



The

**HARVARD FOUNDATION**

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**President Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Republic Speaks About the Model of Democracy**



**Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae* on Display at Harvard**



***Gandhi, My Father* Screened by Director Feroz Khan**

**Harvard Foundation Hosts Red Carpet Premiere of Denzel Washington's *The Great Debaters***



**Acclaimed Actor and Director Andy Garcia Screens *The Lost City* and Lectures on Cuba**



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#### On the cover:

Counterclockwise from upper left: President Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Republic delivers a lecture entitled "Development and Democracy in Latin America: The Dominican Example," at Cabot House and Tsai Auditorium; Carl Linnaeus' book of botany, *Systema Naturae*, was displayed during an event co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, the Harvard Museum of Natural History and Harvard Scandinavian Cultural Society; director Feroz Khan stands by a poster of his film *Gandhi, My Father*, after screening the film to a large audience in Fong Auditorium; film actor and director Andy Garcia meets with students during a reception following his lecture at Kirkland House; Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presents Denzel Washington's wife Pauletta Pearson Washington with the Harvard Foundation medal, in recognition of her humanitarian support of scholarships for college students in the health sciences.

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 property of the Harvard Foundation. For more information, or to be added to the Harvard Foundation mailing list, please contact:

The Harvard Foundation  
2 Thayer Hall, Harvard Yard  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: 617-495-1527 - Fax: 617-496-1443 - harvfoun@fas.harvard.edu.

## Letter from the Director

**Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation**

Dear Students and Faculty,

The fall of 2007 was an exceptional semester for the Harvard Foundation. Our students and faculty conducted over one hundred and fifty programs and projects that were designed to improve intercultural understanding and encourage civil, thoughtful, and peaceful interaction among students and faculty of all backgrounds, cultures, and religions. The academic year began with the annual Harvard Foundation Freshman Multicultural Brunch, which drew families of many different ethnic backgrounds to the Lowell House Dining Room for a meet-and-greet opportunity and remarks from the Director, Deans, faculty, and a diverse group of students. The remarks to the parents and first-year students focused on the importance of civility, racial understanding, and camaraderie in this diverse community of scholars that we refer to as the "Harvard family."

As American colleges and universities become more ethnically diverse, their administrations have sought ways of improving race relations and harmony among their students. Over the past 25 years, educational institutions, such as our fellow Ivy League colleges, have responded with a variety of approaches, including creating race houses to accommodate the social and cultural needs of its minority students, or "theme" houses for individual ethnic groups (such as at Stanford University), and so-called "third-world centers" (such as at Brown and Princeton), for their minorities of color. While these approaches or strategies for creating racial and ethnic harmony may be appropriate for each of these colleges and universities, the President of Harvard and the Gomes Committee chose not to adopt the approach of racially exclusive centers, but rather to seek ways of integrating students of all ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds into the fabric of the College as equal participants, and to have all of our students feel an equal sense of ownership of the University.

The Ivy League colleges have all faced challenges in improving and sustaining wholesome race and cultural relations. At least three of our fellow Ivy League colleges have recently received negative media attention for racial and religious conflicts that have affected the ethnic harmony on their campuses. While Harvard College has prided itself on its atmosphere of racial and cultural civility and understanding, that calm was disrupted last spring with an incident that was viewed by students, their parents, and many alumni as having strong racial overtones. The incident involved a confrontation between the Harvard University Police and African-American students who were engaged in approved recreational activities on the Radcliffe Quadrangle, and whose status as Harvard students was questioned by motorcycle police who went to the site, ostensibly to remove the students from Harvard property. This led to numerous meetings between the students, House race relations advisors, and the Deans. The Harvard Foundation responded to this incident by holding constructive meetings with students, proposing "a conversation on race" at the College, and a meeting with our sister Ivy League schools to discuss our respective approaches to prevention and resolution of racial incidents, as well as improving racial and religious tolerance and understanding. In the fall of 2007, the Harvard Foundation hosted a daylong conference entitled the "Diversity Leadership Conference for Ivy League Colleges". The participants included Yale University, Brown University, Columbia University, and Harvard University. (A representative of Princeton's Third World Center participated through an earlier visit.) Each participant presented a discussion of her/his institution's programs for race relations and conflict resolution, as well as recommendations for improving racial harmony. The conference was most productive, and it was agreed that it would be held annually on a rotating basis at one of the Ivy colleges. (A summary report of the Ivy League Race Relations Conference is included in this journal.)

The Foundation was pleased to host the celebrated actor Andy Garcia as guest artist and humanitarian as part of our fall 2007 Cultural Recognition Program. Joined by the Harvard Cuban-American Undergraduate Students Association (CAUSA), the Foundation hosted a screening of Garcia's landmark film *The Lost City*, which chronicles the takeover of Cuba by Fidel Castro and fellow revolutionaries, and the subsequent uprooting of Cuban families and their exodus to the United States. The screening was followed by a well-attended, passionate, and superb lecture by Andy Garcia on "Cuba: Before, During, and After Castro", in the Kirkland House JCR for students and faculty. The Harvard Foundation and CAUSA sponsored a reception and dinner for students and faculty following the lecture.

In November 2007, the Harvard Foundation welcomed Leonel Fernandez Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, to the College and hosted a student/faculty luncheon in his honor at Cabot House. This event was co-hosted with Harvard Latino student organizations, faculty, and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. President Reyna addressed an audience of students and faculty during the Cabot House luncheon and discussed democracy and educational development in the Dominican Republic. He also met with a group of students from the Harvard Haitian Alliance who had initially planned to protest his visit, but were persuaded instead to meet with him at the luncheon and discuss their concerns about the treatment of Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic. He enlightened the students about the challenges and issues related to Haitians in the Dominican Republic, and assured them that he would make every effort to see that the rights of Haitian immigrant workers and students were respected and protected. The students were pleased with the opportunity to meet with President Fernandez and even ended the meeting by taking a photograph with him.

The Harvard Foundation and its member student group the Harvard Scandinavian Society were pleased to join the Harvard Museum of Natural History (HMNH) in an exhibition of the first book of botany, *Systema Naturae*, written by the renowned Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus. This program brought together students, scholars, and members of the Swedish community of greater Boston to view this magnificent treatise, secured under glass at the HMNH, and to hear talks on Linnaeus' contributions as the father of systematic botany.

In collaboration with the students of the Harvard South Asian Society, the Harvard Foundation was proud to host a screening of the film *Gandhi, My Father*, and a lecture by the film's director, Mr. Feroz Khan. The film portrayed the family side of Mahatma Gandhi in relation to his stature as a spiritual leader. Mr. Khan discussed Gandhi's family and his relationship with his children as a father. In one message that was particularly relevant to the Harvard Foundation's philosophy, Khan elaborated on Gandhi's belief that all of the major religions were in harmony with goodness and the pursuit of God.

In December 2008, the Harvard Foundation proudly hosted a red carpet film premiere of *The Great Debaters*, that brought acclaimed director/actor Denzel Washington and his wife, Pauletta Pearson Washington, to Harvard as our special guests. 200 students and faculty attended the film screening, which was followed by a question-and-answer session by the Washingtons. The students and faculty were happy to have the chance to meet with Denzel Washington at a Carpenter Center reception following the premiere.

Serving as the primary agency at Harvard for creating and maintaining an atmosphere of intercultural civility and concord, the Harvard Foundation, through its students and faculty, conducted a range of well-planned programs that were integrated into the ongoing activities of the College and designed to fulfill the Foundation's goals and mission. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the students and faculty of the Foundation who serve as our compass and guide, as well as the Dean of the College, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the President of the University for their continued support of the Harvard Foundation.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation



## Red Carpet Premiere of Denzel Washington's *The Great Debaters* Hosted by Harvard Foundation

In a description of Mr. Denzel Washington, his recent film, and Harvard's honored position as host to the star and his film, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, stated, "He is a man of integrity with a strong commitment to education, and believes the film, *The Great Debaters*, symbolizes the quest of African Americans in the early 20th century, not only to become educated but to represent themselves superbly among the best and brightest of our nation. Harvard is proud to welcome this distinguished actor and humanitarian to the University."

On Tuesday, December 18, 2007, the Harvard Foundation hosted two-time Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington for the premiere of the film, *The Great Debaters*, for which Washington was both lead actor and director. *The Great Debaters* is based on the true life of Melvin B. Tolson, a talented debate team coach at Wiley College, a small historically black college in Texas. In 1935, Tolson, played by Washington, trained the most competitive college debate team in the United States, and the film follows the coach and his team on their journey toward victory against the undefeated Harvard debate team. The University permitted Washington to film some scenes on Harvard's campus in Sanders Theater in the summer of 2007, and students were thrilled to see familiar Harvard locations on the silver screen.

The Foundation has hosted many film showings in its time, but this event was unique because it was a red carpet and black tie formal affair in the Carpenter



Film Center. Members of the Black Students Association, the Black Men's Forum, and the Association of Black Harvard Women, the cosponsors of the premiere, were in attendance. The Foundation was also glad to see many students from a variety of different ethnic and cultural communities attend the event. In addition to the students who attended in their stunning formal wear, there was also an impressive showing of faculty members, many who have been long-term supporters of the Harvard Foundation. The audience also enjoyed the rich voice of renowned opera singer Simon Estes, as he serenaded the Washingtons with "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" after the film's premiere.

In one of the highlights of the evening, the Harvard Foundation paid a special tribute to Mrs. Pauletta Washington, wife of Denzel Washington, by

honoring her with the Foundation's Humanitarian Medal for her philanthropic contributions to medical science education and research by way of the Pauletta and Denzel Washington Family Gifted Scholars Program in Neuroscience. The program enables college students who are interested in the medical field to pursue their academic goals. The Foundation expressed Harvard's appreciation for Mr. Washington's masterful work on *The Great Debaters* and for support of the Harvard Foundation's premiere. Dr. Counter presented Mr. Washington with a gift of Alfred Nobel "gold medals" made in the image of the Nobel Prize medal, but filled with chocolate candy, which he brought from the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden.

The film screening was followed by a question-and-answer session during which both Denzel and Pauletta Washington answered questions from students about the film, his career, and their philanthropic efforts. The evening was an absolute success and after the question-and-answer session, students and faculty were delighted to have the opportunity to meet and interact with the Washingtons during a reception that was held in the Sert Gallery of the Carpenter Center. Commenting on the evening's program, Dean Robert Mitchell, Director of University Communications, said, "The Harvard Foundation has given the University a great Christmas gift."

– Elizabeth Eze '11





*Above, from left to right: Denzel Washington with Kevin McCluskey '76, Senior Director of Community Relations; Attorney Leonard Kopelman '62 HLS '65 and wife Carol; Federal Judge Joyce London Alexander and husband Johnny Ford, Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama.*

*Below, clockwise from upper left: Mr. Washington greets Willie J. Davis, prominent Boston Attorney and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Morehouse College; Simon Estes, acclaimed international opera singer, welcomes the Washingtons with a song; two hundred Harvard students, faculty, and guests in the audience view the film and engage Pauletta and Denzel Washington in a post-film question-and-answer session; Dr. J. Keith Motley, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and wife Angela are welcomed to the premiere of *The Great Debaters* by Dr. S. Allen Counter.*





*Left: Denzel Washington congratulates wife Pauletta on receiving the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Medal.*

*Top: Dr. S. Allen Counter presents the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Medal to Pauletta Washington.*



*Bottom: Anjelica Kelly '09, President of ABHW, and Foundation intern Jackie Hairston '10 present a bouquet of roses to guests Denzel and Pauletta Washington.*

## **Denzel Washington: Exemplar of Excellence**

Denzel Washington is the ne plus ultra of actors and one of the most widely respected dramatic artists of our time. He is a man of considerable erudition and intelligence who has demonstrated for decades his extraordinary talent as an actor in roles ranging from that of a young doctor in the television series *St. Elsewhere*, to the civil rights activist Malcolm X, to the iron-willed Civil War soldier in *Glory*, to the famous American boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. In many ways Denzel Washington defines the art and science of contemporary acting on stage and screen. In 2005, his stage portrayal of Marcus Brutus in the Broadway production of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* was masterful. His dramatic talents are based on a combination of intellect and natural virtuosity. He is analytical in distilling the essence of a character and is exceptionally skillful in bringing that character to life on the screen in a way that both informs his substance and dignifies the subject. His ability to immerse himself in a character and speak to an audience in a manner that engages and captures is remarkable.

Denzel's genius in his craft is evident to any scholar of the dramatic arts. In his latest creation of the role of Melvin Tolson, the real-life workers' rights activist and Wiley College debate coach of the '30s, in the film *The Great Debaters* (premiered at Harvard University on December 18, 2007), Washington again brings American history to life with a refined and enlightened portrayal of a character who was influential in African-American education and the advancement of human rights. Throughout this film, he demonstrates his directing prowess again and again with profound subtlety yet gripping scenarios. In one instance, a white farmer criminally threatens an African-American professor and his family with a weapon after the professor accidentally drives over one of his pigs that wandered into the highway. When the professor is threatened at gunpoint, he offers to "endorse his paycheck" over to the pig farmer to compensate for his loss. The uneducated—but white supremacist—pig farmer angrily asks the black professor, "What do you mean by 'endorse'?" This was a characteristically profound Denzel Washington touch that at once portrayed the true nature of racial domination in the pre-Civil Rights South

and taught a modern generation a lesson in history.

There is another side of Denzel Washington that few people know. In his public persona he is an acclaimed actor, a masculine screen idol, and a popular box office draw. At a more personal level, he is a man of tremendous sensitivity to the human condition, particularly the plight of others, and is committed to helping people who are less fortunate. In 1996, he received the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Medal from the President of Harvard University. He is also a loving husband and father of four talented and wonderful children. His equally talented wife, Pauletta Pearson Washington, a Julliard-trained pianist and vocalist (and the 2007 recipient of the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Medal), has been most instrumental in his career. Some years ago, the couple created the Pauletta and Denzel Washington Family Gifted Scholars Program in Neuroscience, which awards scholarship funds to college students interested in medicine. In this way, as in so many other ways, they have shared their bounty and blessings with others, particularly persons in need. Perhaps another excellent example of





*Counter-clockwise from top left, with Mr. Denzel Washington: Harvard Foundation interns Matthew Bresnahan '09 and Matthew Clair '09; interns Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 and Jacqueline Hairston '10; intern Theresa Cheng '08; Marcus Miller '08, mathematician and jazz musician; Sarah Lockridge-Steckel '09, President of the Black Students Association; Harvard Foundation interns and staff of the Harvard Foundation welcome Denzel Washington and his wife Pauletta Washington.*



the compassion of Denzel Washington occurred recently when he visited a treatment center for veterans of the Iraq War on a trip to Texas. He was deeply moved by the severe injuries and plight of these American soldiers. Upon learning that the disabled veterans' families did not have adequate housing during their stay at the rehabilitation center, he donated one million dollars on the spot toward the cost of providing housing for families of wounded American veterans, and sought no public recognition of his philanthropy.

He is also a man of deep spiritual convictions. The son of a distinguished

Christian minister and a devoted mother who was equally active in her church, he has maintained a strong association with his Christian faith throughout his life. His extraordinarily successful children have also continued his tradition in faith and have been impressive in their accomplishments in education, sports, and other spheres. For example, his oldest son John David is a recent graduate of Morehouse College and is today a professional football player who has played with both the St. Louis Rams and the New Orleans Saints. His eldest daughter Katia, who has also immersed herself in the performing arts, is an excellent student at Yale University; his

gracious and well-mannered twins Olivia and Malcolm were excellent high school students who are looking forward to entering college this year and continuing the Washington family tradition of excellence, honor, beneficence, and humility. In both his professional and humanitarian work, Denzel Washington is an exemplar of the excellence that Harvard University strives for, and the Harvard Foundation is proud to honor him.

*Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation*



## Andy Garcia screens *The Lost City* and Lectures on Cuba

### Acclaimed Actor and Director Shares Spotlight with Students

The Brattle Theatre bustled with anticipation as Andy Garcia took the stage to introduce his directorial debut in *The Lost City*. The film tells the story of how the Cuban Revolution divided the Fellove family. Fico, owner of El Tropic, a nightclub in the late 1950s in Havana, loses his two brothers to the revolutionary cause. After the revolution, Fidel Castro refuses to conduct elections, and the government begins to place great restrictions on the people of Cuba. As a result, Fico, the main character of the film, loses his nightclub. Eventually, at the plea of his parents, Fico leaves Cuba for New York. The film culminates with a Spanish recitation of the poem “Cultivo una Rosa Blanca” by national hero José Martí.

During the film’s introduction, Mr. Garcia recalled the challenges he faced in trying to finance his film. Despite these challenges, Mr. Garcia’s passion to tell the story of the Revolution as perceived by the people of Cuba gave him the perseverance to move forward. Mr. Garcia explained that when you attempt to create a film “about a political open wound, people will come at you with a political agenda.” After 16 years, Mr. Garcia was able to garnish support for the film, and while on a limited budget, the “bottom of the barrel” in his opinion, he managed to film the entire movie in 35 days in the Dominican Republic.

Following the film, students and faculty gathered in the Kirkland House Junior Common Room for a lecture and question and answer with Mr. Garcia. Dr. S. Allen Counter presented Mr. Garcia with the Harvard Foundation



Medallion as students, faculty, and community members applauded his humanitarian work in diabetes research and with at-risk youth. Mr. Garcia was also delighted by a wonderful performance by the Harvard Din & Tonics, who presented him with the traditional pair of lime-green socks in a Din highball glass. Mr. Garcia immediately put on the socks, rolled up his pants and joined the Din & Tonics on stage.

During his lecture, Mr. Garcia gave students an account of his family’s experience. Mr. Garcia was born in Cuba and had to flee the country when he was five years old, just two years after Fidel Castro came to power. Mr. Garcia’s own personal experience was instrumental in garnishing the motivation for his film. His personal connection to the experience of thousands of Cubans in exile in the United States was clearly demonstrated in his emotional account. While holding back tears, Mr. Garcia shared with the audience, “I would change everything about who I am to live in a free Cuba.”

Co-sponsored with the Cuban-American Undergraduate Student Association (CAUSA) and the Latino Men’s Collective (LMC), both organizations’ members were well represented at the reception. Richie Serna ’10, Vice President of the LMC and Harvard Foundation intern, said that Mr. Garcia “told a story that hasn’t been told.”

Mr. Garcia shared his views for a different future for Cuba and voiced firm support of democracy and freedom in Cuba. Students had the opportunity to ask Mr. Garcia about his political activism. One student asked Mr. Garcia whether the film has opened up new avenues for him to advocate for a free Cuba. Mr. Garcia talked about his motivations for creating the film and established that he did not have a political agenda when creating the film.

Another student asked for Mr. Garcia’s opinion on the embargo on Cuba. Mr. Garcia responded that the current embargo on Cuba provided Fidel Castro with ammunition to further his political agenda and propaganda. He described how much of Cuba’s ideology is transmitted through the educational system which pins Cuba in opposition to the United States. As such, the embargo provides Fidel Castro with an opportunity to cast blame on the United States for the present conditions in Cuba. Mr. Garcia argued that lifting the embargo would place “the ball in his court.”

The exchange between students and Mr. Garcia peaked when he was asked about his views on Michael Moore’s film *Sicko*, which compares the highly

## Andy Garcia Welcomed to Kirkland House Junior Common Room by Students and Faculty



*Above: Following the film, students of the Cuban-American Undergraduate Student Association (CAUSA) and faculty gather in the Kirkland Junior Common Room for a lecture and question-and-answer session with Andy Garcia. Below, left: Dr. S. Allen Counter presents the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Medallion to Mr. Garcia as students, faculty, and community members applaud his humanitarian work in diabetes research and with at-risk youth. Below, center: Andy Garcia accepts a Kirkland House T-shirt and flowers. Below, right: Garcia thanks Foundation intern Jackie Hairston '10 for a glowing tribute to his work.*



profitable American health care industry to that of Cuba. Mr. Garcia responded that his opinion would not do the question justice but rather he asked Lionel Perez '11 to come forth and share his experiences in Cuba. Lionel, a freshman at the College, left Cuba in 1998 and recounted his and his

family's experiences with the Cuban health system. Lionel recounted that although in theory health care was accessible to all, the resource disparity was extremely evident. In particular, Lionel provided the audience with an anecdote in which his cousin was in need of surgery, but their local hospital

was out of thread needed to close the wound. Mr. Garcia's willingness to share the spotlight with Lionel and other students exemplified his desire to engage in a mutual dialogue with all those present.

– Marisol Pineda-Conde '08



## Harvard A Capella Group Din and Tonics Serenade Andy Garcia



*Mr. Garcia was charmed by the Harvard Din & Tonics' entertaining performance, after which Din & Tonics business manager Shaan Hathiramani '08 presented him with a pair of their signature green socks in a highball glass. Mr. Garcia good-naturedly donned the socks and joined the Dins' ranks.*



## Andy Garcia, the Consummate Artist

The acclaimed actor Andy Garcia is the consummate artist. He is a man of impressive intelligence and philosophical and political interests. He is also widely respected for his articulate and passionate discourse on the Cuban situation and the general human condition. He is very active in his support of juvenile diabetes research and the improvement of educational and economic opportunities for at-risk youth. In 1994, Garcia received the Harvard Foundation Award for his outstanding contributions to American performing arts and humanitarianism. He was recognized for his remarkable support of victims of a catastrophic hurricane in Miami. Garcia is the quintessential family man. He and his charming wife, María Victoria Lorigo Garcia, are the proud parents of three daughters and recently, one son. His eldest daughter,

Dominik Garcia-Lorigo, who visited Harvard with her father in 1994, has chosen to follow his example in the field of acting, and has already demonstrated her outstanding talent as a dramatist.

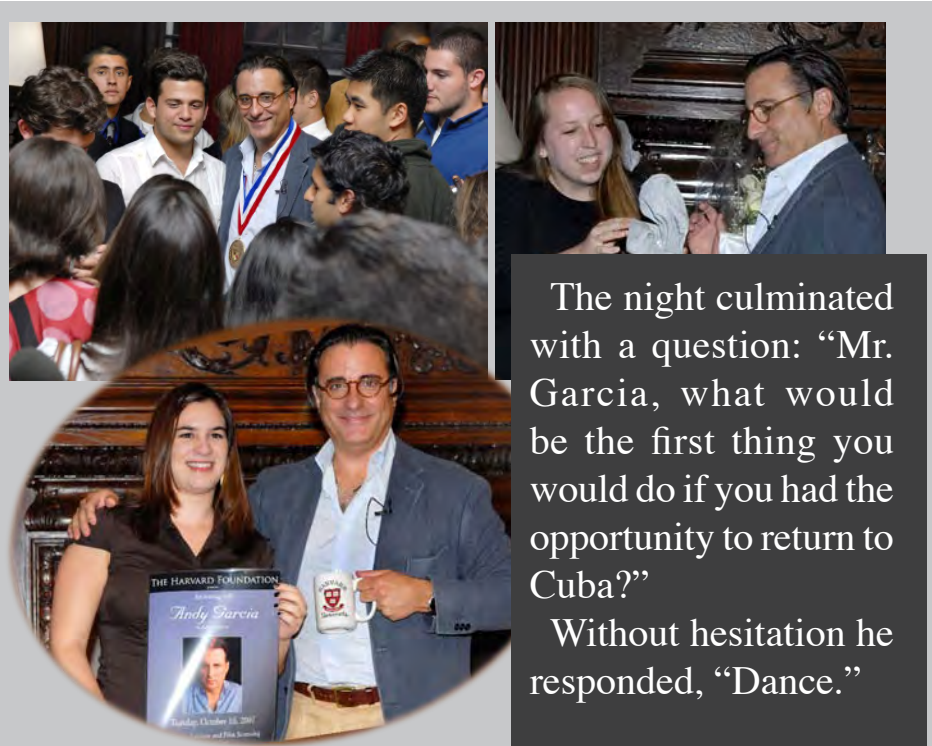
Andy Garcia accepts roles that are meaningful and uplifting, and shuns those that are stereotypical. He is popular among all demographics for his artistic brilliance as demonstrated by his outstanding performance in such films as *The Untouchables*, *Hero*, *Stand and Deliver*, *The Godfather: Part III*, and *The Lost City*. Garcia is also well-known and widely respected in the African-American and Afro-Cuban communities for his fair and respectful treatment of Afro-Cubans in his films and lectures. For example, some years ago, he was so troubled by a Hollywood film that misrepresented the cultural creation of the famous dance called the mambo, which excluded any reference to the Afro-Cubans who created it, that

he took his own camera and filmed a documentary on one of the last living “mambo kings.” Garcia’s remarkable film, called *Cachao... Like His Rhythm There Is No Other*, which was screened with Garcia by the Harvard Foundation in 1994, featured Cuban émigré Israel “Cachao” López, Afro-Cuban inventor of the mambo, then living in Miami.

Garcia, following a successful screening of his classic film *The Lost City*, was welcomed to Harvard’s Kirkland House by Harvard students and faculty, and members of Harvard’s Cuban American Undergraduate Students Association (CAUSA), for a reception and awards ceremony. He was entertained by Harvard’s premiere a capella group, the Din & Tonics, who performed some of their popular songs and presented him with their trademark green socks. During his lecture to a packed Kirkland House Junior Common Room audience, Garcia delivered an enlightening and heartfelt presentation on “Cuba: Before, During, and After Castro.” He was illuminating in a question-and-answer session that included questions from newly immigrated Cuban students. When asked by a student to compare the healthcare system of Cuba with that of the US, for example, Garcia acknowledged his lack of information in this area and deferred to Lionel Perez ’11, a recent Cuban émigré, whom he asked to come forward and give his views of the status of the Cuban healthcare system. At one point, Garcia wept as he talked about his love for Cuba and its people.

Andy Garcia is a man for all seasons and all people. He is a compassionate, proud, and exemplary Cuban-American who makes us all appreciate his gifts, his humanitarianism, and his ideal Cuba.

*Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation*



Top left: Students with Andy Garcia after his lecture. Top right: Anna McCallie '08, Kirkland House Committee Chair, presents Garcia with a Kirkland House T-shirt. Bottom: Elena Castañeda '08, President of CAUSA, presents Mr. Garcia with a Harvard cup and poster.

## Exhibition Commemorates Carl Linnaeus' 300th Anniversary Harvard Foundation, Harvard Museum of Natural History, Scandinavian Society

A constant stream of interested students, faculty and community members flowed through Harvard's Museum of Natural History on November 6, 2007, to view one of the original copies of Carl Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae*. The event, which was co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, the Harvard Scandinavian Student Society and the Harvard Museum of Natural History, was a rare chance for many to view one of the original examples of the binomial nomenclature that his work introduced to the world in the eighteenth century.

The rare and valuable book was brought to Harvard by Ambassador Mats Bergqvist and kept in a glass encasement under security in the Museum of Natural History. The book is one of six copies of *Systema* that were produced in color by Linnaeus himself. During the exhibition it was opened to one of its most colorful pages. Harvard University has in its collections two of the six original copies ever made by the renowned artist and taxonomist.

As students viewed Linnaeus' detailed drawings of plants and beautifully styled Latin descriptions, Museum Executive Director Elisabeth Werby and Director of Exhibitions Janis Sacco discussed the significance of Linnaeus' work and the exhibit. Acknowledging that this year marked the 300th anniversary of Linnaeus' birth, the Directors reminded the students and faculty of the unique opportunity they had to view the original work, which "carries a magic that you just don't get on the computer." The directors also spoke

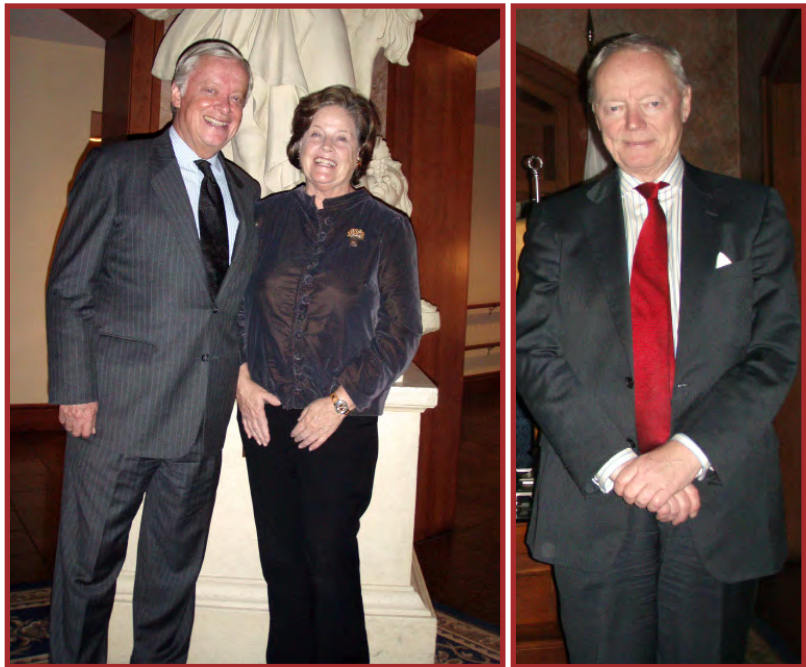
about Linnaeus' contributions to the field of taxonomy and of the scientific explanation of the natural world. Born in Sweden, Carl Linnaeus worked at the University of Uppsala, where he categorized most of the known plant and animal species during his career. In addition to the original *Systema Naturae*, which was published in 1735, the exhibit also featured the tenth edition of the book, which categorized thousands of other animal and plant species.

Immediately following the presentation, faculty, students, members of the Scandinavian Society, and a number of Swedish-American visitors joined in a reception to commemorate the life and work of Carl Linnaeus at the Harvard Museum

of Natural History.

The event was organized by Ambassador Ulf Hjertonsson, Consul General of Sweden in New York and former Swedish Ambassador to Spain, who was accompanied by his wife Karin Olstedt Hjertonsson (former Swedish Ambassador to Cuba), and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation and Consul of Sweden in Boston and New England. The event included a luncheon and meetings with Harvard librarians, faculty, University botanists, and the Director of the Harvard Herbarium, Professor Donald Pfister, Chairman of the Harvard Foundation's Faculty Advisory Committee.

—Matthew Clair '09



Above Left: Ambassador Ulf Hjertonsson, Consul General of Sweden in New York (former Ambassador to Spain), and his wife, Karin Oldfelt Hjertonsson (former Ambassador to Cuba). Ulf Hjertonsson was responsible for the American exhibitions of the Linnaeus book *Systema Naturae* in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of its publication. Above Right: Ambassador Mats Bergqvist was in charge of the security and safekeeping of the rare Linnaeus book *Systema Naturae* during its American tour.





*Above Left: Ms. Elisabeth A. Werby, Executive Director of the Harvard Museum of Natural History (right) stands next to the Linnaeus manuscript with Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. Above Right: Janis Sacco (second from right), Director of Exhibitions at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, speaks with students, including Harvard Foundation interns Matthew Clair '09 and Muriel Payan '08 (third and fourth from left), about the history of Linnaeus' manuscript.*



*Far Left, left to right: Host and Executive Director of the Harvard Museum of Natural History Elisabeth Werby '74, Swedish student Ingrid Åkerlind '10 of the Scandinavian Society, and Professor David Haig, professor of biology and member of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee.*

*Above: Elisabeth Werby discusses the Systema Naturae exhibit with eager students.*

*Left: Carl Linnaeus, author of Systema Naturae. Linnaeus invented the system of binomial nomenclature and is called the "father of modern botany."*



## The Harvard Foundation Welcomes Dominican President Leonel Fernandez Reyna to Harvard

### Luncheon in Honor of President Leonel Fernandez Reyna

On the warm fall afternoon of Monday, September 24, 2007, the Harvard Foundation welcomed the President of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernandez Reyna, to Harvard University with a luncheon in the Cabot House living room. Among the fifty guests present were students, faculty, and Dominican dignitaries. Many students had the honor of conversing with the President himself as well as several ministers and diplomats.

After a welcome by Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter, a student tribute was presented by Muriel Payan '08, who highlighted the President's work in building international relations between the Dominican Republic and other nations. Dr. Doris Sommer, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of African and African American Studies and Director of the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard, lauded President Fernandez for his creation of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, which fosters collaborative efforts between institutions in the Dominican Republic and the United States. Gilda Medina '09 presented a tribute to the President in the form of a recitation of a traditional Dominican song "Quisqueya." Her tribute was very well received as many luncheon guests found themselves humming and singing along to the song that celebrates their culture and national pride: "*No hay tierra tan hermosa como la mia/bañada por los mares de blanca espuma.*"

After being presented with the Harvard Foundation Medallion by Dr. S. Allen Counter

on behalf of the Harvard Foundation, President Fernandez spoke to the guests about his experience working in government and furthering progress and democracy in the Dominican Republic. Entertaining questions from luncheon guests, mainly students, President Fernandez illustrated the remarkable progress that the Dominican Republic has undergone in the past few decades and the fact that the nation is better than it has ever been, and is poised to make further progress towards democracy and economic development.

Closing remarks were delivered by Mr. Ned Strong, Director of the Latin American Scholarship Program of American Universities (LASPAU) and former Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, who shared his beliefs on the fine qualities of the people of the Dominican Republic and advocated for continued educational exchange between scholars in the Dominican Republic and Harvard, as well as other U.S. colleges and universities.

The President was very personable and eager to speak with Harvard students. Entertaining questions and concerns from student representatives from the Harvard Haitian Alliance, President Fernandez addressed their concerns regarding the

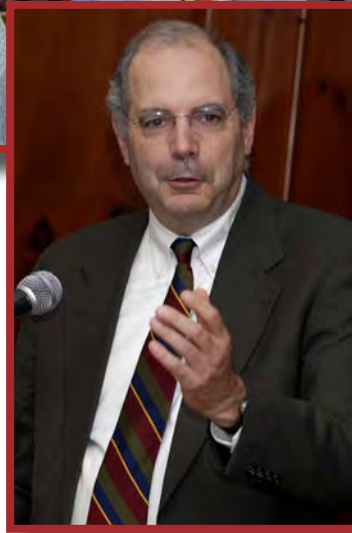
Dominican Republic's relationship with Haiti and Haitians residing in the Dominican Republic.

The luncheon ended with the President and his dignitaries mingling and conversing with students. The event was a great beginning to the President's day at Harvard which was followed by touring the campus, visiting friends at the Kennedy School, and a lecture which he delivered later that evening.

– Muriel Payan '08



President Leonel Fernandez Reyna at the luncheon with Harvard students, faculty, and Mr. Ned Strong, Director of LASPAU.



*Students and faculty join President Leonel Fernandez Reyna in an honorary luncheon held at Cabot House. Faculty and staff present included Dr. Doris Sommer (Top Right), Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, Dr. Brian D. Farrell (Center Right), Professor of Biology, who presented President Fernandez with a copy of his latest book on entomology of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Merilee Grindle, Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS), and Mr. Ned Strong (Bottom Right), Director of the Latin American Scholarship Program of American Universities (LASPAU).*





*Dr. S. Allen Counter welcomes President Leonel Fernandez Reyna and dignitaries from the Dominican Republic to Harvard at the John Harvard statue.*

### **Lecture Delivered by President Fernandez**

On September 24th, 2007, approximately 200 students and Harvard community members were given the opportunity to listen to President Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Republic speak about the model of democracy and development pursued by his political party during his two terms as president. In an eloquent and inspiring speech, President Fernandez lectured on the difficulties facing Latin American countries. However, on the whole his speech was a positive one, illustrating his belief that the Dominican population, and the Latin American population in general, is ready for democracy. He reiterated his party's commitment to creating new democratic institutions and reinforcing those that are already in existence.

President Fernandez focused a significant portion of his lecture on the progress that the Dominican Republic has made over the past decade or so. Just a few weeks prior to his visit to Harvard, a plan for universal healthcare had been implemented in the country. He spoke on the topic very candidly, saying that although the system was not perfect, it was the first of many steps down the road towards a truly democratic and equal state. Equal access to healthcare and other necessities provides the foundation necessary for realistic egalitarianism. President Fernandez's comments about the necessity of universal healthcare were an interesting juxtaposition with the current state of healthcare in the United States. Especially for those students in the audience who originally came from developing countries, it was refreshing

to hear a leader speak exclusively about the improvement of the standard of living of his people, a priority that is often superseded by other state concerns.

Following his lecture, President Fernandez entertained queries from audience members. This question-and-answer session allowed for elucidation on some topics that the President had not been able to touch upon in his lecture. One student's question about the treatment of Haitians and Afro-Dominicans at the Dominican/Haitian border prompted a response that addressed the genuine efforts that President Fernandez and his government were making towards improving relations between the two populations. He was the first Dominican official to visit Haiti since the incumbency of dictator Rafael Trujillo, who was assassinated in 1961. The President spoke about his collaboration with Haitian students' organizations in various Dominican universities working towards increasing their involvement in policymaking in the country. As they left the lecture, many audience members were heard remarking on President Fernandez's willingness to directly address even the most controversial questions and furnish inquirers with the most candid answers possible.

The event proved to be very powerful, especially for native Dominican students, who were called upon by the President to give back to their country and help drive it towards an ideal model of democracy. At the same time, all audience members were moved by his words because they spoke of a universal sentiment: that of equality and opportunity for all.

– Layusa Isa-Odidi '09





*Top Left: Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Dr. Merilee Grindle speaks with President Leonel Fernandez Reyna. Top Right: Students from the Haitian Alliance meet with President Leonel Fernandez Reyna to discuss their concerns about the status and treatment of Haitians in the Dominican Republic. Bottom Left: Harvard Foundation intern Muriel Payan '08 presents a bouquet to President Fernandez. Bottom Center: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presents President Fernandez with the Harvard Foundation Medal. Bottom Right: President Fernandez with Dr. S. Allen Counter. Below: President Fernandez and staff are welcomed to Harvard by University Marshal Jacqueline O'Neill at Wadsworth House, where he signed the official University Guest Book.*





## Harvard Foundation Hosts Annual Freshman Intercultural Brunch

This year's Annual Harvard Foundation Freshman Intercultural Brunch attracted a large number of freshmen and parents interested in issues regarding cultural and racial diversity. As in previous years, the brunch was held in the Lowell House Dining Hall and featured international cultural cuisine.

The recently-arrived freshmen were greeted at the door by Harvard Foundation interns and staff, who chatted with them informally about the community at Harvard and opportunities to work with the Foundation. Specifically, members of the Foundation mentioned both the internship and the new Foundation Associates program, which will allow students to act as ambassadors of the Foundation within their individual houses through programs, events and discussions. The associates program offers students involvement, while at the same time allowing them to commit less time than a full internship would require.

As the line along the buffet began to dwindle and students and their parents began to take their seats, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Foundation, officially welcomed them to the Freshman Brunch. In his speech, Dr. Counter noted the importance of diversity at Harvard and of learning from people of different backgrounds. He also alerted students to the numerous opportunities to work to better cultural understanding on campus. Dr. Counter suggested the Foundation as an avenue to express cultural belonging, along with the hundreds of other cultural and ethnic groups on campus.



*First-year students and their families enjoy the annual Harvard Foundation Freshman Intercultural Brunch. The brunch was held in the Lowell House Dining Room, and the guests were welcomed by House Masters Professor Diana Eck and Dr. Dorothy Austin.*

After Dr. Counter spoke, several students shared their experiences with cultural groups and with the Foundation. One student spoke about being a part of the Irish cultural group on campus, and Foundation intern Kelsey Leonard '10 spoke about being involved with Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC). In addition, Foundation intern Theresa H. Cheng '08 spoke about the importance of finding one's niche at Harvard, but making sure not to alienate oneself from potential friends and opportunities.

Dr. David Pilbeam, Interim Dean of Harvard College, and Dr. Thomas Dingman, Dean of Freshmen, also spoke at the brunch. They offered students anecdotes and made them feel welcome. Dean Pilbeam also joked and made the students feel comfortable in their newcomer status to the college, as this year would also be Dean Pilbeam's first as Dean of the College. At the end of the brunch, Foundation Co-chair Nworah Ayogu '10 raffled off Foundation T-shirts and other prizes to students who could answer cultural trivia

questions correctly. He also told fellow students about the many events the Foundation puts on every year, such as the Writer's Series and the Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference. He piqued the interest of the audience, and perhaps won over a few potential recruits, when he mentioned the past two guests of the Foundation's annual Cultural Rhythms Festival: Salma Hayek and Laurence Fishburne.

— Matt Clair '09



## Reception in Honor of Distinguished African-American National Organization Presidents Dr. Noma Anderson and Dr. Sandra Holley



*Left to right: BMF President Ralph Bouquet '09, ABHW President Anjelica Kelly '09, Dr. Sandra Holley, Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter, Dr. Noma Anderson, and Harvard Foundation intern Jacqueline Hairston '10. Dr. Holley and Dr. Anderson were honored with Harvard Foundation Medallion awards for their leadership of a national health organization.*

On November 15, 2007, The Harvard Foundation honored the president, Dr. Noma Anderson, and former president, Dr. Sandra Holley, of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for their leadership in and their exemplary service as African-American role models. Originally founded in 1925 as the American Academy of Speech Correction, ASHA has over 125,000 members, who include speech pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language and hearing scientists in the United States and abroad. The organization has helped thousands with speech, language, and hearing impairments to overcome their communication disorders, and has enabled persons with nonstandard language skills that impede opportunity and advancement in society to improve their language facility.

The reception was held at the Inn at Harvard with a wonderful array of food and drinks. The congenial atmosphere of the reception was filled with lively conversations between student interns of the Harvard Foundation, the co-sponsor, the Association of Black Harvard Women (ABWH), members of the Harvard Black Men's Forum (BMF) and members of ASHA. The members of ASHA discussed their own decisions to choose to work with speech/language pathology and audiology. For many, communication sciences and disorders gave them an opportunity to combine scientific research and teaching in order to help people with speech, language, and hearing impediments. In addition, the members of ASHA were eager to share advice about college life

for the students.

Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation and Professor of Neurology/Neurophysiology, began the program by discussing the significant and pioneering contributions of these two African-American female educators in the field of communication sciences and disorders. He described these two educators as role models who not only received doctoral degrees for their outstanding scholarly work in fields such as psychology, linguistics, sociology, and physiology, but went on to become elected leaders of a large, predominantly white American health organization. He presented the Harvard Foundation Medallion to both Dr. Anderson and Dr. Holley in appreciation of their leadership roles and contributions in this important area of scholarship and clinical service. Dr. Noma Anderson, who is Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Florida International University, was honored for being an important scholar in the field of speech/language pathology, as reflected by her desire to teach, conduct research, and enhance our common life through her notable contributions in the field of speech/language disorders. Dr. Sandra Holley, professor at Connecticut State University, was honored for her distinguished leadership as the first African-American President of ASHA and for her continued contributions to the health science education of people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Both Dr. Anderson and Dr. Holley spoke to the group and expressed their appreciation of the awards. They advised students about the importance of hard work, scholarship, and commitment in attaining success and urged the students to reach out and assist others in need.

While the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation were happy for both Dr. Anderson and Dr. Holley to receive the awards, one person at the reception who showed the most vocal appreciation was Dr. Noma Anderson's young grandson, Robby, who repeatedly shouted, "Grandma Win!" In the end, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Holley were not the only winners because through their hard work in communication sciences and disorders, they have helped so many other people become winners as well.



*From Top to Bottom: From left to right, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Foundation intern Jackie Hairston '10, ABHW Action Committee Chair Sharifah Holder '10, Dr. Sandra Holley, ABHW Freshman Representative Amaka Uzoh '11, ABHW President Anjelica Kelly '09, and ABHW Vice President Kristen Jones '08; Dr. Anderson discusses her role as President of the 125,000 professionals in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Dr. Holley discusses the advancements of minorities in health professions with Amaka Uzoh '11 and Anjelica Kelly '09; Senior Admissions Officer David L. Evans congratulates Dr. Holley; From left to right, Dr. Ernest J. Moore, Professor of Molecular Pharmacology at Northwestern Medical School, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Dr. Noma Anderson, and Dr. Leo Buchanan, Audiologist in Harvard University Health Services.*





## Harvard Foundation Welcomes Feroz Khan for screening of *Gandhi, My Father*

A new side to Gandhi, a man who has inspired many with his message of peaceful resistance, was revealed on the evening of November 6th, 2007, when students and faculty members of the Harvard community came together to view the movie *Gandhi, My Father*. The screening was followed by a question and answer session with the film's director, Feroz Khan. The film's unique perspective showed the relationship between Gandhi and his son Harilal as one that was less than perfect: one in which Gandhi was examined as a human, who made mistakes and had flaws, rather than the almost deified leader that most people imagine. A major message of the film was of tolerance. One of the most important themes of the film dealt with Gandhi's belief that all religions (including Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism) are equally good ways to find God.

The emotionally moving ending of the film, brought many audience members to tears. After the film, the audience had many questions for Director Feroz Khan. One question asked was, "The mood of the movie was very balanced. Was this a difficult effect to create?" Khan answered, "This was hardest for me to create because Gandhi is more than a man; he is an idea. Harilal's relationship with his father could not be compromised since the story was of Bapu ["father"], not of Mahatma. I wished the audience to understand the angst of the son as well as the pain of the father—to



*Harvard Foundation interns and guests at the screening of Gandhi, My Father. Simi Bhat '08 (center) organized the event.*

understand who he was, but also keep to both the facts and my own interpretation."

Another audience member asked, "There is a presence of several religions in the movie. How did your own perspective as a Muslim director factor into your interpretation?" Khan responded, "Whether in Gujrat, Kashmir, Bombay, or Delhi, there needs to be a larger perspective. If I thought just as a Muslim, I wouldn't see that the idea is larger than that. Discrimination and troubles happen all over the world. Against Hindus. Against Muslims. Against the poor. India is very robust in democratic tradition... in such a way it throws out politics." An additional question concerning Khan's directorial decisions was, "Why the title *Gandhi, My Father*, when Gandhi also had

four daughters? Why didn't the film have more to do with the others?" Khan replied, "As a movie director, I had to focus on one relationship in order to keep the focus of the movie."

For many in the audience, the most startling aspect of the movie was the portrayal of Gandhi in the role of a not-so-successful father. One person addressed this concern when he asked the question, "Why make this movie now? Are the Indian people ready to understand and accept flaws in their heroes?" Khan's response was, "Indians are very critical people. We've been critical all along. Also, the intention of the film is very clear. If there was an agenda to denigrate Gandhi... rather than explore relationships, as was shown, then we would have

a problem. However, the Indian people understand that when we deify a man, we make him irrelevant, and by humanizing Gandhi, we make him relevant to us, to society.”

Director Feroz Khan provided additional food for thought by ending with the point, “Nelson Mandela, speaking of his extreme commitment to his cause, asked himself if it was all really worth it, saying, ‘We were almost strangers to our children... had to live with wounds. Yet if you have to effect change... you must make sacrifices that are social, political, and personal’. One has to decide what is bigger—family or society. For Gandhi and Mandela, society and country are bigger. They believed in a country not based on nepotism, unlike the beliefs of many of those with political power today.”

— Sara Zaidi '11



*Top: Dr. S. Allen Counter welcomes Feroz Khan, noted director of the film Gandhi, My Father. The film was screened for an audience of Harvard students, faculty, and guests in Fong Auditorium, Boylston Hall.*

*Center and Bottom: Mr. Khan discusses the film with Harvard students and faculty during a question-and-answer session in Fong Auditorium. The event was well received by the Harvard community.*



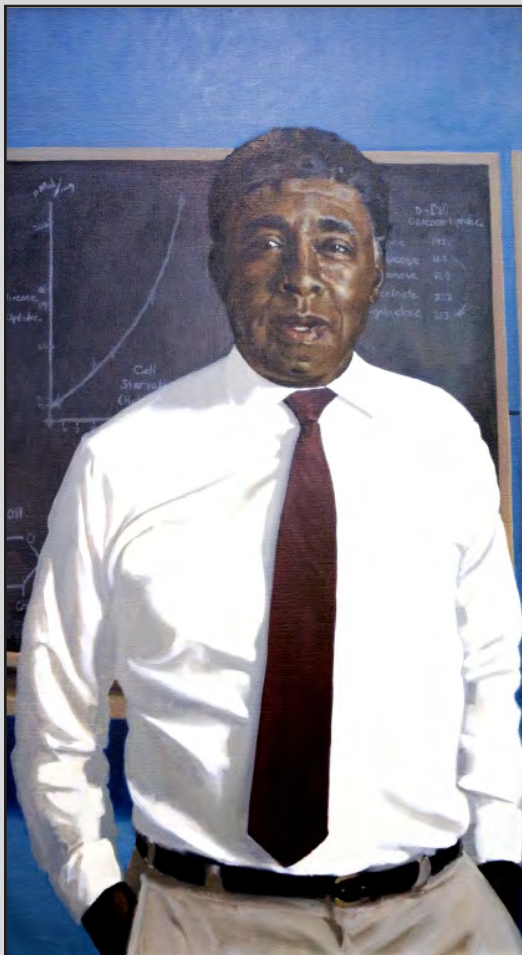
## Portrait of Pioneer Professor Harold Amos Unveiled at Harvard Medical School

A portrait of Professor Harold Amos, who taught at Harvard for nearly half a century, was unveiled by the Harvard Foundation on Oct. 4 at the Courtyard Café in the Warren Alpert Building at Harvard Medical School. Amos was a member of both the Medical School Faculty and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He was the first African American to chair a department at the Medical School. He chaired the

Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics twice, from 1968 to 1971 and from 1975 to 1978. Amos was a mentor to hundreds of students and many present-day faculty. For several years he served as the first director of the Minority Medical Faculty Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He died in 2003 at 84.

The framed, oil-on-canvas portrait was painted by Stephen Coit '71. Among the friends, family, and colleagues present at the unveiling were Coit, Chester Pierce '50, M.D., HMS '54, S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Howard Amos, brother of Harold Amos.

*Courtesy of the Harvard University Gazette, October 11, 2007*



*Photos courtesy of Kris Snibbe, Harvard News Office*

*Above: Dr. Harold Amos, Maude and Lillian Presley Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, received his Ph.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1952. He was the first African-American to serve as chair of a department (the Department of Microbiology) at HMS.*

*Top Right: Professor Harold Amos' family and friends were on hand for the unveiling of his portrait at the Harvard Medical School.*

*Bottom Right: Professor Chester Pierce '50, M.D., HMS '54, and close friend of Dr. Harold Amos, joins Dr. S. Allen Counter in unveiling the Amos portrait, which hangs in the Armenise Building at Harvard Medical School. Artist Steve Coit '71 joins the unveiling ceremony.*

## Diversity Leadership Conference for Ivy League Colleges Discusses Contemporary Challenges in Race and Cultural Relations



On Friday, October 26, 2007, the Harvard Foundation hosted its second Diversity Leadership Conference for Ivy League Colleges. The conference was organized at Harvard to discuss the role of race and cultural relations programs on college campuses and to explore methods by which Ivy League Schools can best promote interracial understanding and respond to instances of racial bias and conflict.

The participants in the conference included administrators from Yale University: Dr. Pamela George and Dr. Rosalinda Garcia, Assistant Deans of Yale College; from Brown University: Dr. Karen McLaurin, Associate Dean of Brown College; from Columbia University: Ms. Melinda Aquino, Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs; and from Harvard University: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Admissions and Financial Aid Specialist, Mr. Robert Mitchell, Assistant Dean and FAS Director of Communications, and student interns from the Harvard Foundation. (Ms. Makeba Clay, Director of the Carl A. Fields Center at Princeton University, was unable to attend, but had visited the Foundation earlier for discussion of Princeton's Third World Center [recently renamed Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding], and her comments were shared at the Conference by

Dr. Counter.)

The event was successful in that it gave each institution the opportunity to discuss racial conflicts on their respective campuses, to address concerns about some of the racial and religious issues that are currently under discussion by their students and faculty, and to explore possible solutions, drawing upon the shared knowledge of those present at the conference. Some of the universally expressed concerns included:

- Common conflicts among students of different racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds;
- Relations between minority students, faculty, and police at the university and community levels;
- Unclear institutional roles of advisory staff and diversity officers;
- Establishing clear "incident protocols" that determine who is involved in incident resolution, first responders, standardized responses, improved relations with campus security, etc.;
- Increasing the number of culturally diverse and culturally competent university faculty and administrators for an atmosphere of intercultural harmony and for mentoring purposes;
- Funding for student programming, establishment of cultural and religious centers, expanded staffing;
- Pre-academic race relations orientation programming and its value in relation to satisfaction with the college and to retention rates;
- The value of continual academic advising and monitoring of race relations throughout the college career.

With the changing demographics of



*Dr. S. Allen Counter speaks at the Diversity Leadership Conference for Ivy League Colleges.*

student bodies and the transformation of the international political landscape, many of the intercultural relations issues today go beyond racial bias to include conflicts of religious, national, or socio-economic origin, as well as gender imbalance and inequality. Another area requiring serious consideration is programming for Arab-Jewish interaction, which is a direct example of external conflicts that impact university students as at Columbia University. Additionally, class-ism appears to have increased on college campuses. Ironically, students profess similar ethnic or cultural backgrounds, yet tensions may arise as a result of socioeconomic differences that influence perceptions about academic merit or work.

In summary, the conference was a success, and the participants agreed to hold future conferences each year at a different Ivy League college. Collaboration with other Ivy League Colleges is one of the many ways the Foundation hopes to improve and evaluate its role in the Harvard community.

– Elizabeth Eze '11

*The full report of this conference is available upon request.*



## Diversity Leadership Conference for Ivy League Colleges



Center: Students and administrators met at the Harvard Faculty Club in October to discuss issues of concern to college race and cultural relations programs. Upper Left: Mr. David Evans Harvard Senior Admissions and Financial Aid Specialist, with Harvard Foundation interns Matthew Clair '09 and Elizabeth Eze '11; Upper Middle: Foundation interns Matthew Bresnahan '09 and Nadia Gaber '09; Upper Right: Mr. Bob Mitchell, Assistant Dean and Director of Communications at Harvard, and Ms. Melinda Aquino, Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs at Columbia University; Center Left: Dr. Rosalinda Garcia, Assistant Dean of Yale College; Center: Foundation intern Theresa Cheng '08 and Harvard Yard Race Relations Advisor Gordon Braxton; Center Right: Dr. Pamela George, Assistant Dean of Yale College; Lower Left: Hebah Ismail '06, HLS '10; Lower Middle: Currier House Race Relations Advisor Jessica Welburn; Lower Right: Dr. Karen McLaurin, Associate Dean of Brown College.

## Student Initiated 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 2007.

## Step it Up: A Coalition to Fight HIV/AIDS

In the fall of 2006, students from the Harvard Aids Coalition, the Black Men's Forum, and the South Asian Men's Collective approached the Foundation to request support in acquiring space, speakers, and funding for an event the next year. They wished to put on an event to address the issue of HIV/AIDS, an issue that acutely affects individuals of South Asian and African descent. They wished to have an event on a grand scale, considering the scale of the issue, and to do this they wanted a venue that would be appropriate: Annenberg Hall. The name of the event would be "Step It Up," because with millions around the world still suffering from the disease 25 years after it was first publicized, it was time to step up our advocacy work on addressing this epidemic.

The chief organizers of the event in fall 2007 were Tanuj Parikh '09, Chair of the South Asian Men's Collective, Jarell Lee '10, Social Chair of the Black Men's Forum, and Matthew Basilico '08 of the Harvard Aids Coalition. Their vision of "Step It Up" was three-pronged: a fundraiser, an awareness campaign,

and an advocacy campaign.

### The Fundraiser

To raise funds, organizations collaborated with a variety of other campus groups and co-sponsored a party in Annenberg Hall (a venue whose coveted access is rarely made available for such student-run events). The party was attended by well over one thousand people and raised \$6,800 for Partners In Health and the Treatment Action Campaign, an AIDS treatment and political advocacy NGO in South Africa.

### The Awareness Campaign

Students from the participating organizations donned T-shirts that read "HIV Positive." The T-shirts were modeled after those worn in South Africa in 2000 to combat the social stigma associated with having HIV. In the words of the organizers, the T-shirt "is an intentionally provocative rebuke to inaction. It battles the silence, apathy, and stigma that impede awareness, prevention, and treatment measures... In a bold display of solidarity, the wearer

proclaims the need for each of us to act 'positively' to fight the pandemic regardless of our HIV status." The T-shirts stimulated much-needed dialogue across Houses and e-mail lists about the role Harvard students can and should play in addressing HIV/AIDS.

### The Advocacy Campaign

The students invited Paul Farmer, the founding Director of Partners in Health, and Ira Magaziner, the Chairman of the Clinton Foundation, for a discussion at the Institute of Politics Forum. The Forum was filled to capacity with a simultaneous viewing in an overflow room. Over 700 students participated in the event, moderated by two members of the Harvard AIDS Coalition. On every chair in the forum there was a list of Senators and Representatives, by state, along with a script. In the middle of the event, students were asked to call their Senators and Representatives in support of the African Healthcare Capacity Act.

—Nworah Ayogu '10





### “Step it Up” AIDS Awareness Event

Above Right: Students from the Black Men's Forum, the Harvard AIDS Coalition, and the South Asian Men's Collective gather in front of Annenberg Hall. Above: (L.) Dr. Paul Farmer, HMS professor and founding Director of Partners in Health, (C.) Ira Magaziner, the Chairman of the Clinton Foundation, and (R.) Connie Chen '08 of the Harvard AIDS Coalition join (R.) SAMC Chair Tanuj Parikh '09 and BMF President Bryan Barnhill '08 in a discussion of AIDS awareness and advocacy for action. Right: Daniella Joffe '10 (L.), Ralph Bouquet '09 and Alex Johnson '10 (C.), and Matt Basilio '08 and Arjun Suri '08 (R.) proudly display their “positive” outlook on the fight against AIDS. Below: Over 1,000 students fill Annenberg Hall for a fundraiser event, the proceeds of which were donated to Partners in Health and the Treatment Action Campaign.



## Student Group Leaders Meet with New FAS Dean Michael D. Smith

On Friday, October 19th, 2007, leaders from eight of Harvard's largest cultural groups met with the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Michael D. Smith, to discuss the upcoming selection of the new Dean of the College as well as other concerns. The eight groups represented at Friday's meeting were the Asian American Association, the Association of Black Harvard Women, the Black Men's Forum, the Black Students Association, Concilio Latino, Native Americans at Harvard College, the Society of Arab Students, and the South Asian Association.

The student representatives addressed a variety of issues ranging from academic courses to specific policies, but the meeting focused primarily on the lack of

minority leadership at the College. Students expressed the position that the absence of minority academic leaders will inevitably affect many aspects of college life—students would like to see the rich diversity of the Harvard student body reflected in the College's leadership, it was suggested, and student leaders wish to have the issue of inclusion addressed by the Dean. They noted under-representation in specific offices and departments, and they expressed concern about the absence of diversity in the choice of House Masters.

The student representatives highlighted the importance of cultural groups and spoke of qualities that they would like to see in the next Dean of Harvard College. They also provided suggestions of

a few distinguished professors at Harvard whom they felt embody cultural competence. They praised the qualities of Dean Gross that made him a Dean for all students, one who did not marginalize any experiences and showed a strong dedication to student life and needs.

At the conclusion of the meeting, representatives applauded Dean Smith for his inclusiveness and receptivity to the voices of the minority student community, and the students spoke of their excitement in working with him in the future. His strong leadership is surely what is needed to steer the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in the coming years.

– Nworah Ayogu '10

## Kuumba Singers of Harvard College Annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert

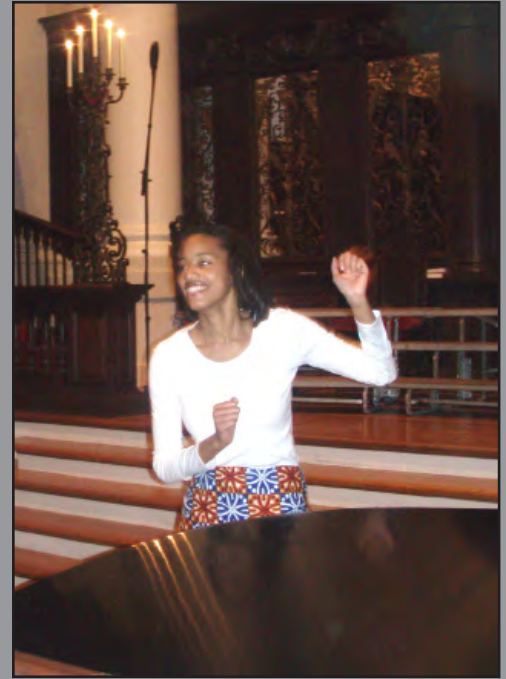
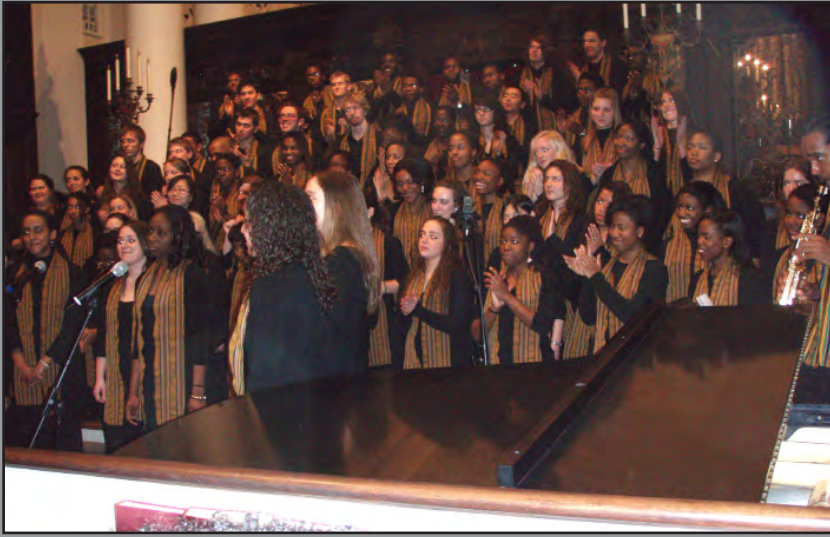
On Friday, December 14, and Saturday, December 15, 2007, the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College presented the annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert to an overflowing audience of 800 in the Sanctuary of the Memorial Church. The concert was conducted by the distinguished Sheldon K. X. Reid '96 and featured the talents of Harvard College students

of all races, cultures, and backgrounds. The traditional gospel spirituals, previously sung by the late Ruth Hamilton, were performed admirably by Genithia Hogges '01. The program featured classic gospel songs in the African-American tradition, such as "There is a Balm in Gilead," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." The

Kuumba band featured instrumental music by Malcolm Campbell '10, Marcus Miller '08, Chris Krogslund '09, and Berklee student Audi Lynch. Mr. Robert Winfrey, a Morehouse College graduate and former director of the Kuumba Singers, was on hand as guest conductor. Dr. S. Allen Counter presented choir director Reid with a bouquet of roses.



## Kuumba Singers' Annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert



*Top Left: Kuumba Singers of Harvard College perform in Harvard's Memorial Church at the annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert.*

*Top Right: Jessica Robinson '09 performs an interpretive dance to the music of the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College.*

*Bottom Left: Soloist Genithia Hogges '01 sang the traditional gospel songs of the late Miss Ruth Hamilton.*

*Bottom Right: The Kuumba band provided backup music for the choir. Kuumba band members, left to right: Marcus Miller '08 on saxophone, Malcolm Campbell '10 on piano, Audi Lynch on guitar, and Chris Krogslund '09 on drums.*

## News & Notes

### Ongoing Harvard Foundation Initiatives and News from the Semester

## Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings Fall Guest Speakers

Once a month, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations brings its students and faculty together in a forum for exchange and discourse. The Student Advisory Committee (SAC), consisting of the Foundation interns and one representative from each cultural student group, and the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) meet in the Philips Brooks House Parlor Room on the second Wednesday of each month. A monthly guest is invited to speak at these meetings in order to inform the group on aspects of intercultural and race relations at Harvard and in the community. The SAC members serve both as representatives of the groups, voting on and proposing initiatives and sharing insights, and as ambassadors of the Foundation, bringing the knowledge gained from the meetings to their respective groups.

The year started with the September meeting in which the groups met the new SAC Board, Co-Chairs Nworah Ayogu '10 and Elizabeth Eve '10 and Secretary Rauda Tellawi '08. The group representatives then introduced themselves to the intern liaisons who would be available throughout the year to assist them in organizing their events and programs. Dr. Paul Barreira, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Behavioral Health and Academic Counseling at Harvard University Health Services, was the year's first guest speaker. He spoke on mental health and ways in which Harvard students can help each other deal with stress.

The October SAC/FAC meeting

introduced the new *Crimson* race relations "beat reporter", Charlie Wells, who provided his contact information and indicated that he would be a resource for student ethnic groups who wished to have their events covered in the *Crimson* in the coming academic year. Nworah Ayogu then led a discussion concerning some of the changes proposed to Freshman Week by the Black Men's Forum and the Foundation, and asked for input and involvement from the groups. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Professor William Gelbart then led a conversation on the implications of genetic research for race, inspired by the recent controversial and unfounded remarks on the subject made by Dr. James D. Watson.

Undergraduate Council Financial Committee Chair Randall Sarafa '09 spoke to the SAC about the Council grants process in the November meeting. He provided valuable insight into ways in which student cultural groups can maximize the funding they receive. Sarah Rankin, Director of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response also came to speak to the FAC/SAC members on issues of sexual assault at Harvard and ways the groups can be involved in education and prevention.

December was the annual SAC/FAC meeting at the Office of Career Services (OCS). The OCS graciously hosted the meeting and the full staff came to make a presentation on the wide variety of services offered by the office. Students

gained valuable information about the pre-professional, career, and internship opportunities available for students of all years and backgrounds.

The January meeting featured Dr. William Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid to Students in Harvard College. Dean Fitzsimmons introduced the new soon-to-be-announced Financial Initiatives at Harvard College. He spoke to the demographics of the incoming class and the ways in which the landscape of Harvard has changed, and addressed the common misconception of the "Admission Accident," saying that there are no "accidents" at Harvard, and that everyone who is accepted is more than qualified and is here at Harvard for a reason.

We at the Foundation would like to thank all of our faculty and students for a great first semester. This semester, the SAC voted in four new groups: The Black Pre-Law Association, The Harvard Haitian Alliance, Harvard TEATRO (a Spanish-English bilingual theater troupe), the South Asian Dance Company, and *Ascent Magazine*, a publication exploring contemporary Islamic issues. We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude to the temporary administrative coordinators we had at the Foundation: Christine Hom, Casey Lough, and Rorie Valadez.

— Elizabeth Eve '10



## Harvard Foundation Introduces Associates Program

The Harvard Foundation launched a new Associates Program this year in an effort to bring intercultural activities closer to undergraduates. In the fall, students applied to work as Associates in each of their Houses and freshman dorms, organizing activities that catered to their respective Houses' needs. The Foundation interns and Race Relations Advisors provided support for this student-run program, resulting in a sharp increase in multicultural activities on campus.

The Associates Program began in an effort to empower students to promote multiculturalism. It fell in line with the Foundation's mission of improving

our common life and gave students a prominent role in addressing culture and diversity on campus. Selected from a highly competitive applicant pool, the Associates promoted a wide array of innovative activities for their peers. Events ranged from a multicultural talent show in to house field trips to salsa-themed study breaks. Most importantly, students who had not previously been involved in cultural activities became some of the Foundation's most active participants.

Associates maintained an active role in Foundation-organized events as well, adding another dimension to multicultural activities on campus. They volunteered for

large events and co-sponsored numerous Foundation activities in the Houses. Their collaboration with Race Relations Advisors was especially productive, as it added to the quality and quantity of cultural programs in the houses while diffusing the workload among several people—a marked change from the previous year.

The Foundation would like to congratulate this semester's Associates on a job well done. The Foundation expects the program to expand next semester to include more students interested in intercultural relations.

—Petros Egziabher '09

## Harvard Foundation Introduces New and Redesigned Website with Additional Resources

Two years after receiving a physical redesign, the Harvard Foundation has also instituted a virtual redesign to match. The beautiful new website design is coupled with a new and easy-to-remember domain name—[www.harvardfoundation.org](http://www.harvardfoundation.org). The engaging website helps to educate the campus about the Harvard Foundation by providing an overview of its history and giving access to a variety of the Harvard Foundation's resources, including an online version of the *Harvard*

*Foundation Journal*, which enables visitors to learn about past and present activities and members. The website helps to streamline the grant process with necessary documents (guidelines, grant application, and grant summary) all available in one place. However, the feature of the website that has received the most acclaim from faculty and students is the online events calendar. The website features a Google calendar, which can be embedded within the other calendars used by students, with all the campus's cultural events; it is maintained collectively by the Foundation and its Student Advisory Committee (SAC) groups and is intended to promote intercultural interaction.

With the advent of the grants process in October 2007, SAC Officers Nworah Ayogu '10, Liz Eve '10, and Rauda Tellawi '08 organized and implemented a new policy requiring student groups to

record all of their events on a calendar accessible via the Harvard Foundation website ([www.harvardfoundation.org](http://www.harvardfoundation.org)). The calendar is a new and exciting advance for the Harvard Foundation as it puts all campus cultural events in one easy-to-access location. Designed to reduce scheduling conflicts and to increase awareness about on-campus cultural events, the calendar facilitates cross-group collaboration and promotes participation between more than 60 groups that comprise the SAC. The Foundation is planning to launch a promotional campaign for the new calendar in the upcoming semester and hopes that its advent will increase awareness about the array of cultural activities taking place daily at the college.

—Nworah Ayogu '10 and  
Elizabeth Eve '10



## Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports

Each year in the fall and spring semesters, the Harvard Foundation distributes approximately \$28,000 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 diverse selection of these summaries is included in the biannual *Harvard Foundation Journal*.

The following student organizations received grant support from the Harvard Foundation for student-initiated projects in the fall 2007 semester:

Harvard African Students Association, Harvard Armenian Society, Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association, Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe, Harvard Asian American Women's Association, Association of Black Harvard Women, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, Harvard Bhangra, Harvard BlackCAST, Harvard Black Students Association, Harvard Bulgarian Club, Harvard Black Men's Forum, Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association, Concilio Latino de Harvard, Harvard Dharma, Fuerza Latina, Harvard Hillel, Holoimua O Hawaii, Harvard Hong Kong Society, Harvard College Interfaith Council, Harvard Islamic Society, Harvard Italian American Association, Harvard Japan Society, Korean Association, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, Harvard College Latinos in Health Careers, Harvard College Latino Men's Collective, Latinas Unidas de Harvard, Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, Native Americans at Harvard College, Nigerian Student Association, Harvard Polish Society, Harvard/Radcliffe RAZA, Harvard Romanian Association, Harvard College Sangeet, Harvard College Scandinavian Society, Harvard Society of Arab Students, South Asian Association, Harvard Spoken Word Society, Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society, Harvard Thai Society, Harvard Vietnamese Association, Woodbridge Society for International Students, Harvard Wushu Club, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

## Harvard Armenian Society

### *Harvard Celebrates Armenian Music*

It has always been the goal of the Harvard Armenian Society to bring together musicians of the same heritage in order to appreciate and celebrate the richness and fullness of music in Armenian culture. When Armenia was persecuted by the Ottoman Empire at the turn of the twentieth century, oral tradition and music were the two primary vehicles of cultural preservation. The Harvard Armenian Society wanted to educate those in the Harvard community about this fascinating aspect of Armenian culture. Thanks to the Harvard Foundation, the Harvard Armenian Society was able to put on a night of musical performances paired with informative lectures regarding Armenian composers who helped



preserve the Armenian tradition through their talent of writing. Every member of the Harvard community who attended was able to benefit by enjoying an evening of beautiful music.

—Nina Kouyoumdjian '08

## Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC) *Columbus Day Vigil*

Each year, Columbus is celebrated for “founding” the Americas. People in the United States celebrate the fact that this adventurous explorer was brave enough to traverse the Atlantic Ocean and discover a new world. While this may be true, there is another side to the story. The European exploration of North and South America led to the colonization and settlement of the continents, sparking conflict between European settlers and the Indigenous peoples who inhabited (and continue to inhabit) the land. In the week preceding the national holiday, our organization thought it was appropriate to make sure that the darker side of Columbus’s “discovery” be brought to attention. We accomplished this by displaying blood-red posters around campus that had quotes and stories reflecting a Native interpretation of the discovery and colonization of the Americas. To some, Columbus Day is not an occasion to be proud of; rather, it is a nationally recognized holiday that celebrates the theft of land, government supported terror, and in many cases, genocide. Out of respect for our ancestors, NAHC hosted a candlelight vigil outside Matthews Hall, the original site of the Harvard Indian College, to commemorate the lives lost and altered as a result of Columbus.

### *Alternative Thanksgiving*

Thanksgiving, as the name implies, is a time for friends and family to gather and celebrate all the things and

moments they are thankful for. There are many myths about the origins of the holiday, yet the one story that prevails throughout most of the United States is that of the Native Americans embracing the Pilgrims, preparing a great feast to bridge the gap between the two. Over time, Americans have followed this tradition by preparing a large meal toward the end of November. However, since the first Thanksgiving meal, the United States has become a very diverse nation, prompting the meal to evolve accordingly. In the spirit of both the original feast as well as the diversity of Harvard, NAHC thought it would be a great idea to have an open feast for students of all cultural backgrounds. Thus, we hosted a traditional Thanksgiving meal with a menu that included turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetables, and cornbread. Beyond the delicious food, we also wanted the event to be a venue for students to come and share their own cultural adaptations of the holiday. Almost 30 people attended and that number included individuals of various cultural backgrounds as well as students from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Medical School, Harvard Law School, and Graduate School of Education. The event was very fun and informative, allowing us to obtain a snapshot of the many different ways people celebrate all that they are thankful for.

### *Talking Circles*

The idea for NAHC talking circles emerged several years ago in response to demand from many members within our own organization. Originally, these gatherings were an opportunity for us to engage in more formal discussions about the Native issues our classes often overlooked. Eventually, we realized that many of the obstacles faced by Native peoples are similar, if not identical, to problems that must be endured by other cultural minorities. Thus, we opened up our discussions to other student

organizations in an attempt to engage in dialogue and raise awareness about the difficulties we all must overcome. In the past, NAHC, in collaboration with other organizations such as RAZA, FUERZA, and the BSA, has discussed issues such as minority college admissions, racially insensitive mascots, and minorities in business. This year, we have had three talking circles. One of them was an open event for students to discuss cultural adaptations of Thanksgiving (part of the Alternative Thanksgiving event). The second, in conjunction with the Italian American Association, discussed alternate views of Columbus; and the third was with various student groups to discuss how minorities can use their educations to positively influence their communities.

—Anthony Johnson '08

## Harvard Polish Society

*Meeting and Discussion with  
Professor Roman Szporluk*

The opening meeting of the Society this year featured the renowned Oxford historian Norman Davies. As a result, the large turnout of both the members of the Society and other Harvard students at this event encouraged us to pursue the idea of informing the Harvard community about the history of Poland and Eastern Europe through a series of



*Students of the Harvard Polish Society discuss the history of Poland, as well as its current international relations, with FAS Professor Roman Szporluk.*

speaker events. The History Department at Harvard harbors many prominent scholars researching Eastern Europe's past: one of them is Professor Roman Szporluk, the Mykhailo Hrushevs'ky Research Professor of Ukrainian History and a Fellow at the Davis Center. Professor Szporluk's interest in Polish and Ukrainian history and their fascinating interrelatedness was of great importance for us. During the evening we learned more about the complicated past of our country, and we also gained a better understanding of the complicated Polish-Ukrainian-Russian relations of the present day. The semi-formal character of the event provided us with an opportunity to genuinely get to know our guest and hear some of his more personal observations.

#### *Nalesniki (Crepes) Night*

It is our tradition to host at least one cooking event every semester—after all, cuisine is one of the most easily recognizable (and always appreciated) aspects of Polish culture. Being modest (or rather honest) about our abilities, we usually gather to prepare sweet and savory Polish crepes—*nalesniki*. The meeting had two parts: the cooking for those wishing to take the blame for the results, and the eating for everyone willing to test the products. To avoid a complete catastrophe (which has happened in previous years!) we also got some typical Polish snacks. Fortunately, we can proudly proclaim this semester's *nalesniki* to be some of the best in the 16 years of the Polish Society.

—Krzysztof Kozak '10

## Holoimua O Hawaii

### *Aloha Friday Dinners*

Holoimua O Hawaii, more commonly known as the Hawaii Club, sponsored a series (five for the first semester) of "Aloha Friday Dinners" in order to share the culture and cuisine of Hawaii

with all of the Harvard community. Events took place over the course of the first semester in various locations within the upperclassmen Houses, such as Adams, Lowell, and Currier. We rotated locations throughout the year to accommodate everyone and to encourage participation. Hawaii Club officers, members, friends, and other interested students attended our dinners and together we prepared, cooked, and enjoyed the various Hawaiian dishes. We wanted to promote the idea of Aloha by teaching people the meaning of the word and by demonstrating the meaning through our actions. ("Aloha" is a Hawaiian word that has a plethora of meanings, including "Hello," "Goodbye," and "I love you.") The bond that is created in cooking, rather than purchasing ready-made meals, is very important. We also had recorded Hawaiian music and people playing Hawaiian music on guitars and ukuleles. It is nice for people to just enjoy their Fridays, a day of the week many of us look forward to at the end of a long, hectic week. Thus the phrase "Aloha Friday" naturally bids the week goodbye, while greeting the weekend and the increased time we have to share with friends and family with love and affection. Without the generous grants from the Harvard Foundation and other organizations, these series of Aloha Friday dinners would not have been possible. It is imperative that people are exposed to a variety of cultures to really understand what America is about.

—Angela Chong '10

#### *Spam Musubi and Loco Moco Workshop*

Holoimua O Hawaii sponsored a cookout called "Beef, Eggs and Spam" in order to share a staple element of typically Hawaiian cuisine with the broader Harvard community. This event took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December at Currier's Treehouse. We changed locations from the Yard to the Quad because we decided that it was important that the freshmen

attendees become better acquainted with the area, instead of fear it. By hosting this event we hoped to promote the idea of Aloha and to break the mainland stereotype that Spam is not good food. On the contrary, Spam can be very delicious and we set out to prove this. However, realizing that some would not take to the idea very well, we included the Loco Moco, which is also a very Hawaiian dish containing a bowl of rice covered with a beef patty, brown gravy, then a fried egg. The Spam *musubi* is in the Japanese tradition of *musubis*, which literally means tied up, because it is a strip of fried Spam on a block of rice "tied up" with seaweed (with some sugar and soy sauce for added goodness). As always, the cooking was fun and educational for the few mainlanders who managed to overcome their fear of Spam. In addition, we had a few members playing Hawaiian music on guitars and ukuleles and singing. It was nice for people to come out in the cold to try out some new food from a region nearly half-way around the world. When all was said and done, we finished the majority of the ground beef and *all* of the Spam. We had a very good time with this event and look forward to continuing this next year, and possibly even next semester. Some of the organizers were Keone Nakoa '08, Isaac Ickes '08, and Yohsuke Miyamoto '09.

—Keone Nakoa '08

## Harvard African Students Association

### *Action Week*

HASA would like to thank the Harvard Foundation and its members for helping support the first annual production of Africa Action Week. Africa Action Week was envisioned to be a week devoted to exploring the problems facing the continent and the practical ways in which students can help. The week began with a presentation by the Maine Ghana Youth Network, a student-led NGO in Ghana that provides supplementary educational



and recreational resources to village communities in the country. Members of the NGO were able to fly in from Ghana to educate members of the Harvard community on the challenges, successes, and needs of the organization. The week continued with a talk by Professor Eric Werker, humanitarian aid and economic development specialist, who focused discussion on the proper methods for delivering aid to African countries in need and the implications of doing so. Members in attendance discovered the realities behind big infrastructure projects from oil pipelines in Chad to aluminum smelters in Mozambique, as well as to investigate the reasons behind systemic famine in Ethiopia. The third event in the week was a panel devoted to discussing the opportunities for work, travel, study, or research in Africa over the summer. Representatives from the Office of Career Services were involved in the planning of the event, and a booklet with available information and resources was compiled for students' convenience.

Professor Calestous Juma of the Kennedy School of Government, a specialist in technology and sustainability development of the African continent, delivered a keynote address discussing the general outlook of African heads of state on the technological future of their countries. Professor Juma is an internationally recognized leader in the analysis of Africa and its trends towards sustainable development, environmental awareness, and technology adoption. Professor Juma is from Kenya and has spent his career studying and teaching the realities of Kenya and other sub-Saharan countries to students at Harvard and elsewhere. Feedback from the event was positive and attendees left with a greater understanding of the level of development and foresight that country leaders require. Attendees especially enjoyed the literature provided by Juma that further explained the continent's situation. HASA hopes to have a similar event with equal success next winter.

The "Summer in Africa" event was the third event in Africa Action Week and was the one event especially geared toward motivated college students looking to have a direct impact on the affairs of the continent. The event was organized as a panel with representatives from Harvard's Office of Career Services along with students themselves (graduates and non-graduates). All panelists talked of the numerous internships, research positions, and travel grants available to students who don't want to just hear about the African situation over the news, but actually want to experience it firsthand. They discussed a variety of opportunities, including work in NGOs, financial organizations, and study abroad at different universities. A list of all these opportunities along with helpful contacts were compiled and distributed as a packet to all attendees. HASA is confident that guests came away with a more concrete idea of the best way to pursue and structure opportunities on the continent. We hope that the panel helped dispel some of the myths about the continent being inaccessible. Thank you to the Foundation for helping HASA fund this event. It will only lead to more competent and able leaders for tomorrow.

The Potluck was yet another HASA event centered on the joy of African cuisine. As the culmination of Africa Action Week, we enjoyed the company of all interested in this integral part of African culture in a relaxed environment. Rather than focus on the political struggles and economic status of Africa's people, we were able to enjoy the bright side of life of the continent. Over a hundred people attended—sampling food from Nigeria, Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Senegal—and all left with a sense of satisfaction, swinging to the African music that played over the din. The Potluck would not have been thrown without the Foundation's good graces. HASA extends a warm thank you.

—Uchechi Iweala '09

## Harvard Dharma

### *Freshman Samosa Drop*

Dharma continued its annual tradition of welcoming the freshman class to Harvard with warm samosas. The freshmen who had signed up for the Dharma e-mail list, either during Prefrosh Weekend or during the Activities Fair the previous week, received a warm samosa in the evening. None of the freshmen were expecting this, so the samosas were a welcome surprise after the first day of classes.

As happy as the freshmen were to eat warm Indian food, the upperclassmen who passed out samosas probably enjoyed themselves even more! Not only did they find themselves reliving their first two weeks of freshman year as they walked from dorm to dorm delivering samosas, but they also got a chance to meet most of the freshmen who later came to the introductory meeting. Quite a few of the freshmen remembered some of the upperclassmen in Dharma from the Prefrosh brunch held last spring.

Coincidentally, the South Asian Association happened to be making its own freshman samosa drop on the same night, so several freshmen found themselves with two samosas. Dharma and SAA board members quickly challenged one another to see which organization could deliver samosas to more people in less time.

### *Ganesh Puja*

Ganesh, the Remover of Obstacles, is one of the most worshiped deities in Hinduism. Traditionally, Hindus worship Ganesh before starting an important undertaking, so it was fitting that Ganesh Chaturthi, the day on which Ganesh is believed to bless his devotees, fell on the first week of classes.

This *puja* (religious service), the first of

the 2007-2008 academic year, attracted 25 participants. Freshman turnout was particularly strong, as the *puja* was only two days after Dharma's introductory meeting. Each participant received a program that contained prayers and *bhajans* (devotional songs), as well as a detailed explanation of the ritual tasks performed during the *puja*. At the end of the *puja*, everyone sang "*Om Jaya Jagadish Hare*," a popular hymn dedicated to Lord Vishnu also known as the Universal Prayer, while offering light to God. This practice, known as *aarti*, is said to have originated in the fire rituals of Vedic Hinduism. The word "aarti" comes from *aa* ("toward") and *rati* ("the highest love for God").

Following the *puja*, *modak*, a South Indian sweet dumpling not easily available here, was offered as *prasad* (literally "a gracious gift"). *Prasad* is created by a process of giving and receiving between the deity and devotee. The devotee will offer flowers, fruits, and/or sweets, which the deity will "enjoy" as *bhogya*. The offering, thus turned into *prasad*, can then be eaten by the devotee.

### Diwali

Diwali is possibly the most important holiday in India. Celebrated not only by Hindus but also Sikhs and Jains, the festival means many things to many people. To Hindus, Diwali commemorates the return of Lord Rama, King of Ayodhya, and his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana after a fourteen-year exile and a war in which he killed Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. The citizens of Ayodhya lit oil lamps, or *divas*, along the way, which is why Hindus continue to decorate their homes with *divas* today. Diwali also marks the beginning of the New Year according to the Vikram Samvat calendar. For Jains, Diwali is said to be the day on which Lord Mahavira attained *moksha*. Diwali is the second-most important day in the Sikh calendar as it is associated with

the Sikhs' uprising against the Mughal Empire.

Dharma's celebration of Diwali attracted over two hundred participants this year. Professors Diana Eck and Dorothy Austin, Masters of Lowell House, graciously allowed Dharma to use their home for the event. "Senior hosts" and board members arrived five hours before the event to begin preparing food: *chaat*, a popular snack that consists of diced potatoes and onions in a mix of chutneys and yogurt; *sheero*, a dessert made from cream of wheat, raisins, and cashew nuts; *gulab jamun*, sweet milk dumplings served in rosewater syrup; and many other dishes were served.

The actual service began with storytelling. Everyone from freshmen to graduate students recounted Diwali experiences both at home and in college. A Harvard Medical School student said that this was his sixth Diwali with Dharma. The main part of the service was a *puja* devoted to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. *Bhajans* from various regions of India, including Gujarat, Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, were sung. Finally, the ceremony concluded with an *aarti* as all two hundred guests offered light to God. As with all of Dharma's other *pujas*, attendees were given booklets with prayers, *bhajans*, and an explanation of the *puja*.

### Durga Puja

Dharma held its annual Durga Puja in October to mark Navratri (literally "nine nights"), a festival during which forms of the Divine Mother are worshiped. During the first three days, devotees ask Durga to purge them of their vices. During the next three days, devotees ask Lakshmi to bestow wealth upon them. During the final three days, devotees ask Saraswati to give them wisdom. Navratri, particularly the eighth day (Durgashtami), is an extremely popular festival in Bengal.

Traditionally, Dharma asks two freshmen

who are not on the board to lead each *puja*. Anjali Bhatt '11 and Arhana Chattopadhyay '11 volunteered to be the first "freshman hosts" for the year. During the actual service, both paid particularly close attention to the meaning behind the rituals. As with all other Dharma *pujas*, participants were each given a booklet with prayers and *bhajans* (devotional songs). Dharma was fortunate to have a reporter from the *Boston Globe* cover the *puja*.

For *prasad*, ritual offerings of flowers, fruits, or sweets, Dharma served *jalebi*, a fried sweet made from flour and dipped in syrup flavored with saffron. Attendees stayed for as long as half an hour after the *puja* to talk about everything from exams to Indic languages.

### Discussion Series

Aneesh Kulkarni '09, Dharma's discussion chair, led a series of five discussions this semester. Following weekly *aartis* in the prayer space, Aneesh and the other participants talked about everything from whether a Hindu can morally become an investment banker (he or she can, according to most participants), to what a Hindu might think about the current healthcare debate, and even whether or not the consumption of fast food is moral.

While the discussion series sparked some interesting conversations, the most vigorous debates took place after the discussion over the Dharma e-mail list. The "Taco Bell Issue," for example, considered whether it is hypocritical for a Hindu to eat food from Taco Bell outside the prayer space and choose not to eat food inside. While the topic sounds narrow, the discussion touched on issues ranging from religious and ethnic identity (consuming Taco Bell in the prayer space would be wrong because it goes against the identity one assumes when in the prayer space) to environmental and moral arguments in favor of vegetarianism. (Dharma never



did bring food from Taco Bell into the prayer space and instead chose to buy *gulab jamun* for the last discussion.)

—Vikram Modi '10

## Harvard Islamic Society

*Harvard Islamic Society Faculty Iftaar*

On Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, the Harvard Islamic Society hosted its Faculty Iftaar (fast-breaking meal) in Ticknor Lounge, Boylston Hall. Invitations to numerous deans, staff members, administrators, and professors were sent out in the middle of September. The event gave professors, proctors, advisors, teaching fellows and other community members a chance to learn firsthand about Ramadan and its significance to Muslim students on campus. The Harvard Islamic Society seeks to foster a diverse, socially-active environment, and loves sharing Islam and Islamic practices with others around campus. After the breaking of the fast and the completion of the sunset prayer (*Maghrib*), Martin Nguyen, a graduate student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, took a few minutes to offer some thoughts on morality, spirituality and the importance of teachers in our lives, enriching those who sat around him to listen.

Lasting about two hours, the Harvard Islamic Society Faculty Iftaar educated and entertained a group of about 130 College and graduate students and 40 faculty members, including faculty from many undergraduate departments, the Law School and the School of Government. Aid from the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council allowed the group to enjoy ethnic cuisine, catered by a local restaurant, complete with baklava for dessert.

*Islam 101*

On Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Harvard Islamic Society co-hosted, with the Interfaith Council, an informative event on the religion of Islam. With all the buzzwords thrown around these days in the media and popular culture, many stereotypes and prejudices are created. In order to combat these undeniably prevalent stereotypes, HIS employs a very basic approach—clearing the air and talking about the religion from its very foundations, speaking of the commonalities it shares with other major world religions, indentifying the fundamental ideas and practices that are essential to Islam. Another important part of the event is the question-answer session in which we invite all possible confusions to be addressed. The audience has a chance to bring up the subjects that they are unclear on and get an educated response. This is vital in clearing up the stereotypes that perpetuate themselves in our society. By doing this, HIS provides the Harvard community with a chance to be more understanding and therefore tolerant of others.

Refreshments were provided afterwards, in the form of the traditional *iftaar*, the breaking of the fast, as a more light-hearted accompaniment to the heavy matters that were discussed. Within a duration of a few hours, the Harvard Islamic Society was able to openly talk to a group of about 100 students, faculty, and guests of various faiths from all over campus and allow them to voice concerns and shake out their musty biases in order to come to a better, fuller understanding of the large issues that the world ahead of them offers. With this preparation, HIS has done its best to educate, and to eradicate ignorance about Islam.

### *What is the Quran*

On Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Harvard Islamic Society hosted an educational event entitled “What is the Quran.” Martin Nguyen, a graduate student in the Graduate School of Arts

and Sciences, gave a presentation on the centrality of the Quran and its interpretation to an audience of over 50 students, faculty and community members. This was then followed by a long question and answer session, in which audience members asked any questions they had specifically about the role of the Quran in Islam, its background and exegesis, as well as more general questions about Islam and Muslims. The event gave attendees a chance to learn firsthand about the most memorized book in the world, and a text that is considered the sacred word of God by over a fifth of the world's population.

Lasting for over an hour, with over 60 attendees, the Harvard Islamic Society “What is the Quran” event educated and informed the audience about an often distorted and misrepresented aspect of the religion. In a time when Islam is under close scrutiny, this event served to help the Harvard community learn about the religion and its central text from those who know it best: the Muslims.

### *Prayer Workshop*

On Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007, the Harvard Islamic Society hosted an educational Prayer Workshop in the Muslim prayer space in Canaday Basement. Imam Suheil Laher, the Muslim chaplain at MIT, gave an extensive presentation and class on the daily prayers of Muslims. The event first described the various injunctions in the Quran and teachings of the Prophet which talk about the centrality of the daily prayers to the spiritual life of a Muslim. Following this, the speaker described specific parts of the prayer, and explained the recommended way of carrying out the prayer. This was then followed by a long question and answer session, in which attendees asked any questions they had specifically about the role of the prayers in the daily life of a Muslim, as well as questions about the actual act and performance of prayer.

The event gave attendees a chance to learn from an Imam (scholar) about this central aspect of Muslim practice.

Lasting for over two hours, with over 40 attendees, the Harvard Islamic Society Prayer Workshop educated and informed the audience about a key part of Muslim life and practice. This was a great event for both Muslims (to learn more about the correct way of prayer) as well as for non-Muslims (to learn more about this symbol of Islam that is so fundamental to the faith).

—Batool Ali '10

## South Asian Association

### *South Asian FoodFest*

The South Asian Association's annual FoodFest marked the midpoint of our Passport to South Asia Week, and was a celebration of the diverse and multifaceted tastes of the subcontinent. This year, we offered a more eclectic array of foods and included cuisine more common in Pakistan and Bangladesh, along with the more uniquely Indian fare less common in restaurants around Harvard Square. The event, which took place on December 12, 2007, in Mather Dining Hall, was made possible by the generous funding of both the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council. Our guests, numbering over 150, were as diverse as the food selection, with participants of all creeds coming to enjoy food selected from several specialty restaurants from across the Boston area.

Our North Indian foods—from Desi Dhaba and Grain and Salt—included *chaat*, an appetizer made of vegetables, chutneys and spicy fried dough, as well as *mutter paneer*, a traditional dish of peas, cheese and gravy curry. From South India we had *idli* (white lentil patties) with *sambaar* (a traditional

spicy soup). From Bangladesh and Bengal (ordered from Bengali Cafe), we had special samosas, eggplant *bhajia* (a fried eggplant dish) and *mittai* (an array of sweets). Our Pakistani specialty was a simmering lamb stew, cooked under Halal specifications. For drinks, we offered *rooh hafza*, rose-flavored milk (or, if participants preferred, rose-flavored Sprite!). Finally, we included a dessert of *gulaab jamun*, a sugar-soaked fried delight. Guests were encouraged to make donations for Cylcone Sidr relief, the proceeds of which were sent to the charity BRAC ([www.brac.net](http://www.brac.net)).

### *Changes and Challenges Facing Pakistan*

The Harvard South Asian Association's Passport to South Asia Week concluded with an informative, multidimensional discussion about the future of Pakistan, a nation which is currently experiencing severe turmoil. As a sad testament to the event's timeliness, just weeks later, Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto '73, a Harvard alumna, was assassinated in Rawalpindi, a military garrison city outside of Islamabad. The South Asian Association made plans to hold another event in the aftermath of the assassination to examine the new wrinkles the event introduced into Pakistan's political situation.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Adil Najam, an Associate Professor of International Negotiation and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a native of Pakistan. Dr. Najam gave an hour-long presentation on his take on Pakistan's politics and the common misconceptions of Western media with regards to the current situation in his homeland. Among the major themes of the talk were the lack of quality leaders to have taken the reins in Pakistan, the military-political complex which continues to dominate Pakistan's upper hierarchy, the ethnic roots of seemingly political/legal conflicts, and the resilience of the Pakistani people in demanding a fair and just government.

Professor Najam also went into detail about his blog, which is based on first-hand reports from associates in Pakistan and thus an alternate form of news for American students interested in the developments in that nation.

The event took place on December 14, 2007, in the Lamont Forum Room. Attendees ranged from native Pakistanis at Harvard to students interested in the complex and often confusing democratic situation in that nation. Funding was provided by the Harvard Foundation as well as the Undergraduate Council.

### *Voyages Through Verse*

In an attempt to introduce more artistic creativity into our annual Passport to South Asia Week, the South Asian Association decided to stage a multi-language poetry reading featuring Harvard Students. Winthrop LCR was transformed into a literary setting, complete with chai, biscuits, South Asian finger foods and a sound system for the aspiring poets. Over 35 attendees listened as several students recited verse that ran the gamut of emotions, all in their mother tongues as well as in English. Posters were put up in the Science Center to explain the traditional poetry of South Asia. Several languages and poetic traditions were represented. Among them were Hindi poetry read by Ritambhara Kumar '09, Bengali poetry (including that of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore) read by Amrapali Maitra '10 and Aditi Sen '09, Tamil poetry as well as an original verse read by Gokul Madhavan '08, Urdu poetry from Saba Sulaiman '09 and Sinhalese poetry from Niroshi Senaratne '09. Funding for the event was generously covered by the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council.

Student performances drew on the rhythms and sounds characteristic of all the regions of South Asia. The night introduced attendees to a variety



of poetic forms and gave friends an opportunity to witness their peers perform the most beautiful works of their homelands. The side-by-side English translations made all poems accessible. Guests were encouraged to make donations for Cylcone Sidr relief, the proceeds of which were sent to the charity BRAC.

### *Kalpanam*

Kalpanam, which took place in Lowell Lecture Hall on November 3, was an exhibition of classical South Asian music and dance. The show was diverse in the styles of dance it presented, including three of the most ancient forms of dance, *Mohini-atam*, *Kuchipudi* and *Bharatanatyam*, each presented in varied tempo and musical selections. Other original dances included poetry readings by undergraduates Gokul Madhavan '08 and Ritambhara Kumar '09, accompanied by interpretive movements of several intricately dressed dancers. While dances were set mainly to the melodic Carnatic music of South India with live *tabla* accompaniment, musical performances featured intricate

Lord Rama.

What made this particular performance so educational and entertaining was the detailed description given by performers Amrapali Maitra '10, Purna Martin '09, Rohini Rau-Murthy '08, Rohini Nair '08 and others prior to every dance, explaining the movements and their symbolism. These explanations clarified the meaning of the performances for the high number of non-South-Asian undergraduates and Harvard community members in attendance. The audience of around 200 was presented with a unique opportunity to not only view but to understand the ancient traditions of classical South Asian dance. We would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, the Undergraduate Council, and the Office for the Arts for making this event possible.

—Kiran Bhat '10

## Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society

*Naruwan: Welcome to Taiwan*

The Taiwanese Cultural Society (TCS) held an informal discussion and poster presentation over traditional Taiwanese hot pot with a variety of store-bought and home-made ingredients cooked on the spot and eaten together, a popular cooking style in Taiwan where families gather to eat and discuss. Popular ingredients such as fish and pork meatball, sliced beef/chicken, tempura, napa cabbage, mushrooms and clear hot pot rice noodles were served in stews made to order. A number of Taiwanese variety shows were screened, which featured political debates on the upcoming elections, and poster boards were displayed which described the Taiwanese political and cultural scene, especially the presidential candidates. Everyone not only left with a full stomach but more knowledge about the

upcoming elections, which coincides with the U.S. presidential elections and China's hosting the Olympics, and which will no doubt play a critical role in determining future relations between the three countries.

—Kevin Zhang '09

### *Taiwan National Celebration Day*

Double Ten Day (*Shuang Shí Jié*) is a national day in Taiwan (Republic of China) similar to July 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States. It celebrates the Wuchang Uprising of October 10, 1911, that resulted in the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the formation of the Republic of China. The revolution, led by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, occurred at a time when a failing Chinese government succumbed to foreign powers and imperialists. In Taiwan, official celebrations begin with the raising of Taiwan's flag along with the singing of the National Anthem. The President of Taiwan then addresses the country and the celebrations culminate with a fireworks display throughout major cities. The name "Double Ten Day" draws from the date (10/10). The celebration also takes place prominently in Hong Kong and in overseas Chinese communities with parades in the Chinatowns of San Francisco and Chicago. Observance of this date has declined in Hong Kong and somewhat in Taiwan, but it is still considered a major event in Taiwan's national identity and massive parades and other displays are held annually.

This year, TCS commemorated the event with a celebration of Taiwanese cuisine. Students from across campus and even members of the community stopped by to enjoy the food and learn more about Double Ten Day. Informational flyers adorned with the flag of Taiwan and facts about the history of Double Ten were given out to the nearly 200 people that came to celebrate Taiwanese history and culture.

—Brian Ru '11



*Members of the South Asian Association don traditional colorful costumes to perform ancient forms of South Asian dance.*

Tamil pieces that required singers to travel across several octaves. The original centerpiece of this year's Kalpanam was a series of *Bharatanatyam* vignettes which elegantly interpreted the *Ramayana*, a Hindu epic on the life of

## Japan Society

### *Sushi Workshop*

The Sushi Workshop was the first event held by the Harvard Japan Society in the 2007-08 school year. Thanks to effective publicity and the dedicated efforts of its members, it was a well-attended success. The aim of the workshop was to share one of the most popular and appetizing aspects of Japanese culture—sushi—with members of the Harvard community. It was a very interactive event. Those in attendance learned how to make their own *temaki*, or homemade sushi, and were introduced to lesser-known Japanese delicacies such as *inari sushi*. Those who already had some experience with Japanese cuisine were able to deepen their knowledge of it, and even enjoy the delicious fruit of their labors afterwards! Despite its remote location in Hilles, the event attracted many undergraduates who were eager to learn about and experience Japanese culture—and the Japan Society made sure that the long journey to the Quad would be worth it. The event coordinators devoted their entire afternoon before the workshop to cooking rice, slicing fresh fish, and preparing other essential ingredients such as avocado and seaweed. Their hard efforts paid off, as by the end of the workshop the students were rolling sushi like Japanese professionals!

### *Okonomiyaki Workshop*

After the success of its Sushi Workshop, the Japan Society brought yet another cultural and culinary event to the Harvard community—the Okonomiyaki Workshop. The *okonomiyaki*, which combines the best of an omelet and a pancake, is incredibly popular in Japan, but remains virtually unknown outside of the country. Unlike sushi, it is a distinctly Japanese dish that has never been successfully exported to the rest of the world. The aim of the workshop was to teach Harvard undergraduates how

to cook and enjoy this unique delicacy, introducing them to a new aspect of Japanese cuisine, and broadening their cultural horizons in the process. The event brought together a diverse group of undergraduates, most of them unfamiliar with *okonomiyaki*, but they were all united by their eagerness to learn—and by their hunger for Japanese food! Making *okonomiyaki* was no easy task, but by the end of the workshop, members were flipping and frying with considerable skill. Students could leave the workshop with a deeper appreciation of Japanese cuisine, as well as a new set of cooking skills and a full stomach!

—Maia Usui '11

## Nigerian Students Association

### *Learn to Cook Series I*

The first installment of the *Learn to Cook Series* was a great success. It was held in the Holworthy Basement, and we had about 20 people show up to help cook and enjoy some nice cultural food. The event lasted for about two hours. We utilized the kitchen facilities in the Holworthy Basement's common room to teach, cook, and eat native Nigerian dishes. Just by speaking to different people who attended the event, it was obvious that they were very pleased with the outcome. Some people left with a sound knowledge of how to cook traditional Nigerian dishes. In Nigerian culture, it is imperative for women to be able to cook in order for them to provide good food for their family. The NSA does not necessarily agree with these traditions and views, but is very interested in giving the Harvard student body a cultural experience similar to the one in the villages of Nigeria. The dishes that were cooked included jollof rice, chicken, and fried plantains. This event was such a success that people look forward to the next one.

—Ndubuisi Okereke '10

## Harvard-Radcliffe Vietnamese Association

### *Storytelling: Vietnamese Folktales*

On September 29, 2007, the Harvard Vietnamese Association (HVA) gathered to continue a national pastime that has so poignantly uplifted and impacted the lives of its members. Folklore and storytelling are very much embedded within the long history of Vietnamese culture and tradition. Whether they are used to reinforce a moral lesson of a more erudite nature or to embolden a certain nationalistic sentiment of a Vietnamese yesteryear, the Vietnamese people have always carried these folktales in their hearts. With such fables as the “Tale of the Starfruit Tree” to the “Story of the Betel Leaf and the Areca Nut,” the Harvard Vietnamese Association invited the Harvard Community for a night of captivating theatrics and heartwarming tales from the rice paddies of Vietnam.

Stories depicting the toil of farmers and paper-thin walls have traveled seamlessly across the river deltas, and will now hopefully reach those interested in folklore mythology today, including the students who have grown up knowing them by heart during a riveting discussion and reading. With over 30 students in attendance (including brand new faces from the Harvard College community, the freshmen) we not only fed our minds with vivid images and moving words, but we also fed our stomachs. Serving a wide variety of culinary treasures such as hand-made spring rolls, fried egg rolls, mouth-savoring Vietnamese rice cakes, and vast selection of fruit juices, the Harvard Vietnamese Association's first annual Folk Storytelling event was, in fact, legendary.

### *Banh Mi Workshop*

Every year, the Harvard Vietnamese Association hosts an amazing



culinary experience for the Harvard student community called the Banh Mi Workshop. This year, of course, was no exception. To give a little background, *banh mi* is perhaps the most recognizable and inexpensive snack in Vietnam. It is a Vietnamese baguette made up of thinly sliced pickled carrots, daikon, cilantro, onions, and a variety of meats and poultry. The simplicity and low cost of the sandwich, along with its powerful flavors, contribute to its success and popularity throughout Vietnam. Moreover, the baguette further emphasizes the remnants of the French colonization of the country. Every year, the HVA strives to expose and share this culinary treasure that has delighted millions of Vietnamese people within the Harvard Community.

Amazingly, alongside the fifteen Board members of HVA, over 130 students flooded Winthrop Junior Common Room on October 18, 2007, to give *banh mi* a try and the meal did not fall short of their expectations. Although the Board did not have enough materials and ingredients to serve everyone a whole baguette, everyone who showed up was particularly impressed with the uniqueness of the dish and the savory flavors it contained as they sampled from their friends. Not only was helping new tasters a pleasure, it was even more rewarding to see everyone walk away with big smiles and an equally full stomach!

#### *Discussion with Ham Tran*

On November 16, 2007, the Harvard Vietnamese Association held an exciting discussion with acclaimed writer and director of one of the most culturally insightful films depicting the struggle of Vietnamese immigrants. Ham Tran is the writer, director, and editor of *Journey from the Fall*, an independent production that elegantly traces the story of a family's struggle for survival in the aftermath of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 to North Vietnam's Communist regime. By embedding rich, provocative

imagery with captivating dialogue, Tran managed to weave an elaborate tapestry of drama and art into the hearts of all Vietnamese historians, refugees, and those who endured such a socially tumultuous period. Often considered by the Vietnamese diaspora to be the *Schindler's List* for the Vietnamese community, Tran's film was released on March 23, 2007 (ImaginAsian) to sold-out screenings and it has received much respect from the Vietnamese-American community who financed the film in its entirety.

The Harvard Vietnamese Association opened with a very personal and heartfelt discussion forum with the director. We also held a small reception for approximately fifty students and members of the Harvard community (some from the Business School and other graduate schools) who were all interested in learning more about Vietnamese re-education camps and the general boat people experience. Authentic Vietnamese food was served, including an assortment of pork, fried rice, vegetable spring rolls, and Vietnamese rice cakes. To complement the delicious hors d'oeuvres, we served the national drink of Vietnam, the tricolored dessert cocktail, which consists of sweet and condensed milk, coconut milk, powder and fresh yellow and red beans. Not only was the night intellectually and emotionally stimulating, filled with interesting tidbits on cinematic symbols and for the larger cultural meaning and impact of Mr. Tran's film, but the food was impeccable!

#### *Taste, Hear, Admire Vietnam: A Showcase of Vietnam's Music, Arts, and Fashion*

On December 13th, 2007, the Harvard Vietnamese Association held their special event, "Taste, Hear, Admire Vietnam: A Showcase of Vietnam's Music, Arts, and Fashion," in the Mather Junior Common Room. Hoping to emphasize the unique Vietnamese student body

at Harvard, the Harvard Vietnamese Association exhibited and showcased a night of pure cultural enlightenment. Not only was there a plethora of music samplings from Northern classical music—one of Vietnam's oldest and most formal sounds—but there was also the dramatic Chinese opera and the melodious, melancholic tunes of the Southern Vietnamese lute. Students and participants were also engaged in discussing some video clips from Vietnamese theatrical productions, such as the intensely popular music showcase *Paris by Night* and a preview of a brand new film released in selected theaters in the United States, *Passage of the Traveling Tunic*.

Lastly, the night appealed not only to lovers of music and cinema, but also to lovers of fashion. A variety of *ao dai* (traditional Vietnamese tunics worn by the typical urban schoolgirl) were displayed for cultural reflection and discussion by some of the female members. In conclusion, students played traditional Vietnamese board games while enjoying a variety of traditional foods which included steamed rice, barbequed beef, shrimp, chicken, fried egg rolls, and some handmade Vietnamese fruit Jell-O dessert. This was the last fall event for the Harvard Vietnamese Association and it truly celebrated the semester's success and confirmed to be culturally enlightening.

—Tri Chiem '10

### **Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association *Iron Chef Cook-Off***

This is a fantastic event where CSA reaches out to other cultural groups (this year, Fuerza, RAZA, HVA, Harvard Canadian Club). Each organization sends a team of cooks who buy raw

ingredients and create delicious ethnic meals for a panel of judges. This year, our judges included Matt Sundquist, Sergeant Kevin Bryant, Professor Emily Huang, and Professor Elena Maestre. We were excited to see the great turnout and there was Chinese food for all. This has become a yearly staple in CSA's lineup of events and we are looking forward to next year!

### *Chinese Language Tables*

There are language tables in the upper class houses, but there aren't any in Annenberg. We began having Chinese language tables every other week at the beginning of this calendar year as a way to reach out to freshmen, give them an opportunity to practice their Chinese with other Chinese speaking students. The table is open to everyone and we invited Chinese language TA's and professors to help facilitate the conversation. Each time, we get a great turn out and we have a wonderful time laughing and joking in Chinese. This year, we gave the task of organizing the table to our freshmen representatives and we foresee it as a successful event that we will continue.

### *The Chinese Economy: Trade and Investment*

The unparalleled speed and scale of China's growth in recent years has left little doubt as to the major role it will play in the global political economy. With over 11% growth in the past year, China has recently surpassed the United States as the main driver of global economic growth. In this hour long discussion, Professor Benjamin Friedman spoke on the interaction between Chinese economic and political development in the context of globalization, and Professor Yasheng Huang spoke on China's role as one of the world's top destinations for foreign direct investment. We were extremely pleased with the result of this event. So many people showed up to hear Professors Friedman and Huang speak on Chinese

economic growth and development. It was refreshing to see hundreds come out from the Harvard community to hear and discuss a hot topic regarding China. We appreciate the Harvard Foundation's financial help because, of course, without funding, this event would not have been possible.

— Daniel Suo '09

## Harvard Hong Kong Society

### *Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration*

Harvard Hong Kong Society (HHKS) expanded its annual Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration this year thanks to help from the Chinese Students Association (CSA) and Student Astronomers of Harvard-Radcliffe (STAHR). The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most important in the Chinese calendar, and marks the autumn harvest. From atop the Science Center Observatory, students were able to view the full harvest moon in all its splendor while munching on traditional Chinese festival foods. HHKS and CSA provided a supply of fresh mooncakes from Chinatown. The dense, rich cake comes in a variety of flavors and is made specifically for the mid-autumn holiday. STAHR provided access to the Science Center observatory as well as telescopes to get an even better look at the full moon.

The night of the event was warm and clear, drawing a very large and diverse crowd of students. During the two hours we were on the terrace many students came and went, marking this year as the biggest Mid-Autumn Festival event we have had to date. HHKS and CSA provided informational pamphlets describing the historic origin of the mooncake and various legends associated with the festival while STAHR helped students learn to use some of their astronomy equipment. It was a very successful event, bringing

together a very broad range of students. We hope to continue collaborating with these and other organizations in the future.

### *Cantonese Cooking Workshop Series (Parts I & II)*

The Cantonese Cooking Workshops are arguably the Hong Kong Society's most popular events. Food is a very important part of Cantonese culture, but cooking Cantonese food can be daunting for the uninitiated. It is the goal of these events to attract students of different backgrounds to learn about, cook and eat delicious Chinese foods. Given that many people think of Chinese food as Pork Fried Rice and General Gao's Chicken, we believe it is important to give students the opportunity to learn about authentic dishes and the common techniques used in their preparation. Both of our cooking workshops this year have been held in Mather JCR and its attached kitchen. The open space surrounding the Mather kitchenette provides the best atmosphere for allowing a large



*Members of the Harvard Hong Kong Society share traditional Cantonese cuisine with attendees of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.*

number of people to get involved in the cooking. Approximately 20 students came to take part at each event, ranging from longtime HHKS members and their roommates to random undergraduates investigating the enticing aromas from the kitchen.

In our first cooking workshop of the year, students learned how to make a number of dishes ranging from simple stir-fry to



a delicious Cantonese steamed fish. A very complete set of dishes was created and was enjoyed by all. Recipes were provided for all dishes, so students could try to recreate them on their own.

The second cooking workshop was held during the frigid New England winter, and aimed to provide plenty of hot winter dishes to keep everyone warm. Using common Cantonese ingredients, students created a seaweed and fishball soup, "Lion-head" meatballs, and a few other small stir-fry dishes.

— Mark Hanson '08

### **Chinese Karaoke Competition**

Karaoke is an important part of Asian popular culture, especially for Hong Kong. Through our annual Chinese Karaoke Competition, Harvard Hong Kong Society shared this popular youth activity with the Harvard community in the form of a performance and competition. HHKS invited several of the other Chinese student organizations on campus to send representatives to compete in singing their favorite Chinese karaoke songs. In addition to the karaoke performances, we invited student groups to present other performing arts such as traditional Chinese music and dance. HHKS believes that the performances exposes undergraduates to this important part of Chinese pop culture and the world of Chinese music. The Undergraduate Council and Harvard Foundation provided funding for this event.

— Linda Yao '10

## **Harvard College Latinos in Health Careers**

### **Latino Professionals Panel**

This event occurred at the end of November in the Dunster JCR. We had over 50 undergraduates in attendance, consisting of members of LiHC and the Latino Business Connection. Invited to speak was Dana Shkolny (MS/MBA).

She is a businesswoman working in the world of health careers. She gave a background of her experiences and then the floor was opened to questions. The event lasted an hour. The event was funded by both the Undergraduate Council and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

— Patrick Menzies '10

## **Harvard Wushu Club**

### **Wushu Training**

Wushu is the practice of contemporary Chinese martial arts. Chinese martial arts, including both barehanded and weapons forms, has a history of 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, we have hired a coach to come teach us 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 already-learned movements. This year, we have had several performances around the Harvard community, and in the surrounding area. We participated in several more performances in the spring, including Cultural Rhythms, CSA Banquet, Eastbound, and at the HCAP conference. We advertise our club heavily 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 our art.

— Wenxin Xu '09

## **Woodbridge Society of International Students**

### **Bollywood Night**

Bollywood Night took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December in Ticknor Lounge, Boylston Hall. Two hundred and fifty students attended the event. During the event Indian food was served and South Indian music played. The event enjoyed immensely by Woodbridge members and their friends served to bring together the international community in a relaxed and convivial setting while exposing guests to an array of food and drinks from the South Asian culture. Members of various other ethnic organizations on campus, such as the South Asian Association, also attended the event. In addition, many students from all different groups of the Harvard community came to enjoy the cultural gathering. As a result, the event brought together students from different ethnic backgrounds and with different extracurricular interests. During the event, a small presentation on the catastrophic effects of Cyclone Sidr, that devastated Bangladesh, was also shown. Finally, student performances presenting the culture of South Asia took place. The event provided a unique opportunity to share some of the best artistic and culinary facets of South Asia with the greater international community. At the same time it brought together students from all over our campus and increased the awareness of the Harvard community about the unfortunate events in Bangladesh.

— Nicolas Papamichael '10

### **Thanksgiving Dinner**

The Woodbridge Society Thanksgiving dinner was held on Friday, November 23, 2007. Thirty Harvard students who were staying on campus over the Thanksgiving break attended the dinner. The Thanksgiving dinner was organized in the Lowell Junior Common Room.

In addition to providing traditional Thanksgiving food such as turkey, gravy, and stuffing, the Woodbridge Society provided attendees with an assortment of Latin American cuisine as screening of a Colombian movie followed the dinner.

The Thanksgiving dinner was a great success for the society. The Thanksgiving holidays are a lonely period for many international students as well as some Americans who live too far away from home to travel away for the short break. Seeing all of one's friends gone and with family can make these few days of the year extremely hard and gloomy. By providing this event on campus, the Woodbridge Society has been able to ease the burden of the holidays for students. The Thanksgiving dinner was truly a strong bonding experience for the students left on campus. Providing them a nice dinner and framework for interaction, Woodbridge society fostered their relations and gave them the chance to have a feeling of closeness that would otherwise only be felt at home with family.

Furthermore, one of the missions of the Woodbridge Society for International Students is to acquaint international students with American traditions and to foster relationships among internationals and Americans alike. Despite being international, it does not escape our members that the Thanksgiving holiday puts a strong emphasis on the feast. Thus, by providing our members with the chance to see what a traditional holiday meal looks like and what a Thanksgiving feast contains, the Society was able to reach its educational and cultural goals.

Based on the opinions of the Society members and non-members alike, this dinner was a great success that strengthened the bonds between each other and enabled us to chat, eat, and really become a close-knit family away

from home. Furthermore, it underlined the mission of the Woodbridge Society in a double manner, enabling the Society to provide a framework for building social interaction and a structure for cultural education. Thus, we hope that the Thanksgiving Dinner 2007 was only the beginning of a tradition for our Society.

– *Majla Custo '10*

## Concilio Latino de Harvard

### *Introduction of Latino Issues in the Art of Film*

Concilio Latino held its first event of the semester, entitled "Introduction of Latino Issues in the Art of Film", in the Public Gathering Room outside of the Tsai Auditorium in the Center for Government and International Studies South Building. The introductory event served as an excellent start to Concilio's two-week-long Film Festival. Attendants snacked on appetizing treats as they listened to brief introductions for each of the four films that made up the Film Festival. The four films included:

*María, llena eres de gracia (Maria, Full of Grace)* (2004): The story of a 17-year-old pregnant Colombian teenager who, after working at a sweatshop with no sign of hope, decides to become a drug mule to make desperately needed money for her family.

*Todo sobre mi madre (All About My Mother)* (1999): The story of a single mother, Manuela, who has just lost her beloved teenage son after he was hit by a taxi carrying his favorite stage actress. Trying to find some sort of closure, Manuela desperately tries to find her son's father to tell him about the death of his son, a son he never knew he had.

*Central do Brasil (Central Station)*

(1998): The story of a former schoolteacher, Dora, who finds herself caring for a young boy whose mother has just died. After leaving a job where she writes letters for illiterates, people against whom she harbors undue resentment, Dora helps the young boy on his search for the father he never knew, while she herself receives a second chance.

*Balseros (Rafters)* (2002): The story of Cuban refugees who risked their lives in homemade rafts to reach the United States, and a tale of what life is like for those who succeed.

### *Nuestra Celebración: Latino Holiday Dinner*

Concilio Latino enjoyed its Latino Holiday Dinner in early December; the event entitled "Nuestra Celebración" brought together the various undergraduate Latino groups to celebrate the Holiday Season. A variety of traditional Latino cuisine made up the appetizers (i.e. empanadas and quesadillas) as well as the main course (i.e. *pupusas*, *pollo en mole*, *platanos maduros*, rice and beans). Traditional *villancicos* (i.e. Spanish Christmas carols) set the festive mood for the event. The event's keynote speaker, Professor Doris Sommer, gave an inspiring speech on the richness of the Latino heritage, particularly the bilingualism of English and Spanish that poignantly characterizes and shapes the lives of many Latinos. In addition to the culturally enriching quality which bilingualism adds, Professor Sommer emphasized the increased level of sophistication of bilingualism, particularly at the academic level. This year marked the second time Concilio Latino held this event, and with two back-to-back successful annual holiday dinners, Concilio Latino is very optimistic that Latino Holiday Dinner will continue to be a strong tradition at Harvard.

– *Normandy W. Villa '09*



## Mariachi Veritas & Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán

### *The Sights and Sounds of Mexico*

"The Sights and Sounds of Mexico" was the first ever Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán (BFA) and Mariachi Veritas joint concert. The performance was held in Leverett Dining Hall on November 10, 2007. To make this performance a success, some 30 students, including Miguel Ceron '09, Alejandra Beristain-Barajas '10, Luis Lopez '10, Eloy Villanueva '08, Eliana Murillo '10, Lucerito Ortiz '10, Ana Karen Garcia '11, Cecilia Venegas '11, Vanessa Vargas '09, Diana Robles '10, Vannesa Hernández '10, Beatrice Viramontes '08, Maryam Janani '09, and Sergio Ramirez '10 rehearsed many hours for weeks on end. The students who participated ranged from the class of 2008 to 2011, and even a Harvard Divinity School student, Arely Briones '09. Over 100 people, from all ethnicities and age groups, attended the event. The event showcased Mexican folklórico dancing by BFA from regions such as Jalisco, Veracruz, Baja California, Chihuahua, and Guerrero. Co-directors Miguel Ceron '09 and Alejandra Beristain-

Barajas '10 awed the STET crowd with his vibrantly colored *zarape* (blanket) and her beautifully flowing purple dress in the unveiling of the extraordinarily flirtatious dance, "El Gavinlancillo."

Mariachi Veritas soothed the ears of the audience with wonderful performances of songs such as "Como la Flor," "Demasiado Tarde," "Si Nos Dejan," and so many more. Not only did Mariachi Veritas have the lustrous voice of Beatrice Viramontes, but it also had guest singers including Grace Jin '11, Raquel Toledo '10, Zach Arnold '10, Olivia Brown '08. In a grand finale, BFA danced to Mariachi Veritas' playing "Jarabe la Botella." The audience watched in excitement, wondering whether Luis Lopez and Miguel Ceron would knock over the bottles that bounced up and down with every stomp of their heavy *botines* (boots).

— Luis R. Lopez III '10

## Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe

### *Lyrical Chinese Fan Dance*

Each year, the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe choreographs and

produces dozens of dances to showcase a broad spectrum of pieces with strong Asian influences. We have spent this past semester preparing a modern lyrical Chinese fan dance entitled "He Tang Yue Se." The dance reflects our intended direction this year of expanding our repertoire to include pieces of greater artistic depth and intricacy. It is lively and energetic, and through it we hope to spread an appreciation of the rich history and spirit of the Chinese people. It is a piece in our trademark fusion style. The incorporation of modern dance influences into the piece and the combination of elements from various creative and ethnic sources create a work that is both culturally vibrant and artistically rich. We hope that through the medium of dance, we can not only create something visually beautiful but also teach others to both appreciate and identify with the rich cultural heritage of China. In order to fully do so, we carefully selected and purchased costumes for "He Tang Yue Se" that would portray the distinctive spirit of fusion dance. Thanks to the generous support of the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council, these costumes have been and will continue to be used for numerous performances open to the Harvard community.



Above Left: Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán co-directors Miguel Ceron '09 and Alejandra Beristain-Barajas '10 perform a traditional Mexican dance. Above Right: Beatrice Viramontes '08 leads the members of Mariachi Veritas in a song at a joint performance with Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán in Leverett Dining Hall.

### *Mongolian dance*

For the first time ever, the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe is proud to be able to include a traditional Mongolian dance piece in our annual repertoire. By performing a dance from an Asian tribal minority whose culture is very often under-represented, we hope to continue to explore and expose others to new traditions for an ever-wider range of Asian ethnicities. Since we had no previous experience with Mongolian dance, we have spent the semester working hard under the tutelage of a professional instructor from the Cambridge area to learn the necessary technical skills to perform this piece. Since one of our group's basic tenets is a no-audition, all-welcome policy, we have dancers of all backgrounds and skill levels, and the guidance of an experienced instructor has been crucial to our successful study and performance of the Mongolian dance form. Thanks to the generous support of the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council, the lessons have been and will continue to be useful for numerous rehearsals, and performances of this new and unique dance piece.

– Gina Moy '09

## Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA

### *Día de los Muertos*

Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA's celebration of *El Día de los Muertos* was held on Friday, October 26, 2007. *El Día de los Muertos* is on November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints' Day, and celebrates the lives of departed loved ones. An altar was decorated with pictures of past loved ones, candles, and other mementos. Mariachi Veritas serenaded the attendees while different members of RAZA shared poetry in English, Spanish, and Nahuatl. Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán performed different traditional dances from two regions of Mexico, Jalisco

and Veracruz. The dinner included tacos, quesadillas, tamales, rice, beans, chips, salsa, and sodas. Being the first Latino event of the year open to all students, the evening was a wonderful opportunity to share a traditional component of Mexican culture with the rest of the Harvard community through song, dance, and delicious food. This year, we had the opportunity to hold the event on Freshman Parents Weekend, which allowed them to enjoy the event as well. RAZA had a great turn out and hopes to coordinate a *Día de los Muertos* celebration again next year.

### *Mexican Thanksgiving*

For the large number of RAZA members who are unable to go home for Thanksgiving, we created this event in which all members are invited to spend a Thanksgiving dinner with RAZA members and their friends. We created it especially for the freshmen who are away from their families for the first time on this holiday, and we thought it would be more enjoyable for them to spend it with people they know. This event was open to everyone who did not have anywhere to go on Thanksgiving Day. We invited anyone who enjoys or is willing to cook to come help us prepare a meal. This year, we had a large showing of members and friends at an alumnus's apartment in Boston. Members cooked a large amount of food, ate together, and then proceeded to dance the night away.

### *Holiday 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 we celebrated one of the nights on the Friday before most RAZA members returned home for break. The procession began in the courtyard of Mather House and continued to other

river houses, where RAZA members sang the *Posada* carol from "inside" and "outside" the gates of the houses and also sang traditional carols in Spanish to participating Housemasters. Symbolically, those on the outside ask for a place to stay, while the people inside refuse until they realize that Mary is to be the mother of Jesus Christ. The people inside let the outsiders come in and celebrate with the *Posada*, in the Lowell JCR. Enjoying Christmas cookies, Mexican *pan dulce*, sodas, Mexican hot chocolate, chips, and other snacks, RAZA members sang traditional Christmas songs in Spanish together. The event was open to the Harvard public and was attended by the Winthrop Housemasters. Members traded Christmas presents and ended the night with songs. *Las Posadas* are a great tradition that will hopefully continue to be celebrated at Harvard every year.

– Ana Karen Garcia '11

## Harvard Korean Association

### *Bulgogi Making Workshop*

Our *bulgogi* (Korean barbeque) workshop was conducted in conjunction with our general meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> to generate more interest not only among the freshmen, but also among our upperclassmen members. We took the opportunity to introduce to the new Korean Association members the events planned for the semester, and what we usually do during the course of the year before we started preparing and eating the Bulgogi. It was well attended by approximately 50 people, and everyone enjoyed our "blooper reel" DVD from the previous year's KA Culture Show as we ate *bulgogi* and mingled with one another. It was a good opportunity for the freshmen to meet the upperclassmen and for upperclassmen to reconnect after being away for the summer.

– Jin Baek '08



### *North Korea Inside Out*

Korean Association co-hosted “North Korea Inside Out” on October 31<sup>st</sup> with other graduate school organizations and the Asia Center Undergraduate Council. We invited Professor Hyun Sik Kim of George Mason University, who was formerly a professor at Pyongyang University of Education for 38 years and a tutor to Kim Jong-Il’s family members while still in North Korea. Professor Kim told us of his personal experience in North Korea, and how he defected to South Korea and ultimately came to the United States. He also talked in great length about how North Koreans are brought up and how their education system molds their thoughts in various ways. The event was well attended, with over 200 people crowding the lecture hall, and was covered by *The Crimson* as well. While the event lasted longer than we had expected—the lecture was conducted in Korean and translated into English, and from start to finish took over three hours—most of our crowd stayed until the very end. Many, including Professor Kim himself and the interpreter, were moved to tears at various points. The food we had prepared was also a great hit during the intermission. We hope to be able to have such events in the future if we are able to procure speakers such as Professor Kim, who have truly lived a turbulent life and have many lessons to share with others.

—Jung Sakong ’10

### *Choosuk – Korean Thanksgiving*

Korean Association hosted its annual *Choosuk*, or Korean Thanksgiving celebration on November 10<sup>th</sup> in Ticknor Lounge. While *Choosuk* is usually celebrated in late September, we opted to hold the event closer to the American Thanksgiving so as to generate more interest and also to serve as a study break for many of our members. We served catered Korean food that is traditionally served at *Choosuk*, and we had three different traditional Korean

games available to any members who wanted to play or simply to gain a better knowledge of some cultural traditions. The event was very well attended, with approximately 80 people joining us for the festive occasion. Thankfully, I think we had enough food for everyone to at least get a good taste, and everyone enjoyed the rice-cakes that we had specially ordered for this event. The incorporation of the games was a new idea this year and it proved to be a huge hit. This year we opted for the simpler games because of cost issues and also because we didn’t know how popular the idea would be, but we look forward to expanding that part of Choosuk next year.

—Jin Baek ’08

### *Discussion Panel on the Historical Controversy Between Korea and China*

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Korean Association held a discussion regarding the historical controversy between Korea and China. The issue revolves around Goguryeo and the historical claims each country is making on the ancient civilization. The event attracted around 25 undergraduate students. Starting with a presentation prepared by members of the KA board on the main concerns and conflicts of the issue, we then moved on to an open discussion. Guided by questions prepared in advance, the attendees had fruitful discussions and sometimes heated debates regarding the validity of each country’s claims and the historical facts supporting either case. Refreshments were provided as well. For those who were well informed on the issue, it was a great and rare opportunity to discuss the matter intelligently, and for those who were not, it was a fantastic learning experience. We look forward to having more of events like this in the future.

—Min Cheol Hwang ’10

### *Korean Drama Society*

The Korean Drama Society held a viewing of the popular drama, *Coffee Prince*, on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in Adams Diaspora room. Approximately 30 members of the

Korean Association as well as the officers were present. Korean snacks and drinks were served during this event. *Coffee Prince* was a hit series in Korea during the summer of 2007, and attendees were able to immerse themselves into modern day Korean pop culture. After the hour-and-a-half viewing, we held a discussion about the drama, as well as the Korean wave, “*Hallyu*,” sweeping across Asia. Many undergraduates were interested in watching more dramas, movies, and documentaries. We also discussed the possibility of performing a drama/skit for the annual Korean Association Culture Show, (which is expected to be held this coming April.) Overall, attendees seemed to greatly enjoy the drama viewing and the discussion that followed. It was an effective way for the Korean Association to reach out to a different section of the student body and appeal to them in an exciting way. While the viewing primarily served as entertainment, many cultural issues were brought up during the course of this event. (The Drama Society plans to hold another viewing at the beginning of this spring semester.)

—Jennifer Lee ’10

## **Harvard Black CAST**

### *Musical Theatre Workshop*

Harvard BlackCAST’s “Musical Theatre Workshop” was held on December 1, 2007. At this gathering, we introduced our plans to put on our first musical theatre production, *The Wiz*, which will be performed April 23-27, 2008, in the Agassiz Theatre. We had two guest speakers from the Boston area give a presentation on the history of Black musical theatre as well as offer advice for good auditions and the technical/logistical requirements of a musical theatre production.

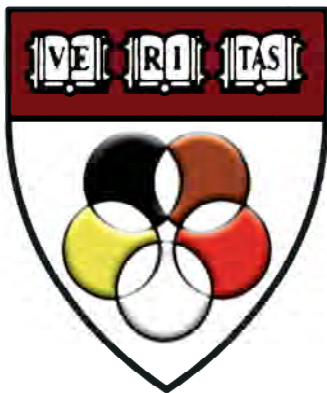
—Christian Strong ’09

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*The insignia of the Harvard Foundation consists of five interconnecting circles in the colors black, brown, red, white and yellow, symbolizing the major recognized ethnic groups of the human race in an unbroken circle under the Harvard motto veritas ("truth"). The symbol, "the unbroken circle of humanity," was designed by Dr. S. Allen Counter in 1981.*

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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, ethnic, and cultural 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.

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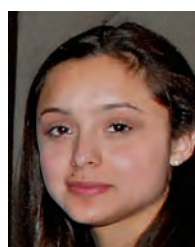
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**THE HARVARD FOUNDATION**

Harvard University  
Thayer Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
harvfoun@fas.harvard.edu  
<http://www.harvardfoundation.org>