity.

Given this, it was surprising last year to find myself elected editor-in-chief of *Diversity & Distinction*, a publication that obviously addresses these issues. To be honest, I came aboard the magazine somewhat reluctantly, at the request of my friend Michael Luo, D&D's founder. I was excited by some of the things I had read in the magazine but unsure of my place on its staff. Truthfully, I didn't think issues of diversity—whether of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or whatever—had much relevance to my life.

I changed my mind. Just being a student on campus, I came to realize how easy it was for people to live comfortable lives isolated from people of different backgrounds. I knew this because I did it myself in spite of my original intentions. People tend naturally to gravitate toward certain cliques and certain common experiences, I suppose, and I was no exception. It struck me as odd and tragic that people were not communicating more meaningfully across lines of identity.

What I learned on the staff of D&D, however, was that there were things we could do, as a community, to promote interaction and understanding. Through a forum like D&D, people could communicate their experiences to the rest of the campus. They could debate issues of diversity, challenge

one another's views, and in the end learn something. In this way, perhaps we, as a campus, could make breaches in the walls that naturally separate us.

Such a goal did not have to be restricted to minorities or activists, I learned. It didn't have to be a dogmatic multiculturalism or diluted political correctness either. It could question, as well as respect, differences. The only thing it could not do was remain silent about them. The point of D&D, as I saw it, was a candid, informed dialogue.

That has been my agenda as editor in chief of *Diversity & Distinction* this year. I have tried my best to include a diversity of viewpoints in our magazine and on our staff. I have tried to make D&D not just than a magazine for minorities or "multiculturalists" but a magazine for everyone.

Granted, D&D still has a lot to accomplish. For instance, we have been accused of having an "Asian agenda" and of not being diverse as a staff. I cannot deny the dearth of representation on our staff, though I would like people to know that this situation has not come about because the editors or staff have been biased against any groups. I suppose it is partly because D&D was started by one person who recruited the people he knew to make the magazine happen. I can only hope that people of all backgrounds will share a belief in and passion for the mission of this magazine, and that they will get involved at some level to make it everything it can be.

This year has seen a lot of changes to D&D. We've incorporated art and photography and revamped our design. We've formalized a staff structure, and our membership has grown to more than 40. We've diversified our content, covering important but underreported topics such as mental health and socioeconomic class. And we've tried to present discussion and debate on various topics concerning diversity, with views from all points of the political spectrum.

D&D is growing, and I'm proud to have been a part of it. I hope Harvard students will continue to make use of its potential, as staff members or as readers. D&D represents a unique vision on this campus: one that acknowledges complexity and differences and is eager to talk about them, in the hope that communication will help us to better understand each other. Harvard needs such

a forum. We hope that students will contribute in their own ways to the goal, and the dream, that D&D represents.

—Victor Chen '98

BSA's Affirmative Action Conference

The Affirmative Action Conference was a two-day program sponsored by the Harvard-Radcliffe Black Students Association on the weekend of February 7, 1997. By all accounts it was a success. The Friday panel was co-sponsored with the Institute of Politics and held in the Arco Forum. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, was the perfect moderator, remaining unbiased through heavy moments of drama created by the panel. The panelists included Theodore Shaw, NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Errol Smith, founder of Friday Enterprises; Bob Zelnick, Washington correspondent of ABC News; and Michael Sandel, Harvard professor of government. It was a balanced, highly informative panel, and many of our members attended.

The Saturday program began with a brunch with President Neil Rudenstine, Dean Archie Epps, Dr. David Evans, Mr. James Hoyte and other distinguished faculty. It was a close setting and the students that attended gained extensive insight into Harvard's admissions policies. The last two panels were sparsely attended. Moderated by Professor Martin Kilson, the first panel concerned affirmative action, race and class. Panelists included Professor Lawrence Golden, University of Illinois, and Chile Eboe-Osuji, a Canadian lawyer. Joshua Bloodworth '97 moderated the second panel discussion on affirmative action and higher education. Panelists included Grace Carolyn-Brown, President of Roxbury Community College; Dr. David Evans, senior admissions officer; and James Hoyte, associate vice president of Harvard. This conference was a success for the BSA. We established a good professional relationship with the Institute of Politics and continued to strengthen our ties with the Harvard Foundation.

—Dionne Fraser '99

Harvard Islamic Society Lecture: Choosing Islam

On Friday, May 25, the Harvard Islamic Society co-sponsored an event with the Islamic Society of Boston University entitled "Choosing Islam: The Meaning of Submission." The event was a cooperative effort organized through the Boston Muslim Students' Council.

Abdullah Adhami spoke to an audience of about 50 people at Boston University's Science Center. The following morning, Adhami held a talk at the Harvard Islamic Society prayer room, answering questions and correcting misconceptions about Islam. He pointed out that Islam is an often misunderstood religion in the West—even among Muslims.

Adhami discussed the concept of submission—a central aspect of the Muslim religion. Understanding the idea of submission, which is a literal translation of the word Islam, leads to a better understanding of the concept of religious duty in Islam and helps to explain the basis of interactions between Muslims and non-Muslims.

—Aamir Abdul Rehman '99

African Food Festival

Harvard's African students celebrated some of the diverse cultures they represent on Saturday, April 5. The food festival, sponsored by the Harvard African Students' Association (HASA), with the help of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, was a success. Soon after the doors opened, students and other members of the Harvard community swarmed into Robinson Hall in Harvard Yard, eager to sample the variety of dishes prepared by the African students. These included dishes from Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, spanning the breadth of the continent.

This food festival was a good response to the numerous questions African students are asked about their diets in their countries of origin. Judging from the excitement and looks of pleasure one could see on the faces

of students, it was obvious they had not only learned about Africa but also thoroughly enjoyed themselves. All the food was sold and in the future we will have to plan to cater for an even larger group of patrons. One of the goals of HASA is to increase knowledge of Africa in the Harvard community. The organization is grateful to the Foundation for its continued support of HASA's activities in pursuit of this goal.

—Ebo Edwandi Bentil '99

HASA Hosts Professor Ali Mazrui

Internationally renowned Africanist Ali A. Mazrui, who wrote and narrated the nine-hour BBC series "The Africans: A Triple Heritage," and holds chair professorships at three universities, visited Harvard at the invitation of the Harvard African Students Association (HASA) on April 5.

Professor Mazrui, who has written more than twenty books, is the Albert Schweitzer professor in the humanities and director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton, the Albert Luthuli professor-at-large in humanities and development studies at the University of Jos in Nigeria, and senior scholar and the Andrew D. White professor-at-large at Cornell University. In conjunction with his visit to Harvard, two of his films—"In Search of Stability" and "Global Africa"—were screened on April 4 and 5.

Professor Mazrui delivered a lecture entitled "The African Condition and the Human Condition: Internal Democracy and External Marginality" in Emerson Hall to an audience of about two hundred students. The lecture was followed by a question-and-answer session.

The lecture was followed by an African food festival in Robinson Hall. The festival, celebrating exquisite African cuisine, featured food from across the continent, all prepared by Harvard students. Professor Mazrui attended the festival, interacting with many students. On the following day, HASA hosted a farewell reception for Professor Mazrui in the Cabot House living room.

—Iyesatta Massaquoi '99

HVA in Cultural Rhythms '97

On February 22, Sanders Theatre was filled with Harvard students and other members of the community for the twelfth annual *Cultural Rhythms Festival*. Sinbad was host for the evening, to the delight of all in the theatre. He also praised the Foundation's work in promoting multiculturalism on campus with such events as the annual *Cultural Rhythms Festival*.

This year, the Harvard Foundation honored the Harvard Vietnamese Association (HVA) by inviting the group to perform first in the *Cultural Rhythms* production. Delighted by the honor, HVA performed a skit involving the traditions of a Vietnamese wedding. The HVA's choice in performance was inspired by Valentine's Day, only a few weeks before. Artistically pantomimed to Vietnamese music, the skit portrayed what happens when one decides to get married the Vietnamese way, although it also exhibited Western influence upon Vietnamese weddings. The skit consisted of the following scenes: the first meeting and the courting that follows; the Western man-on-bended-knee marriage proposal; the initial engagement, complete with match-maker; the wedding ceremony; and then, finally, the reception. Different couples performed each scene, thus relieving monotony and incorporating the different talents of the different performers. The ladies were arrayed in beautiful *ao dai*, or "long dresses" and the gentlemen were suave. These scenes blended Western and Vietnamese tradition, highlighted by a sense of humor that began the *Cultural Rhythms Festival* with a bang.

Such success for the skit and fun and enriching experiences for the performers would not have been possible without the help of the Harvard Foundation. The Harvard Vietnamese Association thanks the Harvard Foundation for sponsoring HVA's part in *Cultural Rhythms '97*.

—Carolyn Nguyen '99

In Appreciation:

The students and staff of the Harvard Foundation would like to express special appreciation to Dr. William Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid to Students in Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges for his efforts to improve intercultural and racial diversity in the Harvard admissions process and for his long-term support of the work of the Harvard Foundation. His participation in the Faculty/Student Advisory Committee

programs and his helpful suggestions and guidance have been very much appreciated by Harvard College students of all backgrounds. He has given us sound advice and thoughtful support in many of our multicultural projects, and has been a great friend of students of the Harvard Foundation. We welcome his continued association with the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.



Courtesy of the Harvard Office of News and Public Affairs.

Other Student Group Projects Funded by the Harvard Foundation

The following student group projects were also funded by Harvard Foundation grants:

Cinco de Mayo Cultural Festival, Coffee House Talent Show/Cultural Awareness Night (Raza)

Harvard Urban and Social Review (journal)

Irish Ceili (Irish Cultural Society)

Spring Performance: Flying Devata (Asian American Dance Troupe)

South Asia Journal, Spring Academic Forum, Poetry Reading, Classical Dance Lessons (South Asian Association)

Cuban-American Dinner (Cuban American Undergraduate Association))

Dance Lessons with Professor Dong-il Lee (Korean Americans for Culture and Community)

"What Does It Mean to be An American?," Encounter Between Ethnic Studies and American Studies, Transcripts of the March 7-8 Conference, Ethnic Studies Postering Campaign (Harvard Foundation Academic Affairs Committee)

Immigration Panel with Raza, Performance by Tou Ger Xiong, Asian American Film Festival, Study Group (Asian American Association)

Senior Farewell Gathering, Eid Dinner (Society of Arab Students)

Performance Night at Café Gato Rojo, Lecture by Professor Maria Herrera-Sobeck (Latinas Unidas)

Caribbean Carnival (Caribbean Club)

Harvard-Keio Kendo Seminar (Harvard-Radcliffe Kendo Club)

Professional Forum, Chinese Crafts Workshop (Chinese Students' Association)

Spring Agenda, "Songs We Can't Sing," a musical by Derrick Ashong (Association of Black Radcliffe Women)

Racism/Human Rights Violations Campus Awareness and Vigil (Minority Students' Association)

Diversity & Distinction Magazine (third issue)

Tet-A Vietnamese New Year, The Vietnam War Rewritten (Harvard Vietnamese Association)

The Hajj and Malcolm X (Harvard Islamic Society)

Harvard University Powwow (Native Americans at Harvard-Radcliffe)

Celebration of Black Women (Harvard Black Men's Forum)



Dr. Counter presents Dr. Betty Shabazz with the Harvard Foundation Award for her Outstanding Contributions to American Education and Intercultural Relations.

In Memoriam:

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation wish to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Betty Shabazz, who died on June 23, 1997. Dr. Shabazz was a highly respected educator and civil rights leader who worked to improve educational opportunities for the underprivileged in our society. From her base at Medgar Evers College in New York City, she reached out to the nation in her efforts to encourage young people to seek an education, refrain from violence, and develop to their maximum potential.

We are proud to say that Dr. Shabazz was selected by the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation to be honored for her outstanding contributions to American education, human rights and intercultural relations. During her visit to Harvard she was warmly received by Harvard College students of all backgrounds. Her message was inspirational, inclusive and empowering. Dr. Shabazz expressed her deep admiration of Harvard students and her appreciation to the Harvard community for invitations to both her and her late husband, Malcolm X. She praised Harvard's scholarly tradition and urged students to take full advantage of the Harvard experience and to share the benefits of that experience with other young Americans, particularly the needy.

Dr. Shabazz's passing is mourned by all who knew her, and she will be deeply missed by the members of the Harvard community who had the opportunity to meet and come to appreciate her. I am deeply honored to have known Dr. Betty Shabazz.

—S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation



Dr. Betty Shabazz addresses students and faculty at an honorary luncheon in Cabot House during her 1992 visit as guest of the Harvard Foundation.



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