



The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

FALL 1999

VOL. XIX, NO. 1

Dominican President Leonel Fernandez Reyna Visits Harvard

On September 24, 1999, the Harvard Foundation, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, and the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government hosted a reception and dinner in honor of President Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Republic. The evening was both a tribute to President Fernandez Reyna's achievements and an opportunity to praise the sense of social progress and economic growth within the Dominican Republic at large. The reception was held in the Leverett House Master's residence immediately after the President's charismatic speech at the Institute of Politics. President Fernandez remained energetic throughout the evening as a continuous stream of students, faculty, and other members of the Harvard and Cambridge communities eagerly poured in to greet him.

Following the reception, guests were seated at a formal dinner at which Dr. S.



President Leonel Fernandez Reyna (c), President of the Dominican Republic, and members of his staff, are welcomed to Harvard by President Neil Rudenstine, Weatherhead Center Director Professor Jorge Domínguez, Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter, and student host Marlene Losier '01.

Allen Counter, the Director of the Harvard Foundation, welcomed President Fernandez Reyna on behalf of the Harvard administration and faculty. Remarks were also made by Professor

Harry Lewis, the Dean of Harvard College; Professor Howard Georgi, the Master of Leverett House; and Ms. Marlene Losier '01, a student representa-

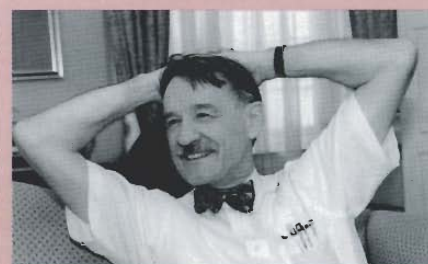
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Hate Crimes in America: A Search for Solutions



Students and faculty discuss hate crimes in America. Left to right: Dr. S. Allen Counter (Moderator), Ms. Serre-Yu Wong '01, Ms. Emily Tabak '00, Professor Robert Nozick, Professor Gary Orfield, Professor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Dr. Lisa Cook, Professor Ali Asani, and Professor Michael Sandel. Story page 4

In Memoriam Dr. Richard Marius: Scholar, Teacher



Former Harvard Foundation Advisory Committee member and director of the Expository Writing Program died on November 5, 1999. Students and faculty mourn his loss and acknowledge his important contributions to intercultural and race relations. Story page 9

President Leonel Fernandez Reyna*(Continued from page 1)*

tive of the Harvard Foundation. Dr. S. Allen Counter then presented President Fernandez Reyna with the Harvard Foundation Award for Notable Contributions to Government and Intercultural and Race Relations. Following the award presentation, Professor Jorge Dominguez, Director of the Weatherhead Center, introduced President Fernandez Reyna. He spoke of his personal admiration for the President's strides towards improving the quality of life in the Dominican Republic.

With a sincere and amiable demeanor, President Fernandez Reyna extended his thanks to the Harvard community for the opportunity to visit and speak at the University. Reflecting upon the warm sentiments he received from students and faculty, he joked about Sammy Sosa and the fact that his own popularity may be highly attributable to his ability to answer questions about the popular Dominican sports personality. President Fernandez Reyna even joked that whenever he watches Dominican baseball players on American teams, he thinks of the ensuing diplomatic rapport between the nations

and exclaims, "Thank God they are Dominican!"

Recounting his childhood experiences both in the Dominican Republic and in New York City, where he was formally educated, President Fernandez Reyna informed the audience that he had never expected to become a politician. Only upon returning to the Dominican Republic later in his life did he recognize the great disparity between the even the

poorest Americans and the majority of people in the Dominican Republic. It was then that President Fernandez Reyna was inspired to modernize and revitalize his home country. After becoming involved in his political party's 1994 senatorial elections, he was soon nominated for the presidency in 1996.

Above all, President Fernandez Reyna emphasized the spirit of progress that has become prevalent in many facets of the



Professors John H. Coatsworth (Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs), Doris Sommer (Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures), and Marcelo Suárez-Orozco (Professor of Education) welcome Leonel Fernandez Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic.

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Andrew Amo '01, Harvard African Students Association representative, warmly receives President Leonel Fernandez Reyna.

Dominican community since his administration began. The recent economic growth has inspired many Dominicans to initiate new grassroots efforts to help prepare their nation for the challenges of the twenty-first century. President Fernandez Reyna mentioned that even the youngest children in his nation have expressed



President Leonel Fernandez Reyna was honored by the Harvard Foundation for his outstanding work in international diplomacy. Left to Right: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation; President Fernandez Reyna; Professor Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College; Mr. Juan Marichal, Minister of Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation; Mrs. Ann Georgi, Co-Master of Leverett House.

newfound tenacity towards their schoolwork since computers were recently installed in their school districts.

The leader also reflected on the negative side of being the president of a developing country. He pointed out that unlike developed nations, every individual in a developing nation tends to hold the

President personally accountable for solving their personal problems. President Fernandez Reyna noted that he is often perceived as a magician who can fix everything from the national economy to the plumbing problem on a particular person's street. He admitted that he often feels overwhelmed because he knows that



Marlene Losier '01, Haitian Alliance representative, welcomes President Leonel Fernandez Reyna.



Serre-Yu Wong '01, Co-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee for Intercultural and Race Relations, greets President Leonel Fernandez Reyna.

every problem he hopes to solve will not be removed by the end of his term. Yet, he vowed to continue dedicating all of his personal energy and passion into transforming the Dominican Republic into a bustling, technologically developed nation.

After leaving the audience with encouraging words about his confidence in the Dominican Republic and the importance of education and service, President Fernandez Reyna received a standing ovation. His visit was a landmark

occasion that left many attendees with a newfound interest in Dominican affairs and the future of developing nations everywhere. President Fernandez Reyna conveyed intense optimism, enthusiasm, and determination during his visit to Harvard's campus, and the Harvard Foundation hopes that the perseverance of President Fernandez and other Dominicans will afford them a millennium full of revitalization and change.

The Harvard Foundation and all other sponsors would like to thank Leverett

House for hosting the reception and dinner. Most of all, we would like to thank President Leonel Fernandez Reyna and his cabinet for visiting Harvard and enriching the University community's understanding of global affairs. Their visit reinforced the fact that strong bonds of mutual concern and fellowship unite people of all backgrounds. We are truly grateful for their dedication to improving the lives of members of our global community.

-Charisa Smith '00

Hate Crimes in America: A Search for Solutions

"Hate Crimes in America: A Search for Solutions" was the title of a panel discussion hosted by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations on Wednesday, November 10, 1999, in Sanders Theatre. Several widely publicized hate crimes over the past year inspired the Student Advisory Committee to act to address the many hate crimes that go unnoticed in our nation each day. Several panelists lamented the tragic deaths of such people as James Byrd, an African-American man, brutally dragged behind a truck driven by white supremacists, and Matthew Shepard, a gay college student from Wyoming, tied to a fence and tortured to death. The panel sought to address the source of both violent and nonviolent hate crimes, including silent attacks such as the desecration of mosques,



Dr. Robert Nozick, Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Philosophy, probed the immoral nature of hate crimes.



Dr. Ali Asani, Professor of the Practice of Indo-Muslim Languages and Culture, described the backlash against the Muslim community following the Oklahoma City and World Trade Center bombings.

synagogues, churches and other property. Over four hundred members of the Harvard community attended, reflecting Harvard's extreme concern about the emotionally charged topic.

Ms. Serre-Yu Wong '01, co-chair of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee and Harvard Foundation intern, began the panelist presentations. Wong recounted the recent history of hate crimes in the United States and directed her presentation to her peers. Noting that most American hate crimes are committed by people under age twenty-five, Wong suggested that youth must look within themselves to erode interracial fear and

hatred. Following Ms. Wong, Emily Tabak '00 described her research in the Government Department focusing on the moral uniqueness of hate crimes. Tabak emphasized the fact that hate crimes can be committed against individuals yet are symbolically intended to injure a group. She asserted that they are more objectionable than other crimes because perpetrators select their victims on the basis of group membership and deny them their basic right to individuality.

Speaking from a theoretical, legal perspective, philosophy professor and award-winning author Robert Nozick also probed the moral nature of hate crimes.



Dr. Michael Sandel, Professor of Government, discussed the moral responsibility of the punishment of hate crimes.

He described recent congressional proposals for more stringent hate crimes sentencing, and examined a hypothetical pair of identical crimes in which one perpetrator received more punishment solely because of his prejudiced motivations. While Nozick did not defend the idea of punishing perpetrators on the basis of their prejudiced thoughts, he concluded that stricter hate crimes sentences are necessary to avoid the spread of intimidation and fear in our society. Gary Orfield, a professor of education and social policy, then pointed out that the spread of hate crimes is an extension of a larger social trend. Orfield suggested that the gradual reversal of the

legislative advances of the civil rights era and a conservative backlash in U.S. politics and culture have increased interracial hostilities.

Education professor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco explained the statistical evidence surrounding "the new immigration," which has brought millions of Latin American, Caribbean, and Asian immigrants into the nation in the latter half of the 20th century and incited controversial policy initiatives. He described how language difficulties and race often make new immigrants especially vulnerable to nativism, job discrimination, and violence. He called for Americans to challenge themselves to new ideals of inclusion and cultural understanding.

Lisa Cook, Deputy Director of Harvard's Center for International Development, followed Professor Suárez-Orozco by vividly describing the trauma her grandparents experienced as Ku Klux Klan members used fire, lynching, rape, and other violence to intimidate her successful southern Black family. Dr. Cook also took a global perspective and explored the ethnic and religious significance of international hate crimes, urging concerned Americans to assist the human rights struggles of other populations facing religious persecution and ethnic cleansing. Professors Michael Sandel and Ali Asani then closed the panel presentations.

Sandel challenged the audience to endorse policies to prosecute the hate crimes which most people undeniably oppose, while Professor Asani asserted that religious hate crimes appear particularly linked to patriotism. Describing the backlash against the Muslim community following the Oklahoma City and World Trade Center bombings, Asani suggested that Americans must scrutinize their suspicions against foreigners and grant them the same individuality that makes American identity unique. Following the presentations, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, moderated a debate between panelists while fielding audience questions.

One undergraduate questioned the moral uniqueness of hate crimes, asserting that any crime is discriminatory and that a robbery, for example, is a crime against the presumably wealthy. Professor Orfield maintained that hate crimes should receive



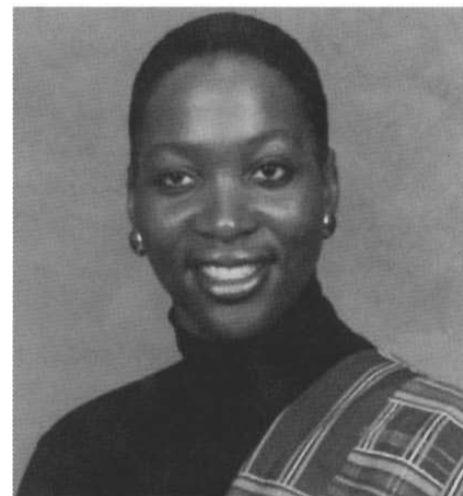
Dr. Gary Orfield, Professor of Education and Social Policy, spoke on the history of hate crimes in context of the American Civil Rights Movement.

different sentences because they reveal a level of ideological or racial intolerance that should be unacceptable in America. Other attendees asked panelists to gauge the possible effectiveness of hate crimes legislation, and most panelists suggested that increased sentencing of violent perpetrators and vandals may be the first step towards condemning intolerance in less public settings. The panel proved to be a timely gathering of those seeking to explore a difficult dilemma. The Foundation hopes that it will initiate an ongoing dialogue to promote safety and the acceptance of difference and individuality on Harvard's campus and in American society.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



Dr. Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Professor of Education, discussed the impact of hate crimes on recent immigrants to the United States.



Dr. Lisa Cook, Deputy Director of the Harvard Center for International Development, described incidents of racial hatred in the American South and the impact on women.

The Harvard Foundation Welcomes Freshmen with an Open House

On Thursday, October 21, 1999, the Harvard Foundation welcomed over a hundred freshmen and other newcomers to an Open House at Phillips Brooks House, whose parlor proved to be a cozy yet ample venue for students to meet one another and learn about the Foundation's programs and mission. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Foundation, began the evening by introducing himself and expressing his delight at seeing such a large group in attendance. He described the Foundation's goals of seeking to improve intercultural understanding through scholarly programs and cultural celebrations. He mentioned several of the noted and accomplished speakers the Foundation has had the pleasure of host-

ing throughout its history, including United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and President Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Republic. Dr. Counter also described the range of debates, festivals, conferences, community programs, and artistic endeavors that students have been able to present through the Foundation for the past nineteen years.

As guests began savoring diverse delicacies such as taquitos, samosas, baba ghanouj and plantains, Foundation staff and interns introduced themselves, described their various duties, and explained what involvement with the Foundation has meant to them. Many noted that they had cultivated newfound

enthusiasm for issues and causes that were previously unfamiliar to them since joining the ranks of the Foundation and its student groups. Several interns also pointed out that the chance to assist student groups has given them an instant link to the "pulse" of the campus. They explained that participating in these various cultural programs kept them informed of perspectives on campus race relations while allowing them to meet a diverse range of people. Eager guests then asked the interns about their daily tasks in the office, which range from everything from creating posters and videotaping events to speaking at cultural forums.

Dance performances by Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán and the Asian



President Neil Rudenstine welcomes members of the class of 2003 at a reception sponsored by the Black Students Association.

American Dance Troupe closed the formal portion of the Open House, and attendees spent the remainder of the evening mingling and continuing to enjoy their meals. The performances, which were done in full costume and featured traditional music, gave guests an introduction to the artistic expressions of the wide variety of cultures represented by the Foundation. The Harvard Foundation staff would like to thank Phillips Brooks

House for their graciousness.

As the influx of new student volunteers in Foundation programs has been overwhelming, largely due to the success of the Open House, several students proposed the idea that Foundation Open Houses occur at least once a semester. The evening was both entertaining and informative. Furthermore, it provided staff and interns with a chance to reflect on their purpose and roles as much as it

introduced newcomers to the Foundation. All attendees left with a sense of increased motivation to take advantage of the range of opportunities that the Foundation provides. The Foundation hopes that those in attendance will truly enrich Harvard's multicultural life and improve relationships between the diverse members of its student and faculty population in as many ways as possible.

-Harvard Foundation Staff

A Commentary on Race at Harvard

This semester is a particularly valid time to take stock of the racial climate at Harvard. As the student body elected its first black Undergraduate Council (UC) executive team, President Fentrice Driskell and Vice-President John Burton, congratulations are in order. At today's Harvard, intellectual, social, and political potential are boundless. The general student body refuses to let race prejudice blind them from recognizing true leadership. Yet undercurrents still threaten our sense of mutual appreciation. Boundaries of racial tolerance were stretched as a suspiciously late and bitter outcry erupted over the integrity of Driskell and Burton's campaign.

An assembly comprised largely of opposing candidates and non-minorities questioned the executives' credibility with a diligence unparalleled during their campaigns. This led many other students to question their motivations. Unable to find valid reasons for discrediting the two, the accusers focused on a minor misunderstanding. They alleged that Burton stole buttons from a student organization and dishonored both himself and Driskell in the process. Yet, it is difficult to believe that button-borrowing was truly a matter of moral decisiveness for this group of Harvard students. Nevertheless, they were committed to tarnishing the pair's reputation with slanderous media attention and a failed impeachment process.

Several factors suggest that the impeachment attempt was racially motivated. Accusers seemed to grope desperately for reasons to rid the Council of its

executives despite Driskell's obvious non-involvement with the buttons, Burton's clearance by the student organization, and the student majority's disinterest in the whole affair. It was as if these accusers simply could not bear to see the pair in office. For, they practically changed their rationale each week that the process dragged on. Finally they resorted to antagonizing only Burton, tacking a range of irrelevant issues about his life onto their critiques of his suitability for office.

Apparently, the opportunity to challenge Burton during the campaign was not enough. Instead of playing fair, his accusers sought drastic measures like full impeachment and mud-slinging. Ironically, they demanded that a lack of integrity be punished, while they found inconsistently rationalized scandals to be morally defensible. The persistence and inconsistent focus of the impeachment process suggests that these UC members and hopefuls were simply reluctant to acknowledge the pair's leadership. They sought to besmirch two black students' reputations at any cost. Many minority students detected similarities in the random fault-seeking of the impeachers and their own experiences with racists who refuse to acknowledge their worthiness when they rise to high levels of achievement.

Whether or not racism played a greater role than political envy, I am surprised so many Harvardians, including Crimson staff, assumed race could not be a factor. Several UC members even proposed a censure resolution to disqualify

Driskell's suggestion in the *Globe* that "racism at Harvard" can be "a very subtle thing." Their denials suggest that Harvard needs to be made more aware of the complexities of the minority experience and the credibility of Driskell's comments.

As a black female senior, I have fond memories of amazing classes, unparalleled opportunities, and diverse friends at Harvard. Particularly, the Harvard Foundation's extensive support of groups ranging from the Black Students Association to the Irish Cultural Society has broadened my vision of the world. The Foundation ensures that minorities can form support networks, educate others and address politics and culture. Yet, while life would have been unimaginable without the Foundation and other individuals with vision and integrity, Harvard was a difficult place for me—as a minority—due to other factors.

The Harvard minority experience remains a test in being the "other." I live in a randomized house where I can still occasionally enter the dining hall and realize that the only people who look like me are making food and cleaning the floors. Non-minorities do not share this experience. There is still only one set of minority house masters and a few minority tutors, although administrators have insisted that the student composition of the houses become more diverse. Administrators do not realize that they disrespect minority students through residential policies that do not value minority presence and enrichment through

diversity on higher levels of power.

Many people can never comprehend the feelings of resentment and sadness that accompany my life in Eliot House. I am daily reminded of Harvard's reluctance to disown racism when I pass the bust of Charles Eliot, eugenic scholar and racist, or each time I simply have to utter his name in the title of my house. My spirits fall each time I am invited to celebrate a traditional Eliot event, knowing that we are rejoicing in a tradition that prided itself on forbidding blacks and other groups to enter its gates only a short time ago. Inviting me to drink the strawberries and champagne now does not make Harvard's racism any less vibrant. The nature of the racism is simply more subtle: the fact that we still celebrate Eliot and its past ensures that racism remains.

Academic life at Harvard is no less alienating. Although I immensely enjoyed my education, I feel we have all been subtly shortchanged. The Core is only beginning to reflect the traditions and experiences of non-Western, non-European cultures. I am often the only black student in my history courses, and

even in an occasional Afro-American studies section. Yet, non-minorities rarely face this situation. It is alarming that most tenured faculty neither relate to minorities personally nor represent the breadth of talent among genders and races. Furthermore, I have personally grappled with racist comments like Martin Luther King would not have risen to historical acclaim had he not been assassinated from professors like Stephan Thernstrom. He, Harvey Mansfield, and certain other tenured faculty allege that minorities are less qualified while unapologetically insulting women and minorities in their lectures. Yet, student attempts to censure them go unacknowledged by administrators and the student body, while John Burton is scandalized over a few buttons.

All these factors can make Harvard's minorities feel isolated and undervalued even when they are treated as intellectual equals. Harvard must recognize that it continues to subject minorities to social and academic isolation, and often disrespect.

My hope is that these details about the minority experience will make us question the polemics of the Burton impeach-

ment and our tendency to deny subtle (and blatant) racism at Harvard. I hope that we can view these situations as reasons to improve race relations. If the spirit of integrity that elected Driskell and Burton continues through initiatives for faculty diversity, minority house masters, and Ethnic Studies, Harvard will be one step closer to being a prestigious, unbiased institution. The widespread success of Harvard Foundation programs proves that celebrating minority experiences can enrich campus life at large.

I also hope that Harvard will remain as committed to undergraduate minorities as it is to its minority recruits, whose unique experience is addressed through target programs and support networks. Focusing resources on diversifying faculty, curriculum, and supporting student groups merely continues this initial goal of making the University a more attractive and educational place. Harvard has already begun to recognize that minority experiences and race relations may be imperfect. Yet, it must remain proactive and aware to ensure that it becomes truly just and honorably educational for all.

-Charisa Smith '00

Student Activities Committee Fall Retreat

The Student Advisory Committee convened on Saturday, October 16, 1999, for a day of sharing experiences and community building in Currier House. Led by Frank Tuitt, a doctoral student at the Graduate School of Education, the session began with introductions of the SAC members in attendance. The SAC decided that we should have a retreat annually, early in the year, to build the bonds between members of the committee so that we can engage in meaningful intercultural exchange.

The retreat began, appropriately, with introductions. Frank introduced an exercise during which each member told the group his name, where he was from, and what shaped his ethnic identity. Afterwards, we watched the documentary *Skin Deep*. The document outlined the experiences of twelve undergraduate men

and women and their experiences, conceptions, and feelings about interracial exchange and multiculturalism. After we saw the video, we each talked about our own experiences within diverse (and not so diverse) communities. This discussion centered around the prejudice that we have experienced in our communities at home, and on campus.

After our discussion, we did an exercise to expose the reason why all of us had been drawn to race and culture as a personal interest. The answers ranged from political reasons, to family, to childhood experiences. The discussion gave SAC members a real opportunity to get to know each other on a deep, personal level. After the discussion of our personal reasons for getting involved in ethnic issues on campus, we brainstormed ideas for projects during the year. We decided

to invest our energies in racial dialogues in the houses with race relations tutors and creating table tents for the houses.

Everyone who attended left knowing more about the background and the intentions of our fellow SAC reps. In terms of our interpersonal growth; the SAC benefited greatly from this daylong retreat. The event served as a good way to build friendships and avenues of communication in our interethnic and multicultural community.

-Adam Bailey '01

Dr. Richard Marius: Scholar, Teacher

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation mourn the passing of our good friend, Richard Marius. Dr. Marius died on November 5, 1999. A memorial service was conducted in his honor at Memorial Church by the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes on December 17, 1999.

As a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Marius served the Harvard Foundation as faculty advisor for over a decade. He was present at the inception of the Harvard Foundation and personally committed to its goal of improving racial understanding. Throughout his involvement with the Foundation, he was a supportive friend to students of all racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds. He reached out to those members of ethnic groups who felt a sense of estrangement at Harvard and warmly welcomed them to the community of scholars. An acclaimed writer, and Reformation scholar, he shared his special talents with students as director of Harvard's Expository Writing Program. In this position, he raised the quality of the program to a new level of excellence which it maintained throughout his tenure as director. During the summers, he often traveled to his home state of Tennessee where he worked with such distinguished writers as Alex Haley to encourage and train high school students in the art of writing. Many students are unaware of his long history of support for the cause of social justice in America. While serving at the University of Tennessee, he supported the Civil Rights movement and openly challenged the morality of America's war in Vietnam. At Harvard, Dr. Marius continually demonstrated his interest in encouraging students of color.



Dr. Richard Marius and his wife, Mrs. Lanier Smythe, enjoy a moment in the Harvard Yard with former Dean and Master of Dudley House, the late Tom Crooks.

Few in the Harvard community, or parents of our graduates would ever fully appreciate the amount of time and energy Richard Marius put into preparing students for the Commencement orations. After weeks of skillful training and writing and rewriting of speeches, he would sit at the Commencement exercise year after year, like a proud parent, nervously observing his trainees deliver their splendid orations at the graduation ceremony. For over twenty years, he wrote some of the most eloquent and memorable speeches for Harvard officials, including the President. Many will have fond memories of walking through the Harvard Yard and seeing Richard Marius with his dapper bow tie, debonair demeanor, and his uplifting and cheerful greetings. The students of Harvard College, past, present and future, should know that Richard Marius was a good man who cared deeply about the rights, the feelings, and the sense of belonging of all Harvard students, and particularly students of minority and international backgrounds. He should be remembered as a man of peace and integrity and for the courage of his convictions. Through his thoughtful, kind, and enlightened efforts to improve intercultural and race relations, he enhanced the quality of our common life in the Harvard community.

-Dr. S. Allen Counter

Harvard Foundation Film Series

On Friday, December 10, 1999, over five hundred people braved the rains and trooped over to the Science Center for a showing of *La Vita E Bella* or *Life is Beautiful*, the Italian film directed by and starring Roberto Benigni, winner of the 1999 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. The showing kicked off the Harvard Foundations Film Series. It was co-sponsored by the Italian Cultural Society, which puts on screenings of Italian films regularly.

In the past, the Harvard Foundation has traditionally organized a Film Festival showcasing films from many different cultures over the course of a month during the spring term. This year, the Foundation decided on a new format, expanding the month-long film festival into a yearlong film series. The series is composed of two

strands. The first is film showings for a large audience cosponsored with a student cultural group. The student group helps select a movie that will serve as a good medium from which others can learn more about their culture. The second strand shows films about intercultural and interracial relations in a smaller setting with more in-depth discussion following.

The showing of *La Vita E Bella* was part of the first strand, and was a successful inaugural event. Before the movie was shown, Marianna Fassinotti '01 of the Italian Cultural Society gave a brief introduction providing cultural background to the film. The movie was then shown in Italian with English subtitles. The audience, which was comprised of a very mixed crowd, thoroughly enjoyed the movie and applauded enthusiastically at

the end.

Following the film, all those interested were invited to stay on for a discussion of the film. Around twenty-five people participated in the discussion, which was lively and thought-provoking. Marianna Fassinotti '01 and Claudia Gregoire '01 of the Italian Cultural Society and Nissara Horayangura of the Harvard Foundation helped facilitate the discussion, although participants readily put forth their own views as well. Some interesting discussion ensued about the treatment of Nazism in the film, the Jewish population in Italy, and Italian film techniques.

Given this successful start, the Foundation hopes to further develop and diversify the film festival in the spring semester.

-Nissara Horayangura '99

East Coast Chicano Students Conference



A local mariachi band performs at the closing dinner at the East Coast Chicano Students Conference.



The Harvard Ballet Folklórico performs at the East Coast Chicano Conference.



Student conference coordinators with keynote speaker, Ms. Judy Chapa (4th from the left), Republican Party Representative.

Harvard Foundation Fall 1999 Student Grant Activities

The Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society's Film Series

On Thursday, October 28, 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society held a viewing of the Finnish film *Leningrad Cowboys Go America* (1981), in Mather House. A brief summary of the film from the Internet stated, "This sublimely absurd road movie chronicles the world tour of the most mediocre polka band in Siberia. Nine musicians, one venal manager, and a very determined village idiot leave the tundra for the United States in search of paying gigs." Light refreshments were served, and the event was attended by a small but devoted group of members of the Society.

On Monday, December 6, 1999, the Society screened an Icelandic film in the Lowell House Junior Common Room. The film, *The Outlaw* (*Utlagnin* in Icelandic) was released in 1981. It retold the story of a famous Viking legend, known as the Saga of Gisli. Gisli, through a series of complicated family events and feuds, ends up killing his brother-in-law. In turn, he is "outlawed" from Iceland by his family and, if he remains in Iceland, is prey to anyone. The movie deals with Gisli's many escapes and brushes with death. The turnout for *The Outlaw* was very high—over twenty people attended the screening, including one native Iclander. Again, refreshments and beverages were served.

-Marcelline Block '01

The Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society's Annual Celebration of Scandinavian Christmas

On Thursday, December 16, 1999, the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society held its second annual celebration

of Scandinavian Christmas. The celebration was a success, with over thirty people in attendance, many of whom were community members as well as devoted participants of the weekly Harvard Swedish Table. Some of the attendees joined in the festivity simply because they had seen a poster advertising the celebration. Furthermore, several of the attendees were actually Scandinavian and truly appreciated the warm and inviting atmosphere which was also very authentic.

The event was held in the Lowell House Private Dining Room (last year it had been held at the Barker Center) from 8:30-10:30 pm. The intimate dining room was decorated with Scandinavian tablecloths, draperies, and candles, and the lights were also dimmed to create a further festive ambiance. There was also a genuine Swedish (albeit miniature) Christmas tree and floral arrangement in the center of the table. The celebration included the singing of traditional Scandinavian Christmas and holiday songs, as well as listening to Scandinavian folk music. The music and singing were most inspiring and one of the most enjoyable aspects of the celebration.

Another very important aspect of the Scandinavian Christmas celebration was the eating and drinking of traditional Scandinavian holiday delights, such as Danish marzipan cake, Swedish *glogg* (a potent winter punch), Icelandic pastries, and many other delicious cakes and treats. Many of the members of the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society used their culinary talents to bake these most tasty examples of Scandinavian culture.

The food, singing, talking, and relaxed atmosphere rendered the celebration a truly Scandinavian character. The celebration lasted a little bit past 10:30 pm as the attendees sang, listened to the Scandinavian music, and enjoyed the relaxed, welcoming atmosphere of this annual celebration of Scandinavian Christmas. Hopefully, there will be many more to come.

-Marcelline Block '01

Committee on Deaf Awareness Holds American Sign Language Classes

Sign Language classes given in the Fall '99 semester were extremely successful. The class was directed at people who have never had previous exposure to American Sign Language (ASL). Classes met for two hours every Wednesday in Phillips Brooks House, and the teacher of the class, Hartmut Tueber, has taught several classes at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education.

Mr. Tueber began the class by exploring the different ways in which we communicate without sound, and he proved to be an excellent teacher. The class practiced the different facial expressions we make, as well as gestures that have common meaning. Everyone in the class experimented with communicating without words. Class members also became more conscious of dozens of gestures used every day and several gestures used by people in other countries.

With this background, Mr. Tueber began to teach what has been codified as ASL. Several people who were unable to attend beginning classes later took the initiative to contact us because they wanted to join. We are planning to continue this class as long as we have funding and as long as people are interested. We are very appreciative of the grant from the Harvard Foundation which will help ensure that the class is successful.

-Nate Ackerman '98

Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society Celebrates St. Martin's Eve

On the evening of November 10, the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society held its second annual celebration of St. Martin's Eve, a Swedish holiday celebrated most commonly in the province of Skåne in southern Sweden. Originally a French holiday to mark the time of year

when the goose is at its fattest and the wine is at its best, St. Martin's Eve is essentially a harvest festival. Many traditional dishes are served, but the meal is planned around a roasted goose. The goose is most often stuffed with apples, onions, and prunes. Potatoes are also served. Our group celebrated the holiday in the manner described, and the event was our most successful yet. Because we expected a greater turnout, this year we served two geese.

The event was held in the Winthrop House Tonkens Room from 7pm to 9pm. About forty people attended, including both members and non-members. Everyone enjoyed the geese, which was roasted for us by the Winthrop House kitchen. Though our officers stuffed the birds, preparing them to be cooked, we were grateful to have received the help from the kitchen staff. Potatoes, bread and several Swedish cakes were served in addition to the geese. A photographer from The Crimson took several pictures of the event, one of which was printed on the front page of the paper the following Friday.

-Sarah Schauss '01

Reverend Al Sharpton Lecture

In today's post-civil rights era, many complain about a lack of civil rights leaders. Yet through the years, Reverend Al Sharpton has consistently made his voice heard on issues of civil rights and racial equality. He has stood in the face of adversity and battled for what he felt was right, regardless of what his critics thought. When he came to Harvard on November 22, 1999, on behalf of the Black Men's Forum, he continued to speak his mind on the injustices committed against African-Americans in this country.

Sharpton used the speaking engagement to talk about the practice of racial profiling by police officers. He drew upon examples of racial profiling that have taken place in New Jersey, New York, and other states throughout the country. He spoke to the Lowell Lecture Hall audience about why racial profiling is wrong, and he shared some ideas he had on how to combat the problem. The audience was filled with mainly graduate students from Harvard's associated

schools, although there were also many undergraduates in attendance of all races.

After speaking on the main topic of racial profiling, Sharpton answered questions from the audience on all things from the accountability of rap artists to his defending the KKK's right to assemble in New York.

Those in attendance had to wait for close to an hour for the event to start, as Sharpton's plane was delayed in New York due to fog, but it was worth the wait. The event allowed for many people in the Harvard community to hear about racial profiling and learn of the ills that it causes. Al Sharpton's speech was an inspirational one which, hopefully, generated further discussion on the topic of racial profiling and fighting for civil rights.

-Isaac Weiler '02

Celebration of Black Women

On December 3, 1999, the Harvard Black Men's Forum held its fifth annual Celebration of Black Women. The tribute, for over 130 Black women, consisted of dinner and live entertainment. In total, there were approximately two hundred people in attendance of all races, cultures, and genders. As part of the tribute, poet Jessica Care Moore was honored as our "Black Woman of the Year." Moore is a young Black poet who has published two books of poetry. She also owns her own publishing company, through which she has given many other up-and-coming black authors and poets a chance for their voices to be heard. During her presentation, she read several inspirational pieces addressed to the Black women here on campus. She also handed out copies of her book and talked with those present one-on-one. After she gave her presentation, there was an opportunity for those present to read some of their own poetry, after which Moore spoke with them about getting into the business.

In planning this event, we were attempting to further the awareness of the Harvard community as to the role that the Black woman plays in American society. In actuality, we have done more than just this. Many women have written personal letters

to the BMF and its board members thanking them for bringing such inspirational women to Harvard. One person actually described the event as the pinnacle of her undergraduate career. This event has had a positive effect on the Black women here by showing them what they can be if they continue to strive. Others who were in attendance were also shown the power that the Black woman can have in this country.

This event would not have been able to exist without financial support from the Foundation. Thank you for supporting us in honoring those who deserve to be honored.

-Isaac Weiler '02

Latinas Unidas: Domingo de Domino

Domingo de Domino was a festive occasion full of fun, food, games, and diversity. It provided an opportunity for members of the organizations FUERZA, BSA, AAA, Concilio Latino, and RAZA to eat Spanish food, dance a little salsa and merengue, and play a game of dominoes while enjoying the rich Latino culture. The culinary delights included *empanadas*, *arroz con gandules*, *maduros*, *tostones*, *tacos*, *picadillo*, *mofongo*, and *flan*. This event demonstrated the diversity within the Latino culture while educating the entire Harvard community about our foods, music, games, and tradition.

-Barbara Escobio '01

Caribbean Club Dance Troupe

The Caribbean Club Dance Troupe participated in a number of performances this year. We began the '99-'00 school year by participating in the Black Students Association's annual Apollo Night, an event designed to celebrate Harvard's impressive African-American culture and talent. The event was attended by over three hundred individuals representing all facets of the Harvard community and beyond. Our contribution to this well-

received production consisted of a dance performance co-choreographed by Janelle James '00 and Alisha Allenye '01, which united the Caribbean musical genre of Dancehall with Hip-Hop.

In an effort to sponsor greater dialogue among Harvard's predominantly black student groups, the Dance Troupe performed in "Footsteps through Africa," an annual extravaganza mainly sponsored by the Harvard African Students Association (HASA). This event not only celebrated African culture and history, but also its cultural derivatives, the Caribbean included. Once again, the event was well attended by members of all elements of the Harvard Community and was not limited to HASA or Caribbean Club members. Our contribution to the event consisted of an artfully choreographed Dancehall routine born from the talents of Ms. Alisha Allenye '01, our Assistant Director.

Our third and final performance of the fall semester occurred on December 17 as a headline act in the Expressions dance show, an event fundamentally designed to both exhibit the impressive talent present within the Expressions Dance Company and to enable a myriad of other highly talented organizations to display their performing talents. Our organization performed two Dancehall pieces, the first of which was choreographed by the talented Alisha Allenye '01 and the other by the collective talents of Damian Smith '01, Claire Sulmers '03, and Monique James '03.

The advent of the spring semester brought with it our participation in the Association of Black Harvard Women's annual Tribute to Black Men on February 3, 2000. The event sought to honor Black men both within the Harvard community and beyond. The Honorable Ben Johnson, Special White House Assistant to the President, was the honorary guest of the event. He and other members of the community were celebrated through dance and poetry. Our contribution to this noble event consisted of two dance performances choreographed by the Janelle James '00 and Claire Sulmers '03.

The Caribbean Club Dance Troupe is deeply indebted to the financial assistance of the Harvard Foundation whose generous grants enabled us to purchase both the music

and the costumes necessary for our cultural contribution to the Harvard community.

-Jason Stewart '00

-Janelle James '00

Caribbean Club & ABHW Roundtable Discussion- "I'm Black, but I'll Never Be African-American"

This event occurred on November 15, 1999, in Loker Commons and was facilitated by a generous donation from the Harvard Foundation. Members of both the Harvard Caribbean Club and the Association of Black Harvard Women participated in the discussion. The purpose of the discussion was to probe the subtle, although vehemently defended differences between black identity in the United States and in the Caribbean. Both sides argued passionately.

Many members of the Caribbean Club asserted that the success of Caribbean immigrants in America can be attributed to the fact that Caribbean immigrants are a self-selecting group. Only those individuals who are truly driven to succeed will endure the financial hardships associated with moving to a new land and society in order to increase their opportunity for success.

On the other hand, the majority of the ABHW asserted that Caribbean immigrants' success is primarily due to their ability to take advantage of opportunities fundamentally cleared by the efforts of African-Americans during the Civil Rights Movement. Although scheduled for only an hour and a half, the discussion lasted well over two hours with no sign of fatigue from either side. In the end, however, both sides of the discussion did come to realize the validity of the other's assertions and establish a friendly truce. Both organizations expressed interest in another discussion that would involve more student groups, such as the Black Men's Forum. Once again, we would like to thank the Foundation for their generous sponsorship of the event and the Caribbean Club looks forward to sponsoring similar discussions in the coming semester.

-Jason Stewart '00

Publication of Yisei: Voices of Korean-Americans at Harvard

On October 25, 1999, *Yisei* published its latest issue, incorporating artwork, fiction, essays, reviews, and poetry submitted by the Korean-American community at Harvard. The issue's theme was "Koreans and Christianity," and included articles covering the history of Christianity in Korea, an essay on the *minjung* movement and Christianity, a former missionary's account of proselytizing in Korea, and a discussion of how Korean-American college students have adopted Christianity.

This issue also included several works of fiction and poetry by undergraduates, as well as translations of modern Korean poetry. A photo essay illustrated the *minjung* movement, with photos of sites and events seminally important to the movement.

Three films were reviewed in *Yisei*. The review of Daisil Kim-Gibson's *Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women* was followed with additional commentary based on Kim-Gibson's commentary on her own work. *Yisei* reviewed two short films covering Korean-American families, Greg Pak's Oscar-winning *Fighting Grandpa* and Charles Burnett's *Olivia's Story*. Claire Jean Kim, a professor at University of California at Irvine, contributed an article on the potential status of Korean-Americans as a racial bourgeoisie. *Yisei* also interviewed the violinist Sarah Chang when she came to solo with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Yisei published several narratives of Korean identity. The first dealt with the reflection of Korean identity in one's face, while another recounted an ability, based on Korean values, to hug a friend and colleague from America. The last one suggested that Korean parents should wield less authority over their children, especially those who stray from practical studies.

Yisei circulated approximately 500 issues free of charge to interested members of the Harvard community, including students, faculty, and alumni. Approximately 500 issues were distributed for free to interested audiences.

-Aram Yang '02

The Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place on December 12, 1999. It consisted of several events, namely a presentation of the story surrounding the apparition of the Lady of Guadalupe, a bilingual liturgy, and a reception offering Latino food and music. The presentation of the story of the apparition took place before the liturgy and booklets, prepared by some students, were handed out, offering outlines of the events and their importance. After that, a bilingual liturgy was held in English and Spanish. The adult choir from St. Mary's Parish in Central Square, which holds a Spanish mass regularly, was invited to the event and performed three songs—the processional song, the communion song, and the recessional song, all of which were handed out to the congregation with translations. These two events were followed by a reception in DiGiovanni Hall in the Catholic Student Center. The grant was used primarily for the cost of the food, utensils, and the decorations for this event.

Approximately 250–300 people attended the reception which was catered by the Forest Café. We also had a good amount of food made by members of the Latino and Latina groups here at Harvard, who had volunteered to help out, and were paid for the ingredients. Some cooked in their dorms and others cooked here. We had put out an invitation to the various Latino groups (Fuerza, Raza, Latinas Unidas, Concilio Latino) on campus and they responded with generosity. Everyone enjoyed the food, which disappeared rapidly. The decorations for the mass consisted of items that were donated by a Mexican graduate student and flowers purchased with the grant money. The flowers were arranged in the traditional style by other graduate students from the Business and Education schools. After the celebration, the flowers were distributed to people who attended.

Overall, the event was a huge success. It made students more aware of the cultural role of religious feast days overall and especially emphasized the importance of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the

Latino culture. Many people commented on the bilingual liturgy, saying that it made them more aware of the role of religious events (such as this) as a bridge between different cultures, and everyone praised the food. The event brought many different people from Harvard and the Cambridge area together and created a strong sense of community. Both graduate students and undergraduates were involved in the planning of the event, and both Latino and non-Latino members of the Harvard community attended. All reactions to the event have been extremely favorable and we look forward to continuing to hold this event in the future.

—Lauren Brandt '01

Spoken Word Society Poetry Reading Series

In the fall of 1999, the Spoken Word Society (SWS) began its first year providing a forum for Harvard poets and writers. The first event of the semester was a reading as part of an IMPACT fundraiser. We performed with a jazz group and a solo folk singer. The evening was a great success. The second event was co-sponsored with Fuerza. Poets and authors from both groups read their compositions to a packed Kirkland House JCR. Both evenings were well attended, and more importantly, there seemed to be little overlap in audience. Due to the great response, the SWS will be holding more readings and other events in the upcoming months!

—Mark Little '01

SAS-Hillel Roundtables

The Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students and Hillel continued their roundtable discussions to shed light and talk about the Middle East. The first roundtable was held in November 1999. Several students from SAS and Hillel gathered in common room in Adams House along with a special moderator. The participants from SAS and Hillel discussed various current issues in the Middle East and the impact on and contribution

towards achieving and maintaining comprehensive peace. Students discussed their visions for and fears concerning the Middle East. The discussion then moved into the views about settlements. The event was educational and beneficial for students in both groups as students were able to better understand the views of the other group. SAS and Hillel plan to continue their discussions in the spring term.

—Mohammad Al-Ississ '00

Arab Cultural Evenings

This semester, the Society of Arab Students held a series of informal evening gatherings to raise awareness of Arab culture and to provide a forum for cultural exchange. These gatherings were free of charge and open to all those interested in learning about the Arab world. The evenings featured music and traditional Arab dishes that introduced students to Arab cuisine. A particular effort was made to include Arab-Americans who wished to learn more about Arab culture.

The event was extremely successful in introducing Harvard students from a variety of backgrounds to the Arab culture. It was also a valuable opportunity for many to discredit false stereotypes and generalizations about the Arab culture.

—Mohammad Al-Ississ '00

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

On the evening of Friday, September 24, 1999, 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. The weather was remarkable that cool evening, and the bright full moon was extremely prominent. This festival sought to honor 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 paste that have a round shape closely resembling 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, led by Grace Kao '01, at which authentic moon cakes were baked. This event attracted a capacity crowd of over fifty enthusiastic cooks, who enjoyed making their own moon cakes and trying red bean soup, almond jello, and other desserts. We played traditional Taiwanese music as students tried their hand at fashioning the moon cakes and then drawing Chinese characters on top of the desserts. Later that evening, approximately twenty-five Harvard undergraduate and graduate students congregated in JFK Park to watch the full moon. As a forum for discussing and sharing different cultures, the celebration was a grand success.

-Carey Hsu '01

Boston Intercollegiate Taiwanese Students Association (BITSA) 1999 Conference

The 1999 Boston Intercollegiate Taiwanese Students Association (BITSA) Conference took place on Saturday, November 6, 1999, at Harvard University. The conference, titled "Old School/New School: Bridging the Taiwanese-American Past and Future," drew approximately 200 attendees, who came from all over the country, 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 in Eliot House Dining Hall, the one-day conference was packed with panel discussions, cultural workshops, and Taiwanese meals catered by Boston's Taiwan Cafe. Dr. Shutsang Liao, an eminent cancer researcher at the University of Chicago, delivered the keynote address. Afterwards, Asian pop star Wang Lee-Hom provided the attendees with after-dinner entertainment in Lowell Lecture Hall. The conference focused on the development of a unique Taiwanese-American culture in light of the Taiwanese identity of older generations, especially as this theme reflects cultural issues that students grapple with as first- and second-generation immigrants. The panel discussions during the day featured topics ranging from careers, politics, and the environment to religion, culture, and identity.

Conference co-directors Emily Ko '00 and Charles Lin '01 opened the day by reflecting on the goals of the conference. In his address, Dr. Shutsang Liao quickly described his research and then moved on to discuss culture and offer advice to the young people in the audience. In the evening program, following the dinner banquet, Wang Lee-Hom delighted his fans with an inspired set of songs. The conference worked to provide 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

Tea And Karaoke Night

The Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society, along with the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association, organized a Mahjong, Karaoke, and Tea Night in Loker Commons on the evening of Wednesday, November 10, 1999. The event was attended by over one hundred students of the Harvard community who had an opportunity to enjoy three facets of traditional and modern Taiwanese and Chinese culture. The evening was sponsored by a

generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Karaoke is a form of entertainment that is extremely popular with young people in modern Taiwanese culture and in America, while Mahjong has more traditional roots. Attendance was outstanding because the following day was Veterans Day holiday so students enjoyed a relaxing night by singing songs in English, Chinese, and Taiwanese, both individually and in groups. At the same time, other students, both well-seasoned veterans and novices alike, gathered around mahjong tables, trying their luck and strategy at the board game. The sounds of karaoke entertainment and mahjong tiles attracted a great number of students walking through the Loker Commons complex, many of whom stayed to sing a song or try their hand at a game of mahjong.

Of course, a Mahjong, Karaoke, and Tea Night would not have been complete without a wide array of foods and teas. Participants chose from a selection of pastries fresh from Chinatown bakeries, as well as hot entrees and brewed delicious teas. Just about everybody left that evening having satisfied their hunger for Taiwanese and Chinese food, drink, and entertainment. The event was a unique and special organizational collaboration between the students of the Taiwanese Cultural Society and the Chinese Students Association.

-Carey Hsu '01

Dumpling Workshop

On Friday, October 29, 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society presented a cooking workshop, an event sponsored through a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. Over thirty Harvard students came to the DeWolfe Common Room to taste and try their hand at making Taiwanese dumplings.

Grace Kao '01 led the cooking demonstration by showing the proper technique used in preparing and crafting the dumplings. She also described the cultural significance of making and eating this special dish for festive occasions. The dumplings are made from an outer wrapping made largely

from flour, which encloses an inner filling generally consisting of ground pork, Chinese cabbage, leeks, mushrooms, and other ingredients. Both the wrapping and the filling can be made from scratch. The filling mixture is first seasoned and then sealed within the flour wrapping. This ensures that the flavors and juices will remain inside the dumplings even after they are boiled and served with soy sauce and vinegar.

The workshop participants rolled, cut, and shaped their own dumplings from a prepared dough mixture and meat filling. After the dumplings were cooked, everyone had a chance to taste and to enjoy the evening's creations, which were served hot and steaming. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the meal. The evening's workshop touched on the importance of cooking and eating in Taiwanese culture. Traditionally, food represents an occasion to celebrate unity, and, in the context of an event on the Harvard campus, this workshop brought together students of different cultures to enjoy a delicious feature of Taiwanese culture.

-Carey Hsu '01

Taiwan-China Relations Panel Discussion

On Tuesday, November 2, 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society co-sponsored a panel discussion on the topic of Taiwan-China relations, considered in light of the recent diplomatic controversy between the two nations. The discussion was titled "Strait Talk: The Possibility of a Military Confrontation in the Taiwan Straits." Originally scheduled to be held in Sever Hall, this event ultimately took place in Coolidge Hall. The panel discussion was sponsored by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Sophia Liao '02 opened the evening discussion with brief remarks and then introduced the two professors, Professor William Kirby of Harvard University and Professor Michael Ying-Mao Gao of Brown University. Professor Gao spoke for the first twenty minutes, drawing upon his experience as a political scientist. He not only provided some background on the history of

Taiwan-China relations, but also to speculated on the political implications of the recent events in the tense dialogue between the two nations. Professor Kirby followed by elaborating on the history of diplomacy between Taiwan and China and used his historical expertise to identify some key turning points that have helped to shape the present and the future of cross-strait diplomatic relations.

As the two professors took questions from the audience, the topic of discussion shifted to the possibility of military confrontation. Professors Kirby and Gao used historical and political analysis to examine the likelihood of such a conflict in the near future. Approximately fifty members of the Harvard community took part in the discussion, which was tremendously educational and entertaining. The evening provided a fascinating analysis of the present tensions that exist across the Taiwan Strait and the role of the United States in mediating potential conflicts.

-Carey Hsu '01

Taiwanese Language Program

This semester, the Taiwanese Cultural Society provided weekly language lessons to give Harvard undergraduates the opportunity to learn the Taiwanese language. The lessons were largely student-led, although future attempts will try to incorporate lessons taught by a faculty member as a part of the curriculum. The Taiwanese Cultural Society drew upon a number of sources to provide material for the language lessons. A book of lessons in spoken Taiwanese was used, in addition to a sourcebook for a course in Taiwanese from another university. Additionally, TCS tried to use audio and video tapes to supplement the printed materials.

The Taiwanese dialect is one of the two main dialects spoken on the island of Taiwan. Though Mandarin Chinese is used in writing and is commonly spoken as well, many Taiwanese people speak either the Taiwanese dialect or the Hakka dialect. Since the Taiwanese dialect is more common than the Hakka dialect and educational materials for Taiwanese are more common, the lessons

were conducted in Taiwanese only.

Lessons began at the most basic level of knowledge, since students came to the weekly sessions with a large range of proficiency. While several students did not know a single word of Taiwanese, others were fluent. The proficient speakers helped to lead the lessons, answer questions, and correct the pronunciation of the other students. More than thirty students had the opportunity to learn Taiwanese during the course of the semester, and TCS will continue its efforts to bring Taiwanese language lessons to the Harvard campus with an additional series of lessons next semester.

-Carey Hsu '01

"Meet the Speakers" Coffeehouse

The Chinese Students Association held a "Meet the Speakers" Coffeehouse during the morning of October 12, 1999, in Loker Coffeehouse. This coffeehouse was part of CSA's annual Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference, an event that drew over 200 students to several panels that highlighted issues affecting Chinese America. Other features of the weekend were a Gala Banquet and Dance, as well as a chance to sit down and talk with speakers from the weekend. Among the speakers present was Alex Luu, a performance artist and teacher from Los Angeles who had performed his one-man show "Three Lives" in Lowell Lecture Hall. Also present was Assistant Professor of English and American Literature and Language Yunte Huang, Harvard's first appointment in Asian-American literature. Delegates from the conference were able to talk to both Professor Huang and Mr. Luu while munching on bagels and muffins provided by Harvard Foundation funding.

-Jessica Eng '01

Healthcare Panel

The Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association held a panel discussing the state of Chinese-American healthcare on

October 11, 1999, as part of CSA's second Annual Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference, an event attracting over two hundred students from Harvard and other colleges. Three engaging panelists discussed these healthcare issues with the Harvard community: Dr. Ann Wang-Dohman from the Boston Medical Center, Esther Lee from Boston's South Cove Community Center, and John J. Wong of the Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project. The panelists discussed the difficulties that many Chinese-Americans encounter when seeking healthcare due to language barriers and cultural stigmas. The panelists also shared their experiences on creating a nurturing and healthy community in the cities where they work.

Huo Guo

The Chinese Students Association held its Annual Huo Guo/Chinese Fire Pot on December 10, 1999 in Adams House Small Dining Room and the Adams House Dining Hall. Over fifty students, many from outside CSA, were able to pick from a variety of raw ingredients including green vegetables, carrots, fish balls, chicken, squid, mushrooms, noodles, meatballs, sliced beef, and more. Then groups of people put their raw ingredients into one of three fire pots, containers filled with boiling chicken broth. After only a minute or two of cooking, students could fish out their ingredients into a bowl and eat the food they made themselves! The officers of CSA heartily thank the Harvard Foundation for making this event possible.

Literature Panel is Held by the Chinese Students Association

On October 16, the Chinese Students Association held an Asian-American Studies and Literature Panel as part of the Intercollegiate Conference for Chinese Americans which they hosted at Harvard. Members of the panel included Harvard's own Yunte Hwang, Professor of English; Professor Karen Chow, Assistant Professor of Literature at University of Connecticut;

David Eng, Assistant Professor of English at Columbia University; and Min Song, Assistant Professor of English at Boston College.

The panel was moderated by Eileen Chow, Instructor in Chinese Literary and Cultural Studies here at Harvard. The panel addressed many questions and issues pertinent to the Chinese-American and Asian-American community. At this time in Asian-American Studies, it is important to define what exactly is meant by the term "Asian-American Studies" and to ask how and why it should be taught on college campuses and universities. Those who attended the panel came away with a better understanding of what the field is really about.

Grace Hsieh, a freshman at Boston University commented, "I feel that the speakers addressed a lot of important issues. I appreciated Professor Eng's reading about the mental state of Asian America." Jessica Eng '01 added, "I really liked how someone raised the question about the relationship between Asian American Studies and the community. Asian American Studies was a result of the grassroots movement of the 1960's in the heyday of the Civil Rights Movement and was created to address the needs of these 'ethnic enclaves.' Nowadays it seems like academia and community are two separate entities."

Many Harvard juniors and seniors were excited to attend the Literature Panel since Professor Huang's literature appointment was announced back in the spring of 1998. CAIC was proud to host the Asian American Literature Panel. The panel was able to elucidate and revive the discourse of Ethnic Studies on college campuses throughout the region, and especially at Harvard.

-Maggie Loo '00

Phoebe Eng Delivers Keynote Address at Chinese Students Association Conference

The keynote address at the Second Annual Chinese-American Intercollegiate Conference was made by Phoebe Eng, a social activist and former publisher of A. Magazine, on October 16,

1999. The Chinese Students Association was proud to host this conference and our distinguished guest. In her remarks, Eng spoke of her background, which prompted her to write her critically acclaimed book entitled, *Warrior Lessons: An Asian American Woman's Path to Power*.

The issues raised in a discussion at the well-attended forum sprang mainly from Ms. Eng's book. She addressed issues such as growing up in an Asian American household, entering a law firm as an Asian American woman, and the media's portrayal of Asian American women, namely through the character Ling in the hit show, "Ally McBeal." Eng offered valuable insights through her personal experiences, anecdotes and her interaction with the conference attendees. Her address allowed Harvard students to better understand the internal struggles of Asian Americans by educating them about the changing landscape of Asian America—the family dynamics, the way Asian Americans regard other Asian Americans, geisha-girl stereotypes, the constant battle with the Confucian ideology ingrained in Chinese culture, and more.

After Eng's speech, a book-signing reception was held in her honor. The reception was free and open to all Harvard students. This event allowed students to interact one-on-one with an amazing and dynamic woman.

-Maggie Loo '00

Performance of Three Lives Begins Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference

Held on October 15, *Three Lives* was a solo piece performed by artist Alex Luu. The performance served as the opening event of the Second Annual Chinese-American Intercollegiate Conference. The performance told the autobiographical tale of the artist's harrowing escape from Saigon and the comical and painful phases of assimilation in America where traditional culture and individuality collide. This play both explored and celebrated the immigrant experience in America.

The performance was open to all

Harvard students, allowing everyone to enjoy a celebrated play that has been seen in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and most recently in Boston's Tremont Theater. Although many high schools and colleges teach students about the immigration and assimilation of the Irish, Russians, and Italians, few schools teach their students about the struggles of Asians to become Americans beyond working on the railroad and searching for gold. The live performance of *Three Lives* provided a vivid portrayal of the joys and woes of growing up as an Asian-American. The student reaction to the performance was tremendous. Many audience members, whether Asian-American or not, were able to relate to the experiences of the artist in growing up as an Asian-American and trying to assimilate into the mainstream. Many students were left in tears because of the powerful message delivered by Alex Luu.

The show and the subsequent question and answer session held by Alex Luu set the tone for the rest of the conference weekend, as voices from different sectors of the community were heard.

-Maggie Loo '00

Community Activism Panel Hosted by the Chinese Students Association

On October 15, 1999, the Chinese Students Association invited students from various schools to attend a panel on Community Activism in the Chinese American community. Moderated by many Chinese American activists, the Community Activism panel sought to elicit the challenges faced by urban Chinese Americans by drawing on the experiences and expertise of its panelists. The panel included a diverse group, ranging from a professor of women's studies at SUNY at Albany, Vivien Ng, to the director of the Mayor's Office of the New Bostonians, Reverend Cheng Imm Tan. Both panelists shared their stories of "rebellion" that propelled them into a career of activism. The panel also discussed issues of privilege and how it might interfere with the cultivation of a sense of community activism in undergraduates.

This panel was moderated by Stephanie Fan, the treasurer of the Historical Society. The two other panelists were Meizhu Lui of the Boston Health Access Project of Health Care for All and Martha Tai, the coordinator of the Campaign to Protect Chinatown.

-Maggie Loo '00

SAA Culture of Motion Dance Workshop

In November, SAA held the Culture of Motion Dance Workshop. The event was held in Winthrop JCR on a Sunday evening in order to allow many members of the Harvard community to attend. Nearly fifty people attended the event, mostly members of SAA, RAZA, and Hillel. There were two components to the evening. The first was a brief performance by each group's dance troupe or team. Some members of the SAA bhangra competition team performed a segment of the dance they took to Bhangra Blast at MIT in October. Though some groups did come in full costume, the performances were largely informal. After the performances, attendees got a chance to try their hand at the dances themselves. Each group brought students who could teach the dances. Members of SAA taught bhangra, members of RAZA taught salsa, and members of Hillel taught Israeli dancing. In addition, each group briefly explained the significance, customs and history of their respective dances. For example, bhangra was originally done only by men and is a harvest dance from the Punjab in the Western part of South Asia. Because the workshop was both interactive and educational, members of all attending groups gained a sense of accomplishment at having learned a new skill and learning about the heritage of their peers. At the end of the evening, a variety of South Asian food was served to the participants.

-Aparna Sridhar '01

South Asian Classical Dance Lessons

Continuing in the tradition of the South Asian Association's promotion

of cultural awareness, kathak classes entered another fantastic year at Harvard. The classes are held in Adams Lower Common room on Saturday mornings and are taught by Dulal Talukdar, a renowned and accomplished dance master from Bangladesh who has taught in the Boston area for over twenty years. Kathak is a North Indian classical dance that originated in the Mogul court and has since become a popular dance form in the subcontinent. Our students this year include both members of SAA and other students. The eight students have spent the first semester learning how to count in the 16-beat rhythmic cycle, which is central to the dance, and they have worked on different *todas*, or phrases of intricate footwork.

In preparation for next semester and our cultural show, Ghungroo, the students have also been working on a short piece that they will perform in March. This year, Mr. Talukdar has decided to vary the type of performance and has choreographed a dance that will be performed to live music. The students will be using kathak style steps to perform to a song by Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Mr. Talukdar leads the classes in an extremely professional and organized manner, and students have responded with glowing reviews.

-Lipi Patel '01

SAA Fall Banquet

The annual South Asian Association Fall Banquet was held on Friday, October 29, 1999, in Leverett House Dining Hall. At a cost of \$8 per person, all attendees received an all-you-can-eat buffet with authentic Indian food catered by the Café of India located in Cambridge. Both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes such as tandoori chicken, potatoes, rice and naan bread were served. In addition, explanations of all the dishes were provided. One hundred and thirty people attended, including freshmen and their parents who were visiting for Parent's Weekend, upperclassmen, faculty, and community members from a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds. The banquet enabled all attendees to experience a South Asian meal, while providing exposure to this most integral

part of South Asian culture. The event was a tremendous success.

-Shaline Rao '03

Sessions with South Asian Authors and Poets

Sessions with South Asian Authors and Artists is an evolution and expansion of the South Asian Literature Discussion Series. The goal of Sessions was to expand the Literature Series to include musicians, filmmakers, and other artists. Last year, the Literature Series showed one way in which men and women have explored their identity, namely through language. This year, Sessions showed that this exploration and cross-cultural communication can be done through any of the art forms. The music and literature Sessions explored were a result of the fusion of Western and Eastern cultures and traditions. They were predominantly the work of immigrant and minority artists.

The fall of 1999 proved to be a tremendous success for this new and innovative program. With the Foundation's help, SAA has been able to bring author Marina Budhos, whose books *Professor of Light* and *Remix: Conversations with Immigrant Teenagers* have won much acclaim. We have also brought author and diplomat Shashi Tharoor, whose biting political and social satire has kept his emotional connection with South Asia strong despite his long physical absence from it. And finally, this semester ended with a discussion and performance with Sam Zaman, more popularly known as Asian Underground DJ State of Bengal, who joined us from London and DJ Rekha Malhotra of New York City. Mr. Zaman's albums "Visual Audio" and "Walk On" have launched him into the spotlight in England and are bringing him increasing fame in America. These artists and authors are uniting different aspects of their backgrounds in ways that will allow novel explorations of the assimilation and cultural mixing that follow diaspora.

One of the main objectives of last year's Literature Series was to expose a literary tradition that had previously gone unrec-

ognized by the Western academic community. Sessions preserves this goal while also expanding it: it incorporated art forms beyond literature, and also explored art that is not just South Asian, but South Asian American or British South Asian, or in some way reflective of the fusion of cultural traditions. Such fusion makes art provocative not only for academics, but also for entire communities.

-Vikas Goyal '01

Navaratri Dhandia

Under the auspices of the Harvard Foundation, the Dharma organization purchased 230 pairs of *dhandia*, the sticks used in the traditional Raas dance of India. In the dance, Raas dancers face each other and move down long lines, and with each beat, bring their sticks together with their partner's in a celebration of life and friendship. Used by Dharma throughout the year for demonstrations and dance celebrations, the dhandia were crucial to the success of Dharma's Second Annual Navaratri Celebration held on Saturday, October 16 in Harvard's Lowell House dining hall. Navaratri is a yearly celebration of great festival, music, and dance, during which the dhandia were used in half-hour dance lessons and demonstrations that began the festivities. Many of the 450 guests from the Harvard community and greater Boston area were able to take part in the dance celebration by using the dhandia provided by Dharma.

Having dhandia has allowed Dharma to begin sharing the highly developed and skilled tradition of Indian dance to the Harvard community. In the future, Dharma expects to use these dhandia for other events such as study breaks for audiences of 30-40 people, and intercultural exchanges with other Harvard organizations.

-Shanthi Naidu '02

Bhajanavali

On Sunday, January 16, 2000, over fifty Harvard students came together to celebrate music and friendship with a

Bhajanavali just before the stressful exam period. The celebration of Hindu culture includes a strong tradition in music and dance as well as theology. The Bhajanavali brings all of these aspects together. Students gathered in the Adams Upper Common Room to sing songs of devotion while several students played musical accompaniment on traditional South Asian instruments.

Bhajanavalis bring people of numerous backgrounds together to celebrate the song of South Asia. With the support of the Harvard Foundation, Dharma was able to bring devotions from many different regions of South Asia to the Harvard Community. Bhajanavalis are a very informal, relaxed two hours that enable us to celebrate friendship and relieve stress about the looming finals, while we also share our devotional traditions. Over the three years of our club's existence, Bhajanavalis have become one of Dharma's most popular type of event.

-Shanthi Naidu '02

Dharma Diwali Celebration

Dharma's celebration Diwali, one of the most revered Hindu festivals, took place on November 7, 1999, in the room of Vikas Goyal '01. Over fifty students came for "The Festival of Lights." In the Harvard tradition of having students lead the ceremony, Tonushree Jaggi '01 and Harini Reddy '01 decorated the room with drapes, pictures, and, of course, lights. Small candles filled the room as students said prayers, chanted *slokas* (devotional songs), and told stories about how they celebrated Diwali at home. Although a relatively quiet celebration, the turnout showed the true spirit of religious devotion at Harvard.

-Vasant Kamath '01

Dharma Interfaith Forum

When Dharma first began over two years ago, its members realized that Hinduism is a tradition of inclusion. With its many philosophies and sects across the world, it can only come together with this mutual inclusion. This year Dharma began to take the idea of inclusion to a new level

by organizing an Interfaith Forum with the other religious organizations on campus (attending groups were the Harvard Islamic Society, Hillel, Christian Fellowship, the Baha'i Association, and the Buddhist Community). For over a year there had been no way for Harvard's religious student organizations to meet regularly for informal discussions. Now these meetings will enable the Forum to promote mutual education and the sharing of cultural heritage, while helping to foster permanent and real relationships between the memberships of all these organizations. With the help of the Harvard Foundation, the Interfaith Forum will educate two groups in the Harvard community. First it will promote intercultural dialogue among the members of the different religious groups, providing a venue for discussion of the various philosophies, traditions, holidays, and customs that make up all our traditions. Second, the Forum will provide a means for many of the religious organizations to work together and educate the entire Harvard community about all of our traditions.

-Vikas Goyal '01

ABHW and Your Daughter: A Reception

On Saturday, October 31, 1999, the Association of Black Harvard Women (ABHW) hosted an event entitled "ABHW and Your Daughter" for first-year women, their parents, and other undergraduates. The event had many purposes. We intended to reintroduce the organization's projects and goals to Harvard students and parents, while also giving parents the opportunity to meet one another. ABHW also invited a range of upperclass students from different student groups, including the Black Students Association, the Black Men's Forum, the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee, Latinas Unidas, Kuumba, and others. The event was held in Ticknor Lounge of Boylston Hall, and was attended by about fifty people.

At the start of the event, the students and parents enjoyed refreshments and began to meet each other. Soon after, we introduced the organization, including our

executive board, our mission, our projects, and our goals. The parents and students also introduced themselves. The evening also featured the talent of two poets, Janel Moore and Peter-Charles Bright. Afterwards, parents and first-years took the opportunity to ask questions covering a range of topics, including academics and social issues.

Overall, the Second Annual "ABHW and Your Daughter" was a success. Unlike the event's name suggests, the event reached a variety of students including men and other members of the student body. In the future, we may co-host the reception with other student groups who are interested.

-Jessica Reid '00

Diversity and Distinction

Diversity and Distinction's activities this past semester have included the publication of our quarterly magazine and sponsorship of several community events. In the fall, we published our first 32-page issue of the year, "Becoming Attractions," with a focus on entertainment and the different ways in which minorities are looked upon in popular culture and mass media. This issue was distributed to all undergraduates on campus, as well as the libraries on campus and to Diversity and Distinction's growing list of subscribers. In addition, we co-sponsored a forum at the IOP alongside several other student organizations. This was a rewarding experience for D&D and we look forward to doing it again. We also sponsored a series of discussions in Eliot House, "Ivory Tower Liberalism," looking at the ways in which public service and job choice are influenced by our privileged environment. The goal of these discussions was to challenge the participants to think about how to make their choices more effective for people who have not had the same opportunities as we have. These discussions were very well-attended, and we plan to sponsor more small, intimate discussions like these in the future.

Our second issue, "Variations on a Theme," is scheduled to come out soon. The theme of this issue is inter-group relations and the different tensions and struggles within groups of minorities (including racial,

ethnic, disabled, and the mentally ill). We are also in the midst of planning a large forum, "The Future of Ethnic Studies," which will be held on February 15 in Science Center C.

-Caille Millner '00

Expressions Dance Company

On December 11 and 12, 1999, Expressions Dance Company presented its first full-length show of the semester, Soul Session. The performance was held in the Rieman Center in Agassiz House and included ten pieces choreographed by members of the company. The number of dancers per piece ranged from four to eleven. Additional pieces were performed by the Caribbean Club Dance Troupe, TAPS and the Terpsichoreans, a dance group from New Jersey. The result was a very diverse show consisting of various genres of dance, from jazz to flamenco, hip-hop to modern and more. The performers had vastly different levels of dance experience, but through all their hard work during the semester all were able to achieve excellence. Several of the dancers were also choreographers and brought elements of themselves and their culture into their choreography.

On both nights Soul Session was sold out. All in all, a diverse audience of almost three hundred people attended the show. The audience was comprised of members of the dance community at Harvard as well as by students not necessarily familiar with dance. The funds received from the Harvard Foundation and Undergraduate Council were greatly appreciated. Without these resources, our show would have been impossible.

-Maryvonne Neptune '01

"The Changing Role of Blacks in Sports: A Business Perspective"

November 12, 1999, marked the date of the Black Students Association's first

lecture series event of the '99-'00 school year. The topic, "The Changing Roles of Blacks in Sports: A Business Perspective", struck the interest of over fifty students and members of the Boston community. Our honored guests included prominent African-Americans of the world of professional sports: Robert Fayne, Sharon Swainson, and Jonathan Mariner.

Robert Fayne, President of Consolidated Management Group, Inc., is an '83 Harvard Business School alumnus. He began Consolidated Management in 1987 as a full service sports management firm. Since then he has enjoyed working with his employees to represent basketball and football players, as well as track and field athletes.

Sharon Swainson, Special Assistant to the President of the Phillies, has had a long career in sports television. Beginning as a sports television producer and on-air talent for networks such as ESPN and BET, she moved her way up to Senior Sports Operations Manager of Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. Joining the Phillies in 1998 as their only African-American executive has proven to be a great opportunity to utilize fully her many talents.

Jonathan Mariner, Executive Vice President of the 1997 World Champion Florida Marlins Baseball Club, is the highest ranked African American executive in major league baseball. A Harvard Business School alumnus, Mr. Mariner began his professional career in the world of corporate finance as a Senior Financial Analyst with MCI Telecommunications. Since first joining the Marlins in 1992 as Vice President of Finance, he has assumed several responsibilities including leading the team's effort in building a new state-of-the-art, retractable roof ballpark in south Florida.

Through provocative questions and witty rhetoric from the panelists, audience members learned about the many opportunities in sports business for today's generation of African-Americans. The panelists shared their personal stories and struggles in creating the change in the face of sports today and provided their insight on what the future may bring. Our event was moderated by Harvard's own gem, Dr. S. Allen Counter.

Panelists and all of those in attendance enjoyed a reception afterwards, catered by Rhythm & Spice Caribbean Grill & Bar.

-Aaliyah Williams '02

RAZA Chicano Conference

RAZA's fall conference was one of the most successful that Chicano students at Harvard have held. At the conference we covered many topics that will be pertinent to our community now and in the future. Topics covered included such areas as politics, economic disparity and opportunity, and civil rights. In addition to covering the political and economic issues of Chicanos, the conference served as a great medium to highlight the beauty of Chicano culture.

Speakers included Professor Gary Orfield of the Graduate School of Education, who spoke on Latino civil rights. Representatives from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), and the National Council of La RAZA also addressed the conference and gave great insight into the problems our community still faces and the progress that we have made. Judy Chapa, a representative from the Republican Party, was our keynote speaker and received a great response from the audience.

On the cultural front, Frank Aragon's film *A Father's Love* not only delighted the Harvard community but also exhibited Chicano independent films. Our formal dinner consisted of serving many traditional foods. The students were very receptive to the rich and distinct food of Mexico. While eating the students and faculty were entertained by a mariachi band and the dancing of Ballet Folklórico.

The success of the conference is largely due to the help of the Harvard Foundation. It is with their assistance that we were able to book many rooms at the very busy time of The Head of the Charles race. In addition to their administrative aid, their financial support was crucial to the success of the conference. We at RAZA would like to thank Dr. Counter and the Harvard Foundation for their great support.

-Ruben Marinelarena '02

Persian Society Movie Viewing and Discussion

On the evening of December 9, 1999, the Harvard Persian Society pre-

sented a multimedia forum involving the film *Bachcheha-ye Asman*, or *The Children of Heaven*, in the Briggs Common Room. Focusing on the history, meaning, and perpetuation of the Persian filmmaking tradition, the forum began with a screening of Majid Majidi's recent movie, which was followed by a moderated discussion led by Persian cultural expert Naveed Hashemi. In order to shift the discourse into a more theoretical and academic arena, Mr. Hashemi's discussion addressed the idea of cultural sharing. This multimedia project remains representative of the series of multimedia forums that the Persian Society has held in the past. We have discovered that these multimedia forums serve as wonderful tools by which to involve the greater college community in the rich Persian cultural milieu. In addition, the serving of traditional Persian fare strongly complemented the presentation and discussion. All in all, the event served to dispel myths and misconceptions of the homogeneity of all Middle Eastern, Central Asian, and South Asian peoples, cultures, and histories. We feel that the presentation addressed the issues of cultural reconciliation and perpetuation that affect not only Persian-Americans but all students of color. Through filmmaking, despite its status as a newer form of art and expression in Persian culture, the transmission of important aspects of our history and culture continues to be propagated.

-Ali John Qajar Satvat '98

Shab-e Rakhs: An Evening of Persian Dance

On November 11, 1999, eighty people from the Harvard community enjoyed a night of Persian dance in Harvard Lowell Lecture Hall. The event, entitled *Shab-e Rakhs*, was a success. The crowd enjoyed different cultural elements of Persian artistic expression. The poetry of Rumi, Faiz, and the great Hafiz was showcased through dance, music and the spoken word in Persian, Urdu, and English. Following the poetry readings, musicians that specialized in Persian, Turkish and Indian music played instruments such as the sitar and rubabah for

the crowd. The purpose of the event was to introduce an accurate and thorough account of the Persian heritage. Dance and music have been a successful way to showcase Persian culture and its rich legacy since the inception of the Harvard-Radcliffe Persian Society eleven years ago. As in past events, the audience members included people of Persian and Middle Eastern background as well as those of various other ethnicities and races. The audience enjoyed Persian desserts and baklava after the performance.

-Fareed Saleh '01

Shab-e Farsh: An Evening of Rugs

One area that separates Iran from all other regions is its rich rug-making heritage. On December 1st, 1999, seventy-five students, faculty, and members of the community gathered in Ticknor Lounge to learn about the art of rug-making in the various regions of Iran such as Isfahan, Tabriz and Tehran. The audience watched a slide show and a movie entitled *Honar-e Farsh Baftan*, or *The Art of Rug Weaving*. The movie provided an introductory understanding of the importance of Persian rugs as well as the techniques involved therein. Persian rug-making requires numerous hours of apprenticeship and painstaking attention to detail. Designs range from portraits of Persian luminaries, to everyday scenes and significant geometric patterns. The rugs are made from wool or fine silk with numerous dyed threads to add color and texture. The purpose of the event was to showcase Persian artistry that ranges from calligraphy and architecture to rug-making and music. Those in attendance also ate traditional Persian food including rice, *tadek*, *toursheh*, and beef kebab.

-Fareed Saleh '01

Shab-e Shayr: A Night of Persian Poetry

On the evening of December 15, 1999, the Harvard Persian Society hosted a

poetry reading and discussion that drew sixty-five undergraduate and graduate students from Harvard and other colleges in the surrounding area. This event represented a crucial cultural element of the Persian Society's continuing effort to educate the Harvard campus about an under-represented but dynamic population of the college community. It featured the poetry of Talat Malehi and Dr. Banu Shayegan, an expert in the field of Persian poetry. Dr. Shayegan and Ms. Malehi's views and works, along with the interpretations of such masterful poets as Hafez, conveyed the complexities of the dynamic culture and history of Iran through the most well-known traditional Persian cultural medium of poetry. The forum also redefined the often simplistic character of the genre of multicultural literature. The critique of the works presented was led by California radio personality Saeed Ghaemmaghami, an intellectual quite familiar with the *Shahnameh*, one of the most renowned works of Persian literature. The extremely positive feedback from those who attended the event reveals that such gatherings can enhance cultural awareness in the undergraduate community. Although area studies serve as concentrations at Harvard, events such as this one serve as one of the only means for the majority of the campus to experience the literary culture and models of non-Western civilizations. Traditional Persian tea and desserts were also served.

-Ali John Qajar Satvat '98

Harvard Haitian Alliance's Panel Discussion "The Haitian Identity Crisis: Cultural Pride and Preservation, or Denial and Assimilation"

On Thursday, December 16th, a forum of open discussion, unlike any that the Harvard community has witnessed, took place in Lowell House's junior common room. The Harvard Haitian Alliance held a panel discussion tackling sensitive issues of Haitian identity and its misconceptions in America. This newly-resur-

rected student group co-sponsored the ground-breaking event with the IRC in light of the pejorative stereotypes of Haitian culture that have been perpetuated in the United States through the media, and the effects that this stigmatization has had upon the Haitian (-American) psyche and identity. It almost seems ironic that such a discussion occurred in a venue adorned with patriotic scenes of American revolutionaries in battle, flanked by the portraits of largely white, male Harvard founders and benefactors; but this irony only attests to great strides in multicultural diversity that Harvard has been laboring to obtain over the past several decades. On that Thursday, at least a hundred people of different social and cultural backgrounds, over the course of the two-hour discussion listened to and even hotly debated the panelists on issues concerning the "Haitian identity crisis."

During the first thirty minutes, the renowned Professor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco of the Graduate School of Education gave an informative presentation on the statistical dynamics of immigration to the United States. Suárez-Orozco's speech laid down the theoretical framework in which Haitian immigration and any effects upon the cultural identity were explored. The subsequent segment consisted of interactive discourse between the six panelists, who were just as varied in background, ranging from a Haitian churchwoman active in community programs, to a Haitian radio personality who broadcasts a popular Kreyol station throughout the Greater Boston area. They touched upon how the "Haitian" immigrant identity is defined; how it is viewed by Americans and other Haitians, who still live in their native land; and how prevailing misconceptions of the Haitian people (i.e. "AIDS-carriers," "boat people") induce either a denial of, or a stronger attachment to one's cultural identity. Finally, a significant portion of the discourse was punctuated with insightful, yet poignant personal accounts of grappling with this identity crisis. Many passionately debated not only the social attitudes towards Haitians in America, but also the social and political problems within Haiti, which probably influence how Haitians are received and perceived. Overall, the panel discussion was a huge success in sparking dialogue within both the Harvard community and the exten-

sive, Boston Haitian community. The discussion and resolution on this topic were long overdue.

-Marlene Losier '01

Women Branded by Paradise

On December 9th, 2000, CAUSA presented the Boston premiere of *Cuban Women: Branded by Paradise*. This controversial 1999 documentary explores the effect of the Cuban Revolution on the lives of Cuban women. Widely acclaimed, it has been screened at international film festivals including the XV Miami International Film Festival, Amsterdam Documentary Showcase, One World International Human Rights Festival in Prague, the recent Cultural Showcase of the National Convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Los Angeles, and the prestigious Karlovy Vary Film Festival in Carlsbad, Czech Republic. It features interviews with Fidel Castro's own daughter, laureate poet Maria Elena Cruz Varela, singer Celia Cruz, novelist Zoe Valdes, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, former political prisoners, and countless other women whose lives were forever branded by the revolution.

CAUSA had planned to host the film's director, Mari Rodriguez Ichaso, to lead a discussion following the screening. Unfortunately, Ms. Ichaso was suddenly taken ill and was unable to travel to Boston for the occasion. However, she sent a statement to be read on her behalf at the start of the evening. Thanks to intensive postering and other means of advertising, the event attracted a large audience. A reception was held beforehand, followed by the screening. It is CAUSA's hope that the showing of *Cuban Women: Branded by Paradise* brought human rights abuses in Cuba to the attention of the Harvard community and heightened the community's awareness of the rich musical, artistic and literary contributions that Cuban women have made to the world.

-Paola Tartakoff '00

Harvard African Students Association Presents Ngoma!

Following the success of its Footsteps shows, the Harvard African Students Association delivered an extravaganza entitled "Ngoma!" Ngoma is a Kiswahili word that means beat, drum, or dance. The event was celebrated in a diverse display of fashion, dance, and song. Ngoma was arranged in two parts. The first act presented traditional African performing arts and fashion. Poetry introduced the evening, setting the tone for a variety of oral performances throughout the first act. Independence speeches and West African folk tales provided the audience with a variety of experience, tone and African perspective. The Yanvalou Drum and Dance Ensemble from Wellesley College performed a colorful and vibrant traditional Haitian dance before the Kuumba singers filled the auditorium with a powerful rendition of "Ride on King Jesus," ending the first act.

The second act revealed contemporary African performing arts as well as those of the Diaspora. From the gumboots dance troupe's stage-stomping, to Afro-pop, to the raise dancers' soulful closing, this act was marked by a mood of poignant reflection and proud celebration of what Africa has become, both within and outside of the actual continent. The aim of the show was not only to entertain, but also to enlighten and inspire. Ngoma's beat was happy and sad, thoughtful, carefree, and above all, African. The audience, comprised of both people familiar and unfamiliar with Africa, left having experienced how the world is viewed from another perspective. The fire of inspiration and sharing that was lit that evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

-Mwashuma K. Nyatta '02

Education for Action Presents "That Day"

Four sold-out performances of "That Day" ended a creative process lasting several several months for the members of its cast and crew. Directed by Nina Sawyer and produced by Fei Li Kuang, the play

depicted the story of a young boy during World War II, but in the very different locales of France and Germany. As the young French boy in the play was left behind by fleeing parents while the German teenager left behind his childhood values, the play carried a message of common human suffering and impossible choices. The production's unorthodox use of a different side of the Adams Pool Theatre stage added to the novel, experimental feel of this production.

Although the crew of "That Day" will not assemble again in its exact configuration, the mixed group of undergraduates, graduates, a local 11-year-old boy and even the Adams House Master, bonded in its passionate pursuit of a story never told before and never to be told again. This student-adapted, well-written work gathered members of the Harvard and Cambridge communities in an hour of reflection on what ordinary people could and would do in extraordinary circumstances.

We thank the Harvard Foundation for sponsoring this creative endeavor.

-Nina Sawyer '01

The Korean Association Discusses "The Pressures of Korean-Americanhood"

On the night of October 13th, the Harvard-Radcliffe Korean Association held a discussion group focusing on the pressures of being a Korean-American. While recognizing that Koreans come from diverse backgrounds, the discussion used aspects of the Korean-American experience to relate to all Koreans. About 18 undergraduates, including many freshmen, attended.

Educational and Political Co-Chairs Joyce Koh and Robert Lim led the discussion. While they mentioned major issues and key points to guide the discussion, they also encouraged personal anecdotes, beliefs, and feelings that illuminated the factors that are unique to individuals and that unify the Korean community. Major issues explored included the pressures of family (parental expectations), their effect on educational and career choices, dating, and marriage, and the clash between Korean tradition and so-called

"American values." In addition, the discussion addressed the idea of the "model minority" and ways in which other Americans perceive Korean-Americans.

The discussion also examined the ways that this generation of Korean-Americans (the second generation) fits into the larger picture of immigration. Nearly every participant eagerly contributed and fed off others' comments. Additionally, this open-ended discussion came at an opportune time and served as a forum for freshmen to discuss the roads leading them to Harvard and future venues, as Korean-Americans in a challenging, intense, and diverse environment.

-Joyce Koh '01

Asian-American Poetry Jam

The Asian American Association held an Asian-American Poetry Jam on the evening of November 9, 1999, in the Coffeehouse at Loker Commons. Ten Asian-American students contributed in reading poetry--both original works and pieces by other Asian-American authors. The students read in both English and their native languages. The event was attended by about twenty-five to thirty students, mostly of Asian descent. The audience and the contributing readers comprised a quite diverse group of Asian-American students on campus: Asian ethnicities such as Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Cambodian, Taiwanese, and Vietnamese were all represented.

The poetry jam was the first ever poetry reading event (at least to my knowledge) that focused solely upon Asian-American works on Harvard's campus. The event was designed to provide a forum for Asian-American students to express their creativity and share their experiences through their poems. Although Asian-American students have performed poetry readings before as part of larger multicultural collaborative projects, this event focused specifically on the range of cultural diversity that exists within the Asian-American population itself. It was a forum that allowed the different Asian-American voices to be heard; we as students proudly declared that there exist many distinctive cultures, experiences, and identities that are often disre-

garded and lumped together under the overarching label of Asian-American. We want to thank the Harvard Foundation for funding this initiative and we hope that this event will spark continuing efforts to explore the diversity of the Asian-American population and encourage its students to take upon poetry as a means of self-expression on this campus.

-Tri Phuong '02

China Doll

From October 24-30, 1999, acclaimed playwright Elizabeth Wong worked with the Harvard Asian American Association Players in a workshop culminating in two staged readings of Wong's provocative new play *China Doll*. *China Doll* fills a critical gap in American silver-screen history and paints the politics and passions of America's first Asian-American film icon Anna May Wong (played by Terry Chang '02). Directed by LeeAnn Tzeng '95 and produced by Flora Kao '00, the production explored Anna May's desperate struggle to work as an actress and her desire to live a fulfilled life as an artist and woman in the shadow of the Crash, Depression, World War II, and the McCarthy era. *China Doll* captured Anna May's dreams to star with Marlene Dietrich (Risha Lee '02), Irving Thalberg (Reihan Salam '01), Gary Cooper (John Doan), Nikolai Brandt (Alex Patterson '03), and Max Factor (Andy Han '01).

This workshop gave students and audience members of diverse ethnic backgrounds the chance to interact with a working artist. *China Doll* vividly conveyed the frustrations and personal dilemmas of professional acting, as well as the stereotyping and glass ceilings that still marginalize minorities in the arts today. Enlightening, shocking, and deeply moving, the production showcased the poignant life of the Asian-American film star of the thirties, the brilliance of a leading minority playwright, and the talent of actors who conveyed emotion with humor, sensitivity, and flair. With this project, the Players have embarked on an exciting new path of creative collaboration with professional artists.

-Flora Kao '00

Letters to a Student Revolutionary

On December 9-11, 1999, the Harvard Asian American Association Players presented Elizabeth Wong's *Letters to a Student Revolutionary* in the Loeb Experimental Theater. Powerful and disarmingly funny, *Letters* followed the poignant ten-year correspondence of Bibi (played by Angela Hur '01), the jaded American rebel, and Karen (June Mee Kim '01), a young idealistic Chinese woman. Chorus Jared Greene '03, Andy Han '01, Maria Ho '03, and Bill Maskiell '02—as an utterly convincing cat—animated this witty scrutiny of the demands of friendship, cultural understanding, and political awakening. Directed by Due Quach '00, this multimedia production juxtaposed disco lights, slides, swinging ladders, and innovative choreography over two continents. Senter-tained two hundred audience members as it explored the (mis)conceptions of homeland and freedom, culture and roots.

Tragically cut short by the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, the women's correspondence asked participants to reevaluate self, society, and stereotype. The production spotlighted cultural and political awareness through a bittersweet tale seeking to make sense of history, our participation in it, and how we are overwhelmed by it. *Letters* marks the AAA Players' thirteenth production and furthers the group's artistic and political mission to showcase Asian American talent.

-Flora Kao '00

AAA Cultural Extravaganza

On November 18, 1999, the Harvard Asian American Association successfully hosted the first ever *Cultural Extravaganza*. Held in the Leverett Dining Hall, the event consisted of Asian food and performance. Working together with CSA, HVA, KA, JS, HPE, TCS, SAA, THAI, and the HHKC, AAA attempted to bring together the various Asian organizations on campus. The situation of the Asian groups

is a bit different from that of the other ethnic organizations on campus in that there are so many of them (more than 10) and there is such a great diversity in membership. Yet while each organization puts on successful events, there have been few opportunities for the groups to work together. The Cultural Extravaganza was an attempt to promote communication and interaction between the many Asian groups.

Each organization prepared dishes that were presented in "booths" located throughout the dining hall. Various foods included *yakisoba*, *lumpia*, *samosas*, *bulgogi*, fried tofu, *phad thai*, and mung bean dessert. The food was served buffet style by the members of individual organizations clothed in ethnic garb. Decorations featured posters, flags, banners, and pamphlets.

While people ate, various cultural performances were featured on the stage. The AA Dance Troupe, the Philippine Forum, Taekwondo, Kendo, Korean Drum Group, and local B-boy's all contributed their talents in ten-minute performances.

The event was a lot of fun and attracted a large number of members from the various groups as well as a general crowd from the Harvard community. It was featured on the front page of the *Crimson* the following day.

-Jennifer Toy '01

AAA Cultural Month Table Tent Series

During the month of November, the Harvard Asian-American Association celebrated Asian-American Heritage Month. As part of its goal to educate the Harvard community about Asian-American Heritage, AAA designed eight different table tents that were displayed in each House dining hall, as well as the freshman dining commons, Annenberg Hall. Each table tent featured a prominent Asian-American who had made a significant impact in American society. They included a range of people, including political figures such as Washington State Governor Gary Locke, athletes like Olympic gold medal-winning ice skater Kristi Yamaguchi, and artists like award-winning novelist Chang-Rae Lee. Pictures and a short biography of each profiled Asian-American were featured.

Although our original grant proposed to create a poster series on Asian-American women, the cost for the posters were much too high to be covered by the grant. We instead chose the less expensive option of creating colorful and equally informative table tents that would reach even more students. With eight different designs, we were able to profile a large number of Asian-Americans, many of whom are little known outside of the Asian-American community, despite their great achievements. By creating these table tents, made possible by the generous funding of the Harvard Foundation, we hope that we have increased awareness of the impact that Asian-Americans have had upon this country.

-Jenny Shen '01

Woodbridge Society's Barazas

As in the past five years, the Woodbridge Society's Barazas were again a great success. They brought together people from more than thirty different nations and provided them with an informal setting to get to know each other and to exchange thoughts and ideas.

Barazas are monthly gatherings sponsored by the Woodbridge Society of International Students that are open to all and are aimed at bringing together Harvard's international students as well as interested Americans to get to know each other and to share in one another's culture. To facilitate this, each Baraza features a sample of a different ethnic cuisine and where possible some type of performance.

The September Baraza was extremely well attended. It provided an opportunity for people to catch up with friends after the long summer vacation and introduced first-years to international life at Harvard. South Asian cuisine was served, and despite Woodbridge's young age, it has already become the traditional fare for the first Baraza of the year.

The second Baraza, held in October, featured fine Mexican food and was again held in Strauss Common Room. Mexican background music gave some Latino flair to the old wood-paneled room and every-

one enjoyed good conversation and delicious cuisine.

The third Baraza, held on November 9, commemorated the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and featured German sausage and *Schnitzel*. Due to a double booking of Strauss Common Room by the Freshman Dean's Office it had to be moved to Quincy House Common Room. This reduced attendance significantly. Nevertheless, it was very much enjoyed and people stayed long after the official end, playing the piano, chatting, and waltzing.

In a vain attempt to make people forget the Boston weather, the December Baraza featured Ethiopian food accompanied by a presentation of the African gumboot dance by members of HASA, the Harvard African Students Association. It was again well attended and filled with excitement over the upcoming winter break.

-Werner Schafer '02

Harvard Japan Society New Year's Festival

Every year the Harvard Japan Society held a special event commemorating the New Year on January 15, 2000. The event was reserved to be held in Ticknor Lounge, but was instead held in Strauss Common Room. Traditionally, the New Year is celebrated as one of the most important holidays in Japan. It is time of renewal and new beginnings. It is a day that represents the entire year and should be full of joy and happiness.

Thus, in traditional Japanese fashion, the Japan Society's New Year's Festival was filled with fun and lots of delicious food. The food served included *yakiniku* (Japanese-style Korean barbecue), to recognize the importance of the Korean heritage as an influence in Japanese culture, *chirashi-sushi* (rice topped with mixed vegetables), a vegetarian dish for health-conscious partygoers, *ozouni* (soup with rice cakes), an essential dish served only on New Year's, and for dessert, *zenzai* (red beans with rice cake).

This Harvard Foundation-funded event was a great success, drawing a crowd between fifty and sixty people. The event

was advertised through email lists of various cultural organizations on campus, and through extensive postering in Harvard Yard and its vicinities. The event was attended by a diverse group of students as well as the members of the Japan Society. The food was delicious, and the event was a great success. We look forward to doing it again next year. Thanks, Harvard Foundation!

-William Everson '02

Muslim Refugee Crisis

The following event was unable to be held this semester. A representative from the Society will be returning these funds before 5pm on Tuesday, February 15th, which totalled \$300. The person in charge of the event, Nabil Kassam, decided to take the semester abroad, and was unable to thus plan the event as he had to arrange for credit and for his study abroad experience. Nabil also served as the Treasurer for the Islamic Society, and thus we had to elect a new Treasurer early this semester. We apologize for the tardiness of our summaries, as we had to manage the organization short handed for a month and our treasurer, whose duty includes grant summaries, was unable to write them before he left the country.

-Sameera Fazili '00

Artistic Expressions of Islam

On Friday, December 3rd, 1999, the Harvard Islamic Society sponsored "Artistic Expressions of Islam." The event was entitled "Expressions of Faith: an Evening of Muslim Art & Poetry." The evening was intended to be a dinner to display the art of prominent Boston-area Muslim artists, and to appreciate Muslim devotional poetry from across the ages. The artists are part of a Boston Muslim Artists Collective. Works were shown by three different artists: Abdul Badi'a, Abdullahi, and Abdul Qadir.

Due to unexpected circumstances, and

despite a confirmation in October, only Abdul Qadir was able to attend the event. The other two artists had to attend to business out of town. However, their artwork has won praise throughout Boston, particularly Abdul Badi'a, who uses a revolutionary technique involving chromatography. He sees his chromatographic work as a true work of divine inspiration as God guides the separation of the ink into distinct color bands. The artwork consists of chromatography, water-colors, oil-based, and charcoal works. It combines modern abstract art with traditional Islamic calligraphy. Certain pieces contain particular verses of the Qur'an, and the artist conveys on the canvas his inspiration due to a reflection on the verse.

The event took place in Pforzheimer house, with the gracious support of the Pforzheimer house committee. Tickets for the event were sold through the Harvard Box Office. The artists arrived early to set up their works in the balcony of the dining hall, while the Islamic Society prepared a reception in the Moors Terrace Room. The reception began at 7:30pm, as people could mingle and/or take food which was arranged in the Moors Terrace Room. The artwork was spread throughout the Moors Terrace Room and the Dining Hall balcony. Around 9:00pm, the guests were invited downstairs into the dining hall proper, to begin the formal portion of the evening's events. Nabil Kassam '01 began the formal presentations with a recitation of the Holy Quran. Then Abdul Qadir spoke in depth about the Collectives work, choosing three works in particular to speak about in depth in terms of both artistic and spiritual significance. The dinner, catered by Tandoor House in Central Square, was then served. The poetry reading was held as the guests enjoyed their dessert. Muslim undergraduates read a brief history of their poet and then proceeded to read portions of their works. The poets honored were Jalaluddin Rumi, Muhammad Iqbal, Ghazali, and Shehu Usman Dan Fodio. The poets came from Africa, South Asia, Central Asia, and Turkey, in an attempt to display the ethnic diversity in Islam itself. Professor Ali Asani of the Religion Department provided help in selecting poets and texts for the evening.

The event was attended by close to 100 people, and was able to attract people not

only from Harvard College, but a number of people from the Longwood Medical Area, the Law School, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Extension School, and the Graduate School of Education as well as members of the Cambridge community. Many attendees lamented the lack of such events at Harvard, and appreciated the opportunity to see the art and to listen to the poetry of a tradition which they were largely unfamiliar with. Funding for the event was due largely to the generous support of the Harvard Foundation, and also the Undergraduate Council, ticket sales, and private donations. We hoped to make the event both formal and accessible to the public, and, thus, costs were high.

-Sameera Fazili '00



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The Harvard Foundation would like
 to express their appreciation to our
 staff photographers and videographers:
 Andrew Amo '01, Adam Bailey
 '01, and Annie Wong '02.



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