

# The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

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## President Nelson Mandela Receives Honorary Degree



*His Excellency Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, accepts honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard University on September 18, 1998. President Mandela accepted the award on behalf of all South African people. Standing next to President Mandela is the Honorable Judge A. Leon Higgenbotham, Professor of Government at Harvard, who assisted President Mandela in developing the new South African constitution.*

On September 18, 1998, Harvard University experienced one of the greatest moments in its history. On that day, the University was honored by the presence of His Excellency Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa. The occasion marked one of the rare commencement ceremonies in Harvard's three hundred and sixty-three-year history held in honor of a single person. Previously, such notables as George Washington in 1776 and Winston Churchill in 1943 were so honored with special commencement exercises at Harvard.

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## United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan Visits Harvard

On Thursday, September 17, 1998, the faculty and students of Harvard University bid "Akwaaba" ("Welcome") to His Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The phrase "Akwaaba," which is from Ghana, the Secretary-General's country of origin, was one of many enthusiastic welcomes extended to the Harvard Foundation's guest of honor. The Secretary-General was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Nane Annan, who was also honored during the couple's visit to Harvard University.

As the first major event of the Harvard  
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*The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan is presented with the Harvard Foundation award for his notable contributions to International Peace and Intercultural Relations by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation.*

## Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Winner



*Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize Winner and East Timor Mauberi Peace Movement Leader, guest speaker of the Harvard Foundation. Story page 6*



## Secretary-General Kofi Annan

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Foundation for this year, the visit of Secretary-General Kofi Annan also marked the third occasion that the chief executive of the United Nations has visited Harvard University as a guest of the Harvard Foundation. In 1985, then Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was the guest of the Harvard Foundation, and in the fall of 1994,

the former United Nations Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was honored. The Secretary-General had initially been scheduled to visit Harvard in the fall of 1997; however, due to extenuating foreign relations circumstances, he was unable to visit the University. Mr. Annan's visit was also significant as only one day later Harvard University welcomed another prominent African leader--President Nelson Mandela of the Republic of South Africa.



Olivia Counter, daughter of Dr. S. Allen Counter, and first grader at the Agassiz school, presents U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his wife, Dr. Nane Annan, with a bouquet of white roses on behalf of the children of Cambridge.

The first event of Annan's visit to Harvard University was a reception held in honor of Mrs. Annan in the Parlor Room of Wadsworth House. At the gathering, students, faculty, and other affiliates of Harvard honored Mrs. Annan with an elegant bouquet of flowers and brief presentations. Several students from Sweden, Mrs. Annan's home country, were present to greet her.

At 3:00 p.m., students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation gathered in the Faculty Room of University Hall to await the arrival of the Secretary-General and his entourage. The room bore the flag of the United Nations and an elaborate reception was prepared in the rear of the room. Students from the Harvard African Students' Association, as well as representatives from all student organizations, many dressed in their traditional clothing, were invited to attend the event. Also in the audience were the Deans of Harvard College and other distinguished faculty and scholars of Harvard University.

The Secretary-General's arrival generated applause and a standing ovation. The program began with a welcome by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. Following the initial remarks, tributes were made to the Secretary-General by Nana Ekua Coleman '98,

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*Sergio Castellon '00 is congratulated by Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his outstanding remarks.*



*Nana Coleman '98, Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation, and a Ghanaian-American, welcomes Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Harvard.*



*Beth Stewart '00, Head of the Undergraduate Student Council, presents a tribute to Secretary-General Kofi Annan.*



*Secretary-General Kofi Annan congratulates Edward Smallwood '02 for an excellent speech.*



*Students and faculty of diverse racial and cultural backgrounds gather in the University Hall faculty room to greet U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.*



*Mustafa Siddiqui '00 is thanked by secretary-General Kofi Annan for his words of tribute.*

## Secretary-General Kofi Annan

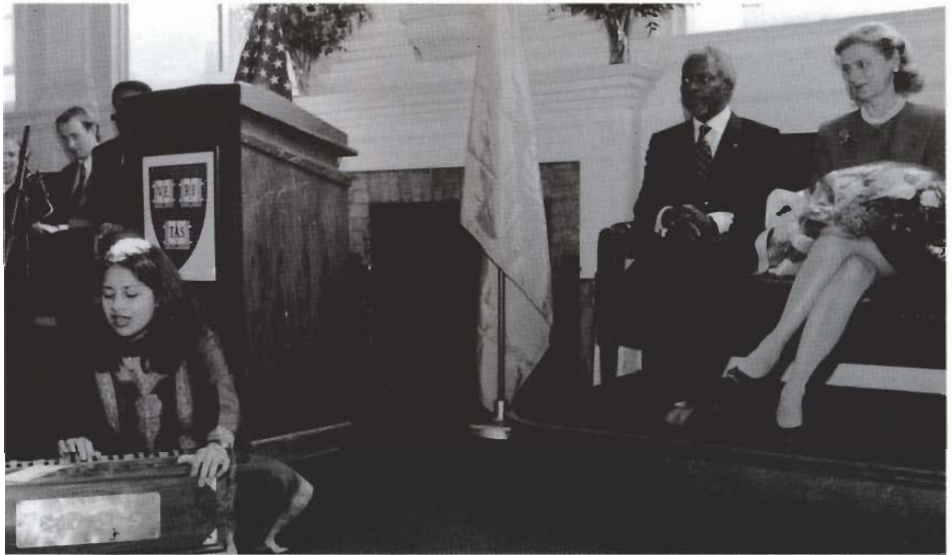
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Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation; Mustafa Siddiqui '99, former Secretary of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee; Beth Stewart '00, President of the Undergraduate Council; Sergio Castellon '00, Harvard Foundation intern; Lamelle Rawlins '99, former President of the Undergraduate Council, and Edward Smallwood '01. Students expressed the personal significance of the Secretary-General's visit in their lives, the importance of his commitment to maintaining peace, equality, and fairness throughout the world, and respect for his unparalleled work in the preservation of human rights, human life, and dignity. Between the tributes, Devi SenGupta '98, who traveled to Harvard specifically for this event, performed classical Indian music for the Secretary-General and his wife. The Secretary-General was both touched and honored by the students' words, and responded graciously and humbly to each tribute.

Following the tributes and musical performance, a diverse group of children from the Agassiz School in Cambridge, Massachusetts presented the Secretary-General with white roses as a symbol of the peace and justice that he promotes throughout the world. Olivia Counter, daughter of Dr. S. Allen Counter, eloquently presented Mr. Annan with a bouquet on behalf of the children of Cambridge.

One of the most memorable points in the program was the presentation of the Harvard Foundation Award to Secretary-General Kofi Annan by Dr. S. Allen Counter and students of the Harvard Foundation. The prestigious award honors Mr. Annan for his outstanding contributions to world peace and intercultural relations. Following his diplomatic acceptance of this honor, the Secretary-General offered his remarks to the gathered audience. Through his charismatic and engaging comments, Secretary-General Kofi Annan acknowledged the importance of this visit to him and his wife. Additionally, he spoke about how important young people are in helping to fulfill his goals of peace, equality, and fairness in the world. Closing remarks for the program were offered by Monica Eav '99, senior intern at the Harvard Foundation.

Immediately following the Harvard Foundation program, the Secretary-



*Devi Sen Gupta '98 plays a special song of welcome on a traditional Indian musical instrument in honor of the U.N. Secretary's visit to Harvard College.*

General proceeded to a meeting with Neil Rudenstine, President of Harvard University. The final event of Mr. Annan's visit was an official address to the Harvard community delivered to students and faculty in Sanders Theatre. Annan addressed the capacity crowd with nobility and dignity. Following his remarks, the Secretary-General answered questions from the audience regarding his initiatives for peace in various areas of the world.

Later that evening, at a private reception

held in his honor, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude for the program organized by the Harvard Foundation. He commented to Dr. Counter upon his departure, "Thank you for the young people [the students]. Their program meant a great deal to me." It is certain that Secretary-General Kofi Annan's visit to Harvard University will be equally memorable for those honored to see him.

*-Nana E. Coleman '98, Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation*



*Lamelle Rawlins '99, former Head of the Undergraduate Student Council, addresses remarks to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the assembled students and faculty.*



## President Nelson Mandela

(Continued from page 1)

Rarely if ever before in Harvard's history have so many people turned out to witness the presence of a single person. Some 25,000 people of all races and backgrounds came to pay their respects to this man of great conscience and compassion. Equally impressive was the attentive demeanor of such a large gathering as it sat in respectful deference of the man who is perhaps the world's most venerated leader. For many of us in the Harvard audience, and for many people throughout the world, President Nelson Mandela is saintly in his essence.

President Mandela entered Tercentenary Theatre to the sound of traditional East African drums and a lengthy standing ovation from an ecstatic audience that exuded love and admiration for this extraordinary man. He was accompanied by the esteemed South African First Lady, Graca Machel. President Mandela was escorted to the proscenium by his friend, the Honorable Judge A. Leon Higgenbotham, who for many years had worked with South African scholars to restructure the country's constitution for a post-apartheid government. Professor Higgenbotham, a renowned legal scholar in the field of constitutional law at Harvard, had on numerous occasions been personally called to special meetings by President Mandela to examine and redesign South African laws for a more humane and democratic post-White supremacy era.

The South African leader's visit to Harvard also represented the culmination of the dream of numerous Harvard College alumni, faculty, and staff who over the past quarter century were actively involved in the struggle for freedom and justice in South Africa. Their efforts included demonstrations, sit-ins, panel discussions, and even the erecting of imitation "shanty town" huts in Harvard Yard to symbolize the poverty of South African Blacks and to protest investments by Harvard and other institutions in companies that gave economic support to the White South African regime. During the same period, the Harvard Foundation sponsored numerous student-faculty programs that served to inform the discussion



*President Nelson Mandela is greeted by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Professor of Neurophysiology/Neurology. Photo by Don West.*

of the South African dilemma and to involve Harvard in the discourse of the antiapartheid struggle. These programs included a daylong series of discussions on South Africa, featuring Randall Robinson '68 HLS of TransAfrica; Professor Rod McFarquar; Professor John Dowling, Master of Leverett House; Kenneth Carstens, director of the International Defense and Aid Fund for South Africa (which assisted political prisoners and their families); Professor Leonard Thompson of Yale University; and John Chettle, of the South African Foundation. The Harvard Foundation sponsored similar programs on South Africa throughout

the 1980s, featuring such leaders as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, ANC leader Oliver Tambo, Reverend Alan Bosak, Reverend Beyers Naude, Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches, and others.

It was also most fitting that after twenty-five years of singing the Black South African national anthem, *Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika*, as a symbol of solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle, Harvard's classical gospel choir, Kuumba, was honored with the opportunity to sing this song before President Nelson Mandela. Kuumba's musical presentation was splendid, and deeply moving for President



*The Harvard-Radcliffe Kuumba Gospel Choir sings the South African National anthem for President Mandela.*



*The Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Minister in the Memorial Church and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, leads the special commencement exercises for President Mandela in prayer.*

## President Nelson Mandela

*(Continued from page 5)*

Mandela. Opera diva, Jesse Norman, delivered a soaring rendition of *Amazing Grace*, and the University Choir gave a most impressive tribute.

President Mandela addressed the audience with humility and dignity. His message was simple, yet profound and uplifting. He further endeared himself to the audience as he spoke eloquently of his personal experiences with everyday people who had had an impact on his life and thinking. He also talked of the need for international peace and reconciliation, and appealed to America and other industrialized nations to support the development of the new democratic South Africa.

When President Mandela was presented the Harvard University honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard President Neil Rudenstine, he accepted the award with characteristic selflessness, on behalf of all of the South African people, and he graciously thanked the University for the singular recognition. But the most touching and memorable moment of the day was the spontaneous, unscripted gesture initiated by President Mandela himself, when he stepped forward to shake hands with, and in some cases embrace, every student in the Harvard Kuumba and University Choirs. In this one noble gesture, he was passing on to the next generation the energy of his indomitable spirit and selfless pursuit of freedom, justice, equality and respect for all humankind.

-S. Allen Counter  
Director of the Harvard Foundation

## Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Winner

On Tuesday, October 6, 1998, Dr. Ramos-Horta delivered a lecture at Boylston Auditorium to an audience of approximately 100 people. Dr. Ramos-Horta, who received the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in East Timor, spoke eloquently on the current struggle for self-determination in East Timor, the position of the U.S. government in the conflict, and the need for outside intervention. He chal-

lenged the audience to transform passive sympathy into action on behalf of East Timor and other countries in need of protection and aid. Referring to his work as a peacekeeper in Latin America, he said, "people ask me why I go. What do their problems have to do with East Timor? Well, what do East Timor's problems have to do with anyone? I became involved in their problems the way others have become

involved in ours. That is the only way."

Dr. Ramos-Horta concluded his speech by acclaiming the efforts of the Portuguese American community on behalf of the East Timorese. He gave special acknowledgment to State Representative Antonio F.D. Cabral and Senator Marc Pacheco, who were present at the lecture, for their efforts to pass legislation in support of the East Timorese independence movement. During the ques-



tion and answer session following Dr. Ramos-Horta's remarks, members of the audience expressed amazement and regret at not having learned of the East Timor crisis through the American media. Several asked for further clarification and background on the conflict with Indonesia.

After his thought-provoking presentation, Dr. Ramos-Horta adjourned to the Dunster House Junior Common Room for a dinner in his honor, sponsored by the Harvard Foundation. Lecture participants were invited to attend, as well as student representatives from various cultural and ethnic organizations, members of the Portuguese community in Cambridge, and members of the local branch of the East Timor Action Network, a national organization dedicated to the East Timor independence movement. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, welcomed Dr. Ramos-Horta to Harvard and spoke of the great honor his visit bestowed upon the Foundation. Professor Karel Liem, Master of Dunster House and a native of Indonesia, welcomed Dr. Ramos-Horta to the House, and reiterated the need for concern and understanding regarding the East Timor situation. Next, Mustafa Siddiqui '99, President of the Islamic Society and outgoing Secretary of the Foundation Student Advisory Committee, and Monica Eav '99, Foundation intern and member of the Philippine Forum, gave tributes to Dr. Ramos-Horta, praising his courage, tenacity,



*Nobel Laureate Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta is welcomed to Dunster House by Professor William Paul of the Physics Department, and students.*



*Nobel Laureate Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta discusses the peace initiative in the East Timor Islands with Harvard students.*



*Nobel Laureate Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta is presented with the Harvard Foundation award at a Dunster House dinner held in his honor. (Left to right): Mustafa Siddiqui '00, former Secretary of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee; Professor Karel Liem, Master of Dunster House; Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation; Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta; Mrs. Hetty Liem, Co-Master of Dunster House; and Monica Eav '99, Senior intern at the Harvard Foundation.*

commitment, and compassion.

Each of the dinner participants was then given the opportunity to introduce themselves to Dr. Ramos-Horta and to each other. Several members of the Portuguese community in Cambridge spoke with deep feeling of their respect for Dr. Ramos-Horta's work and their gratitude for his visit. Representative Cabral then outlined his current legislative projects in support of East Timor, including sanctions against Indonesia. To conclude the evening, Dr. Counter presented Dr. Ramos-Horta with the Harvard Foundation Award in recognition of his "leadership and his notable contributions to peace and intercultural relations." He thanked Dr. Ramos-Horta once again for taking his valuable time to educate the Harvard community about this important issue.

*-Monica Eav '99*

# First Annual Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference



*Leaders of the Harvard-Radcliffe CSA welcome conference speakers.*

On Friday, October 9, 1998 the first annual Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference (CAIC) began with registration at 3:00 p.m. in Sever Hall. At 7:00 p.m., participants in the CAIC heard an opening address by the Honorable Ronald S. B. Lew, the first Chinese American to be appointed as a U.S. District Judge in the continental United States. He spoke about his achievements in the federal judiciary and offered an overview of what Chinese Americans have accomplished in the past generation.

At 10:00 a.m. on the following morning, Daphne Kwok, Executive Director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc., spoke on contemporary issues faced by Chinese Americans. She touched on the function of sub-ethnic specific organizations such as the 10,000 member Organization of Chinese Americans, in the context of the greater Asian American



*Conference speaker and noted jazz saxophonist Fred Ho '80 treats the audience to one of his musical compositions.*

and American communities. Later that morning, the Lieutenant-Governor of Delaware and current professor of physics at the University of Delaware, S.B. Woo, proposed for discussion a collaborative plan (The Blueprint Project is designed to give the Chinese American community substantive political power) which he developed with other prominent Chinese Americans. At 11:30 a.m. Thomas Yu '00 gave a presentation on the historical background of the Chinese in Indonesia, and traced the sequence of events and issues leading up to the Indonesian riots of 1998.

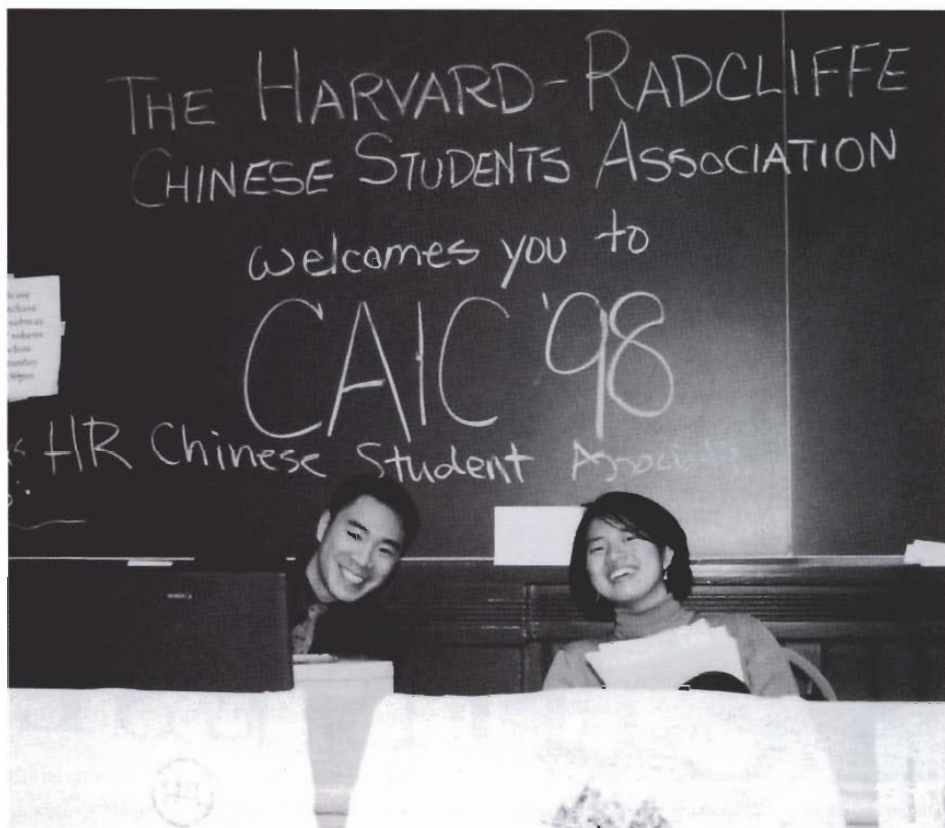
In the afternoon, Paul Mak, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Chinese American Association, discussed the problems and promise of organizing grassroots community groups, with an emphasis on a community service approach. Ronald Lew, S.B. Woo, Ida Chen (Judge of the

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Conference speaker and attorney Daphne Kwok discussed biased and unfair images of Asian-Americans in media.



Conference organizers Jimmy Young '00 and Frances Chang '00 sell commemorative T-shirts.



Conference participants enjoy a moment of fun.



Conference speakers Ronald Lew, Ida Chen, and S.B. Woo address conference participants

## Chinese American Conference

(Continued from page 8)

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County) later discussed how they were able to succeed in law, a field in which there has not traditionally been significant Chinese American involvement. At 3:30 p.m., Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, Dean of the

University of Notre Dame College of Business Administration, offered a unique look into the path of the Chinese American through the channels of higher education, and how the business world ultimately impacts that path. The final presentation of the afternoon was given by Fred Ho '80, composer and baritone saxophonist for the Afro Asian Music

Ensemble, who considered how the Chinese American community can come together as a group in which characteristics are synthesized, rather than excluded. Following these presentations, delegates shared their thoughts with each other in small groups.

During the evening hours at a gala banquet in Chinatown, Francey Lim Youngberg, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, discussed the need for Asian Pacific Americans to become more involved in politics and public policy. Later that night, an intercollegiate dance was held at Emerald Club.

On Sunday morning, delegates talked with the speakers in a more informal setting at Loker Commons. At 1:00 p.m., conference participants discussed various ways to bring the ideas generated at the CAIC to their home organizations.

The three-day conference was attended by approximately 120 intercollegiate students and 100 Harvard students. This event would not have been as successful without the generous help of the Harvard Foundation Student Grants Program.



Shin Lin '99, organizer of the 1998-99 CSA Intercollegiate Conference, welcomes conference participants.

-Albert Hui '00



## Symposium on Chicano Studies

On Saturday, November 8, 1998, Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA held its first Symposium on Chicano Studies. The guest of honor was Dr. Gerald Resendez, Chair of the Chicano Studies Department at California State University-Northridge. Dr. Resendez and his wife were honored the night before with a special "Mesa", a weekly gathering of RAZA students in Adams House Private Dining Room.

The symposium was organized to educate the Harvard campus on Chicano Studies, and to provide suggestions on how to establish such programs at a university. The Chicano Studies Symposium drew students from RAZA, and other students interested in the subject.

The opening event of the day was a student panel on Ethnic Studies Activism. Participants in the panel were: Sergio Campos '00, President of RAZA; Macarena Correa '00, Treasurer of RAZA; Billy Johnson-Gonzalez, a graduate student at the Harvard Divinity School; and Michael Tan '01, acting Co-chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. The panel was designed to inform the audience of the obstacles facing students interested in establishing the presence of Chicano

Studies at Harvard. Additionally, each participant fielded questions about the difficulties associated with establishing formal programs in ethnic studies.

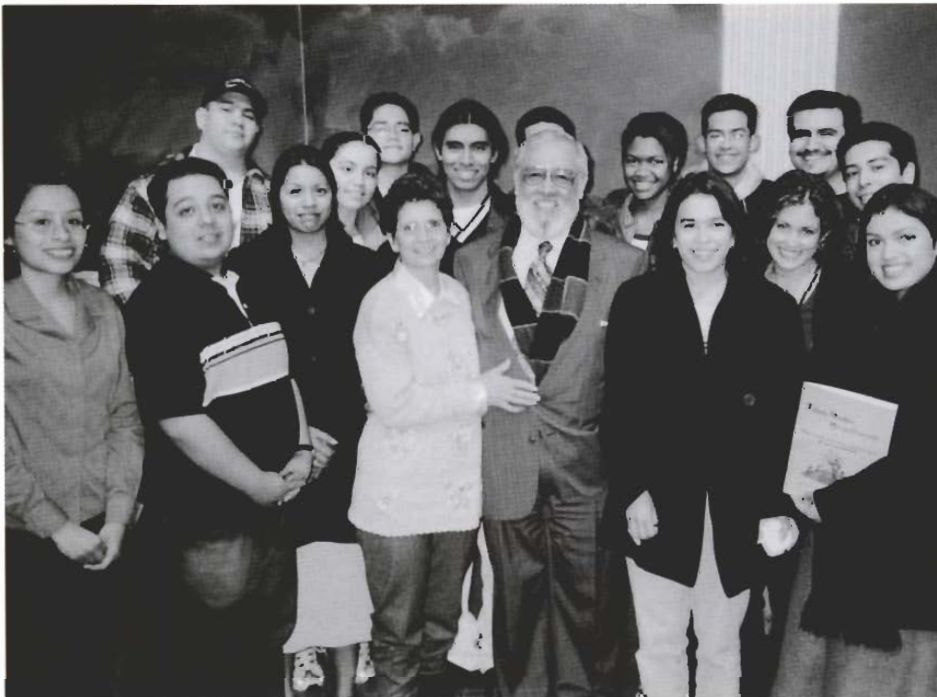
Later that afternoon, visiting professor Dr. Deborah Pacini-Hernandez spoke of her experiences as a Latino Studies advisor at the University of Miami. She emphasized the organizational aspects of such an academic program, and provided valuable insight into how one might structure a department of Latino Studies. Her presentation met with great enthusiasm and interest, as students posed a variety of questions to the distinguished speaker.

Following Dr. Pacini-Hernandez's presentation, attendees gathered for a mid-afternoon reception at Loker Commons. Refreshments for the reception were provided by Taqueria la Mexicana, a local restaurant that is popular among students. At the reception, the speakers and attendees continued their dialogues from earlier in the day.

After the reception, participants were honored with a presentation by Professor Gerald Resendez, distinguished guest of the Symposium. Professor Resendez spoke about his experience establishing the



*Professor Gerald Resendez addresses participants at the Chicano Studies Symposium.*



*Student organizers of the Chicano Studies Symposium welcome Professor Gerald Resendez and his wife, Señora Resendez.*

nation's first Chicano Studies Department at California State University at Northridge. He shared stories of the hardships that faced the Department at its inception, and those that remain even today. Dr. Resendez's comments were particularly valuable, as they provided an outside perspective on the subject of ethnic studies at Harvard, and were grounded in his own lived experiences. His words were inspiring and encouraging, and were a memorable conclusion to the day. Later that evening, student organizers from RAZA treated Dr. Resendez and his wife to dinner and a tour of the Cambridge area. The event was realized with funds from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, and the Undergraduate Council.

*-Macarena Correa '00*

## Panel Examines African Americans in the Media

“Americans lead really isolated lives,” Boston Globe Managing Editor Greg Moore told a capacity audience at the ARCO Forum Tuesday evening, Dec. 1. “So a lot of what they learn about people who are different from themselves, different races in particular, they learn from what they read, what they see, what they hear. That’s where the media come in.”

Moore was among six journalists participating in a panel discussion, “Images and Coverage of African Americans in the Media,” sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, the Harvard-Radcliffe Black Students Association, the Kennedy Black Student Caucus, and the Institute of Politics Student Advisory Committee. The panel, moderated by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, was unified in one opinion—African Americans are not portrayed realistically in either news or entertainment programming—but divided about the sources of the problem and about its potential solution.

Montel Williams, host and owner of the syndicated Montel Williams Show, said African Americans and anyone else who objects to programming have obvious recourse. “You have to hold the media



*Melvin B. Miller '56, publisher of the Bay State Banner, discusses the significant role of African-American newspapers. Mr. Miller was the recipient of the 1998 Harvard Foundation Award for outstanding contributions to American journalism.*

accountable for the images it broadcasts,” he said. “If you don’t like the images, write to the sponsors.” Williams said that having full control of his show—“every check that’s signed, I sign”—gives him the freedom to present positive images of African Americans. But the Montel Williams Show,

with the second-highest ratings for a nationally syndicated talk program, was a hard sell at its birth in 1991 and remains a hard sell today. “I still have stations saying, ‘a bald-headed black man, that won’t work in my community,’” Williams said.

Bay State Banner publisher Melvin B. Miller '56 noted that African-American newspapers played a central role in publishing certain stories, such as the Civil Rights Movement, onto the national agenda, and that despite declining readership and revenues, those papers still serve a critical purpose. Publications like his “are organized to tell the truth and carry the banner for black interests,” Miller said. “We can complain all we want (about the mainstream media). But what we really need is our own voice.”

But it is now possible, said Michel McQueen '80, a correspondent for ABC’s Nightline, to surround yourself with African-American media. “You can get your news from BET (Black Entertainment Television), you can get your entertainment from WB and UPN, and that [involves] a whole different set of challenges about the kind of images that are being presented,” McQueen said. “To be fair, we need to



*Montel Williams, producer and host of the Montel Williams Show on syndicated network television, produced a poignant film documentary and discussion on unfair media images of Black Americans.*



have a full conversation. As Reverend Jackson says, If you're going to tell the story, tell it all." That includes, she said, gathering data about "who we see on TV and what they do." McQueen called for more academy-based research on the consequences of an overwhelmingly male-and white-dominated media.

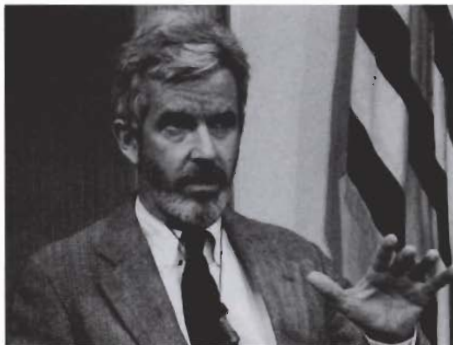
Sports coverage, said Boston Globe columnist Derrick Jackson, appears to present positive images of African Americans—until you examine what is said and written about black athletes as opposed to white athletes. A white athlete who does well is credited with intelligence and savvy, Jackson said, while an outstanding black athlete's achievements come, according to the media, as the result of in-born, "unteachable" skills.

Christopher Lydon, host of the WBUR program *The Connection*, said he wondered that anyone expected much of television or of the mass media in general. "I don't see anything on TV that smacks of reality," he said, adding that the discussion on race from callers to *The Connection* is so well-reasoned and thoughtful that "I think we're doing much better than we give ourselves credit for and that it's time to listen again."

*-Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette*



*Derrick Jackson, noted Boston Globe columnist and editor, discusses racial images in mainstream print media.*



*Noted TV and radio journalist Christopher Lydon, discusses general mainstream media images of African Americans.*



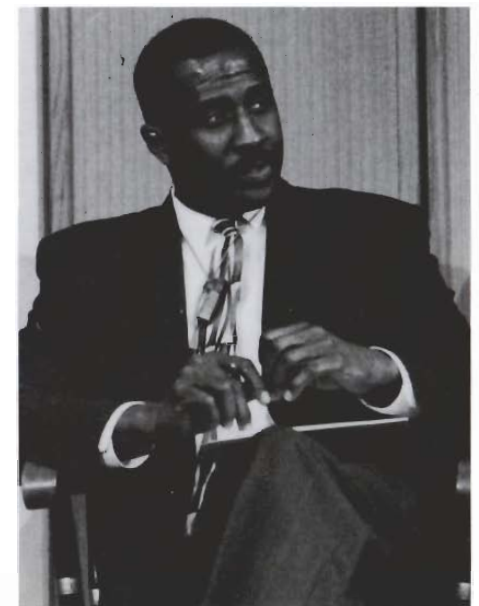
*Michel McQueen '80 ABC News Nightline Anchor, discusses images of Black women and men in television.*



*TV talk show host Montel Williams presents a national perspective of the challenges that Black Americans face in mainstream media.*



*Montel Williams addresses Harvard University students at honorary dinner for Melvin B. Miller '56 (at Miller's former Kirkland House residence) following the panel discussion at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.*



*Greg Moore, Managing Editor of the Boston Globe, discusses efforts to improve images of Blacks in the media.*

## Commentary: Images of Blacks in the Media Conference

*The Harvard Foundation welcomes brief articles and letters of commentary from students and faculty on matters of race and intercultural relations.*

On Tuesday December 1, 1998, the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation hosted a panel discussion entitled "Images of Blacks in the Media," to address the perceptions of African-Americans in print media and the medium of television. The event was part of the Foundation's long standing commitment to examining the public portrayal of minority groups and how these images can impact race relations. Panelists shared a broad range of perspectives from their varied experience in both print and television journalism. The distinguished panel included Michel McQueen, correspondent for the ABC News Nightline series; Montel Williams, host of the syndicated Montel Williams Show; Greg Moore, managing editor of The Boston Globe; Derrick Jackson, a Boston Globe columnist; and Christopher Lydon, host of "The Connection" on WBUR Boston.

The discussion took place in the Arco Forum of the JFK School of Government and was well attended by members of both the Harvard University community and the general public. The event commenced with a provocative video segment created by Montel Williams to explore the various negative portrayals of African Americans in television news, advertisements, and sitcoms. This video sparked a lively discussion addressing a range of topics, from African American involvement in television production to the ethical dilemmas facing professionals in the media.

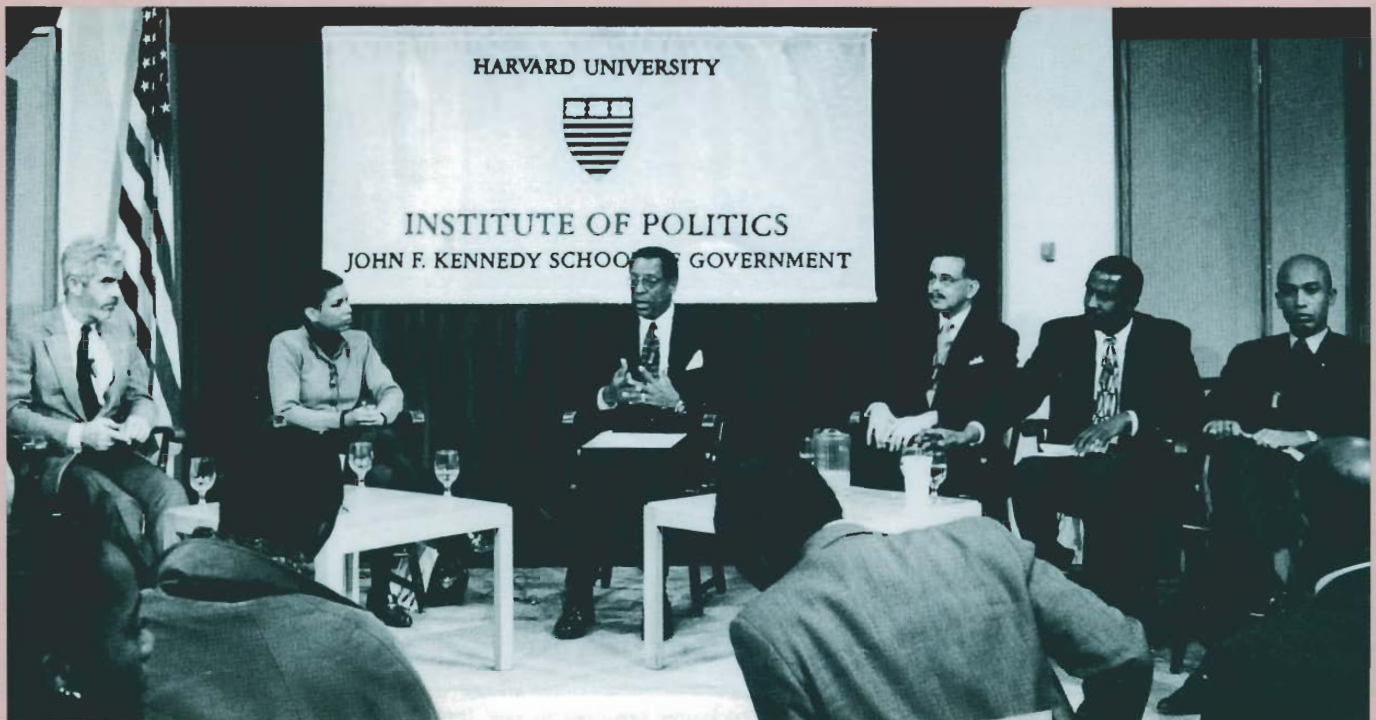
After the discussion, the panel fielded questions from the audience. Among the audience's concerns were the ways in which viewers can influence the presentation of minority images in the news and on other media programs. The panelists agreed that viewer concern could

best be expressed through letters to television networks, and they urged the audience to consistently demand representative and responsible portrayals of minority groups.

Following the panel, a dinner was held in Kirkland House to honor Mr. Melvin B. Miller, Publisher and Founder of The Bay State Banner, which is a premier African-American newspaper in Massachusetts. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Mr. Miller with a Harvard Foundation award to recognize his outstanding contributions to American journalism and intercultural relations.

The Harvard Foundation extends its gratitude to all the esteemed panelists and challenges each person to strive to bring intercultural dialogue and understanding to the Harvard community and the world at large.

-Dana Bennett '99





## A Night of Irish Storytelling Featuring Batt and Maura Burns



Members of the Harvard-Radcliffe Irish Cultural Society and other students welcome noted artists Batt and Maura Burns of Ireland.

A Night of Irish Storytelling featuring Batt and Maura Burns" was held in the Adams House Lower Common Room on November 16th at 7:00 p.m. Batt Burns, a professional storyteller, told several stories, some of them hilarious, and some poignantly reminiscent of an Ireland that has been forgotten with industrialization and the loss of traditions. Mr. Burns discussed his childhood, which he spent living

with his grandfather, who was a *shanachie*, a storyteller in the traditional fashion.

The history of an Irish storyteller is a rich and varied one. People would walk for miles to hear a good storyteller weave tales that were so long, they would sometimes last for several nights. Many of the *shanachie* could listen to one of these stories only once and repeat it, word for word, for the rest of his life. During the evening, Mr. Burns recited the work of several prominent poets, such as Yeats. His wife, Maura, played the concertina and sang several traditional folk songs. A large number of students attended the event, including many members of the Irish Cultural Society. Other attendees were drama students and Folklore and Mythology concentrators, as well as students who were interested in the oral traditions of different cultures. The Harvard Foundation provided funding for the visit of Batt and Maura Burns, and for a reception with traditional Irish food after the performance.



Batt Burns enchants the audience with a collection of Irish stories.



Maura Burns sings traditional Irish songs and plays the concertina.

-Laura Clancy '02



# Harvard Foundation Fall 1998 Student Grant Activities

## Asian American Association/Study Group

This fall, AAA study group worked to bring campus and community together in a series on Asian American activism in the Greater Boston area. Each week, AAA hosted a representative from a local grassroots organization to discuss activist issues such as labor organizing, domestic violence, health care, refugee work, and the connections between faith and social change. Guest activists included members of the Chinese Progressive Association, the Asian Task Force on Domestic Violence, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project. This fall's activism series engaged our members in powerful and productive dialogue on how racism shapes real lives, immersing participating students in the world beyond Johnson Gate. AAA Study Group continues to be a long-standing program aimed at remediating the lack of Asian American Studies course offerings at the college.

## Asian American Association Handbook

The third annual Handbook to Asian America at Harvard and Beyond was published during the Fall Semester. This year's handbook is an improvement over last year's version with its added sections, reworked title, and increased submissions from a more diverse student body. In its completed form, the Handbook now boasts contributions from Harvard alumni and current students from all backgrounds and concentrations, a minority internships and fellowships section, and an expanded section on courses and languages available at Harvard. With its distribution to the undergraduate population, incoming freshmen and prospective students, and also the Medical School, the Handbook reaches a very large audience.

The Handbook has served to increase awareness about the state of "Asian America" on campus. Furthermore, it has become an important guide for students seeking services and resources in and around Boston, which reflect Asian American culture. The articles included in the Handbook illustrate the range of student opinions on campus, and the articles from the alumni serve as insightful examples of post-Harvard life. The section on internships advertises organizations that are devoted to increasing diversity in the workforce, and informs students of many significant opportunities they might pursue. No matter how it is used, the Handbook readily provides answers for the many questions Asian American students have.

Comments from students since its initial distribution have all been very positive, but helpful suggestions have been made for next year's edition. To further discuss plans for next year, an interethnic forum will be held later this semester to elicit more student response on the publication. We extend many thanks to the Harvard Foundation for its guidance and encouragement for a better and more inclusive Handbook each year.

-Priscilla Chan

## Birds of a Feather II-A Panel Discussion

On Thursday, December 10, 1998, a panel was held in Harvard Hall 202 to discuss the issue of ethnic organizations on Harvard's campus and beyond. Funded by the Harvard Foundation and the Asian American Association, the panel was co-sponsored by the IOP, UC, BSA, RAZA, CSA, Native Americans at Harvard-Radcliffe, and the College Republicans. With representatives from each co-sponsoring organization, the panel consisted of a diverse group of students who expressed a number of different viewpoints. The panel was moderated by Emily Yang, the Educational/Political Chair of AAA.

The panel began with statements by each panelist on the role of ethnic organizations in politics, but soon became a discussion/debate of the role of ethnic orga-

nizations in general. The panelists considered whether or not ethnic organizations should endorse candidates in elections, and addressed the need for ethnic organizations on campus, the differences among people of the same ethnicity, and the stereotypes that some people still have about certain ethnic groups. Over forty students attended the function, many asking questions and sharing their own views on what they see as the role of ethnic organizations in campus politics.

Overall, the panel was a success. Interesting ideas and views were brought up during the panel and everyone seemed to take away something with them at the end. The open forum atmosphere of the panel allowed for many students to speak their minds freely, and to give voice to the decision-making processes of the organizations here on campus. Thanks to the funding from the Harvard Foundation, the evening was insightful and helped to open lines of communication between many different campus organizations.

-Emily Yang '01

## Zhou Xiaowen Visit

The acclaimed Chinese director Zhou Xiaowen and producer Jimmy Tan visited Harvard University from November 28 to December 1. During this time, the Harvard Film Archive showed four of their films. The first film was *Ermo*, a story about a peasant in a remote village who becomes obsessed with the need to own the town's largest television set. The second movie of the series, *The Emperor's Shadow*, explored the history of China's tyrannical first emperor. Zhou's latest movie, *Common People*, was also premiered during the film series. Zhou and Tan were present for the ensuing discussion about the film. The final movie, *East Palace, West Palace*, was produced by Mr. Tan and was shown for the first time in Cambridge during the weekend of his visit. As one of China's first film to deal directly with homosexuality, the film incited controversy for its director.

In addition to the movie screenings, the weekend also included two receptions for



the director and producer. The first was held on Sunday, November 29 at the Chinese Cultural Center in Chinatown. The second event was a dinner in Adams House Dining Hall on the next evening.

Overall, the event was extremely successful. The visit of these two distinguished Chinese filmmakers generated much enthusiasm for their foreign films. Patrons of the films had a unique opportunity to view the films, and to interact with the foreign artists as well.

-Jenny Shen '01

## Karen Narasaki

Karen Narasaki, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium, spoke to a group of approximately 60 students on Thursday, October 15. She spoke for approximately one hour in Boylston Auditorium, then was welcomed at a reception in the Quincy House Junior Common Room 6:00 p.m. The attendees included an array of students, Asian and non-Asian, and many outside of the Harvard undergraduate community.

Ms. Narasaki discussed the importance of Asian American participation in public affairs, evoking her personal experiences as well as policy issues. She discussed opportunities for grassroots involvement as well as policy work at the national level. Among other subjects, Ms. Narasaki explained the significance of sampling techniques in the 2000 Census of the Asian Pacific community, and gave several poignant examples demonstrating the continuing problem of hate crimes.

The feedback received for the event was positive. Ms. Narasaki's speech was both informative and inspiring, and the reception was enjoyed by all. We thank all our co-sponsors, including the Harvard Foundation, for their help in making the event possible.

-Aditi Bagchi '99

## Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992

During the first two weekends of December, the AAA Players and Black CAST presented a collaborative production

of Anna Deavere Smith's work, a collection of monologues transcribed from interviews with real people who experienced the Los Angeles riots. The piece was originally written as a one women show to be performed by Smith herself. In this Harvard production, director Tammy Chang chose to use a talented and versatile group of twelve Asian, Caucasian, African American, and Latino actors to bring the work to life. The show's cast was supported by an equally talented and diverse production staff.

Audiences responded positively to the production's thought provoking, touching, and inspiring dramatization of the Los Angeles riots. Furthermore, the production garnered critical acclaim from reviews in several Harvard publications. The cast performed frequently to sold-out audiences.

*Twilight* was staged in the Leverett House Old Library with the help of the Leverett House Arts Society. The production was also made possible by grants from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations and from the Institute of Politics. As the first collaboration between the AAA Players and Black CAST, the project was a valuable experience for all groups involved.

-Michelle Chen '99

## Asian American Cultural Month

Each November, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association holds a month long celebration of Asian and Asian American culture and history. This year, Cultural Month was once again a huge success. From films to food, discussions to study groups, Cultural Month opened many students' eyes to the cultures of the diverse communities of Asians and Asian America. It was a task that was time-consuming, but definitely worthwhile. In order to celebrate all of the various ethnic groups that fall under the category of Asian America, AAA had to put on a wide variety of events. These events included speakers from around Boston, and film showings that gave students a glimpse of Asia's cultural heritage. The diverse and numerous events of Cultural Month were linked by weekly Monday night discussion groups. Cultural Month concluded with a grand "foodfest," which brought together 14

dishes from 7 different Asian ethnic groups, solely for the enjoyment and experience of the students of Harvard.

The mission of Cultural Month is to expose the Harvard Community to Asian and Asian American culture. We believe that Cultural Month was a success, for we estimate that over 400 students participated in our various events throughout the month. While different students went to different events based on their own interests, we were able to expose a large, diverse body of students, as well as tutors, to Asian culture. Interesting ideas and views were brought up during the events, and everyone seemed to take away something with them in the end. Thanks to the funding from the Harvard Foundation, Cultural Month was educational, insightful, and helped to open lines of communication among students.

-Jay Chen

## Asian American Dance Troupe: New Year Celebration and Cultural Rhythms

Over the course of weekly rehearsals in November, December, and part of January, the members of the Asian American Dance Troupe learned a student-choreographed, Chinese American double flutter fan dance entitled the Sixiang Flutter Fan Dance. The seven minute traditional Chinese piece expresses the sentiments of home-sickness through its mixture of light-hearted, lively music and slow, reminiscent music. Three members of AADT, Jessica Leung, Mien Chyi, and Jen Yu, each with a medley of dance experience in Asian traditional dance, ballet, jazz, modern, lyrical, and gymnastics, spent approximately twenty hours choreographing the group dance.

Because the dance is a combination of many different dance styles, costumes were designed with the intentions of conveying a simple, young look which is distinct from traditional Asian dance, but which is more Asian American. During rehearsals, the thirteen AADT members learned the techniques of flutter fan movements along with a more expressive, free style of dancing, departing from the more traditional dances

in AADT's repertoire. The Sixiang Flutter Fan Dance emphasizes complicated group movements and formations along with quick, technical moves.

Although this dance is a fall project, AADT has not yet performed it, because the fall was spent choreographing and learning the dance. Several performances, however, are scheduled for February, including the Asian American Intercollegiate Conference culture show, the Chinese Students Association banquet, the Harvard Foundation's Cultural Rhythms, and a few other Chinese New year celebration events. AADT is excited for the debut of its Sixiang Flutter Fan Dance in February and looks forward to sharing this distinct form of Asian American culture.

-Jessica Leung '00

## *ABRW and Your Daughter*

On October 31, during Freshmen Parents Weekend, the Association of Black Radcliffe Women (ABRW) utilized grant assistance from the Harvard Foundation to host a reception for the parents of first-year women. More than fifty people attended the reception that took place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Its purpose was to introduce the parents of first-years and other undergraduates to the various community service projects, discussion topics, and speakers ABRW sponsors each year. In early October, ABRW mailed reception invitations to the parents of first-year women and placed announcements in the Parents Weekend Calendar and in the Freshmen Yard Bulletin.

During the reception, members of the ABRW board and other upper-class undergraduates met with first years and their parents in the relaxed setting of Ticknor Lounge. The atmosphere allowed for close interaction between individuals, and the parents and first years appreciated the opportunity to both socialize with each other and to meet and interact with other undergraduates. As the reception was held during dinner hours, most families attended either the earlier or latter part of the reception. Close to the beginning, ABRW made formal introductions of the board, described its calendar of projects in detail, and stressed the impor-

tance of sisterhood in our organization. A representative from Latinas Unidas was also present, as was poet Michelle McEwen '00, who recited poetry.

Because the attendance was relatively limited, instead of fielding questions in a formal format, ABRW board members chose to circulate through the room and answer questions while meeting parents. The subsequent interaction and discussion illuminated the fact that parents have many anxieties and questions about their daughters' Harvard experience. Through the reception, ABRW members were able to show undergraduates and parents that we are an organization committed to confronting the concerns, issues, and challenges of being a woman of color at Harvard. We also conveyed the message that our organization is receptive toward the views and experiences of others.

-Jessica Reid '00

## *Caribbean Club Dance Troupe*

Since its inauguration a year ago, the Harvard Radcliffe Caribbean Club Dance Troupe has quickly become a symbol of the organization and its ideals. The Dance Troupe was founded and organized by Janelle James, class of 2000, who is also its chief choreographer. Its members perform African and Caribbean pieces with music from both regions, as well as American hip-hop. The dance troupe is open to all members of the Harvard community.

The H-R Caribbean Club recognizes the difficulty of promoting student involvement in ethnocultural activities—a concern that we feel the dance troupe helps to alleviate. We hope to encourage a proactive spirit among troupe members regarding Caribbean culture through exposing them to creative dance and music from the region.

Additionally, through the dance troupe's performances, the audience is engaged and thereby becomes open to other opportunities to experience different facets of the region's culture. The organization acknowledges the dance troupe's importance as advertisement for our other events, but heralds its success in fostering cross-cultural

dialogue and collaboration not only among its members, but also among the audiences to which it performs.

We feel that the Caribbean Club Dance Troupe is a truly effective undertaking which encourages cultural appreciation and promotes unity among members of the Harvard community. We would also like to express sincere thanks to the Harvard Foundation for their continued support of both the dance troupe and HRCC.

-Danielle Romain '00

## *Reggae Rampage*

Reggae Rampage, held on November 3 in the Currier Fishbowl, was a repeat of an event held in the early fall of last year with the purpose of introducing the club to incoming first-years and other members of the Harvard-Radcliffe community in a relaxed setting. As advertised, the event was a celebration of music from the Caribbean such as Reggae, Soca, Calypso, and Dancehall, along with the popular American styles of Hip-Hop and Rap.

The event was well attended and people were energized by the rhythms blasting from the turntables of DJ Taj Grant. The event brought together first-years, and students who live on the river and in the Quad, granting them the opportunity to socialize with friends they might not regularly see. To the pleasant surprise of the Caribbean Club, the tradition of attracting a healthy number of students from other Boston-Cambridge universities continued, allowing for a more dynamic melange of cultures and experiences.

The Harvard Radcliffe Caribbean Club is proud to say that our 1998-1999 school year got off to a fine start. Our second annual Reggae Rampage was successful, primarily because it helped expose the club to new members of the Harvard community, and to draw these individuals to other events through the semester. We are also very optimistic that our mission of demonstrating the cultural and political complexities of the Caribbean will come to fruition through events meant to promote the active participation of the Harvard community. A special thanks from the members



of the Caribbean Club goes to the Harvard Foundation for their continued support.

-Danielle Romain '00

## HRCC's Fall Food Festival

Harvard-Yale Weekend served as the backdrop for the Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club's biannual food festival. The event was held on the evening of November 21, after the football game, and it served as a effective means of advertising for Moods, a fashion show taking place later that evening. Our audience, which included both members of the Harvard student body as well as their Yale counterparts, numbered approximately sixty people. They feasted on a menu that included fried plantains, jerk and curried chicken, red beans and rice, chick peas, and macaroni pie. The food was primarily prepared by members of the Caribbean Club and its board, although several dishes were catered from Rhythm and Spice restaurant. The overwhelming success of the event could be measured by the plethora of empty serving dishes and our guests' satisfied smiles after the event.

It is our belief, as an organization, that culture may be best appreciated when it has been experienced. Therefore, we structure our events to maximize the cultural experience for our audience, whether through food, music, dance, literature, or costume. Additionally, we welcome all members of the Harvard community to participate in our events, including those of non-Caribbean descent. The Food Festival represents one part of this mission and we would like to sincerely thank the Harvard Foundation for its continued support of our efforts to bring the Caribbean to Harvard University.

-Danielle Romain '00

## Deaf Awareness Project

As part of its Project on Deaf Awareness, CODA has been offering beginner level American Sign language courses for 20 Harvard students. These classes were given on Monday and Thursday nights, and were taught by

returning teacher, Jason Hurdich, who is a native signer. This year, we chose to hold two sessions of beginning ASL per week, rather than offering an intermediate class, so that students could study more intensively. The students covered a basic vocabulary of about 500 signs, including introductions, numbers, colors, and basic grammar. Students who choose to continue will be able to take an intermediate ASL class in the spring, provided CODA is able to fund it.

The classes have been very successful, with good attendance rates and positive feedback from the students involved. Our teacher commented on the enthusiasm of the class. We hope that many of them will continue taking ASL classes with us next year. If you are interested in assisting us with our future endeavors, please contact us for more information.

-Debra Grossman '99

## Diwali Celebration

On Thursday, October 22nd, a group of students gathered in Eliot House to celebrate the Hindu festival of *Diwali*, under the auspices of Dharma and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. The celebration was led by Tonushree Jaggi '01 and Harini Reddy '01. The approximately fifty attendees were greeted with a beautiful display of Hindu gods and goddesses, surrounded by arrangements of flowers and candles. The candles held particular meaning that evening, for *Diwali* is a "Festival of Lights."

The program for the evening quickly opened up to participation by members of the audience, where it stayed for most of the evening. Many of the attendees related their memories of celebrating this festival at home, or explained why this festival was important to them. Gaurav Upadhyay '00 and Uday Khemka, MBA '99, offered explanations of the history and significance of the festival, respectively. Harvard Professor Diana Eck shared her thoughts on the occasion as well. Next, various attendees volunteered to lead the audience in the singing of *bhajans*, devotional songs. Tonushree Jaggi provided a beautiful dance performance as an offering. The evening

ended with the singing of the *aarthi*, a song traditionally sung at the end of a Hindu pooja.

-Maneesh Amancharla '99/'00

## Sysygy

Expressions Dance Company performed in "Sysygy" on October 12, 1998. "Sysygy" was an event sponsored by the Harvard Foundation in an effort to showcase different forms of multi-cultural talent. The event was held in front of the Science Center and drew a sizable crowd.

Expressions performed one dance piece to a compilation of "Old School" Hip-Hop songs. The genre is something that is not often seen on campus, and the audience responded very well. We hope that our performances like this in the future will help to educate people on the history of Hip-Hop.

-Celia Edwards '99

## Body and Soul

Expressions and Kuumba co-sponsored "Body and Soul," a collaboration of artistic talents from both Harvard and Yale, on Friday, November 20, 1998 in Lowell Lecture Hall. Although the show was more than four hours long, audience members were enthusiastic throughout the entire show. The medley of dance, song, step, and other artistic styles created a truly moving performance that helped everyone to celebrate the immense talent that shared by these two college campuses. Performing groups included musical and dance groups from both Harvard and Yale. The proceeds from "Body & Soul" will help to finance future performances this semester.

-Celia Edwards '99

## Ananse Sem: An Evening of Storytelling

On October 31, the Harvard African Students' Association presented a show highlighting storytelling from the

continent of Africa. The show's title, "Ananse Sem", literally means "Stories of the Spider" in the Akan language of Ghana. The spider, "Ananse" is used as the central character in these stories, which are designed to teach morals to children. Storytelling has always played an important role in African society, functioning as a medium for passing down ideas and events from generation to generation. In addition to presenting this oral tradition to the Harvard community, the show also attempted to portray the incredible diversity of various cultures from Africa. Stories were told from all over the continent, from Morocco to South Africa, from Ghana to Ethiopia. And just like their diverse origins, the stories themselves differed greatly in their content. There were etiological tales, explaining the origins of phenomena such as death and the Milky Way galaxy. Some stories had a moral agenda, while others, more comedic in nature, were told simply for amusement.

Most of the stories were told by students, but the presence of two guest performers added to the depth and caliber of the show. Brother Blue, a professional storyteller, opened the evening with a tale describing how God created mankind in Africa. Dr. Harriet Masembe, Associate Professor of English at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, an internationally renowned African storyteller, told two

amusing, yet meaningful tales to the accompaniment of a small, hand-held drum. Dr. Masembe was also a guest of the Harvard Foundation and the African Students Association in 1994. As is appropriate with African storytelling, Dr. Masembe involved the audience in her performance, teaching them to sing simple African songs, featured at certain points in her stories.

The show was held in Lowell Lecture Hall, a venue that fostered a sense of closeness and interaction between the storytellers and their audience. Hundreds of tickets were sold to an audience that was particularly diverse; audience members were drawn from all ages and racial backgrounds. We, as an organization, were pleased by the interest and support we received not only from the Harvard community, but also from the local African community. We hope that this will lead to further acts of communication and cooperation between various groups.

-Timothy Durrett '99

## Latin America Food Fiesta

On Saturday, December 12, 1998, the Harvard Organization for Latin America (HOLA) held a Latin American

Food Fiesta to benefit the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Central America. The event was held in Ticknor Lounge during the afternoon hours. It was an all-you-can-eat lunch with a suggested contribution of six dollars. With attendance exceeding 100 persons, the Food Fiesta raised \$700. The proceeds were donated in full to the International Red Cross.

In order to maximize the earnings of this activity, HOLA sought the cooperation of Cambridge area restaurants. Venues such as El Oriental de Cuba, Chili's, Boca Grande, and Border Café offered a variety of plates at a discounted charge, and donated others. HOLA also sought and received grants from the Harvard Foundation, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, and the Undergraduate Council to cover the costs of the activity.

The event was highly successful as not only did it contribute to a worthy cause, but it also served as an enjoyable afternoon for members of the Harvard community.

HOLA is an undergraduate organization that promotes interest in the countries of Latin America. By sponsoring a variety of activities, it raises awareness of cultural, social, political, and artistic issues affecting or affected by Latin America. Through this event, HOLA brought to life its mission.

-Gigi Soto '00



Noted Ananse Sem African storyteller, Dr. Harriet Masembe, is greeted by the Harvard African Student Association leaders. Left to right: Nana Coleman '98, Student Activities Coordinator; Dr. Harriet Masembe; Andrew Amo '01, Secretary of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee; James Mwangi '00.

## Greek Dancing Group

Traditional Greek dancing is a beautiful artform, important both in binding those who participate in it, and in entertaining and educating the watchers. We have used student volunteers as teachers, and have also relied upon them for music. Throughout the year, we have performed at various events, including Cultural Rhythms, UN Day, Greek-Arab Cafes, and at various Cambridge schools.

This year, we have danced several dances, including Kalamatianos, Syrtaki, Zonaradiko, Ikariotikos and Pentozalis. *Kalamatianos* is the most popular Greek dance, a line dance originating in the city of Kalamata. *Syrtaki*, the dance most familiar to Americans, was performed in *Zorba the Greek*. *Zonaradiko* is named after the thick belts its dancers are



meant to wear. *Ikariotikos* is an upbeat island dance. *Pentozalis* is a dance from Crete, danced in lines. Costumes are important in conveying part of the original content of the dance, in setting the tone and atmosphere both for the dancers and the audience. We purchased additional costumes this year through the generous support of the Harvard Foundation.

In the future, we hope to expand our repertoire and make the dance group increasingly professional.

-Katerina Linos '00

## Speech by Professor Ahrweiler

Professor Helene Glykatzi-Ahrweiler, a Professor at the University of Paris IV (Sorbonne), gave a lecture entitled "The Genesis of the European Consciousness." The event took place on Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. The lecture took place in the Starr Auditorium of the JFK School of Government, followed by a reception in the Fainsod rooms of the school.

Professor Ahrweiler, an intellectual renowned throughout Europe, attracted a crowd of more than 100 people, the majority of whom were Harvard students and faculty. She outlined her philosophy of the birth of the European spirit, its development, and its meaning in modern day European countries.

A heated question-and-answer session followed, focusing on aspects of the European 'dream' which are now seen as oppressive or disrespectful to non-European cultures. Additionally, modern European dilemmas, such as the incorporation of migrant populations, were highlighted. The evening reception permitted more intimate discussion of the subjects introduced during the lecture.

-Katerina Linos '00

## Festive Greek Tables

Celebrating the Greek resistance to Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy is an impor-

tant aspect of the Greek heritage. The celebration commemorated the Greek resistance to an Italian ultimatum on October 28th, 1940. Thus, we gathered this October 28th to celebrate and discuss this event.

We played traditional Greek music and used a grant from the Harvard Foundation to buy cheese pies and spinach pies, traditional Greek appetizers. Between 30 to 40 students were present, many of who were attending a Greek society event for the first time. The discussion was enjoyed by those in attendance.

-Katerina Linos '00

## Japanese Cultural New Year's Banquet

The Japan Society celebrated the New Year in Japanese tradition at its New Year's Cultural Banquet held January 9, 1999. Approximately 40 members of the Harvard community gathered in Boylston Hall for the event. Members of the Japan Society served traditional Japanese cuisine, including specific dishes served to bring good fortune in the New Year. For most of the attendees, the banquet was their first event hosted by the Japan Society, however there were several familiar faces from the club's membership. All of the guests enjoyed the wide array of home-cooked Japanese food—including chicken curry, *yakisoba* (fried noodles and vegetables), and steamed rice. Japanese green tea and soft drinks were also served. For dessert, participants enjoyed *zenzai*, a hot dish of rice cakes and sweet red beans that is always eaten in Japan on New Year's.

The food for the banquet was cooked by Japan Society board members and new friends of the organization. Students gathered in kitchens at the River and the Quad to prepare the dishes, while listening to Japanese music in the background. This was a wonderful opportunity for students of all ethnicities to learn the art of cooking Japanese food and for members of the Japan Society to learn about the many different backgrounds of students at Harvard who are interested in Japan.

The expenses for the banquet were underwritten by the Harvard Foundation. The Japan Society would like to thank the

Foundation for the opportunity to present this cultural experience to the Harvard community.

-Kelly Yamanouchi '00

## Sushi Workshop

On November 7, the Harvard-Radcliffe Japan Society hosted a sushi workshop for the Harvard community in Ticknor Lounge. Students and other members of the community learned how to roll their own "maki-zushi" on bamboo rollers with instructions provided by Japan society co-president Ken Fujita '00 and demonstrations by Mary Takeyama '01 and Kumiko Ide '02.

Sushi is a familiar dish that typifies Japanese cuisine to many people, and the workshop helped bring together people in an informal and friendly cultural exchange. Sushi-making is an artform Japanese culture, and *sushi-shokunin* (literally, "artisans") pride themselves on their skill and speed in preparing "nigiri-zushi." The workshop showed students how to make another variation of sushi, called "maki-zushi" where rice prepared with a special vinegar is rolled with bits of crab meat, avocado, and cucumber in a sheet of seaweed. The sushi workshop drew a large crowd of around eighty people, and supplies ran out well before the two hours originally intended for the workshop were over.

-Ari Nishitani '00

## Dangerous Liaisons: The Limits of Capitalism in North Korea

Throughout this year, the Korean Association has sponsored biweekly discussion groups on an eclectic group of topics. On December 7th, 1998, the Korean Association had the special privilege of listening to Carter Eckert, Professor of Korean History and Director of the Korea Institute. A group of 80 students and faculty gathered in Lowell Junior Common Room for this unique event. The title of the discussion was "Dangerous Liaisons: The Limits of



Capitalism in North Korea," and it focused on the status of North Korea, drawing from Professor Eckert's trip to North Korea in April 1998.

Following an introduction by the Korean Association's Educational/Political chair, Steve Chung, which highlighted Professor Eckert's extensive list of qualifications, Professor Eckert spoke on the current state of affairs in Korea. Beginning with the cease-fire compromise that demarcated North and South Korea and ending with the current post-Cold War era, Professor Eckert delineated the political and economic factors at work in North Korea using multiple photo slides. He then addressed the possibility of unification and the complications that it would entail.

Professor Eckert also spoke of North Korea's attempts to open up its economy. A crucial facet of these attempts is the establishment of free trade zones (an attempt to introduce free market economics at a rate controlled by the government). Professor Eckert then presented slides from one of the free trade zones where he stayed while in North Korea. These slides spoke for themselves, detailing the destitution and inactivity of these experiments in free trade. Professor Eckert concluded the discussion with his personal view on the future of North Korea, along with his criticisms of many of the speculations made by his contemporaries.

Particularly notable about this discussion group was its unusually high turnout (as a result of KA members' extensive publicity) and the presence of several graduate students. The discussion group ended with a series of questions and the serving of Korean treats.

-Michael Cho '01

## Chunsa Fan Dance Troupe

The Chunsa Fan Dance Troupe, a branch organization of the Korean Association, is composed of 8-10 female members who are dedicated to reaching out to the community and fostering Korean awareness at Harvard by presenting the most beloved form of dance in Korean culture, namely the fan dance. Led by Guem Rim Kim '01, Chunsa met every Sunday of the fall semester for 2-3 hours, working on their new

choreography and formations.

During the fall semester, Chunsa was scheduled to perform for three different occasions including AAA celebration, a local high school presentation and a Wide Horizon event. Chunsa is excited about their next big staged performance, which will be the Boston Intercollegiate Culture show. Being one of only two fan dance troops in the Boston Area, Harvard Chunsa will surely be one of the highlights.

Chunsa's inventory includes 7 skirts, 14 tops, 12 pairs of fans and boots. According to the leader Guem Kim, Class of 2001, our grant was put to use for three main purposes: 1) purchasing rare and exotic Korean make-up; 2) dry-cleaning and repairing damaged costumes; and 3) purchasing a portable sound-system for practice, all of which are vital to fine performances. Meanwhile, Guem Kim will be learning another new choreography to teach to the members.

-Yoon-Ho Lee '00

## Poongmul Drum Troop

Harvard's Poongmul drum troupe, a branch organization of the Korean Association, is dedicated to reaching out to the Harvard and Boston community by performing traditional Korean drum music, known as *Poongmul*. Although gaining popularity recently among Korean Student Associations in colleges across the country, Poongmul touts a 10-year-long history at Harvard as a student organization. Harvard's Poongmul troupe practices and performs in conjunction with MIT's Poongmul troupe. The Poongmul troupe met weekly over the Fall semester on Mondays to practice for their upcoming performances. Cultural Rhythms in February, the Boston Intercollegiate Culture Show in April, and Arts First in May are all scheduled to be treated by a performance by the Poongmul troupe.

Led by Thomas Ryou, Class of 2000, the Poongmul troupe is composed of 15 members from Harvard and 40 total. "It provides an opportunity for people to experience an aspect of Korean culture that they wouldn't normally see. And it's fun. Everyone [in the

troupe] gets to know each other," Ryou states. Harvard's Poongmul not only helps to foster a strong bond with nearby school MIT, but it also creates awareness of the strong rhythmical history of Korea, still beating on in Harvard's Poongmul drum troupe. Money for the Poongmul troupe goes to purchasing new drums and sticks and to purchase and repair costumes. The troupe performs in traditional Korean costume. Instruments that they employ in their performances include the *ch'ango*, a double-headed drum, the *b'uk*, the traditional double-sided drum, and the *ch'ing*, a small metal cymbal.

-Soo Ryun Kwon '02

## Bi-Weekly Discussion Group Series of Korean American Issues

During the fall semester, Korean Association held bi-weekly discussion group series. All of these discussion groups were led by the Co-Educational/Political Chairs of Korean Association, Steve Chung '01, and Sue Chi '01, who were newly elected as board members in late October. Both of them were excellent in their guidance of the discussions, and in compromising people's views. By the end of the semester, we held a total of three very influential discussion groups.

The first discussion entitled "Korean Factions at Harvard: Are You a Victim?," took place on November 2, 1998, in Sever Hall. With approximately 50 people in attendance, various issues were brought up regarding Korean factions and their social dynamics at Harvard. The discussion served as an opportunity to present the candid feelings of those present, why it is often difficult to mingle with certain groups of people, or why that should not be the case. Numerous members expressed at the end what a positive feedback this session turned out to be.

The second discussion took place on the 23rd of November in the Lowell House Junior Common Room. It was the tear-arousing showing of the documentary *Sa-I-Gu*, regarding the unfortunate L.A. Riot. One interesting, unanswered question raised during the discussion was how Korean Harvard students at the time of the



riots had responded to the riots. The evening closed with a suggestion that the Korean Association be more active in reaching out to areas with racial conflict such as Dorchester and Roxbury.

The last discussion took place on the 7th of December in the Lowell House Junior Common Room, in which, we were very honored to have Professor Carter Eckert of Korean History talk to us about his poignant visit to North Korea last summer. This session was particularly rewarding since it is rare that anybody gets to hear a first-person narrative regarding the current situations of North Korea.

Overall, the bi-weekly discussion group series was a very novel accomplishment, and each time, we were pleasantly surprised by high attendance of college students as well as graduate students and some non-Harvard members. We attribute this fact to our immense effort to publicize these events using the support granted by the Harvard Foundation.

-Yoon-Ho Lee '00

## "Korean Political Voice: A Reflection on the L.A. Riots"

On November 23, the Korean Association hosted a discussion group entitled, "Korean Political Voice: A Reflection on the L.A. Riots." The event, held in the Lowell Junior Common Room and sponsored by the Harvard Foundation and the International Relations Council, addressed issues brought on by the riots that concerned the political role of Korean-Americans. Participants were given the opportunity to express their opinions on a variety of relevant topics. This discussion group attracted not only Harvard students but also a local Korean businessman who had seen fliers posted throughout Harvard Yard. After a brief verbal acknowledgment of gratitude towards the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard IRC for their generous support, which made this event possible, the evening opened promptly with a fifteen-minute excerpt from the documentary, *Sa-I-Gu*. The

title translates to "Four Two Nine," representing the date the riots began, April 29. The video depicted the impacts of the violence on the L.A. Korean community and recorded the personal accounts of several Korean women who had lost their loved ones and their livelihoods. This touching video evoked strong emotions from everyone watching as it showed disturbing footage of the riots and its aftermath. Specific poignant moments in *Sa-I-Gu* that were especially poignant were images of indifferent policemen, funerals, and political demonstrations. The discussion began as the local businessman, whose life had been indirectly influenced by this riot as a branch of his business was situated in L.A., talked about how Korean-Americans in Cambridge had responded to the events in L.A. He spoke of the heated, but generally ineffectual meetings and the absence of unity within the community. Other focuses of the discussion were the cause of the violence against the Koreans in L.A., media exposure of Korean-Americans during the riots, the relative lack of recognition of their plight by the U.S. government, the definition of 'political voice' (and whether it exists or is even needed), the attitudes of the Korean-American community towards political participation, personal reactions and experiences during the riots, and the activism of Koreans as compared to other ethnic groups. One particularly interesting, unanswered question raised during the discussion was how Korean Harvard students at the time of the riots had responded to the riots. The evening closed with a suggestion that the Korean Association be more active in reaching out to areas with racial conflict such as Dorchester and Roxbury. Overall, participants left the discussion group having their eyes opened to the L.A. riots for the first time and realizing the need for Koreans to find their political voice in America.

## Korean Association Music, Culture, and History Night

On the evening of November 14, the Korean Association of Harvard University held their annual Korean Culture Night in Lowell Junior Common Room to

give fellow Harvard students the opportunity to take a break from the flurry of midterms and papers. The efforts of the Korean Association co-presidents, Thomas Ryou '00 and Diana Kim '00, and the heads of various committees and members in posting up flyers and verbally spreading the word of this event was clearly paid off by the strong attendance by Korean as well as non-Korean students. The Culture Night began at six and it wasn't long before the Lowell JCR was full of some 80 students as well as occasional faculty and administrative members. One unique aspect of this event was the presence of some new Korean graduate students we would've otherwise missed.

The evening started off with a buffet-style dinner provided and served by KA members. Students and administrative members had the chance to taste Korean dishes, such as *bulgogi* and *kimchi*. The rest of the night was open enjoyed hours of lounging in relaxed conversation, eating good food, listening to or singing popular Korean and American tunes on a karaoke machine, and playing the traditional game of *Ut-Nori*. Though only a few members had the knowledge of this traditional Korean game, by the end of the night a good 15 members had enjoyed game with much laughter and excitement. The members of KA felt it was important to plan an event in which the association would have the opportunity to reintroduce itself as yet another academic year progresses towards the end of the first semester. The event also served to actively promote interaction both among Korean and non-Korean members of Harvard's diverse student community and allow for the appreciation and sharing of a specific aspect of Korean culture.

-Joohee Lee '01

## "Come, Thou Almighty King"-The 28th Annual Christmas Concert of The Kuumba Singers of Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges

On Friday, December 11, The Kuumba Singers of Harvard and Radcliffe

Colleges held their 28th annual Christmas Concert, entitled "Come, Thou Almighty King." The choir, over one hundred members strong, filled the crowded altar of Memorial Church. Likewise, the audience—a combination of students, faculty, alumni, parents, family, and friends—filled the crowded pews of the Church. Vice-President Al Gore '69 was a special guest for the evening.

Driven by the goal of expressing the creativity and spirituality of black people through music, the Kuumba Singers performed a full complement of diverse songs; a combination of choral masterworks, contemporary gospel, jubilees, spirituals, and African themes in song comprised the rich musical selection. Brothers and Sisters, the male and female a capella subsets of Kuumba, also performed during the concert. While Kuumba members provided most of the instrumental accompaniment, the choir was also joined by organist James Early for several arrangements. The musical pieces were beautifully linked together with short readings proclaimed by chanters, providing the audience with a sense of continuity in the program.

This year's Christmas Concert was particularly special because it marked the first concert led by Kuumba's new director Sheldon K. X. Reid '96-'97, Ed. M. '98. Following the retirement of Mr. Robert Winfrey, Kuumba's beloved director for 25 years, Dean Archie Epps appointed Mr. Reid, a member of Kuumba for the past seven years, to fill the position. Dr. S. Allen

Counter presented Mr. Reid with a gift to mark this very special occasion of his first Christmas concert as director.

In honor of Kuumba's past director, Shannon T. Hodge, president of the Kuumba Singers, presented Mr. Winfrey with a small token of the choir's appreciation. As is the tradition of the Kuumba Singers, for the final song, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," the singers filed to the middle of the church and invited all past Kuumbabes to join in. An unscripted, but moving touch was added to the evening, as Mr. Winfrey stood to once again lead the Kuumba Singers in this final song.

-Eileen Bent '01

## Musica Latina

Latinas Unidas sponsored Musica Latina on December 4 in the Lyman Common Room. The featured speaker, Professor Deborah Pacini-Hernandez, is a specialist on the subject Latino music. The event drew attendees from Harvard College, the Law School, and the Graduate School of Education, and proved to be quite successful in providing cultural enrichment and in promoting discussion. Refreshments for the discussion were provided by the Harvard Foundation.

During her keynote address, Professor Pacini-Hernandez presented an interesting comparison between East and West Coast

Latino music to a culturally diverse audience. She discussed the fascinating connections between traditional and modern Latino music, and fielded several questions from the enthusiastic audience. Through music, which is an integral component of Latino heritage, the event was successful at educating the Harvard community about an intricate aspect of race relations within the Latino culture.

## Danza Latina

Danza Latina, an evening of elegant performances, took place in the Pforzheimer Dining Hall on December 12. Sponsored by Latinas Unidas, the event included performances from both Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan and the Harvard Ballroom Dance Team. Ballet Folklorico performed traditional Mexican folk dances (Botella, La Negra, Jilquerillo, and Pecas), while the Ballroom Dance Team performed contemporary versions of traditional Spanish dances such as the tango, the rumba, the cha-cha, and the jive. These stellar performances provided the enthusiastic audience with important insight into the diversity within Latino culture. To add to the cultural atmosphere, the performances were accompanied by a much-appreciated Mexican dinner, provided through the funding of the Harvard Foundation. In conclusion, we feel that this event proved successful to the extent that it provided a unique sharing of Latino heritage with Harvard students, while providing a social environment in which students of different backgrounds could meet members of the dance troupes and engage them in conversation.

## Persian Poetry Event

On October 21, from 8 to 10pm in the Eliot House Junior Common Room, the Persian Society hosted a poetry reading and discussion that drew 75 undergraduate and graduate students from Harvard and neighboring colleges. Traditional Persian tea and desserts accompanied the program. The evening featured the poetry of Professor Olga Davidson of Brandeis University, and Dr. Banu Shayegan, an expert in the field of



His Excellency Ahmad Kamal, Pakistani Ambassador to the United Nations addresses Harvard students at Lowell House.



Persian poetry. Professor Davidson and Dr. Shayegan vividly conveyed the vital and complex culture and history of Iran through their poetry, the most well-known medium of traditional Persian art. At the same time, their works sought to redefine the sometimes overly simplistic character of the genre of "multicultural literature."

A critique of the works presented was led by California radio personality Saeed Ghaemmaghami, an intellectual who is quite familiar with *Shahnameh*, one of the most renowned literary works in Farsi. Those who attended expressed warm appreciation for the event, stressing the need for such gatherings to fill a crucial lack in Harvard's cultural life. Although some students elect to pursue this kind of interest in their academic work, the majority of the campus relies on events such as this one to provide exposure to the literary culture and interpretive models of non-Western civilizations. This event represents a critical element of the Persian Society's continuing effort to educate the Harvard campus on this under-represented, but dynamic population within the college community.

-Ali John Satvat '99

## Persian Rug Event

On November 4, the Persian Society introduced one of the many aspects of Persian culture to the University's students. The project's aim was to showcase an integral part of Persian culture--the art of Persian rug-making--that has dated back many centuries. As a multi-media forum which educated 40 to 45 people, this event featured the movie *Honare Farsh Baftan*, an address by expert Persian rug-maker and historian Mr. Ali Norouzi, and a discussion with food. Everyone enjoyed the Persian appetizers and desserts that were served during the movie portion of the evening.

A measure of the project's success was the diversity of its audience. Both undergraduate and graduate members of the Harvard community attended, and students of Persian, Caucasian, African-American, and East Asian ethnicities all enjoyed the event. The lively discussion that followed Mr. Ali Norouzi's address on Persian craftsmanship showed that the event had made

an extremely positive impression. The audience was intrigued by the painstaking art of constructing works of art from raw materials such as thread and string. As the discussion progressed, other areas of Persian and Middle-Eastern culture were addressed as students posed questions regarding the influences of other Middle-Eastern and Asian cultures on Persia. Mr. Norouzi offered informative responses by comparing and contrasting the styles of art and rug making from various regions across Asia and the Middle East.

## Persian Society's "An American in Iran"

On January 26, the Persian Society held an event entitled "An American in Iran." We had the privilege of inviting Professor Holly Davidson Nagy to speak to the Harvard community about her experiences in Iran. The event featured a slide show of her recent trip to Teheran. To date, there have been many overtures between Iran and the United States about the cultural differences and misconceptions between the two countries. In an attempt to create a path for future normalized political relations, Iran and the U.S. have allowed more tourism and cultural programs between them.

Mrs. Nagy's experience in Iran as a white American female, was quite an interesting point of view, and her anecdotes were both entertaining and memorable. Her report of the friendliness and hospitality of the Iranians, their eagerness to practice their English with her, as well as her surprise in finding a large number of European tourists, impressed most audience members. The splendor of the landmarks of the city, such as Freedom Square, the palace of the Shah Mohammed Rez Pahlavi, and the memorial made to the fallen soldiers of the Iran-Iraq war, were truly awe-inspiring and brought back old memories to those in the audience who had visited Iran.

The event was enjoyed immensely by those who attended, and the Persian pastries disappeared quickly as the event progressed. There were several non-Persians interested in the American experience in Iran present; they received the event with

great enthusiasm. Mrs. Nagy's openness and enthusiasm made this event one of the most successful of the year.

-Amir Zarrinpar '99

## Persian Carpet Ride Event

The Persian Carpet Ride Event organized by the Harvard-Radcliffe Persian Society was a major success. We had the honor of welcoming Mr. Esrafil Shirchi, a famous Persian calligrapher, to Harvard. Mr. Shirchi is a graduate of the University of Tehran, Faculty of Fine Arts and is an instructor at the Iranian Calligraphers Association. Mr. Shirchi has been touring the United States and many other countries, including Japan, China, India, and the Arabic countries. We cannot emphasize enough what a privilege it was for us to have him here at Harvard.

From his modest and friendly personality, it would be hard to tell that Mr. Shirchi is a highly respected and well-known artist. He brought many pieces of art with him to the Eliot House Library, where the event was held, and spoke of the importance of calligraphy, not only in Iran, but all around the world. Approximately 150 people attended the event on December 9, 1998. There was a mix of students, tutors, resident scholars, community members, fellow calligraphers, and prominent faculty, including the Chair of the Classics Department, Professor Gregory Nagy.

Invitations were sent to all House Masters, Deans, and Eliot House tutors. The event was open to all members of the Harvard community and as such, flyers were placed all around campus. The event was also advertised through email to our extensive email list. Tea and an array of pastries were served at the event.

Mr. Shirchi gave a talk about calligraphy and finished off the evening with demonstrations. He provided each and every person who attended with a personalized piece of calligraphy. Most people had him write their names, while others asked for their parents' names or a short poem. Mr. Shirchi spent about two and a half hours making these personalized pieces. What was even more amazing was that people stayed around for

two hours after the event was originally supposed to end in order to watch Mr. Shirchi at work. Each person who attended also received a pamphlet contained many of Mr. Shirchi's most well-known pieces. This event was one of the most successful ones the Harvard-Radcliffe Persian Society has put on since its establishment less than a decade ago. We hope to make this an annual event since it was received with so much enthusiasm and interest.

Thank you so much for your generous support for this event.

-Nushin Kormi '99

## Presentation of Seasonal Scandinavian Events

The Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society was happy to sponsor several events in its first semester of operation, during the fall of the 1998-1999 academic year. These included screenings of Scandinavian movies and the celebration of traditional Scandinavian holidays.

The movies presented during the semester were *Pathfinder*, *Babette's Feast*, and *Smiles of a Summer Night*. The first event of the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society was the presentation of *Pathfinder*, a Sami movie made in Norway, which was shown in the Leverett G-tower common room. The second screening was the Danish film, *Babette's Feast*. A Swedish film by Ingmar Bergman, *Smiles of a Summer Night*, completed the film series.

On November 10, 1998, HRSFCS celebrated Marten Gas, a traditional Swedish celebration of St. Martin in which a goose is cooked and consumed. The members of Kirkland House Dining Services were kind enough to assist in the preparation of the goose, while the officers of the group prepared other sundries. The feast was held in a Kirkland seminar room and was well attended. Reading concerning the history of the event was also on hand.

On December 7, 1998, Finnish Independence Day was celebrated by HRSFCS in the Thompson Room of the Barker Center. A short lecture was presented by Sarah B. Schauss, the president of the group, and traditional Finnish delicacies prepared by the officers were served following the lecture.

On December 15, 1998, HRSFCS held a Christmas Party in the Barker Center. Everyone involved in the potluck dinner was thrilled and amazed at the great turnout and by the wonderful food that we all enjoyed. The success of this event has prompted the officers to follow the model of this party for future events.

The fall semester was a very successful start for the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society. It was also an important learning experience, and the knowledge gained from this semester will be put to good use in the near future. The entire membership is indebted to the Harvard Foundation for its generous grant, without which these events would not have been possible.

-Jennifer K. Westhagen '99

## Scandinavian Folk Dance Instruction and Community Dancing

During the 1998 fall semester, members of the newly founded Harvard-Radcliffe Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society participated in community dancing in the Boston area, and in doing so made important contacts with the greater Scandinavian folk community.

A Boston group called Speldans holds regular evening dances and *gammeldans* (Scandinavian dances performed in the traditional format), which HRSFCS members attended. The dancers there love to dance, and they were very eager to teach the undergraduate members. Speldans Saturdays are set up such that the first half-hour to hour of the evening is committed to teaching a new dance. The rest of the evening is free dancing, all with live music, with plenty of opportunities for practicing what was learned.

Overall, the officers and members of the HRSFCS were pleased with the community dancing experience, and we plan to continue our relationship with Speldans in the future. Additionally, we hope to bring one of the instructors to the Harvard campus so that more undergraduates will have the opportunity to try Scandinavian dancing. The HRSFCS is grateful to the Harvard Foundation for its generous support in this endeavor.

-Jennifer K. Westhagen '99

## Singapore and Malaysia Association Holiday Dinner

On December 11, the Harvard University Singapore and Malaysia Association held its annual Holiday Dinner in the Yee Room of Memorial Hall with the help of the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council. The purpose of this dinner was to introduce the Harvard community to Malay food. Specifically, *ayam percik* (a chicken dish) and *bubor bitam* (a kind of dessert) were served. A Malay woman living in Natick, volunteered to cook these dishes, which are not available at restaurants anywhere in Boston, or perhaps even the United States.

After an hour of set-up, the dinner began at 7:00 p.m. Opening remarks were made by the Co-President of the Association, Daryl Sng, '01, who welcomed all present and introduced the "proper" method of eating the meal. The traditional style of eating ayam percik involves using one's hands to mix rice with various vegetables and chicken, something very different from the American way of eating with utensils. This literally "hands-on" method of eating was well received. The small room provided an intimate setting for interaction between members of the association and the other people who were in attendance. Approximately forty people attended the dinner. About half of the attendees were from other parts of the Harvard community and from Boston. They were drawn to the event out of curiosity by the Association's publicity efforts and through word of mouth. The dinner proved successful in demonstrating the importance of food to Malaysian culture.

-Daryl Sng '01

## Arab Cultural Evenings

A series of informal evening gatherings was held to raise awareness of Arab culture and provide a forum for cultural exchange. These gatherings were free of charge and open to all those interested in



the Arab world. The evenings featured Arabic music and traditional Arab refreshments that introduced the students to the delicacies of Arab cuisine. A conscious effort was made to include Americans of Arab descent who wish to explore their culture.

The event was a great success in introducing Harvard students from various backgrounds to the Arab culture. This opportunity was very valuable as many people hold false stereotypes about the culture.

-Mohamad Al-Ississ '99

## SAS-Hillel Roundtables

The Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students and Hillel continued their roundtables initiated to discuss issues about the Middle East. The first get-together was a pizza study break that aimed to bring students from both societies together. This gathering took place in December 1998. Roundtable discussions are also scheduled to continue after this introductory event during the spring term.

-Mohamad Al-Ississ '99

## Palestinian History Presentation

This fall, the Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students started its Palestinian History Presentations that will extend into the spring term as well. These presentations come at the fiftieth anniversary of the Palestinian catastrophe in 1948.

The presentations were comprised of a series of lectures, films, and exhibits. The first event, a film, took place on December 11, 1998. The film, *Yom Ilak, Yom Aleik: Jerusalem 1948*, shed light on the important events that took place in 1948 that led to the take over of Jerusalem through a series of horror events and massacres. The occupation transformed a large number of Palestinians into refugees. A talk and a discussion with Nathan Krystal, researcher for the movie, followed the film. Krystal is an Israeli who stands up against the practices of the Israeli govern-

ment that are aimed against the Palestinians. The event was a great success and drew an audience of about sixty people.

In April, we will present a photographic exhibition that presents the modern Palestinian history of exile and diaspora through pictures.

-Mohamad Al-Ississ '99

## South Asian Association: Shades of Brown

On November 14, the South Asian Association held their Shades of Brown fall event. The event, a precursor to a spring conference that explores issues of identity and multiculturalism for South Asian high school students in the greater Boston area, featured a leadership and ethics seminar, and a college application workshop. Students came from various area schools including Brookline High School and Somerville High School, as well as more removed locations. College students in the South Asian Association who led smaller discussion groups moderated the conference. Students grappled with the constructs of ethnicity through games and role-playing activities that asked them to examine their own conceptions of identity and the value that societies place on various roles within a community. The second component of the day was a college-preparatory workshop that encouraged the students, particularly as minorities, to set their college aims high. The university student moderators discussed the particulars of the application process, including forms, essays, and interviews, as well as college life in general. The life of a minority student was a frequent topic through the course of this discussion. Both the high school and college students left the day with a better idea of the ethics of ethnicity and what it means to be a leader in a minority group.

-Amit Doshi '00

## South Asian Studies Initiative

The South Asian Studies Initiative (SASI) is a student-led activist organi-

zation dedicated to the promotion and expansion of the South Asian Studies curriculum at Harvard University. It was formed in the Fall of 1998 under the aegis of the Harvard South Asian Association; its main goal is to encourage the Harvard administration and the University's academic departments to increase the number of course offerings and faculty working on issues relevant to South Asia. The impetus for this new student organization stems from the evident lack of academic opportunities for Harvard students to explore the culture, politics, language, and history of South Asia. Underlying SASI's activities and its goals is the firm belief that the study of South Asia is a valuable academic enterprise and that the resources available to students interested in this region should be sufficient to their level of interest.

For the fall semester, SASI sponsored South Asia Awareness Week from February 3-10, 1999, which included a poster display in the Science Center on South Asia and the dissemination of brochures on spring courses in South Asia offered at the University. In addition, SASI will be featured in a column in the Harvard Crimson as well as in an article in the South Asia Journal. Finally, SASI worked in conjunction with the Academic and Political Chair of SAA to formulate a proposal for a South Asian Studies Concentration.

-Amit Doshi '00

## Aaina: Visions and Reflections of South Asia and America

*Aaina*, a semi-annual publication of the Harvard-Radcliffe South Asian Association, has gained a distinctive voice in the Harvard community since its inception as the South Asia Journal in 1993. It features reflective, analytical, and artistic pieces on issues that concern not only South Asians born in America, but also others with an interest in South Asia. This year the Journal took a new name. *Aaina*, which means, "mirror" in Hindi is an affirmation of the journal's commitment to reflecting the great diversity and many voices that comprise the South Asian



American experience. Presenting a wide range of student perspectives in the form of personal essays, informative articles, vivid prose and poetry, movie reviews, and artwork, *Aaina* hopes to promote a better understanding of South Asia, America, and South Asians living in America. *Aaina* welcomes submissions from the greater Harvard community.

The 1998-99 staff of *Aaina* consists of four undergraduates. Each issue typically presents the work of about fifteen contributors and is thirty-two pages in length. One hundred and fifty copies of the Spring 1999 issue will be printed at Gnomon for distribution. *Aaina* will be distributed to the upper-class house libraries and at a reception open to the Harvard community.

-Amit Doshi '00

## South Asian Dance Lessons

Over the past five years, Kathak dance classes have become one of the more important cultural projects sponsored by the South Asian Association. *Kathak* is a classical Indian dance form that originated in the Mogul courts of Akbar and has since spread to become an extremely popular and well-appreciated dance form in South Asia. The South Asian Association has had the privilege of having Mr. Dulal Talukdar, a professionally trained Kathak dancer from Bangladesh, teach the class for several years. Mr. Talukdar has been teaching dance for over twenty years and has organized dance performances throughout the country.

This year, Mr. Talukdar began with studies of the complex rhythms involved in Kathak dancing. Over the course of the semester, the students have been working on intricate footwork of various *todas* (dance phrases). The class meets on Saturdays in the Adams House Lower Common room for one hour, and is comprised of six students of both South Asian and non-South Asian descent. The Kathak classes at Harvard give students interested in dance an opportunity to benefit from the talent and expertise of a professional teacher, as well as the chance to perform in cultural shows on campus. This year, the group plans to perform at Ghungroo (March) and in the Arts First Festival (May).

-Amit Doshi '00

## South Asian Association Fall Banquet

The South Asian Association's annual Fall Dinner took place on October 30 in Leverett House Dining Hall. As expected, the wide range of food brought together both South Asians and members of the Harvard community at large, with a turnout of 128 people. The evening included a catered dinner from The Cafe of India restaurant located in Harvard Square. The students present had the opportunity to sample dishes from the broad selection of South Asian cuisine featured from a variety of geographic locales. The cuisine included *saag panir*, a typical south Indian dish, *makni* chicken, a typical Punjabi dish, and *naan*, which is a Bengali dish. Different types of South Asian music played at the dinner, ranging from South Indian violin music to modern film music, created a special ambiance at the event. The event was a success, both as an educational experience about South Asian culture for the Harvard community, and as an enjoyable evening for all those who attended.

-Treeny Ahmed '01

## South Asian Association Literature Discussion Series: Voices of the Sub-continent

Voices of the Sub-continent, a speaker series devoted to the literature of South Asian writers, opened with a great reading on October 21 by Dr. Sanjay Nigam, Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and author of the recently released novel, *The Snake Charmer*. Dr. Nigam read several passages from *The Snake Charmer* and fielded questions about his first novel, and his status as a scientist and now as a writer. Following the reading, Dr. Nigam signed books and a small reception was held in his honor.

On October 28, Voices of the Sub-continent featured its second speaker, Meena Alexander, an Associate Professor in the Writing Program at Columbia University.

Dr. Alexander presented several pieces of prose and poetry from her latest novel, *Manhattan Music*, a story about an immigrant Indian woman living in New York. The reading was followed by questions and a small reception.

To close the semester, Kirin Narayan, an Associate Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, read humorous passages from her latest work, *Love, Stars and All That*. She also enticed the audience with passages from her forthcoming novel, *Husbands as Foreigners*. Dr. Narayan demonstrated her background as an anthropologist by using fiction writing as a mechanism for examining cultural barriers.

The response to the series has been excellent, drawing close to fifty people at each reading. Every speaker was well received by the audience, creating the foundation for future series events. For those seeking more information or a recording of any event, please e-mail Arif at [nathoo@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:nathoo@fas.harvard.edu).

-Amit Doshi '00

## Voices of Shakti: Pain, Struggle, Courage

From January 11-12, the South Asian Women's Collective sponsored "Voices of Shakti: Pain, Struggle, Courage", an art exhibit by Indira Freitas Johnson, in the Adams House Senior Common Room. The Voices of Shakti exhibit was a collaborative installation that used words, objects, and floor drawings to demonstrate the South Asian cultural dimension of domestic violence. It was the result of a series of individual and collective discussions, observations, and interactions that took place over a period of five months between women from Apna Ghar (Our House), a shelter for South Asian victims of domestic violence in Chicago, and artist Indira Freitas Johnson. The goals of the exhibit were to create awareness of a historically marginalized issue, to invite discussion from the community, and to allow women in abusive situations a forum in which to speak out.

The installation of the exhibit began on the morning of January 11. Nearly 20 vol-



unteers worked throughout the day assembling and helping to create parts of the exhibit. The opening reception was held that evening with nearly fifty people from Boston area schools and community organizations in attendance. The exhibit was then open to the public the next day. In addition to an open exhibit, there was also a small discussion held during the day about the cultural causes of domestic violence. A total of 90 people attended the exhibit.

The initiative to bring the exhibit to campus was organized by Tonushree Jaggi '01. "I was a volunteer with Apna Ghar at the time that Indira was creating her exhibit. It was extremely powerful, and I felt that by bringing the exhibit to campus we could address an issue not often discussed in our community. Most importantly, I think the exhibit gives a voice to those who have been forced to be silent for so long."

A crucial part of the experience was the opportunity to meet and converse with the artist about her own thoughts and experiences that inspired the exhibit. Ms. Johnson was born in Bombay, India where she completed her undergraduate studies. She received her Masters of Fine Arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has exhibited widely in the United States, Europe, and India and her work is included in numerous major collections. Ms. Johnson's work during these last years has focused on ritual as part of the female tradition in India. Within this context, she has worked on providing a public voice for disadvantaged groups. These include collaborations with women from the Golibar slum in Bombay, Adivasi children and families in Bombay who have been touched by leprosy, and school children across Chicago. As Founder/Director of Shanti: Foundation for Peace, she recently completed a public art project with the Chicago Children's Museum.

The South Asian Women's Collective would particularly like to thank Navin Narayan, Adams House, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, Education for Action, South Asian Women for Action, and all the volunteers for their generous support, without whom the exhibit would not have been possible.

-Harini Reddy '01

## *Boston Intercollegiate Taiwanese Students Association Conference*

The 1998 Boston Intercollegiate Taiwanese Students Association Conference took place on Saturday, November 14, 1998, at Harvard University. The conference, "Fortune's Way: Exploring the Taiwanese-American Path to Success," drew approximately 200 attendees, who came from as far away as California, although a large proportion of the participants were Harvard students. Some came to explore their Taiwanese identity, although many were drawn by the discussions of culture and politics. The conference was organized by the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society and was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Held in the Science Center and Dunster House Dining Hall, the one-day conference was packed with panel discussions, cultural workshops, and Taiwanese meals catered by Boston's Wisteria House. Dr. David Ho, 1996 TIME Magazine Man of the Year, delivered the keynote address, and Jimmy Hsiao presented a documentary on the 2-28 incident. The themes of the conference were identity, success, and reflection. Panel discussions during the day featured topics ranging from careers, politics, and the environment to religion, culture, and identity.

Conference co-directors Chienlan Hsu '99 and Judy Hung '99 opened the day by reflecting on the goals of the conference, and by Loretta Kim '99 who introduced the keynote speaker. In his address, Dr. David Ho described his research on the AIDS epidemic and then offered remarks on culture, and its effects on personal success. In the evening program, Jimmy Hsiao presented his 2-28 documentary entitled "Voices," following a ten-course dinner banquet and a violin concert by Joseph Lin. At the conclusion of the evening's activities, Taiwanese Cultural Society co-presidents Yu-Han Chang '99 and Flora Kao '00 closed the conference with brief remarks in both Taiwanese and English.

The conference provided an arena for Taiwanese students to discover the wide-

ranging aspects of their identity, as well as for Harvard students to learn about the history, culture, and society of Taiwan. Through its panel discussions, workshops, and distinguished speakers, the conference permitted a remarkable exploration of culture for members of the Harvard community.

-Carey Hsu '01

## *Taiwanese "Ambassador" Stephen Chen's Visit to Harvard*

Taiwan's diplomatic representative to the United States, Stephen Chen, came to Harvard on October 29, 1998, to deliver a speech entitled "Republic of China on Taiwan: Recent Developments and Future Challenges." The forum was held at the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The event, which drew well over 100 students, past and present government officials, and media, was presented by the Taiwanese Cultural Society, the Chinese Students Association, and the Institute's Student Advisory Committee, and was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

As Mr. Chen addressed listeners in the Starr Auditorium, he focused on two points as major challenges for the future: first, that Taiwan should engage China in open dialogue in order to ease tensions, and second, that Taiwan should work towards gaining greater international recognition. As Taiwan does not have an official ambassador to the United States, this speech and visit by Mr. Stephen Chen served as a special occasion for students to meet Taiwan's highest-ranking diplomatic official to the United States.

Mr. Chen fielded a number of questions from students in the audience, thereby allowing them to gain a greater understanding of the political and cultural dynamics that have created such cross-strait tensions in recent years between China and Taiwan. While the visit held special significance for students of Chinese and Taiwanese heritage, the speech also held importance for students of all ethnicities on the Harvard campus, as it exemplified the ways in which politics and intercultural relations can be so closely intertwined. Overall, the speech and visit by



this dignitary carefully addressed the political and cultural concerns that have been extremely newsworthy as of late.

-Carey Hsu '01

## *Renegade Province or Independent Nation: A Panel Discussion on Taiwan-China Relations*

On December 9, 1998, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society hosted a panel discussion on relations between Taiwan and China. Our goal to explore the issues involved in cross-strait relations while viewing all sides of the situation, stimulated lively debate and educated the Harvard community at large. Held in conjunction with a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, sponsored by the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program, this event was also sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Between 75 and 100 people filled the lecture hall at the Law School, all of them eager to hear the panelists. Several undergraduates, as well as law students and members of the greater Boston community were present. The panel consisted of private citizens who all have interests in the Taiwan-China situation. Members of the panel were: Dr. Anthony Y. Teng, a professor at Rhode Island College in Providence; Dr. Tun-Hou Lee, a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health; and Mr. Philippe Noubel, Senior China Analyst for *Inside China Today* (an online daily news magazine published by EIN), who flew from Prague, Czech Republic to speak at our panel. A fourth panelist, Mr. Don Gross, who is an official at the U.S. State Department, was forced to withdraw at the last minute due to meetings on the North Korea situation.

In the general remarks, the panelists touched upon a wide range of issues, including the recent elections held in Taiwan, the United States' role in cross-strait relations, and Taiwan's status in the international community.

These distinguished panelists also fielded numerous questions from the audience,

thereby allowing the attendees to go away from the discussion with a greater understanding of cross-strait relations and their social, political, and cultural implications. This heated, yet open dialogue allowed not only students of Taiwanese or Chinese background to be involved, but also encouraged people of all backgrounds to understand and recognize the significance of the intercultural and racial strife between Taiwan and China. This event was co-sponsored by the Harvard Republic of China Study Club, the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association, China Current, and the Asian American Association.

-Jean C. Han '02

## *Taiwanese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival*

On the evening of Friday, October 2, 1998, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society presented the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, a traditional Chinese celebration that falls on the eighth full moon of the lunar calendar. Held on a chilly, but remarkably clear night in JFK Park, this festival sought to highlight and bring appreciation to a popular Chinese festival through food and discourse. The event was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

In the typical celebration of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, the Chinese observe the eighth full moon, the largest of the lunar calendar year, and eat moon cakes. The festival is a holiday during which family and friends meet to celebrate the full moon and its significance in the fall harvest. Moon cakes are small cakes filled with red bean that have a round shape which closely resembles the full moon. The legend of the Moon Festival is typically retold on this occasion.

To replicate this type of cultural experience on the Harvard campus, the Taiwanese Cultural Society offered a cooking workshop in DeWolfe Common Room. The session, led by Grace Kao '01, attracted thirty students who baked authentic moon cakes. Traditional Taiwanese music was played as students tried their hand at fashioning the moon cakes, and then drawing Chinese characters on top of the desserts. During the evening, approximately 75 Harvard under-

graduate and graduate students congregated in JFK Park to watch the full moon, and to enjoy traditional Moon Festival desserts, including the freshly-baked moon cakes, tapioca pearl soup, and mung bean soup. As a forum for discussing and sharing different cultures, the celebration was a grand success.

-Carey Hsu '01

## *Scallion Pancake-Making Workshop*

On the evening of Monday, January 11, 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society hosted a Scallion Pancake-Making Workshop and Study Break open to all Harvard students in the 20 DeWolfe Common Room. Held during the fall term Reading Period, the workshop provided a welcome study break to all those involved. This event was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Led by TCS secretary Shelley Day '01, over twenty members of the Harvard community learned how to make and cook their own scallion pancakes. That night, we crossed the bridge between past and present by bringing a traditional Taiwanese recipe into a modern setting. Literally putting our hands into the work, the crackling and sizzling of the frying pan could be heard as we made the traditional dish from scratch. It was a true educational experience, as we finally learned just how complicated making scallion pancakes could be. The Taiwanese Cultural Society was also very pleased that numerous non-TCS members came to the workshop as well, thereby helping us to achieve our goal of improving intercultural relations. It was an enjoyable and pleasant evening—a time devoted to learning about Taiwanese culture and discussing cross-cultural ideas—all while having fun.

-Jean C. Han '02

## *Tea and Karaoke Night*

On December 12, 1998, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society held a Tea and Karaoke Night at Loker Commons. More than twenty-five students



from Harvard were present at any given time to join in a night filled with singing and mahjong. This event was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

The attendees, many of whom were non-TCS members, amused themselves by singing and dancing to popular songs from United States and Taiwan, sung in English, Taiwanese, and Mandarin. Combined with traditional activities such as playing mahjong and drinking various types of Asian green tea, karaoke is a good method of getting in touch with the culture of Taiwan. It is the shared experience of singing that makes karaoke so popular. A nice selection of pastries from Chinatown rounded out the night. Tea and karaoke night was a fun and entertaining way to bring people together to enjoy Taiwanese culture.

-Jean C. Han '02

## Baraza Project

The Baraza project was started in the Fall of 1994 by the Woodbridge Society. The program aims to bring together international students once a month, in a forum for discussion and social interaction. During these *barazas*, international issues ranging from culture to politics are discussed, and various forms of cultural exchange such as performance of different ethnic songs and dances takes place. The performances are typically accompanied by international cuisine. Our goal is to create a relaxed environment for cross-cultural interaction at a personal level. Barazas are open to all members of the Harvard community.

In the Fall semester, the Woodbridge Society held four barazas. Our first featured Thai cuisine, and was accompanied by an instrumental performance of Thai music. We also had a "New York Cheesecake" baraza in honor of UN Day, which also featured a Balinese dance performance. In addition, we sponsored an evening with Polish cuisine that included a piano recital of Chopin's work. Our most recent event highlighted Chilean cuisine in addition to that nation's music and dance. We look forward to many more

evenings of exchange.

-Siddarth Mohandas '00

## UN Day Celebration

Each year on United Nations Day, October 24, the Woodbridge Society organizes an event that seeks to celebrate the spirit of international cooperation for which the United Nations stands. The specific aims of the UN Day celebration at Harvard are to mark the diversity and cultural richness of this University, to invite recognition of the relevance of the United Nations, and to encourage thought and discussion on its role and amelioration. This year the effort took the form of a poster campaign promoting the UN's successes, and an event that took place in Dudley House later that evening.

Our keynote speaker for the celebration was Michael Scharf, a professor at the New England School of Law and a Pulitzer Prize-nominated author, who discussed the relationship between the United States and the UN. His speech was followed by a series of cultural performances that encompassed more than a dozen ethnic and cultural groups on campus, including the South Asian Association, the Hellenic Society, Hillel, the Irish Cultural Society, the Society of Arab Students, and several others. In addition, students performed poetry recitations that included works from the United States, Great Britain, Poland, China, Chile, and India, all read in their original languages. The evening was concluded with a small international food festival. We were very pleased with the response to this year's celebrations and look forward to continuing to commemorate the important role of the United Nations in world affairs.

-Siddarth Mohandas '00

## Yisei Magazine

In early February, *Yisei Magazine* published its Winter Issue. The theme of this issue is Korean stereotypes. In the early stages of discussing the focus of this issue, we began to realize that many Korean

stereotypes exist, amongst Koreans, Korean-Americans and other ethnicities and races. We wanted to solicit articles and creative writing pieces that could clarify the points of view of both the people who stereotype, and the people who feel they are the objects of such stereotyping. The response was terrific, as demonstrated by the wide range of articles submitted. One international student from Korea wrote on the importance of not stereotyping Koreans, while a Korean-American wrote on the importance of not self-stereotyping. Another undergraduate wrote about her experience of being a Korean-American, but not looking like one. On the broader scale, a graduate student wrote a scholarly essay on the sociological validity of the notion of a common Korean "identity." Several undergraduates wrote creative pieces on schizophrenia, domestic abuse and clubbing life, reflecting on their personal experiences, as well as some of the reverberating issues which affect many Koreans and Korean-Americans.

In addition to the pieces focused on the theme of Korean stereotypes, this semester's *Yisei Magazine* included a number of other articles. Scholarly works ranged from a Columbia University professor's article on the current presidency in South Korea to a graduate student's essay on the Korean history in Manchuria. The issue includes an interview with the famous South Korean dissident, Paik Nak-Chung, who is currently a visiting scholar at Harvard. A student also had the opportunity to talk with IDOL, a pop music sensation in Korea whose music is heard by many Korean-Americans as well. Being a magazine of many literary and artistic forms, several students submitted poetry and photographs as well.

When this semester's publication comes out, we hope that people will be more informed about and aware of issues surrounding the Korean and Korean-American communities, and that *Yisei* will again have succeeded in providing a forum for their voices at Harvard.

-Jay Moon '01



**Harvard Foundation Staff**  
*Nikki Kadomiya, Staff Assistant*  
*Nana Coleman '98,*  
*Student Activities Coordinator*

**Student Interns**  
*Dana Bennett '99*  
*Sergio Castellon '00*  
*Monica Eav '99*  
*Nancy Lin '99*  
*Marlene Losier '01*  
*Kiisha Morrow '99*  
*Jeloni Shabazz '00*  
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**Not Pictured**  
*Andrew Amo '01, Student*  
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*Jennifer Durrak '01*  
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*Advisory Committee*  
*Michael Tan '01, Student*  
*Advisory Committee*  
*Anita Wong '00*  
*Serre-Yu Wong '01*

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## THE HARVARD FOUNDATION

Harvard University  
 7 Thayer Hall  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
 617-495-1527