



The

HARVARD FOUNDATION Journal

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**Debbie
Allen
of *Fame*
Named
Woman
of the
Year**



**Annual Science
Conference Honors
Dr. Baldomero Olivera**



**Writers Series Features
Esmeralda Santiago '76**

Acclaimed Actress Ruby Dee Delivers Humanitarian Lecture



Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.), Director of the Harvard Foundation, and the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes (L.), Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, present the annual Harvard Foundation Humanitarian award to Ms. Ruby Dee (Ctr.), acclaimed actress and Civil Rights leader, who delivered the annual Rev. Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture in Harvard's Memorial Church. Full story, page 10.

Cultural Rhythms Festival Features Artist of the Year Laurence Fishburne



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On the cover:

Clockwise from Top L.: Choreographer, actress, and producer, Debbie Allen named Woman of the Year by Harvard's Black Men's Forum. Actress Ruby Dee receives Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award. Actor, Laurence Fishburne, 2007 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year chats with Leah Lussier '07 on stage at the annual Cultural Rhythms Festival. Author, Esmeralda Santiago '76, is presented with a Harvard Foundation certificate for her literary contributions. Dr. Baldomero Olivera, Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Utah, makes a presentation on his scientific work at the annual Harvard Foundation Albert Einstein Science Conference luncheon in Pforzheimer House.

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 courtesy of the Harvard Foundation or photographer, Marcus Halevi, unless otherwise indicated. For more information, or to be added to the Harvard Foundation Mailing List, please contact:

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Letter from the Director

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

Dear Students and Faculty,

Our spring semester program was replete with exciting projects that brought together in cooperative efforts our students of many different cultural, racial and religious backgrounds. Both students and faculty alike were delighted with their meeting and interaction with Dr. Baldomero Olivera, our Scientist of the Year. Dr. Olivera enthralled our undergraduate students and faculty with his fascinating scientific work on the medical benefits of toxins from venomous fish-hunting cone snails. In addition to lecturing on his outstanding work in neuroscience, he met with the Harvard College students and graduate students, and on the second day of his visit, he talked with the inner-city public school students who took part in our Partners in Science programs about the excitement of a career in science. Dr. Olivera and his lovely wife, Ms. Lulu Olivera, who are of Phillipine background, were also welcomed by students of the Harvard Phillipine Forum. They were delightful and engaging guests. This program was co-sponsored by several undergraduate student science organizations, as well as the Harvard Phillipine Forum.

Our annual Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture was delivered by the acclaimed actress and civil rights activist Ruby Dee. Ms. Dee charmed students and faculty alike as she delivered the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture. She was presented with the 2007 Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award signed by President Derek Bok, to Mark her visit to the University and to recognize her (and her late husband Ossie Davis) artistic and humanitarian contributions. Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals said, "We are so honored to have Ms. Ruby Dee as our special guest at Harvard and the Memorial Church today. Being with her today makes me feel that I've risen above my station."

Our annual Cultural Rhythms Festival featured artistic performances by twenty-five different Harvard student cultural organizations, from Ballet Folklorico to Kuumba singers to the Hellenic Greek dancers, and many more. The 2007 Artist of the Year was the brilliant actor and social activist Lawrence Fishburne, who has served as a UNESCO ambassador in Africa. President Bok, who attended the festival this year and presented Fishburne with the Artist of the Year award, remarked, "This is an impressive display of our students' cultural diversity and artistic abilities. It reflects exactly what I'd hope the Foundation would become—a sharing of cultures with all."

Our annual Writers Conference included the brilliant novelist and Harvard alumna, Esmeralda Santiago, who delighted our students with readings from her book, "When I was Puerto Rican." We supported the collaborative efforts of the Society of Arab students and the Progressive Jewish Alliance in hosting Alice Rothchild, distinguished author of Broken Promises, "Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience," who discussed her writings as well as her efforts to encourage peace initiatives in the Middle East. We were also pleased to host the noted Swedish novelist Hakan Nesser, who met with students in Lowell House, attended a Swedish class taught by Ms. Annett Jonsson-Los, and met with members of the Harvard Scandinavian Society to discuss his work. The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation collaborated with Professor Werner Sollors in hosting three Vietnamese writers, Andrew Lam, Lan Tran, and Troung Tran.

We continued our Portraiture initiative by completing and hanging the portraits of Dr. Eileen Southern (in Adams House), the first African American woman to be appointed professor at Harvard, and Senior Admission Officer, David L. Evans (in Lamont Library). Members of the Association of Black Harvard Women joined the Harvard Foundation in the unveiling and hanging of Dr. Southern's portrait. Members of the Black Men's Forum joined in the unveiling and hanging of the portrait of David Evans. Ned Lamont '76 of Connecticut, for whom Evans served as proctor in Mower House, took part in the unveiling.

In summary the Harvard Foundation sponsored over 150 student directed programs in the Spring semester of 2007. As always, we ended the academic year on May 4, 2007 with a tribute to our students who have been identified by their House Masters and tutors as having made significant contributions to the intercultural life of the College at the annual Harvard Foundation Awards Dinner. This year our students and faculty selected FAS Dean, Professor Jeremy Knowles for our annual Distinguished Faculty Award. Dean Knowles has been an outstanding supporter of the Harvard Foundation and its mission over the many years of his decanal service.

In past years, our programs have generally come to a close during the second week of May because our students would be immersed in their reading and examination period, and as such would have little time for extra-curricular activities. Usually, the first few weeks of May are the most quiet of the academic year, and we expected this year to be no exception. Quite unusual, however, were a series of late student protest actions that drew a great deal of attention from student media and the administration. The first of these was a student protest and hunger strike over labor issues at the University. The second, had racial overtones since it involved a large number of our African-American students who believed they had been singled out for discrimination and profiling by Harvard police and fellow students as "non-Harvard" in an incident on the Radcliffe Quadrangle on Saturday, May 12. This was followed by protest meetings in the Radcliffe Houses and on Wednesday May 16, a protest march called "We are Harvard" in the Harvard Yard. The Harvard Foundation held meetings with the aggrieved students to discuss the "Quad incident," and organized meetings with the Deans and House masters to address the students' concerns and to initiate programs that aim to improve relations between minority students and University police. While this episode was quite unsettling to many in the Harvard community, and in spite of our momentary challenges in race relations, we continue to strive for greater racial understanding and harmony as equal members of the Harvard family-- "and this too shall pass."

Our student and Faculty Advisory Committees look forward to an exciting and productive 2007-2008 academic year at the Harvard Foundation.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. S. Allen Counter

Laurence Fishburne Honored with *Artist of the Year* Award

Photo Essay: Cultural Rhythms 2007

Laurence Fishburne Visits Harvard

"I feel better than anyone who's going to win an Academy Award tomorrow," exclaimed Laurence Fishburne, the Harvard Foundation's 2007 Artist of the Year, at the 22nd Annual Cultural Rhythms Show, which took place on February 24th, 2007.

Best known for his role as Morpheus in *The Matrix* trilogy, Mr. Fishburne has also starred in *Apocalypse Now*, *Boyz in the Hood*, *The Tuskegee Airmen* and most recently, *Akeelah and the Bee*. Accompanied by his son, Langston and his daughter, Montana, Mr. Fishburne was not only recognized for his accomplishments as an actor and a director, but also for his humanitarian work with UNICEF through which he educates children in Africa on HIV/AIDS. His success and contributions to society garnered him the Foundation's most prestigious honor, the *Artist of the Year* Award.

This year's Cultural Rhythms attracted an audience of more than 2000 students and members of the Harvard community to the luncheon, the afternoon and evening shows, and the food festival. There was something for everyone throughout the day.

Laurence Fishburne arrived at Logan Airport in the morning to be greeted by the Sisters of Kuumba who sang two moving songs to him and his daughter, Montana. After being serenaded by the Sisters, Mr. Fishburne and his daughter left to attend brunch at The Inn at Harvard with Harvard College students. Mr. Fishburne chatted with the students who truly enjoyed his good humor and friendly company. After brunch, he was given a tour of Harvard and signed the guest book at the University Marshal's Office to record his visit to Harvard.



President of Harvard University, Mr. Derek C. Bok, (L.) joins Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.), Director of the Harvard Foundation, at Sanders Theater to present the Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year award to actor, Laurence Fishburne, at the 2007 Cultural Rhythms Festival.



L. from Ctr.: Harvard Foundation interns escorted Fishburne to the Office of the University Marshal. He was greeted by Ms. Jackie O'Neill, University Marshal (L.) and signed the official University guest register.

Kirkland House Welcomes Artist of the Year

At noon, Laurence Fishburne and his daughter entered the Kirkland JCR to much fanfare. Packed with students, faculty and others anxious to meet Laurence Fishburne, the room was filled for his roast—a skit created by interns and members of ABHW and BMF. After listening to and even helping to conduct the famed Harvard Band, Fishburne was entertained by the students in the roast. Mr. Fishburne was more than humored by the roast, which parodied the roles that he has played in movies, such as *The Matrix*.



From Top: Artist of the Year, Laurence Fishburne, makes a red carpet entrance to the Kirkland House reception with daughter, Montana Fishburne, on his arm. Ayodeji Ogunnaike '10 (L.) and Nworah Ayogu '10 parodied a scene from The Matrix in a skit for Fishburne. The Harvard Hellenic Society performed for Fishburne at the reception as a prelude to the Cultural Rhythms shows to follow later in the afternoon. The rousing performance by the Harvard Band prompted Fishburne to try his hand at conducting.



From Top: Laurence Fishburne mimics his role of "Morpheus" in The Matrix for Dr. William Gelbart (L.), Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology. The Artist of the Year is greeted by: Sangu Delle '10; and (L.-R.) Anna McCallie '08, Kirkland House Committee Chair and Dr. Donald Pfister, Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Chairman of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee. Fishburne graciously fulfilled autograph requests at the Kirkland House luncheon. Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer, delivered humorous closing remarks at the luncheon.

Kirkland House Luncheon

Immediately following the roast, students and faculty joined Mr. Fishburne and his daughter at the honorary luncheon, hosted by the Masters of Kirkland House, Drs. Tom and Verena Conley. The lunch was just as enjoyable and light-hearted as the roast. Mr. Fishburne delighted the audience with his humor and wit. The luncheon program included tributes to Mr. Fishburne from faculty, students, and staff. In addition, Dr. S. Allen Counter and others spoke about the long strides the Foundation has made since its inception 25 years earlier. Afterwards, Fishburne met students and signed autographs.

—Simi Bhat '08, Matthew Clair '09, Layusa Isa-Odidi '09





Clockwise from Top Right: Fishburne was welcomed by Dr. Verena Conley, Co-Master of Kirkland House. Presenting tributes to Fishburne were: Arjun Suri '08 of the Harvard AIDS Coalition, Layusa Isa-Odidi '09 of the Harvard Foundation, and Chas Hamilton '07 of the Harvard Black Men's Forum.



Cultural Rhythms Festival 2007

After the luncheon, interns and students walked with Mr. Fishburne and Montana to Sanders Theatre. Co-directors Simi Bhat '08 and Layusa Isa-Odidi '09 introduced Mr. Fishburne to a deafening applause of more than a thousand audience members and flashing digital cameras. The enthusiasm of Fishburne to being a part of the show was obvious. He asked questions of the many performance groups from the Asian American Dance Troupe's colorful dance to Harvard Breakers' impeccable break dancing. He even attempted to imitate some of their moves, causing much applause from the audience.

During the show, Dr. S. Allen Counter, along with Dean of Harvard College, Benedict Gross, President of the University, Derek Bok, and Cambridge City Mayor, Ken Reeves, presented Mr. Fishburne with the *Artist of the Year Award* and a key to the city. In addition, President Bok commented on the landmark occasion of the event – it was the 22nd Cultural Rhythms Show and the 25th Anniversary of the Foundation, an institution that was proposed by both President Bok and Reverend Peter J. Gomes to improve race relations at Harvard and build a better sense of community among all students.

After accepting his award, Fishburne reaffirmed President Bok's sentiments about race relations. He affirmed that, "I applaud you and salute you and I share your feelings for our common humanity."

After Show I, over 500 students attended Show II, which was hosted by Lauren Westbrook '07 and Matt Sundquist '09. Replete with equally amazing cultural group performances from Candela Hip-Hop to Capoeira and comical skits from the hosts, the show thrilled the audience. Immediately after intermission, there was a dance-off contest, in which five audience members each did their best to win over the audience. In the end, Matt Clair '09, the Assistant Director of the shows, presented each participant with paraphernalia signed by Laurence Fishburne.

—Simi Bhat '08, Matthew Clair '09, Layusa Isa-Odidi '09

22nd Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival

Student Performers Take the Stage



Ctr.: Artist of the Year, Laurence Fishburne, talks with Rangarirai Mlambo '07 of Harvard Gumboots while wearing a mining cap that is part of the attire of the South African miners from which Harvard Gumboots derives its song and dance tradition. Other performing groups at the 2007 Cultural Rhythms Festival included (clockwise from Lower R.): the Harvard Bulgarian Club, the Harvard Vietnamese Dance Troupe, Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, and Harvard Wushu.





Clockwise from Top R.: Mr. Derek C. Bok (L.), President of Harvard University, makes remarks to the audience at the 2007 Cultural Rhythms Festival before the Artist of the Year award is presented to actor and UNICEF ambassador, Laurence Fishburne (second from L.). President Bok is joined on stage by (L.-R.) Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Dr. Benedict H. Gross, Dean of Harvard College, and the Honorable Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves, Mayor of the City of Cambridge, who presented Fishburne with the key to the city. Harvard Foundation Interns welcome Fishburne. Performing groups at Cultural Rhythms included (from L. to Top): Asian American Dance Troupe, Harvard Bhangra, the Harvard Intertribal Indian Dance Troupe, and the Ku'umba Singers of Harvard College.

Ruby Dee Delivers Humanitarian Lecture & Receives Award

Acclaimed Actress and Civil Rights Leader Honored for Humanitarian Contributions

Ruby Dee — civil rights activist, star of stage and screen, and the surviving half of a pair who, for much of the 20th century, reigned as the first couple of African-American theater — made it to Harvard this week.

She appeared at Appleton Chapel of the Memorial Church April 17 to receive the 2007 Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award and deliver the annual Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture.

“I’ve been hoping all my life to be associated with Miss Ruby Dee,” said Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, in introducing her. “I’ve risen beyond my station.”

Among the insights she shared in her remarks at Tuesday’s event was a remarkable confession: She and her late husband, the actor Ossie Davis, “never liked the song ‘We Shall Overcome.’”

After all, she explained, the song says, “We shall overcome some day.”

“We never liked it. ‘Some day’ is trickle-down. ‘Some day’ is ‘never.’ There’s no such day of the week as ‘Someday.’ The word is ‘today.’ “And today is ours.”

She explained to her audience how she and her husband and those they admired and worked with — the actor Paul Robeson, the contralto Marian Anderson — saw the arts as an arena for advancing

the cause of civil rights. And work in the arts offered opportunity to give the lie to the racial stereotypes all around them, and the bigoted notions of what black people could or could not do.

“We could not conceive or entertain the idea of art for art’s sake,” she said. “When we heard Marian Anderson sing a song, we knew there was struggle and

pain and death and resurrection involved in the singing, and when we listened to it, we knew that she was speaking from the depths of her experience... She was singing to and for her people.

“It was impossible to think of Marian Anderson singing for the sake of singing.”



Joe Louis was another of Dee’s heroes: “Every time he stepped into the ring, every blow he landed was a blow for freedom,” she said.

“Ruby Dee is an enduring symbol of artistic excellence in American theater and film,” Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, told the audience in Appleton Chapel. “For over a half-century, she has given masterful stage and screen performances that have awed and inspired Americans of all backgrounds.”



Dee was born in Cleveland and grew up in Harlem. She began her career as a member of the American Negro Theatre. She received her B.A. from Hunter College, and later studied acting with Paul Mann, Lloyd Richards, and Morris Carnovsky. She is well-known for her role as Ruth in both the stage and

screen versions of “A Raisin in the Sun” and her starring roles in the films “The Jackie Robinson Story,” “Do the Right Thing,” and “Decoration Day,” for which she received an Emmy award in 1991.

Her most recent cinematic roles have

Actress and Civil Rights Leader, Ruby Dee, delivered the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture in Harvard’s Memorial Church on April 17, 2007. Ms. Ruby Dee signed copies of her book, With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together for students, faculty, and staff, including Harvard Foundation intern, Louizza Martinez ‘09 (R.).

been in “American Gangster,” with Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe; in “Steamroom,” with Dick Anthony Williams and Ally Sheedy; and in the independent film “Clarksdale.”

In 2006, Dee released the selected speeches and writings of Ossie Davis in “Life Lit by Some Large Vision.” She is also the author of a book of poetry and short stories, “My One Good Nerve” (which she has adapted into a solo performance piece).

She recently earned a Grammy award in the Spoken Word category for the audio version of her book “With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together,” a joint autobiography written with her husband.

In 1988, Dee was inducted into the



September 23, 1963 / AP File

The late actor, Mr. Ossie Davis, spouse of Ms. Ruby Dee, passed away in 2005.

Theatre Hall of Fame. She is also in the NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame. Her honors also include the Silver Circle Award by the Academy of Television Arts and Science, the National Medal of Arts Award, and the Screen Actors

Guild’s Lifetime Achievement Award. In December 2004, Dee and Davis were recipients of the John F. Kennedy Center Honors.

“It is such an honor to receive this distinguished award,” Dee said in Appleton Chapel. She acknowledged several previous recipients of the annual Humanitarian Award, including Elie Wiesel; Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu; David Ho, the AIDS researcher; “and my very good friend James Earl Jones,” the actor.

“We have waited too long to greet you at Harvard,” Gomes responded.

—Ruth Walker, *The Harvard Gazette*



Above, left: The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, welcomes students and faculty to the 2007 Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award and the Reverend Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture at the Memorial Church.



Clockwise from Above: The Ku'umba Singers of Harvard College performed prior to Ms. Dee's address. Ms. Ruby Dee and Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.), Director of the Harvard Foundation join Ms. Jackie O'Neill (L.), University Marshal at Wadsworth House. (L.-R.) Dr. S. Allen Counter, and Harvard Foundation interns, Erin Garner '07 and Richard Serna '10, observe as Ms. Dee signs the official Harvard University Guest Register.



Reception and Book Signing with Ruby Dee in Lowell House



L.-R.: Upon her arrival at Lowell House, Ms. Ruby Dee was greeted by Dr. Dorothy Austin (Ctr.), Sedgwick Associate Minister in the Memorial Church, and Dr. Diana Eck, Fredric Wertham Professor of Law and Psychiatry in Society, Co-Masters of Lowell House. Ms. Ruby Dee spoke of her career and life with late husband, Mr. Ossie Davis. Ms. Jennifer Green '07, Harvard Foundation intern and Vice President of the Black Students Association presented a tribute to Ms. Dee.



Dinner attendees included (L.-R.): Ms. Callie Crossley, Mr. Robert Mitchell, Director of Communications for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Donald Pfister, Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Chairman of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee; Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer (L.) and Ms. Ahsanna Muhamad (R.), granddaughter of Ms. Ruby Dee; (L.-R.) Dr. Harris Gibson, Dr. Joseph Hurd '62, Dr. Arese Carrington, Ambassador Walter Carrington '52, Educator Sandras Barnes, Attorney Susan Spurlock, and Mrs. Mercedes Sherrod Evans, Esq.





Clockwise from Above: Among the guests who greeted Ruby Dee included (L.-R.) Harvard College students Kimberley Williams '07, Ryshelle McCadney '07, Lowell House Tutor Cameron van Patterson, and Erin Garner '07; Boston Attorney James Dilday and Judge Judith Dilday; Carol Alexander, Harvard College Librarian for 52 years; and Andrew Coles '09.



“ ‘Some day’ is ‘never.’ There’s no such day of the week as ‘some day.’ The word is ‘today.’ And today is ours.” –Ruby Dee



Harvard Foundation interns and staff join Ms. Ruby Dee at the Harvard Foundation's reception and book-signing in the Phillips Brooks House Parlor Room. (L.-R.) Harvard Foundation interns: Jacqueline Hairston '10, Pia Dandiya '09, Erin Garner '07, Shannon O'Brien, Student Activities Coordinating Assistant, Christina Dias, Administrative Coordinator, and interns, Louizza Martinez '09, Amanda Mangaser '10, and Matthew Clair '09.

Black Men's Forum Celebrates Debbie Allen as *Woman of the Year* Famed Actress, Choreographer, and Producer Honored at Harvard

The Harvard Black Men's Forum (BMF) presented the 2007 *Woman of the Year* award to acclaimed actress, producer, director, and choreographer, Debbie Allen.

Ms. Allen, Artist in Residence for over ten years at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., has created six original musicals. A Culture Connect Ambassador, Ms. Allen has represented the U.S. in visits to Brazil, China, Italy, and India. She is also a member of the prestigious President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, a board member of the American Film Institute, and an Executive Committee member of UCLA's School of Theatre, Film, and Television. Ms. Allen expands the opportunities in arts education for young people all over the world.

Ms. Allen holds the distinction of having choreographed the Academy Awards a record ten times, six in consecutive years. She has directed and choreographed for legendary artists Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey, Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston, Gwen Verdon, Lena Horne and Sammy Davis Jr., to name a few.

Ms. Allen received the Golden Globe for her role as "Lydia Grant" in the hit series, *Fame*. Also a three time Emmy Award winner, Debbie Allen was honored for choreography, the series *Fame*, and *The Motown 25th Anniversary Special*. Ms. Allen has won 10 Image awards as a director, actress, choreographer and producer for *Fame*, *A Different World*, *Motown 25th*, *The Academy Awards*, *The Debbie Allen Special*, and the American classic *Amistad*. She also starred on Broadway in the 1986 revival of *Sweet*

Charity.

In 1996, she produced the Steven Spielberg epic film *Amistad*. A much sought after director and producer for television, her credits include *Fame*, *Family Ties*, *Quantum Leap*, *The Twilight Zone*, *A Different World*, the *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* pilot, *The Jaime Foxx Show*, *The Parkers*, *That's*



so Raven, *All of Us*, *Girlfriends*, and *Everybody Hates Chris*. Her telefilms include Disney's *Polly and Polly Comin' Home!*, the CBS classic *Stompin' At The Savoy* and the critically acclaimed *Old Settler* starring her sister Phylicia Rashad. Recently, Ms. Allen directed the second highest rated original movie in Lifetime Channel history, *Life is Not A Fairytale: The Fantasia Barrino Story*.

The presentation of the 2007 Woman of the Year award to Ms. Allen was the

highlight of the "Thirteenth Annual Celebration of Black Women: Honoring Everyday Heroes." The event took place on March 10th at the Boston Fairmount Copley Plaza.

The Annual Celebration of Black Women is an annual awards banquet that honors the contributions black women have made to Harvard University and to the greater global community. In addition to Ms. Allen, the forum honored seven current Harvard undergraduate senior women and presented the Cecilia Ekperi "Faces of Excellence" scholarship to Merrytime Ebhohon, a Boston high school senior who demonstrated tremendous academic excellence.

As in years past, the program for the Celebration of Black Women included dinner, live entertainment, video interviews, and networking opportunities. The BMF Celebration is known for bringing together business and community leaders, educators from around the globe, current and prospective Harvard University students, students from other universities, Harvard alumni, recruiters, and leading corporate sponsors.

The Harvard Black Men's Forum is an organization founded primarily on the principles of brotherhood, manhood and fidelity. Coming together on a weekly basis, the organization provides a forum in which black men on Harvard's campus can discuss a wide range of issues in an intellectual setting outside of the classroom. In addition to weekly meetings, the group and its members are firmly rooted in community service, particularly in the Cambridge and Boston area.

Black Men's Forum's *Celebration of Black Women*



Clockwise from the top left: Debbie Allen and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation (center), with the Black Men's Forum. Members of the Association for Black Harvard Women. Senior Award Winners with Debbie Allen: (L to R) Shawna Strayhorn '07, Lauren Westbrook '07, Lindsey Olier '07, Allyson Pritchett '07, Florence Evina-Ze '07, Jennifer Green '07, Nneka Eze '07. Members of the Freshman class enjoying the banquet. Celebration of Black Women Co-chairs Tariq Dixon '08 (L.) and Yonas Yemane '08 (R.) speak with Debbie Allen.



Harvard Foundation Writers Series: *Complexities of Color* Six Diverse Authors Featured in April

Society of Arab Students and Progressive Jewish Alliance Host Author Alice Rothchild

The so-called “Israeli/Palestinian conflict” is a topic that has dominated conversation, incited emotion, and created controversy in many circles for many decades now. On April 13th, 2007, Dr. Alice Rothchild, a Boston-based physician, activist, and author, joined Harvard Hillel and the Harvard Foundation to discuss her latest book, *Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience*. The book is an intimate journey that grapples with the complicated historical legacy of Israel and Palestine.

The event, held at the Harvard Hillel House, was co-sponsored by the Progressive Jewish Alliance and the Society of Arab Students, and gathered a diverse audience that drew from both groups involved, as well as from the general Harvard campus.

Dr. Rothchild, who, through her activism, calls for the end of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, presented an account of her various experiences while visiting the West Bank and Gaza Strip in an attempt to paint a picture to which few people are ever exposed. Although the

discussion was somewhat intense, given the mixed audience, Rothchild did an excellent job of fielding questions, stressing the importance of casting as much light on the situation as possible, rather than establishing one particular party as right. Her position on the issue of Israeli occupation comes from a firm belief that the current state is not ideal for anyone.

All members of the audience were moved by the event, whether they were Palestinian or Israeli and identified with the experiences recounted, or were not directly connected to the conflict. Everyone learned something that extended beyond mere facts and histories of the conflict.



Alice Rothchild signs her latest book, *Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience*, for members of the Progressive Jewish Alliance and the Society of Arab Students.

The thought-provoking effect of Rothchild's presentation was demonstrated by the fact that the majority of the audience remained for the reception that followed, breaking off into smaller groups to further discuss ideas that had been raised during the preceding discussion. This event was one that truly spurred dialogue about an issue that often

results in merely a stalemate between those involved.

—Layusa Isa-Odidi '09

Swedish Crime Novelist, Hakan Nesser, Meets with Students in Lowell House

The Harvard Foundation Annual Writers Series, *Complexities of Color*, began this year's series on April 10 with Swedish Writer Hakan Nesser. Renowned for his mystery novels *Woman with a Birthmark*, *Carambole*, and *Borkmann's Point*, the Swedish crime novelist was awarded the Scandinavian Crime Society's Glass Key Award for the best crime novel of the year for *Carambole* in 1999. His novels have been published to wide acclaim in nine countries,

including the United States and Italy. *Borkmann's Point* Nesser's third novel, was winner of the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy Prize for best novel, and the first to be translated into English.



Nesser's style has been said to have much in common with the Vargas's style of crime fiction (a celebrated Peruvian writer and author of the crime novel *Who Killed Palomino Molero?*). He inverts conventions in a similar way, turning what seems on the surface to be a serial killer novel into something rather different, and the informal, humorous tone is

similar. He makes the novel warm, charming, and a complete pleasure to read, something opposed to stark violence encountered in most crime novels.

Among the attendees of the luncheon that afternoon with Nesser, which took place in the Lowell House Small Dining Hall, were several Harvard intermediate Swedish students who were able to interact with the author in his native language. The topics discussed included the prominence of Swedish academics in New England and the complexities of translation, despite the Germanic roots that both English and Swedish share.

Nesser started writing while he was an English teacher in Sweden. He is currently writing full-time in New York for a year with his wife, Elke, a physician. When in Sweden, Hakan Nesser lives with his wife and two sons in Uppsala, a city in central Sweden, located about 70 km north of Stockholm.

—Louizza Martinez '08



Hakan Nesser (Lower L.) and his wife Elke (Lower R.) joined students taking Swedish classes for a luncheon discussion in Lowell House. Standing, L-R: Anna Rudberg, Jennifer Middleton, Brittany Farr, Annette Johansson-Los, Preceptor in Germanic Languages and Literatures, Olivia Shabb, Layusa Isa-Odidi '09, Jenny Rood, Amanda Mangaser '10.

Vietnamese Writers Panel Examines the Vietnamese-American Experience

Dr. Werner Sollors, Professor of English Literature and of African and African American Studies, extended an invitation to the Harvard Foundation's Writer's Program to join in hosting a panel of three Vietnamese writers. The noted writers read passages from their recent literary works and spoke with an audience of faculty and students in Ticknor Lounge on April 12, 2007. The Vietnamese-American Writers panel was co-sponsored by the Harvard Office of the Provost's Fund for Arts and Culture, the English Department, and the Graduate Program in the History of American Civilization. The panel discussion was moderated by Professor Sollors and Gish Jen, Associate of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

The program began with opening remarks by Werner Sollors and Gish Jen. Following, Andrew Lam read from his book *Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora*. The book, which is a collection of essays, is a memoir that recounts the difficulties faced by immigrants from Vietnam and offers a broader perspective on the Vietnamese diaspora.

After Lam's reading, Lan Tran read from her collection of



Above: Poet, Truong Tran, reads aloud from his work Dust and Conscience.

sketches in *Elevator/Sex*, which remarkably juxtaposes sex and female-identity with the tragedy of 9/11. Tran read two excerpts from her book -- one about the distance between a mother and daughter, and the other about the difficulties of a young female prostitute who barely makes it out of one of the World Trade Center towers. Both readings reveal the difficulties and miscommunication faced by Vietnamese immigrants.

Following Tran's readings, Troung Tran selected numerous readings from his book of poetry, *Dust and Conscience*. Also a children's book author, Tran's latest work is different from his earlier work. Many of his readings from his book have strong sexual and homoerotic themes. These themes, when confounded with Vietnamese identity, bring to light and reveal the importance of these rarely discussed topics.

A question and answer period and a reception with Vietnamese cuisine followed the readings. This reception allowed students and faculty the opportunity to meet with the writers and purchase signed copies of their books.

—Matthew Clair '09



Above: Dr. Werner Sollors, Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot Professor of English Literature and Professor of African and African American Studies, served as moderator for the Vietnamese Writers Panel.

Noted Author Esmeralda Santiago '76 Discusses Memoir *When I Was Puerto Rican*

Twenty five years ago, she mesmerized audiences in this very hall with her artful combination of Indian classical dance and Biblical verse for her senior thesis. On April 10, she dazzled again with her intercultural flair, but this time, as an author. Esmeralda Santiago arrived at Dudley House to be honored as a respected guest of this year's Writers' Series: Complexities of Color, but she left a hero of many.

During an earlier visit to the Office of the University Marshall, Ms. Santiago, Class of 1976, revealed part of her life story. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ms. Santiago immigrated to the United States at the age of thirteen. The eldest of eleven children, she learned early how to excel and distinguish herself. She attended New York City's Performing Arts High School, and took numerous odd jobs in the eight years afterwards, all the while studying at community colleges.

One day, as Ms. Santiago describes it, she had the "gall" to apply to Harvard, only Harvard, as no other college would do. She

had a mission, and Harvard was going to be her key to success. Though Harvard did not originally grant her an interview, Ms. Santiago drove up to Cambridge herself and demanded one. For two hours in Bylerly Hall, Ms. Santiago convinced an admissions officer to grant her one of the coveted transfer student spots, and the next year, she was here as a Harvard College undergraduate.

Ms. Santiago encouraged today's undergraduates to pursue their dreams with this same tenacity and dedication. At an honorary luncheon in her former College House, she spoke of the progress that Harvard has made in race relations and admonished students not to take for granted the efforts of those who came before them in this endeavor.

The students responded enthusiastically to her advice, and also presented tributes to her artistic and intercultural achievements. Members of La Organización de Puertorriqueños en Harvard, including Michelle Quiles, recounted and praised Ms. Santiago's literary endeavors.



From Top: Esmeralda Santiago '76 was presented with a Harvard Foundation certificate from Dr. S. Allen Counter for her literary contributions.

—Simi Bhat '08

R.: Esmeralda Santiago '76 signed copies of her memoir When I Was Puerto Rican for students, faculty, and staff at a reception and book-signing in Ticknor Lounge.

Below: Harvard Foundation intern, Muriel Payan '08 presents the guest author with a bouquet.



Clockwise from Left: Students from the Boston Latin Academy, accompanied by Ms. Marta Estrada, Librarian, were among the attendees at the luncheon. Santiago and her son, Lucas Cantor (2nd from R.) accompanied Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation (Ctr.) to Wadsworth House to sign the official University Guest Register. The group was greeted by Ms. Jackie O'Neill, University Marshal (far L.). Student admirers had the opportunity to meet Ms. Santiago and discuss her work.



Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project

Portrait of Mr. David L. Evans Placed in Lamont Library

With this many people clustered in Lamont it must be the night before the Life Science, Ec10 and Justice final. But no it can't be, it's not May, the sun is out, and people are smiling. All of these students are here to pay tribute to a true living legend, a man who changed the face of Harvard, Mr. David L. Evans. Mr. Evans is Senior Admissions Officer at Harvard College, and much of the gender, cultural, and socio-economic diversity at Harvard is because of his work.

David Lawrence Evans was born and raised in Helena, Arkansas. Following his high school years, he attended Tennessee A.I. University in Nashville, where he received a B.S. in Engineering. He later attended Princeton University, where he received a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, as the first African American in Electrical Engineering in 1966. While working with the aircraft industry, he began to assist minority students with applications to attend college. After a number of successful years with this effort, he was recruited by the Harvard Admissions Office to serve as an admissions specialist. He has served Harvard since 1970 as an Admissions Officer and, for five years as a Freshmen Proctor in the Harvard Yard. As a sign of appreciation for his contributions to the enhancement of their college life as a Proctor, friend, and adviser, Harvard Alumni have donated over a million dollars to establish a scholarship in his name. Presently, two students are attending Harvard College on David L. Evans scholarships. It is often said that because of his influence in the Harvard College Admissions Office, Harvard has admitted more minority students in his thirty-six years at Harvard than in the previous



From Top: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation unveils the portrait in Lamont Library as Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer, and Lumumba Seegars '09 look on. (L.-R.) Dr. S. Allen Counter, Mr. David L. Evans, and Mr. Edward Lamont, Fellow at the Institute of Politics and former Connecticut Senatorial candidate.

360 years.

The large crowd of students choked off all traffic in Lamont and completely filled the entryway. In the corner, the direction all students first turn upon entering the library as they consider going to the café,

is a veiled portrait. When the portrait is unveiled, the smiling face that so many students have come to recognize is revealed and the likeness of Mr. Evans is seen welcoming all students as they enter the Lamont Library. Making a special appearance at the unveiling is Ned Lamont, Democratic Senate nominee and businessman. He entertained the crowd with fond memories of his freshman proctor, Mr. Evans, who jokingly took full credit for his protees success.

After the unveiling, there was a reception in the café during which Mr. Evans went around and talked with all the students there. This act is indicative of the personality of Mr. Evans, a man who makes students cheerful from their first encounter with Harvard in the Admissions Office. Mr. Evans' friendly demeanor and great relationship with his students underscores his commitment to them.

Being the man responsible for giving many women and minority students the opportunity to attend Harvard, it is only logical that he would invest so much of his time and effort for our continued well-being; and it is only logical that his students would want him honored with a portrait in one of Harvard's most frequented student spaces.

—Nworah Ayogu '10

L.-R.: Dr. Benedict H. Gross, Dean of Harvard College congratulates Evans. Mr. Edward Lamont and Mr. David L. Evans chat with Nicole Carter '08 after the unveiling. (L.-R.) Nancy Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College, Heather Cole, Librarian of the Lamont Library, and Dr. S. Allen Counter. Mr. David L. Evans with Mr. Stephen Coit '71, Artist who painted the portrait.



Portrait of Dr. Eileen Jackson Southern Placed in Adams House

A portrait of music scholar Eileen Jackson Southern was unveiled and placed in Adams House on February 12th, 2007 in an event sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations and the Association of Black Harvard Women (ABHW).

In 1976, Southern became the first black woman to receive tenure at Harvard. She held a joint appointment in the Music Department and in the Afro-American Studies Department, which she chaired from 1975 to 1979.

Knafel Professor of Music, Thomas Forrest Kelly, was among the music professors present at the event. He spoke highly of Southern's achievements and her impact on music. "She distinguished herself absolutely without reference to gender or color. She was good at what she did," he said.



Above: Professor Eileen Jackson Southern, as painted by Stephen E. Coit '71, artist for the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project.



Courtesy of Harvard Gazette/Jon Chase

Above: The late Dr. Eileen Jackson Southern, a music scholar and Harvard's first black female tenured professor, is the subject of the latest painting in the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project, established in 2002. The oil portrait was unveiled Feb. 12 at Adams House, by Foundation Director, Dr. S. Allen Counter and Natasha Alford '08, President of the Association of Black Harvard Women. The portrait was painted by Stephen Coit '71, M.B.A. '77. Dr. Ingrid Monson, Quincy Jones Professor of African-American Music, spoke at the unveiling of the outstanding and historical contributions that Dr. Eileen Southern made to the study of African-American and European Music.

Southern's portrait was created by Stephen E. Coit '71. An applied math and computer science concentrator during his undergraduate years, Coit worked as a venture capitalist before dedicating himself to painting. Coit said Southern's painting was one of the most challenging portraits because it was posthumous. "I was working with a black and white photograph and had to think about what color her shirt would be," Coit said. He settled on a "creamy, yellow white" in honor of the dress worn by the dancer Judith Jamison in "Revelations."

ABHW's president, Natasha S. Alford '08, was happy to see Southern's portrait unveiled. "It's not a reminder just for us, but for everyone, that all people of all ethnic backgrounds can make a contribution," Alford said.

The portrait is part of the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project, which seeks to introduce more portraits of diverse individuals who have served the College with distinction. The portraits' subjects are chosen by a committee of two students and five faculty members.

—Doris A. Hernandez '09, Adapted from The Harvard Crimson

Albert Einstein Science Conference Honors *Scientist of the Year* Dr. Baldomero Olivera of the University of Utah



L.-R.: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presents the Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year Award to Dr. Baldomero Olivera, Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Utah. Students from the Harvard Philippine Forum welcomed Dr. Olivera to Harvard and attended a luncheon in his honor.

Pforzheimer House Luncheon

Students, faculty, and community members came together for an honorary luncheon in Pforzheimer House on Friday, March 16, 2007 to recognize the Harvard Foundation's 2007 *Scientist of the Year*, Dr. Baldomero Olivera, Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Utah, as part of the Harvard Foundation's Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference.

The guest of honor and his wife, Mrs. Lulu Olivera, were welcomed to Harvard by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Dr. James McCarthy, Professor of Biological Oceanography and Master of Pforzheimer House, the students, faculty, and community members in attendance. Muriel Payan '08, Harvard Foundation Intern and one of the co-directors of the 2007 Science Conference, presented opening remarks.

Dr. Olivera, was nominated for the *Scientist of the Year* award by the members of the Harvard Foundation's Faculty and Student Advisory Committee for his contributions to the study of the molecular mechanisms that underlie nervous system function. He treated everyone to an animated and stimulating presentation on his breakthrough research on the neurotoxins produced by venomous cone snails found in the tropical waters of the Philippine Islands. Dr. Olivera grew up in the Philippines where he later studied and conducted research as an associate professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine. He shared not only the amazing work, but also his experiences in pursuing the sciences during his

career. His friendly and energized demeanor conveyed his engaging personality and modesty. This also came across as he enthusiastically engaged in conversations with students during the luncheon.

Following his honorary lecture, student representatives delivered tributes to our award recipient. Elisa Zhang '08, President of the Harvard Undergraduate Biological Sciences Society (HUBSS), spoke of the significance of Dr. Olivera's work. Speaking to the impact of Dr. Olivera as a pioneer in the sciences, Marlowe Rillera '09, Co-President of the Harvard Philippine Forum, addressed the importance of Dr. Olivera's achievements as a minority in the sciences, a field of study where minorities have historically been underrepresented.

After the student tributes to Dr. Olivera, Professor of Natural Sciences, J. Woodland Hastings, was surprised by carrot cake, his favorite, to celebrate his 80th birthday, and to recognize his long-standing support of the Harvard Foundation. The Hastings Room was named for Professor Woody and his wife Hannah Hastings. The 2007 *Scientist of the Year* Luncheon was part of the Harvard Foundation's Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. Recently renamed in recognition of Albert Einstein for his widely appreciated efforts to encourage minority participation in the sciences and mathematics, and his exemplary opposition to racism and anti-semitism.

—Muriel Payan '08

Harvard Foundation Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics



Clockwise from Top L.: Dr. Baldomero Olivera and his wife, Ms. Lulu Olivera (Ctr.), were escorted to the Office of the University Marshal to sign the official Guest Register by Dr. S. Allen Counter (L.) and Teddy Styles '07 (R.). At the honorary luncheon in Pforzheimer House, Dr. Olivera delivered a presentation on his scientific research. Elisa Zhang '08, President of the Harvard Undergraduate Biological Sciences Society (HUBSS) presented a tribute to the Scientist of the Year. Dr. James McCarthy (L.), Professor of Biological Oceanography and Master of Pforzheimer House, welcomes Dr. Olivera. Students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation join Dr. S. Allen Counter in congratulating the guest of honor.



Photo Essay: “Partners in Science”

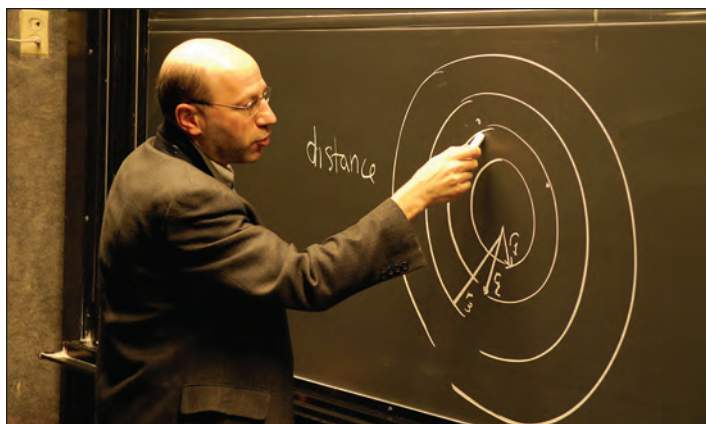
Science Conference Day II



Braving the snow, sleet, and rain that descended on Boston on Saturday, March 17, 2007, about fifty Boston area youth ranging from ages 6 to 17 came to Harvard University’s Science Center for a day of science as part of the “Partners in Science” component of the Harvard Foundation’s Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference.

Beginning the day bright and early at 9 a.m, students from the Paul Robeson Institute, The Science Club for Girls, Paul McNair Program, and the Somerville area arrived on campus for lectures from Harvard Faculty. They also learned from our Scientist of the Year, Dr. Baldomero Olivera, and engaged in hands-on science experiments.

Beginning with opening remarks from Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, as well as from Dean Benedict Gross, the lectures commenced with a presentation by *Scientist of the Year* Dr. Olivera who lectured on “A Life in Science.” Next, the school children were awed by Dr. Howard Stone, Professor of Engineering and Applied Mathematics, who spoke on “Albert Einstein, Brownian Motion, and a Miraculous Year.”



From Top: Dr. Baldomero Olivera delivered a presentation to the school children on the venomous qualities of cone snails from the Philippines. Dr. Howard Stone, Vicky Joseph Professor of Engineering and Applied Mathematics. (L.-R. Ctr.): Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Dr. Baldomero Olivera, and Dr. Woody Hastings, Paul C. Mangelsdorf Professor of Natural Sciences, with students from the Paul Robeson Institute. Harvard College student volunteers conducted experiments for the youth participants.



Professor of Physics, Jenny Hoffman gave a lecture bursting with knowledge on the “Physics of Low Temperatures.” Professor of Natural Sciences, J. Woodland Hastings, delivered an illuminating lecture on “Fireflies and Phosphorescent Seas: How and Why Animals Produce Light,” explaining the principles of bioluminescence.

After breaking for lunch, our visiting future scientists broke up into groups and began rotations of hands-on experiments. Teaching fellows, Nicole Danos, Erin Blevins, and Brooke Flammang from the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology course, “Patterns and Processes in Fish Diversity” led one of the rotations in which the children were able to take a close look at fish fossils, including shark teeth.

David Hewitt, teaching fellow from the Science B Core course, “Feeding the World, Feeding Yourself,” led an experiment rotation that illustrated the chemical reaction of baking soda and vinegar. David Jones, a teaching fellow for the Earth and Planetary Science course, “History of Earth,” explored the world of paleontology, bringing in fossils, such as trilobites, cninoids, and graptolites, and helped put in perspective the evolution of man in relation to earth’s vast history.



Above: Erin Blevins '12 examines fossils with a youth participant.

Below: Children from the Paul Robeson Institute enjoy an experiment that illustrated the chemical reaction of baking soda and vinegar.



The visiting students also got their hands dirty with Ooblek, a special mix of cornstarch and water, creating an interesting slime-like consistency that demonstrated the properties of liquids and solids. In the midst of it all, our young scientists found just how delicious science could be with a student-led experiment of liquid nitrogen ice cream. Mixing all the appropriate ingredients for ice cream, the students saw the effects of how liquid nitrogen could freeze this creamy mix into a favorite frozen treat. Throughout these rotations, the visiting students played the roles of marine biologists, paleontologists, and chemists — only a sampling of the vast possibilities that their futures hold.

After a day of insightful and interactive lectures and hands-on experiments, the students departed from the Harvard campus. If their enthusiastic participation and intellectual curiosity are any indication, they walked away with a deeper appreciation and interest for the sciences.

—Muriel Payan '08

Harvard College student volunteers lead science demonstrations for Boston-Cambridge public school students. Matthew Clair '09 (at chalkboard) and various Science Center demonstrators lead various seminars on the "Wonders of Science."





Erin Belvins '12 explains animal physiology to youth participants.



Celebrating the 80th birthday of Dr. Woody Hastings (L.), Paul C. Mangelsdorf Professor of Natural Sciences, and member of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee. Shown below, the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation presented Dr. Hastings with a birthday cake at the annual Scientist of the Year luncheon. (L.-R.) Dr. James McCarthy, Professor of Biological Oceanography and Master of Pforzheimer House, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Marlowe Rillera, Elisa Zhang, Dr. Baldomero Oliveira, Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Utah and 2007 Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year, Dr. Woody Hastings, Dr. Donald Pfister, Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Curator of the Farlow Library and Herbarium.



Annual Harvard Foundation Awards Banquet

Students and Faculty Honored



Student recipients of Harvard Foundation Certificates.

On May 4, 2007, the Harvard Foundation honored with special recognition members of the Harvard community who are outstanding contributors to improving intercultural and race relations at Harvard. Over forty students and one distinguished faculty member were presented with awards at the annual Harvard Foundation Student/Faculty Awards Dinner held in Quincy House in memory of David S. Aloian, former Quincy House Master. The student award recipients were nominated by their House Masters, faculty and administrators, and selected after a vote by the faculty and student advisory committee of the Harvard Foundation.

The Distinguished Senior Awards for Excellence in Leadership were presented to: Natasha Alford '07, Erin Garner '07, Jennifer Green '07, Chas Hamilton '07, Kevin Koo '07, Leah Lussier '07, Ryshelle McCadney '07, Christine Megerdichian '07, Lindsey Olier '07, Teddy Styles '07, Maria Troien '07, and Owais Siddiqui '07. Siddiqui also received an award of Peer Recognition, having been nominated and recommended by his peers, particularly for his work as Co-Director of Cultural Rhythms 2006, with the

Harvard Islamic Society, Harvard College in Asia Project, and for his leadership in the Earthquake Relief Coalition through which he helped organize a candlelight vigil, charitable comedy show, and fundraising banquet.



Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presents the Harvard Foundation Distinguished Senior Award for Leadership to Christine Megerdichian '07, President of the Harvard Armenian Society. Below (L.-R.): Maria Troien '07, Kevin Koo '07, and Leah Lussier '07, also received honors.



The 2007 Harvard Foundation Insignia Awards were given to students who have displayed a sustained effort in improving intercultural understanding and racial harmony at Harvard College, including: Chimaobi Amutah '07, Robin Bellows '09, Simi Bhat '08, Matt Clair '09, Filip Filipov '07, Layusa Isa-Odidi '09, Francis Kim '07, Muriel Payan '08, Marisol Pineda-Conde '08, Deena Shakir '08, Shawna Strayhorn '07, Beatrice Viramontes '08, Khalid Yasin '07, and Armen Yerevanian '08.

The Harvard Foundation also recognized undergraduates, mostly freshmen and sophomores, who have begun to make notable contributions to race relations at Harvard College with a Certificate of Recognition. The recipients of these "Honorable Mention Certificates" were presented to: Nworah Ayogu '10, Matthew Bresnahan '09, Pia Dandiya '09, Denise Diaz '08, Petros Egziabher '09, Elizabeth Eve '10, Nadia Gaber '09, Ariel Huerta '08, Samad Khurram '09, Kelsey Leonard '10,

Amanda Mangaser '10, Louizza Martinez '09, Edad Mercier '09, Vani Nambudiri '09, Jennifer O'Brien '07, Christopher Pak '08, Leah Pillsbury '07, Alicia Rodriguez '07, Lumumba Seegars '09, Richard Serna '10, Arjun Vasan '07, and Shanai Watson '07.

—*The Harvard Foundation Staff*

R.: Harvard Foundation interns (L.-R.), Matthew Clair '09, Teddy Styles '07, Amanda Mangaser '10, and Owais Siddiqui '07.



Harvard Foundation Honors Dean Jeremy Knowles



Mrs. Jane Knowles (Ctr.), Librarian/Archivist at Harvard's Schlesinger Library, accepts the Harvard Foundation Faculty/Administrator Award on behalf of her husband, Dr. Jeremy Knowles, Interim Dean of FAS and the Amory Houghton Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, from Dr. S. Allen Counter (Third from L.), Director of the Harvard Foundation. They are joined by Harvard Foundation interns (L.-R.) Teddy Styles '07, Marisol Pineda-Conde '08, Layusa Isa-Odidi '09, Owais Siddiqui '07, and Louizza Martinez '08.

On May 4th, the Harvard Foundation honored Dr. Jeremy R. Knowles, Interim Dean of FAS and the Amory Houghton Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, with its 2007 Faculty/Administrator Award at the annual Harvard Foundation Student/Faculty Awards Dinner in Quincy House. Knowles was recognized for his years of earnest support of the Harvard Foundation and its mission to improve intercultural and racial understanding at Harvard. Mrs. Jane Knowles, Librarian/Archivist at Schlesinger Library and wife of Dean Knowles, accepted the award on his behalf. "Dean Knowles has been an ardent supporter of the work of the Harvard Foundation since his first years as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in the 1990s," said Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. "His willingness to meet with students of different ethnic backgrounds to discuss their concerns, and the eloquence and civility that he brought to those discussions was always helpful to us in resolving issues and conflicts in a manner that was agreeable to all parties. The students and faculty

of the Harvard Foundation are proud to recognize his contributions and to honor his fine example."

—*Adapted from the Harvard Gazette*



Above: Dr. Jeremy Knowles, Interim Dean of FAS and the Amory Houghton Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Harvard Foundation Honors Student Posthumously

Clarence “Duane” Meat (1982-2006)



Above: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presents Ms. Kathryn Fairbanks, mother, and family of the late Harvard College student, Clarence Duane Meat, with a Harvard Foundation Medallion. Meat had served as the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Co-Chair and was an active leader in intercultural life at the College. Ms. Carmen Lopez (C), Director of the Harvard University Native American Program, joins Dr. Allen Counter in presenting the award. Please refer to the Harvard Foundation Journal, Spring 2006 issue, pp.42-43, for written tributes to Duane Meat.

Students and Faculty at the Annual Harvard Foundation Awards Banquet



Clockwise from Upper R.: Owais Siddiqui '07 addressed the audience after receiving both a Harvard Foundation Distinguished Senior Award for Leadership and the Peer Recognition Award. Mr. John F. Gates, Associate Dean for Administration and Finance delivered opening remarks. Over 100 students and faculty were in attendance at Quincy House on the evening of the Harvard Foundation Student/Faculty Awards Banquet. The Asian American Dance Troupe closed the evening with a magnificent performance. (L.-R.) Mr. Larry Peterson, Quincy House Administrator, Dr. Lee Gehrke, Professor of Health Sciences and Technology and Master of Quincy House, Ms. Deborah J. Gehrke, Co-Master of Quincy House, and Mr. John McMillian, Race Relations Advisor in Quincy House. (L.-R.) Dr. S. Allen Counter, Dr. William C. Kirby, Edith and Benjamin Geisinger Professor of History and Director of the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, and Dr. Benedict H. Gross, Dean of Harvard College.

Masculinity in Hip-Hop: Discussion with Documentary Director Byron Hurt

Harvard Foundation Collaborates to Sponsor Film Screening

Byron Hurt, the director of the documentary “Beyond Beats and Rhymes,” urged a capacity crowd in the Science Center’s Lecture Hall D last night to confront the sexism, homophobia and “hyperaggression” that he said features prominently in today’s commercial hip-hop music.

In the past year, Hurt’s film on hip-hop has made a tour of the film festival circuit and garnered national media attention. “This film is about hip-hop, but also about manhood, the construction of masculinity, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, corporate media, crass materialism and how it affects all our lives,” said Hurt.

“Beyond Beats and Rhymes” features interviews with hip-hop celebrities, aspiring rappers, record executives, and academics. In the film, Hurt questions them about what he saw as the troubling issues with “commercial rap.”

A former Northeastern University football quarterback and self-described “hip-hop head,” Hurt said his work as a sexual violence prevention educator drew his attention to the violence and sexism in an art form he loves.

The film screening elicited strong reactions from the audience. Many sections were greeted with applause; a clip of an aspiring rapper vowing to “get my rape on,” however, drew loud murmurs.

At the same time, Hurt linked the aggressive masculinity he finds in hip-hop music to what he sees as a broader phenomenon in American society.

“I started thinking about the larger culture of violence. If George Bush were in the rap game, he would probably outsell *50 Cent*,” said Hurt. “His brand of hyperaggression, his inability to make any concessions, to acknowledge any

mistakes, sends a message about masculinity that I find very troubling.”

A clip of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger uttering the words “don’t be economic girlie-men” drew laughter.

Ralph L. Bouquet ‘09, the historian of the Black Men’s Forum, moderated a question-and-answer session with Hurt after the screening.



Above: Byron Hurt, director of the documentary “Beyond Beats and Rhymes: A Hip Hop Head Weighs in on Manhood in Rap Music” with the Black Men’s Forum on February 22, 2007.

“With a lot of the misconceptions and stereotypes that are in hip-hop, we want to give the campus an understanding of how the amoral business culture creates representations of black men that are not positive,” said Bouquet.

During the question-and-answer session, one audience member said the film had affected

how he approached hip-hop music.

“I’ll change the way I think about things, and I’ll teach that to my kids,” he said.

—David Jiang, Adapted from The Harvard Crimson



Left: Students filled the Science Center to watch the screening of Byron Hurt’s documentary and to discuss issues in today’s hip-hop music.

Student Featured Programs

The Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee is comprised of over sixty undergraduate cultural, ethnic, and religious organizations that receive grant funding and assistance from the Harvard Foundation each semester. These organizations conduct student-initiated programs and projects each semester that enrich the cultural life of the University. Several of the special projects conducted by these student organizations are featured in each issue of the *Harvard Foundation Journal*. This section contains highlights from several student events of spring 2007.

Native American Students Present Commemorative Wampum *Celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the Harvard Indian College*



A delegation of the Harvard University Native American Program's alumni, students, faculty, and local tribal elders, presented 35 beads of Wampum to Professor Benedict Gross, Dean of Harvard College.

Front Row seated: Shirley Mills (Masphee Wampanoag), Benedict Gross, Samuel Sapiel (Penobscot). Back Row: Professor Lisa Brooks, Professor William Fash, Carmen Lopez, Patrik Johansson, Leah Lussier '07, Kelsey Leonard '10, April Youpee Roll '08, Tobias Vanderhoop, Malinda Maynor Lowery, and Willie Lowery.

For millennia, Native Americans living on the east coast have used Wampum, purple and white beads made from the quahog shell, as a medium in diplomacy to communicate goodwill, peace, and commitment. Wampum is sacred and believed to contain profound powers that can shield participants in any diplomatic or trade transaction from malice while facilitating the opening of channels of communication between different parties. According to traditions, the presence of Wampum in a ceremony mandates that participants speak the truth. When placed onto strands and woven into belts, Wampum becomes a record of events that can be read by the initiated. In the 17th century, Wampum became the medium of exchange when the fur trade between Native Americans and European settlers began in the northeast. At one point, the sacred objects became legal tender, and students could pay tuition in Wampum at Harvard College.

In the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007, wampum returned to Harvard as part of a diplomatic exchange between Native American Alumni and the University. In a two-part Wampum Gifting Ceremony, the Native American alumni gifted 35 beads of Wampum to Harvard University, each bead representing

10 years to commemorate 350 years of the Harvard Indian College established in 1655. In the first part of the ceremony, Patrik Johansson, MPH '01, of the Eastern Cherokee Nation, presented the Wampum to Paul Finnegan, AB '75, MBA '82, President of the Harvard Alumni Association, at the annual HAA October meeting. Johansson stated, "By its nature, the Wampum strand will become a living record of today's event. Native alumni make this offering in a spirit of goodwill, peace, commitment and truth, and look forward to enriching their mutual relationship with Harvard for the next 350 years."

In the second part of the ceremony held on February 1, 2007, a delegation of Native American alumni, students, and local tribal community members gathered with Harvard faculty and administrators to present Benedict Gross, Dean of Harvard College, with the Wampum for installation at Harvard College – the heart of the University and homeland of the Indian College. The ceremony included a prayer by Samuel Sapiel, of the Penobscot Nation and Elder of the North American Indian Center of Boston, and an honor song and remarks by Tobias Vanderhoop, Tribal Councilman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah. Vanderhoop discussed the

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core m*

This Wampum was given to Harvard University by Native American Alumni in a spirit of goodwill, peace, commitment and truth to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Harvard Indian College.

February 1, 2007

Created by Vernon and Berta Welch
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

enduring ties Harvard has long held with his tribal nation, “In 1650, Harvard adopted a charter that voiced its founder’s commitment to the ‘education of English and Indian youth of this country,’ and that document continues to guide you to this day. All those years ago, my community put its faith in the commitment made in the charter by entrusting Harvard with two of our own, Joel Iacoomes and Caleb Cheeshahteamuck, both of whom did well under your guidance. Joel would have been valedictorian of his graduating class, if not for his untimely death just weeks before commencement, and Caleb went on to become the first Indian graduate of Harvard College’s Class of 1665.”

In his acceptance remarks, Dean Gross stated that he would install the Wampum in his office at University Hall for all

students and faculty to view. Taking one year to harvest and prepare the Wampum in traditional ways, Vernon and Berta Welch from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah created the strand of Wampum beads and designed a custom viewing box inlaid and decorated with Wampum. To close the ceremony, Vanderhoop stated, “During the ceremony, prayers were said; the history of the ties between Harvard and the Indigenous people of this country was recited and songs were sung. Through the passing of Wampum that day, we were all asked to remember our 356-year-old relationship; our relationship was renewed, and as long as the story is told our relationship will remain strong.”

—Carmen Lopez, Director of HUNAP

Reflections Program Honors Asian-American Seniors Connecting Alumni and Undergraduates

With many laughs and a few tears, eight Asian-American seniors received awards at the third annual Reflections banquet on May 6th for the impact they made during their four years at Harvard.

“Reflections 2007,” held in Pound Hall at the Harvard Law School, was a collaboration between ten Asian organizations on campus. The banquet featured Boston-based band Phil Good and Emerson College journalism professor Paul U. Niwa, who spoke about the difficulties of being an Asian-American man and urged his audience to “grab a samurai sword and chop down the bamboo ceiling.”

Thirty potential candidates for the award were nominated by their peers for having “stimulated great progress on campus,” according to the event program. The nominations were then evaluated by a committee of non-senior peers. According to selection committee member Susan H. Nguyen ‘09, the committee took seven hours to narrow the pool from the 30 nominees to the eight award recipients.

One of the award recipients was Jacquelyn Chou ‘07, who

came up with the concept of Reflections two years ago.

Chou said that she was flattered and “a little embarrassed” to win an award at an event she founded, but she also stressed the importance of Reflections to the Asian-American community.

“I’d like to think that it is a testament to the success of community-building,” Chou said.

“After Reflections began, a pan-Asian identity was created,” Vasan said. “The various Asian organizations now co-sponsor many more events, like the joint relief efforts for the Asian earthquakes.”

The eight seniors honored were Chou, Anant Gupta ‘07, Eveleen S. Hsu ‘07, Tilottama Riya Sen ‘07, Edward H. Thai ‘07, Vasan, Winmar Way ‘07, and Khalid M. Yasin ‘07.

—Nan Ni, Adapted from The Harvard Crimson

La O' Coordinates Puerto Rican Economic Conference

Discussions at Harvard Sponsored by Puerto Rican Students Association

On April 20th and 21st, La Organización de Puertorriqueños en Harvard (La O), along with students from the Association of Puerto Rican students at MIT (APR) held a conference entitled "Restoring Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: Proposing Solutions." Undergraduate students as well as graduate students from both Harvard and MIT were actively involved in planning this event.

The conference was conceived shortly after the government shutdown of Puerto Rico in 2006. Shaken by this event, Puerto Rican students at Harvard, like many Puerto Ricans on the Island, perceived this outcome as the result and dangerous culmination of many of the problems that Puerto Rico has come to develop over the years. A desire and a need to meet, to discuss, to analyze, and to propose solutions soon emerged.

Additionally, members of La O found themselves, more than ever before, quite realistically and immediately faced with the dilemma that has led to what is commonly known as the "brain drain:" Puerto Rican students who, after educating themselves in the United States, remain in the United States instead of returning to the island.

The two-day conference was planned with two main objectives. The first objective was to generate an informative and practical dialogue between Puerto

Rican professionals and students (future professionals) regarding the current state of Puerto Rico's economy and what steps can be taken to remedy it. The second objective was to provide Puerto Rican students who currently study in the United States the options, the means, and the incentive to eventually return

discussions, creating a lively and responsive audience that ensured the success of the event.

The topics discussed during the panel presentations were Puerto Rico's economy, public and private financing, entrepreneurial projects, education, healthcare, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, sustainable development, and Puerto Rico's image.

Over 35 speakers participated in these panels or gave inspiring speeches, urging students to return to the Island and take an active part in the betterment of Puerto Rico. Among these speakers were professor Richard Freeman of the Harvard Economics Department, Dr. Margarita Alegria from the Harvard Medical School, Development Bank President William Lockwood Benet, Puerto Rico Bankers

Association Executive Director, Arturo Carrion, Puerto Rico Medical School Dean, Dr. Walter Frontera, Supreme Court Chief Justice Federico Hernandez Denton, Popular Inc. Chairman, Richard Carrion, University of Puerto Rico President Antonio Garcia Padilla, and the Brookings Institution's Barry Bosworth, and Susan M Collins.

—Luis Martinez '08 and
Monica Renta '08



Panel on Sustainable Development (L-R): Moderator Vadim Nikitine, President of Commercial Centers Management, Inc., Neftali Garcia, Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies in Puerto Rico, William Gould, Adjunct Scientist at the USDA Forest Service, Adrian Cerezo, PhD candidate at Yale School of Forestry, and Manuel Dubon, President of D Group Equities Management Service.

home to the Island and contribute to its development.

Accordingly, the first event was a networking reception at the MIT-Sloan Faculty Club, during which the opening ceremonies for the conference were also held. The second was a full-day event that consisted of eight panel presentations and discussions with audience participation, held at Harvard's Tsai Auditorium in CGIS South. Over 115 students from more than 25 colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico attended these panel

News & Notes

Ongoing Harvard Foundation Initiatives and News from the Semester

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

Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings

Spring Guest Speakers

Once a month, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations brings its students and faculty together in a forum for ideas and exchange. The Student Advisory Committee (SAC), consisting of one representative from each student group and the Foundation interns, and the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) meet in the Phillips Brooks House Parlor room on the second Wednesday of each month. A guest is often invited to speak at these meetings in order to facilitate communication between the broader Harvard and Cambridge community and the Foundation.

Though final exams were looming in January, students and faculty were excited to come to the next SAC/FAC meeting as FAS Associate Dean of Administration and Finance, John Gates, was scheduled to address the group. He explained the process of student group and Foundation funding from the Administration's perspective and encouraged students to get involved in setting the University agenda. Dean Gates also answered questions about the ever elusive, but ever growing endowment, and his own work at the London School of Economics.

The SAC and FAC are always thrilled to learn more about intercultural exchange

and the accomplishments and failings of some societies to embrace this exchange. In February, one of the great minds of multiculturalism, Dr. Ali Asani, Professor of the Practices of Indo-Muslim Languages and Cultures, shared his thoughts on the urgent need to combat cultural and religious illiteracy,



Simi Bhat '08 and Layusa Isa-Odidi '09, Co-Chairs of the Student/Faculty Advisory Committee, plan a meeting.

which has lead to stereotyping and dehumanization of entire peoples and nations, especially in the wake of 9/11 and the war on terror.

Dr. William Gelbart, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, discussed an equally somber issue in March, that of scientific justification of racism. He spoke of the history of eugenics and the sophisticated and

terrifying exactitude of present day Neo-Nazis. He also spoke of the great hope for science to demolish racial barriers, especially as more underrepresented communities produce brilliant thinkers, and encouraged the group to attend the Foundation's Albert Einstein Science Conference honoring Dr. Baldomero Olivera of the University of Utah.

The next speaker focused on topics a bit closer to home for the Harvard community. Director of Athletics, Robert Scalise, talked about the University's failure to hire minorities in the Athletic Department. He also discussed recent efforts to recruit talented minority coaches, particularly for the basketball coaching vacancy. Harvard's poor record of hiring minorities in the Athletic Department was the subject of a 2007 Boston Globe article.

As the school year concluded, we held our last SAC/FAC meeting to elect next year's SAC Executive Board. The 2007-2008 Co-Chairs will be Nworah Ayogu and Liz Eve, the Secretary will be Kelsey Leonard, and the Treasurer will be Rauda Tellawi. We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve and wish the next board all the best.

—Simi Bhat '08, SAC Co-Chair

Commentary: The Harvard Foundation welcomes articles and letters of commentary from students and faculty on matters of race and intercultural relations

General Commentary

In instances of ethnic conflict, it is important to set a tone of civility and consideration as we seek constructive resolution. It does not help us to inflame the conflict with the kind of hostile rhetoric and misinformed communication that results in alienation of members of our community. While many students who write for the *Harvard Crimson* are responsible and considerate of the feelings of other students, some have continually offended ethnic minorities with hurtful articles over the years, and this continues to be one of the most frequently cited causes of racial and ethnic friction at the college. The articles written about the Quad racial incident by students at the *Crimson*, and the subsequent fall-out served only to exacerbate racial and religious tensions on our campus. Some of the responses to these articles in blogs and on the list serve shifted the focus from the deplorable nature of the Quad incident to the racial insensitivity of *Crimson* writers.

For example, the authors of one *Crimson* article, Adam Goldenberg '08 and Sahil Mahtani '08 raised serious questions about intent and offended many students of different races and religions. To dredge up past conflicts among Arab/Muslim, Jewish, and black students in the 1992 incident to which they refer in their article without the context only serves to further alienate students of different races and religious backgrounds.

Many have described the Goldenberg article as "disingenuous," "racist,"



courtesy of The Harvard Crimson/Jessica H. Chan '10

and similar to other racially inflammatory articles in the *Crimson* such as "The Invasian," that mocked Asian-American college students, and an article on criminality in which *Crimson* editors placed jail bars over photographs of selected African-American students. Similarly, the *Crimson* article by Lucy P. Caldwell '09 in which she referred to minority students as a "gang," was hurtful to many students of color and to others who work tirelessly at the Harvard Foundation to improve race relations at the College. It was an unfortunate word choice and reference for racial minorities. Caldwell has a right to her views, but she should learn that we do not have "gangs" at Harvard, but rather many capable and thoughtful students who may differ in point of view, philosophy, background, ethnicity, religion, orientation and gender. We should work together to resolve our disagreements and misapprehensions in a civil manner and not estrange one another with invective.

Note of clarification: For the record, statements in the *Crimson* article by Lucy Caldwell suggesting that the Harvard visit of Dutch parliamentarian and human rights activist Ayaan Hirsi

Ali in 2006 was proscribed by the Foundation's Board are misinformed. It should be noted that the Harvard Foundation did assist the Harvard Dutch Cultural Society with their panel discussion on international human rights that included Professor Tomas Scanlon, Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Dr. Ahmed Mansour and Dutch Parliamentarian, Ayaan Hirsi Ali (see Harvard Foundation Journal Spring 2006, page 37). At the request of students and faculty, Dr. Counter served as the moderator for the panel.

My Heart Sank!

ABHW. BMF. The previous Social Chair assured me that the African Black Harvard Women/Black Men's Forum Challenge was always a blast. He also told me I had three weeks to plan it with the ABHW Social Chair.

The clock was ticking so we hustled to get everything together. We had to pick activities and get equipment. We also had to figure out food details. However, the hardest part was reserving the location. After deciding to host it in the Quad Yard, we had to make sure Harvard agreed. Days later after asking around and meeting with faculty, we finally registered the event on the College Events Board.

The ladies came in their ABWH gear, and we had on our BMF gear. However, upon arrival, we found the majority of the Quad Yard to be roped off and the available land getting drowned by sprinklers. After finding someone to shut the sprinklers off, that person instructed us that it was okay to remove the ropes and use the rest of the grass. The day's plan was simple: cards, relay races, dodgeball, and food scattered in between. The ABHW Social Chair and I were in charge of conducting all the games, and

I had a horn to blow as many times as I felt was necessary in order to get the group's attention.

There was cheering, yelling, horn blowing, and other festive noises. I felt proud because all the hard work paid off and everyone was enjoying the event. All was fun until the two Harvard University Police Department officers showed up on motorcycles. My heart sank and I immediately thought, "What could we have possibly done wrong?" The officers just watched us for a little while, then one made his way over to a couple students not participating in the races who were just chatting. I walked over to help handle the problems. I got there in time for him to ask me if we had a permit. I told him yes, and they rode away. I was a little upset, but I figured that even at Harvard I cannot get away from police checking out my legitimacy. We continue the games as if nothing happened, but I knew something had happened, and I was nowhere near happy. The simultaneous emails across the Cabot House email list did not make matters any easier. Racial matters have never been easy, but who would have guessed that this would happen at Harvard?

—Jarell Lee '10

“Remove Group” - I Am Harvard

I will never be able to reflect on my Harvard experience without noting the tarnished end. I am, of course, speaking of the abomination now known as “The Quad Incident,” when an otherwise joyful occasion was interrupted for no good reason.

Before the incident, it was relatively easy to discuss the stockpile of racial profiling experiences, run-ins with blatant prejudice, and other incidents in which Harvard students were made to feel like intruders in their own home due to race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, or creed, etc. Harvard Foundation Interns would hear about issues, pull together discussions about it, and end up talking to the same group of concerned students and faculty every time. Discouraged and disturbed by the seeming lack of concern, all I could do was shrug my shoulders. I didn’t understand why I would hear all kinds of horror stories from students and faculty indicating that all was not well in Harvard life; yet, when it came down to discussing the issue and a solution, apparently everyone was too busy or did not seriously think anything would be done to correct the problem. By senior year, I was complacent and found nothing shocking about the formulaic spark, burn out, and burial of every major diversity issue.

Enter the Quad Incident: when enough was enough and issues that had been festering for decades finally blew up. Apparently someone saw a group of people, Association of Black Harvard Women ABHW and Black Men’s Forum BMF members, having a field day on the Quad lawn. Disturbed, this person decided to call the Harvard University Police Department. The incident fit a classic equation: Minorities + Gathering + Talking = Suspicious Activity. Call the Authorities! HUPD responded to the call, which was originally recorded as “Remove Group,” but was mysteriously

re-classified post-backlash as the less hostile sounding “Noise Complaint.” The police checked IDs and asked whether or not the group was authorized to be there. The groups were, of course, authorized and well within their right as Harvard students to play games on Harvard property. The police left and the fall-out ensued.

It took an unwarranted phone call, a run-in with police, a barrage of snide e-mails on house listservs, a demonstration, loads of finger-pointing, and several lousy, sensational Crimson pieces to finally get the greater student body to realize or openly recognize that issues of racism, prejudice, and old fashioned ignorance and denial are still of concern at Harvard.

Perhaps something should be done about these problems. One underfunded, under-staffed diversity office cannot solve all the intercultural and race relations problems on Harvard’s campus. It would take an army of supportive faculty, administrators, and students joining with the Harvard Foundation in an effort to systematically address these issues in an efficient and, timely manner. It would take mass self-reflection among students and a steadfast effort to make the “I AM HARVARD campaign” work. It would take an overall movement to reacquaint the administration with what really goes on in Harvard life beyond the board room, and to educate them on the real needs of the diverse student body: a supportive learning environment in which unequal treatment is not condoned. It would take Harvard student identification flashcards for HUPD and suspicious students. In other words, it would take a miracle. But, I believe in miracles and the average Harvard students’ ability to make amazing things happen.

—Erin Garner ‘07

Harvard Foundation is Misunderstood by Critics

Written by Harvard Foundation interns to the Crimson on May 25, 2007

Racism and prejudice are real at Harvard. For over 25 years, however, the staff of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations has worked to resist this regrettable fact by taking positive action to promote tolerance on campus. Because an individual student’s memory of Harvard tends to encapsulate only four years, few are aware of the racial tension of the recent past and the Foundation’s role in ameliorating it. Through a wide range of events, the Foundation has not only helped to create a safe place for students of all backgrounds, but also it has helped to facilitate understanding through dialogue—a process that we hope has resulted in the bridging of differences through a realization of commonality.

The Foundation’s response to the Quad incident was no different. While we all have our individual beliefs as to whether or not racism was at play in this incident, the presence of racism or its lack thereof does not matter at this point. When a segment of the student population is made to feel that they do not belong, we all have a problem. As a result, the Foundation initially responded by hosting discussions through both the Currier and Cabot House race relations tutors. In addition, the Foundation supports the “I Am

Harvard” Campaign, which will continue to address the lack of belonging felt by many in Harvard’s black and other minority communities.

Because the Foundation is a supportive entity, its initiatives and system of support remains generally unnoticed, except by those parties involved. However, when media controversy arises, the Foundation’s policies and initiatives may become misconstrued from a lack of a full understanding of the Foundation’s mission. This occurred in two articles published in the *Crimson*: a column on May 21 by Lucy M. Caldwell ‘09 and in an op-ed on May 21 by Adam Goldenberg ‘08 and Sahil K. Mahtani ‘08.

These two pieces are neither factual nor constructive to the current problems that have resulted from the Quad incident. False and out-of-context attacks against Harvard Foundation Director S. Allen Counter and the Foundation only serve to distract from the issue at hand. Further, the articles border on blatant disrespect for both the students affected by the incident and Counter, a man whose dedication to many student groups and individual students has contributed to their respect, legitimacy and existence on campus. These two articles are lacking in their journalistic integrity; but

worse, they are also lacking in their humanistic integrity for genuine respect for all of those on Harvard’s campus.

In both editorials, the simplistic depiction of the Quad incident is strikingly

Students who are routinely subject to identification checks regard their treatment on the Quad lawn as a harsh reminder that, by some, they are not viewed as being part of this community.

contradicted by the Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) log and e-mail archives, which indicate that the disturbance posed by the student members of the Association of Black Harvard Women and the Black Men's Forum was not a mere noise issue. First, the Cabot students assumed their black peers—black students who were wearing Harvard apparel and who are leaders of many prominent organizations on campus—to not be members of Harvard. Second, HUPD acted on this incorrect assumption by demanding identification and authorization of the students' right to utilize their lawn. If this were simply a noise complaint, IDs would not have been required.

While the comparison of HUPD tactics to racialized policing during Apartheid may be imperfect, the metaphor is apt: students who are routinely subject to identification checks regard their treatment on the Quad lawn as a harsh reminder that, by some, they are not viewed as being part of this community. In fact, in the wake of the incident many black alumni have cited similar trends of excessive scrutiny from HUPD, resident tutors, and

their peers. Even faculty members have been subject to similar treatment because of their race. The two aforementioned editorials completely disregarded—and therefore trivialized—these accompanying facts.

We invite leaders of this community, especially the chair of the College Events Board and The Crimson's director of recruitment, positions held by Goldenberg and Mahtani, respectively, to join us at the Foundation to learn more about the history of race at Harvard and to share their sentiments.

We look forward to bringing our peers together through constructive dialogue in the future, for those who refuse to engage in real-life dialogue on the basis of presumed foreignness only shun the opportunity to broaden their perspectives and learn from their fellow students—and that's the honest truth.

—Teddy L. Styles '08, Simi Bhat '08, Matthew K. Clair '09

Goldenberg and Mahtani Should Apologize

From the Crimson, May 25, 2007

It is indeed a sad day when an esteemed Harvard leader such as Dr. Counter is subjected to a character assassination attempt such as that unleashed by Mr. Adam Goldenberg and Mr. Sahil K. Mahtani. Dr. Counter has labored with unparalleled enthusiasm to make Harvard the multicultural and tolerant place that it is today. If he chooses harsh words to send a shock wave into the system in which he aspires to be a beacon of tolerance, then let us be respectful of his disappointment, for his vision for this great institution is unwavering.

Over the years, Dr. Counter has provided refuge for the less heard and under

represented voices at Harvard. I had the personal privilege of interacting with this courageous man. He went to great extents to empower students from all walks of life to realize their dreams. His respect for this institution is beyond questioning; so is his aspiration for its potential.

Instead of digging into past irrelevant files that outdate the birth date of many of the current student body in what could only be a smear attempt, we should follow his example by expecting no less for Harvard. An apology is indeed in order, one from Goldenberg and Mahtani to all of us who have been inspired by Dr. Counter's bold integrity.

—Mohamad Al-Ississ '00, MA '00, MPAID '07

*Former president of the Harvard Society of Arab Students
PhD candidate in Public Policy, and prospective tutor at Quincy House.*

Police Intervention Stirs Racial Conflict at Harvard

Adapted from the Crimson, May 25, 2007

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation, who serve as a kind of racial conscience in our community have worked assiduously to reduce the number of "racial" incidents at Harvard and to improve the racial climate through programs on ethnocultural knowledge, awareness, and tolerance. Much of our work is behind the scenes and goes unnoticed by the larger community so that our students and faculty are not diverted from their educational endeavors by racial, ethnic, or religious conflict.

Nine days ago, I was distracted from late night work in my University Hall office by a most unexpected sound. A chorus of students on the steps of the building were singing Civil Rights songs. Intrigued, I went outside to observe about 100 mostly black students standing together, with many holding signs that read, "I am Harvard."

The protest was in response to an incident that occurred on May 12, when members of the Association of Black Harvard Women and the Harvard Black Men's Forum, two of Harvard's finest student organizations, were engaging in their outdoor recreational activities at about 2:30 PM on a sunny afternoon on Harvard property, enjoying each other's company, and seeking a release from their exam preparations during reading period. They were cheering each other in good, clean fun at their annual inter-organization sports challenge on the Radcliffe Quadrangle. Most would agree that the noise of cheering students is not probable cause for a call to the police or

for police intervention. Nevertheless, after anonymous telephone protests, the students were approached by uniformed Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) officers on motorcycles who requested identification and a permit as proof of their affiliation and official permission to be in that space. (In my thirty-seven years at Harvard, five of them living at Radcliffe, I have never seen large numbers of African-Americans assembled and engaged in recreational activities on the Quadrangle who were not Harvard students. I am surprised that the police did not conclude after observing them from a distance that the young black women and men playing friendly games on the Quad grass were Harvard students, before they approached the students and inquired about their Harvard affiliation or permission to be there). These students felt collectively "profiled" by race, and victims of racial discrimination. They asked the simple question, "if fifty or more white students were engaged in similar outdoor recreational activities on the Harvard/Radcliffe Quadrangle on a Saturday afternoon, many wearing Harvard insignia t-shirts and sweatshirts, would they have been approached by uniformed white police and asked for identification or a permit to be on Harvard property?" That is a fair question, and it behooves us to take it seriously. I have written an apology to the members of the Association of Black Harvard Women and the Harvard Black Mens Forum for this regrettable experience at their College.

This is not the first instance of alleged "profiling" of minorities, particularly of black and Hispanic students, by the HUPD and security guards. A recurrent complaint brought to our office by African-American women and men is that of being routinely stopped and asked to produce identification by HUPD and security guards while their white peers are not subjected to such scrutiny. Such complaints have even been brought by faculty members—last year a professor was stopped by HUPD in the middle of

the day in Harvard Yard and forced to show his identification. Harvard is not alone in this problem. Such concerns have been expressed at other institutions, such as MIT where the police were given photographs of key black administrators and faculty because black staff were being frequently stopped on campus by white police who demanded their identification as proof of an MIT affiliation.

What seems to elude many non-minorities in any discussion of racial profiling is the concept of racial humiliation. The black professor who was stopped in the Harvard Yard by the HUPD was racially humiliated in a way that perhaps no white Harvard faculty member would ever be. Moreover, the students in his office who witnessed the incident were humiliated and angered by the subsequent actions of the police who interrogated them for confirmation of the professor's Harvard status. HUPD has never apologized to the black professor or the students. A representative of HUPD later telephoned the African-American professor and told him that he was stopped by the police near his office in University Hall because a black man had stolen something about a mile away, and was reported to be heading toward the Harvard yard. When one white university official was reminded that the black professor was professionally well-dressed in a suit and tie, the official responded by saying, "well, you see, the black thief was reported to be well-dressed."

In years past, a number of minority students, particularly African-American women, have come to the Dean's office to indicate that they were made to feel intimidated and threatened when gathered for an outdoor meeting on some part of the Harvard campus and policemen on motorcycles wearing dark, reflective glasses have slowly approached their group to ask why they were gathered and, in some cases, circled them. We took this matter to the Deans and other University officials, and invited HUPD to Harvard Foundation student-faculty meetings for constructive discussions—and the charges abated.

This incident of two weeks ago struck this raw nerve once again. The "I am Harvard" campaign was an appropriate response that sent a powerful message: despite the fact that some may see them as less than equal members of the Harvard community, they do belong here as respected and valued members of the Harvard family. Similar campaigns are frequently used effectively when minorities are made to feel alienated and estranged, and raising the issue in such a manner is a good first step towards assuaging tensions.

I do not believe that Harvard is "a racist community," as the *Crimson* erroneously quoted last week. That may be, however, the perception that some have after what happened. Instead, I believe that Harvard is a microcosm of the real world, where some of our students and staff may bring their racial and cultural beliefs and biases to our University community. However, the majority of our students, faculty and administrators have risen above racism to set the national standard for racial amity understanding and tolerance in a culturally diverse academic community.

The Quad incident has sparked letters from a number of African-American alumni writing on the Black Alumni Network listserve under the heading, "the more things change, the more they remain the same." A number of students and their parents who experienced similar Harvard and Cambridge police encounters have stated that policemen demanding identification cards from African-American students is reminiscent of the South African

apartheid era, when blacks were routinely stopped and forced to show their ID cards to white police. Many of our Harvard Police are well-trained, friendly professionals who protect and serve our students admirably, and who are qualified to work in an academic community with students of different ethnic backgrounds. Nevertheless, many minority students and faculty feel that some HUPD police, men and women, need further training in intervention and awareness of the cultural, racial, and religious sensitivities in our diverse University community.

Further, many feel that we should hold meetings with students who write for the *Crimson* to discuss their apparent racial insensitivities and the racially provocative nature of some of their articles. The articles written in the *Crimson* about the Quad incident (and the on-line blogs they provoked) did not help our efforts to assuage the feelings of the aggrieved students or lessen racial misunderstanding about the incident throughout the college, but rather increased ill-feelings among some. The Harvard Foundation's record speaks for itself. It has enabled the Harvard community to overcome many racial and ethnic conflicts over the years, and we continue to do so. During the 2006-2007 academic year the Foundation has sponsored approximately 150 programs and projects that were intended to promote interracial,

inter-religious, and cultural understanding. The faculty and student advisory committees were delighted that we had made it through the academic year without any publicly divisive racial conflict.

I (and other faculty and administrators) have recommended to the Dean of the College that we host a meeting between Harvard minority students and HUPD to discuss this incident more fully and to begin an ongoing constructive dialogue that will hopefully lead to improved police-student relations. I will also urge the faculty advisory committee of the Harvard Foundation to support the "I am Harvard" campaign as a campus-wide effort to raise the level of awareness of all members of the Harvard community about the racial, ethnic, and religious diversity of Harvard's present demographic, and the University's appreciation of that valued diversity. Our minority students must not be distracted from

their college academic and social experience by the onerous burden of race.

For many years, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals Peter J. Gomes and I would meet as we strolled through the Harvard Yard. On a number of occasions, we were joined by former Dean of Students, Archie C. Epps III, and Senior Admissions Officer, David L. Evans. Invariably, Gomes joke that, "we must be very cautious now. There are four of us standing here, and to many that means a race riot is about to take place. We can expect the police to be here any moment." To this we would always laugh uproariously, but perhaps, a little uncomfortably. I believe that we have come a long way since then, but we still have a ways to go.

—Dr. S. Allen Counter



University Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

M.L.K. Community Reception Sponsored by Harvard Foundation

The great impact that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had on this country—and the world—is undeniable. With the help of many others, he was instrumental in bringing about positive change and justice in our society. Like others of my generation, I never had the opportunity to meet Dr. King, yet I feel the effects of his tremendous work each day. The annual service held for him each January is powerful because it allows us to truly reflect on the life and work of this noble man. It gives us a chance to examine the current state of our society, our attitudes, and our lives, in order to see how far we have come. Equally important, the service challenges us to carry on the work that still has to be done.

The music of the service created the perfect atmosphere for reflection. The Kuumba Singers, a choir dedicated to celebrating black creativity, is solid proof that people from all different races and backgrounds can come together, be themselves, and appreciate and respect one another. Once they began to sing, I was reminded of the struggle of Dr. King and all those who marched and fought at his side. The

struggle that we have inherited has become more difficult to understand. Racism and classism do not reveal their faces in the same ways as in the past; however, these evils are still poking their heads over the fences of progress in our society. Though the battle is not in the same form that it was in Dr. King's time, we are still fighting for the same ideals: justice, equality, respect, and dignity.

The service in honor of Dr. King helped me to focus on what is important and why we all still have so much to do. It allowed me to feel connected with another generation that fought for me to have the opportunity to sit in Memorial Church in Harvard Yard. Thanks to the Harvard Foundation, we were able to absorb the message of the service over delicious food afterwards during a reception. It was an appropriate ending to an exemplary service and allowed us to discuss our thoughts and reflections while they were still fresh in our minds.

—Lumumba Seegars '09

Students Discuss Aspects of Race in Film

Harvard Foundation Interns Host *Mondays with the Foundation* Group Discussions

Did you know that the first words of *Aladdin* were protested by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee for a negative reference to Sharia Law? Does Simba represent African-Americans or is he a universal and raceless lion? Ever notice that *Aladdin* is eating an apple, a fruit associated with America and not naturally found in Arabia? This second installment of “Monday’s at the Foundation” gathered together about twenty-five students in the Foundation office, where everyone grabbed some pizza, watched clips from the Disney classics and discussed the concepts and images presented. Not even Dr. Counter could resist the draw of Disney magic, and referenced Jim Crow from the movie *Dumbo*. While the negative stereotypes promulgated by these movies were discussed, there was also discussion of the apparent impossibility of giving a completely balanced view. Many of the images are subtle and are not a product of Disney, but a reflection of the society at the time. So it seems that in terms of race and Disney there are two sides to every story, and there’s always a happy ending.



Students gathered at the second talk to discuss racial representation in animated cinema. The talk explored how these ethnic depictions affect children's perceptions of race and culture.

—Nworah Ayogu '10

Special Feature: The Making of Cultural Rhythms

Behind the Scenes at Harvard's Largest Student Performance Event



Above (clockwise, from top left): Co-directors Layusa Isa-Odidi '09 and Simi Bhat '08; Teddy Styles '07 on lights; Muriel Payan '07 and Layusa Isa-Odidi '09 backstage; Kelsey Leonard '10 and Amanda Mangaser '10 eating pizza between auditions.

Right: Christina Dias, Administrative Coordinator for the Harvard Foundation, and Matt Bresnahan '09, brainstorm new ideas during a dinner meeting.

Below, from left: Late-night intern meeting; Richie Sema '09 working on music; Canollia Hip-Hop performers Leslie Jimenez '09 and Salavado Maldonado '09; Simi Bhat '08 pages through the script.



Harvard Foundation Student Grants Summary Reports

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

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

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

The following undergraduate student organizations were awarded grant funding from the Harvard Foundation in the Spring 2007 semester:

Harvard African Students Association, Asian American Association, Asian American Dance Troupe, Association of Black Harvard Women, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, Harvard BGLTSA, Harvard Black Students Association, Harvard Black Men's Forum, Harvard Bulgarian Club, Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club, Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association, Concilio Latino, Harvard Darfur Action Group, Dharma, Diversity and Distinction, Expressions Dance Company, Fuerza Latina, Half-Asian Persons Association, Holoimua O Hawaii, Harvard Hong Kong Society, Interfaith Council of Harvard, Harvard Islamic Society, Harvard-Radcliffe Japan Society, Harvard Korean Association, The Ku'umba Singers of Harvard College, Latinas Unidas de Harvard-Radcliffe, Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, Harvard College Nigerian Students Association, Harvard Polish Society, Harvard Raza, Harvard Romanian Association, Harvard Sangeet, Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers, Harvard South Asian Association, Spoken Word Society, Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society, Harvard Thai Society, United World Club at Harvard, Harvard Vietnamese Association, Woodbridge Society of International Students, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

Expressions Dance Company Spring Show

The Expressions Spring Show was held on Friday, April 6th. Two consecutive performances were held in Lowell Lecture Hall in front of a total audience of 375 Harvard undergraduates and community members. Each performance was approximately an hour and a half long and consisted of pieces choreographed and performed by Expressions Dance Company members.

The show contained dances ranging in genre from hip-hop and funk to lyrical and jazz. Three other dance companies were featured as guests.

The Harvard Breakers performed an incredibly choreographed pop and lock piece, and also featured some floor work, while a group of poppers from the Boston area performed at the later show, displaying their talent and coordination.

Expressions was also proud to feature the community youth dance group Jam'nastics, who were a real hit with the audience at both shows.

The grant money generously provided by The Harvard Foundation was used for costumes for Expressions dancers. This performance was important for the Harvard community for several reasons: Expressions provided a stage for other campus and community dance groups. Additionally, we feel we exposed our audience to dance styles originating in urban cultures and showed the versatility of hip-hop music. We would like to thank The Harvard Foundation and The Office of the Arts for their help in producing our show.

—Pamela Santoyo, '08

Harvard Armenian Society

Armenian KEF Cookout

Because food is so important in the Armenian culture, the Harvard Armenian Society wanted to put on an event to not only expose people to delicious Armenian food, but also demonstrate and teach students how one of the main dishes is made.

The board members of the club gave step-by-step instructions on how to cook *manti*, a type of ravioli with meat inside, covered with yogurt, mint, and sumac. Because folding each and every individual *manti* is a very time-consuming process, it was often the time that grandmothers would pass along stories to their granddaughters.

The club was able to bond while making the *manti*. The event was also a success because we had many students from different nationalities show up, such as some from the Middle East, Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey. This event could not have been possible without funding

from the Harvard Foundation. The Harvard Armenian Society is extremely thankful for the Harvard Foundation's support of creative and interactive ideas.

—Nina Kouyoumdjian '08



Above: Harvard Armenian Society members enjoy the *manti* they prepared for the Armenian KEF Cookout.

Woodbridge International Society

St. Patrick's Day

The Irish Baraza was a hugely popular event to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Woodbridge International Society members descended upon Adams Lower Common Room March 17th decked in green to enjoy the Irish food and music we had provided.

The food from Tommy Doyle's proved to be very popular, with many people remarking that they had previously no idea about what Irish cuisine consisted of. The atmosphere was very festive and the event was enjoyed by all who attended.

—Seun Svensson-Sodipo '09

Harvard Radcliffe Chinese Students Association

Chinese New Year's Banquet

The Harvard Radcliffe Chinese Students Association had a very successful Chinese New Year's Banquet. We attracted a diverse group of approximately 300 undergraduates in Leverett Dining Hall on February 11, 2007. CSA served food that was ordered from Peach Farm Restaurant in Chinatown. The night was filled with food and cultural performances by groups including Asian American Dance Troupe (AADT), Dharma Seal, and Harvard Wushu.

The night started off with a dance by AADT, who performed a traditional Chinese routine. They were followed by two songs by C-Sharp, Harvard's Asian American a cappella group. Unfortunately, scheduling forced us to cancel the spicy noodle eating contest, but guests were treated to a performance of two riveting songs by Dharma Seal.

A martial arts demonstration by the Harvard Wushu Club was well received by the audience, who then saw a collection of magic tricks performed by the Magic Society. The night closed out with a performance by the Chinese Music Ensemble and a second dance from AADT.

Overall, the banquet was a successful endeavor, which educated the Harvard undergraduate population about Chinese culture and performances. This year, we sought to bring in performances by groups not affiliated with China in order to bring diversity to the lineup. Our efforts at diversification obviously paid off from the large number of ticket sales and the enthusiastic response by the audience.

—Angela Ying '09



Diversity & Distinction

Winter 2007 Issue: Culture

The Winter 2007 issue, *Culture*, was focused on exploring the question: appreciation or appropriation?

Diversity & Distinction, Harvard University, and several other organizations speak highly of being culturally sensitive and open to appreciating and accepting other cultures. However, when does this so-called appreciation cross the line into appropriating cultural symbols without paying them the respect they deserve? This issue was central to this edition of the magazine, and it was explored from several different perspectives.

Articles in this issue included a piece that looked at the commodification of culture in the Ten Thousand Villages store chain. These are fair-trade stores that sell the work of artisans from economically poor areas in different countries. Similarly, another article looked at the commodification of hip-hop and how it has been adopted by mainstream society.

L.: The cover of the Winter 2007 Diversity and Distinction, which focused on different perspectives of cultural symbols.

Other articles focused specifically on organizations on campus that are interested in promoting cultural awareness. Specifically, there was a piece on Kuumba and its mission to expose people to black creative culture with the inclusion of many ethnic groups. There also was an article on A Drop in the Ocean (ADITO). This is a student group involved in microfinance by helping understaffed non-governmental organizations (NGOs) keep track of their lending portfolio.

In addition to these articles, the issue featured pieces on a variety of other topics (pertinent to trends on campus and in the larger public), a photo essay on the Chinatown in Argentina, as well as short inset blurbs about interesting opportunities and people that relate to the issue of cultural understanding and appreciation. Thus, through the written and visual content in the Winter 2007 issue, we evaluated the different ways we appreciate and appropriate culture in our activities and in our ways of thinking.

—Jessica Harmon '07

Dharma

Hinduism Awareness Week

The Hinduism Awareness Week poster display between Science Center Halls B and C was exceptional. We displayed 5 posters — 4 hand-made posters and one purchased — that gave information on many aspects of Hinduism in an unbiased and objective way April 9th through April 13th. The five posters were entitled “Why Pray?,” “Common Misconceptions of Hinduism,” “Hindu Gods and Goddesses,” “Hindu Texts,” and a general purchased poster entitled “Hinduism.”

The “Why Pray?” poster was actually created this year by Dharma’s worship chair, Neel Butala and offered a spiritual perspective on why prayer is so important in Hindu society. Harvard Foundation grant support was extremely valuable in creating this poster as the charge to print a quality poster of the desired size is relatively expensive. The poster created was beautiful and we hope to create more updated and more reader-interactive posters.

A very large number of people viewed the posters, especially at our outdoor yagnam (fire ceremony). We brought a priest from a nearby Lakshmi Temple to perform the yagnam, and several Dharma members participated in the entire ceremony. A Yagnam (also anglicized as Yajna) is a ritual of sacrifice to the Supreme God. As a part of the ritual, sacrifices of ghee, sandalwood, and coconuts are offered to a fire. The Yagnam was a very successful part of Hinduism Awareness week, and several passers-by stopped to ask us about our religious customs, comment on the great and pertinent information presented and just how visually appealing our posters were. The “Why Pray” poster was especially appreciated by passers-by during our yagnam. By performing the yagnam in a popular area, we were able to maximize our impact and spread awareness to many people. A photo from the ceremony was featured on the front page of *The Crimson* the next day. The active participants included several Dharma Board members, as well as many non-Board members. Our yagnam also attracted intercollegiate participation, with some MIT guests joining us for the ceremony.

The Hinduism Awareness Week poster display is an event we very much hope to continue. Poster displays may be considered in future events as well.

—Seema Amble '09

Asian American Association *Coffeehouse*

Coffeehouse was the biggest event of the semester for the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association. In terms of campus-wide turnout, we reached our goal of expanding attendance and participation.

On a nice Saturday evening April 14, about 300 people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures gathered in a coffee house type environment at Boylston Hall to enjoy not only good food, drink, and music, but also companionship. Chibo Tang '07, was the MC of the night, providing humorous commentary, adding a light-hearted tone and keeping it informal and fun for everyone involved.

The officers of the AAA board were glad to serve all the attendees scrumptious Western and Chinese pastries, fried sesame balls with red bean paste, sponge cake with almonds and frosting, as well as sushi, fried rice, apple streudels, pearl milk tea, and of course tea and coffee. Starbucks and Tealuxe gladly donated tea and coffee, and Boston Tea Stop supplied pearl milk tea for the event.

As for the performers themselves, we had undergraduates like the duet Yuting P. Chiang '10, and Devon Williams '10, who sang and played guitar, Eveleen Hsu '07, presented a touching spoken word piece. Justine Oh, a Berklee College of Music student introduced her friend Sandra, a widely known and traveled rapper in Korea.

Thanks to the amount of funding we received from both the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council, AAA was able to make its biggest event of the spring semester grander and more widely publicized than before. Months of hard work contacting sponsors for donations,

securing materials and equipment, and confirming performers from all around the Boston area made the event a success.

We introduced many people to the current Asian American artist, musician, and fine arts scene, not only here on campus, but in the greater Boston area. The performers that we lined up gave an impressive picture of what it means to be Asian American, and APA culture, and made our program accessible to people of all races, ethnicities, cultures, ages, and sexes.

—Austin Chu '10

Concilio Latino de Harvard *Días de Nuestra Cultura*

The opening reception to *Días de Nuestra Cultura* served as the “kick-off” event to a three-day, weekend-long project. The event, which included twelve different Latino/Latin-American organizations at Harvard, was the first of its kind.

The opening reception, which took place at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2007 in the CGIS South Building Public Gathering Room, brought the Latino Community

Holoimua O' Hawaii Hosts Luau in Leverett House



L.: Isaac Ickes '08 plays live Hawaiian music for the Holoimua O' Hawaii (Hawaii Club) Luau April 13th 2007 in Leverett Dining Hall.

Below: Participants perform a Hawaiian couples dance.



together. Concilio Latino's chair introduced the events that were to be held throughout the weekend.

Each of the three events, co-sponsored by three different Latino groups, covered pertinent Latino issues, including Immigration, Health, and Education and fostered dialogue among not only Latinos, but also among members of the Harvard community interested in these issues. Attendees to the opening reception included both undergraduate and graduate students from Harvard, and some from MIT.

The opening reception was relatively brief, approximately one hour long. It served as an appropriate introduction to the first event of *Días de Nuestra Cultura*, a film-screening of the motion-picture *A Fronteira*. The film is a Brazilian story of two families struggling through ordeals of immigrating to the U.S. from Brazil.

The film-screening on immigration was co-sponsored by Harvard Radcliff RAZA, the Harvard Undergraduate Colombian Association, and the Harvard Brazilian Organization.

Concilio Latino and all its members

thank the Harvard Foundation for both its financial and motivating support in helping make the 1st Annual *Días de Nuestra Cultura* weekend-long project an inspiring success. We look forward to working with the Foundation on all future projects that help better unite the Latino community at Harvard.

—Normandy W. Villa '09

Harvard Islamic Society

Islamic Awareness Week

As the opening event this year, the Harvard Islamic Society invited Prof. John Esposito to speak about Islam in the West and in the modern world. In an effort to counter the violent images of terrorism displayed in the media, the event illustrated how such actions that are often mistakenly connected to the religion of Islam are not compatible at all.

It was a frank discussion on what Islam condones, where does violence/war fit in religion, especially Islam and what may be the causes of what we see in

the media. Prof. Esposito was very engaging, and took questions from the participants. Over 90 people were present, and we served pizza at the event.

Prof. Esposito is Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University. Previously, he was Loyola Professor of Middle East Studies and Director of the Center for International Studies at the College of the Holy Cross.

As Founding Director of Georgetown's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding: History and International Affairs in the Walsh School of Foreign Service, he has served as President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, as well as a consultant to governments, multinational corporations, and the media worldwide.

On March 13th, as another part of Islam Awareness Week, the Harvard Islamic Society invited Prof. Ingrid Mattson to speak at an event on Islam's role in American society and the way Muslims can contribute to this country.

Director Sorin Iliesiu Visits Harvard as Guest of the Harvard Romanian Association



Members of the Harvard Romanian Society and other students gather to discuss the film *Piata Universitatii* by director Sorin Iliesiu.

As President of the largest Muslim organization in North America, Dr. Mattson brought her experiences and anecdotes and really conveyed her point to the more than 100 attendees from across Harvard.

Dr. Mattson spoke of the need for Muslims to take a greater role in all walks of life and all careers, in order to become fully immersed in American society. She fielded questions from the audience, and also mingled with the crowd at the food reception after the event.

Dr. Mattson earned her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago in 1999. Her research is focused on Islamic law and society, with emphasis on the early Islamic period. Her scholarly articles include studies on slavery, poverty, and Islamic legal theory.

During Dr. Mattson's graduate studies in Chicago, she was involved with the local Muslim community, serving on the Board of Directors of Universal School, a parochial suburban Muslim academy, and as a member of the Interfaith Committee of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago.

Presently, Dr. Mattson is Director of Islamic Chaplaincy and Professor at the Macdonald Center for Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 2001, Dr. Mattson was elected Vice-President of the Islamic Society of North America, the largest grass roots membership based Muslim organization in North America, and in 2006, she was elected President.

—*Hasan Siddiqi '08*

Harvard Romanian Association, Romanian Graduate Club & Romanian Students Association (MIT) *Discussion and Film Screening with Sorin Iliesiu*

Romania was the only country in which the communist regime was overthrown at the expense of bloodshed — yet it took 17 years following the Revolution to finally commence the Trial of Communism.

Sorin Iliesiu initiated the “Appeal for the Condemnation of Communism in Romania as Criminal,” addressed to the President of Romania and signed by more than 500 leading intellectuals and by the foremost non-governmental and union organizations.

His concerted efforts resulted in the Tismaneanu Report, a unique document in modern history — a scientifically validated report to the President of Romania, Traian Basescu, which concludes that the communist regime in Romania should be condemned.

The incriminating report has generated a wave of criticism from political figures formerly affiliated with the communist regime, and has led to the impasse of the current political class, which attempts a restoration of its powers at the expense of democratic will.

We invited Mr. Iliesiu to talk April 16th at Dudley House about the Tismaneanu report, as well as his lifetime activity as a civic activist and defender of human rights. We also had a screening of *Piata Universitatii* (University Square), a documentary co-produced by Mr. Iliesiu. The film presents the

events that followed the Revolution of 1989 in Romania, when the heads of the communist forces seized power by repressing the population gathered in large numbers to protest.

Then, we had a short presentation from Mr. Iliesiu, followed by a discussion with questions and answers. We had the talk in English, so that everyone could participate, and we were surprised by the large number of non-Romanians who were interested in the subject. Some were from other Southeastern European countries, and said that the situation that we presented was very similar to that in their countries.

In conclusion, the event went very well and we all learned a lot. The people realized that the communist regime committed abominable crimes and that it should be condemned just like the fascist regime was condemned in the 20th century. We also learned a great deal about the current political situation in today's Romania, and how it is continually influenced by the communist legacy.

We brought into discussion the global attitude towards the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and how economic and political interests influence international compliance in respecting these rights.

—*Nicolae Done, '09*

Latinas Unidas

Latina Appreciation Day

On May 2, 2007 in Boylston Hall 104, Latinas Unidas was proud to honor Dr. Diana Sorensen (Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of Comparative Literature; Dean for the Humanities in FAS) at our annual Latina Appreciation Day celebration. With a diverse Latino group of 24 students and the board, we gathered with delicious food from Don Roberto's to both celebrate her achievements and to share her great wisdom.

The event started with a dinner so that everyone could get to know one another and to build bridges within the Latino community. Then, Dr. Diana Sorensen was presented with the Latina of the Year award by our President, Marisol Pineda-Conde. Several of her achievements within Academia and as Dean of the College were highlighted during the presentation.

Dr. Sorensen lead a discussion with the students detailing not only her experience in academia as a Latina, but also probing what our students today are doing to further the Latino community here at Harvard.

This was a truly special event for our organization because it has allowed us to honor someone who has greatly impacted our student group and our lives here at the college. She is an exemplary professor and dean and we were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn from a fellow Latina. This event would not have been possible without the generous grants from the Harvard Foundation, the University Council, and the Ann Radcliffe Trust. With their continued support, we look forward to honoring another esteemed member of the Latina community next year.

— Anna Brito '08

Harvard Vietnamese Association

Tet Reception

The Harvard Tet Reception was a cultural event on February 17 celebrating the Vietnamese New Year, or Lunar New Year. It promoted understanding of the rich Vietnamese culture and its culinary, celebratory and historic nuances. Tet (the official name for the Vietnamese New Year) is, in fact, the largest celebrated holiday in Vietnam.

Our event, in Winthrop Junior Common Room, aimed and successfully spread awareness of the holiday as well as offered a different perspective on how the New Year can be celebrated. Many of the benefitting undergraduates were struck by the ethnic music and activities — all profound differences in the Vietnamese New Years' celebration as compared to other nations.

This event was co-coordinated by the Harvard Vietnamese Association and Ms. Chan Phan, the Head Librarian

of the Vietnamese branch at Yenching Library. Our event also featured a reception, with an array of Vietnamese dishes — spring rolls, fried rice, egg rolls, pan fried noodles — that are typically enjoyed during the New Year Season.

In addition there were a multitude of Vietnamese games, and desserts that are representative of the Tet culture. Our successfully publicized event drew many members of the Harvard community.

— Tri Chiem '10

Harvard Islamic Society & South Asian Association

Meet & Greet

On Tuesday, March 20, 2007, the Harvard Islamic Society co-hosted an event with the South Asian Association in Ticknor Lounge. Given that a large percentage of the Harvard Islamic Society is of South Asian descent, there was a significant commonality between

Honoring Latina Leaders



Dr. Diana Sorensen and the student officers of Latinas Unidas: (L.-R.) Anna Brito '08, Muriel Payan '08, Marisol Pineda-Conde '08, Dr. Diana Sorensen, Valerie Larsen-Fernandez '08, and Louizza Martinez '09.

these two groups, which engendered a sense of togetherness. Further, the Islamic Society wants its members, especially freshman, to be aware of a community on campus with which it shares common interests. For this reason, it was important to have such a meet and greet.

South Asian Association members, as well as the members of the Harvard Islamic Society, came together over *mitthai*, South Asian sweets that many members of the society had not had very much of due to the distance from home and cultural institutions. Food reminding people of home provided a cultural backdrop to an amusing and friendly opportunity to meet people that were very similar.

Even members of the Islamic Society that were not of South Asian descent were able to enjoy themselves, and it was especially amusing to see Arab students being taught Urdu/Hindi by friends and repeating it joyfully.

It was a very friendly, filial atmosphere in Ticknor Lounge that Tuesday night, with drinks made of mango pulp accompanying the *mitthai*, mango being a fruit that is traditionally associated with South Asians and which is featured extensively in their cuisine. Even after the event was over, students stayed and talked with old and new friends, proving that we had succeeded in this event, the goal of which was to provide an opportunity to meet and enjoy new people. Such inclusiveness in culture is important to the Harvard Islamic Society and we are proud to have promoted it.

—Batoool Ali '10

BGLTSA

"Race and Queerness" Week

For this event, we invited Professor Michael Bronski to speak at our kick-

off event February 21 for "Race and Queerness" week. Since Professor Bronski is a visiting professor at Harvard, we advertised heavily for this event with large posters in front of the Science Center and in many of the houses.

He knows a great deal about how race has influenced the queer movement, and we had him speak for about 20 minutes, then opened the floor to questions. Prior to the event we set up the Hilles Penthouse with lots of good food.

The discussion was quite stimulating, as Professor Bronski spoke candidly about how the queer movement, only up until a few years ago, was quite un-diverse. We talked about how diversity could better influence the goals of the queer movement as a whole, and how we can think about race and queerness in our society.

The overall atmosphere in Hilles was professional, but we also had some informal remarks made by Professor Bronski and the students that we had in attendance. Our members were very pleased with the turn out and how the discussion was handled by Professor Bronski. We are very grateful for the funding provided by the Harvard Foundation.

—Jessica Coggins '08

Harvard Bulgarian Club

Balkan Dances

The Harvard Bulgarian Club has a history of being involved with traditional dances from the Balkan region. Members of the club participated in the Cultural Rhythms festival in 2005 and 2006 with original choreographies, winning the admiration of the audience. Usually the more experienced students

were teaching the steps to the less experienced ones, and the progress was due to everyone's enthusiasm.

The interest for more organized instructions from the club, as well as other Harvard undergraduates, made us bring a professional instructor to teach regular classes during the academic year 2006-2007. The instructor, Peter Petrov, is a Bulgarian who teaches several dance classes in the greater Boston area, and who has participated in many ensembles performing Balkan dances.

Throughout the academic year, we met every Saturday at 1 p.m. in Winthrop Junior Common Room for two-hour practices. During the course of the year Peter taught the enthusiastic group nine different kinds of dances, each one of them with several variations.

The group of 30 dancers consisted of mainly Bulgarian undergraduates but there were also several non-Bulgarian students.

As a result of the instruction, the students attending the dance classes performed on several occasions. First, in the fall of 2006 the group was invited to perform at a Bulgarian Cultural Festival organized in the Harvard Business School, where it presented a dance with original choreography, winning the approbation of the crowd.

In February of 2007 the dance troupe performed at the festival Cultural Rhythms, and finally in May we showed Balkan steps at Arts First. Peter prepared different dances and original choreography for each of these occasions.

We are thankful to the Harvard Foundation for the generous support that made these dance classes possible.

—Dobromir Rahnev '07

Acknowledgments

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation would like to thank the following individuals for their special contributions to the mission and work of the Harvard Foundation during the spring 2007 semester: Mr. Derek C. Bok, President of Harvard University; Dr. Benedict H. Gross, Dean of Harvard College; Dr. Donald Pfister, Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Curator of the Farlow Library and Herbarium, and Chairman of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee; Dr. David Pilbeam, Henry Ford II Professor of Human Evolution; Mr. John F. Gates, Associate Dean for Administration and Finance; Ms. Sandra Grindlay, Curator for the Harvard University Portraiture Collection; the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, and Ms. Jan Randolph, of Harvard's Memorial Church; Dr. Evelyn M. Hammonds, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity and Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies.

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



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.

The Mission of the Harvard Foundation

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

Harvard Foundation Flagship Annual Programs

Writers Series: *Complexities of Color*

Harvard Foundation Film Festival: *Reel Culture*

Cultural Rhythms Festival and Artist of the Year Award Ceremony

Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture and Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award

Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics

Harvard Foundation Student and Faculty Awards Ceremony and Dr. David S. Aloian Memorial Banquet

Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee Members 2006-2007

Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals
 Dr. Donald H. Pfister, Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany (Chairman)
 Dr. Gary Alpert, Environmental Biologist, Harvard Biology Department
 Dr. Ali Asani, Professor of the Practice of Indo-Muslim Languages and Cultures
 Dr. Leo H. Buchanan, Audiologist, Harvard University Health Services
 Dr. John E. Dowling, Maria Moors Cabot Professor of Natural Sciences
 Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Professor of Neurology
 Dr. Scott Edwards, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology
 Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Harvard College Admissions Officer
 Dr. William Gelbart, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology (Acting Chairman '05-'06)
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 Dr. David Haig, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology
 Dr. Evelyn Hammonds, Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies
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Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Members 2006-2007

Asian American Association, Asian American Brotherhood, Asian American Dance Troupe, Asian American Womens Association, Association of Black Harvard Women, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, BGLTSA, BlackC.A.S.T. (Black Community and Student Theater), Black Men's Forum, Black Students Association, Bulgarian Club, Catholic Students Association, Chinese Students Association, Concilio Latino, Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association, Dharma (Harvard's Hindu Students Association), Expressions Dance Company, Fuerza Latina, Harvard African Student Association, Half Asian Peoples Alliance, Harvard Armenian Society, Harvard Bhangra (Traditional Indian Dance), Harvard Caribbean Club, Harvard College Albanian Club, Harvard College Irish-American Cultural Society, Harvard Darfur Action Group, Harvard Hellenic Society, Harvard Interfaith Council, Harvard Islamic Society, Harvard Hong Kong Society, Harvard Tai Chi Tiger Crane, Harvard Philippine Forum, Harvard Sangeet, Harvard Society of Arab Students, Harvard Scandinavian Folk & Culture Society, Harvard Society of Black Scientists & Engineers, Harvard Hillel (Harvard's Jewish Students organization), Harvard RAZA (Harvard's Mexican American Students Association), Harvard Vietnamese Association, Harvard Wushu Club (Contemporary Chinese Martial Arts organization), Holoimua O Hawaii (Hawaii Club), Italian Cultural Society, Japan Society, Korean Association, Kuumba, La Organización de Puertorriqueños en Harvard (The Puerto Rican Students Association), Latinas Unidas, Latino Men's Collective, Latinos in Health Careers, Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, Native Americans at Harvard College, Nigerian Students Association, South Asian Association, Spoken Word Society, Taiwanese Cultural Society, Thai Society, United World Club, Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe, Woodbridge Society of International Students, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa, and Diversity & Distinction (magazine)

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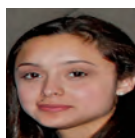
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