

# The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

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## Matt Damon: Cultural Artist of the Year at Harvard



Actor Matt Damon, Class of 1992 at Harvard College and star of *Good Will Hunting*, receives the Harvard Foundation's Artist of the Year Award before a Sanders Theatre audience of 1200 students and faculty at the annual Cultural Rhythms Festival (l to r: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation; Matt Damon; Dr. Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College).

On February 26, 2000, the Fifteenth Annual Cultural Rhythms Celebration took place in Sanders Theatre with twenty-seven student groups of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds participating. The performances ranged from traditional Hawaiian dances to Native American traditional performances, dances from south India, and the traditional spiritually uplifting songs by Harvard's Kuumba singers.

At each Cultural Rhythms, the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation select a "Cultural Artist of the Year" to recognize for his or her distinguished contributions to American culture. Past honorees have included such talented artists as Denzel Washington, Andy Garcia, Halle Berry, and Will Smith. This year's guest of honor and the first Cultural Artist of the Year of the

*Continued on page 2*

## Hans Massaquoi



Hans Massaquoi, former editor of *Ebony* Magazine, with Macarena Correa '00 after discussing his autobiography, *Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany*. Story page 6

## Harvard Foundation Honors Students for Improving Race Relations



The Harvard Foundation honors students who have contributed to fostering better intercultural and race relations throughout Harvard at its annual David A. Loian Dinner. Harvard Foundation Award honorees: Andrew Amo '01; Brian Scott Anderson '00; Daniel Brooks Baer '00; Adam Phillip Bailey '01; Ethel Billie Branch '01; Monique Shavonne Cofer '01; Jennifer Rene Darrah '01; Adeyemi Kuasi Delbridge '00; Mark Jorgensen Farrales '01; Sameera Fazili '00; Sukanya Lahiri '00; Ada Jane Maxwell '02; Lexer Indra Quamie '00; Oscar Ramos '01; Nina Sue Sawyer '01; and Serre-Yu Wong '01. Eleven students received an honorable mention: Rodney Maurice Glasgow '01; Vikas Goyal '01; Joan Marie Kane '00; Kaitlin Sawyer McGaw '00; Annie Wong '02; Zayed Muhammed Yasin '02; Joyce Imuwaheh Imahiyerobo '01; Kenneth N. Ebie '01; Elizabeth Anne Chiappa '01; Nissara Horayanguna '00; and Sarah Breeden Schauss '01. The awards were presented by Dean Michael Shinagel (center right) and the newly appointed Dean for Undergraduate Education, Dr. Susan Pedersen. Story page 3



## Matt Damon: Artist of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

new millennium was the Oscar-winning actor and Cambridge native Matt Damon. Damon, a member of the Class of 1992, is celebrated for his distinguished performances in such films as *Good Will Hunting*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *The Talented Mr. Ripley* as well as for his other contributions to the American performing arts and intercultural relations. He is also noted for his efforts to combat violence among urban youth.

Damon was accompanied on his return to Harvard by his parents and brother as well as his friend, the well-known actress, Ms. Wynona Ryder. Prior to the Cultural Show, a reception and lunch were held at Kirkland House, traditional host of the Cultural Rhythms lunch. As Mr. Damon and his party pulled up to Kirkland House, the Harvard Band gave him a rousing musical welcome. Mr. Damon and his entourage were then feted by the student participants in Cultural Rhythms as well as by the students of Kirkland House. Before the lunch, Mr. Damon was

roasted by the students of the Harvard Foundation in a skit that summed up the "Top Ten Reasons Matt Damon Left Harvard." Throughout the festivities, a large banner was displayed with the inscription, "Welcome Back to Harvard, Matt Damon."

The Cultural Show began at three o'clock at Sanders Theatre. The show began with a rousing performance by the '03 Steppers. Damon joined the students on stage as he introduced each group's performance. At one point during the ceremony, in mock imitation of his role as a janitor in *Good Will Hunting*, he took the broom from one of the student stagehands and began to sweep the stage himself. This brought a loud cheer from the more than 1,200 students and faculty in the Sanders Theatre audience. At another point during the show, Damon changed into a Lowell House sweatshirt, a gift from the Foundation, again eliciting loud applause.

Since all groups could not perform on Sanders Theatre stage in the limited time available, the performances continued at the second Cultural Show in the Science Center, which drew a lively student audi-

ence. Rousing performances were given by such groups as Mizmor Shir and the '01 Steppers. The second show was "M.C.ed" by Shannon Bryant '99.

The Cultural Show was put together by a very large team of students of diverse backgrounds under the leadership of Holly Foster '97, Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation, Charisa Smith '00, and Andrew Amo '01. Some twenty-two student groups had booths serving delicious ethnic food at the Harvard Foundation's Annual Food Festival after the Cultural Show. Approximately a thousand students partook of the extraordinarily diverse cuisines represented, among which were, for example, those of Haiti, Japan, Mexico, Greece, Morocco, and Thailand. The Food Festival was coordinated by Adam Bailey '01.

As in previous years, the proceeds from the Cultural Rhythms Show and Food Festival were donated to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children as well as to two homeless shelters, the Pine Street Inn and Rosie's Place.

-Harvard Foundation Staff

### In this issue:

Matt Damon: Cultural Artist of the Year at Harvard/1; Harvard Foundation Celebrates Distinguished Journalist and Former Editor of *Ebony* Magazine, Hans Massaquoi/1; The Annual Harvard Foundation Conference on "Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics"/8; Harvard Foundation Hosts Edwin J. Nichols, Psychologist/13; Harvard Foundation Honors Students for Improving Racial Climate/1; Academic Affairs Committee Spring Activities/15; Harvard Foundation Speaker Series/16; Student Advisory Committee Spring Activities/14; Commentary/16; Spoken Word Society Poetry Reading/20; The Society of Arab Students' Greek-Arab Café/20; Black Students' Association Anthology/20; The Taiwanese Students' Association 2-28 Incident Commemoration/20; The Taiwanese Students' Association Lantern Festival/20; The Taiwanese Students' Association Dragon Boat Festival/21; Taiwanese Language Program/21; The Taiwanese Students' Association Winter Night Market/21; Harvard Vietnamese Association: Cultural Rhythms 2000/22; Holoimua o Hawaii Luau/22; Holoimua o Hawaii Hula/22; EMPOWER: s Temple Grandin Visit/22; *Diversity and Distinction*/23; Asian American Association Panel Discussion: Asian Americans and Interracial Dating I/23; AAA Panel Discussion: Asian Americans and Interracial Dating II/23; AAA Hosts Author Leslie Chang/23; *Mona in the Promised Land*/24; Woodbridge Society Barazas/24; Mahjong/Karaoke Night/24; CSA Movie Night/25; Half Asian Persons' Association: Conference on the Mixed Race Experience/25; Black Students' Association Sports Panel/25; BSA Literary Art/26; BSA Washington-DuBois Exchange/26; Harvard Intertribal Powwow/26; Dharma Bhajanavali/27; Dharma Songbooks and Murtis/27; Dharma Holi Celebrations/27; Evening of Islamic Poetry/27; Harvard Islamic Society Conference/28; "Islam in the Modern World" Panel Discussion/28; Sessions with South Asian Authors and Artists/28; South Asia and Politics Conference/29; *Yisei* Magazine/29; May Day Haku Lei Making/29; Thai Traditional Dance/29; Arts first: Traditional Dances/29; Celebration of Black Women II/30; Harvard African Students Association Conference/30; Expressions Cultural Rhythms Dance/30; Minorities and Health Panel Discussion/30; Association of Black Harvard Women Hosts a Tribute to Black Men/31; ABHW Banquet and Women's History Month Celebration/31; Hanami/31; Kodomonohi Festival/32; Poongmul and Taiko/32; Asian American Dance Troupe: Single Ribbon Dance/33; Finnish Film and Discussion/33; *Zakacain*/33; South Asian Women's Collective Discussion/34; *South Asian Journal*/34; Evening of Scandinavian Culture/34; Korean Association Kimbap Study Break/34; L'Albatros/34; Kumba Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration/35.



*Distinguished actor Matt Damon, Class of 1992 at Harvard College, is fêted by Harvard students at the annual Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms Festival.*

## Harvard Foundation Honors Students for Improving Race Relations

Racial harmony doesn't happen by accident on a college campus. It often takes hard work.

Sixteen students who have dedicated themselves to improving intercultural understanding and race relations at Harvard have been named recipients of the annual Harvard Foundation Awards. Eleven other students won honorable mention.

Sergio Castellon '00 was given the Foundation's highest honor, the Director's Award, during the organization's annual banquet on April 27 at Quincy House.

Dr. Bruce Price '71, Chief of Neuropsychiatry at McLean's Hospital and a graduate of Quincy House, was keynote speaker. Dr. Price was presented a Quincy House tie by Quincy House Master, Dean Michael Shinagel, and along with his wife Eileen was presented with a bouquet of roses by the students of the Harvard Foundation.

"Each of the winners has done extra work around the College to improve race relations," says S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. "In some cases, they may have detected some type of

conflict, then immediately tried to work it out with peer counseling and discussions. You don't hear much about it because it doesn't make the news. They've taken care of it, and that's where they're really making their great contributions."

The winners were also cited for their work in planning a major panel discussion on hate crimes in America, involving several Harvard faculty members, and attended by about 500 students.

Counter commends Castellon, in particular, as "the one student who epitomizes

*Continued on page 4*



## Aloian Dinner

(Continued from page 3)

what it takes to make a good community here [at Harvard]."

### Breaking down the barriers

Castellon, a Mexican-American from the West Side of Chicago, has worked as an intern for the Foundation for four years. During that time, he has also served as editor of *Kaleidoscope*, a monthly newsletter, and helped organize Cultural Rhythms, the Foundation's annual cultural celebration. In addition, Castellon has taken an active role in Harvard RAZA, an organization dedicated to promoting the Chicano cause, and Club Iberoamericano, an umbrella group dedicated to unifying Latino students at Harvard.

"One of the misconceptions is that all Latino people are the same, but in reality, there is a lot of division," Castellon says. "That's one of the problems [Club Iberoamericano has] identified, and we seek to slowly break down the barriers, through repeated interactions. The club hosts study breaks. We provide food. Whatever it takes to get people together and talk."

Castellon, who is concentrating in economics at Harvard, believes establishing a



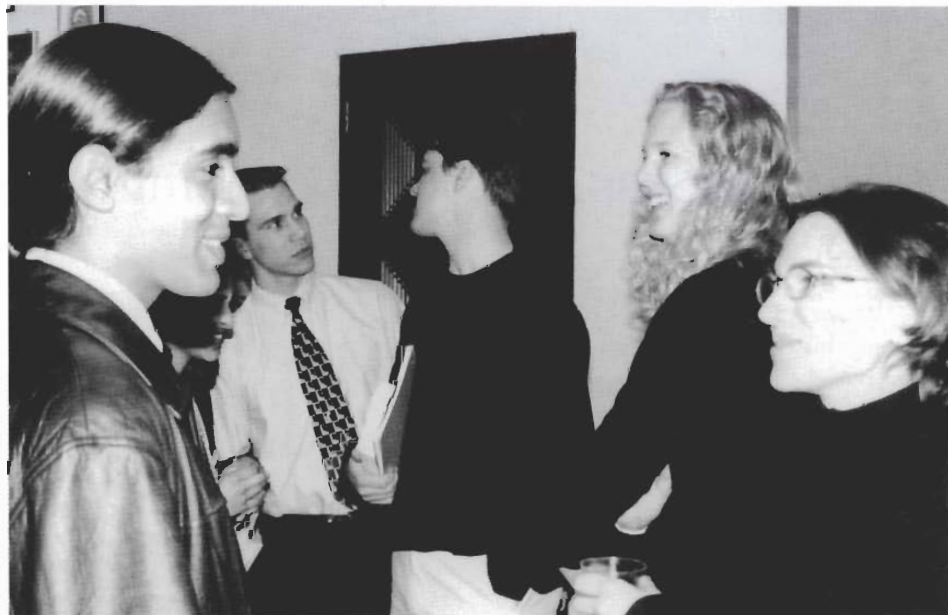
*Members of the Harvard Kuumba Singers celebrate student awardees at the annual Aloian dinner.*

dialogue between different ethnic groups is crucial when confronting the challenge of "bridging the gaps, not only among Mexican-Americans, but also between Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, or Dominicans, or Cubans. Each group has its own cultural differences, goals, and aspirations. You just try to get everybody to keep talking.

"People wonder why there aren't more Latinos voting, and why they don't have as

much power as they should," he explains. "One of the reasons is there are a large number of groups who each have their own peculiar aspects. We share a common language, but our agendas are often different."

The number of Hispanic students at Harvard is relatively small, but Castellon believes that if they work together, they can become a powerful voice on campus. "We are a small minority here [at



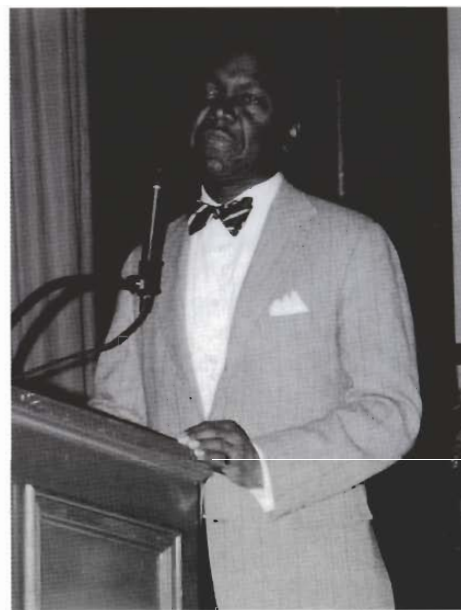
*Harvard Foundation student award recipients Oscar Ramos '01 (RAZA and Ballet Folklórico), Brian Anderson '00 (HUNAP), Sara Breedon Schauss '01 (Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society), and Elizabeth Chiappa '01 (Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society), converse at a reception in Quincy House Junior Common Room.*



*Dr. Bruce K. Price '71, keynote speaker, Chief of Neuropsychiatry at McLean's Hospital, and a graduate of Quincy House, encourages students to continue enhancing the quality of life at the College through their work in intercultural and race relations.*



*Dr. Bruce K. Price '71, Chief of Neuropsychiatry at McLean's Hospital, and his wife, Mrs. Eileen Price, are presented with a bouquet of flowers from students at the annual Harvard Foundation David Aloian Student Award Dinner. Dr. Price was also presented with a Quincy House tie by Dr. Shinagel. (l to r: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Harvard Foundation Director; Ms. Holly Foster '97, Student Activities Coordinator; Dr. Michael Shinagel, Dean of Continuing Education and Master of Quincy House; Dr. Bruce K. Price '71; Mrs. Eileen Price)*



*Mr. David Evans, Harvard College Senior Admissions Officer and advisor to the Harvard Foundation, comments student leaders' work in intercultural and race relations at the annual Harvard Foundation David Aloian Student Awards Dinner at Quincy House.*

Harvard],” he says, “You’re never going to have everybody agreeing on everything all the time, but you can unify to a point where you can use it to leverage gains for the group as a whole.”

#### **Promoting awareness of different cultures**

The Harvard Foundation was estab-

lished in 1981 by the President and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences as a means of improving the racial climate at the College by addressing the needs and concerns of minority students. During the academic year, the Foundation sponsors activities designed to promote awareness and appreciation of Harvard’s different ethnic cultures, while also providing grants

for student projects.

This year’s Harvard Foundation award recipients are: Andrew Amo '01; Brian Scott Anderson '00; Daniel Brooks Baer '00; Adam Phillip Bailey '01; Ethel Billie Branch '01; Monique Shavonne Cofer '01; Jennifer Rene Darrah '01; Adeyemi Kwasi Delbridge '00; Mark Jorgensen Farrales '01; Sameera Fazili '00; Sukanya Lahiri '00; Ada Jane Maxwell '02; Lexer Indra Quamie '00; Oscar Ramos '01; Nina Sue Sawyer '01; and Serre-Yu Wong '01.

Eleven students received an honorable mention: Rodney Maurice Glasgow '01; Vikas Goyal '01; Joan Marie Kane '00; Kaitlin Sawyer McGaw '00; Annie Wong '02; Zayed Muhammed Yasin '02; Joyce Imuwahen Imahiyerobo '01; Kenneth N. Ebie '01; Elizabeth Anne Chiappa '01; Nissara Horayangura '00; and Sarah Breeden Schauss '01.

Adam Bailey, who is an active member of the Native American Program, says he got involved with the Foundation to expose himself to different cultures. “What really got me going during my freshman year was the fallout from the affirmative action debate,” he says. “Coming here, and working with the Native American Program, I saw there was



*Harvard Foundation Director's Award winner Sergio Castellon '00 (c) attends the David Aloian Dinner with current and former student awardees (l to r: Charisa Smith '00, Sergio Castellon '00, Caolionn O'Connell '00).*

*Continued on page 6*



## Aloian Dinner

(Continued from page 5)

a real need for interethnic discussion and sharing of cultural values.

"I think that's what the Foundation does really well – bringing different people in from all over the world to share their culture and their views about racial discussion and harmony. I think that's one of the most important things we can have [at Harvard]," Bailey says.

Monique Cofer is the Association of Black Harvard Women (ABHW) representative to the Foundation. "I think it's important for all groups to have a support structure, and also to have a place where they can go to discuss issues that are important in the various communities," she says. Cofer believes the Foundation serves a vital purpose by "honoring the contributions people have made, as well as making an active attempt to look after the welfare of the future of the community."

Counter believes it is essential for the University to recognize Castellon and the other award winners.

"Harvard enjoys an excellent climate of intercultural and race relations, and we have come to take that for granted too

often," Counter says. "When you go to other places, you find that often the climate is not as positive as ours. My feeling is that we can't take these wonderful young people for granted."

-Doug Gavel modified from the Harvard Gazette



Foundation Award winners Sameera Fazili '00, Chair of the Harvard Islamic Society, and Adam Bailey '01, Secretary/Treasurer of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee and representative of Native Americans at Harvard with Kevin Hennig, Harvard Foundation Staff Assistant.

## Harvard Foundation Celebrates Distinguished Journalist and Former Editor of *Ebony* Magazine, Hans Massaquoi



The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation present a bouquet of roses to Mrs. Katharine Massaquoi and her husband Hans Massaquoi in appreciation of their visit to Harvard. Also in attendance was the Massaquois' son, Dr. Steve Massaquoi (top right), graduate of Harvard College '76 and Harvard Medical School '80, followed by a Ph.D. in engineering from MIT ('83) where he is now serving as professor.

On March 6, 2000, the Harvard Foundation hosted Mr. Hans J. Massaquoi, former managing editor of *Ebony* magazine, for a discussion of his new book, *Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany*. Mr. Massaquoi, son of a Liberian father and a German mother, grew up during the years of the Nazi dictatorship in Germany and narrowly avoided deportation to the concentration camps. His fascinating discussion of his experiences in Germany before, during, and after the war was moderated by Dr. Michael Shinagel, Master of Quincy House and Dean of Continuing Education.

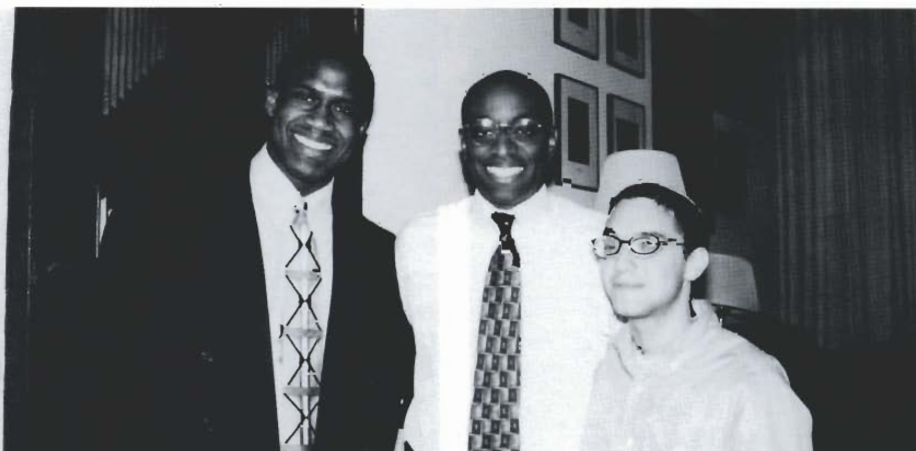
The event, held in the Fong Auditorium in Boylston Hall, was followed by a reception and dinner in honor of Mr. Massaquoi in Quincy House, where he received special recognition from the Harvard Foundation for his notable contributions to journalism and intercultural relations. Mr. Massaquoi was accompanied during his visit to Harvard by his wife, Mrs. Katharine Massaquoi. Also



Former Ebony Magazine editor Mr. Hans Massaquoi receives the Harvard Foundation medallion from Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Foundation. Massaquoi was presented with the award at a reception in the Quincy House Junior Common Room. Former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dr. Henry Rosovsky (Geysen University Professor) joins in the applause.

present was Dr. Steven Massaquoi '76, M.D. '80 (HMS) Ph.D. '83 (MIT), son of Mr. Massaquoi and a professor at MIT. The dinner was attended by a large number of students and faculty, including former Dean of the Faculty Professor Henry Rosovsky, who himself had been forced to flee the Free City of Danzig before the war. This event was co-sponsored with Harvard Hillel, represented by its chair, Michael Rosenberg '01, and the Harvard African Students Association, represented by Andrew Amo '01.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



Among students attending the reception and dinner for guest of honor journalist Hans Massaquoi were Andrew Amo '01 of the Harvard African Students Association (l), Adey Delbridge '00, President of the Harvard Kuumba Singers (c), and Michael Rosenberg '01, President of Harvard Hillel (r). The reception and dinner were held at Quincy House.



Distinguished journalist Hans Massaquoi discusses aspects of his autobiography *Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany* before a crowd of Harvard students, faculty, and community members at Fong Auditorium in Boylston Hall. Dr. Michael Shinagel, Dean of Continuing Education and Master of Quincy House, served as moderator for the discussion.

## In Appreciation: The Pfisters



Dr Donald H. Pfister, Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Curator of the Farlow Library and Herbarium, and Mrs. Cathleen K. Pfister are given a special Faculty Award to recognize their many years of dedicated service as Kirkland House masters and their contributions to intercultural and race relations at the College.

l to r: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation; Ms. Holly Foster '97, Student Activities Coordinator; Dr. Michael Shinagel, Dean of Continuing Education and Master of Quincy House; Mrs. Cathleen Pfister; and Professor Donald Pfister.



## The Annual Harvard Foundation Conference on Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

The Harvard Foundation held its eleventh annual Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering conference on March 17 - March 18, 2000. The purpose of this annual conference is to bring together minority students and women who may have an interest in the sciences and to encourage them to seek scientific training at Harvard. This program also aims to empower students through meetings with faculty participants and the opportunity to present their scientific studies, hypotheses, research and concerns. Each year, a distinguished scientist is recognized at the conference for his or her notable contributions to the sciences. Past award recipients have included Dr. Walter Massey, then Director of the National Science Foundation; Dr. May Jemison, astronaut; Mr. Jaime

Escalante, mathematics teacher; and others. At this year's conference, special recognition was given to Dr. Kenneth Olden, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Director of the National Toxicology Program, for his contributions to biomedical science. Dr. Olden is the first African-American to become Director of one of the seventeen National Institutes of Health. His laboratory has made several crucial contributions to cell and cancer biology, and he is one of the world's leading experts on extracellular matrices. A special luncheon was held for students and faculty at Pforzheimer House, with House Master Professor James McCarthy hosting. Those attending were treated to an animated discussion between Professor Dudley Herschbach, Dr. Harold Amos, and Dr. Gerhard Sonnert concerning the



*Serre-Yu Wong '01, co-chair of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee, addresses a host of students and distinguished faculty members at reception in Pforzheimer House.*



*Dr. Gerhard Sonnert, Ph.D., Research Associate in Physics, moderates a discussion on the relative merits of pure science research at a luncheon in the Hastings Room of Pforzheimer House. This engaging discussion was part of the first day of the annual Harvard Foundation Science Conference aimed at encouraging minority participation in science, mathematics, and engineering.*



*Nobel Laureate and Chemistry Professor Dr. Dudley Herschbach (c) offers his perspective on the importance of the participation of minorities and women in science, mathematics, and engineering during a luncheon discussion at Pforzheimer House. The discussion was part of the Annual Harvard Foundation Science Conference entitled Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering. Dr. Gary Alpert, environmental biologist (far right).*





*Dr. Donald Pfister (l), the Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Curator of the Farlow Library and Herbarium, and Professor Dr. Harold Amos, The Maude and Lillian Presley Professor of Molecular Genetics, Emeritus, join students at the Annual Harvard Foundation Science Conference.*



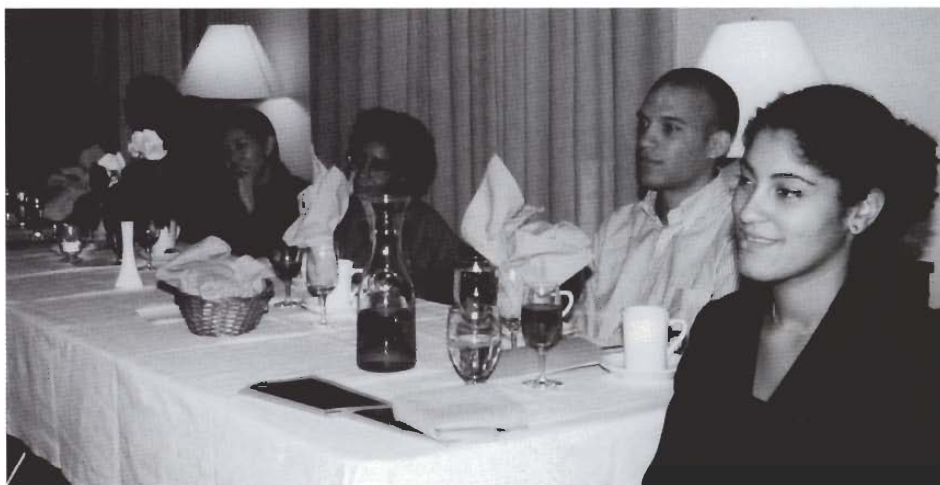
*Dr. Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College and Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science, welcomes public school students to the Annual Harvard Foundation Science Conference.*

relative merits of 'Jeffersonian science' and pure science research.

In the next part of the program, held at the Science Center, students selected for the outstanding quality of their scientific work presented their findings to the audience, which included minority and women students in the sciences, Nobel laureates, and other science faculty members. These students were: Elizabeth Stover '00, Jason Badrinarian '03, and Mana Golzari '01 of the College; Raquel Hill of GSAS; and Akobuije Chijioke of MIT.

Afterwards, a student/faculty panel discussed opportunities for minorities and women in the sciences in the new century. The panelists were: Serre-Yu Wong '01 and Rohit Chandwani '01 of the College; Dr. Marinelle Payton (HSPH), Ms. Raquel Hill (GSAS - Computer Science), Dr. Esther Pearson of the Bethune School, Dr. Gerhard Sonnert (GSAS - Physics); and Dr. Allen Counter (HMS - Neurology).

The second day of the program was dedicated to the "Partners in Science" program, during which approximately 250 students of all ages from Boston inner-city public schools came to the Science Center to observe demonstrations of interesting scientific topics given by Harvard faculty. Faculty members presenting these demonstrations were: Dr. John Dowling, Dr. James Davis, Dr.



*Ada Maxwell '02, Chair of the Science Conference Coordinating Committee, joined Akobuije Chijioke of MIT, and other students and faculty in discussions on the inclusion of minority women and men in science training.*



*Dan Rosenberg assists Professor James Davis in an experiment demonstrating various chemical properties and reactions.*

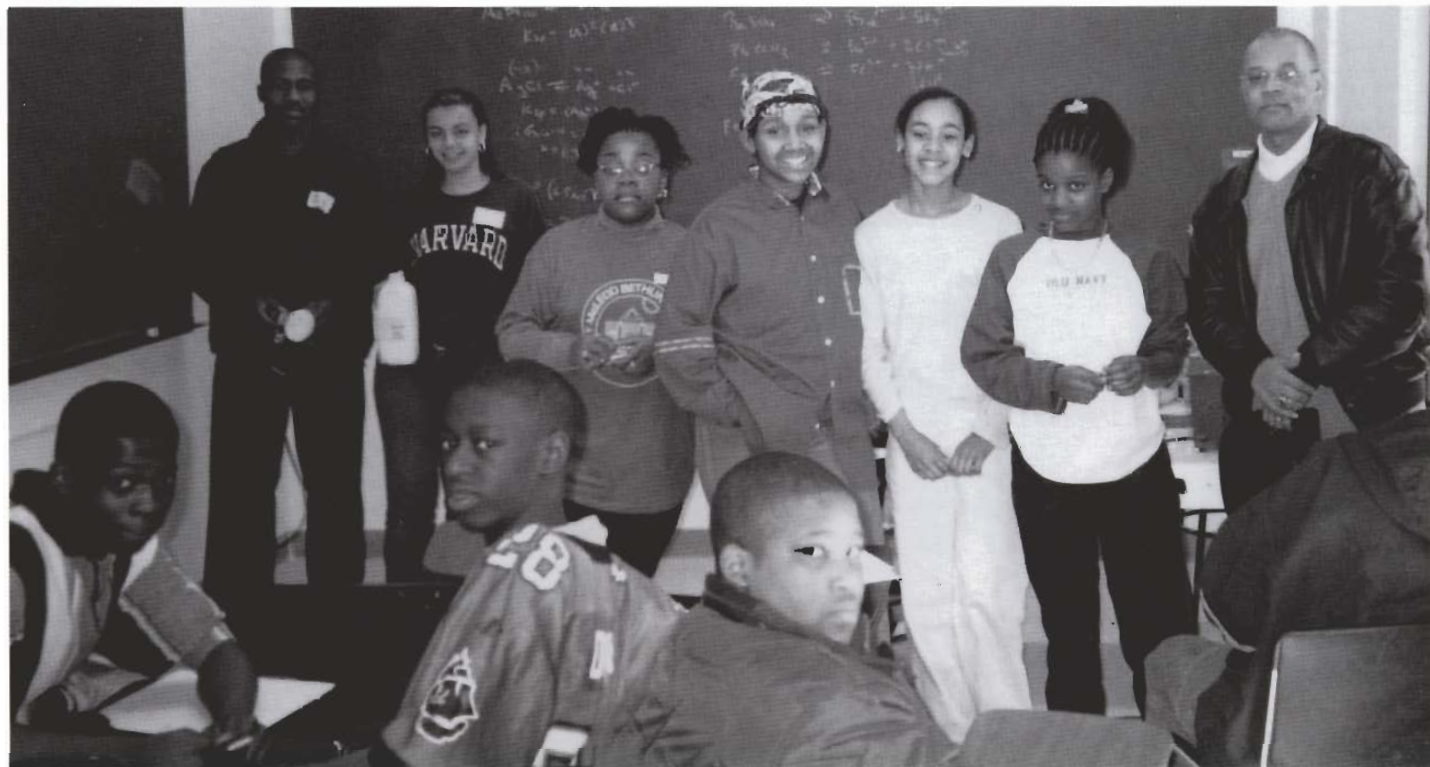
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*Professor James Davis, Head Tutor in Chemistry, demonstrates the wonders of chemistry to public school students. Professor Davis has enthusiastically participated in the Annual Science Conference for several years.*

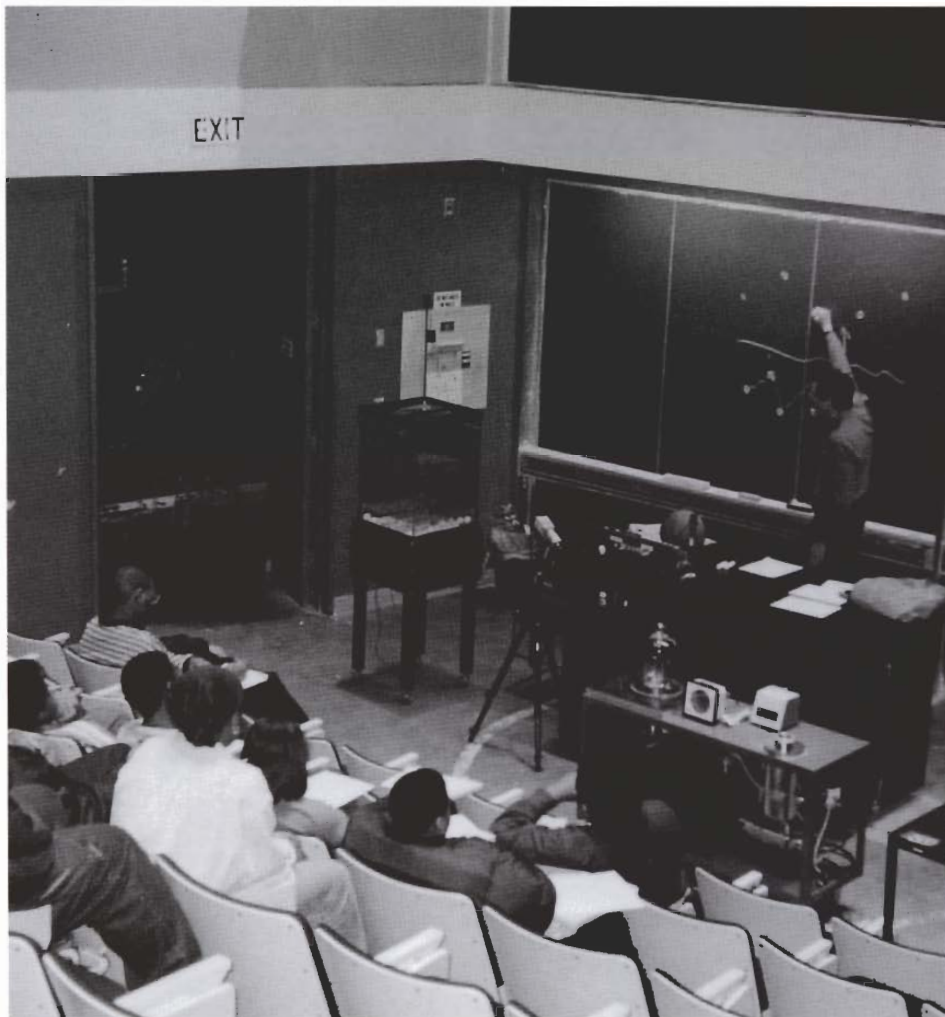


*Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation and Associate Professor of Neuroscience/Neurobiology, teaches local public school students about bioelectric mechanisms in the body.*



*Mr. Fred Birkett, Director of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, escorted a group of his students to the science conference. The students engaged in a day of science experiments and presentations with Harvard College students and professors.*





*Dr. Patrick Cavanagh, Professor of Psychology, teaches students how the eye reacts to stimuli using a basketball.*



*Professor Robert Graham, Assistant Director of the Harvard Materials Science Laboratory in the Division of Applied Sciences, explores the physical sciences with local public school students.*



*Former Leverett House Master Dr. John Dowling, the Maria Moors Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences and Professor of Ophthalmology, explains the neural networks of the zebra fish eye to local public school students. Professor Dowling is a specialist in the physiology and biophysics of vision.*

Steven Wofsy, Dr. Patrick Cavanagh, Dr. Robert Graham and Dr. Allen Counter. Over thirty Harvard College students volunteered to act as mentors for the schoolchildren throughout the program. In breakout sessions, these mentors performed experiments and discussed what they had learned. Following these sessions, lunch was served to the student volunteers, schoolchildren, and faculty, who animatedly discussed the events of the day.

The Science Conference was coordinated by Holly Foster, Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation, working with Ada Maxwell '02, Chair of the Student Science Conference Committee, as well as Kenneth Ebie '01, Joyce Imahiyerobo '01, Marcel Anderson '03 and Annie Wong '02.

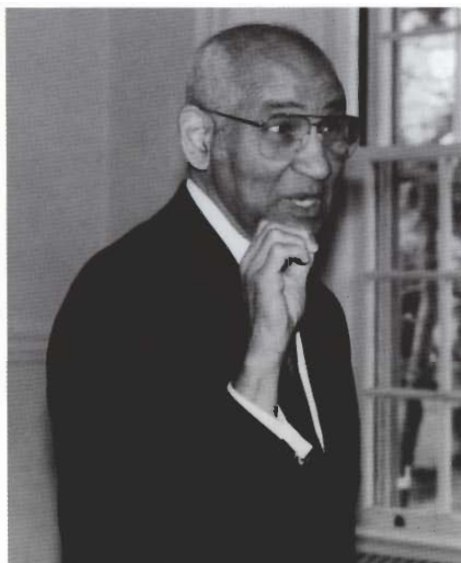
*-Harvard Foundation Staff*



Harvard College students mentor local public school students through science demonstrations as part of the Harvard Foundation's Partners in Science Program at the Annual Minorities and Women in Science Conference.

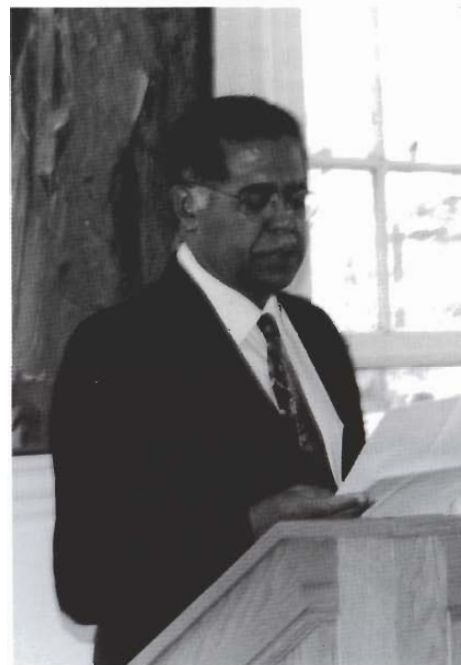


# Harvard Foundation Hosts Dr. Edwin J. Nichols, Psychologist



*Dr. Edwin J. Nichols, distinguished psychologist and former Director of the Office of Technology Transfer and the Office of Child and Family Mental Health at the National Institute of Mental Health, delivers a lecture on "The Racial and Ethnic Dimensions of Psychology" to students and faculty at Cabot House. Dr. Nichols delivered an earlier lecture to the staff of the Bureau of Study Counsel.*

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation hosted a special day of activities with the distinguished ethnopsychologist Dr. Edwin J. Nichols on April 10, 2000, in conjunction with the Bureau of Study Counsel. Dr. Edwin J. Nichols, a distinguished psychologist and former Director of the Office of Technology Transfer and the Office of Child and Family Mental Health at the National Institute of Mental Health, spoke about "The Racial and Ethnic Dimensions of Psychology." Dr. Nichols, whose work focuses on the organizational psychology of the multiethnic workplace, discussed the notion of achieving 'multicultural competence' and the problems of integrating differing ethnic and cultural styles in American organizations. In the morning, Dr. Nichols was welcomed by Dr. Charles Ducey, Director of the Bureau of Study Counsel. Dr. Nichols delivered an address to the staff of the Bureau during which he



*Dr. Ambrose Jearld, Chief of Research Planning and Coordinator of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA, introduces Dr. Edwin Nichols at the Cabot House reception and lecture.*

*Continued on page 14*



*Cabot House Master Dr. James Ware, Frederick Mosteller Professor of Biostatistics, hosts a reception and dinner for students and faculty in honor of Harvard Foundation guest, Dr. Edwin J. Nichols (l to r: Holly Foster '97 (Student Activities Coordinator), Dr. James Ware, Dr. Edwin J. Nichols, Ada Maxwell '02, Andrew Amo '01, Adam Bailey '01 (Secretary of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee), Nissana Honayangura '99-'00).*

## Edwin J. Nichols

*(Continued from page 13)*

talked of some of the special psychological issues that persons of color face in a largely mainstream academic environment. A second address, aimed at students interested in the study of ethnopsychology, was given at Cabot House in the late afternoon. This event was open to students, faculty and members of the community. Following the lecture, Professor James Ware hosted a dinner in honor of Dr. Nichols at Cabot House. Dr. Nichols continued to lead a discussion with students on the issues of ethnopsychology throughout the dinner. During the dinner he was presented with a special award from the Harvard Foundation recognizing his outstanding contributions to the discipline of psychology. Dr. Nichols' visit was very well received by students, many of whom requested an opportunity for continued discussion after his lecture.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



*Dr. Edwin Nichols is presented with a bouquet of roses from Harvard College students by Ms. Ada Maxwell '02. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Dr. Nichols with a plaque in recognition of his notable contributions to psychology and intercultural relations.*

## Student Advisory Committee Spring Activities

The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations kicked off the new semester with two annual events traditionally cosponsored with Memorial Church. On January 17, 2000, campus-wide celebrations of the **Martin Luther King Holiday** ended with a well-attended reception organized by the Foundation. Members of the community mingled with Harvard faculty and students on a bitterly cold evening to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King. The Foundation also arranged for a video compilation of the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr., made by Foundation Intern Serre-Yu Wong '01, to be played at locations throughout campus. On February 13, 2000, **Black History Month** was celebrated with a similar service at Memorial Church after which the Foundation hosted its traditional annual reception.

**The Harvard Foundation Table Tents Series**, an initiative of the Student Advisory Council of the Harvard

Foundation, is an ongoing effort to inform the student body about the activities both of the Harvard Foundation and of various ethnic and cultural student organizations affiliated with the Harvard Foundation. Tables are set up in the dining halls and in Annenberg and written materials are distributed concerning the student group and/or the culture it represents.

**The Annual Harvard Foundation Ethnic Film Series**, under the direction of Nissara Horayangura '00 and Marlene Losier '01, continues to attract interest among students of all backgrounds. A film with pronounced ethnic or cultural content is shown monthly, cosponsored with another student group, and afterwards there is time for discussion with refreshments provided by the Foundation. Films have been shown in conjunction with such student groups as the Chinese Students Association, the Half-Asian Persons Association, and Native Americans at Harvard College. This year's Film

Series included such films as *Life Is Beautiful*, co-sponsored with the Italian Cultural Society, which drew over two hundred students to the Science Center.

Once per month, from September through June, members of the Harvard faculty and administrators, who form the Harvard Foundation's Faculty Advisory Committee, meet with student representatives from over thirty student organizations representing diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds to discuss issues of race relations at Harvard University. During these **monthly race relations meetings**, the students plan their cultural and race relations projects, and discuss issues related to ethnic and cultural concerns at the College. Students may raise and discuss any issues of racial conflict so that they may be discussed with faculty input and support. The meetings also feature faculty talks on a variety of subjects, ranging from an ethnic studies concentration at Harvard to hate graffiti at Harvard and hate crimes throughout the nation.



During the 1999-2000 year, for example, Professor Doris Sommer spoke at one of the meetings on progress in developing ethnic studies courses. Also, Ms. Eileen Egan of the Harvard University Native American Program came in to speak about opportunities for Harvard College students to work with HUNAP and the

new interdisciplinary course on Native American Studies called Nation Building. Dorothy Weiss '01, head of the student organization EMPOWER, spoke about her recent developments in advancing awareness of the disabled community on campus.

This semester saw the distribution of

Harvard Foundation grant monies totaling \$15,221 to 33 student groups. Ninety-eight applications were received, out of which eighty projects were funded after deliberations by the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee.

-Harvard Foundation Staff

## Academic Affairs Committee Spring Activities



*Professor George Sanchez '81, Chair of the Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Southern California, discusses the creation of Ethnic Studies programs at various universities in the United States with Harvard College students (l to r: Macarena Correa '00, Professor George Sanchez '81, Jeannette Soriano '01, Adam Bailey '01, Secretary/Treasurer of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee).*

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Harvard Foundation consists of students who are interested in the academic aspects of intercultural and race relations at the College. The student leaders most actively involved with the AAC were: Adam Bailey '01, Macarena Correa '00, Jennifer Darrah '01, and Serre-Yu Wong '01. The Committee handles such matters as student concerns over hiring of minority faculty and House Masters, as well as student interest in courses with a strong ethnic component. The Academic

Affairs Committee has seen a very active year, holding weekly meetings with the Ethnic Studies Action Committee as well as with various other groups interested in the question of Ethnic Studies at Harvard.

On February 17, 2000, the Harvard Foundation sponsored a lunch at Lowell House for Professor George Sanchez '81, Chair of the Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Southern California and a Foundation alumnus. The lunch was attended by approximately thirty students

of diverse backgrounds. Professor Sanchez spoke about experience with the creation of Ethnic Studies programs at various universities in the United States. On the subject of faculty diversity, he emphasized the need to recruit promising scholars of color into junior faculty positions, by which universities would eventually gain a pool of tenured faculty from underrepresented backgrounds. He also

*Continued on page 16*

## Academic Affairs

(Continued from page 15)

spoke of the benefits of comparative scholarship and how diversity in the United States needs to be understood from the perspective of a variety of disciplines, including sociology, history, literature and economics. After lunch, Jeannette Soriano '01 and Macarena Correa '00 took Professor Sanchez on a tour of the offices of the Harvard

Foundation and of Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, with both of which he had been involved during his undergraduate years at Harvard College.

The Harvard Foundation also participated in several events organized by Diversity and Distinction, the student-run quarterly magazine. On February 15, 2000, Serre-Yu Wong '01 represented the Foundation in a campus-wide discussion of "The Future of Ethnic Studies at Harvard." On April 24, 2000, Diversity and Distinction organized a dinner held

at Mather House with faculty interested in ethnic studies. In addition, Professor Doris Sommer of the Romance Languages Department gave a special talk at our March Student/Faculty Advisory Committee meeting to discuss possible ways to expand opportunities for College students interested in Ethnic Studies. Professor Sommer emphasized the availability of funds for the development of courses in fields related to Ethnic Studies.

-Harvard Foundation Staff

## Harvard Foundation Speaker Series: Dr. Thomas Östros, Swedish Minister for Science and Education

The Harvard Foundation and the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society cosponsored a dinner and reception in honor of the Swedish Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Thomas Östros, on February 17, 2000. The dinner followed an address delivered at Coolidge Hall by Dr. Östros to students and faculty on the status of educational reform in Sweden. Many Scandinavians as well as non-Scandinavians at Harvard attended the lecture, and posed many questions to the minister regarding changes made by his administration to improve the structure of Swedish educational institutions from grade schools to universities. Minister Östros spoke of his desire to continue Sweden's tradition of creating educa-

tional opportunity for all of its citizens, as well as developing new approaches to recruit more Swedish students into higher

education. The discussion continued with students and faculty at the dinner following the lecture. Also in attendance at the dinner

were: Professor Göran Ekström of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Dr. Kerstin Eliasson, Director of Research Policy for the Swedish Ministry of Education and Science. Student participants included the Co-Chairs of the Scandinavian Folk and Cultural Society, Elizabeth Chiappa '01 and Sarah Schauss '01. Dr. Östros was accompanied by a delegation of officials from the Ministry of Education and Science as well as from the Swedish Embassy. The event was well-attended by students of all backgrounds.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



Mr. Thomas Östros, Swedish Minister for Science and Education, greets Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Dr. Börje Bjelke of the Karolinska-Nobel Institute of Stockholm, Sweden.

## Commentary:

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

The first time I laid eyes on Harvard was when I arrived in September of 1996. I did not visit the campus before enrolling because my family could not afford it. I was excited to be here, but I was also frightened by the portrayals of Harvard that I had seen in the movies. Harvard had a reputation for being mono-cultural, to put it mildly. So I

picked up my key and my temporary ID from the tent in the yard on that rainy September 7th expecting the worst. A few days into the semester, I met with my freshman proctor, Erica Marsh '91, who asked me if I was planning on getting a job. I responded that I wanted many jobs, not just one. She immediately suggested that I

should apply to a place called the Harvard Foundation. As it turns out, she had worked at the Foundation as well so she was able to answer all of my questions and give me a clear picture of what the organization was about. My interest was definitely piqued and I eagerly anticipated my first day of work. It has been almost four school years since that



day and as I look back on the experience, I feel an extreme sense of gratitude towards my freshman proctor for steering me to the Foundation.

My life here would not have been the same without the Foundation. I feel like the organization has made a significant contribution to the campus in the four years that I have been here and I am thankful that I was a part of it. Despite what I believe to be admirable goals and significant progress, there have still been critics of the Foundation over the years. Criticism is easy to levy, but the mere fact that people were paying enough attention to criticize us is a sign that we are fulfilling our mission, at least in part.

All things considered, I feel that the main obstacle that must be overcome in terms of race and intercultural relation is that of intercultural ignorance. In many cases, prejudice and racism stem from either a lack of information or an abundance of misinformation. Not all information is benign and in the "information age" when more and more people are being touched it is important to have organizations, such as the Foundation, that encourage an increased level of understanding through multicultural events.

It is human nature to fear the unknown and because of this, a considerable effort must be exerted on the part of all cultures to

slowly break down barriers. The corporate sector is often far ahead of the general public in attaining these developments partly because they recognize their role as serving many cultures. Large corporations spend lots of money training their staff to recognize cultural differences and to increase sensitivity. For instance, the purchasing power of Latina/os in the United States has grown larger than the entire Canadian GDP. Corporate America addresses these communities and values inclusiveness. I am confident that in time the rest of the world will follow suit. The obvious difference between corporate and personal inclusiveness is the motivation behind the actions. Corporations are motivated by profits whereas individuals must be motivated by morals. The fact that corporations work hard to cater to the demands of diverse groups should be a positive sign because it signals another step down the path of disseminating truthful information. And that leads me back to the Foundation.

Cultural events would still take place at Harvard without the Foundation, but sponsorship would be more difficult. While the Foundation coordinates a multitude of events of its own accord, a major part of its contributions aid student groups in sponsoring their own events. The latter function is,

in my opinion, very important because it demonstrates a certain amount of inertia in terms of cultural interest. The more student groups are interested in producing their own functions, the greater the level of multicultural understanding that will be promoted. The Foundation, by facilitating the process through which events are sponsored on campus, encourages more student participation and helps various ethnic groups increase their level of interaction with the entire student body. I have personally witnessed student groups come to Foundation Director Dr. Allen Counter, in frustration over not being able to secure a speaker, or a place for their event, often at the very last minute, and ask for help. Every single time he helps through his connections and administrative influence, although often facing the same obstacles that the students had encountered.

Through the Foundation, student groups are not only given a forum through which they can more easily sponsor their events, but the Foundation also provides resources to those groups still facing significant roadblocks. To me, that means a lot. The value of knowing that you always have a place to turn to is immeasurable and for that I thank the Foundation as a student. I express my gratitude for being allowed to be a part of the organization as an intern.

-Sergio Castellon '00

## Commentary: *A Speech Given in Receipt of the Harvard Foundation Director's Award*

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate those who received the Foundation Award as well as everyone who at one time or another has made a significant contribution to the advancement of race relations.

Recognition such as this both encourages further contribution and allows us to remind the world that this struggle, this issue, this cause, stills burns in the hearts and minds of so many men and women in this country.

There is however one important warning that I must deliver. We should be weary not to fall into the trap of complacency. The Foundation Award can either motivate us to continue pushing forward with added zeal or it can cause us to believe, falsely, that we have finally reached our goals; that our struggle is finally over.

We must NOT sit idly by as our progress is unraveled. For intercultural understanding is a delicate creature that demands constant attention and maintenance lest it die of neglect.

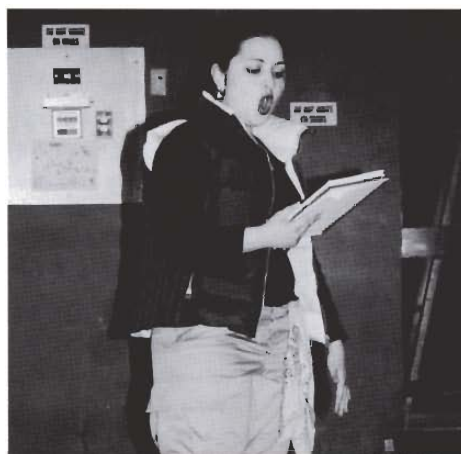
Our struggle must continue. And when I say struggle, it is not an exaggeration. We may not be protesting rowdily but that is because the change that we seek can only be achieved through tactful interaction. The change that we seek does not sprout up overnight but instead it takes years of nurturing to develop.

A struggle because people do not readily change their minds. A struggle worth pursuing because we are indebted to our predecessors for getting us up to this point. It is a struggle that we are responsible for. The future of OUR children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren depends on our efforts.

-Sergio Castellon '00



# Cultural 20



Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard Divinity School, receives a special tribute from the student body for his important role in establishing the Harvard Foundation for the Performing Arts. The Rhythms stage is Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation for the Performing Arts.





# Rhythms

00



Reverend Morris Brown, Minister of Christian Morals and Minister in the Memorial Church, presents flowers to the faculty of the Harvard Foundation to recognize their dedication. Welcoming Reverend Brown to the Cultural Center at the Harvard Foundation.



# Harvard Foundation Spring 2000 Student Grant Activities

## *Spoken Word Society Poetry Reading*

On May 7, 2000, as part of the Arts First festivities, the Spoken Word Society held its last poetry reading of the year. Our readers included undergraduates, graduate students, Harvard Dining Services employees, and people from outside the Harvard community—the audience reflected the diversity of the readers.

The reading, called Novelyrics, was the third reading that we have had in the Kirkland House JCR. Approximately a hundred people attended. Funding was provided by the Harvard Foundation, Kirkland House, and the Office for the Arts. The JCR was converted into a café for the evening complete with desert, coffee, and intimately covered tables. The event opened with a performance by two musicians from Berklee College of Music, who accompanied our poets when asked. Highlights from the evening included a very powerful poem on Puerto Rican identity by Kiara Alvarez '01 and the poems of the Blackout Collective.

The Spoken Word Society is a new organization on campus this year. It was conceived last summer by Peter Charles Bright '02 and Mark Little '01 as a forum for lyrical artists who have been influenced by urban spoken word poetry. The Foundation has helped fund many of our events including a reading that we had in Kirkland House in February. Novelyrics represents the end to a very successful year.

-Mark Little '01

## *Greek-Arab Café*

The Society of Arab Students and the Hellenic Society held a cultural evening together under the title "Greek-Arab Café" in Loker Commons on Wednesday, May 10, 2000. The event featured Greek and Arabic food and refreshments, backgammon, chess and live music sung and performed on the guitar and lute by members of the organizations and their guests.

The event served to bring the two student groups closer together by sharing cultural identities mainly through music and conversation. It also attracted members of the two communities who are not frequent participants in the group activities as well as other students passing through Loker. In total about fifty people stopped by to participate. Some students rose to instant stardom when they got their hands on the microphone, while the lute and guitar tried to overcome their structural differences. The seriousness of the chess or backgammon matches often melted in the harmonies and disharmonies of the entertainers. Hummos, falafel, dolmades, baklava, tsifteteli, and tavli were the more silent stars of the evening, but by no means less enjoyed!

This Café was a yearly tradition up to 1997 when it was interrupted for no known reason. Due to the success it had this year, we intend to make it a yearly event once again.

-Rayd Abu-Ayyash '01

## *BSA Anthology*

The written word has always been an outlet for the celebrations, struggles, and progress of Black people. The BSA has teamed up with the Spoken Word Society to compile the literary expressions of Harvard students in an anthology that will be available for purchase at the beginning of the 2000-01 school year. Students from the Black, Hispanic, and Harvard communities at large have contributed close to a hundred pages of poems, short stories, monologues, and expository essays addressing the culture of our generation, social injustices, and free thought.

-Julia Rosenbloom '01

## *The 2-28 Incident Commemoration*

This year marked the fifty-third anniversary of the 2-28 Incident, a key

date in Taiwanese history. On February 28, 1947, Taiwanese citizens were murdered by Nationalist troops, which began a period of political oppression called the "White Terror." This Incident still remains a delicate issue in Taiwan and continues to be a topic for debate in universities in Taiwan and in America. The Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society commemorated the incident by holding a discussion, led by Professor William Kirby, chair of the Department of History, on February 28, 2000. This commemoration was sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

A group of about twenty-five undergraduates and graduates came to Loker Commons to hear Professor Kirby's remarks about the Incident as well as to give their own opinions about the matter. (We were honored that Professor Kirby led our discussion – this semester he taught a course on contemporary Taiwan.) The discussion lasted for an hour. The attendees were engaged by the discussion and came away with new insight into the 2-28 Incident. After the discussion, everyone, including Professor Kirby, snacked on tasty Chinese pastries.

The Taiwanese Cultural Society believes that the 2-28 Incident discussion was a success because we provided an opportunity for students to expand their understanding of Taiwanese history with one of the nation's finest history professors. We plan to hold another 2-28 Incident commemoration next year.

-William Lee '02

## *The Lantern Festival*

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 29, 2000, the Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society presented the Lantern Festival, a Chinese holiday that traditionally falls during the lengthy New Year's holiday. By tradition, this festival is held exactly two weeks after the Lunar New Year, which typically falls in late January or early February. Though our commemoration date of this festival did not



exactly follow tradition, our event did so as much as possible. This project sought to highlight and appreciate a 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 Lantern (*Yuan-Hsiao*) Festival, the Taiwanese people construct lanterns out of construction paper, poster board, or other materials. Candles are used to light the lanterns, which are placed outside for all to admire the creativity of the designs. Finally, there is a food component of the celebration that includes *yuan-hsiao*, which is a type of dumpling. The Taiwanese Cultural Society organized its event in Loker Commons during the busy pre-frosh weekend, which increased turnout significantly. Since this was a new festival that TCS had never celebrated before here at Harvard, the fact that the celebration was attended by many and was enjoyed by all was a very positive sign.

-Carey Hsu '01

## The Dragon Boat Festival

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 13, 2000, the Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society presented the Dragon Boat Festival, a traditional Chinese celebration that falls during the fifth month of the lunar calendar. The weather was excellent for such a celebration, since it was a pleasant spring day during our event, held in JFK Park across Memorial Drive from the Charles River. This was the first time that the Taiwanese Cultural Society had tried to celebrate this festival. The event was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

The Dragon Boat Festival is traditionally held on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar. The festival commemorates the death of a noted Chinese poet. Teams of rowers race large dragon boats on lakes and rivers. And, the other aspect of the festival is that *bazhang* are wrapped and eaten. The filling for these treats is glutinous rice and usually some meat and seasonings, wrapped in large bamboo leaves. The *bazhang* is then steamed and enjoyed. Our May celebra-

tion was held before the actual date of the Dragon Boat Festival, since this date generally falls during the summer months. In addition, we were not able to complete a simulation of dragon-boat racing, but we did have the opportunity to enjoy eating the *bazhang* that come to symbolize the festival.

-Carey Hsu '01

## Taiwanese Language Program

This semester, the Taiwanese Cultural Society provided weekly language lessons, giving Harvard undergraduate students the opportunity to learn the Taiwanese language. The lessons were largely student-led, although a preceptor contributed on several occasions with more structured lessons. 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 as a reference, in addition to a sourcebook for a course in Taiwanese at another university. Additionally, TCS tried to use audio and videotapes 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 this language are more common, the lessons were conducted in the Taiwanese dialect only.

Lessons began at the most basic level of knowledge, since students came to the weekly sessions with a huge range of proficiency, from those who did not know a single word of Taiwanese to those who were fluent. These 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

## The Winter Night Market

The Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society hosted its third annual Winter Culture and Food Festival on Friday, March 17, 2000. The evening featured over fifteen courses of Taiwanese cuisine and highlighted Taiwanese arts and crafts in a Taiwanese night-market setting. Over three hundred students attended this event, held in Quincy House Dining Hall and sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

The Winter Night Market opened with a feast of Taiwanese dishes, prepared with the kind assistance of the local Taiwanese Women's Association group. The variety of food ranged from appetizers like dumplings and scallion pancakes to entrees like rice noodles, Chinese sausage, and marinated hard-boiled eggs. There were plenty of desserts to try after dinner, such as *muaji* (a doughy, gelatinous dessert), almond gelatin, and shaved ice (attendees were delighted by the experience of making their own shaved ice!). After food was served, arts-and-crafts booths and cultural displays awaited the guests. Attendees learned how to play a game of Chinese chess, wrote calligraphy, or built chopstick guns to amaze friends. On the dining hall stage, various students entertained the audience with a Chinese yo-yo.

Once the student performances with the Chinese yo-yo had concluded, TCS co-presidents Carey Hsu '01 and Helen Lo '02, spoke about the symbolism of the arts-and-crafts demonstrations and the importance of the Taiwanese night market as a unique aspect of Taiwanese culture. They thanked those involved in organizing the event and the local mothers who had lent their cooking and artistic expertise. This year's Winter Culture and Food Festival was a wonderful success — with a 20% increase in attendance from last year — that expanded everyone's knowledge and appreciation of Taiwanese cuisine and culture.

-William Lee '02

## Harvard Vietnamese Association: Cultural Rhythms 2000

The Harvard Vietnamese Association was founded to give those of Vietnamese heritage, and also those who are not, an opportunity to learn about Vietnamese culture and to help promote awareness through social and cultural activities. This year, biweekly language tables and discussions allowed HVA members to explore the complexities of and possible solution to generational drifts, prejudice, and cultural differences.

For Cultural Rhythms 2000, HVA explored North Vietnamese culture, which has its own unique style of art, dance, language and attire. Most Americans are familiar with the traditional central and southern Vietnamese "ao dai" which drapes the female figure elegantly. This year, HVA was very fortunate to rent authentic North Vietnamese attire, which is fantastically rich with bright color. Our Cultural Rhythms participants consisted of HVA members as well as non-Vietnamese Harvard students, who absorbed a lot about Vietnamese culture through this event. Our performance consisted of flirtatious interactions, courtship, and dance. A small cylindrical drum traditionally called a rice-drum, accented the courtship between North Vietnamese young adults, and red satin sashes represented love, connections, and femininity. As the girls performed the rice-drum dance and the satin sash dance, the young men admired their beauty and attempted to win a girl's heart. The background music was a song about rice drums, searching, and the intricate web of love, which perfectly fit the mood and theme of the dance.

-Thu Ho '00

## Holoimua o Hawaii Luau

The Harvard Hawaii Club put on their first annual luau this March. Despite the rainy and cold weather, over two hundred guests trekked over to the Quincy House Dining Hall, which had been com-

pletely transformed into a tropical paradise. Flowers, pineapples, and floating candles lined each table, and the walls were decorated with colorful banners. The guests dined on an authentic and delicious dinner, including kalua pig, lomilomi salmon, teriyaki chicken, taro, sweet potato, and many other Hawaiian delights. After the dinner, the Hawaii Club performed several hula dances in both traditional and modern styles. Overall the luau was a huge success.

-Pia Chock '01

## Holoimua o Hawaii Hula

The Harvard Hawaii Club's hula halua put on several performances this spring, including the Hawaii Club Luau and Arts First. Their repertoire included both *kahiko* (traditional) as well as *auana* (modern) hulas. The danced to a variety of Hawaiian musical groups, such as Keali'i Reichel and Hapa, as well as to the chanting of Noel Norcross '01. For many of the audience members, it was their first time seeing authentic hula performed!

-Pia Chock '01

## EMPOWER: Temple Grandin Visit

EMPOWER (Encouraging Mankind to Perceive Others With Equal Respect) promotes awareness of and education surrounding disability, both as an academic discipline and as a reality facing individuals on Harvard's campus and in the larger community. Activities include academic conferences, community outreach, coordination of events with other campus groups, close work with university staff and faculty, general awareness programming, social events, and the maintenance of an e-mail list and webpage. In the one year of its existence to date, EMPOWER is blessed to have gained the support of university faculty and staff, Phillips Brooks House, campus and community organizations, and leaders in the field of disability. We have been especially fortunate to become a part of the Harvard Foundation. In line with

the goals of the Harvard Foundation, we seek to promote the understanding and integration of a unique minority in our society — disability — one which crosses race, cultural, ethnic, religious, and gender lines.

Over the past semester, EMPOWER has continued its organizational development, and pursued many parallel programming avenues. A particular event of overwhelming success was a visit by Dr. Temple Grandin, who delivered a lecture on the evening of February 24, 2000, in Science Center A. As a high-functioning autistic woman, she has the rare ability to objectify her own autism, and as a result, lent great insight into her life, profession, and perspectives on societal interactions. Her presentation attracted students, professors, and community members from academic areas ranging from animal science to education to cognitive neuroscience and from backgrounds involving personal experiences with autism and disability, desire to better understand the disability sector of society, and those with a drive to learn more about such a fascinating woman and her life. The room was filled to capacity, and it was estimated that at least a hundred people were simply unable to get in. A book signing was offered, and all books were sold out before the lecture had even been completed! She responded to individual questions after her lecture, and after two hours, finally reached the end of a line of admirers spanning out the exit. While Dr. Grandin was not lecturing, she visited with several members of the psychology department and shared her insights with students during meals as well. Student interviews with Dr. Grandin conducted the following day are featured in the Spring 2000 issue of *The Harvard Brain: Undergraduate Journal for Mind, Brain, and Behavior*.

As a woman in society, as an individual with a disability, as a professor who has excelled in her fields of psychology and animal husbandry, and as a unique person contributing to the diversity of our society, Dr. Temple Grandin provided each member or her audience with a new perspective. We thank the Harvard Foundation for its support and encouragement, and look forward to working together in the months and years to come.

-Dorothy Weiss '01



## Diversity and Distinction

This semester, *Diversity and Distinction* published two issues of the magazine. The spring issue, entitled *International Departures: Detours on the Journey to a Global Future*, included cover package articles that addressed many of the issues surrounding globalization and internationalism. Articles explored the spread of American popular culture in East Asia, the experiences of international professors at Harvard, the community of "global nomads" (students who have moved among many countries), how race is perceived and conceptualized in Brazil, the rhetoric of self-discovery, and the personal experiences of a student traveling between two cultures and two countries. The spring issue also included a special extended Mosaic section (art and literature) and feature and commentary pieces, including "A journal of black studies at Harvard" and "Juxtaposed Judaisms."

The summer issue was entitled *The Shape of Justice: Disguised as protection, American institutions of crime and punishment reduce people to problems*. Why does this tagging provoke such outrage? The cover package for the summer issue focused on the criminal justice system in America and reactions to that system, including protests against miscarriages of justice. Articles included a reaction to the Diallo shooting and examinations of Benetton's "We on Death Row" advertising campaign, a wave of hate crimes at Georgetown and the University's response, the role of non-racial visual indicators of identity in interactions between Orthodox Jewish men and police, Texas's record rate of executions, and why Harvard students become involved in protest. The summer issue also included a Views section (contributions by non-staff writers) on Jesus Week, Mosaic, a profile of Pamela Gordon (IOP fellow, and former Premier and current Leader of the Opposition of Bermuda) and feature and commentary pieces.

In addition, on February 15, 2000, *Diversity & Distinction* co-sponsored a panel entitled "The Future of Ethnic Studies at Harvard" with the Multicultural Issues Forum. The forum was held in Science Center C. Panelists included Leo Ou-fan Lee, Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Tri Phuong '02; Linda

Schlossberg, Lecturer on Women's Studies; Doris Sommer, Professor of Romance Languages and Literature; and Serre-Yu Wong '01, Harvard Foundation SAC Co-Chair. The panel was moderated by Ming Hsu '00 and was attended by approximately 50-75 people.

-Claudia Cyganowski '02

## AAA Panel Discussion: Asian Americans and Interracial Dating I

On March 9, 2000, the Asian American Association hosted its first panel discussion on Asian Americans and Interracial Dating. Held in Yenching auditorium, the event drew a racially diverse group of about a hundred people. After the panelists introduced themselves, the mediators asked questions to generate discussion among the panelists. Discussion was later opened to the audience as well.

The event covered a large range of topics, all related to interracial dating and Asian Americans. Panelists discussed the exoticization of Asian women by the media, and the thin line between appreciating someone for their culture or for their personality. When it was brought up that more Asian women date outside of their race than do men, panelists suggested that the cause was the emasculation of Asian men by the media. Dating within different Asian races was also discussed, as well as the difficulty of maintaining one's culture when dating someone from another race. Audience members and panelists alike talked about strong parental pressure to date only other Asians, while others admitted that it was a personal preference to date within their race.

Juliet Wei '01 and Jon Lee '03 mediated the discussion. The informal panelists were Lonnie Everson '02, Angela Hur '02, Rob Lim '02, Peggy Lim '01, and Halla Yang '00. The event was co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, the Taiwanese Cultural Society, the Chinese Students' Association, the Korean Association, Yisei, the Asian American Brotherhood, and the Half Asian Persons' Association.

-Jenny Shen '01

## Interracial Dating Panel II: "Is Love Color Blind?"

On April 12, 2000, the Asian American Association hosted its second panel discussion on interracial dating, called "Is Love Color Blind?" Held in Emerson Hall 105, the event had a diverse audience of about seventy people, most of whom were Harvard students. Panelists discussed their own particular views on interracial dating for about five minutes at the beginning. A couple of the panelists brought in very personal experiences that diverged from the more specific issue of interracial dating and focused instead on more general issues of multiracial problems and perceptions. After all the panelists had spoken, the discussion was opened up to audience members. Audience members posed questions to specific panelists and also made comments. The discussion probed into the reason behind some people's choice to date only others within their race, while others prefer to date outside of their race. We also discussed the perceptions of interracial dating in different communities. Participants also discussed issues that multiracial children face. Mindy Chen '02 and Seng-Dao Yang '01 mediated the discussion. The informal panelists were Isaac J. Weiler '02, Ethel Branch '01, Tawney Pearson '01, Adrian Wall '03, Elizabeth Allen '01, Sophia Chang '02, and Treina Fabre '01. The event was co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, RAZA, the Asian American Brotherhood, the Black Men's Forum, the Black Students Association, Native Americans at Harvard College, the Korean Association, the Taiwanese Cultural Society, the Half Asian Persons' Association, the Minority Students Alliance, and the Harvard Philippine Forum.

-Mindy Chen '02

## AAA Hosts Author Leslie Chang

On February 28, 2000, Leslie Chang, author of the book *Beyond the Narrow Gate: The Journey of Four Chinese Women From the Middle Kingdom to Middle America*,

spoke about her book in Loker Coffeehouse as a guest of the Asian American Association, the Harvard Foundation, the Chinese Students Association, and the Taiwanese Cultural Society. Her book is a memoir about her mother and three of her classmates, all graduates of the famous girls' high school in Taipei, Beiyinü. Chronicling the different paths they have taken since immigrating to the US, the book explores the American-born generation's understanding of their immigrant parents.

About forty members of the Harvard community attended the event. Ms. Chang began by reading excerpts from *Narrow Gate*, which described the numerous obstacles her mother faced in a life that brought her from China, to Taiwan, and finally to the United States. Following the reading, Chang answered questions from the audience. She explained how she began the book as a project when she was a student at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Although books by Asian American authors had been written, there was a lack of ones that described the type of immigrant that Chang's mother and friends were—immigrants who had come from a difficult life in Taiwan and ended up settled in quiet, American suburbia. Getting the book published was a challenge, she admitted. When she met with publishers, they usually did not grasp the theme of the book. Instead of a memoir about the everyday life of immigrant Chinese, they were expecting more exotic storylines involving rituals. Chang ended the evening by signing copies of her book, and thanked the Harvard community for their warm reception.

-Jenny Shen '01

## *Mona in the Promised Land*

On the weekends of April 13-15 and April 20-22, 2000, the Harvard Asian American Association Players presented a student adaptation of Gish Jen's *Mona in the Promised Land* in Leverett House Old Library. Originally a critically acclaimed novel, *Mona in the Promised Land* was adapted into a play by student director Terry Chang '02. Gish Jen tells the story

of Mona Chang, a young Chinese American growing up in the suburbs of the 1970s who decides to convert to Judaism. Directed by Terry Chang and produced by Jaynie Chen '01 and Carey Hsu '01, the play scrutinizes what it's like to be an American teenager of any era, of any heritage, and reaches out to students, actors, and audiences of all cultural backgrounds.

In essence, Mona begs the question, "what does it mean to be an American?" Through friendship, romance, religious conversion, and intergenerational conflict, Mona demonstrates that "American means being whatever you want." Jen's deft humor enables the play to tackle difficult issues of multiculturalism without being heavy-handed. The production boasted a multicultural cast and met with success at the box office as well, as packed audiences came to see the production during both weekends.

The production furthered AAA Players' goals: to present issues of significance to Asian America, to promote the work of Asian American playwrights, and to encourage students to take a more active role in an arena in which Asian Americans have been less prominent. The AAA Players are grateful for the continued support of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

-Jaynie Chen '01

## *Woodbridge Society Barazas*

As in the past five years, the Woodbridge Society's Barazas were a great success. Barazas are monthly gatherings sponsored by the Woodbridge Society of International Students that are open to all. They are aimed at bringing together Harvard's international students and interested Americans to share one another's company and culture. This semester they united people from more than thirty different nations and provided them with an informal setting to exchange thoughts and ideas.

To facilitate this, each Baraza featured a sample of a different ethnic cuisine and if possible some type of performance. This past semester, Barazas include food from Japan, Brazil, the Middle East, Thailand and Vietnam. By cosponsoring with the Japan

Society and the Brazilian Society when their respective cuisines were featured, we manage to reduce costs to a reasonable level, expose new people to Woodbridge, and give everyone the chance to interact.

The project was funded by the generous support of the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council. Cosponsoring with other organizations allowed us to have five Barazas instead of the four we had planned originally.

-Werner Schäfer '02

## *Mahjong/Karaoke*

The Chinese Students Association held its Semiannual Mahjong/Karaoke Night on April 14, 2000, in Loker Commons. Over one hundred people stopped by to sing songs in English, including songs by the Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, and Celine Dion, in addition to songs in Mandarin and Cantonese. Members of the Chinese Students Association pulled many into games of mahjong, a Chinese tile game often recognized as "that game in the movie *Joy Luck Club*," and Big Two, a popular Chinese card game. We were proud that many people who weren't on our organization's email list or hadn't seen our posters felt comfortable joining in the fun as they left the CityStep concert or were playing pool in Loker. After four hours of singing, dancing, laughing, and eating beef *chow foon*, fun was had by all who attended. The Chinese Students Association thanks the Harvard Foundation for their generous funding which made this event possible.

-Jessica Eng '01

## *Wen Ho Lee Discussion*

The Chinese Students Association held three events in April to raise awareness about the case of Dr. Wen Ho Lee, the Taiwanese-American nuclear scientist the FBI accused of espionage. The first event was a teach-in and discussion held in Emerson Hall on the evening of April 13, 2000. KSG student Sophia Chang, editor of the *Asian American Law Review*, summarized the events leading up to Dr. Lee's cur-



rent imprisonment. Ms. Chang's speech was then followed by a television interview with Dr. Lee broadcast on *Sixty Minutes* and an hour of discussion about the case. Over eighty students attended the speech and discussion. Adam Taylor of the Harvard NAACP spoke to lend his and his organization's support to exploring the issue of racial profiling in this case.

The second event was a discussion led by the head of the national Wen Ho Lee Defense Fund and personal friend of Wen Ho Lee, Cecilia Chang, on Tuesday, April 18, 2000. Ms. Chang, a close family friend of the Lee's, spoke to a group of about twenty students about efforts to support Wen Ho Lee at colleges across the nation. She talked about details of the case, why she began working on the Defense Fund, and what steps we can take to support Dr. Lee. She said our group in Boston and efforts have made us one of the most active in the nation. The third event was a forum at the Kennedy School of Government. Although this event was sponsored by the IOP office, it was organized by the members of the Chinese Students Association in conjunction with KSG and MIT students who have formed a coalition to support Wen Ho Lee. Congressman Norman Mineta spoke about his experience during the wartime internment of Japanese-Americans, and Professor Ling-Chi Wang, Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department at Berkeley, spoke about injustices directed at Asian Americans. Both related Japanese internment to Wen Ho Lee's treatment as two cases of racial profiling and Asian Americans seen as foreigners no matter how long they have been in the United States. The forum was a big success with over 150 people, and lasted well beyond the scheduled time.

The Chinese Students Association would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations for their generous support in addition to Sophia Chang from the KSG and Roger Hu from MIT.

## Movie Nights

The Chinese Students Association held a viewing of *Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl*

in Loker Commons on March 20, 2000. The movie, directed by Joan Chen, portrays a young girl named Xiu Xiu who is sent away from her family to the countryside during the Cultural Revolution. Over forty people joined us in watching this tale of a young girl's faith and innocence. During the discussion after the movie, many who had taken the core class on the Cultural Revolution expressed distress over the fate of the young girl in the movie. The film put a human face on those that suffered during one of the most tumultuous times in China's history. CSA would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for its generous funding of this event.

-Jessica Eng '01

## HAPA: Conference on the Mixed Race Experience

On April 14-16, 2000, hundreds of mixed race / transracial students, families and faculty from across the United States and Canada arrived at Harvard for a three-day conference celebrating the mixed race experience and, more importantly, to learn about the history and perspectives of mixed race in the United States. This conference was the fourth conference of its kind on mixed race.

This year, the conference, sponsored by *MAVIN* magazine and other mixed race student organizations across the nation, was organized and hosted by two student groups: Wellesley College's FUSION and Harvard HAPA. The "mixed-race experience" is an umbrella term used to define the diverse experiences of biracial, multiracial, multi-faith and multiethnic people, transracial adoptees, and interracial families.

The conference impacted larger community by expanding conceptions of race. It explored the need to legitimize the mixed-race experience and define a mixed-race culture. More importantly, as the concept of a mixed background is something that more and more people can and should connect with in this increasingly international society, the conference itself was a combination of events and speakers that attempted to engage every individual: a mix of academia, racial exploration, history and art. In particular, it investigated whether mixed-race individuals

felt a need for a group identity, as members of a group for which there are no visible role models, traditions or established cultural guidelines. This is an interesting predicament: it allows people to break free of stereotypes, but also leaves them feeling as if they lack a widely recognized cultural identity. The conference's speakers, such as Pearl Fuyo Gaskins, Lise Funderberg, and William Javier Nelson, provided insights, a sense of a shared experience, and a connection with a publicly visible person, while the workshops and artistic events helped (re)create a cultural identity. While it is important not to idealize mixed race individuals, after years of belief that one race "taints" another or "weakens" it, we should accept mixed persons neither as aberrations nor as accidents, but as a growing and positive change. The study of the mixed-race experience has proven to be a new and fruitful source of understanding all kinds of human interaction, breaking free of the usual one-race-against-the-other, binary-opposition mode of approaching racial issues.

## BSA Sports Panel

The first lecture series event of our millennium celebration was the second part of our series on Blacks in sports entitled, "The Dynamic Role of Sports: Shaping the Social Status of African Americans." It took place on February 10, 2000, in the Science Center. The discussion examined the indelible impression Black athletes have made on American and Black American history. To aid in this exploration three honored guests lead the discussion: Sonja Steptoe of CNN/Sports Illustrated, and author of the autobiography of Jackie Joyner-Kersey; Brent Williams, former New England Patriot; and Marvin Allen, former New England Patriot.

The panel was moderated by BSA member Charles Simms '01. Panelists and audience members discussed the parallels of the plight of Blacks in sports and Black in American society. We looked back at our past when integration of major league baseball with players like Jackie Robinson served as an impetus for social integration for society at large. The discussion contrasted those beginnings with the frustrations of Black players who made professional sports what it

is today, yet are denied higher level management positions such as coaches, executive officers, and CEOs. The discussion explored what the current trends in sports spell out for the future of Blacks in sports and society as a whole and proposed ideas for resolving the obstacles faced by minorities in all sectors and by students of all backgrounds. We were pleased to have roughly sixty students in attendance; afterwards a reception was held in Ticknor Lounge.

-McComma Grayson '00

## BSA Literary Art

The second lecture series event for the month's celebration was a panel discussion on "The Future of Black Literary Art." It took place Thursday, February 17, 2000, in Ticknor Lounge. As its title suggests, this panel served to extrapolate from the path laid down by our literary ancestors such as Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, and Nikki Giovanni and showcase the contemporary artists who are running with the torch that has been handed down to them. What voices articulate the hip-hop, urban funk of today's generation of Black youth in a style that can be appreciated as an art?

This question was answered by four brilliant artists: Jessica Care Moore, poet/playwright/publisher; Sharif Simmons, poet/author/musician; Tara Turk, playwright/novelist/producer/director; and Murhl Bussey, Atlanta poet and storyteller.

An audience of about sixty people from Harvard, MIT, Wellesley, and other surrounding schools actively participated in this discussion and thoroughly enjoyed the live performances of the artists. Afterwards they were treated with a small reception and the opportunity to purchase the works of our guests.

-McComma Grayson '00

## BSA Washington-DuBois Exchange

The third and final event for the BSA's Black History Month 2000 celebra-

tion was held on Thursday, February 24 in Harvard Hall. This was the first of a series of national debates developed by the Committee for a Twenty-First Century Dialogue. Subsequent Exchanges were organized at Columbia University and Wake Forest University in April. The Exchange explored the historical political divide in the Black community and hopes to be a catalyst for reconciliation as we look towards a common solution to the many socioeconomic problems faced by African-Americans today. Audience members enjoyed a dialogue concerning the progress of Blacks in America, and the relevance of this progress to the philosophies of two great historical leaders in the Black community—the conservative Booker T. Washington and the radical W.E.B. DuBois.

The panel was moderated by Dr. Harold Horton, Vice-Chairman, William Monroe Trotter Institute, University of Massachusetts at Boston. Niger Innis, spokesman for CORE in New York, was the speaker for the Booker T. Washington chair, while Webster Brooks III, chairman of the Manhattan Centrist Forum/Reform Party, spoke for the W.E.B. DuBois position.

Unfortunately we were not able to accommodate the schedules of any of our professors in the African American Studies department, yet the discussion still maintained an engaging level that left everyone in attendance with an assurance that their time was well spent at the panel. Close to a hundred students and community members attended and enjoyed a reception to continue the dialogue afterwards.

-McComma Grayson '00

## Harvard Intertribal Powwow

The sixth annual Harvard Intertribal Powwow was held in the Quadrangle Recreational Athletic Facility on April 29, 2000. Grand Entry was at about 12:30 in the afternoon, and all dancers entered the dance circle behind the Honor Guard, which carried the powwow staff and the flags of both the United States and the

Iroquois Confederacy. Also leading the grand entry were the Head Man and Head Woman Dancer. This year, we were honored to have Eric Valle and one of our own alumni, Amanda Proctor '99, as the Head Dancers.

Our Emcee, Marvin Burnett, returned this year to wow the audience with his antics and anecdotes. This year, we had two drums: Silver Cloud and Heyna Sons, both from New York City. The drum groups played and sang all day while dancers from Mohawk in upstate New York danced to their songs. This year, the powwow also had several vendors from all over the area. On sale were such wares as silver and turquoise, wampum shell jewelry, hand carved bows, and handmade wooden flutes. There was also a food vendor from Onondaga in New York selling Caribou Burgers and Venison Indian Tacos.

Throughout the day, there were several demonstrations from both vendors and dancers. The women displayed a grass dance for the audience, which was estimated to be over five hundred people at times, as a display of how many of the dances are based on everyday chores. The male dancers demonstrated a hunting dance, with a very fast step and difficult movements that the audience enjoyed very much.

Throughout the day, there were many "social" dances where the Emcee invited everyone in attendance to come into the arena and join in the dance. We were pleased to see so many people willing to dance with us, to share our culture and heritage. At one point, the drums, the dancers, the emcee, and the Head Male and Head Female Dancers honored the Harvard students for the powwow. Our arena director, A. Morgan Rodman '02, saw to it that everything ran smoothly and without incident.

After the powwow, the students of the Harvard University Native American Program invited everyone to eat with us, and we served everyone plates of wonderful food.

The Native American Program and the students of Native Americans at Harvard would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for their generous grant and assistance that helped make this year's powwow a resounding success.

-Adam P. Bailey '01



## Dharma Bhajanavali

On May 14, 2000, members and friends of the Dharma organization came together to celebrate song and music in a Bhajanavali. Music and song are a rich part of the Hindu tradition and each semester Dharma organizes one to two Bhajanavalis where members and non-members can gather with their friends to celebrate the music of South Asia by singing and playing traditional instruments. This semester, approximately thirty members of the Harvard community gathered in the Winthrop House Tonkens Room for the Bhajanavali. The focus of the Bhajanavali is on songs of devotion. The night began with students leading in the singing of their favorite Hindu bhajans, Islamic qawwalis, or Indian Orthodox hymns. Two hours later, the participants enjoyed samosas and jelabi sweets, traditional Indian foods. Bringing friends together at the beginning of Reading Period when stress levels are rising, the Bhajanavali allowed members to relax for an evening and celebrate our different devotional traditions. Over the three years of Dharma's existence, Bhajanavalis have become one of its most popular types of event, and the support of the Foundation has helped make both this year's Bhajanavalis successful.

-Shanthi Naidu '02

## Dharma Songbooks and Murtis

In May, Dharma acquired fifteen songbooks and several traditional Hindu murtis, or images, from India. The songbooks have enabled both Hindu and non-Hindu members participate fully in our last few weekly prayer meetings of the year, allowing the twenty or more weekly participants to follow along with the songs and prayers. In future years, the songbooks will also be instrumental in encouraging as many people as possible to participate in our semi-annual Bhajanavali celebrations of song.

Furthermore, the Hindu tradition places a very important focus on the visual aspects

of devotion. With the aid of these murtis, we hope to be able to educate our membership and the greater community other about different philosophies and practices among Hindus. Different murtis represent different aspects of Hinduism and its conception of the world, and the having many different murtis enables us to promote a better understanding of Hinduism. One of the murtis we have acquired is the Shiva Linga. This has classically been viewed as a lewd symbol by many Westerners simply because many do not understand the history of mythology and philosophy that support it. Now that we are able to incorporate the myths of the Linga into our weekly prayer meetings, where Hindus and non-Hindus alike will be able to understand its importance in the Hindu tradition. The same can be said of all the other murtis that we were able to obtain with the support of the Foundation.

In the coming years, these murtis will not only enhance our weekly meetings and Bhajanavalis, but also be important in our Interfaith Forum discussions, and other cultural events such as Navaratri, which attracts as many as three hundred people from the Harvard community.

-Shanthi Naidu '02

## Dharma Holi Celebrations

On May 10, 2000, members and friends of Dharma celebrated Holi, a festival that marks the onset of spring and celebrates an ancient Hindu account of the victory of good over evil. Approximately thirty members of the Harvard community gathered in the Littauer Quadrangle to share lunch and celebrate Holi with color. Holi is traditionally a community-wide event where social boundaries are abandoned; in India, people of all faiths and socioeconomic statuses come together in celebration. Similarly, with this event, our goal was to bring students of all faiths and cultures on campus together to foster cross-cultural understanding of Holi. The purpose of the celebration was conveyed by the retelling the traditional stories of Holi. Furthermore, bright colors are an important symbol of prosperity and happiness; therefore, Holi is also celebrated by

the throwing of colored powder and water at other participants. Recreating the spirit of Holi at Harvard, on a smaller scale, our lunch was followed by allowing participants to sprinkle colored powder and throw water balloons at one another. Under the auspices of the Harvard Foundation, we have celebrated this event for three years.

-Shanthi Naidu '02

## Evening of Islamic Poetry

"Birdsongs: An Evening of Islamic Poetry" was held by the Harvard Islamic Society at the Advocate on the evening of March 7, 2000. Kicking off Islam Awareness Week, the annual week-long event held by the Harvard Islamic Society to increase awareness of Islam and its heritage on campus, the evening featured the works of some of the best known poets in the Islamic heritage. Student works were also featured to the acclaim of the 30-35 people who attended the event. Refreshments were also served.

Introductions to the poets were read—including their significance and the Islamic heritage—followed by readings of selected works. Many of the works were read in the original followed by translations, giving the audience a sense of the breadth of the Islamic world, culturally and geographically. Most of the selected works were inspired by or dealing with devotion to the divine. The influence of the Islamic faith on these works was thus highlighted as a commonality that united these different works of diverse origin and background.

For 1400 years, the religion of Islam has influenced the faith and lifestyles of its followers. This influence has been strong in the cultural sphere as well, inspiring masterpieces from Rumi to the Alhambra. This is a heritage that is often overlooked in the rhetoric that surrounds popular misconceptions and stereotypes about Islam. In highlighting this cultural heritage, "Birdsongs" (named after a work by Rumi) went well with the overall theme of increasingly becoming a part of the American landscape.

The *Advocate* was particularly gracious in assisting with the advertisement and

organization of this event. The intimate setting of the *Advocate* building greatly helped create a delightful atmosphere that only accented the beauty of the written word.

-Saif Iqbal Shah Mohammed '02

## Harvard Islamic Society Conference

On March 3-4, 2000, The Inaugural Conference on the Growth and Development of Islam in America brought together leading academics, practitioners, religious leaders and the Boston community on a single platform dedicated to furthering scholarship and understanding of the history of Islam in America. The focus of this multidisciplinary conference was the history of Islam in America as well as a mini case study of the ongoing development of the largest organized Muslim presence in America: the ministry of Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, spiritual leader of the Muslim American Society.

There were seven segments of the conference, two of which included inviting the Harvard community to observe the Friday congregational prayer of the Muslims, which was led by Imam Warith Deen Mohammed and the Imam's keynote address. The other five segments were: An Interfaith Panel: Applying Universal Human Excellence to the American Religious Landscape, The History of Islam in the New World, Development of Islam in the Twentieth Century, American Islam at the Millennium, Islam Through the Eyes of Everyday Muslims: A Panel of Believers, and the keynote address of the Imam.

The list of scholars participating included Dr. Suleyman Nyang of Howard University; Professor of the History of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations; Dr. Aminah Beverly McCloud of DePaul University, Professor of Islamic Studies; Dr. Sherman Jackson of the University of Michigan, Professor of Medieval Arabic Law and Theology; Dr. Akbar Muhammad of Binghamton University, Associate Professor of African Studies and History; Dr. Sylviane Diouf of New York University, Adjunct Professor and author of *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in*

*the Americas* and our very own Dr. Ali Asani.

The conference was sponsored by the Universal Human Excellence Committee, a temporary student committee formed specifically for the conference and chaired by second-year Divinity School student, Precious Rasheeda Muhammad. In addition to the Harvard Foundation, numerous other groups and anonymous donors collaborated to co-sponsor this event. The conference closed with a wonderful reception showcasing the talent of Wilmore Sadiki, an American Muslim musician and singer with four albums to his credit.

The scholars in attendance referred to this conference as "historic" and commended the student committee for bringing together key participants in the "carving out of Islamic History," who had never before shared the same stage. It was unanimous among the 300 plus conference attendees—which included such a diverse audience as lawyers, medical doctors, dignitaries such as the First Secretary of the People's Republic of China as well as students and alumni from numerous universities—that they would like to see Harvard sponsor this conference again next year.

-Saif Iqbal Shah Mohammed '02

## Islam in the Modern World Panel Discussion

On the afternoon of Friday, March 10, 2000, the Harvard Islamic Society sponsored a panel discussion on Islam in the Modern World as the final event of our annual Islam Awareness Week. Three speakers, Yusef Talal DeLorenzo of the International Institute for Islamic Thought, Muqtadar Khan of Georgetown University and Ingrid Mattson of the Hartford Seminary had confirmed that they would attend, but at the last minute a family medical emergency forced DeLorenzo to cancel. Fortunately, Professor Cemal Kafadar of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies here at Harvard consented to step in at the last minute and moderate our discussion.

The discussion and following question and answer session touched upon many topics pertaining to the role of Islam in con-

temporary world affairs. A fair portion of the discussion pertained to the role of women in Islam. Mattson, who has worked extensively with issues pertaining to Afghanistan, spoke on the way the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic law is much harsher than that practiced in the era of classical Islam. The discussion also included mention of the freedoms and support offered by Islam to women that is largely ignored, yet has significant advantages over traditional western culture. Khan spoke a great deal on the connection between Islam and democracy, debating if the two are compatible. In his opinion, and that shared by a number of modern Islamic scholars, the two are complimentary, noting that even in Iran the average citizen has more control over their government and a more democratic, representative system than that present in the United States.

Attendance was decent, but not as good as we had hoped, due to the fact that we had to shuffle time slots to accommodate speakers and wound up at a mediocre time of day and week. We feel the discussion was a strong success, and a great aid in fostering open-minded and insightful discussion of the role our religion plays in today's world.

## Sessions with South Asian Authors and Artists

Sessions with South Asian Authors and Artists was an evolution and expansion of the South Asian Literature Discussion Series. Sessions expanded the Literature Series to include musicians, filmmakers, and other artists. The art forms that Sessions explored were all the product of the fusion of Western and Eastern cultures and traditions. Moreover, they were predominantly the works of immigrant and minority artists. This spring we were able to bring fashion designer Sandy Dalal, who won the 1998 Perry Ellis Award in Men's Fashion. We also brought filmmakers Swati Khurana and Leith Murgai, whose experimental video works expose many features of immigrant life. These artists are bringing together the different aspects of their backgrounds in ways that allow novel exploration of the assimilation and cultural mixing that follows diaspora.



One of the main objectives of the Literature Series last year was to expose a literary tradition that had previously gone unrecognized by the Western academic community. Sessions preserved this goal but widened it: first by incorporating art forms beyond literature, and second by exploring art that was not just South Asian, but rather was South Asian American. Sessions with South Asian Authors and Artists promotes intercultural dialogue by presenting art that is itself intercultural dialogue.

-Mitul Kadakia '03

## South Asia and Politics Conference

On April 8, 2000, students of the South Asian Association of Harvard University held a conference, "South Asians and Politics 2000." The event drew together some sixty students and community members from throughout the Boston Metropolitan area to discuss the conference theme, "Strategies of Mobilization." Speakers included prominent Washington, DC community activists including Kapil Sharma, Chief Lobbyist, Government of India; Deepa Iyer, staff attorney, National Asia Pacific Legal Coalition; and Debashish Mishra, Executive Director and Co-Founder, India Leadership Center. The keynote address was given by the Honorable Gurmant Grewal, a Member of Parliament from Surrey, British Columbia. Grewal, a member of Canada's controversial Reform Party, is one of a few South Asians who have been successful in achieving election to federal office.

Sachin H. Jain, one of the conference organizers, upon hearing Grewal's address remarked that he felt "inspired that a South Asian, an Indian, could achieve such success," but questioned whether the same might be possible in the United States. "I am not sure. In order for that to happen, South Asians need a political awakening to correspond with their overall economic success or America needs to become more color blind. I am not sure if I see either event on the horizon."

## Yisei Magazine

Yisei Magazine would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for their continued and generous support of our publication. This spring, we printed and distributed 1200 copies of an issue titled "Fifty Years Later: The Korean War Remembered," a look back at the tragedy (1950-1953) which shaped and affected the lives of the families of most Korean-American students at Harvard. Paul Kwak '03 and Yumi Kim '03 have collected the personal stories of several Yisei members and compiled them into a series of remembrances. Also included are reflective pieces by Professor of Korean Literature David McCann and an interview with visiting Yenching scholar and poet Ko Un, both of which deal with the Korean War's impact on the present situation of Korean-Americans.

We also include a feature section on Korean orphanages, as Casey Daum '03 (an adoptee herself) provides a short history of orphanages in Korea and Janice Yoon '01 describes her experience visiting an orphanage in Korea. We also have original fiction and poetry by Rosylyn Rhee '00, Angela Hur '02, Yumi Kim '03, Nancy Garland '03, and Won Park '02, as well as articles on Korean art, music and even blocking groups.

I believe that this is a strong and exciting issue of Yisei. Thank you for your continued support of Yisei.

-Halla Yang '00

## May Day Haku Lei Making

Holoimua O Hawaii (The Harvard Hawaii Club) and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural Race Relations held its Fourth Annual May Day Haku-Lei Making Session on the evening of Sunday, April 30, 2000, in the Quincy Dining Hall. The event was a resounding success; forty participants expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation the instruction offered to them and the haku leis they were able to wear on May Day. Harvard

students, faculty, and alumni took off their shoes, sat amongst piles of flowers and Hawaii leaves, and wove their haku while having opportunities to hear each other's stories of home to the background of Hawaiian music. For these Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians alike, the event was an enjoyable way to share in the culture of Hawaii in an interactive, hands-on activity. The event attracted a large number of participants, and yet it was intimate enough to allow friendly interaction and efficient and personalized instruction. This event was funded by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural Race Relations and the Harvard Hawaii Club, and also received support and/or flower donations from Brattle Street Florist and Mr. Lance Dunbar of Molokai, Hawaii. The event was one through which the Hawaii Club could step beyond simple food festivals and dance performances to bring the full richness of Hawaiian culture to the Harvard community.

-Deanne Nakamoto '00

## Thai Traditional Dance

This spring, the Harvard Thai Society participated for the first time in Cultural Rhythms. We presented a fun regional dance from the Northeast of Thailand called "Serng Sawing." Through this dance we hoped to illustrate how the Thai people in the rural area used to spend their time. In this courtship dance, a girl carried a fish net and a boy kept the fish in the bucket. The dance is also intended to improve the spirits of these people. Like many dances from the Northeast region, Serng Sawing is very entertaining as it includes fast movements and upbeat music.

In addition to the dance performance, we also participated in the food festival. We ordered two dishes from the Tamarind House on Massachusetts Avenue. They were thawd mun, minced shrimp little pancakes blended with Thai curry paste and served with crisp Thai green beans and bean sprouts, and phad thai, the signature Thai noodle dish, sauteed with chicken or shrimp, ground peanuts, egg, bean sprouts and spices. We also served vegetarian phad thai. Our booth was very popular and our

food ran out much faster than we expected. Next year, we plan to prepare a larger amount of food.

## *Celebration of Black Women II*

On May 7th, 2000, the Harvard Black Men's Forum held its 6th annual Celebration of Black Women. The event consisted of a speech by this year's honoree, Dr. Karen Drake, as well as some talented performances. As a high-risk obstetrician, Dr. Drake is one of the top-ranked doctors in her field. Most notably, she recently delivered the only surviving set of septuplets. As part of her presentation, she spoke on overcoming racial prejudice in the workplace and of following one's goals. There was a question and answer period after her speech, and then she was presented with our Black Woman of the Year Award.

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 in such an inspirational woman. This event has had a positive effect on the Black women here by showing them what they can be if they continue to strive. It also has had a strong effect on members of other races and genders who were present, as it showed them the strength that Black women have.

-Isaac Weiler '02

## *Harvard African Students Association Conference*

On April 22, 2000, the International African Students Association conference returned to its birthplace—Harvard. Harvard African Students Association (HASA) organized the conference as part of an Africa weekend coordinated in conjunction with the African students organizations of Wellesley College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Northeastern

University. Events on campus were kicked off by an African display that featured billboards with interesting news and facts from all over the African continent. They provided the setting for the conference main session in Science Center C. The program began with a discussion of led by Azara Turaki of IASA, of the various ways in which students could address the issues of health, governance, social transformation, technology, entrepreneurship, and activism in Africa. The discussion touched on the importance of contributing towards African development from the United States of America by tapping into the resources available here.

Delegates were then treated to a speech by Taziona Chaponda '97, CEO of Africa Connect, who encouraged students that now was the time to make a difference. Obiageli Ezwekisi, founder member of Transparency International, the world's largest organization dedicated to issues of corruption and good governance stressed the importance of instilling a culture of transparency and accountability.

The evening featured a rich cultural show at Pound Hall, featuring the Wazalendo Players and their hilarious, but thought-provoking drama "Street kids." Other notable performances included the Harvard Gumboot Troupe, who wowed the audience with their exuberance, as well as the IASA players who performed a segment from "The Lion and the Jewel," the famed play by African playwright Wole Soyinka. Participants wound down the night with an African dance explosion blending sounds from all corners of the African continent.

The IASA conference served as a celebration of diverse aspects of Africa, and helped shed a new light on much of the so-called Dark Continent for the Harvard community.

-Kitso Lemo '02

## *Expressions Cultural Rhythms Dance*

On Saturday, February 26, 2000, Expressions Dance Company performed at the Foundation's annual Cultural Rhythms Festival, which honored actor

Matt Damon this year. This Sanders Theatre venue enabled Expressions to perform before an audience of over seven hundred people. Expressions is a company dedicated to representing dance forms that promote African-American culture as well as other forms of cultural dancing that company members add to our repertoire. We perform jazz, modern, hip-hop, and more recently, flamenco and African dance.

The piece Expressions performed for Cultural Rhythms was choreographed by the company directors—Maryvonne Neptune and Talía Gonzáles. It was a combination of hip-hop and jazz dance forms performed to songs by "Pharaoh Monche" and "Mos Def." Twenty-six dancers performed in the piece, and both old and new company members participated.

Cultural Rhythms is particularly important to the company because it presents our company to its largest and most diverse audience. The audience is comprised of Harvard students, faculty, and members of the Cambridge community. To many audience members, Cultural Rhythms is a first opportunity to witness hip-hop and jazz dancing. We are grateful for the Foundation's assistance, and we did not receive funding from any other organization for this event.

-Talía Gonzáles '00

## *Minorities and Health Panel Discussion*

On March 15, 2000, the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers sponsored a panel discussion entitled Minorities and Health: Issues of Concern and Careers for the Future. This event sought to bring several African-American health professionals together to speak about personal experiences and their reasons for choosing their professions. The panel represented the fields of public health, health care consulting, and social anthropology, and speakers spoke candidly about the respective paths that led them to their current vocations.

Among the most notable panelists was Dr. Michael Myers Jr., MD/MBA, whose professional journey took him from a fail-



ing medical practice in a low income neighborhood to healthcare consulting with one of the largest consulting firms in the Boston area. Pre-medical students in attendance were particularly pleased to hear from Dr. Kenneth Bridges, Associate Professor of Hematology/Oncology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Bridges, a member of the admissions board, outlined the application process and spoke to students on the importance of a well-rounded college experience.

Following the discussion, panelists addressed questions ranging from the scarcity of minorities in public health to the role of medical professionals in HMOs. On the whole, students walked away with a richer sense of the diversity of career options in health services and an appreciation of the variety of routes that one can take to get there. "It isn't often that you get to interact with such a wide range of health professionals in an intimate setting," remarked HSBSE member Afam Onyema '01. "It was a great opportunity to speak with experts about the career decisions that I'm making right now." Featured panelists were: Michael Myers Jr.—MBA/MD (Healthcare Consulting, Primary Care Medicine); Evelyn Barbee—Ph.D. (Nursing and Anthropology, Black Women's Health); Clara Jones—MD/MPH (Public Health, Clinical Medicine); and Kenneth Bridges—MD (Oncology/Hematology).

—Kenneth N. Ebie '01

## ***ABHW Hosts a Tribute to Black Men***

For the week of January 31 through February 4, 2000, the Association of Black Harvard Women sponsored Tribute to Black Men Week. The Tribute consisted of three parts. There was a discussion on Monday January 31, which addressed the roles of black men in society. The discussion took place in Lowell House Junior Common Room. Twenty-five to thirty people attended, including faculty and individuals from other student groups. Although the topic was the role of black men in society, the conversation shifted to many different issues in which community structures and the family were also discussed.

The second event of the week was a showing and discussion of the film *Panther* on Wednesday, February 2. The film is considered to be a semi-historical account of the origins of the Black Panther Party of Self-Defense in the 1960s. About twenty people attended this film showing in Dunster House Common Room, and refreshments were served.

The third event of the week was a roundtable discussion that occurred on February 3, which approximately twenty people attended. We were honored to have Ben Johnson, advisor to President Bill Clinton, as our guest. This event was co-sponsored by the Institute of Politics (IOP) and took place in a discussion room at the IOP.

The final event was on Thursday evening. It was a talent showcase and keynote address by Ben Johnson. This event was co-sponsored with the IOP and was held in the IOP ARCO Forum. Roughly two hundred people attended. This same evening, ABHW also awarded a scholarship to a Cambridge Rindge and Latin male senior who had been a highly achieving member of his community. Refreshments were served after the event.

The purpose of Tribute to Black Men Week was to highlight the struggles and achievements of Black Men throughout history. Our co-sponsorship with the IOP was particularly important because the issue of Blacks in politics remains largely unaddressed. The week also allowed ABHW to reach out to the larger Cambridge community by awarding a scholarship, which continued the spirit of our other monthly service events.

—Jessica Reid '00

## ***ABHW Banquet and Women's History Month Celebration***

ABHW sponsored an end-of-the-year Banquet in the Hastings Room of Pforzheimer House on Friday May 5, 2000. During the banquet we recapped the events of the year (including community service, discussions, and other social events), reintroduced the organization to

the community, awarded a scholarship to a female high school student from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, and also honored our Woman of the Year, Professor Maria Hylton. Approximately sixty people were in attendance, including students from other student groups like the Undergraduate Council and the IOP. Refreshments were served.

Maria Hylton, a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School is now a professor of law at BU Law School and a mother. Facing a time squeeze earlier on in the semester, ABHW decided to combine the Banquet with our Women's History Month event and invited Maria Hylton to our banquet instead of holding a separate event in April. Maria Hylton expressed joy at being recognized, and in her keynote address, she provided insightful advice to all who attended.

The banquet included performances, such as a song by Edidiong Ikpe '99, a dramatic monologue by Janel Moore '00 and a violin performance by Zhalisa Clarke '02. The banquet was a hearty celebration of the accomplishments of Maria Hylton, many women on campus, and women throughout the world.

—Jessica Reid '00

## ***Hanami***

This year's annual Japan Society *Hanami* event was planned for May 10, 2000, to occur from 2-4 pm on the bank of the Charles River by the Cambridge side of the Weeks Memorial Footbridge. *Hanami*, which means "flower-viewing," is a traditional Japanese spring event which is celebrated by the traveling of families to the countryside to picnic and enjoy leisure time together as they observe and appreciate the blooming spring flowers such as cherry blossoms. As the final opportunity to honor the seniors who have served our organization in the past by celebrating their upcoming graduation and imparting upon them small gifts in appreciation and recognition of their service rendered.

Due to heavy thunderstorms during the entire day of the event, we relocated our picnic indoors to the Owen Room of

Winthrop House. Japan Society executive board members spent the entire morning of the day shopping, cooking, and arranging for the logistics of the gathering. The food was cooked and prepared in the Eliot House kitchen and then transported to Winthrop House.

Despite the inclement weather, a large, spirited crowd of Japan Society members and other friends from the Harvard community turned out for the event. About forty people, including Japan Society executive board members, attended the event. Although we were denied the opportunity to appreciate real flowers, some club members drew flowers on the chalkboard for us to enjoy, and we also decorated the room as best we could with the traditional Japanese decorations and signs that our club owns. The atmosphere was inviting and warm as we all appreciated the festive refuge from both the driving rain outside and our reading period studies.

Our main dish for the event was *soboro gohan*, or *soboro bento*, which consists of ground beef (obtained from the University dining hall) fried in sugar and soy sauce, sweetened eggs, and dried cod granules all served over white rice. To complement this, we also had green tea, *mochi* (sweet rice cakes), potato dumplings, gyoza dumplings, shumai dumplings, red bean-filled fish shaped pastry desserts, assorted Japanese dry snacks such as mini-cookies and crackers, and Japanese bean-cakes (generously provided by a JS executive board member's family). We had just enough food to feed everyone, and all had a fun time socializing and getting to know the other members of the Japan Society as we reflected upon the past year and talked of our plans as an organization next year.

Finally, we held a brief thank-you ceremony as we honored the three outgoing seniors who had served on the Harvard Japan Society executive board and conference committee in the past by recognizing them and presenting them each with a small gift (a Japanese kite or a Japanese tea mug) as tokens of appreciation for their hard work and service on behalf of the Harvard Japan Society.

All in all the 2000 Hanami event was a great success even though we were forced inside by the rain, and we had a great time in our final event of the 1999-2000 school

year! We look forward to similar success (and better weather) next year! Thank you, Harvard Foundation!

-Kent Mori Walther '99/'01

## Kodomonohi Festival

*Kodomonohi*, meaning Children's Day, is celebrated all across Japan every year on the fifth of May. To bring this tradition to Harvard, Japan Society has been hosting a *Kodomonohi* Festival every year. The theme of the celebration is to appreciate the health and joy of all children, and though college students may be a little older than what is considered *kodomo*, we hope to bring back childhood memories to the Japanese student body at Harvard while introducing a lively traditional event with a universal theme to the non-Japanese population.

Japan Society brought out the child inside everybody on May 5 by decorating Winthrop House's Owen Room with various traditional Children's Day items such as *koinobori* (cloth decorations of carp, representing unbounded energy and growth) and colorful kites. The participants, who heard of our event through e-mails and posters, consisted of a diverse crowd of forty to fifty people, and we are happy to report that everybody seemed to be enjoying the festive atmosphere as well as the Children's Day delicacies – though access to Japanese food is limited, we were able to provide our guests with *Kashiwa-mochi*, rice cakes wrapped with heavy leaves, which is served on *Kodomonohi* in hopes that the children will be as hardy and healthy as the leaves that wrap the cakes. We also had Japanese tea and various Japanese snacks that are popular among children in Japan.

Casual and informal events such as *Kodomonohi* have been one of Japan Society's most effective ways to provide opportunities for students to participate in glimpses of Japanese culture that would have otherwise been absent on our campus. Though the undergraduate Japanese population is a small minority at Harvard, we hope that the number of people who have experienced (and enjoyed!) Japanese culture can be a majority. We are very grateful for all your support for this and

our many other events, and hope we can continue them in the future.

*Domo arigato gozaimasu* (thank you very much)!

## Poongmul and Taiko

In a special cooperative effort, the Harvard Korean Association and the Harvard Japan Society put together a performance displaying the different musical traditions of Korea and Japan. The performers included the *Han Ma-Eum Poongmul Pae* ("One Heart Korean Drum Troupe") of the Harvard Korean Association and St. Louis Osuwa Taiko from Washington University that was hosted by the Harvard Japan Society. These two groups provided awesome and breathtaking drumming performances. Their performances not only entertained, but also educated Harvard students about the rich musical and cultural heritage of East Asia.

The event was held March 7 at 8:30 pm in Pforzheimer House Dining Hall. While the quad is not the most accessible place for a performance, the event drew a diverse crowd of over fifty people that included Harvard undergrads, graduate students, students from other schools, and even non-students from the Boston area. *Han Ma-Eum Poongmul Pae* provided a performance of "Young Nam," a traditional piece performed by farmers commemorating the victory of Admiral Yi Sun-sin against Japanese invaders in 1592. St. Louis Osuwa Taiko performed several pieces, ranging from traditional pieces to festive pieces to contemporary pieces that members of the group had composed themselves. The Taiko group wowed the crowd with their tremendous dynamism and impressive technical skill. The drums reverberated from the dining hall throughout the house, enticing students to come out of their rooms to watch. The performance ended with an improvisational piece by both groups as the performers circled the stage, dancing with their instruments in unison and harmony.

After the performance, the performers held a dinner gathering and breakfast gathering the following day to allow others to interact, get to know them and their musical arts. This event was a fantastic opportu-



nity for the Korean Association and Japan Society to work together, along with creating and improving intercollegiate relations. This performance was exemplary of the ideal event in which co-sponsorship encourages cooperation between organizations. We look forward to a fantastic show next year as well.

-William Everson '02

## Yukimatsuri – Snow Festival

On February 1, 2000, the Harvard Japan Society held its first ever Yukimatsuri. Literally translating to "Snow Festival," Yukimatsuri is a special event celebrating winter. Yukimatsuri was one of a series of events held by the Japan Society this year that celebrated the seasons. Japanese culture emphasizes the importance of the change of seasons in its reverence and appreciation for nature.

The Yukimatsuri was held in Harvard Yard in front of Widener Library. Those who participated in the Snow Festival gathered in the snow for food and games. Butajiru, a traditional Japanese soup with vegetables, pork, tofu, and miso paste was served; a perfect way to fight off the cold. Clementine oranges, also traditionally eaten in the winter, were also served. Entertainment was provided with help from the Harvard Judo Club, which supplied members for some sumo wrestling in the snow. Participants also marveled at the kamakura, a traditional Japanese snow dome that Japan Society members had spent several hours building earlier.

The Yukimatsuri drew a crowd of approximately twenty-five people, all of whom had a great time. Despite the fact that it was inter-session break and people were reluctant to come out into the cold, the event drew members of the Japan Society and Judo Club, and other Harvard students as well as passersby. With more publicity, more food, and more snow-related events, we hope to make next year's Yukimatsuri even more successful!

-William Everson '02

## Asian American Dance Troupe: Single Ribbon Dance

On Saturday, May 6, 2000, eight members of the Asian American Dance Troupe performed a Single Ribbon Dance in Lowell Lecture Hall as part of the Arts First Dance Festival. Choreographed by AADT co-captains Jeni Tu '01 and Mien Chyi '01, the dance draws on movements found in traditional Chinese court dances and in western ballet. The three-minute long dance is set to a traditional melody from the Beijing Opera and expresses the joy of maidens at the coming of spring. Seemingly effortlessly, the dancers manipulate ten-foot long red ribbons while moving in various formations. The costumes, red and white with colorful embroidery, match the ribbons and enhance the youthful, lighthearted appearance of the dancers.

The Single Ribbon Dance was learned over the course of weekly rehearsals in April and May. Postponed by a semester due to a delay in the arrival of the costumes, the dance debuted to an enthusiastic audience at Arts First and will be performed by AADT at future cultural events both on campus and in greater Boston and New England. The Single Ribbon Dance was funded through grants from the Harvard Foundation, the Office for the Arts, and the Undergraduate Council.

-Mien Chyi '01

## Finnish Film and Discussion

The Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society held its final 1999-2000 event on May 8, 2000. The Finnish film *Hamlet Goes Business* was shown in Waka Commons in Winthrop House at 7:30 p.m.

During the film, we enjoyed a mix of Swedish and non-Scandinavian refreshments and drinks. Following the film, we held a small discussion on the film, modern Finnish society, as well as other Scandinavian customs. Although only a small group attended, all who viewed the

film enjoyed the low-key event.

We have found over the past two years that many members as well as non-members often enjoy a mid-week study break. Showing films intermittently has been a great opportunity for us to have an event that all can enjoy and attend. Not only do the films show a facet of the various Scandinavian cultures, but they also allow us all to hear the spoken languages.

We would again like to thank the Harvard Foundation for its extremely generous help and support over the past two years. We look forward to success next year, as well as many years to follow. Thank you again.

-Elizabeth A. Chiappa '01

## Zalacain

Many publications exist to serve their audience's needs, to fill a niche. *Zalacain*, created from a desire, not just a need, blasts into the forum of creative writing, poetry, interviews, and photography taking a hold of the raw energy that is Latin American and Iberian culture.

*Zalacain*, which in our inaugural issue was defined for our readership, comes from the Basque language, referring to fields and pastures. It is also the surname of Pio Baroja's title character in *Zalacain el aventurero*. The pleasing, pastoral, and pioneering encompass this magazine and permeate its pages.

At the beginning of this year, *Zalacain* was a word on the tongues of a select group of individuals. This cadre, united at the end of the previous academic year under the aegis of Magdalena Edwards and Pedro Pimentel, lunged into the arena of campus publications attempting to draw, from the many, a group of dedicated individuals. This issue stands as a testament to the success of these individuals.

While we did not have a theme in mind when we solicited submissions, one can still detect a subtle thread running through this issue. The review of "Mujeres Cubanas", Gustavo Gonzalez's photo essay of Havana, and various pictures from Miami, capital of the Cuban exile community, found themselves side by side on our pages. Or consider the review of *Caracol Beach*, whose

author won the Alfaguara prize, the same prize awarded to Sergio Ramirez, whose interview is in the magazine. Are there more threads? Perhaps. In any case, each piece in the Spring 2000 issue has its own rich flavor.

-David Segre '01

## South Asian Women's Collective Discussion

The South Asian Women's Collective (SAWC) was created as an organization to promote the awareness of and discuss issues of sexism, racism, and domestic abuse that affect South Asian women in America. This year, the SAWC worked to achieve its goals through sponsoring and hosting a panel discussion during Harvard's Take Back the Night Week. The discussion, entitled "Can Feminism Transcend Ethnicity," focused on the identity crisis struggle that women of color may feel when they take up feminist causes. Racism and sexism are major obstacles to the empowerment of women of ethnic/cultural diversity in the United States and around the world.

Overcoming these obstacles is a goal of all women, and the discussion brought to light many of the issues that are, unfortunately, dividing women of color and white women in what should be a united cause. The event was successful and eye-opening, and provided those who attended with new perspectives and a broader viewpoint on this challenging issue.

-Mitul Kadakia '03

## South Asian Journal

The *South Asian Journal* includes pieces ranging from personal essays and analytical articles to fiction and poetry in order to unveil an increasingly complete view of the richness and diversity of the South Asian American experience. While the staff of and contributors to the Journal hope to present you with fresh and insightful articles, we also hope that you find this magazine entertaining and enjoyable. We welcome your per-

spectives and invite submissions of any medium from the greater Harvard community. For more information on submissions, please contact the editorial staff.

## Evening of Scandinavian Culture

The Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society was pleased to hold its first "Evening of Scandinavian Culture" on April 26, 2000. The event began at 7:30 and lasted approximately an hour and a half. About twenty people were in attendance.

The evening was a mixture of poetry and literature readings, music selections, group folk dancing, discussion and food. Contributions and participation from twelve members helped make the evening entertaining and enjoyable. This "potluck" type of event worked well for us, involving a group of club members and allowing individuals to share something Scandinavian that they personally found interesting. We were very pleased that new members assisted with this event, and are looking forward to hosting a similar event in years to come.

We would again like to thank the Harvard Foundation for its generous help with our club this year. We are very excited that the club has gained recognition on campus and are looking forward to future successes!

-Elizabeth Chiappa '01

## Korean Association Kimbap Study Break

At a study break hosted in conjunction with the Harvard Chinese Students Association, the Korean Association served *kimbap*, a traditional Korean food. The event was the first one for the new KA board and it was a tremendous success. Approximately fifty KA and CSA members attended the event held on the evening of March 23, 2000.

The study break was the first held with CSA since new boards were elected for

each organization. A shaved-ice study break was held earlier in the year by the old boards of KA and CSA. The planning of the event gave members of both boards a good opportunity to meet and interact with each other. We know that future interactions will be necessary because we are among the most prominent cultural organizations on campus.

*Kimbap* is traditionally known as a quick lunch food. It basically consists of various vegetables and meats wrapped in rice and sheets of seaweed. For the study break, we prepared sauteed carrot, cucumbers, spinach, pickled radish, beef, fishcake, and artificial crab. We put each of the ingredients, along with the rice and seaweed on separate plates. Students at the study break then made their own *kimbap* rolls under our direction.

The number of people and the good food made the event a great success. Members of CSA and KA, as well as students from other backgrounds attended the event. We then showed them how to make one of the most famous and widely eaten Korean foods. Through the *kimbap* study break, KA was able to share with students of all origins a piece of our rich culinary culture.

-Andrew Park Chung '03

## L'Albatros

On April 26, 2000, the Harvard French Club published its third annual issue of *L'Albatros*, its literary magazine. With a budget of \$550, we were able to print 785 copies of a ten-page black and white issue, with a cream-colored cardstock cover. We were very excited to finally publish the magazine and were able to distribute it to the Science Center, Boylston Hall, the Quad Houses and Winthrop House. We are still in the process of distributing the magazine to all of the River Houses, as well as to the Woodberry Poetry Room in Lamont Library.

We were happy to publish nearly a thousand issues of *L'Albatros*, which had been our yearlong goal. We have already received much positive feedback about it from several professors, and we believe that this is the finest issue of *L'Albatros* to



date, in terms of the content (both the text and the art), as well as the layout. We worked very hard to streamline and refurbish the appearance of the magazine, and feel that we were successful in our endeavor. Harvard undergraduates, a graduate student in French Literature, and several students at the Harvard Extension School—all together, a very diverse group of contributors—wrote the works we published. We also included artwork by three of our editors.

Next year we are looking forward to increasing further the distribution of *L'Albatros*, as well as expanding our art, business and layout boards. We would like to include features such as reviews of French movies and books, and perhaps interviews with French professors here on campus, or with visiting French scholars. We have already begun soliciting submissions of writing as well as artwork for next year, and are greatly looking forward to publishing our fourth issue.

-Marcelline Block '01

## Thirtieth Anniversary of Kuumba

The Kuumba Singers of Harvard hosted their thirtieth anniversary weekend April 29-30, 2000. Current students were afforded the opportunity to meet alumni from over the past thirty years of Kuumba's history. The weekend culminated in the Singers' thirtieth anniversary concert held in Sanders Theatre to a sold-out crowd.

The weekend began with a reception in Boylston Hall for former and current Kuumba members. Professor J. Lorand Matory of the Afro-American Studies and Anthropology departments was among the several alumni who attended this event and others throughout the weekend. During the reception, alumni viewed slides gathered by Kuumba historians. They also looked at old pictures of Kuumba concert tours, practices, and Christmas and Spring Concerts.

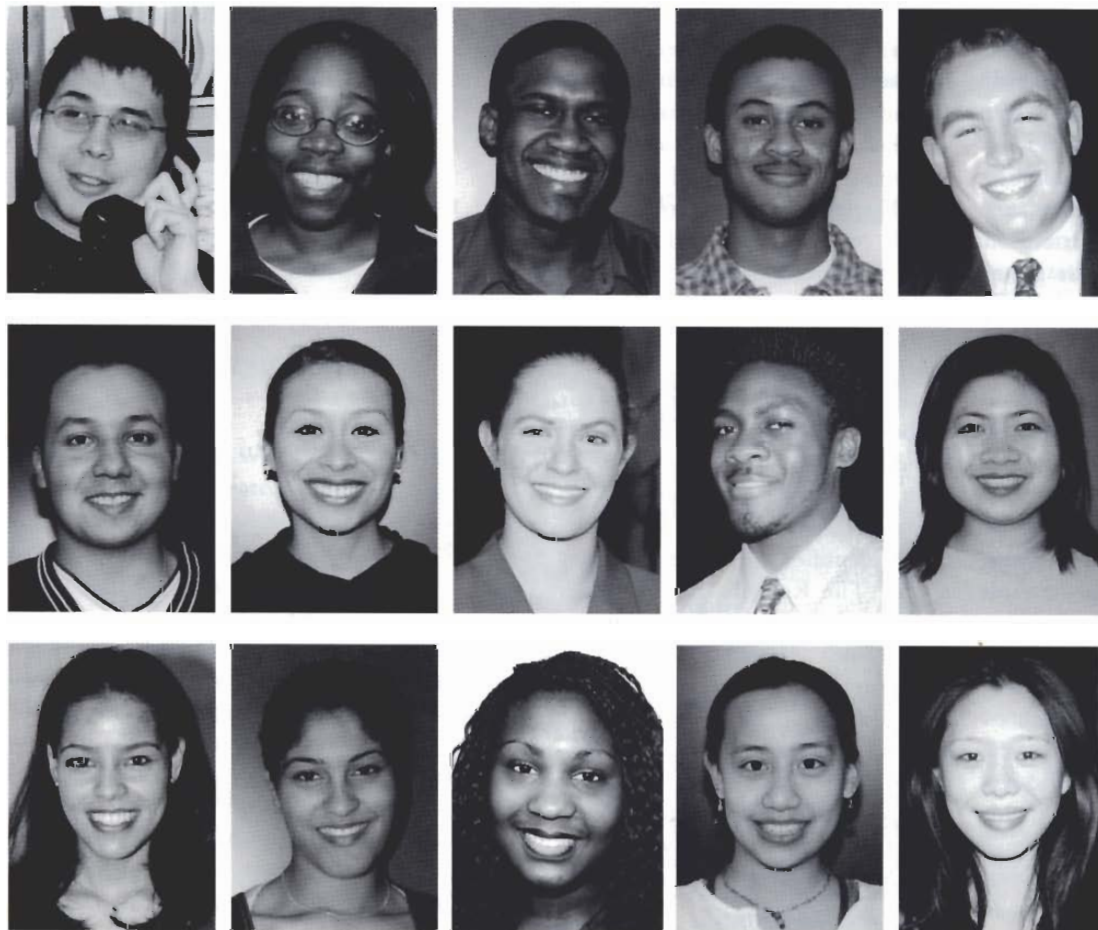
Following the reception a banquet was held in Quincy House. Current and past members gathered to partake in the festivities of the evening. The evening featured a

slide presentation, awards ceremony, and much singing and laughter. The evening began with remarks by 1999-2000 President Adey Delbridge '00, who thanked the alumni for coming to the anniversary weekend and introduced the new Kuumba board. Following dinner, an awards ceremony was held honoring three men dedicated to Kuumba: Dr. Walter Leonard, Senior Associate Dean Archie Epps, and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. Also honored were Kuumba's former director, Mr. Robert F. Winfrey, and current director, Sheldon Reid. Following these presentations, Mr. Delbridge narrated a slide show during which members of the Kuumba family identified themselves and their classmates. The Kuumba family gathered to sing a medley of songs from past to present. Led by Evelyn Woodward '79, older alumni sang gospel tunes from the early seventies. The younger classes of Kuumba members gathered to sing one of Woodward's original pieces, "Can't Turn Around." The evening culminated in true Kuumba style with the singing of the hymn, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" under the direction of Mr. Winfrey.

On Saturday, Kuumba members and their families enjoyed a picnic lunch before heading over to the sold-out concert. Audience members were treated to songs from the African and African-American traditions. The choir sang gospel, traditional, and original pieces. Kuumba alumni supported the group in song throughout the concert and eventually joined the group on stage for singing of the last song, "Come in the Room." Kuumba members old and new embraced one another at the conclusion of the concert.

The thirtieth anniversary provided current Kuumba members and alumni an opportunity to celebrate Kuumba's majestic history over the past three decades. The Kuumba Singers would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for their continued support.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



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



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