Dr. Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson, President of the Karolinska Nobel Institute Visits Harvard to Meet with Academic Leaders

Harvard Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Gala in Eliot House

Kelly Stone and Planet Hope Partner with Harvard Foundation and PBHA for Humanitarian Effort

Dr. Evelyne M. Hammonds (R.), Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity and Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies, served as the Harvard Foundation’s honorary host at a welcoming luncheon for Dr. Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson, President of the Karolinska Nobel Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

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2 Thayer Hall: Foundation Welcomes Students to New Office Facilities

Crash Film Screening Initiates Dialogue Among First-Year Students

The Use of Native American “Mascots”: A Townhall Discussion for Native Americans at Harvard College and Campus Student Publications

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**On the cover**  


*Lower Left:* Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer (R.), who co-founded Planet Hope with sister, actress Sharon Stone, is greeted by Marisol Pineda-Conde ’08 (L.) Harvard Foundation intern. Ms. Stone received the Harvard Foundation medal in recognition of her years of service to families in need throughout the nation.

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The Harvard Foundation Journal has been produced bi-annually since 1982. The publication is designed to inform the Harvard family about the intercultural programs sponsored by the Harvard Foundation throughout the year that address a variety of salient topics related to race, culture, ethnicity, and religion. The Harvard Foundation Journal is produced by the Harvard Foundation staff, interns, and Director. All photos used are courtesy of the Harvard Foundation or photographer, Marcus Halevi, unless otherwise indicated. For more information, or to be added to the Harvard Foundation Mailing List, please contact:

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Letter from the Director  
Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation

Each year, the Harvard Foundation launches an ambitious program to improve intercultural and racial understanding among our students and faculty. This semester, as in past years, has been filled with projects and programs that we feel serve to enlighten our students and to broaden their perspectives about ethno-cultural diversity and its value in an academic community. We began the 2006-2007 academic year with a freshman intercultural brunch in the Lowell House Dining Room. This program was attended by over four hundred first-year students of diverse backgrounds and their parents who were presented information on the Foundation’s mission to create and sustain an atmosphere of intercultural and interracial harmony. This was followed by an outdoor tent festival near the Harvard Yard with literature and food representing many cultural traditions in America and from around the world. During the same period, the Foundation screened the racially charged movie “Crash” for approximately four hundred students in Sanders Theater, with Professor Michael Sandel introducing the film and its subject matter, and serving as faculty host. The movie screening was followed by group discussions in the freshman dorms on the significance of race relations and the importance of interracial respect and interaction in our diverse academic community.

One of the Foundation’s primary aims is to expose our students to widely-respected intellectual and cultural leaders from throughout the world who personify and articulate the Foundation’s message of racial and religious tolerance and understanding. In past years, we have hosted such noted individuals as Mary Robinson, President of Ireland; Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Kofie Annan, Secretaries General of the United Nations; and Nobel Laureates, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Elie Wiesel, José Ramos Hortaa and Mario Molina, to name a few. During the fall semester, the Harvard Foundation sponsored a day-long program for students and faculty featuring Dr. Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson, the first woman to head the Karolinska Nobel Institute in Stockholm. Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson met with many of our top women scientists, and Harvard undergraduate women and men who are presently studying science.

The Harvard Foundation annually co-sponsors programs with other Harvard College offices such as: the Office of Career Services, the Office for the Arts, and the Office of Government and Community Affairs. In the fall semester of 2006, the Foundation partnered with Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) to co-sponsor a humanitarian project initiated by Kelly Stone, co-founder with her sister, actress Sharon Stone, of Planet Hope. This project enabled Harvard students from the Foundation and PBHA, under the direction of Mr. Gene Corbin, to distribute coats, shoes, and gloves to needy children in Cambridge, and adults in the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Much of the day of Saturday, November 4th, was spent handing out items of clothing to many Cambridge families.

Since my appointment at the Harvard Foundation in 1981, I have come to view our community of scholars as a family, “the Harvard family.” As in any family, we will have our challenges, our ups and downs, our happy moments, and our sad moments. Fortunately, most of our difficult times with ethnocultural conflicts are just “moments” in time, and involve issues that we can work through as a family. As Director of the Harvard Foundation, it is my duty to bring together student groups and individuals who may have experienced or been involved with ethno-cultural misunderstandings, and to initiate projects that enable open communication and engender respectful interaction. We also work proactively to initiate dialogue between groups that have periodically experienced differences and misunderstandings. During the fall semester, we were delighted to sponsor a gathering of Jewish and Muslim students in an Iftar and Yom Kippur celebration. This program was, by all accounts, successful, and encouraged more opportunities for social and inter-religious exchange. The Harvard Foundation also assisted this semester when students who write for The Harvard Crimson, a daily student publication, featured an article that used language, which Native Americans at Harvard found offensive and hurtful. The article focused on the use of Native American “Indians” as mascots for American athletic teams and on The Crimson’s student writer’s use of derogatory language and words that conjured up the historical genocide of the Native American. In response to the request from the Native American community, we hosted a “Townhall Discussion” on the matter in the Kirkland House Junior Common Room that led to what we hoped to be greater enlightenment about Native American cultural sensitivities. We also addressed the issue of the social and moral responsibilities of those who write for student periodicals on ethnically related subjects, and urged them not to use inflammatory terms. The meeting was well-attended, civil and contributed significantly to greater understanding. I thank our students and faculty for their kind assistance with this and other Harvard Foundation initiatives. I would also like to thank the magnificent students of the Ku’umba Singers of Harvard College for the honor and blessing of the Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert. Ku’umba is a Harvard treasure and a cherished organization.

In closing, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the families and friends of Cecilia Ekperi ‘09 and Hui Wang ‘07 for the loss of these two wonderful students who were valued members of the Harvard family. The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation organized memorial services for each of these students at Harvard’s Memorial Church that were attended by members of the greater Harvard community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. S. Allen Counter  
Director of the Harvard Foundation
Harvard Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary
Eliot House Gala Includes Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Administrators

Above: The 2006-2007 student interns and staff of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. Upper R.: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation since 1981, was presented with a commemorative book from the organizations of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee. Lower R.: The Asian American Dance Troupe was one of several performance groups to delight the audience with a performance during the Eliot House gala.

The Creation of the Harvard Foundation
In 1980, the President of the University was deeply concerned about what he viewed as the lack of full integration of Harvard’s students of diverse backgrounds, and a less than satisfactory appreciation of the equality and value of our diverse student body by some in our community. The President sensed that if this matter were not handled properly, there was the potential for future conflict and divisions among our students, many of whom were already requesting separate and segregated facilities that would permit various groups to isolate themselves on the basis of national origin, culture, race, and religion. In response to this, President Derek C. Bok formed a committee of faculty, administrators, and students, to investigate the status and climate of inter-racial relations at Harvard, and propose some solution to the growing ethnic divisions in the Harvard community. From the efforts of this group, known generally as the “Gomes Committee” after the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, who served as chairman of the committee, the Harvard Foundation was born.

The impetus for the Harvard Foundation’s creation came from African-American students who indicated that although Harvard had recruited them in significant numbers, many were made to feel unwelcome, and, in the words of W.E.B. DuBois almost a century earlier, in Harvard, but not of Harvard. It was the African-American students who appealed to the President for the creation of some agency that would make Harvard a more inviting place for them and for others who had been traditionally excluded from Harvard, including other American minority groups, international students, and women.

The mission of the Harvard Foundation, in the words of the committee, was to “improve the quality of our common life” by improving intercultural understanding among the various self-identified groups at Harvard. In short, the aim of the Foundation was to help Harvard adjust to its growing diversity. From its inception, the Foundation reached out to all groups, including those who were seeking to create separate minority race centers.
While the committee was clear in its mission and goals, it did not have a clear road map as to how its aims would be achieved. Thus, in 1981, President Derek Bok appointed Dr. Counter Director, handed him a map with a starting point and a goal on it, and a blank slate in between. During the first week after the creation of the Foundation, some of the most capable faculty, administrators, and students in the Harvard community were recruited to serve on the first board of the Harvard Foundation. The members of that first committee were Dr. Sissela Bok, philosopher and wife of President Derek C. Bok; Dr. William Bossert, Professor of Mathematics and Biology; Dr. John Dowling, Professor of Biology; Mr. John B. Fox, Dean of Harvard College, Dr. Steven J. Gould, Professor of Biology and Geology; Mr. Marvin Hightower, senior writer at the Harvard News Office; Dr. Nathan Huggins, Professor of Afro-American Studies; Dr. Richard Marius, Director of Expository Writing; Ms. Myra Mayman, Director of the Office for the Arts; Mr. Kiyo Morimoto, Director of the Bureau of Study Council; Dr. Steven Williams, Professor of Anthropology; and Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer. The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes served as faculty chair of the committee.

Further, student leaders from a variety of Harvard College organizations were invited to serve on the Harvard Foundation’s Student Advisory Committee, including students from the Black Students Association, Harvard Raza, La O (the Puerto Rican students association), the Asian American Association, Native Americans at Harvard College, and Harvard Hillel. With the advice and leadership of students and faculty, the Harvard Foundation initiated its first programs. The first Harvard Foundation programs included the U.S. Presidential Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Japanese-American Citizens; a Minority Science Conference, that featured Dr. Walter Massey, Director of the Argonne National Laboratories, and the National Science Foundation; a Native American Symposium, entitled Indigenous People’s Rights in Domestic Law featuring Russel Means of the Dakota Indian Movement; a day in honor of Judith Jamison, acclaimed soloist with the Alvin Ailey Dance Company; and a Ballet Folklórico de Aztlan festival. These seminal events set the tone for the quality and caliber of programming that the Foundation would conduct over the next 25 years.

Gala Festivities in Eliot House

The 25th anniversary gala was designed to reflect on the progress, and celebrate the positive changes that the Harvard Foundation has helped to implement at the University throughout the past 25 years, through its sponsoring programs that have served to “enhance the quality of our common life.” The gala was also planned to honor the tireless work of Dr. S. Allen Counter, the founding director of the Foundation, who carefully oversaw the significant growth in the number of student groups that we serve, continued to recruit esteemed academics and humanitarians, as well as the ever-popular “Artists of the Year” who is invited to Cultural Rhythms each year. The 25th Anniversary Gala was held on December 2, 2006, in Eliot Dining Hall and was emceed by Masters of Ceremonies Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Office, and Beatrice Vivamontes ’08, former President of Harvard RAza and President of Marachi Veritas.

The evening program began with a lively reception, followed by a sit-down dinner, which was interspersed
by vibrant performances by four student groups – the Krokodiloes, Gumboots, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán and the Asian American Dance Troupe.

Highlights of the evening included student reflections, given by group leaders and Harvard Foundation interns past and present, including Native American student, Elijah Hutchinson ’06. Saritha Komatireddy ’05 spoke of her experience as a Co-Chair of the Harvard Foundation’s Student Advisory Committee, through which she assisted with allocating funds to student groups – a process which she said helped to build community, dialogue and cultural empathy. Now at Harvard Law School, Komatireddy fittingly quoted former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor as having said that diversity is a “compelling state interest.” But Komatireddy cautioned that cultural understanding will not happen “if I sit at my ethnic table, and you sit at yours,” but rather through learning from communication, conflict, collision and confrontation.

Jennifer Green ’07 spoke of her years at Harvard, reflecting on her involvement with the Foundation as an intern, as a student group leader, and through a trip she took to Louisiana with Dr. Counter in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She thanked Dr. Counter for his demonstrated commitment and service to Harvard and “society as a whole,” saying that he is a “wonderful mentor, and we are so proud to have been a part of his vision.”

Natasha Alford ’08, President of the Association of Black Harvard Women (ABHW) delivered eloquent reflections, claiming that, “in a place and time that often questions the relevance of ethnic and racial student groups and organizations, I boldly

Below (Clockwise from Upper R.): (L.-R.) Stephen Coit ’71, Harvard Foundation Portraiture Committee Artist, Dr. William Gelbart, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology and Acting Chairman of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee, and Dr. Bruce Price ’71, Professor of Neurology. Students of the Harvard Armenian Society, Armen Yerevanian ’08 and Christine Megerdichian ’07. Dr. Georgene Hershbach, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Programs (L.) chats with Ms. Mercedes Evans, Esq. (L.-R.) Natasha Alford ’08, Ralph Bouquet ’09, Tim Turner ’09 and Andrew Coles ’09. Saeeda Ahsanuddin ’10. Dr. S. Allen Counter greets Ms. Julia Fox, Assistant Dean for Life Skills Curriculum Development, and Dr. John Fox, Senior Advisor to the Dean of the Faculty.
proclaim that they are still relevant.” She cited racist events that take place in our communities daily that cause lingering hurt, pain and questions. Alford concluded by urging the Foundation to continue to increase its presence, stating that, “it is the Harvard Foundation and its amazing leader Dr. S. Allen Counter, that gives students groups such as ABHW, a platform to express our voice and the support we need to survive in these often trying times.”

The evening concluded with Harvard Foundation interns, Theresa Cheng ’08, Teddy Styles ’07, and Owais Siddiqui ’07, delivering individual tributes to the founders of the Harvard Foundation – President Derek C. Bok, Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, and Dr. S. Allen Counter. The gala, which was attended by a diverse array of students, faculty and friends of the Harvard Foundation provided a glimpse of the milestones achieved over the past 25 years, and showed a path down which its advocates hope it will continue.

- The Harvard Foundation Staff

Below (Clockwise from Upper R.): Mr. Gene Corbin, Director of the Phillips Brooks House Association (far R.) chats with Mr. and Ms. Robert and Bonnie Barber. (L.-R.) Philippa Counter, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Ms. Julia Fox, Assistant Dean for Life Skills Curriculum Development, Mr. John Fox, Senior Advisor to the Dean, Mrs. Judy Dowling and Dr. John Dowling, Gordon and Lluia Gund Professor of Neurosciences. Dr. Lino Pertile, Carl A. Pescosolido Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and Master of Eliot House, at the head table with Mr. David L. Evans (Ctr.), Senior Admissions Officer, and Dr. S. Allen Counter. Mrs. Hanna and Dr. Woody Hastings. Paul C. Mangelsdorf Professor of Natural Sciences and former Masters of Pforzheimer House. Masters of Mather House, Dr. Sandra Naddaff (far L.), Director of the Freshman Seminar Program, and husband, Dr. Leigh Hafrey, talk with Ms. Anna Bensted (Ctr.), Co-Master of Eliot House. Ms. Susan Marine (L.), Director of the Harvard Women's Center and Victoria Clark ’08, Co-President of Women in Science, Harvard-Radcliffe.

Mr. Melvin Miller ’56, Esq. (L.), publisher of The Bay State Banner with Dr. S. Allen Counter.
Dear Colleagues,

Twenty-five years ago, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences adopted the recommendation of a committee chaired by Peter Gomes to establish an organization, the Harvard Foundation, with the intent that it should seek ways of celebrating the different cultures and ethnic traditions contained within the Harvard community and make their riches known to students of all other backgrounds. This was not the recommendation desired by many of the students interested in the proposal. They had hoped for a Third World Center where students of color could organize their own cultural and social activities. The Gomes committee acted as it did because it wanted to make a recommendation that would deliberately work to further the purpose behind Harvard’s long-time commitment to student diversity—namely, to bring students together to give them every opportunity to learn from each other by being exposed to the wide variety of backgrounds and talents assembled with such diligence every year by the Admissions Office.

The task undertaken by the Foundation, therefore, was by no means easy or immediately popular. It was, however, extremely important. Without a doubt, the experiment has succeeded beyond anyone’s legitimate expectations. The credit goes predominantly to the exemplary leadership of Allen Counter. Few members of the faculty or the administration may fully appreciate what a combination of creative imagination, energy, organizing skill, and diplomacy it has taken to make the Foundation succeed as it has. I think I know, however, and I am extremely grateful. By making the Foundation an established and successful part of the Harvard experience, those who have guided it have furthered one of the College’s most important purposes. We are all very much in their debt.

Sincerely,

Derek Bok
L.: The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church of Harvard University, congratulates Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation for twenty-five years of service.

R.: Reverend Professor Gomes addressed the audience on the creation of the Harvard Foundation before being presented with a bouquet of roses from Teddy Styles ’07 (far R.), Harvard Foundation intern.

Below (From Upper R.): Mr. Sean Brady ’89, HLASA ’92 (far L.) former Harvard Foundation intern, with Mr. and Ms. Robert and Bonnie Barber. (L.-R.) Ms. Jennifer Walsh, Dr. William Gelbart, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Mrs. Judy Dowling, and Dr. John Dowling, Gordon and Lura Gund Professor of Neurosciences. Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán performed at the gala. Matthew Clair ’09 (L.), Harvard Foundation intern, and his brother, Brian Clair ’05, HMS ’09, former Harvard Foundation intern.
25th Anniversary Outdoor Festival
Informational Tent Showcases Harvard Foundation Student Organizations

On September 28th 2006, the Harvard Foundation and the undergraduate organizations that comprise the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee (SAC) created a tent display to celebrate the twenty-five year history of the Harvard Foundation. With a substantial student turnout, the event showcased many of the projects and achievements of the Harvard Foundation over the last quarter century.

Since the creation of the Harvard Foundation, student cultural groups have flourished and grown. An array of student organizations were on hand to display their cultural and organizational activities. From Harvard Raza to Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe (WISHR), groups used different methods to attract visitors. At the display for Harvard RAZA, freshly prepared quesadillas accompanied information on Chicano culture. Harvard RAZA also provided a piñata set up outside the tent to give students a fun addition to the festivities. The creative method of WISHR to freeze popsicles with liquid nitrogen led to students learning about the significant contributions that women have made in science at Harvard and beyond.

Poster displays were set up to highlight a selection of the Foundation’s annual events, including the Albert Einstein Science Conference, and of course, Cultural Rhythms. The video recording of the 2006 Cultural Rhythms festival featuring Artist of the Year, actress Salma Hayek, playing at the tent’s entrance, drew a significant number of onlookers. Attendees left the tent festival with a better understanding of the work of the Harvard Foundation and intercultural life on campus.

- Petros Egziabher ’09

Above: Mariachi Veritas de Harvard performed for the students and faculty perusing the poster displays at the Harvard Foundation’s 25th Anniversary outdoor tent festival at the start of the academic year. From Top R.: Marisol Pineda-Conde ’08, Harvard Foundation intern, constructed a display on the history of the Harvard Foundation. Theresa Cheng ’08, Harvard Foundation intern. Representatives from the BGLTSA greeted students and faculty at a display booth.
Freshman Intercultural Brunch Welcomes First-Year Students
Harvard Foundation Hosts Students and Their Families in Lowell House

Among the many events offered to first-year students during Freshman Week, was the Annual Harvard Foundation Freshman Intercultural Brunch. Held in the Lowell House Dining Hall, the brunch offered nearly five hundred students of the class of 2010 and their parents a buffet of Indian cuisine and an opportunity to meet other students.

Before the event began, Foundation interns and staff welcomed students at the door, handing out information sheets and raffle tickets for Cultural Rhythms shirts. Interns explained the Foundation’s mission and continued relevance on campus. Curious freshmen and their parents learned about programs such as the Harvard Foundation Writers Series: Complexities of Color, and the many distinguished guests and honorees that the Foundation has brought to Harvard over the years. Many students immediately expressed interest in being involved with the mission and work of the Foundation throughout the year.

As the freshmen and their parents began to dine, Dr. S. Allen Counter offered opening remarks. He greeted the students and their families and expressed his pride in each individual student, noting the great diversity of faces in the audience. Counter emphasized the importance of “intercultural and race relations” to the well-being of the Harvard community. He highlighted the usefulness of the Foundation as both a support system and a service organization to all students. He also acknowledged and thanked a few individuals in the audience, including Mr. Thomas Dingman, Dean of Freshmen, and Lowell House Masters, Dr. Dorothy Austin and Professor Diana Eck, who welcomed the students to Lowell House.

In addition to Dr. Counter and other faculty, student interns and leaders spoke to first-year students about their experiences with the Harvard Foundation. Layusa Isa-Odidi ‘09, a Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Co-Chair, spoke about the efforts of the Harvard Foundation in reaching out to the many student groups on campus. She explained the role of the Foundation as both a resource for the groups and a grant funding source. Regina Bediako ‘08, SAC Secretary, also spoke about the grant application process, explaining that this process allows groups to continue to showcase their culture on campus. Simi Bhat ‘08, SAC Co-Chair, highlighted some of the Harvard Foundation events that freshmen should make an effort to attend, including the Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference, which gives students the opportunity to engage in mentorship with Boston/Cambridge youth. Dr. Counter concluded the luncheon by encouraging interested first-year students to apply for an internship with the Harvard Foundation, an opportunity that many students later pursued.

-Matt Clair ‘09
Moving Pictures
Freshman Race Relations Discussions Initiated with Screening of Crash

As part of Freshman Orientation 2006, the Harvard Foundation launched a diversity initiative for first-year students. The Harvard Foundation collaborated with the Freshman Dean’s Office in coordinating a movie and discussion event open to the entire Harvard student body, but specifically geared to first-year students.

The program for this year included the Academy Award-winning 2005 movie Crash, which was screened in Sanders Theatre. After the film, dialogue groups were formed in several freshman dormitory common rooms. In these groups, Harvard Foundation interns engaged their peers in open discussion, focusing on a number of social issues addressed in the film—such as racism, cultural confrontation, bias, and stereotypes. Harvard Foundation intern discussion leaders used the issues raised in the film to address matters relating to race relations at Harvard.

Students flocked to the screening to watch the blockbuster film, and to hear the distinguished political philosopher, Dr. Michael Sandel, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government, deliver introductory remarks. Sandel, who teaches the famous “Justice” course at Harvard, elaborated upon the true meaning of the word “diversity,” especially in the context of an institution of higher learning, such as Harvard. He emphasized that while Harvard has come a long way from being two separate gender-specific, largely white Colleges (namely, Radcliffe and Harvard Colleges), diversity initiatives are still relevant and meaningful. Sandel then strongly encouraged the freshmen of all backgrounds to take advantage of the innumerable opportunities that are available to them at the university.

Because many of the audience members had never seen the film Crash until that evening, the movie gave students a common starting point from which to focus dialogue in the small group discussions following the film. After many students expressed their personal reactions to the film, the dialogue in the group discussions rapidly transitioned into discourse on perceptions of race at Harvard, and on the status and the role of cultural groups on campus. For many freshmen, the small group discussions provided a comfortable atmosphere in which they could pose questions about social issues at Harvard, particularly regarding culture and diversity. The first annual event in this collaborative diversity initiative by the Harvard Foundation and the Freshman Dean’s Office, served as another significant step in the goal of Harvard to continuously improve intercultural acceptance and understanding among its student population.

- Theresa Cheng '08

Left: Dr. S. Allen Counter thanked guest speaker, Dr. Michael J. Sandel, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government, pictured with his wife, Dr. Kiku Adatto, Lecturer on Social Studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, for delivering opening remarks at the Sanders Theater screening of Crash.
Dr. Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson Visits Harvard
First Female President of the Karolinska Nobel Institute Honored for Leadership

L.-R.: Dr. Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson, President of the Karolinska Nobel Institute, was presented with the Harvard Foundation award for “Medical Science and Education” by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. Dr. Dudley R. Herschbach, Frank B. Baird, Jr. Research Professor of Science, and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1986, amused luncheon guests with a chocolate candy version of the famous Nobel Prize medal. Below: Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson was welcomed by Mr. Derek C. Bok, President of Harvard University, at an afternoon meeting.

Women in Science Luncheon: A Student Perspective
Though Harvard faculty members have collectively received over forty Nobel prizes since the institution of the award in 1901, it was only this year that our hallowed halls were graced by a visit from the President of the Karolinska Nobel Institute. Dr. Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson arrived at Harvard on Monday, September 25th at the invitation of the Harvard Foundation. The highlight of her visit was an honorary luncheon for students and faculty, where she was recognized for her leadership in the promotion of diversity and the advancement of women in science at her university in Stockholm.

Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson was appointed President of the Karolinska Institute in 2004, and she has lead the institution to tremendous growth during her tenure. The Institute has scaled up its efforts in stem cell research, biotechnology, international collaboration, and gender equality. Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson herself directed a task force on the issue of women in science at the Karolinska Institute, and found that while women were competing well at the undergraduate and even graduate levels, they tended to drop off the career path sometime before becoming full professors. She cited a number of reasons for this trend, including: prioritizing family life over career achievements, a lack of a diverse array of female role models, and possibly, biased funding.

At the honorary luncheon, Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson met with a number of students and faculty and encouraged them to recognize and join her in confronting the problem of gender equity. She also answered questions about the differences between American and Swedish philosophies of science, medicine, and social services. Dr. Barbara Grosz, Dean of Science at the Radcliffe Institute, commented that
it was heartening to see the importance that the Swedish government accorded child day care, and hoped that the city of Cambridge would be able to pioneer such efforts in the United States.

Undergraduate students representatives from Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe and the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers welcomed Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson at the Harvard Foundation luncheon and expressed appreciation of her talk. Following her lecture, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson with the Harvard Foundation medal for her notable contributions to the advancement of medical science and intercultural relations. The Honorable Mr. Kenneth Reeves '72, Mayor of Cambridge presented Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson with a key to the city.

- Simi Bhat '08, Student Advisory Committee Co-Chair

Summary of the Wallberg-Henriksson Visit
During her visit at Harvard, Dr. Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson met with a number of University officials. She was welcomed by Dr. Joseph B. Martin, Dean of Harvard Medical School, for a breakfast meeting. The two scholars discussed medical education, and medical science endeavors at their respective Universities, and opportunities for collaborative programs. Dr. Martin has visited the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm on a number of occasions in the past. Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson then proceeded to Massachusetts Hall where she was greeted by the President of Harvard University, Mr. Derek C. Bok. Bok welcomed the special guest warmly, and Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson engaged the President with a discussion of the challenges and opportunities of leading world-class research institutions. President Bok is married to Sissela Bok of Sweden, daughter of Nobel Prize winners Gunnar Myrdal (Economics) and Alva Myrdal (Peace).

As special guest of the University, Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson was escorted to Wadsworth House, to meet with University Marshal (Chief Protocol Officer), Ms. Jackie O’Neill, where she signed the official University guest register. Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson then visited the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) for a meeting with Dr. Barry Bloom, Dean of HSPH. At the meeting, Dr. Bloom and Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson discussed the establishment of a collaborative cancer research project between HSPH and the Karolinska Institute.

Students, faculty, and administrators joined Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson for an evening reception and dinner sponsored by the Harvard Foundation. Guests had the opportunity to converse in-depth with the guest of honor, and she was delighted to meet the members of the Harvard Foundation faculty advisory committee, as well as student leaders in science and intercultural relations.

Before returning to Stockholm, Sweden, Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for a meeting with Dr. Susan Hockfield, President of MIT. The two institutional leaders discussed modern science education and their approaches to leadership in internationally recognized research institutions.

- The Harvard Foundation Staff
Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson Meets with Faculty and Students at Honorary Reception

Clockwise from Top R.: Dr. Anne Buckingham Young (R.), Professor and Head of the Department of Neurology at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. David Haig (far R.), George Putnam Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, and his wife Dr. Enilda Pardo (far L.) with Dr. Scott Edwards, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology (Ctr.). (L.-R.) Dr. John Dowling, Gordon and Llura Gund Professor of Neurosciences, and Ms. Diana Rowan Rockefeller, founder of Afghan Women Leaders Connect. Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson greets Dr. Robert Woollacott, Professor of Biology and Curator of Marine Invertebrates in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Dr. James H. Ware, Frederick Mosteller Professor of Biostatistics in the Faculty of Public Health, and Dr. James McCarthy, Professor of Biological Oceanography and Master of Pforzheimer House. Ms. Christina Dias, Administrative Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation (Ctr.), and Ms. Shannon O’Brien, Student Activities Coordinating Assistant. Dr. Scott Edwards (L.) and Dr. David Haig (Ctr.), Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee members. Mr. Zayed Yasin ‘04 of Harvard Medical School and Ms. Uzma Yasin of Sweden, Resident Tutors in Leverett House. Dr. Wallberg-Henriksson with Dr. Joseph B. Martin, Dean of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Nancy E. Oriol, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at Harvard Medical School, greets the guest of honor.
News & Notes
Ongoing Harvard Foundation Initiatives and News from the Semester

The Harvard Foundation has several ongoing initiatives, including the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project, House Race Relations Advisors program, and monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings. These initiatives are conducted throughout the academic year in addition to the annual flagship programs of the Harvard Foundation and student-initiated grant projects.

The Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project
Portrait of L. Fred Jewett ’57, M.B.A. ’60 Placed in Cronkhite Hall

This fall, the Harvard Foundation unveiled a seventh portrait in the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project. The latest honoree in oil is L. Fred Jewett ’57, M.B.A. ’60, a fixture in Harvard administrative affairs since 1958, whose last role before retirement was as Dean of Harvard College (1985 to 1995).

About 100 well-wishers were on hand for the Dec. 19 unveiling ceremony in the Cronkhite Building at 86 Brattle St., the new location of Harvard’s Office of Admissions. Afterward, standing a few feet from his circa-1970 likeness in the conference room, Jewett gave his portrait the ultimate compliment. “I recognize myself,” he said.

“This is a special day for us,” said S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation and coordinator of the portraiture project. He praised Jewett for his role in encouraging minority admissions at the college. “He is a dedicated advocate of equality for minorities in admissions, and their inclusion in all aspects of Harvard College. No one has done more of that than the person whose portrait is represented here today,” said Counter.

Owais Siddiqui ’07 provided a tribute to Jewett, who among his many college roles was Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid from 1972 to 1984. “Under his leadership, the admissions office made diversity a priority,” said the Kirkland House senior. Later, as Dean of the College, “Jewett challenged the institution to change,” said Siddiqui. In 1996, Jewett introduced randomization to House assignments, arguing that it would prevent continuing informal divisions along racial and ethnic lines.

In 1958, he was one of the College’s original freshman advisers, a role he kept for 40 years. Jewett also served as a proctor in the Yard (1958-1977), as Assistant Dean of Freshman (1962-1964), and as Director of Freshman Scholarships (1967-1972). Jewett is the first nonminority to be honored by the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project, which was established in 2002 to predominantly honor scholars and administrators of color who have served Harvard with distinction.

Before the project, the Harvard portrait collection (more than 1,200 pieces) included only three representations of African Americans - two oils and a marble bust. The oldest was from 1987, a portrait for Memorial Church of the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church. In 2002, a student survey looked at 302 honorific portraits most likely to be seen by students in University offices, lobbies, Houses, and libraries. Only three depicted persons of color.

The survey led to a $100,000 gift that year from then-President Lawrence H. Summers to establish the portraiture project as a corrective measure. Seven are completed, and two are hung, including the Jewett portrait. Another five Minority Portraiture works are in progress. In the end, the $100,000 fund will yield “20 or 25” portraits, said Counter.

William Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, praised Jewett for being the forerunner of the present inclusive admissions policies, and said the portrait would “ride herd” over the office. In making big decisions, said Fitzsimmons, “We think about what Fred would think.”

Small glasses of champagne were passed out, and Fitzsimmons offered Jewett a toast: “To the one true dean.”
The Jewett picture was painted by Stephen Coit ’71, M.B.A. ’77, who has painted all the project portraits so far. The Lowell House alumnus, now living again in Cambridge, is a onetime high-tech venture capitalist. In 1996, he turned to painting full time.

Coit called the Jewett portrait a composite work, done from life sketches and archived photographs. “Doing a portrait is about making choices,” he said. That included choosing not to show Jewett as he was as a young man, with a bristling brush cut. “He could have looked a little like H.R. Haldeman,” said Coit.

Another portrait in the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project currently on display is of former dean of students Archie C. Epps III, who died in 2003. It hangs on the first floor of University Hall. Other finished pictures in the Portraiture Project include Harvard College admissions officer David L. Evans, a veteran of Harvard administration since 1970; Rulan Pian, a former Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and Professor of Music; Kiyo Morimoto, the onetime Director of Harvard’s Bureau of Study Counsel, who died in 2004; Eileen Jackson Southern, who died in 2002, an authority on Renaissance and African-American music and the first black female professor to be given tenure at Harvard; and Stanley J. Tambiah, the Esther and Sidney Rabb Research Professor of Anthropology, who retired from active teaching in 2001.

Other portraits, commissioned and in progress, will be of Harold Amos, Ewart Guiner, Nathan Huggins, Martin Kilson, and John Monro.

- Corydon Ireland, *Modified from the Harvard Gazette*
Native Americans as “Mascots”
A Townhall Discussion
From the Atlanta Braves to the Florida State University Seminoles, the names and images of Native Americans have been used as “mascots” by national and collegiate sports teams for years. Many Americans, particularly Native Americans, find these “mascot” images of Native Americans inaccurate, demeaning, and callous. Critics of the use of these “mascots” feel that the practice perpetuates stereotypes of Native Americans and derogates their history; a history that is rich and estimable, but also encompasses many ethnic struggles that are painful and tragic. Some non-Native Americans, however, do not view the use of Native American “mascots” as offensive, and they defend their right to use them. Understanding both sides of this issue was the goal of the December 2006 Harvard townhall-style discussion sponsored by the Harvard Foundation.

The townhall gathering was prompted by an article that appeared in The Harvard Crimson by Jonathan Lehman ’08 on December 6, 2006 that offended Native American students and staff. In this article, regarding the use of Native American “mascots,” Lehman asserted that efforts to eliminate the use of these mascots were spurred by a desire to use overly politically correct language. He further suggested that Native American mascots were no more offensive than using animals as mascots without animal permission. The article concluded with a double-entendre reference using the word “slaughter,” a word commonly invoked when describing the massacre of Native American tribes by European immigrants in America in the eighteenth century. Students in the Native American community were offended by the Crimson editors’ use of this double-entendre, and found the article insensitive and hurtful. The Harvard Foundation responded to these concerns by bringing together students from Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC), the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP), students who write for The Harvard Crimson, as well as students from other campus publications, and nearly sixty other undergraduates and faculty members for an evening discussion in the Kirkland House Junior Common Room.

To begin the discussion on the use of Native American mascots,” Harvard Foundation interns prepared a slideshow presentation containing various types of cultural images used in the media, from modern cartoon caricatures of Native Americans wielding scalpels to maple syrup advertisements featuring “Aunt Jemima.” Students and faculty reflected on the power of popular cultural imagery before the discussion began. Members of Native Americans at Harvard College had the opportunity to explain to attendees why Native American mascots” are offensive to the Native American community. Native American students such as Kelsey T. Leonard ’10 expressed their belief that the recent article in The Crimson was “insulting and insensitive,” particularly the phrase “slaughter the Indians.” Professor Dennis K. Norman, faculty chair for the Harvard University Native American Program, and Ms. Carmen Lopez, Executive Director of HUNAP, were on hand to shed light on the history of Native American “mascots” and the damaging implications for the larger Native community. Editors and writers for The Crimson were also present to comment on their editorial practices, and the connotations of the inflammatory language in the article.

Ultimately, students and faculty in attendance were able to form individual opinions from the discussion, but presumably also left the meeting with a greater understanding of the issues of concern to the Native American community, and the implications of cultural insensitivity in publications and other media, both within Harvard and beyond. The Harvard Foundation presented the opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue and enlightenment in an open-forum format, and remains committed to continuing the discussion of salient issues in the Native American community in future programs.

- The Harvard Foundation Staff
Photo Essay: Planet Hope and Kelly Stone Partner with Harvard Foundation and Phillips Brooks House Association in Charity

Philanthropy in Cambridge
The Harvard Foundation, in conjunction with the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) partnered with Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer and the Planet Hope organization in early November 2006 for a Cambridge charity project.

Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer, along with her sister, actress Ms. Sharon Stone, founded Planet Hope in 1992 with a mission to “provide hope for a better life.” The Los Angeles-based group has provided aid through programs like the Planet Hope Camp for children and the Emergency Referral Programs, which connect families in need to shelters and food banks.

The weekend-long event commenced with a tour for the Planet Hope team to several community service sites in Cambridge. Ms. Stone-Singer visited an after-school program where she had the opportunity to join in arts and crafts activities with the children, and to observe the many programs organized by the PBHA students volunteers.

L.-R.: The Honorable Kenneth Reeves '72, Mayor of Cambridge, Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Vice Mayor of Cambridge, Mr. Gene Corbin, Director of Harvard's Phillips Brooks House Association, a representative from the Burlington Coat Factory, Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer, Co-Founder of Planet Hope, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Ms. Dorothy Stone, mother of Kelly and Sharon Stone.

Above: Marisol Pineda-Conde '08, Harvard Foundation intern, volunteered throughout the day to outfit Cambridge children with new pairs of winter boots from a donation coordinated by Planet Hope.
Clothing Donation
Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer, the Planet Hope Team, PBHA volunteers, and Harvard Foundation interns distributed coats, boots, sneakers, socks, gloves, and books (courtesy of the the Harvard Office of Government and Community Affairs) to children at the Newtowne Court Housing Development. More than 250 children were provided with warm clothing and shoes to equip them for the chilly Cambridge winter months. The children were delighted to choose a selection from vast assortments of new coats, and expressed their gratitude to Ms. Stone-Singer and the Planet Hope organization for their generosity.

Clockwise from Top R.: Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer zips a Cambridge child into a new coat. (L.-R.) Mr. Gene Corbin, Director of the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), Mr. Robert Bridgeman, PBHA Program Director, and Alicia Rodriguez ’07, President of PBHA, who jointly coordinated the donation event at the Cambridge Boys and Girls Club. Petros Egziabher ’09 (R.), Harvard Foundation intern, Louizza Martinez ’09, Harvard Foundation intern, helped mothers find the appropriate winter clothes for their children. Richie Serna ’10, Harvard Foundation intern, assists at the coat tables.
Appreciation Luncheon in Winthrop House

On Friday, November 3rd, Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer and the staff of Planet Hope attended a luncheon in the Winthrop House Junior Common Room. Over fifty students and faculty came to celebrate her philanthropic work. Among the guests were representatives from Burlington Coat Factory, Stride Rite, and Reebok, who all donated items to Planet Hope that were later distributed to the Cambridge community at Newtonne Court Housing Development.

The luncheon commenced with a spirited performance by the Harvard Veritones, followed by a presentation of the key to the city by the Honorable Kenneth Reeves '72, Mayor of the City of Cambridge. Ms. Stone-Singer was honored to receive the key to the city and expressed her desire to work closely with the city of Cambridge in future philanthropic efforts.

Dr. S. Allen Counter, on behalf of the Harvard Foundation, thanked Ms. Stone-Singer for her work with Planet Hope, and acknowledged her dedication and untiring commitment to serving others. Ms. Stone-Singer was then presented with the Harvard Foundation Medallion for her philanthropy and public service. Ms. Amanda Herdina, Director of Planet Hope, then presented Ms. Stone and the Planet Hope staff with “Bracelets of Hope,” custom-made and designed by jewelry designer, Ms. Beth-Ann Latsko.

Ms. Stone concluded the luncheon by speaking to students about her inspiration and motivation for philanthropy and public service. She spoke about the importance of her family in her life and how they were always a source of hope while she recovered from an accident which left her physically impaired several years earlier. Ms. Stone-Singer also applauded the work of the Phillips Brooks House Association and expressed interest in working closely with them in the future, and thanked the Harvard Foundation and PBHA for hosting her and her team at Harvard.
Tour of Harvard

No visit to Harvard would be complete without a tour of the campus. The Planet Hope team was escorted on a brief walking tour by Harvard Foundation intern and Crimson Key Society member, Teddy Styles '07. The group stopped off at University Hall to meet with Dr. Benedict H. Gross, Dean of Harvard College. The Dean commended Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer and the Planet Hope team for their philanthropic donation to Cambridge families, and their many other projects. The group concluded their tour through the Harvard Yard with a visit to Ms. Jackie O'Neill (pictured at right), Harvard University Marshal, at Wadsworth House, where Ms. Kelly Stone-Singer signed the University Guest Register.

Donation to the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter

On the evening of Friday, November 3rd, Ms. Stone-Singer visited the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, where she, along with the Planet Hope team donated more than 150 coats to shelter residents. The shelter’s staff will distribute the coats to those in need during the winter months.

- Marisol Pineda-Conde ’08
Ms. Jada Pinkett-Smith is well-known for many artistic endeavors, including screen acting, musical performance, and television production, having created and co-produced the hit UPN sitcom, “All of Us,” with her husband, actor, Will Smith. However, on October 20th, over 300 Harvard students had the opportunity to learn about Ms. Pinkett-Smith’s passion for the empowerment of women.

Pinkett-Smith’s day at Harvard began with an hour-long reception in the Currier House Matt Strominger Room, where Pinkett-Smith engaged the 40 students in attendance in an inclusive discussion about how women view each other, and how women can bridge racial gaps to address issues that affect each and every woman, regardless of race. “There are always going to be differences between women,” she conceded, “But there is power in numbers.”

Present at the reception were Harvard Foundation interns, and board members of both the Association for Black Harvard Women (ABHW) and the Black Students Association, and a number of students from Currier House. At the end of the reception, ABHW president, Natasha Alford ’08, recited a powerful poem specially written for the event entitled, “Sister Jada.” Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves presented Ms. Pinkett-Smith with the key to the city of Cambridge in recognition of her national humanitarian work and her visit to Cambridge.

Following the Currier House reception, Pinkett-Smith was escorted to the Science Center, where she spoke on the same topic with a larger audience of approximately 300 people. The primary focus of her talk was on the power the media holds over the general public’s image of women, and the efforts needed by women to reclaim that power. The event was generally informal, with an open microphone for any student who wished to speak to the issues she raised. Pinkett-Smith illustrated her points with magazine images related to “beauty” in women.

Students from neighboring colleges, including Boston University, Boston College, and Wellesley attended her talk. After signing some requested autographs, the talk concluded with a presentation of gift copies of a book with inspirational stories of women and multicultural skincare samples as gifts for the audience. Many of the students, remained in the Science Center long after her departure, discussing the inspirational message and issues raised by Jada Pinkett-Smith.
Clockwise from Upper R.: Pinkett-Smith generated comments from the audience with sample images of notable women in media. Students lined the perimeter of the Strominger Room in Currier House for the informal talk with the actress. (L.-R.): Jay Lundy '09, Jason Lee '08, Sarah Lockridge-Sieckel '09, and Jessica Matthews '10 with Pinkett-Smith (Cir.).

Clockwise from Above: The Sisters of Kumbaya serenaded Pinkett-Smith prior to her talk. Ms. Jada Pinkett-Smith received the key to the city of Cambridge from Mayor Kenneth Reeves. Many women's groups, including members of the Association of Black Harvard Women, attended the talk.
Student Featured Programs
The Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee is comprised of over sixty undergraduate cultural, ethnic, and religious organizations that receive grant funding and assistance from the Harvard Foundation each semester. These organizations conduct student-initiated programs and projects each semester that enrich the cultural life of the University. Several of the special projects conducted by these student organizations are featured in each issue of the Harvard Foundation Journal. This section contains highlights from several student events of fall 2006.

The Ku’umba Singers of Harvard College
Body & Soul Concert and the Annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert

A Harvard-Yale Tradition
On November 17th, the Ku’umba Singers of Harvard College hosted students from Yale College, and produced the annual “Body & Soul Harvard-Yale” concert, an event sponsored each year by the gospel choir of the hosting school. “Body & Soul” is a wonderful opportunity for Ku’umba to share the creativity and spirituality of black culture and represent an important aspect of Harvard’s diversity for an audience of both Harvard and Yale peers. The concert included step dance and other forms of dance, spoken word, and other musical entertainment from Harvard and Yale performers. Additionally, the concert provided Harvard students the opportunity to interact with, and learn from, the Yale performance groups. This was truly a campus-wide event, as a diverse set of student groups perform every year.

The event began at 9:00 p.m. in Leverett Dining Hall the night of the Harvard-Yale football game. Ofole Mgbako ’08 and Christina Elmore ’09 hosted the show. Performers included Expressions Dance Company, Caribbean Club Dance Troupe, the Ku’umba Singers of Harvard College, Harvard 2010 Steppers, Yale Step Team, Harvard Gumboot, Yale African Dance Troupe, and others. The majority of the audience consisted of Yale and Harvard undergraduates. The concert sold out.

Music of the African Diaspora
The 36th Annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert took place on the evenings of Friday, December 8th, and Saturday, December 9th in the Memorial Church. Along with the annual spring concert, this is the most important event conducted by the Ku’umba Singers of Harvard College. It is a celebration of black creativity and spirituality through song, spoken word, and dance. The music is representative of the entire African Diaspora, ranging from African folk songs to “negro spirituals” to contemporary gospel. The concert is free and open to the entire Harvard community.

Ku’umba publicized campus-wide and produced a newsletter with essays and poems from alumni and choir members entitled Voices, focusing on the importance of the concert and various experiences leading up to the event. As the largest multicultural organization at Harvard (and one of the only choirs on campus without auditions for membership), Ku’umba brings together a diverse group of people from all over the nation and the world to share the creativity and spirituality of black culture with audiences of equal diversity.

The concert began with a brief speech by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, whom Ku’umba presented with a gift. The evening was a truly special occasion. The support from the Foundation allowed the smooth production of both shows.

- Ofole Mgbako ’08

From Top: Theodore Nathaniel Hickman Maynard ’00 performs as a guest soloist at the Annual Christmas Concert. Christina Elmore ’09 performs a spoken word piece.
Harvard Foundation and Center for European Studies Collaborate
Swedish Finance Minister, Mr. Pär Nuder, Visits Harvard

The Harvard Foundation and the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES) joined the students of the Woodbridge Society of International Students and the Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society in hosting the distinguished economist, Mr. Pär Nuder, on November 15th, 2006. Mr. Pär Nuder is a member of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, and as Finance Minister from 2004-2006, he was a central architect in the development of the Swedish social model.

The program was organized by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Dr. Patricia Craig, Executive Director of the Center for European Studies.

Nuder’s visit to Harvard began with a luncheon hosted by the Harvard Foundation in the Adams House Conservatory attended by students from the Harvard College Economic Review, the Harvard Foundation, the Woodbridge Society of International Students, the Center for European Studies Undergraduate Board, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and visiting scholars from Sweden.

Later in the afternoon, Nuder delivered a lecture entitled “High Growth, Strong Public Finances, Low Inflation: Lessons to be Learned from Sweden” at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies. Dr. Philippe Aghion, the Robert C. Waggoner Professor of Economics, served as chair and responder for the talk. At an evening dinner for students at the Center for European Studies, Nuder and Dr. Benjamin Friedman, the William Joseph Maier Professor of Economics, lead a discussion entitled, “Can Europe Afford Scandinavian Style Social Programs?”

Nuder was able to return to Harvard for several weeks in March of 2007 as a visiting lecturer at the Center for European Studies. He was available for meetings and discussions with Harvard students and faculty. During his visit, he led two study groups for Harvard students: one that spotlighted the future of the European economic model and another, which focused on Europe’s economic competitiveness.

- The Harvard Foundation Staff

Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society Welcomes Mr. Pär Nuder

(L.-R): Ms. Jackie O’Neill, University Marshal, greets Mr. Pär Nuder at his signing of Harvard’s guest register. He is joined by Ingrid Akerlund ’10, Treasurer of the Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society (HSFCS), Karl Harmenberg ’10, and Eric Lander ’10. Maria K. Larsson ’09, Co-President for HSFCS, presents Mr. Pär Nuder with a bouquet of roses.
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- Ofole Mgbako ’08

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Harvard Hillel and the Harvard Islamic Society

Harvard Foundation Sponsors Yom Kippur-Iftaar Gathering

The Yom Kippur-Iftaar (breaking of a daily fast) gathering was held on October 2, 2006 and was co-sponsored by Harvard Hillel and the Harvard Islamic Society (HIS). The event, which drew a crowd of approximately 300 people, was amiable and informative. The distribution of Harvard Hillel and HIS members attending the event was roughly half and half. The event was held on the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, which incidentally occurred this year during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, in which Muslims fast. Members of both groups gave thoughtful speeches that focused on religious understanding and tolerance, and the shared values of humanity.

The program was followed by dinner. Attendees received plates of traditional foods and freely mingled with both Muslim and Jewish guests. The event proved to be an excellent occasion for open inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and exchange in a very informal and friendly setting. The program lasted for nearly three hours, with the last guests leaving Ticknor Lounge around 9:00 p.m.

—Hasan Siddiqi ’08

Harvard Bulgarian Club and Harvard Romanian Association

Bulgaria-Romania European Union Accession Celebration

January 1, 2007 was a historic date for Bulgaria, Romania, and the European Union. The two Eastern European countries finally acceded to the European Union, and after many years of negotiations, became full members. There were large-scale celebrations in both countries for this important moment for the entire region. The Harvard Bulgarian Club and the Harvard Romanian Association joined together to extend the celebration to America, as well.

On December 1, 2006, we put together a panel discussion with the Honorary Boston Consuls for the two countries; Mr. Frank Bailey and Mr. Dan Dimancescu. Both representatives offered excellent presentations, focusing on the economic and political situations of the two countries. They explained the various benefits that the accession would bring to the nations, and potential dangers. The talks were followed by a question and answer period. The formal part of the program lasted just over an hour, and was followed by informal discussion. Before and after the talks, attendees enjoyed delicious Bulgarian and Romanian food prepared by the members of the two organizing clubs. Different dishes included baklava, lyutenitsa, halva, sirene, etc.

About 120 students and faculty attended the program. The majority of the attendees were Bulgarian and Romanian undergraduate and graduate students, with significant numbers of American and other international students in attendance, as well.

—Dobromir Rahnev ’07
Association of Black Harvard Women
Annual “Road to Success” Panel Discussion

Since its inception in 1975, the Association of Black Harvard Women has come to represent values and images of strong, educated, African-American women. Throughout the past 30 years, ABHW has continued to strengthen the bonds of African-American sisterhood through community discussion, social events and public service—the original and steadfast mission of the association.

The “Road to Success” panel, which has been held annually by ABHW for the past six years, is designed to bring together successful women in business, law, science, politics, etc., and aspiring, talented young ladies for an interactive panel discussion. This year’s keynote speaker was former Senator, Ms. Carol Moseley Braun, the first African-American female elected to the United States Senate. Her moving speech focused on the potential of minority women in America. Braun discussed the misconceptions of the limits of the potential of successful minority women. “We must,” she urged, “fight through prejudice and oppression, and not be afraid of achieving and maintaining top positions.” The speech took place in the Taubman Room of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Prior to the speech by Senator Braun, the women of ABHW and their guests enjoyed a panel discussion on women balancing professional careers and family priorities. The panel included a number of Harvard alumnae, representing a variety of professions from surgeons to the media. Among the panelists were Dr. Deborah Prothro-Stith, Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health, Mr. Kaniaru Wacieni of J.P. Morgan, Ms. Dora Lewin, of Bank of America, and Ms. Dana Sellers of Morgan Stanley. Every member of the panel had memorable words of wisdom to pass on to the mainly student audience. They recounted their lives and gave the members of ABHW an image of different aspects of their professional and private lives, including planning for children and family and sharing family responsibilities during professional training years.

- Mariesa Ricks '08

Above: Former Senator of Illinois, Ms. Carol Moseley Braun, with former Governor of New Hampshire, Jeanne Ms. Shaheen, Director of the Institute of Politics, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.
Faculty-Student Discussion
A faculty discussion on languages and regionalism was the first major academic event of the South Asian Association’s “Passport to South Asia” week. While planning for this program, SAA members decided to focus the discussion on particular methods of schooling in certain regions of Pakistan, with special attention given to madrassas, commonly cited as schools of radical political indoctrination in several academic documents, including the 9/11 Commission Report. The topic is of great and emerging importance, as members of the media and academic have portrayed the Qu’ran-derived curriculum of madrassas as part of the problem in the radicalization of youth in the Muslim world.

Professor Asim Khwaja of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard gave a short presentation, demystifying many of what he perceived as myths of madrassas created by sources in the United States and the Western world in general. Many topics were discussed, including the actual percentage of Pakistani students in enrolled in madrassas, common misrepresentations about the prevalence of madrassas by American organizations, and the unnecessary focus in the media and elsewhere in America about the extent to which madrassas play a role in radicalizing Pakistani youth. Following Professor Khwaja’s presentation, a lively discussion ensued in which members of the audience—the majority of whom were undergraduates—challenged his assertions about the relative harmlessness of madrassas. The debate was informative and entertaining, and gave sharp insights into what many see as a hot-topic issue in the Muslim world, especially in Pakistan.

- Kiran Bhat ’10

The Female Perspective
A South Asian Women’s Collective Panel during “Passport to South Asia” week dealt with human rights and social issues from the perspective of females. Led by a guest speaker who did special research in urban Pakistan on this exact issue, the panel involved a discussion with about 35 men and women and their perceptions of the topic.

The discussion began with our guest speaker explaining her work and findings from her research. The attendees then conversed and engaged in an open question and answer period, with all attendees asking questions and sharing opinions on their experience with women’s issues and human rights in the South Asian context. The discussion was also expanded to women’s issues in many different cultures and religions as well, which provided a broad and unique perspective on the topic.

The discussion lasted for over an hour and many different perspectives and opinions were shared during the time. Many people even expressed interest in having consistent discussions as a group about similar issues after this talk, which will be continued by the South Asian Women’s Collective. Also, it was a great program with which to conclude the panel discussion aspect of “Passport to South Asia” week, as women’s issues are of interest to many SAA members as well as other Harvard students.

- Pia Dandiya ’09

Emergency Medicine
The next event in “Passport to South Asia” week focused attention on some of the most significant health challenges in South Asia today. Specifically, the speaker—Dr. Stephanie Rosborough, an emergency medicine physician and member of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative—spoke with students about the state of healthcare in Pakistan, following the massive earthquake it experienced in 2005. Dr. Rosborough traveled to the region after the earthquake, taking part in the relief efforts. Using a presentation composed of images she captured there, statistics that have been collected in the months following the disaster, and her knowledge of emergency medicine and disasters—Dr. Rosborough explained the major health challenges that still plague the area as a result of the earthquake.

Students in the audience were able to ask questions about the relief efforts, and many were also interested in how Dr. Rosborough was able to enter the field of emergency medicine focusing on disasters. Dr. Rosborough explained the path that she took, and she also described the combination of emergency medicine in the US and abroad that she has managed to fuse in her career thus far. During the event, students were also able to hear about the demands of Dr. Rosborough’s field, the challenges of working in public health, and tips for getting involved.

- Vani Nambudiri ’09
Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings

Fall Guest Speakers

Each month the Harvard Foundation hosts a Student/Faculty Advisory Committee meeting (HFSAC/FAC meetings), which all members of the Harvard family are welcome to attend. These meetings serve as an opportunity for students and faculty to discuss aspects of race relations on campus, along with other salient topics related to culture, religion, and ethnicity both nationally/internationally. Nearly fifty undergraduate representatives from the organizations that comprise the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee (HFSAC), as well as several faculty members and administrators gather over breakfast in Phillips Brooks House to hear a brief address by a guest speaker, updates on cultural projects at the University, and dialogue on the important issues of the month.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, the Harvard Foundation Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings featured guest speakers from many offices throughout the University to discuss a broad array of topics related to race and culture. The year began with a talk by Dr. Barbara Grosz, Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences and Dean of Science at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Dr. Grosz briefly explained the transition that Radcliffe has undergone, from its long history as the female College of Harvard before the University was co-educational, to its current status as the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, one of the leading national institutes for advanced research, with a focus on the study of women, gender, and society. Dr. Grosz welcomed all students to the various functions that the Institute hosts for undergraduates to encourage interaction with the visiting scholars who are selected each year to be Radcliffe Fellows.

In October, Ms. Susan Marine, Director of the Harvard Women’s Center, spoke about the history and creation of the new Harvard Women’s Center, and the resources and programs that they offer. The Harvard Foundation hosted its annual meeting at the Office of Career Services (OCS) in November. Members of the OCS staff introduced themselves to students and fielded questions. The annual Harvard Foundation collaborative meeting with OCS is designed to encourage all students, particularly students of color, to feel welcome in the Office of Career Services, and to feel comfortable making full use of the resources that OCS offers. Questions from the students ranged from queries such as, ‘Will I feel comfortable in a corporate setting as a minority employee?’ to ‘Does OCS offer job opportunities other than consulting and investment banking?’ The staff of the Office of Career Services answered all questions adroitly and provided students with a wealth of information that they can share with members of their student organizations.

The fall semester concluded with an address by Mr. John F. Gates, Associate Dean for Administration and Finance. Dean Gates spoke to students about funding for the Harvard Foundation and its student grants program. Also present at the meeting was Dr. Doris Sommer, Ira Jewell Williams, Jr. Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, who spoke to students about the Cultural Agents Initiative, a project that uses the arts to enlighten students about cultural perceptions.

At the monthly Harvard Foundation meetings, the Faculty Advisory Committee members and representatives from the Student Advisory Committee voted on requests by several student organizations to become members of the HFSAC (organizations voted affirmatively as members of the HFSAC are eligible to receive Harvard Foundation grant funding, among other opportunities). Among the organizations inducted into the HFSAC was the Harvard Darfur Action Group, an organization devoted to helping end the genocide in Darfur, and raising awareness in the Harvard community on the culture of the Sudan region. The Harvard Aikido Club, originally founded as a recreational club in 1977, also joined the HFSAC. Aikido is a form of Japanese martial arts that synthesizes several traditional practices. The club offers classes to Harvard students of all skill levels. The final group inducted into the HFSAC in the fall was Harvard Bhangra, a group that performs and teaches traditional folk dance of the Punjab region of India.

- The Harvard Foundation Staff
Cultural Rhythms 2006 Proceeds Donated to MSPCC

Each year the Harvard Foundation donates proceeds from Cultural Rhythms ticket sales to a charitable organization selected by students. This year, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) received the funds. The MSPCC has been serving children and families in Massachusetts since 1878. With a commitment to cultural diversity in its staff of 800, the MSPCC strives to ensure that children have a safe and happy home. Among its services, the MSPCC provides mental health and child abuse intervention, adoption services, afterschool and daycare programs, and foster parent training.

Harvard Foundation interns hand-delivered the donation check to the MSPCC. Simi Bhat ’08 (Cir.), Cultural Rhythms 2007 Co-Director, presents the check with Teddy Styles ’07 (L.) and Owais Siddiqui ’07 (Cir.), Cultural Rhythms 2006 Co-Directors.

Students Welcomed to New Office Facilities

2 Thayer Hall

During the summer of 2006, the basement offices of Thayer Hall were renovated and the Harvard Foundation office facilities were moved to a larger location within Thayer Hall. While the new space was under construction, the Harvard Foundation found a temporary home at 1414 Massachusetts Avenue. Staff members, Christina Dias, Administrative Coordinator, and Shannon O'Brien, Student Activities Coordinating Assistant, and summer intern, Simi Bhat ’08, organized Harvard Foundation historical materials and archived many items in preparation for the move to the new office suite in the fall.

The historical materials that the Harvard Foundation retains—dating back to 1981—include Harvard Foundation grant summary books, Harvard Foundation newsletters/journals, newspaper and press clippings, posters, fliers, and print programs that chronicle the many projects that have been sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, as well as student-initiated projects hosted by the nearly 70 organizations that comprise the Student Advisory Committee. In addition, a complete digital archive of all Harvard Foundation newsletters/journals is available on the computers at the Harvard Foundation. Each newsletter/journal contains valuable information on both the history of the Harvard Foundation and its programs, but also the activities of student cultural organizations throughout the years. These materials are accessible at the Harvard Foundation to students and faculty who wish to conduct research.

By September 2006, renovations were complete and the Harvard Foundation moved into a four-room facility at two Thayer Hall. The space now includes a conference room with space for meetings of up to sixteen people, four new student computers, and two small-group workspaces. The new office space is available for use by all students and student organizations working on intercultural projects. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM year-round, and extended hours can be arranged during the academic year. Students who wish to reserve the conference room or other workspaces need only contact the Harvard Foundation staff.

Simi Bhat ’08 (far R.) works with representatives from the Harvard Depository to archive Harvard Foundation materials.
to make reservations. The Harvard Foundation also offers other useful resources for students and student organizations conducting intercultural and race related programs. When using the Harvard Foundation office, students have access to a photocopier, printers (limited usage policies apply), computers, phones, presentation materials, and a TV/DVD player in the conference room for film screenings. Many items are also available for loan, including easels for art presentations, a karaoke machine and speakers, decorative lighting, and griddles for cooking workshops. The student interns of the Harvard Foundation also offer assistance with publicity design and event planning, and are always willing to lend a hand at programs and events. All students are welcome to hold meetings, conduct small group programs, plan projects, and use the Harvard Foundation’s facilities for work that aims to improve the intercultural life of the University. The students, staff, and faculty of the Harvard Foundation look forward to welcoming members of the Harvard family to Open House events in the new office space throughout the 2007-2008 academic year.

*The Harvard Foundation Staff*

**House Race Relations Advisors**

**Intercultural Programs in the Harvard Houses**

In the fall of 2006, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations continued to coordinate the Race Relations (RR) Advisor Program in Harvard’s residential Houses. In September, each tutor who serves as a Designated House RR Advisor was asked to attend a tutor orientation facilitated by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation and Ms. Shannon O’Brien, Student Activities Coordinating Assistant. At the session, each Advisor received a newly updated manual, which contained the mission of the Harvard Foundation, Race Relations Advisor biographies, and contact information for all advisors. The manual also included information detailing the responsibilities of the RR Advisor role, suggestions for implementing House events, and protocol for first responders in the event of ethnic/racial conflict or assault.

The Race Relations Advisors were reminded that their role is to enhance intercultural and racial understanding throughout Harvard College by focusing on two primary objectives: to act both proactively and reactively, planning and implementing insightful programs for students within their Houses, and being available to respond to, report, and when appropriate, engage students in dialogue about conflicts or incidents that they are made aware of by students or college administration. Race Relations Advisors are asked to make their presence in the Houses known to all residents and House Administrators, to create and promote an atmosphere of cultural understanding and harmony, and to be available in the event of specific racial incidents.

During the fall of 2006, the Harvard Foundation co-sponsored a screening of the Academy Award-winning film “Crash” with the Freshman Dean’s Office. The film drew hundreds of freshmen, who were encouraged to attend discussion groups following the film, facilitated by Harvard Foundation interns and a few RR Advisors. Although RR Advisors are sometimes asked to attend events coordinated by the Harvard Foundation, their primary focus consists of planning activities within their Houses. This task is aided by Harvard Foundation student interns who serve as liaisons between the Harvard Foundation and the RR Advisor(s) in their Houses.

Often, House Race Relations activities may follow current, contentious stories prevalent in the mainstream media. For example, during the fall 2006 semester, CBS’s 13th installment
of the reality show “Survivor” divided 20 contestants into four tribes, according to their race. Several Houses chose to watch and discuss this series together. Melissa Jenkins, RR Advisor in Kirkland House, said the “Survivor” discussion had “good attendance and was a fun and informative event.”

Films and TV programs have proved to be successful in encouraging dialogue about race. Some Race Relations Advisors screened Spike Lee’s documentary about Hurricane Katrina, entitled, “When the Levees Broke.” Jessica Welburn and Seth Hannah, RR Advisors from Currier House described a dinner time discussion planned as a result of recent media events that were intended to “give students the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns about Michael Richard’s racially offensive comments.” Richards, an actor and comedian, played “Kramer” on the television show “Seinfeld,” and recently used racial slurs in a public comedic performance. Welburn said they had “generated a series of discussion questions for the students, including whether or not they felt comfortable continuing to watch ‘Seinfeld,’ what standards they felt that celebrities should be held to and what the boundaries of comedy should be.”

RR Advisors claim that low attendance at their planned House activities is a reoccuring problem. Advisors attribute this to students’ busy schedules or general apathy for issues of race and culture. Students who do attend RR events are often already interested in the subject of diversity, giving RR Advisors the impression that they are mainly “preaching to the choir.” As such, they work to find ways of appealing to less engaged students who could also benefit from learning more about issues of diversity. Lauren Rivera, RR Advisor in Mather House found one solution was to take 11 students to see the popular movie “Borat.” She explained that “this was a good way to reach out to students that normally wouldn’t be interested in race relations activities,” and noted that, “some interesting thoughts came out in the discussion relating to race, gender, and religious stereotypes in the film, people’s political affiliations, geographic origins and personal beliefs.”

On Tuesday November 14, 2006, a meeting was arranged between the freshman student interns of the Harvard Foundation and the Freshman Race Relations Proctors, to make recommendations for improving the RR programming in the three freshman “Yards” – or clusters of dormitories. Loretta Kim and Imad Kordab attended and shared their experiences and questions with the group of students. After brainstorming, the group made several suggestions which included: renaming “Race Relations” Advisors to “Intercultural” or “Diversity” Advisors. The argument given for the name change was that “Race Relations” inherently reminds people of racism, and therefore may be too harsh. Students thought this could be a possible explanation for low attendance at RR events in that “Race Relations” may be misleading or off-putting to students who are unfamiliar with the inclusive nature of the Harvard Foundation.

The group of Harvard Foundation students present at the meeting recommended that RR Advisors place more emphasis on the proactive programs they should conduct in their role, since freshmen may be more likely to confide in Peer Advisors, friends, or even cultural organizations about sensitive racial topics and incidents that would require reactive intervention. However, RR Advisors must be prepared for both.

The group also suggested that the freshman dorms should each have one (Continued on page 41)
Harvard Foundation Student Grants Summary Reports

Each year in the fall and spring semesters, the Harvard Foundation distributes approximately $25,000 per semester in grant funding to the organizations that comprise the Student Advisory Committee. Any undergraduate student organization officially recognized by Harvard College with a mission of improving race relations and promoting intercultural awareness and understanding may apply to join the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee. Once the organization has been voted in as a member of the Student Advisory Committee by a group of peer representatives and Faculty Advisory Committee members, the organization may submit grant applications for programs and projects that enlighten the Harvard community on aspects of race, culture, religion, and ethnicity.

The Harvard Foundation accepts grant applications once per semester. All complete grant requests received prior to designated deadlines are voted on in a two-stage review process. First, representatives from each of the Student Advisory Committee organizations review the grant applications during a series of Grants Review Sessions. Under the supervision of the Director of the Harvard Foundation and staff, the review process is organized by Harvard Foundation student officers, who are elected by their peers at the start of each academic year. The officers and Harvard Foundation staff make every effort to conduct the review in the most objective and comprehensive manner possible. After the Student Advisory Committee reviews all applications, members of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee then review the grant applications. Final funding totals for each Student Advisory Committee organization are determined, and funding is distributed retroactively.

At the end of each semester, student organizations that received grants from the Harvard Foundation are required to submit Grant Summaries. A small, diverse selection of these summaries is included in the biannual Harvard Foundation Journal.

The following undergraduate student organizations were awarded grant funding from the Harvard Foundation in the fall 2006 semester:


Harvard African Students Association & Harvard Islamic Society

World AIDS Day Fall Dinner

On Friday, December 1, 2006, the Harvard Islamic Society (HIS) and the Harvard African Students Association (HASA) hosted a joint “Fall Dinner” at the Leverett House Dining Hall. The event not only allowed students at Harvard to reacquaint themselves with other members of the Harvard community, but also allowed new club members to introduce themselves, make friends, and begin to feel a sense of belonging. The Harvard Islamic Society seeks to foster a diverse, socially-active environment, and an environment where one can learn about the perspectives of others. This collaborative program with HASA fulfilled our goal for interaction and enlightenment.
The guest speaker of the night, Dr. Farid Esack, a visiting professor at the Harvard Divinity School, urged Muslim students and all Harvard undergraduates to play a greater role in the sphere of AIDS awareness and in the fight against the spread of the disease. The speaker’s message was especially appropriate as the dinner was held on World AIDS day, when people around the world engage in activities to increase awareness of this devastating disease.

Dinner was provided by a Boston Pakistani restaurant, with chicken curry, rice, vegetarian dishes and bread, accompanied by baklava dessert. HIS and HASA educated and entertained a group of about 200 students, faculty, and guests of various faiths from all over the Harvard community. At the conclusion of the three-hour dinner program, attendees departed having enjoyed a night of delectable ethnic dishes and getting a better understanding of the role that Muslims and students can play in combating AIDS.

- Hasan Siddiqui ‘08

BlackC.A.S.T.
In the Blood play

“In The Blood,” by Suzan Lori Parks, is the street-wise fairytale that your parents were too afraid to tell you as a kid. Loosely based on Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “The Scarlet Letter,” Parks’s “In The Blood” is a bold revisiting, heavy with grit and edge. Meet Hester, a single young mother struggling to raise her 5 children...under a bridge. Naive and penniless, she finds nothing but exploitation and broken promises from the very people who are supposed to love and support her. Where do you go when every open door has a fee? This BlackC.A.S.T theatre production explored stigmatization, blame, and empathy within the black community. The event took place at the Agassiz Theatre, November 9-11, 2006. We estimate an attendance of approximately 250 audience members. The cast included Renee Ragan ('10), Jenee Ayers ('10), Jon Gentry ('07), Jesse Baron ('09), Andrew Coles ('09), and Chelsea Toder (Tufts '07). The director was Faith Imafidon ('07) and producers were Christian Strong ('09) and Jessie Washington ('09).

- Christian Strong '09

Harvard Raza
Las Posadas

Las Posadas are celebrated every Christmas for nine nights before Christmas Eve in remembrance of Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging before the birth of Jesus Christ. Las Posadas are a central aspect of the Christmas holidays for many Mexican families, so Harvard RAZA celebrated one of the nights of these festivities at Harvard. The program began with a procession starting from the courtyard of Mather House and continuing to other Harvard Houses along the Charles River. Harvard RAZA members sang the Posada carol from “inside” and “outside” the gates of the Harvard Houses with lighted candles in hand. Those carolers on the outside of the gate asked for a place to stay, while the carolers inside refused. Through song, the resistant carolers are made aware that the Virgin Mary is seeking shelter and is to be the mother of Jesus Christ. The people inside let the outsiders enter the gates and celebrate with the Posada, in the Junior Common Room of the House. Enjoying Christmas cookies, Mexican pan dulce, and other snacks, Harvard RAZA members sang traditional Christmas songs in Spanish.

On December 5, 2006, the Harvard Foundation sponsored a reception in a collaborative effort with Dr. Doris Sommer, Ira Jewell Williams, Jr. Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, and her Cultural Agents Initiative, following a screening of the film Truth is the Beginning. The documentary chronicles the West East Divan Orchestra, a youth orchestra composed of Arab and Israeli musicians, created by the late Edward Said and Daniel Benvenisti. Mrs. Mariam Said (above L.), widow of Edward Said, and Michael Steinberg (above R.), Director of the Humanities Center of Brown University, were present to make remarks.

Documentary Film Describes Arab-Israeli Youth Orchestra
Harvard Wushu Club
Contemporary Chinese Martial Arts

Wushu is the practice of contemporary Chinese martial arts. Chinese martial arts, including both barehanded and weapons forms, has a history dating back thousands of years, and is deeply ingrained in the Chinese culture. Examples of modern influences include the popularity of Tai Chi among the elderly, and “Wuxia” films like Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.

Wushu emphasizes the performance aspect of these arts, adapting combat techniques and modifying them to highlight speed, power and flexibility. In order to properly learn the art, Harvard Wushu Club hired a coach to teach members new movements and forms. Sifu Rick Wong, from Medford, MA, leads our practice sessions every Sunday, during which he teaches new material and corrects our learned movements.

This year, we have already had several performances around Harvard and MIT, including ones for the REACH and Dumpling Workshop programs. We also traditionally perform at the Harvard Foundation’s Cultural Rhythms festival, the Chinese Students Association’s Chinese New Year’s banquet, and the Asian American Association’s Feast.

We advertise our club continuously, and practices are open to all College affiliates. We emphasize that no experience is necessary, and encourage people of all skill levels and backgrounds to attend practice and find out more about the art. In fall 2006, we had 20 registered members.

—Wenxin Xu ’09

Harvard Vietnamese Association
Guest Speaker on the film Chuyen Cua Pao

On November 4, 2006, the Harvard Vietnamese Association hosted an event called “Guest Speaker on Chuyen Cua Pao.” We invited world famous Vietnamese actor, Do Thi Hai Yen, and director, Nguyen Quang Hai, to talk about their latest film, Chuyen Cua Pao, and to explain themes in the movie. The program was hosted in the Carpenter Center, with about 100 attendees, comprised of students and members of the greater Boston community.

This discussion and film clip screening was important in raising awareness of the existence of many ethnic minorities in Vietnam. It also showed the peaceful coexistence of many different ethnicities that can occur, even in such a small country as Vietnam. We believed that it was a successful discussion, and taught attendees much about Vietnam.

—Harris Hai Pham ’09

BGLTSA
Religion and Queerness Week

For the BGLTSA’s inaugural event in “Religion and Queerness Week,” we invited several undergraduates from multiple religious backgrounds to discuss the intersection between religion and queerness. The program was held in Ticknor Lounge, and there was Thai food for the approximately sixty people that attended. BGLTSA members were impressed with the diversity present at such a unique event at Harvard. This year BGLTSA is making a conscientious effort to broaden its perspective. The organization wants to bring in different religious, racial, and ethnic backgrounds to represent and talk about the complications that can often arise with a queer identity. Even though this was an informal discussion, it held a great deal of importance for many of those in attendance, some of whom approached many members of the BGLTSA board and thanked board officers for organizing the program.

Pakistan’s Hudood Ordinances, anti-sodomy laws in India, and sexuality in Bollywood. The magazine also contains an interview of Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nation and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, and a photo essay on Tibet. Undergraduate students wrote articles for the journal as well on topics such as corruption in South Asia, grassroots feminism in India, and democracy in Bangladesh.

We printed 1,300 copies, and these will mainly be distributed to undergraduates on campus. In addition, we will distribute issues to the graduate schools, the various foundations at Harvard, and affiliate universities of the South Asian Initiative. We also hope to tap into distribution channels in South Asia.

—Arif Lakhani ’07

South Asian Association
South Asian Journal

The South Asian Association received a fall 2006 grant from the Harvard Foundation to help finance the fall 2006 issue of the South Asian Journal, which was completed and is being distributed throughout campus on January 5, 2006. The feature of this issue of the journal is “Sexuality in South Asia.” Many prominent activists and academics contributed to the issue, including Mr. Ashok Row Kavi, one of the most famous homosexual activists in India and founder of Debonair, as well as Ms. Wendy Doniger, the nation’s most prominent Kama Sutra scholar. Topics covered in the Features section include
Without using intense advertising strategies to promote attendance at the program, we hoped to attract members of our community who are struggling with their own religious identities, or are just interested in how religion and queerness come together. This event, however, was not just publicized for the BGLTSA community. In fact, much of our publicity was focused outside the BGLTSA community. BGLTSA specifically invited representatives from the campus’s largest religious groups to get them involved in this important discussion. From the response BGLTSA received after the event, the organization felt it had accomplished its goal.

—Jessica Coggins ’08

Latinas Unidas/Latino Men’s Collective Discussion, Feminismo and Machismo

More than a mere double standard, the problem of Feminismo and Machismo in Hispanic society is one that permeates all parts of life. Because members of Latinas Unidas and the Latino Men’s Collective, as Latina and Latino groups, continue to be affected by these nebulously defined terms, even in America and here at Harvard, our goal for this program was to really explore the ramifications of these two notions. At the program, the sponsoring organizations wanted to bring together both Latinas and Latinos to generate a thoughtful discussion on the subject by asking questions such as: “What do these terms mean?”; “What do these terms connote?”; and “How do we use existing definitions or redefine them?”

The program took place on the evening of November 14, 2006 in the Winthrop House Owen Room. The over thirty-five attendees dined together on chips, salsa, and burritos. In lieu of a guest speaker, the program consisted of informal group discussion. Attendees included both members of Latinas Unidas and the Latino Men’s Collective, as well as other members of the Harvard community.

News coverage of the event appeared in the November 15, 2006 issue of The Harvard Crimson, in a piece entitled “Latino Groups Talk Gender, Telenovelas.” The discussion program was a great success and Latinas Unidas and the Latino Men’s Collective look forward to more great events such as this!

—Anna Brito ’08

Harvard African Students Association Founder visits campus

This event was the official welcoming of Professor Otunnu, one of the founders of the Harvard African Students Association (HASA) in the 1970s. We planned to welcome him, honor his vision, and above all, hear him speak on his reasons for creating the organization many years ago. Members also wished to know his vision of the future of the organization, the trials of founding HASA, his thoughts on the current tone of the organization, and his advice for HASA members of 2006. All of our plans were successfully accomplished. That is, all who attended the meeting walked away with a sense of fulfillment and gratitude for Professor Otunnu’s wise words.

His presence was truly of great educational value to all attending students and faculty of Harvard. The event reminded HASA members of the struggle to establish a diverse and equal community on Harvard’s campus. The Barker Center, home of the African and African-American Studies Department, graciously allotted space for this reception. HASA would like to thank the African and African-American Studies Department for their assistance. We would also like to thank the Harvard Foundation, which provided HASA with the necessary funds to host this marquee event.

—Uchechi Iweala ’09

Multicultural Fusion Dance

Students from a diverse array of performing organizations at Harvard and other area colleges joined together in the Ranaak fusion dance show. Groups such as the Harvard Steppers and Harvard Bhangra (shown above) were among the performers.
In Memoriam

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation express deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Hui Wang ’08, who died in a tragic car accident in October of 2006. Many of his close friends and relatives traveled from his native China to attend a memorial service at Harvard’s Memorial Church, officiated by the Reverend Dorothy Austin and Dr. S. Allen Counter. Wang, a resident of Eliot House, was well known for being friendly to his classmates, and for his warm smile and sense of humor.

Wang grew up in Guagnzhou, China before enrolling at Harvard University in 2004 as a biochemical sciences concentrator. He took numerous advanced courses as an undergraduate, and engaged in genomics research at a plant biology lab in the Fairchild Biochemistry Building at Harvard. Shortly before his passing, he had also decided to pursue a fourth-year Master’s degree in statistics.

Wang was also consistently involved in various volunteer activities, including teaching English to Chinese immigrants through the Chinatown ESL Program, leading the organization of a peace conference, and serving as part of an emergency response team for the American Red Cross. His hobbies and interests ranged from Japanese cuisine to table tennis and swimming. He had a passion for photography, philosophy, peace, and the outdoors. His great appreciation for nature fueled his enthusiasm for hiking and capturing beautiful photographs. His death left emptiness in the hearts and minds of his friends, who remember him as an optimistic and dedicated student and friend. Fond memories of Hui Wang live on at Harvard.

In Memoriam
Cecilia Ekperi ’09 (1987 - 2006)

In July, 2006, Cecilia C. Ekperi ’09 died suddenly in Washington D.C. at the age of 19. Ekperi, who was of Nigerian descent, is survived by her parents and an older sister. During her all too brief time at Harvard, Ekperi quickly became known for her energy, contagious smile and active participation in student groups. Cecilia, who lived in Greenough dormitory, was a popular student who was liked by all. Ekperi was the Social Chair of the “Freshman Black Table” her freshman year, a member of BlackC.A.S.T., and was scheduled to be on the Sisterhood Committee of the Association of Black Harvard Women during her sophomore year. An athlete all her life, Ekperi also enjoyed playing basketball in her free time.

To commemorate her life, the Harvard Foundation coordinated a memorial service in September, when students had returned to campus from summer recess. The service was held at at Harvard’s Memorial Church and was officiated by the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes and Dr. S. Allen Counter. Cecilia Ekperi was a valued member of the Harvard family, and she will be sorely missed. The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation, as well as the entire Harvard community mourn her passing.
Race Relations Advisors and Proctors have found that attendance at their programs increases when they serve interesting foods. RR Advisors have found success in adding food items as a draw to their events—often incorporating Chinese “mooncakes,” Thai, Indian, or other international foods, including the ever-popular Italian pizza to their menu. Supriya Gandhi and Irene Newton, RR Advisors in Winthrop House, held a “Meet the Race Relations Advisors” event, in which they served home-cooked dishes from their own ethnic background, including ninos envueltos, planatos fritos, arroz con moros, and shahi gobhi (Dominican and Indian food). In Dunster House, Jennifer Kan planned a number of events about race and culture, including a “Ramadan Study Break” at which she and approximately sixteen students “discussed the meaning of Ramadan and Muslim traditions.” An added benefit to attending the activities planned by Kan was her home-baked cupcakes.

However, students and Race Relations advisors have expressed disappointment in the “eat and run” tactics of some student participants, who rarely stay for the intellectual portion of the event. Designated House Race Relations Advisors have been creative in their planning of events that will evoke cultural awareness and lively discussion. Zenub Kakli, RR Advisor in Adams House helped to host an “event on standardized testing in education and its historical and racial implications.”

In addition to planning events, RR Advisors have helped to counsel students who have experienced a racial or ethnic insult. In the past, students have either approached Race Relations Advisors directly, or been referred to them by House Masters and Resident Deans. Advisors are asked to inform the Harvard Foundation in order to document the incidents, and in case of necessary intervention from the Dean of the College or other administrators.

Whether through engaging formats, popular media, or even food incentives, Race Relations Advisors ultimately hope to serve their House communities by promoting intercultural awareness and understanding. Van Tran, RR Advisor in Lowell House, summarized this mission eloquently in an e-mail he sent to Lowell House’s email list, in which he said, “given the great cultural, religious, ethnic, and racial diversity that we encounter here at Harvard College as well as within our residential community, it can be a bit challenging at times to interact with others who are different from us and to build long-lasting connections and friendships. That is why we [the RR Advisors] are here to listen and support you in your efforts of educating yourself and others about race relations and cultural diversity.”

On October 19th, the Harvard Foundation sponsored an hour-long session on cross-cultural problem solving, led by Ms. Rita Poussaint Nethersole, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Ms. Nethersole, who holds an A.B. in Afro-American Studies from Harvard College, an M.A. in Critical and Creative Thinking from UMASS Boston, and an Ed.M. in Higher Education Administration and Supervision, came to the Kirkland House Junior Common Room to conduct a workshop that was attended by approximately twelve RR Advisors.

The Harvard Foundation will continue to work with RR Advisors, HF student intern liaisons, as well as volunteers and other students to improve RR training and programming, with the aim of engaging and informing Harvard’s ethnically diverse population through intercultural dialogue.

- The Harvard Foundation Staff
Acknowledgements

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The Harvard Foundation is grateful to Ms. Claudia Hill and Dr. Leo H. Buchanan for their proofreading assistance.

The Mission of the Harvard Foundation
In 1981, the President and Deans of Harvard University established the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations with the mandate to “improve relations among racial and ethnic groups within the University and to enhance the quality of our common life.” In pursuit of this mission, the Foundation seeks to involve students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds in the ongoing enterprises of the University. The Foundation sponsors annual programs and activities that are designed to promote interracial and intercultural awareness and understanding in the Harvard community, as well as to highlight the cultural contributions of students from all backgrounds.

Harvard Foundation Flagship Annual Programs
Writers Series: Complexities of Color
Harvard Foundation Film Festival: Reel Culture
Cultural Rhythms Festival and Artist of the Year Award Ceremony
Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture and Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award
Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics
Harvard Foundation Student and Faculty Awards Ceremony and Dr. David S. Aloian Memorial Banquet
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Dr. Robert Lue, Senior Lecturer on Molecular and Cellular Biology and
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Dr. Michael McElroy, Gilbert Butler Professor of Environmental Studies
Dr. David Mitten, James Loeb Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology
Dr. Sandra Naddaff, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Master of Mather House
Dr. Michael Shinagel, Dean for Continuing Education and University Extension
Dr. Robert Woollacott, Professor of Biology and Curator of Marine Invertebrates in the
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Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Members 2006-2007

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