



The

# HARVARD FOUNDATION

## Journal

SPRING 2008

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

VOL. XXVII, NO. 4

### Portrait of Harvard Professor Rulan Pian Unveiled in Cabot House



### Native American Olympian Waneek Horn- Miller Honored



### Annual Student/Faculty Awards Ceremony at Quincy House Dinner

### Harvard Foundation Honors 2008 Artist of the Year, Jazz Legend Herbie Hancock



*Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust and Herbie Hancock*

### NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson '88 Named 2008 Scientist of the Year



*Astronaut Stephanie Wilson addresses public school students at Harvard Foundation's "Partners in Science" program*

## Table of Contents

### Harvard Foundation Featured Programs

- p. 3 Letter from the Director
- p. 4 The Harvard Foundation Welcomes 2008 Artist of the Year Herbie Hancock
- p. 6 Herbie Hancock Conducts Master Class for Student Jazz Musicians
- p. 8 23rd Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival Showcases Student Performers of All Ethnic Backgrounds
- p.10 Snapshots from the Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms Festival
- p. 12 Harvard Foundation Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference
- p. 12 NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson '88 Honored as 2008 Scientist of the Year
- p. 14 "Partners in Science" Program Welcomes Public School Students to Harvard
- p. 16 Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project places portraits of Dr. Rulan Pian & Mr. Kiyo Morimoto
- p. 18 Foundation Honors Native American Olympic Athlete and Humanitarian Waneek Horn-Miller
- p. 20 Harvard Foundation Students Trace Heritage with Spencer Wells PhD '94 and the Genographic Project
- p. 22 Race and Female Body Image Panel features Student and Expert Speakers
- p. 24 Harvard Foundation Hosts Race and Media Sensitivity Panel
- p. 26 From the *Harvard Gazette*: Faculty, Students Honored for Improving Intercultural Relations
- p. 27 Harvard Foundation Awards Ceremony and Aloian Dinner Honor Students and Faculty

### Student Conducted Programs

- p. 29 Harvard Community Comes Together to Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- p. 29 Harvard Foundation Hosts Senior Thesis Panel
- p. 30 2008 Our World Freshman Photo Competition hosted by Freshman Dean's Office and the Harvard Foundation
- p. 32 Mariachi Veritas de Harvard Holds Spring Concert: "Que Bonita Es Esta Vida"

### News & Notes

- p. 34 Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings: Spring Guest Speakers
- p. 35 Renowned Actor Ray Liotta Visits the Harvard Foundation
- p. 36 2008 Harvard University Commencement Ceremony

### p. 38 Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports

- p. 45 Acknowledgements
- p. 46 Harvard Foundation Student and Faculty Advisor Committee Members

### On the cover:

*Counterclockwise from upper left: Jackie Hsieh '10, Dr. Counter, Marisol Pineda-Conde '08, honor Dr. Rulan Pian, former Master of South (now Cabot) House; Native American Olympic athlete Waneek Horn-Miller receives the Harvard Foundation medal for her humanitarian contributions to the education and empowerment of youth; 2008 Student/Faculty Award recipients at Quincy House Aloian Dinner; NASA Astronaut and space shuttle veteran Stephanie Wilson '88 receives the 2008 Scientist of the Year Award from the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation; Harvard University president Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust presents the 2008 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award to acclaimed artist and 2008 Grammy Award winning jazz pianist Herbie Hancock.*

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

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

Phone: 617-495-1527 - Fax: 617-496-1443 - [harvfoun@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:harvfoun@fas.harvard.edu)

## Letter from the Director

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

Dear Students and Faculty of Harvard College,

Our spring 2008 semester encompassed a diverse range of programs that involved our students of all races, religions, and cultures. The Harvard Foundation grants program supported over 150 student initiatives including the Polish Society's discussion on the 1791 Polish Constitution, the Sierra Leone Initiative's Independence Day Conference, the Interfaith Council's discussion of the Abrahamic religious groups, and the Chinese Students Association's "China Week" event, to name a few. Each of these events took place at the Harvard Houses and lecture halls, and they were open to all of our students regardless of race, culture, religion, or orientation. In addition, the Harvard Foundation's flagship projects were among the best in our history. Our annual Cultural Rhythms festival featured Herbie Hancock as *Artist of the Year*. During his visit, he taught a master class in jazz for many excited Harvard College undergraduates of all backgrounds. He also advised individual students who had an interest in musical careers. His gracious efforts with our students during his three-day visit inspired University President Drew Gilpin Faust to say as she presented him the Artist of the Year award in Sanders Theatre, "Herbie Hancock, you are the artist of the century."

Our annual science conference featured Harvard College alumna and NASA astronaut Stephanie Wilson '88. A veteran of two shuttle missions, Ms. Wilson returned to her alma mater to receive the *Scientist of the Year* Award from the Harvard Foundation (she also received the Women's Leadership Award from the Harvard College Women's Center). Ms. Wilson lectured at an honorary Friday luncheon on her experiences at Harvard, expressing appreciation for several of her professors (some of whom were present), and discussed her experiences as an astronaut in the space program. On Saturday morning, she participated in the Harvard Foundation's *Partners in Science* program, where she gave an inspirational talk and presented a shuttle mission film to school children from Boston and Cambridge public schools, as well as to Harvard College undergraduates.

As part of our cultural recognition program, the Harvard Foundation honored a number of distinguished guests selected by our students. Among them was Canadian Olympian Wanee Horn-Miller, a Native American athlete who was invited to the University for special recognition by the Harvard University Native American Program. Others receiving cultural recognition were Dr. Rulan Pian and Mr. Kiyo Morimoto.

One of our most inspirational projects for students and faculty is the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project, that was created by the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation. This spring, we placed two new portraits in permanent locations. The first was that of Mr. Kiyo Morimoto, former head of the Bureau of Study Counsel, whose portrait was placed in the Dunster House dining room. The Morimoto family was on hand to witness the unveiling and placement of the portrait. Next, the portrait of Dr. Rulan Pian was placed in the living room of Cabot House (formerly South House), where she served as House Master. Professor Emerita Pian was present to witness the placing of her portrait, and said to the students present, "I am very happy for the portrait and for this day. Thank you all for this special recognition."

In collaboration with the Harvard College Women's Center, the Harvard Foundation hosted a panel discussion entitled "Race and Female Body Image." The panel, which consisted of students, faculty, and guests, drew a substantial audience and was well received by the Harvard community. Also, in an effort to improve communications and increase cultural sensitivity between students of ethnic minority backgrounds and students who write for campus publications, the Foundation hosted a panel discussion entitled "Free Speech and Sensitivity: Race and Media at Harvard." The panel featured veteran journalists Brian O'Connor '78 and Melvin B. Miller '56, publisher of the *Bay State Banner*. The student participants were drawn from the *Harvard Crimson*, the *Harvard Independent*, and the *Salient*. The discussion was informative, enlightening, and civil. We believe that the audience and the panel took away from the experience the importance of cultural sensitivity and respect in covering issues that involve race, culture, and religion.

One of our most unique projects, and one in which our students delighted in participating, was the Genographic Project, directed by Harvard alumnus Dr. Spencer Wells PhD '94. This project traced the DNA of a number of our students back to humanity's origins in Africa and its migration patterns to demonstrate the connectivity of humanity. This project was conducted in association with the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

Over the past 25 years, the Harvard Foundation Director's Award has been presented to a single student who best exemplifies the mission of the Harvard Foundation and who has by deeds demonstrated efforts to improve intercultural and racial relations. This award is given based on consensus by the faculty and students of the Harvard Foundation. This year's Director's Award was presented to Beatrice Viramontes '08, director of *Mariachi Veritas de Harvard* and president of RAZA, the Mexican-American student organization. Ms. Viramontes was an outstanding leader at Harvard College, a brilliant musician and organizer, and a pleasure to work with on a number of intercultural projects.

The Harvard Foundation's spring semester ended with our annual student/faculty award dinner in the Quincy House Dining Hall, where we presented awards of recognition to students and faculty whose works and deeds have improved the intercultural life of the College. The student awardees were recommended by their House Masters and members of the faculty. Our annual faculty award was based on the recommendations of the students and the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Harvard Foundation. The 2007-2008 Faculty Appreciation Award was presented to Dr. Benedict Gross, who served as dean of Harvard College from 2003 to 2007. Dean Gross was an avid supporter of the Harvard Foundation and its programs. During his tenure as dean, our office space was expanded considerably to accommodate more students who were interested in race and cultural relations projects. His service as dean can be described as an inspiration for both students and faculty, and he cared deeply about the College's programs to improve racial and cultural understanding.

Overall, the spring semester '08 was a productive period for the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation and a good semester for race and intercultural relations at the College. I would like to thank the Faculty Advisory Committee, particularly our Chairman, Dr. Don Pfister, for continued support of the Harvard Foundation and its mission. I would also like to thank the dean of Harvard College, Dr. David Pilbeam, the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Michael Smith, and especially the president of the University, Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, for their enthusiastic support of the Harvard Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. S. Allen Counter  
Director of the Harvard Foundation



## The Harvard Foundation Welcomes 2008 Artist of the Year Herbie Hancock

On Saturday, March 1, 2008, the Marcus Miller Sextet opened the 23rd Annual Cultural Rhythms Show with a surprise jazz performance in honor of the 2008 Artist of the Year, legendary Academy Award and Grammy award-winning jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock. Their performance brought the packed Sanders Theatre to its feet and impressed the jazz icon. As Mr. Hancock walked on stage, he thanked the Marcus Miller Sextet for their performance and thanked all of the students he had met during his visit to Harvard. For Mr. Hancock, the show was the icing on the cake to a host of events and festivities that had begun two days before.

Best known for his pioneering innovation in jazz, Mr. Hancock has received 12 Grammy Awards (most recently in 2008) and 5 MTV Awards. Herbie Hancock is an icon in music, and in jazz in particular. His artistic achievements and contributions to society, through the Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz (an organization that encourages jazz education in schools), gained him recognition as the Harvard Foundation's Artist of the Year.

Herbie Hancock arrived at Logan Airport on Thursday with his wife and daughter, where they were greeted by members of Harvard College KeyChange, Harvard's black a capella group. KeyChange's welcome reception was so impressive that Mr. Hancock applauded them and began to record them on his video camera. After listening to the harmonies of KeyChange, Mr. Hancock and his family left to rest in preparation for Friday's events.

During the day on Friday, Mr. Hancock selflessly showed that he not only encourages the teaching of jazz, but he is also a teacher himself.



*Director of the Harvard Foundation Dr. S. Allen Counter (Left) and Harvard University president Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust (Center) present Mr. Herbie Hancock (Right) with the 2008 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award.*

Mr. Hancock shared his talent and genius with a group of twenty Harvard student jazz musicians by teaching a master class. Much to their delight, Mr. Hancock later had lunch with the students.

On the morning of the Cultural Rhythms show, Mr. Hancock again shared a meal with students—this time a group of Harvard Foundation interns. Mr. Hancock described to them his love for jazz and his insatiable tendency to improvise and learn new things. He also talked about some of his greatest influences as well as modern musicians whom he admires today. After brunch, Mr. Hancock posed for pictures with the student interns and went on to Kirkland House for his surprise “roast” (a student-performed comedy skit) and honorary luncheon.

Mr. Hancock made a grand entrance to the Kirkland House Junior Common Room (JCR), welcomed

with the fanfare of the Harvard Band, which brought a smile to his face. He was handed a baton and proceeded to masterfully conduct the performers. When the band finished playing, Mr. Hancock complimented them on their “exactness.”

As Mr. Hancock took his seat at the front of the JCR, his “roast” began. In front of a crowded room, members of many student organizations and jazz groups on campus performed a comical skit on Mr. Hancock's life and major works. A memorable part of the skit was the repetitive reference to one of Hancock's musical hits, “Watermelon Man,” symbolized by a student parading slowly back and forth across the stage with a huge watermelon on his shoulder. After the skit, Harvard's Klezmer Band, ReckKlez, performed for Mr. Hancock. Ever gracious, he smiled, laughed, and clapped throughout the skit and performances, gladly taking



*Herbie Hancock was welcomed at the Kirkland House Junior Common Room by the Harvard Band (Top Right), which he enthusiastically conducted when presented with a baton (Bottom Center), afterwards commending the musicians' "exactness." Bottom Right: Students perform a comedy sketch as part of a "roast" for Mr. Hancock. Bottom Left: Dr. Ingrid Monson, professor of music and author of *Freedom Sounds: Civil Rights Call Out to Jazz and Africa*, welcomes Herbie Hancock to Harvard. Top Left: ReckKlez, Harvard's Klezmer Band, performs for Mr. Hancock. Top Center: Mr. Hancock and Dr. Tom Conley, Master of Kirkland House, enjoy the performances by Harvard students.*

pictures with the students afterwards.

At the luncheon in Kirkland's dining hall, Mr. Hancock's life and career was further discussed by Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, Matthew Clair '09, co-director of Cultural Rhythms Show 1, Sarah Lockridge-Steckel '09, president of Harvard's Black Students Association (BSA), and Malcolm Campbell '10, a pianist and member of Kuumba Singers. Masters of Kirkland House Drs. Tom and Verena Conley, members of the Kirkland House Committee, and Show 1 co-director Amanda Mangaser '10 also welcomed Mr. Hancock to Harvard. With his characteristic wit, Mr. David L. Evans, Harvard College Senior Admissions Officer, closed the luncheon and reminded the audience of the importance of diversity and service.

Next came the climactic event of Hancock's visit to Harvard—the much-anticipated Cultural Rhythms Festival. Cultural Rhythms began with Show 1, in which numerous cultural groups, from the Asian American Dance Troupe and the Harvard Breakers to the Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble, Irish American Dance Troupe, and many more, performed for Mr. Hancock as he sat on stage. Each cultural group performed beautifully and Mr. Hancock added humor and excitement to the show by speaking between acts. After Candela Salsa performed, he even danced salsa with Nicole Gandia '09, one of the group's performers.

Partway through the show, Mr. Hancock was presented with the Artist of the Year Award by Dr. S. Allen Counter and Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University. In his acceptance

speech, Mr. Hancock spoke about the diversity of the world and the underlying interconnectedness that we all share.

After Show 1, hundreds of students and faculty ate at the Food Festival in the Science Center, where food from scores of cultural groups was served. After the Food Festival, students returned to Sanders Theatre for Cultural Rhythms Show 2. Co-directed by Lizzy Eze '11 and Richie Serna '10, and hosted by Kristina Dominguez '10 and Lumumba Seegars '09, the show was highly entertaining, engaging the audience with intermittent skits by the hosts and a dance-off during intermission, through which audience members competed for posters, T-shirts, and albums by Mr. Hancock—the man who made Cultural Rhythms 2008 a resounding success!

—Matthew Clair '09



## Herbie Hancock Conducts Master Class for Student Jazz Musicians

For Harvard's jazz musicians, meeting and playing with Herbie Hancock this past February was the highlight of our year. Thanks to the work of the Office for the Arts at Harvard and Harvard Jazz Band Director Tom Everett, Harvard students who play jazz are already blessed with the opportunity to interact with some of the world's most famous jazz musicians every year, but from the moment we heard that the Harvard Foundation was bringing Herbie Hancock to campus we knew we were in for something even more special.

I think I can speak for my fellow students in saying that Mr. Hancock's music has always been a major influence on all of us in our development as musicians. From my own experience, my parents have a favorite family video of me at three years old, dancing wildly around my living room to a record of Herbie Hancock's "Chameleon." When I started playing saxophone in fourth grade, the first three songs I learned were the Hancock classics "Chameleon," "Watermelon Man," and "Cantaloupe Island." I could barely sound a note on the horn, and certainly could not improvise or take a solo, but it did not take long before I could proudly honk out those melodies.

Mr. Hancock joined members of the Harvard Jazz Band for a lunch at the Harvard Faculty Club, where he talked with us about his personal growth as a musician and about how music could be better incorporated into a liberal arts education. After lunch, we all went to the Kirkland House Junior Common Room for a master class with him and found an audience far bigger than we expected. He opened by sharing with us his lessons and memories from his own mentors—stories of



*Grammy Award-winning jazz musician Herbie Hancock shares his experiences over a long and illustrious career with student musicians and other members of the Harvard community.*

his first piano teacher in Chicago and his time as the pianist to Miles Davis in the 1960s—and then two ensembles of Harvard students performed for him. We were a little nervous at first, but he gave encouraging suggestions to each group.

The best moment of the afternoon came when Mr. Hancock joined us on the Sonny Rollins composition "Oleo." The students who had performed earlier got to play solos with Mr. Hancock's accompaniment and he adapted his playing to fit each of our styles and ability levels perfectly. We jazz musicians have all played "Oleo" before, but it rarely sounded as good as this. Soon horns started appearing out of nowhere—from under chairs and behind curtains—as more students rushed up out of the audience to get a chance to play. A crowd of students formed around Mr. Hancock's piano to watch his hands while he played. Finally, after nearly ten of us had taken a turn playing with him, Mr.

Hancock took his own solo. The musicians were glad that his was last, because none of us would have wanted to play after him. He took the simple "rhythm changes" of "Oleo" to a whole new level, delighted the audience, and left the group of students hovering around his piano looking a little dumbstruck.

Thank you to the Harvard Foundation for giving us the opportunity to meet Herbie Hancock, and of course to Mr. Hancock for joining us for a wonderful event!

—Noah Nathan '09



## Harvard Undergraduate Jazz Musicians Join Herbie Hancock in Master Class



*Herbie Hancock joins student jazz musicians in the Kirkland House master class. Clockwise from Top Left: (R.-L.) Malcolm Campbell '10 and Noah Nathan '09 listen as Mr. Hancock shares his experiences in music; Jonathan Lee '08 plays the saxophone; Noah Nathan '09 accompanies Herbie Hancock's piano on the saxophone; bassist Parker Barnes '08 and drummer Chris Krogslund '09 impress Mr. Hancock with solo performances; Daniel Ross-Reider '08 plays a trumpet solo; Mr. Hancock plays one of his songs with students; Marcus Miller '08 joins on the saxophone.*





## 23rd Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival Showcases Student Performers of All Ethnic and Cultural Backgrounds





*Opposite, Middle Right: Herbie Hancock plays the Dun Dun drums of PADAME member Uchechi Iweala '09. Below, Middle Left: Mr. Hancock accepts the 2008 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award in Memorial Hall in March. Below, Center: Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter (L.), Faculty of Arts and Science Dean Mike Smith (R.) and the Harvard Foundation Interns greet Mr. Hancock on stage at Cultural Rhythms. Performing groups at the Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival included (Opposite, clockwise from Center): South Asian Dance Company, Harvard Bhangra, Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble (PADAME), Asian American Dance Troupe, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, Harvard Wushu, (Below, clockwise from Upper Left) Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, Irish American Society Dancers, Candela Salsa, Mariachi Veritas, and Harvard Breakers.*





## Snapshots From the Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms Festival



*Top Left: Dr. Michael D. Smith (R.), dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and wife Chris Smith (C.), greet Grammy Award-winning jazz artist Herbie Hancock at the 2008 Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms Festival. Top Right: Masters of Kirkland House Verena and Tom Conley welcome Mr. Hancock to Harvard at the Kirkland House luncheon. Bottom Left: Student musicians linger around the piano in the Kirkland House Junior Common Room to watch as Mr. Hancock demonstrates his masterful skill in jazz music. Bottom Right: Harvard College's African American a capella group KeyChange welcomes Mr. Hancock with some of their signature songs upon his arrival at Logan airport.*



## Snapshots From the Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms Festival



*Top Left: Harvard Foundation interns Louizza Martinez '09 (L.) and Jackie Hairston '10 communicate backstage during the Cultural Rhythms festival in Sanders Theatre. Top Right: Senior admissions officer David L. Evans (L.) joins Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter (C.), and Herbie Hancock at the Kirkland House luncheon. Bottom Left: The Harvard University Band welcomes Mr. Hancock with some of their signature songs. Bottom Right: Dr. Counter and interns Lizzy Eze '11 (Front L.) and Jackie Hairston (Front R.) present proceeds from the Cultural Rhythms festival to Mr. Stephen G. Pagliuca, Chairman of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Rear L.).*

## Harvard Foundation Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference Honors NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson '88



*Left: Stephanie Wilson '88 (R.) joins Dr. James McCarthy (L.), Professor of Biological Oceanography and Master of Pforzheimer House, and Dr. J. Woodland Hastings (C.), Paul C. Mangelsdorf Professor of Natural Sciences. Right: Ms. Wilson is given the 2008 Scientist of the Year Award by Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.), Director of the Harvard Foundation.*

On Friday, April 4, 2008, the Harvard Foundation hosted a luncheon in honor of Astronaut Stephanie Wilson, the Harvard Foundation 2008 Scientist of the Year, as part of the Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference. Students, faculty, and community members gathered to honor Stephanie Wilson, who is the second African American woman (after Mae Jemison) to travel into space as well as a Harvard College graduate of 1988.

Welcomed by Dr. James McCarthy, Professor of Biological Oceanography and Master of Pforzheimer House, as well as by Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter, Ms. Wilson was presented with several student tributes. Tristen Edwards '11 of the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers and Anjelica Kelly '09 of the Association of Black Harvard Women both spoke of the inspirational figure that Ms. Wilson is—not only for the Harvard community, but for countless young children and adults—as well as her immense value in terms of providing encouragement and support as a minority role model.

The Harvard Foundation's Faculty and Student Advisory Committees nominated Stephanie Wilson for the Scientist of the Year Award for her accomplishments as a NASA astronaut and engineer. A determined and intelligent woman who believed in herself enough to be undaunted by goals as high as the stars, Ms. Wilson addressed the young students present at the luncheon. Many of these students were also interested, like Wilson, in the sciences and engineering. Telling everyone the story of her journey from a childhood love of astronomy to becoming an astronaut, Ms. Wilson proceeded to convey a message that she hoped would be passed long after her: that everyone should find a passion, and then set goals and find paths to achieve those goals. It was also important to include space for

change, she stressed, in order to not become discouraged and give up if a path to one's goals becomes blocked.

Both during lunch and after her speech, Ms. Wilson answered many questions from a fascinated audience which touched upon a variety of topics, including her inspiration to become an astronaut, her most difficult experience on a mission, how to balance one's career and personal life, and the most challenging part of astronaut training. In conclusion, she encouraged all to reach for their dreams and recognize that the sky is no longer the limit.

—Sara Zaidi '11



*Above: Astronaut Stephanie Wilson '88 meets with students Julia Tartaglia '11 and Srinidhi Reddy '11. Left: Ms. Wilson is greeted at the luncheon by student mathematician and jazz musician Marcus Miller '08.*



## 2008 Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year

### Ms. Stephanie Wilson '88, NASA Astronaut



*Above, Left to Right: Stephanie Wilson '88 speaks about her experience and accomplishments as an astronaut; Harvard Foundation Interns and student organizers Jackie Hairston '10 (L.) and Sara Zaidi '11 (R.) greet Ms. Wilson at a luncheon held in her honor at Pforzheimer House in April 2008; Tristen Edwards '11 of the Harvard Society of Black Engineers expresses her admiration for Ms. Wilson.*

*Below, Left to Right: Anjelica Kelly '09 of the Association of Black Harvard Women praises Ms. Wilson's achievements as inspirational, not only for African American women, but for women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds who strive to succeed in scientific fields; Ms. Wilson's parents proudly stand with their daughter after she accepts the 2008 Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year Award; Pforzheimer House Master Professor James McCarthy welcomes Harvard College graduate Stephanie Wilson back to Harvard.*



## Harvard Foundation Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference “Partners in Science” Program Welcomes Public School Students to Harvard

On Saturday, April 5, 2008, elementary, middle, and high school students from the Mary McLeod Bethune Institute, Paul Robeson Institute, the Science Club for Girls, Sociedad Latina and other schools in the greater Boston/Cambridge community gathered in Lecture Hall B in the Science Center at Harvard. There, these students' minds explored new facets of science and technology through lectures and demonstrations given by distinguished Harvard professors. The second day of the annual *Albert Einstein Science Conference: Partners in Science* focuses on engaging and promoting youth interest in the sciences, with the goal of rousing students to become leaders in their respective fields.

Harvard alumna Stephanie Wilson '88, the second African-American female astronaut to fly into space, served as the perfect role model for the students in attendance. Her warm welcome and humorous anecdotes about her times in space garnered laughs and undivided attention.

The lecture series began with a presentation from assistant professor of Physics Dr. Jenny Hoffman entitled “Physics of Temperature.” Learning about temperature afforded participants the opportunity to dip balloons in liquid nitrogen and then break them. The smiles continued when Dr. Robert Lue, professor of the molecular and cellular biology, screened a vivid animation of cellular biology in “Exploring the World of the Cell.” In viewing this movie, the students were exposed to the same educational animations that Harvard College students see, for example, in a class such as Life Sciences 1a.



*NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson '88 speaks to a group of boys from Boston/Cambridge public schools, sponsored by Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts, about her work as a space shuttle engineer and tells them, “The sky is no longer the limit; outer space is the limit.”*

In honor of Albert Einstein, for whom the science conference is named, Dr. Howard Stone, professor of engineering and applied mathematics, introduced attendees to “Albert Einstein, Brownian Motion, and a Miraculous Year.” Professor Stone’s presentation touched on advanced physics and the students did not shy away. The lecture series proceeded with a (literal) boom, thanks to Daniel Rosenberg and his presentation on “Digital Igor—Computers as Lab Assistants,” that became a fusion of technology and thrilling demonstrations. After breaking a glass using sound waves, Rosenberg froze a water bottle in liquid nitrogen, covered it with a garbage bin and watched the bin fly to the roof of the lecture hall.

When the lectures were over, the day was just beginning. After lunch, the students were split into groups where they had the opportunity to have hands-on experience in a variety of scientific fields. Harvard undergraduates served as “partners

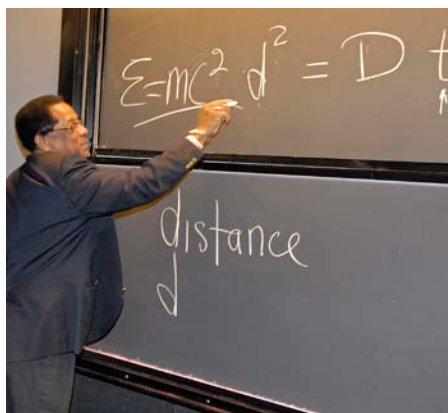
in science” and experiment leaders. In particular, Student-Astronomers at Harvard-Radcliffe (STAGR) opened the Loomis-Michael Observatory atop the Science Center for the students, so that they could have a special presentation on the stars. Other experiments included: liquid nitrogen ice cream, making Oobleck (named for a fictional green precipitation invented by author Dr. Seuss in the book *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*), and writing secret messages with black lights.

The Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference concluded with the multitude of school-aged children leaving the classrooms energized by the sugar in the ice cream and sticky from making Oobleck, but also well-informed about the possibilities that the sciences have to offer.

—Jacqueline Hairston '10



## Partners in Science—Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics



Left, Top to Bottom: Dr. Jenny Hoffman gives a demonstration on temperature using a copper tube and a magnetized weight dipped in liquid nitrogen; Dr. Howard Stone enlists the help of two Boston area students in demonstrating Brownian motion; Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter explains the  $E = mc^2$  formula of Albert Einstein, for whom the Harvard Foundation Science Conference is named. Right, Top to Bottom: Dr. Robert Lue gives a presentation on cells; Daniel Rosenberg ends the main presentations on an exciting note with a demonstration on expanding gas; Harvard undergraduates conduct experiments with students in smaller groups; public school students are welcomed into the Science Center observatory.





## Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project Portrait of Professor and House Master Rulan Pian Placed in Cabot House

*In the spring of 2008, two unveiling ceremonies took place as part of the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project—a project which aims to reflect the diversity of individuals who have served Harvard University with distinction for at least 25 years. The portraits commissioned include (but are not limited to) persons of African-American, Asian-American, Latino-American and Native-American backgrounds who deserve special recognition. The Portraiture Committee is chaired by the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes and coordinated by Dr. S. Allen Counter, and its members consist of Harvard College students and faculty.*

On the morning of April 18, 2008, students, faculty, and family members of Professor Rulan Pian united to celebrate the unveiling of her portrait in the Cabot House living room. Professor Pian served Harvard with great distinction as scholar from 1961, as Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and of Music from 1972-1992, and as Master of South House (now Cabot House) from 1975-1978.

The unveiling ceremony began with a heartfelt welcome by Professor Jay M. Harris, master of Cabot House, and Harry Austryn Wolfson, professor of Jewish studies. Professor Harris expressed his delight in having Professor Pian's portrait in the Cabot House living room and his gratitude for her service to South House. Professor Harris' welcoming remarks were followed by a tribute from Professor Kay Shelemay, the G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and professor of African and African American studies. Dr. Shelemay remarked that Professor Pian was a pioneer in both her academic pursuits and in her service to Harvard College.

Professor Pian was the first minority to serve as House master for any Harvard College House.



*Artist Steve Coit '71 joins Dr. Rulan Pian, Professor Emerita of East Asian Languages and Literatures and of Music, at his newly unveiled portrait of her. Professor Pian was the first minority to be appointed to a House master position; she was master of South House, now known as Cabot House.*

Additionally, Professor Pian's academic work in the intersection between East Asian Languages and Civilizations and music generated a new discipline in the field. Many students who have studied under Professor Pian's supervision have gone on to publish their own books on related subjects.

Following Professor Shelemay, Jackie Hsieh '10 and Benjamin Wu '10, co-presidents of the Taiwanese Cultural Society, spoke about the impact that Professor Pian's leadership had on the Taiwanese Community. They expressed their gratitude to Professor Pian for setting an example of academic excellence and distinguished service.

Following the student tributes, Harvard Foundation intern Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 briefly reflected upon the impact that the portraiture project has had on the student body, particularly in generating a welcoming environment for students of all backgrounds, and remarked that the portraits have served to symbolize a transition in

Harvard's history.

The ceremony was concluded with brief remarks by Mr. Stephen Coit '71, the artist commissioned to paint the portraits in the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project collection. Coit reflected upon the painting process, and mentioned that the painting of Professor Pian had been one of his favorite portraits. He recalled her sharing stories about the joy she found in teaching students and mentioned that he tried to convey this spirit in her portrait.

—Marisol Pineda-Conde '08



*Professor Kay Shelemay (L.) fondly recalls her work with Professor Rulan Pian (seated) at the unveiling of her portrait as Foundation intern Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 (C.) and House master Dr. Jay Harris (R.) look on.*



## Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project

### Portrait of Administrator and Lecturer Kiyo Morimoto Unveiled in Dunster House



Harvard Foundation intern Simi Bhat '08 (R.) looks on as Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter (L.) and Eiko Okamoto '08, president of the Harvard Japan Society, unveil the portrait of Mr. Kiyo Morimoto in the Dunster House Dining Room in February 2008 as part of the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project.

Spouse, children, grandchild: three generations of Mr. Kiyo Morimoto's family gathered on February 21, 2008 (a day before the fourth anniversary of his death), for the unveiling of his portrait, painted by Mr. Stephen E. Coit '71. A verdant oil painting with native Idahoan cedar trees standing in the background, the setting embraces Mr. Morimoto, a man who had a deep respect for nature. At the ceremony, family members and friends mingled with honored guests, alumni, and current undergraduates.

Kiyo Morimoto was born in rural Pocatello, Idaho, to Japanese parents who worked as tenant farmers. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, was assigned to the all-Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his military service in France and Italy.

With a master's degree in sociology from Boston University, Mr. Morimoto took a job as a counselor at Harvard's Bureau of Study Counsel in 1958. In that

capacity, he supervised and trained counselors, conducted sessions for graduate teaching assistants, instructed students in reading skills, and personally counseled dozens of students per week. Mr. Morimoto was a member of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and a lecturer on education. He taught courses in the Harvard School of Public Health, the Harvard Business School, and the Graduate School of Education. Mr. Morimoto helped thousands of students adjust to college life in his 27 years at the Bureau of Study Counsel, and he also served for six years as the Bureau's director. Mr.

Morimoto was also a member of the first Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Harvard Foundation.

Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, is quoted in the *Harvard Gazette* (February 7, 2008) stating, "I am proud to have known this wise and gentle man who, like many of us at Harvard, dedicated his life and career to the well-being and educational enrichment of our students."

—Louizza Martinez Arredondo '09



Above: Monique Morimoto Flaherty reads a poem written for her father Kiyo Morimoto at the unveiling of his portrait. Below: Dr. Counter, Ms. Morimoto Flaherty, and Yi Chen '09, co-president of the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association, remember Mr. Morimoto as a remarkable Harvard administrator.



Morimoto photos by Will Nunnally, Harvard News Office

## Foundation Honors Native American Olympic Athlete and Humanitarian Waneek Horn-Miller



*Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, presents Waneek Horn-Miller with the Harvard Foundation medal for her achievements and her humanitarian efforts.*

On April 4, 2008, the Harvard Foundation, in partnership with Native Americans at Harvard College and the Ivy Native Council, awarded Ms. Waneek Horn-Miller the Harvard Foundation Medal in recognition of her civil rights and humanitarian contributions. Harvard University listened as Native American activist Waneek Horn-Miller recounted the violent day that changed her life almost two decades ago. It took place on September 26, 1990, at the conclusion of the Oka Crisis.

“The scream hurt more than the blade”—a scream that would soon be heard around the world for generations to come. It would never be erased from her memory, from her heart, or from her people. It was not a cry of hunger or sadness, but a scream that resonated in terror, from a child who believed that she was going to die. Without thinking, she grabbed the child to shield her, and then suddenly came the tip of the bayonet. It entered her body, nearly striking her heart. Through the chaos, she saw in a moment of clarity that the child was safe. Then, when her wound had overtaken her, she resigned to the blurred reality of the sky above filtered through hands,

fists, weapons, and camouflage.

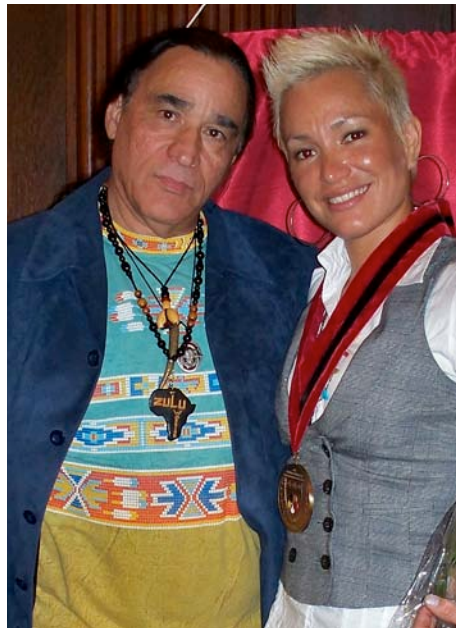
Ms. Horn-Miller was the honored guest of the 5th Annual Ivy Native Council Banquet, in which undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, faculty, administration, and friends of Harvard’s indigenous community came together to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of indigenous people in the 21st century.

Students, faculty, and friends did not simply hear a retelling of the conflict, but rather they also heard the inspirational story of a young aboriginal girl who emerged from the violence, destruction, and chaos like a phoenix rising from the ashes to become not only a leader for her people, but a global beacon of inspiration and hope despite all obstacles. Waneek Horn-Miller was 14 years old when her mother, a Mohawk activist, brought her and her four-year-old sister Kanietio into the territory under siege by the Mohawk Warrior Society.

On July 11, 1990, the Oka Crisis erupted in a dispute between the Mohawk Nation and the government of Quebec. The conflict among the two nations was over a

piece of territory in the township of Oka, Quebec, a border town of the Mohawk community of Kaneshatke. The Oka municipality wanted to develop Kaneshatke Mohawk sacred burial grounds in order to expand the current 9-hole municipal golf course to 18 holes. One warrior equated the land encroachment to “sucking the marrow out of their bones.” Mohawks took the territory under siege. No one was allowed in and no one was allowed out. The 78-day siege concluded on September 26, 1990. At the banquet, Ms. Horn-Miller explained how the incident unfolded. Her mother told her to take her baby sister and walk out peacefully, and to stay close to press and photographers. Unarmed, she began to walk, and as they reached the Canadian soldiers’ line they realized that chaos had erupted. Canadian weapons were being waved as deterrents, and Mohawk women and children were screaming. When a Canadian soldier approached them, Ms. Horn-Miller grabbed her sister to protect her and in the process she was stabbed with a bayonet; her sternum deflected the blade. After being stabbed she was carried away in the back of a police car and imprisoned for 22 hours before being allowed medical





*Above, Left to Right: Waneek Horn-Miller is greeted by Native American Harvard Foundation intern Kelsey Leonard '10; Ms. Horn-Miller meets with Cree Native photographer Ernie Panicioli; Waneek Horn-Miller meets Ethel Branch '01, HLS '08, member of Native Americans at Harvard College.*

treatment. By the time she saw a surgeon the wound had become infected. Despite all odds, she lived. As Ms. Horn-Miller spoke to the audience in Eliot Dining Hall, retelling how she escaped death, she lifted up her shirt to show us the scar left from the wound. The scars that remain are not only physical but emotional too—a daily reminder of her sacrifice.

After the incident, Ms. Horn-Miller said, “[I] got a pretty good case of post-traumatic stress disorder... [but I] dealt with it by becoming addicted to sports.” Sports became her outlet for the violence she had witnessed and afforded her the opportunity to hone the leadership skills that had been drawn out of her during the Oka Crisis. Ms. Horn-Miller says, “Many of the people that went through the Oka Crisis are now dead having self-medicated themselves with drugs and alcohol. My form of self-medication became my sport. It consumed me.” In 2000, Ms. Horn-Miller became the co-captain of the Canadian national water polo team competing at the Sydney Olympics. She became the first Mohawk woman to win a medal at the Olympics.

Now 32, and living in Kahnawake, Ms. Horn-Miller says, “The role that sports play in the aboriginal communities has a sharper edge to it. They serve as suicide prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, a self-esteem builder, leadership training, socio-economic equalizer... the stakes are much higher, so the benefits of this are that much greater.” As a result of the Oka Crisis, the world witnessed an indigenous leader

being born. As she rose from the smoke and trauma, she realized that she was descended from the best of the best of her people, those who had survived despite genocide and oppression. As a former Olympic athlete she remains a beacon of hope and truth for young indigenous people around the world.

—Kelsey Leonard '10



*Speakers at the 5th Annual Ivy Native Council, Left to Right: Suzan Shown Harjo, president and executive director of The Morning Star Institute; Professor David Wilkins, Harvard visiting professor; Jackie Old Coyote, director of education and outreach in the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development; Carmen Lopez, HUNAP executive director; and Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation.*

## Harvard Foundation Welcomes Population Geneticist Dr. Spencer Wells of the *Genographic Project*



photos by Romana Vysatova

*Top Left: Harvard Foundation interns (L.–R.) Jacqueline Hairston '10, Theresa Cheng '08, Marisol Pineda-Conde '08, and Kevin Liu '11 discuss topics of interest in the Genographic Project. Bottom Left: Jennifer Kan '05, race relations advisor for Dunster House, compares Genographic test results with Foundation interns. Right: Dr. Spencer Wells, PhD '94 describes his work with the Genographic Project and the significance of his findings on the students' ancestry.*

The Harvard Foundation strives to celebrate our common humanity. In the spring of 2008, the interns of the Harvard Foundation were privileged to take part in a scientific project with the same ambition. The *Genographic Project* ambitiously endeavors to trace the genes of all people around the world back to our origins in Africa. With this information, the research team can create a world map of human migration and even correlate migratory events with external factors like climate change and the history of civilizations. The leader of the Genographic Project, Spencer Wells, PhD '94, visited the Harvard Foundation on February 5, 2008, to discuss his cultural genetic work.

Dr. Wells began the afternoon in a meeting with students and faculty advisors in the Foundation conference room. Many students had given cheek samples of their DNA for the Genographic Project to analyze weeks in advance. The students anxiously crowded in the

room as Dr. Wells explained the goals and methodologies of the project. Harvard Foundation intern Kevin Liu '11 remarked, "I just found it really fascinating the way that this project was able to find roots of different races."

The excitement built as Dr. Wells opened his lecture at the Harvard Museum of Natural History later that evening. While a student at Harvard, Dr. Wells was mentored by Professor Richard Lewontin, but at this lecture, it was Dr. Lewontin who had something to learn from Dr. Wells. The slideshow presentation at the front of the hall switched to a slide showing Dr. Lewontin's genographic history, suggesting that his genes may hail from the same group as the ancient Jewish priestly caste (*Kohanim*).

Dr. Wells also shared the remarkable histories of the genes of several Harvard Foundation interns: Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 saw a map of her family's migration out of Africa,

across Asia, over a land bridge into North America and finally down to the southern portion of the continent in what is now Mexico.

While the numerous genographic maps celebrated our common human heritage out of Africa, they also highlighted differences we sometimes take for granted. Both Theresa Cheng '08 and Kevin Liu are ethnically Chinese, and yet their genographic histories were significantly dissimilar—in fact, Kevin's results had more in common with that of intern Marisol Pineda-Conde. The Genographic Project leaves us with the message that the racial labels we are so used to accepting are in fact too "black-and-white" in a world of gray.

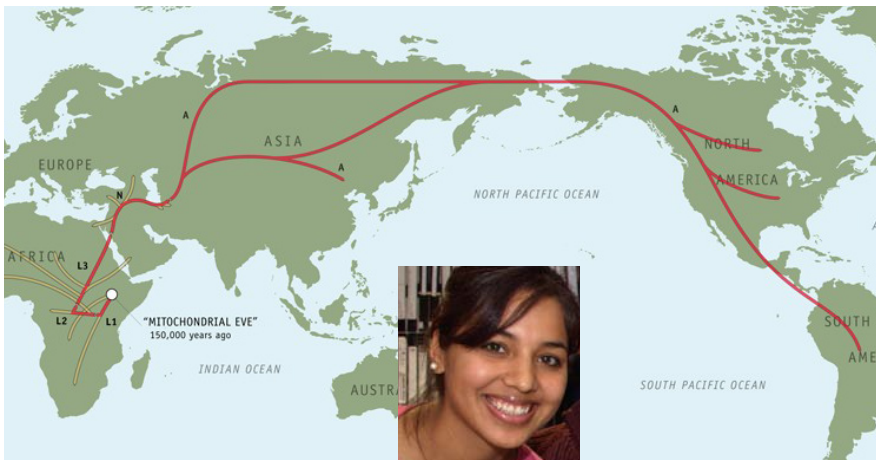
—Simi Bhat '08



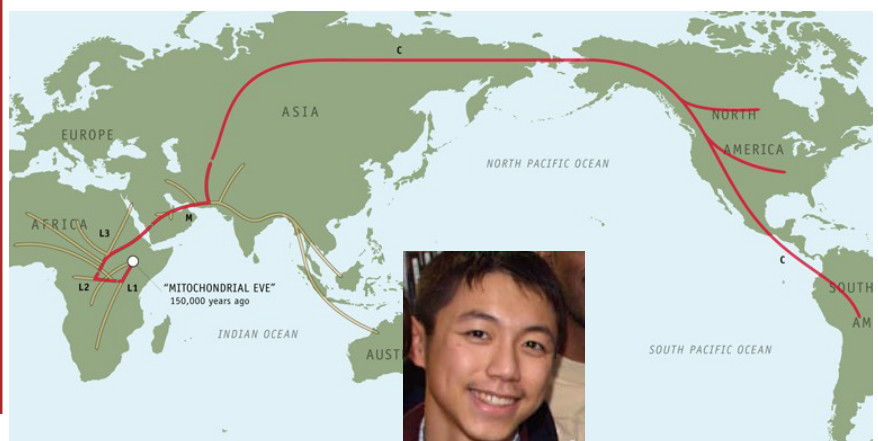


Left, Top: The genetic map of Harvard Foundation intern Matthew Clair '09 shows an African ancestry that is about 20,000–30,000 years old; most sub-Saharan Africans share this lineage. Because of its predominance in West Africa, it is the most common lineage among African-Americans. Left, Bottom: The map of intern Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 traces a genetic group that is connected to subgroups throughout Asia, and it is the only lineage carried by Inuits. This lineage is shared by many North and South Americans of aboriginal descent. Results such as Marisol's indicate recent waves of migration (15,000–20,000 years ago) along the Bering land bridge into the Americas.

[These images are courtesy of the Genographic Project, printed with the permission of the student participants.]



Right, Top: The earliest members of the lineage of intern Theresa Cheng '08 were likely the first humans to migrate from Africa, heading east. This lineage is found throughout Asia and as far south as Polynesia and Australia. It is found to some degree in Central Asia, and its occurrence in some East Asian individuals suggests a more recent mixture into the area from the east. Right, Bottom: The lineage of intern Kevin Liu '11 is shared by descendants in Australia and Northeast Asia, though at some point some ancestors in this group migrated along the Bering land bridge to the Americas. Kevin, who is Asian American, probably saw the most noteworthy results of the group, since his map is much more similar to that of Marisol, who is of Latin American descent, than that of Theresa, who is also Asian American. The map of Jennifer Kan, a race relations advisor who is also Asian American, showed yet another distinct genetic lineage. Kevin remarked that it was amazing to see that a group of people usually regarded as a single ethnicity can in actuality be very diverse.



## Students and Experts Speak at “Race and Female Body Image” Panel Discussion



*Race and Female Body Image* panelists (clockwise from Top Left): Ms. Sil Lai Abrams, author and former model; HMS Professor Anne E. Becker, Director of the Eating Disorders Clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital; Susan Yao '09; Marisol Pineda-Conde '08; Kim Foster '11; Shauna L. Shames, PhD candidate in American government.

On Monday, April 28, 2008, approximately 80 male and female Harvard undergraduates came together in Emerson Hall to discuss a burgeoning social issue: negative female body image and its interplay with ethnicity.

Co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations and by the Harvard College Women's Center, the event was organized by Foundation intern Theresa Cheng '08 in hopes of bringing a rarely discussed but highly important topic to the forefront of campus discussion and awareness. Cheng also served as discussion moderator.

Unique to most talks on female body image, this panel led discussion event specifically

explored the crossroads where body image and ethnicity intersect. A number of related topics were explored including, but not limited to, the role of race in developing one's self-image, the influence popular American media has on women, and the responsibility that college groups celebrating ethnicity has towards promoting a healthier and more realistic standard of beauty.

The panel led discussion featured two special guests: Dr. Anne E. Becker, Harvard Medical School Professor and director of the Eating Disorders Clinical and Research Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Ms. Sil Lai Abrams, author and former model of mixed descent.

Dr. Becker had done extensive research on eating disorders that quickly arose in foreign cultures, particularly Fiji, after American mass media became commonplace. To complement nicely to Dr. Becker's contributions to the discussion, Ms. Abrams commented on her own history of modeling in Hollywood and how her multiethnic background of Chinese, African- and Caucasian-American heritage influenced how others viewed her as well as how she judged herself. "My [modeling] booker told me that my cheeks were too round, which was because I'm Chinese and black," she explained. "So they said, 'You need to lose weight.' I started to lose weight. Here [in a photo] I got down to 122 [pounds], and here I am [in another photo] at about 116, and I wanted





*Above, Left: Dr. Anne E. Becker of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital shares her experience with young Fijian women during the panel discussion in Emerson Hall on female body image and the effect of popular media on women of varied ethnicities. Above, Top Right: Harvard student Erin Stephens-North '08 poses a question to the panel members. Above, Bottom Right: Harvard Foundation intern Theresa Cheng '08 moderates the discussion. Below: Ms. Sil Abrams meets student Michelle Crentsil '10 after the panel event.*

to lose more weight, because my cheeks were still round. It didn't matter how thin I got—my face was still going to be my face." Her unique perspective spoke to the unrealistic standards endorsed by popular media.

Several Harvard undergraduate and graduate students, ranging in background and ethnicity, also participated on the panel, testifying to their personal experiences with body image. For example, Marisol Pineda-Conde '08, of Mexican-American heritage, elaborated upon the exaggerated portrayal of Latina women as extremely sexual, while Susan Yao '09, of Chinese descent, talked at length on the topic of the Asian standard of the beauty of thinness. Class of 2011's Kim Foster, on the other hand, described her personal experiences of being black in a homogenously Caucasian town and how a campus organization, ABHW (the Association of Black

Harvard Women), restored her self-confidence in her body and herself. Shauna Shames, a PhD candidate in American government, has become so passionately involved in learning more about such feminine thought that she makes it a personal goal to educate and to empower other women. Through these personal and heartfelt testimonies, these women demonstrated that their individual backgrounds sharply shaped their self-perceptions. The personal experiences of these students detailed ethnic differences, but equally important, they emphasized the universality of negative female body image despite all racial and background differences. That evening, all of the attendees came together to discuss unhealthy body attitudes, and to speak out against such persuasive unrealistic expectations.

—Theresa Cheng '08



## Harvard Foundation Hosts Race and Media Sensitivity Panel

### Professional and Student Publication Staff Members Participate in Discussion

Throughout the years a number of articles have been printed in student publications that have been offended some ethnic groups at Harvard. For example, the *Harvard Crimson's* "Invasian" article offended members of Harvard's Asian community; the *Salient's* publication of the Fullah Doll parody and the infamous Danish cartoon was offensive to the Muslim community; the Adam Goldenberg article on the police confrontation with black students at a Radcliffe Quadrangle activity was offensive to Harvard's African American community and others; Jonathan Lehman's insensitive 2006 *Crimson* article on sports mascots offended the Native American community; and the controversial Lucy Caldwell *Crimson* article "Rushing to Rape" are but a few examples.

As a matter of policy, the Harvard Foundation holds "town hall" meetings to promote constructive dialogue between the aggrieved student ethnic groups and the offending publication soon after the office receives the grievance. On April 23, the Foundation brought together a variety of journalists of various viewpoints and backgrounds from Harvard's student publications and prominent alumni journalists, to proactively address the issues of cultural sensitivity and free speech in the media. The panelists were Melvin B. Miller '56, manager and editor of the *Bay State Banner* and former federal prosecutor; Brian Wright O'Connor '78, former communication director for Citizen's Energy group, the campaign chairman of Congressman Joe Kennedy, former editor of the *Bay State Banner*, and journalist for the *Boston Herald*; Malcom Glenn '09, president of the *Harvard Crimson*; Adam Goldenberg '08, a *Crimson* columnist; Lucy Caldwell

'09, a *Crimson* columnist; Chris Lacaria '09, editor of the *Salient*; Frances Martel '09, publisher of the *Independent*; and Ramya Parthasarathy '09, the editorial chair of the *Crimson*.

The event started with an introduction by Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard



*Melvin B. Miller, Esq. '56 (Above), publisher of the Bay State Banner, and journalist and activist Brian Wright O'Connor '78 (Below) offer historical and professional perspectives.*



Foundation. Mr. Miller made the opening comments referencing an incident in February 1991, that involved a Southern white Harvard student's hanging a confederate flag from her window in Kirkland House. Harvard College black students became incensed when she refused to take the flag down,

and the College acknowledged her right to "free expression." In protest of the College's inaction, one African American student drew a Nazi swastika on a cloth and hung it from her window to challenge the College's decision not to remove the Confederate flag. Within hours, the police arrived at the black student's room and removed the makeshift flag containing the Nazi swastika, but refused to remove the Confederate flag. Mr. Miller also referenced a Yale study which showed how the overrepresentation of African Americans in the media as poor and uneducated affects public perception and continues a racial stereotype in our society.

Nworah Ayogu '10, Harvard Foundation intern and moderator, asked why articles continuously appear in the College's student publications which offend ethnic and religious communities. Mr. O'Connor put forth the point that people come to college and, through exposure and education, they develop the open-mindedness that creates greater sensitivity and that some people will abuse the podium until they learn this. Controversial *Crimson* writer Lucy Caldwell, whose articles have prompted negative reactions among Harvard minority students, made the point that "in addition to being a responsible maker of media, you have to be a responsible consumer of media. You have to learn to be tolerant of views that diverge from your own." She mentioned that people are offended sometimes because of a "rabble rousing" writer and other times because of hyper-sensitivity in the readers.

The audience then steered the discussion to a variety of topics ranging from, "Who determines what is and isn't acceptable?" to





Above Left: Harvard Foundation co-chair Nworah Ayogu '10 moderates the panel. Above Right: Harvard *Crimson* columnists (L.-R.) Adam Goldenberg '08, Lucy Caldwell '09, and *Crimson* president Malcom Glenn '09 answer audience questions. Below, L.-R.: Chris Lacaria '09, editor of the *Salient*, Ramya Parthasarathy, Editorial Chair of the *Crimson*, and Frances Martel '09, Publisher of the *Independent*, respond to questions posed by the audience.

the fear of backlash some of the panelists have felt in response to their articles. Ms. Caldwell brought up the point that many times there is such a backlash on issues because the umbrella of what is taboo has become so large. Ms. Parthasarathy agreed, saying that too broad an umbrella can stifle progressive debate, which threatens positive change.

One audience member asked why some groups continually make the news while others are completely ignored. She made a specific reference to student articles on the gender-specific gym hours at the Harvard Quadrangle Recreational Athletic Center (QRAC) for women who observe religious practices, which was made into a larger issue by student media than it was in reality. Ms. Parthasarathy stated that it was a nonissue in her view, which was the reason why the *Crimson* did not write a staff editorial on the subject—they did not want to bring more attention to the matter. Mr. Martel brought up the point that if a reader does not like what is written, he or she can write a response or choose not to read it. Ms. Parthasarathy disagreed, saying that media shapes the society that reads it, so even if a person does not read it, the article can be influencing the worldview of those around him or her.

Another question from the audience addressed factual content, and the fact that articles often make weakly supported conclusions, referencing specifically the “Crack in the Glass Ceiling” *Crimson* article and how many of the points it made are devoid of historical context. For example, it did not take into account the effect that World War I had on decreasing the unemployment rate for African Americans. The author, Brian Bolduc '10, who was in attendance at the panel event, defended the article, referencing how many people had taken issue with specific parallels drawn from his arguments, while avoiding the main point with which many agreed. Ms. Parthasarathy stated that it is important to note the distinction between an argument you disagree with and one you find offensive; the ones disagreed with are the ones that should be put forth because

they can be challenged.

Another topic covered was whether there is even value in trying not to offend others, since it is almost a given that someone will always be offended by the press. Chris Lacaria said that anyone can be offended by things that are written. However, he explained, what is more important is putting things out that have substance and merit, and often the important things that need to be discussed can be controversial—and that is a balance that must be struck.

After two hours of lively, at times heated and at times lighthearted, discussion among the panel and audience members, each of the panelists was asked to respond to a final question: “Should steps be taken to address offensive written content, and if so what should they be?” Adam Goldenberg whose



*Crimson* articles have been described by fellow students as “arrogant” and “racially insensitive,” said, “The most productive thing is not to point fingers... [but] to bring people together and to talk about exactly what it is that makes the issue offensive. I think that’s productively what the Foundation does, is to bring people together to talk about these things, and I think that is the most productive step.”

Mr. O’Connor emphasized that writers need to apply more decency in their dialogue, and if a writer is volatile and irresponsible in “using the podium,” he should expect to be attacked. Ms. Caldwell emphasized that readers are not obligated to read her columns and that many times “it is people on the left being offended, because the right is offended every day.” Ms. Parthasarathy stressed that people need to join

the Editorial Board and made the point that the *Crimson* endeavors to make sure that everything it prints is not offensive. If someone takes issue, she said, they should talk to the editors because “no editor can approximate the experience of anyone else in the community, so the only way we learn is by talking to others.”

—Nworah Ayogu ’10

## Faculty, Students Honored for Improving Intercultural Relations

*Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette*

The Harvard Foundation presented its 2008 Faculty/Administrator Award to Benedict H. Gross, the George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Mathematics, at its annual Harvard Foundation Student/Faculty Awards dinner in Quincy House on May 4. A former dean of Harvard College, Gross was recognized for his enthusiastic support of the Harvard Foundation and its mission to improve intercultural and racial understanding at Harvard.

“Dick Gross and I have worked to improve intercultural relations since we were both resident tutors at Radcliffe in the ’70s,” said S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation. “He is a remarkable man who has throughout his life reached out to persons of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds with genuine interest and friendship. An excellent teacher, a compassionate and thoughtful leader, he was a superb dean of Harvard College who demonstrated in many ways his commitment to the Harvard Foundation and its mission. The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation are proud to recognize and honor the contributions and fine example of Professor Benedict Gross.”

Additionally, more than 40 students were given Harvard Foundation Leadership Awards at the ceremony and dinner (which is named in memory of David S. Aloian, former

Quincy House master). Faculty, administrators, and House masters nominated the student award recipients, who were then chosen by the faculty and student advisory committee of the Harvard Foundation for their contributions to the intercultural life of Harvard College.

Students who have shown a commitment to improving intercultural life at the College during the entire course of their undergraduate years received the Distinguished Senior Award for Excellence in Leadership. The award went to the following members of the class of 2008: Muriel Payan, Simi Bhat, Marisol Pineda-Conde, Armen Yerevanian, Theresa Cheng, Beatrice Viramontes, Ofole Mgbako, and Marcus Miller.

The 2008 Harvard Foundation awards for notable contributions to intercultural and race relations were given to students who have displayed a sustained effort to improving racial harmony at Harvard College. Recipients included Layusa Isa-Odidi ’09, Matt Clair ’09, Nworah Ayogu ’10, Matt Bresnahan ’09, Petros Egziabher ’09, Elizabeth Eve ’10, Louizza Martinez ’09, Jackie Hairston ’10, Amanda Mangaser ’10, Richie Serna ’10, Lumumba Seegars ’09, Kelsey Leonard ’10, Julie Ann Crommet ’08, Sarah Lockridge-Steckel ’09, Rauda Tellawi ’08, Chaz

Beasley ’08, Nathaniel Naddaff-Hafrey ’08, Anjelica Kelly ’09, Ralph Bouquet ’09, Ola Aljawhary ’09, Michelle Oboite ’08, Susan Yao ’09, Zeba Syed ’09, and Seth Flaxman ’08.

The foundation also recognized undergraduates, mostly freshmen and sophomores, who have begun to make notable contributions to the intercultural life at Harvard College, with a certificate of recognition. These recipients include freshmen Lizzy Eze, Sara Zaidi, Kevin Liu, and Elise Liu; sophomores Giselle Cheung, Jackie Hsieh, Benjamin Wu, Raul Carrillo, Rebecca Gillette, and Jarell Lee; and juniors Yonit Lavin, Diana Robles, and Sabrina Zearott.

Graduate students who served as designated House Race Relations Advisers were also recognized, including Jennifer Kan of Dunster House, Saritha Komatireddy Tice ’05 of Mather House, and Jessica Welburn of Currier House.

Beatrice Viramontes ’08 was honored with the Director’s Award, which is given to a student judged to have done the most during his/her undergraduate career to unite the Harvard community through intercultural and multiethnic activities. Seniors Simi Bhat and Marisol Pineda-Conde were selected by fellow students to be honored with the Peer Recognition Award.



## Foundation Awards Ceremony Honors Students and Faculty Annual David Aloian Dinner Hosted at Quincy House



*Above, Left to Right: Harvard Foundation co-chair Liz Eve '10 thanks Quincy House masters Lee and Deborah Gehrke for hosting the Harvard Foundation's Annual Awards Ceremony and Aloian Dinner; Sisters of Kuumba perform for guests in attendance; Mariachi Veritas de Harvard serenades the award-winners as part of a celebration of Cinco de Mayo.*

The Harvard Foundation was pleased to host the annual David S. Aloian Memorial Dinner on May 5, 2008, in Quincy House to honor students and faculty of the Harvard community for their contributions towards improving intercultural and race relations at Harvard and beyond.

The dinner and student-faculty

Bhat '08 and Theresa Cheng '08.

The student award recipients were nominated by House masters, faculty and administrators, and were confirmed by the Harvard Foundation Faculty and Student Advisory Committees (FAC/SAC). Certificates of Recognition were awarded to those undergraduates (mostly freshmen and sophomores)

Currier House.

The 2008 Harvard Foundation Insignia Awards recognized students who have displayed a sustained effort in improving intercultural and racial relations and discussion at Harvard College.

The 2008 Distinguished Senior Awards for Excellence in Leadership



*Above, Left to Right: Foundation Student Advisory Committee treasurer Rauda Tellawi '08 receives a 2008 Insignia Award; Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 and Simi Bhat '08 are both awarded the Peer Recognition Award; Dr. Benedict Gross, the George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Mathematics, is the recipient of the 2008 Faculty Appreciation Award.*

awards ceremony, which is named in memory of David S. Aloian, former master of Quincy House, strives to carry on his legacy by recognizing those students and distinguished faculty members who actively promote diversity and tolerance at Harvard.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the evening featured a welcome by current Quincy House masters Lee and Deborah Gehrke, a musical performance by the Sisters of Kuumba, and senior reflections by Harvard Foundation interns Simi

who have begun to make notable contributions to race relations at Harvard College.

The Foundation also decided to recognize two exceptional House race relations advisors who were especially dedicated to fulfilling their role of promoting the Harvard Foundation's mission within the residential Houses. The two advisors who were given certificates recognizing their dedicated work with undergraduates were Jennifer Kan '05 of Dunster House, and PhD Candidate Jessica Welburn of

honored those members of the graduating class who have acted as outstanding leaders for their peers in their contributions to race relations at Harvard College and beyond.

Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 and Simi Bhat '08 also received Peer Recognition Awards after being nominated and recognized by their peers. Ms. Pineda-Conde was recognized for her work on the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Committee, the RAZA board, her presidency of Latinas Unidas, as an Homenaje Latino honoree, and



as a role model in the Harvard Latino community. Simi Bhat was recognized particularly for her work as SAC co-chair, co-director of Cultural Rhythms 2007, and for her leadership in Harvard Dharma and the Harvard South Asian community.

For the first time in years, the faculty, House masters, and the Harvard Foundation came to a consensus about the recipient of the Harvard Foundation Director's Award, which goes to the one undergraduate who has dedicated his or her Harvard career to improving intercultural and race relations. Beatrice Viramontes '08 received this award in recognition of her work as co-director of Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, president of RAZA, member of Sisters of Kuumba, and Homenaje Latino honoree.

Finally, the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation were proud to present the 2008 Faculty Appreciation Award to former Harvard College dean and George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Mathematics, Dr. Benedict Gross. Dr. Gross was recognized for his support for the Harvard Foundation as well as other intercultural programs on campus. Congratulations to all awardees!

—Elizabeth Eze '11



*Above: Beatrice Viramontes '08 receives the Harvard Foundation Director's Award from Dr. S. Allen Counter for outstanding service.*

*Left, Top to Bottom: Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Dr. William Fitzsimmons speaks with students at the Harvard Foundation Awards Ceremony and Aloian Dinner; Foundation intern Muriel Payán '08 offers parting advice as a graduating senior; Mr. David L. Evans, Harvard College senior admissions officer, brings the awards ceremony to an uplifting and witty close.*

*Bottom: 2008 Harvard Foundation Faculty Appreciation Award Winner Dr. Benedict Gross (Front, Center) joins the 2008 student award winners.*





## Student Initiated Programs

The Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee is comprised of over seventy 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 initiated events of spring 2008.

## Harvard Community Comes Together to Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the midst of the papers and exams of the fall reading period, the Harvard community took time out to celebrate the life and message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On the evening of January 21, 2008, the Harvard Foundation, Memorial Church, Harvard Chaplains, and the Black Students' Association held the annual tribute to Dr. King. By the start of the program at 5 o'clock, Memorial Church had already filled with students, faculty, and community members. Harvard's Kuumba Singers began the evening and set the mood with their stirring gospel selections.

The program began with a reading from Abdu'l Bahd by Shayda Vance '08 and from Dr. King's "A Christmas Sermon on Peace" by Sarah Lockridge-Steckel

'09, president of Harvard's Black Students' Association. Dr. Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, then introduced keynote speaker Ms. Liz Walker MDiv '05. Ms. Walker, an ordained minister, television news journalist, and human rights activist, has served on numerous charitable boards and is currently working on a documentary concerning the genocide in Sudan. She gave an inspirational speech about the risk of love, tying Dr. King's concepts of radical love to everyday situations and showing how they are still relevant in today's society.

A collection was taken to provide funds for *Liz Walker Journey Productions*, a charity which raises awareness of human rights issues. A group of student



leaders of various religious and cultural backgrounds from across the University shared their thoughts to close the service. Afterward, the congregation reconvened in Dudley House at a Foundation reception to commemorate the work of Dr. King and to bring together those who continue to work toward his dream of racial unity.

—Nworah Ayogu '10

## Harvard Foundation Hosts Senior Thesis Panel



Above: The Senior Thesis Panel on diversity and multiculturalism consisted of (L.-R.) Adam Goldenberg '08, Arjun Suri '08, Simi Bhat '08, Tatiana Chaterji '08, Katie Loncke '08, and Harvard Foundation intern Petros Egziabher '09, who served as the panel's organizer and moderator.

On May 6, 2008, the Harvard Foundation hosted its first-ever senior thesis panel discussion event for Harvard students who have studied issues pertaining to multiculturalism. The event featured five seniors: Adam Goldenberg '08, Katie Loncke '08, Tatiana Chaterji '08, Arjun Suri '08, and Harvard Foundation intern Simi Bhat '08.

There were two aims of this panel discussion. The first aim was to provide a forum which could be open to academic discussions about diversity. The second aim was to encourage younger students to examine more closely such topics in their coursework and thesis research.

The topics introduced to the discussion were diverse, covering domestic and international as well as social and scientific issues. They ranged from political participation among Haitian women in Boston to French laws banning visible religious clothing in schools, to expressions of whiteness in feminist blogs. Over the course of an hour, the participants discussed the various considerations that went into studying culture and diversity.

One topic which arose was that of

personal bias and objectivity. Each student panelist suggested ways to recognize, manage, and hopefully minimize one's own biases when studying his or her subject. Some panel participants emphasized the need to contextualize research in the cultures they study so as to minimize potential cross-cultural biases. One panelist argued that rather than "study" her subjects, she viewed her work as a collaboration between herself and the people with whom she worked.

The Harvard Foundation thesis panel provided seniors and undergrads with a rare opportunity for academic discussion on the subject of diversity and multiculturalism. Participants expressed their hopes that the program will continue in coming years in order to further address these goals in the future.

—Petros Egziabher '09

## 2008 Our World Freshman Photo Competition

In the spring semester of 2008, the Harvard Foundation and the Freshman Dean's Office (FDO) jointly organized the "Our World" photo contest—a photographic competition and exhibition on cultural exchange and human diversity. The event encouraged freshmen to submit their original photographs in a contest on the theme of "Our World." David Smith, race relations advisor for the Crimson Yard, worked hard in conceptualizing and drafting the guidelines for the inaugural event. The entries, which had to be submitted by February 10th, 2008, were judged based on the artistry of each photograph and its connection with the contest theme: cross-cultural exchange and human diversity.

Over 75 submissions were received from students for consideration. Through these entries alone, the

breadth of diversity at Harvard was revealed—with entries from North America, Africa, Asia, Europe and other world regions. A committee of judges (headed by race relations advisor Brendan Randall of the Ivy Yard, and composed of members of the FDO, faculty, and student interns of the Harvard Foundation) had the difficult task of choosing finalists. After hours of deliberation, ten entries were selected to be exhibited in Annenberg Hall, and of them one entry was selected for a prize of dinner for two and two tickets to the Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms 2008 event. The event was highly publicized both in Annenberg Hall and around campus.

There is a webpage dedicated to the contest, where the winning entries have been posted, in the "Events" section of the Harvard Foundation website at [www.harvardfoundation.org](http://www.harvardfoundation.org).

Congratulations to the winner Henry Luu for his photograph titled "Do These Baskets Make Me Look Fat?" and congratulations to the nine finalists for their photos.

Due to the success of the contest and event this year, the Harvard Foundation and FDO are looking forward to organizing the event again for next year's freshman class, with the hopes that even more entries will be submitted—capturing the diversity that sometimes goes unnoticed but is very central to our campus life.

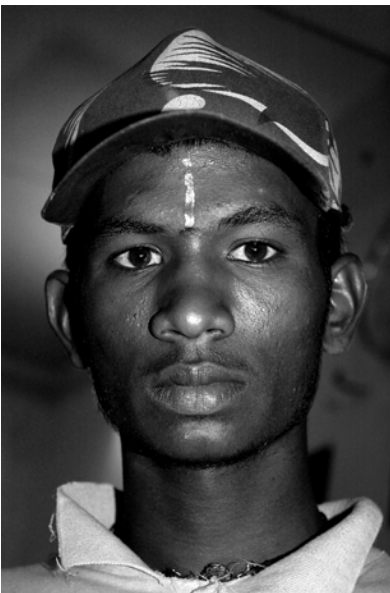
—Kevin Liu '11



*2008 Our World Photo Contest finalists, clockwise from Lower Left: "Losing Faith" by Matt Corby '11, "Timeless Ephemeral" by Jason Schnier '11, and "Seasoning of Love" by Alec Barrett '11.*



## 2008 Our World Freshman Photo Competition Finalists



*Clockwise from Bottom Left: 2008 Our World Photo Contest finalists "Djellabas and Denim" by Quincy Bock '11; "Youth" by Sam Wald '11; "Tres Mujeres" by Chase Russell '11; "Together We Live" Eunji Kim '11; "The Gaiety She Incites, An Eternal Story" by Lei'la Bryant '11; "Colcoa Canyon" by Alexandra Dowd '11; and conest winner "Do These Baskets Make Me Look Fat?" by Henry Luu '11.*





## Mariachi Veritas de Harvard Holds Spring Concert “Que Bonita es Esta Vida”



*Above Left: Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, congratulates graduating senior Beatrice Viramontes '08 on her successful parting concert. Above Right: Mariachi Veritas de Harvard is a diverse group of Mexican and non-Mexican students. For seniors Raphael Barcham '08 (second from left) and Kevin McMullen '08 (far right), this was their final performance with Mariachi.*

Seating 352 people, Lowell Lecture Hall was filled to capacity on Saturday, April 19, 2008, as Mariachi Veritas de Harvard presented its spring concert, “Que Bonita es Esta Vida” (“How Beautiful is this Life”). For the first time in the history of Mariachi Veritas, the group held a concert outside of a dining hall or common room, filling the seats of one of Harvard’s finest performance halls, where they were able to utilize lighting and a spectacular sound system that allowed their audience to experience Mexico unlike ever before.

Under director Beatrice Viramontes '08, assistant director David Garcia '09, and musical director Nathaniel Naddaff-Hafrey '08, the 2007-2008 school year—the group’s fifth year in existence—marked a year of tremendous growth in reputation, repertoire, and musicianship. Earlier in the year, Mariachi Veritas de Harvard attended the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza national competition in San Antonio for their very first time. Not only did the group attend workshops led by the members of Mariachi Vargas—the

oldest Mexican mariachi band—but they competed and placed third nationally in the University category. Their director, Beatrice Viramontes, also competed as a finalist in the vocal competition.

At their spring concert, the group featured two original Mariachi Vargas pieces which they had acquired at the workshops in San Antonio: “Mexico Trovador” and “Que Bonita es Esta Vida”—the very piece that inspired their concert’s theme. Aside from these two pieces, the group demonstrated their diverse repertoire, featuring *huapangos*, *sones*, and *rancheras* (different sub-genres within the mariachi tradition).

As is tradition at the group’s concerts, Mariachi Veritas also featured other vocalists from within the Harvard community. These vocalists included Rosa Beltran '08, Julie Ann Crommett '08, Osiel Gonzalez '08, Ariel Huerta '08, Alexis Pacheco '08, Raquel Toledo '10, Noah Van Niel '08, and the director of the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, Sheldon K.

X. Reid '96, GSE '98. And as an added bonus, three of the group’s alumni—Socrates Cruz '06, Senovio Shish '05, and the group’s founder, Claudia Garcia '05—attended the concert and graced the crowd with their talent as they joined the group to perform their signature tune “Cuando Sale la Luna.”

At the very end of the concert, the group honored its five seniors for their dedication throughout the year. These seniors included Raphael Barcham '08, Adam Kundishora '08, Kevin McMullen '08, Nathaniel Naddaff-Hafrey '08, and Beatrice Viramontes '08. The group’s future growth, development, and celebration now lie in the hands of the remainder of its membership: David Garcia '09, Lauren Yapp '09, Yening Qin '10, Yelun Qin '10, Sergio Ramirez '10, and Diego Renteria, '11.

—Mariachi Veritas/Harvard Foundation



## Mariachi Veritas de Harvard Spring 2008 Concert Lowell Lecture Hall



photos courtesy of Mariachi Veritas

Above: Mariachi Veritas de Harvard holds its largest concert to date in Lowell Lecture Hall in April 2008. Top: Student performers included (Left to Right) David Hernandez Garcia '09, Alexis Pacheco '08, Noah Van Niel '08, and Ariel Huerta '08. Bottom Left: David Hernandez Garcia, Nathaniel Naddaff-Hafrey '08, and Adam Kundishora '08 put their instruments down for a special performance of "Hay Unos Ojos." Bottom Center: Mariachi Veritas Director Beatrice Viramontes '08 performs in the concert as singer, guitarist, and MC. Bottom Right: Mr. Sheldon K.X. Reid '96, GSE '98, Director of the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, was also among the splendid guest performers.

## News & Notes

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

## 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 exchange and discourse. The Student Advisory Committee (SAC), consisting of one representative from each student cultural group, the Foundation's interns, and the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) meet in the Philips Brooks House Parlor Room on the second Wednesday of each month. A guest is invited to speak at these meetings in order to facilitate communication and inform the general group. The SAC members serve both as the representatives of the groups, voting on and proposing initiatives and sharing insight, and as ambassadors of the Foundation, bringing the knowledge gained from the meetings to their respective student organizations.

The second semester began with the February meeting. After a brief overview of the spring grants process, the SAC was reminded to continue to upload their events to the newly formed online Harvard Foundation events calendar so that the entire campus can have a centralized location at which to find cultural events. Next the SAC had a discussion to follow up on the presentation from Dean Bill Fitzsimmons about whether or not the plethora of cultural activities available during "Prefrosh Weekend" divides the incoming freshman. Students commented that the cultural activities are no more divisive than the weekend's variety of regional, musical, and academic events, and that during Prefrosh Weekend—more so than many other times of the year—students from various backgrounds go to a variety of different cultural events with the friends they have just made and truly take advantage of and enjoy the cultural richness that exists at Harvard. Many commented that during their own

respective Prefrosh Weekends, it was seeing Harvard's cultural communities, and not necessarily those corresponding to their race, that made Harvard seem like a personal and caring community.

For the March meeting the SAC was fortunate enough to have two distinguished guests. After a brief discussion on improving and increasing dialogue with group advisors, the SAC heard from Jack Megan, the director of the Office for the Arts (OFA). Mr. Megan described the opportunities available through the OFA, for individuals as well as groups, in terms of space, funding, and advising. He described the recommendations of the newly formed Task Force for the Arts at Harvard. He then led a discussion in which many students commented on their positive experience with the arts at Harvard, and he expressed a desire to incorporate the arts further into the curricula. When asked about the lack of diversity in the OFA itself, Mr. Megan commented that there is a dearth but expressed a commitment to address this lack of diversity. He followed up with representatives of the SAC after the meeting to solicit ways in which to help recruit a more diverse staff.

The second March meeting guest was Congressman Jim Leach, director of the Institute of Politics (IOP). He and other IOP staff members spoke of the ongoing programs and events of the Institute and ways in which students can become more involved. They also presented the various ways in which cultural groups can become more active, and they spoke in depth on the process by which a group can co-sponsor an already scheduled event and receive tickets for their membership. They explained how to go about sponsoring an event and using the funding, space, and other resources of the IOP in acquiring a speaker, and

planning and publicizing the event.

In April the new re-registration process was presented. It was announced that in the next year, all SAC groups would have to register with the SAC board. This will ensure that the board has the most current information for all the groups, so as to better facilitate communication among the active groups, and will enable the SAC board and the Foundation to quickly contact the groups when necessary. The guest speaker for the April meeting, David R. Friedrich, the director of the Student Organization Center at Hilles (SOCH), spoke to the SAC about the SOCH's resources, including their workshops, the variety of spaces they have, and the new SOCH grant.

Elections for the next SAC board were held during the final May SAC meeting. Our speakers for that meeting were from the Freshman Dean's Office: Mr. Thomas Dingman (dean of freshmen), Katie Steele, and Brendan Randall. They described the changes that will be implemented in Freshman Week and the inclusionary program which they will be introducing. After describing the components of the program, they welcomed and valued the opinions of SAC representatives and noted their comments.

The 2007-2008 SAC Board would like to thank the Student Advisory Committee for the opportunity to serve its representatives this year. It has truly been a pleasure working with all of you throughout the year and seeing all of the wonderful events and programming you conducted. We would also like to extend our congratulations to the incoming SAC Board: Kevin Liu '11, Vikas Mouli '09, Elizabeth Eze '11, and Fabian Poliak '11.

—Nworah Ayogu '10



## Renowned actor Ray Liotta Visits the Harvard Foundation



On the evening of Monday, February 25, 2008, students of the Harvard Foundation and the Italian American Society were treated to a special visit from distinguished actor Ray Liotta, whose work in such major motions pictures as *Goodfellas* and *Identity* has not only established Mr. Liotta as a great actor, but also as an American movie icon.

Mr. Liotta stopped by the Harvard Foundation while visiting Boston. He spoke casually with students, expressing genuine interest in their studies and professional goals. Michael Anderson '08 found that Mr. Liotta made "an effort to reach out to everyone that walked into the room and introduce himself, and asked us questions... He was very open, calm, and receptive to our input... I liked him a lot, he's a 'good fella.'" Harvard Foundation intern Jacqueline Hairston '10 bonded with Mr. Liotta over their shared New Jersey roots. She found him to be "very down to earth," noting, "he engaged all of the students and smiled the whole time."

Surrounded by Harvard students, many of whom were seniors on the

*Hollywood actor Ray Liotta visits the Harvard Foundation and meets with Harvard Foundation interns (Above Left), director Dr. S. Allen Counter (Above Right), and members of the Italian-American Society (Below).*

threshold of beginning their own careers, he began to speak with a nostalgia for his own college days. He recalled being a college student at the University of Miami and "falling" into theater. Mr. Liotta proceeded to chat with the students about everything from life after college, to growing up in New Jersey, to video games—namely *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*, in

which he was one of the leading voice actors.

Students were thrilled by the impromptu visit of this acclaimed actor and self-made success. Ms. Hairston reflected, "It was a wonderful surprise, and I hope he returns often."

—Muriel Payán '08





# Glimpses of the 2008 Harvard University Commencement Exercises

*Right: Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies, and newly appointed dean of Harvard College, Dr. Evelyn Hammonds. Below Left: Mathematics Professor and chair of the Program on Information Resources Policy Dr. Anthony Oettinger attends commencement with his daughter Dr. Marjorie Oettinger, Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School. Below Right: Harvard University President Drew Faust greets returning alumni at the the 2008 Commencement Exercises.*



*Above Left: Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter and the Reverend Peter J. Gomes, professor of Christian morals and Pusey Minister in Memorial Church, greet member of the Board of Overseers Stephanie Wilson '88. Above Right: Dr. Georgene Herschbach, Harvard College dean of administration, attends Commencement with her husband, chemistry professor emeritus Dr. Dudley Herschbach. Left: Dr. Counter welcomes J.K. Rowling, author of the renowned Harry Potter series of novels. Ms. Rowling delivered the Commencement Address and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.*



*R.: Dr. Roy Glauber, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics and recipient of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Physics, attends Harvard's 2008 Commencement. Below, Clockwise from Left: Prof. Donald Pfister escorts summa cum laude graduating seniors to the stage to be greeted by provost Dr. Steven Hyman and President Faust; Dr. Clayton Spencer, vice president for policy; honorary degree recipient Dr. James Comer, professor of child psychiatry at Yale University, with Dr. Counter; Ms. Grace Scheibner, Commencement director; (L.-R.) Dr. Bernard Steinberg, Harvard Hillel director, Fr. Robert Congdon, Senior Harvard Roman Catholic Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Benjamin King, Harvard Episcopal Chaplain, and Fr. William Murphy, Harvard Roman Catholic Chaplain; Mr. James Hoyte, associate vice president, Ms. Stephanie Wilson, and Mr. Walter Morris '73, MBA '75.*



## Harvard Foundation Student Spring 2008 Grant Summary Reports

Each year in the fall and spring semesters, the Harvard Foundation distributes approximately \$28,000 per semester in grant funding to the organizations that comprise the Student Advisory Committee. Any undergraduate student organization officially recognized by Harvard College with a mission of improving race relations and promoting intercultural awareness and understanding may apply to join the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee. Once the organization has been voted in as a member of the Student Advisory Committee by a group of peer representatives and Faculty Advisory Committee members, the organization may submit grant applications for programs and projects that enlighten the Harvard community on aspects of race, culture, religion, and ethnicity.

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

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

The following student organizations received grant support from the Harvard Foundation for student-initiated projects in the spring 2008 semester:

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

## Harvard Wushu Club

### *Lessons*

Wushu is the practice of contemporary Chinese martial arts. Chinese martial arts, in both its bare-handed and weapon-using forms, has a history of thousands of years and is deeply ingrained in the Chinese culture. Examples of modern influences include the popularity of Tai Chi among the elderly and "wuxia" films like *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Wushu emphasizes the performance aspect of these arts, adapting combat techniques and modifying them to highlight speed, power and flexibility.

In order to properly learn the art, we have hired a coach to come teach us new movements and forms. Sifu Rick Wong, from Medford, MA, leads our practice sessions every Sunday, during which he teaches new material and helps us to improve upon our existing skills.



In 2007-08, we conducted several performances around the Harvard community and in the surrounding area. Our spring semester was especially busy, with performances at the Harvard Foundation's Cultural Rhythms Festival, the Chinese Students Association Banquet, Eastbound, the IMUSE event for the Beijing Olympics, the HPAIR conference, as well as a performance for the Grains of Rice organization and guest appearances at Wellesley College and MIT.

We advertise our club heavily and practices are open to all College affiliates. We emphasize that no experience is necessary, and we encourage people of all skill levels and backgrounds to attend practice and find out more about our art.

Instructor fees were paid this semester through grants from the Harvard Foundation, the Club Sports Grant, a grant from the Undergraduate Council, and member dues.

Wenxin Xu '09

## Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA

### Tabasco State Fundraiser Dance

Early in 2008, the state of Tabasco experienced what many referred to as the worst natural disaster in the history of Mexico. Flooding destroyed businesses, trapped residents within their homes, and forced more than 800,000 people to leave their homes. In an effort to contribute to the financial assistance needed to rebuild the state of Tabasco and return stability to the many families affected by the disaster, the Tabasco State Fundraiser Dance, held by Harvard's undergraduate Mexican-American student organization, sought to alleviate some of the difficulties faced by those affected by the disaster in Tabasco State.

Harvard's Woodbridge Society for International Students joined our efforts to assist the victims of the disaster. The fundraiser event took the form of a dance in Adams Dining Hall on February 23, 2008. All proceeds were donated to relief funds for the people of Tabasco State. The dance was open to the entire Harvard community.



Left, Top: Robert Granados '10, Eliana Murillo '10, and Joanna Marquina '10 enjoy Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA's annual Cinco De Mayo celebration, this year held at the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub; Left, Bottom: A group of attending students sit in a festively decorated booth; Above: Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán performers Marisol Pineda-Conde '08 and Eloy Villanueva '08 perform a traditional Mexican dance.

Attendees included RAZA board and club members as well as other sympathizers of the cause, who were joined by the common goal of helping the relief efforts in Tabasco.

Though our efforts alone did not meet the full financial needs of such a disaster, we hope that with the funds raised that night, we at least helped alleviate some of the hardships and concerns of those affected. More importantly, we hope to have increased awareness of the Tabasco State disaster within the Harvard community and beyond.

### Cinco de Mayo Celebration

One of the most widely known and celebrated Mexican traditions in the United States, Cinco de Mayo commemorates the victory of the Mexican army over the French at the battle of Puebla. In our continued effort to increase cultural awareness within the Harvard community and correct misinformation concerning the yearly celebration, this year we took the celebration to Cambridge Queen's Head Pub.

Though traditionally celebrated in a more intimate setting and attended by mostly RAZA members, this year's celebration and location brought about the participation of many more students outside of the Latino community on campus. As attendees entered the premises, they were greeted

by traditional Mexican music of all genres, by the famous decorations known to many as *papel picado* (perforated paper), and by the colorful and vibrant flowers, courtesy of the creativity of the organizers. Though these traditional decorations do not lack a presence in many of our events, this year's celebration was enhanced by the presence of famous piñatas, which represent a vital decorative component of many Mexican traditions. Live performances by several groups on campus helped to make the event an even more enjoyable night.

Whether attendees initially came to enjoy the exquisite Mexican food that was on the Queen's Head Pub's menu that day, or came to enjoy fun-filled performances by Mariachi Veritas de Harvard and Harvard's Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, or simply came to hang out with close friends and enjoy traditional sounds of Mexico, they all left with greater enlightenment and awareness of the true significance of Cinco de Mayo.

### Cesar Chavez Celebration

This year's Cesar Chavez celebration continued the yearly tradition of honoring one of the most influential civil rights leaders and labor activists. Cesar Chavez is often hailed as one of the greatest American civil rights leaders, having co-founded the National Farm Workers Association,

today known as the United Farm Workers Union. Others praise him for improving conditions for many farm workers across the nation, and for paving the way for increased political activity among those who traditionally were not granted roles in the political arena.

Although traditionally celebrated on his birthday, March 31, this year we had to move the celebration to a later date. However, the significance of the event was not diminished by the date change. In an effort to capture the true essence of Chavez's cause and motivation, this year's celebration invited members of the entire community to delve into the rich history of this individual's struggle for social reform, through an overview of Chavez's successes, poetry, songs and a brief documentary on the cause Cesar Chavez so passionately fought for during his life.

The Mather TV room became the most convenient location for the event, with roughly 50 attendees. In this intimate setting, students were able to enjoy food and refreshments and listen to empowering words spoken by their peers.

Our political chair captured the importance of the celebration, discussing the relevance of Chavez's acts today, drawing parallels to contemporary leaders such as Barack Obama. The event helped inform students on campus of the more complicated history of the Cesar Chavez struggle, stimulating conversations and further discussions.

*Cecilia Venegas '11*

## Holoimua O Hawaii (Hawaii Club)

### *Luau*

The Hawaii Club, also called Holoimua O Hawaii, conducted its annual luau at Harvard College. The luau was, once again, a very great success. Although we were unable to secure our desired venue in the Quad (fire restrictions prevented us from digging an actual cooking pit) we nevertheless had a very successful dinner, featuring kalua pig, chicken long-rice, lomi-lomi salmon, teriyaki chicken, *haupia* and, of course,

fruit punch. We also had excellent programs and table decorations, and we covered the tables with butcher paper and crayons to provide guests with pre-dinner entertainment. We were able to sell out the dining hall, leaving little or no room for any additional plates. Even standing room was limited. The delectable food was completely consumed, with few leftovers. In addition, participants later remarked that they enjoyed the luau significantly, especially the Tahitian dance, the Samoan slap dance, and the Haka. Thank you to the Harvard Foundation for making this possible again.

*Keone Nakoa '08*

## Harvard College Sierra Leone Initiative

### *47th Independence Day Conference*

To commemorate the 47th anniversary of Sierra Leone's independence from the United Kingdom on April 27, 1961, the Harvard College Sierra Leone Initiative (HCSLI) hosted a conference inviting prominent Sierra Leoneans and activists to discuss their work with the Harvard community. On April 26, 2008, we invited Dr. John Karefa-Smart, Ishmael Beah, Isaiah Washington, and Eleanor Thompson as panelists. The discussion was moderated by Cynthia Mesh, assistant director of the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies. Prior to the panel discussion, which took place in Sever 113 in the late afternoon, Dr. Karefa-Smart and his wife, the Reverend Rena Karefa-Smart, the first African American woman who graduated from Harvard Divinity School, ate lunch with undergraduates in the Winthrop dining hall. Ishmael Beah participated in a discussion on child soldiers and their re-integration into society as part of a program sponsored by the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights.

During the afternoon conference, panelists engaged in a lively exchange with the moderator and graciously fielded questions from audience members about Sierra Leone's future prospects, how their own work has evolved, and the role of Harvard and African American students in

advocating and working towards Africa's development. Dr. Karefa-Smart, former Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, Deputy Director of the World Health Organization, and Professor at Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School, enthusiastically advocated for finding the root cause of each problem, and hitting it with a "shillelagh" (a "big stick" in Irish). He believes that education is the most serious issue in Sierra Leone, contributing to its place as the least developed country in the world on the United Nations Development Program's Development Index.

Ishmael Beah, former child soldier and global ambassador for children's rights, and Isaiah Washington, former actor on the television show *Grey's Anatomy*, have both established schools in Sierra Leone to address the country's lamentable 70% illiteracy rate. Recent Harvard College graduate Eleanor Thompson '06, having worked in Sierra Leone for the past few years, advised students to embrace their opportunities at Harvard, which "humble us and ultimately give us a sense of purpose."

Following the conference panelists, sponsors, and undergraduates headed to Pforzheimer House for a special catered African dinner to end the day. The HCSLI's summer project in Sierra Leone's Pujehun District, to build a Youth Center for Peace and Wellness, was announced by Elizabeth Nowak '09, who earlier in the year wrote a successful grant for the Davis 100 Projects for Peace Foundation. Service awards were given to panelists, accompanied by witty commentary from David Sengeh '10.

The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the support and sponsorship of the Harvard Foundation, the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights, the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Swiss Consulate of Boston and the Harvard Institute of Politics. The HCSLI will use this momentum to continue with our youth project in Pujehun, Sierra Leone, this summer.

*Amy Wu '09*





*Left: Harvard College Sierra Leone Initiative board members with the panelists Dr. John Karefa-Smart, Eleanor Thompson, Isaiah Washington, and Ishmael Beah; moderator Cynthia Mesh; Swiss Deputy Consul in Boston Emil Wyss; and the Rev. Dr. Rena Karefa-Smart, following a banquet honoring the lifelong service of the Karefa-Smarts to Sierra Leone. Right: Members of the Harvard and wider Boston community listen attentively as panelists discuss the role of youths in a brighter future for Sierra Leone.*

panel discussion and reception in honor of the athlete whom we found to be the most inspirational and motivating individual, both on and off the court or playing field. Because of scheduling conflicts with some athletes' in-season games, NAHC was unable to have all invited guests visit Harvard during Native American Heritage Month this past November. However, NAHC was able to bring Ms. Waneek Horn-Miller, a Mohawk athlete who competed with the Canadian Olympic water polo team, to Harvard this spring. There, she was honored by the students and the Harvard Foundation, and she shared her experiences as an indigenous professional athlete.

*Kelsey Leonard '10*

## Harvard Hong Kong Society

### *Chinese New Year/Spring Cooking Series*

For Chinese New Year, Harvard Hong Kong Society (HHKS) sponsors a traditional festival-themed cooking workshop for undergraduates interested in the ethnic celebration which welcomes the Lunar New Year. Cooking instruction included special New Year dishes such as *nian gao*, traditional turnip cake, and Chinese soy-sauce chicken, among others.

HHKS's traditional cooking series introduces Harvard undergraduates to the techniques and tastes of Chinese cuisine. Experienced student volunteers will lead their peers in the preparation of traditional Chinese foods. In the past, the cooking series has introduced such dishes as: Cantonese sizzling fish, lotus cake, scallion pancakes, Buddha's delight, and various dim sum. The cooking series is held in various House facilities. HHKS provides all ingredients, equipment, and know-how so that attending undergraduates can be fully involved in the preparation of the traditional dishes. In addition, HHKS provides take-home recipes so that students have the opportunity to recreate the dishes and hone their newly-learned culinary techniques in preparation for the next events in the cooking series.

This year, HHKS's cooking events

were spaced throughout the spring semester. The series was met with great success. The Harvard Foundation and Undergraduate Council provided funding for this event.

### *Prefrosh Pan-Asian BBQ*

In collaboration with the various student organizations on campus representing the Asian American population, Harvard Hong Kong Society participated in a Pan-Asian barbecue on the Science Center lawn. Held during "Prefrosh Weekend," the event welcomed the incoming and prospective freshmen of all cultures, introducing them to the Asian cultural groups on campus as well as providing them with tastes of some delicious recipes! During the afternoon, over 300 students circulated among the food tables, sampling a variety of foods and enjoying the camaraderie of the campus organizations. The Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council grant committees provided the funding for this event.

*Linda Yao '10*

## Native Americans at Harvard College

### *A Different Perspective: The Native American Experience in Sports*

Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC) wanted to recognize the extraordinary achievements of today's Native American athletes by hosting a

## Harvard Polish Society

### *A Discussion of the Constitution of 1791*

Continuing our series of meetings with scholars studying the history of Eastern Europe, we closed the activity of the Society for this year with an appropriately timed discussion of the Polish Constitution of 1791. The second modern constitution in the world, the publication of this important document on May 3, 1791, is one of the most cherished events in Polish history and the origin of the major national holiday on May 3. A question posed was, "What is really hidden behind the legend and celebration of the state observance?"

To explore Poland's past, we sought help from Dr. Richard Pipes. In addition to being a Polish citizen, Dr. Pipes is professor emeritus in Harvard's history department, a former advisor to President Reagan, and a specialist in the history of Russia and its neighboring countries. Our discussion focused on the geopolitical situation of Europe at the time of the Constitution's ratification and the surprising chain of events that led to the disappearance of the country from the map within just three years from the proclamation of this set of basic laws. After the academic part of the meeting, we all had a chance to gather over a meal and discuss the subject for a few more hours.

*Krzysztof Kozak '10*

## Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association

### *Chinese Cooking Workshop*

The Chinese Students Association (CSA) cooking workshop, held on March 14, in the Holworthy Basement Common Room, was a casual and fun afternoon, as students made their own dumplings and chow mein. Everyone chatted and laughed as they made their dinner, chopping vegetables for the chow mein and making dumplings. And enthusiastic they were! Hundreds of dumplings were made during the first hour alone. American and Chinese culture came together in an interesting way as one student decided to fold the dumplings in a burrito style. This then inspired all kinds of inventions, such as the “origami dumpling,” which resembled a flower, and the “flat” dumpling, which was simply folded in half. Regardless of their outward appearances, these dumplings were all equally delicious (and amazingly, none of them fell apart in the boiling water). Indeed, many students were pleasantly surprised at how well (and how tasty) their creations turned out to be.

In addition to chow mein and dumplings, we also made *nian gao*, a type of Chinese cake. This cake is made with sticky rice flour and filled with red bean paste, and was a favorite of those who attended. All in all, the cooking workshop was a wonderful gathering with a close and family-like atmosphere.

### *CSA Spring Remembrance Festival*

Our spring picnic event took place on May 6. It was a wonderful and relaxing event, held on the bank of the Charles River, blessed with the best weather in weeks! We relaxed with kites, volleyballs, and footballs—and also picnic blankets for those who just wanted to lie down and enjoy the sun. The atmosphere was slow and easygoing, with students munching on scallion pancakes, sandwiches, and chicken wings. In addition to American food and Chinese take-out, we had some truly authentic (and home-made) Chinese foods, including mung-bean soup (*lu dou tang*), tea eggs, and *lu dou* with coconut milk.

There was a friendly-competitive game of football, casual volleyball, and even a game of Red Rover going on as people came and went, ate and talked. Students skipped rocks on the Charles River, and flew kites (or got kites stuck in trees). All in all, it was a welcome break from studying, and an absolutely relaxing afternoon!

### *China Week*

This spring, our Educational and Political Chairs initiated Harvard’s very first “China Week,” a week-long event with the goal of educating the undergraduate community about China’s past and current political and social environment. To accomplish this, we invited three speakers to join us on three separate days. On Monday, Professor Ezra Vogel, Harvard’s Henry Ford II Research Professor and former director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, spoke about challenges facing China’s leaders. He was incredibly balanced, fair, and thoughtful in his discussion about China’s political, social, and economic challenges. Students left this event not only with expanded knowledge about China’s political leaders, but also with an interest in learning more.

On Tuesday, Professor Robert Ross spoke on the prospects of US-China relations in the next administration. After Professor Ross’s lecture, one student commented that it was one of the most engaging and informative lectures that he had ever heard.

On Thursday, we invited Professor Roderick MacFarquhar, Leroy B. Williams Professor of History and Political Science and director of the Fairbank Center, to speak on the lasting effects of the Cultural Revolution.

The lecture series was very successful. The professors were all very knowledgeable and engaging, and the topics interesting and relevant. Many thanks to the Harvard Foundation for funding this event and enabling us to host it. We certainly hope to continue this event in the future!

### *Brew Talk*

This spring, the Chinese Students Association began “Brew Talk,” an event that brings the Chinese-American

community together to drink tea, eat Chinese snacks, and most importantly, bond! The CSA’s membership is very large, and with over 100 members it is difficult for everyone to meet and connect with each other. However, we wanted very much to bring our student group together as a community. Brew Talk was a chance for people to meet, mingle, and speak about issues important to them.

Our second event, taking place on March 21, coincided with the Tibetan protests against China. Brew Talk not only provided a forum where students could voice their opinions on the protests, but it also provided a learning environment—many people who didn’t know much about the issue were able to ask questions and thus develop their own opinions about the issue. We tried to give the discussion a fair and balanced tone, to create an environment where students could both voice opinions and be informed.

In addition to being informative, the event was also relaxing and social. In addition to high-quality tea and Chinese snacks, fresh-baked brownies, cookies, and other beverages were served. Overall, it was a great event; we thank the Harvard Foundation for enabling us to hold it.

*Daphne Xiao '11*

## Harvard College Latinos in Health Careers

### *Pre-med Advising Presentation*

This event occurred in March and was coordinated with pre-med and graduate school advisors from the Office of Career Services (OCS). We had a turnout of 42 undergraduates, which consisted of Latinos in Health Careers (LiHC) group members as well as members of the general undergraduate population. The main objective was to help students establish a timeline for upcoming years in order to delineate what courses should be taken and when applications should be completed. OCS also discussed the difference between direct matriculation and deferred entry. Information about possible summer internships and jobs was also presented. In addition, information was provided about academic and economic



resources that are available to students from underrepresented backgrounds. The event received funding from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

### ***Demystifying Graduate School Myths: A Conversation with Upperclassmen***

This event was held at the end of April. It was attended by about 45 undergraduates from the LiHC community as well as the general student body. Our speakers were seniors and graduates of the College who have went through the application process for graduate and professional schools.

The goal of the event was to facilitate an honest conversation between undergraduates interested in applying to graduate schools in the field of life and physical sciences and health professionals. Through a question and answer session, the seniors addressed issues about application myths and exaggerations concerning underrepresented minority students. They also offered advice based on their experience for proper handling of the application process. The event received funding from both the Undergraduate Council and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

### ***Latinos in Health Careers-Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers Discussion***

This event occurred in May, at the end of spring term, in the Dunster Junior Common Room. We had a total of about 40 undergraduates join us throughout the meeting. The attendees consisted of members from both the LiHC and the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers (HSBSE) communities. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage discussion between the two groups about experiences in fields of study in which minorities are underrepresented (health sciences, life and physical sciences, and engineering). The goal was to foster sustained communication between members and groups that will facilitate the planning and producing of events in the coming years. The event received funding from both the Undergraduate Council and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

### ***Latino Health Clinic: Salsa Dancing as Exercise***

The salsa clinic was held in May, at the end of spring term, in the Dunster House basement. We had a total of over 30 undergraduates from the LiHC membership and other Latino organizations on campus join us. With the help of Angelee Russ and Andreina Millan from the Joslin Diabetes Center of Boston, we organized a night promoting diabetes awareness. With the Latino population at a higher susceptibility for developing diabetes, we felt it was appropriate to present information for better living that conforms to a cultural outlook.

The main concept of the event was the presentation of salsa dancing as a form of exercise. The night consisted of an information session about better living habits with a twist of Latino culture, and was followed by salsa instruction and dancing. The event received funding from both the Undergraduate Council and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

*Moises Gallegos '10*

## **Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe**

### ***Chinese New Year Banquet***

The Chinese New Year Banquet, held on February 16, in Leverett Dining Hall, was a great success. Celebrating the Year of the Rat, the banquet brought together 300 Harvard students and faculty members for a night of food and entertainment. Leverett Dining Hall was transformed, with red streamers spanning the length of the ceiling, lanterns and firecrackers swinging merrily from the chandeliers, and handmade, individually folded paper flowers which decorated every table. As friends began chatting and strangers were introduced to each other, there was a hum and bustle in the air that was both welcoming and home-like—exactly what the Chinese New Year is all about.

The first act of the night was an exciting and authentic lion dance, which the crowd loved—especially when the lions jumped off the stage and danced around the tables! The next

performance was two classic Chinese songs, “My Pride” and “Lu Bian de Ye Cao Bu Yao Cai,” performed by Winnie Nip '08, who sang with a style and grace that set the mood for the entire night. All eyes were on the stage and all hands were on cameras during the beautiful parasol dance performed by Harvard’s Asian American Dance Troupe, and during the thrilling Harvard Wushu performance, which included broadswords, other blades, and impossible acrobatics. There were ten performances altogether during the two-hour meal (including more performances by the Asian American Dance Troupe, Wushu, and music performances by the Chinese Music Ensemble and Angie and Yi).

The hilarious MCs, Felix Zhang '11 and Sheng Si '11, kept the audience “in stitches” the entire night with their skits and antics. But of course, one can’t forget to mention the food—all fifteen courses of it! There were dumplings, scallion pancakes, *yu xiang* eggplant, tofu, kung pao chicken, spicy salt shrimp, beef, pork and, to everyone’s delight, bubble tea.

The banquet brought 300 people together as a family for a night of laughter and entertainment, and gave everyone a taste of Chinese food, music, art, and dance. Most importantly, however, it was simply a great night—not a person left without a full belly and a contented smile. We really want to thank the Harvard Foundation for making this event possible!

*Daphne Xiao '11*

## **Harvard College Interfaith Council**

### ***Panel Discussion on the Abrahamic Faiths: A Common Word***

For this event, we invited chaplains from the various religious traditions represented on campus to discuss the document titled *A Common Word Between Us and You*, and the implications of its release on the Christian-Muslim dialogue. We invited Christian, Muslim, and Jewish clergy to discuss these implications in a panel discussion. Food from the restaurant Spice and drinks were served to attendees. This event took

place in Ticknor Lounge. The goal of the event was to make students aware of the *Common Word* document, its importance, and its place in the future between dialogue and interreligious understandings between the Abrahamic faiths.

***National Interfaith Awareness Week  
(NIAW) Day of Service***

For this event, we invited members of the diverse religious organizations on campus to partake in a joint community service project. We went to a local homeless shelter, bringing food for its guests. We also helped to prepare and serve this food to families visiting the shelter. This event helped to emphasize the importance of community service in various religious traditions. The goal of this event was to demonstrate the commonality across various religions in attitudes towards community service, thus fostering interfaith awareness and amity.

***Documentary Film Screening by the  
Pluralism Project***

For this event, we screened a film called *Acting on Faith: Women's New*

*Religious Activism in America*, a documentary created by the Pluralism Project about the work of female activists in their respective faiths. Popcorn and soda were provided to the attendees, and a discussion followed the movie. The goal of the event was to demonstrate the various challenges that women in different religions have faced.

***Game Night***

For game night, we invited members of the various religious groups on campus to partake in a round of *Jeopardy*, in which teams were tested on their basic knowledge of tenets and facts pertaining to religious traditions. Teams were composed of members of several religious communities, and questions were designed by members of different traditions (and thus represented the religious diversity on campus). Pizza and drinks were served. The goal of this event was to promote interreligious understanding in a fun setting, and to encourage bonds across religious groups.

*Osub Ahmed '10*



*Left, Top: The Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe performs a Chinese dance at the Chinese New Year celebration, held this year in Leverett House's dining hall. Left, Bottom: Student performers delight the audience with a traditional lion dance. Below: Students of all cultural backgrounds to celebrate the start of the Chinese Year of the Rat.*

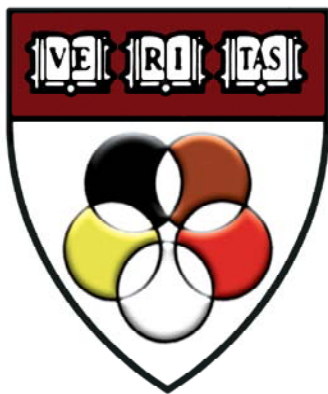




## Acknowledgements



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 2008 semester: Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University; Dr. David Pilbeam, 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; 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, former senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity and professor of the history of science and of African and African American studies, and newly appointed dean of Harvard College. The Harvard Foundation is grateful to Dr. Leo H. Buchanan for his proofreading assistance.



### The Mission of the Harvard Foundation

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

### Harvard Foundation Flagship Annual Programs

*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.*

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 2007-2008

Dr. Donald H. Pfister, *Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Curator of the Farlow Library and Herbarium, Dean of the Summer School, Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee*  
 Dr. Gary Alpert, *Entomology Officer of Environmental Health and Safety*  
 Dr. Ali Asani, *Professor of the Practice of Indo-Muslim Languages and Cultures, Associate of Lowell House*  
 Dr. Leo H. Buchanan, *Audiologist, Harvard University Health Services*  
 Dr. S. Allen Counter, *Director of the Harvard Foundation, Professor of Neurology*  
 Dr. John E. Dowling '57, PhD '61, *Gordon and Llura Gund Professor of Neurosciences, Professor of Ophthalmology*  
 Dr. Scott Edwards, *Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Curator of Ornithology*  
 Mr. David L. Evans, *Senior Harvard College Admissions Officer*  
 Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons '67, *Harvard College Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid to Students*  
 Dr. William Gelbart, *Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology*  
 Reverend Peter J. Gomes, *Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Founder*  
 Ms. Robin Gottlieb, *Professor of Practice of Mathematics*  
 Dr. William A. Graham, *John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity, Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies*  
 Dr. Benedict Gross, *George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Mathematics*  
 Dr. David Haig, *George Putnam Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology*  
 Dr. Evelyn Hammonds, *Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies; Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity*  
 Dr. J. Woodland Hastings, *Paul C. Mangelsdorf Professor of Natural Sciences*  
 Mr. Marvin Hightower, *Senior Writer and Archivist, Harvard University Gazette*  
 Ms. Carmen D. Lopez, *Executive Director of Harvard University Native American Program*  
 Dr. Robert Lue, *Professor of the Practice of Molecular and Cellular Biology; Director of Life Sciences Education*  
 Ms. Nancy Maull, *Senior Advisor to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences*  
 Dr. Michael McElroy, *Gilbert Butler Professor of Environmental Studies*  
 Dr. David Mitten, *James Loeb Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology*  
 Dr. Sandra Naddaff, *Director of Freshman Seminars, Master of Mather House, Director of Studies in the Literature Concentration, Senior Lecturer on Literature and Comparative Literature*  
 Dr. Michael Shinagel, *Dean of Continuing Education and University Extension; Senior Lecturer on English and American Literature and Language*  
 Dr. Robert Woollacott, *Professor of Biology and Curator of Marine Invertebrates in the Museum of Comparative Zoology*

## Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Members 2007-2008

Harvard African Students Association | Harvard College Albanian Club | Harvard Armenian Society | Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association | Asian American Brotherhood | Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe | Harvard Asian American Women's Association | Association of Black Harvard Women | Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán | Harvard Bhangra | Harvard Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Supporters Alliance | Harvard BlackCAST (Black Community and Student Theater) | Harvard Black Men's Forum | Harvard Black Students Association | Harvard Bulgarian Club | Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club | Harvard-Radcliffe Catholic Student Association | Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association | Concilio Latino de Harvard | Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association | Expressions Dance Company | Harvard Darfur Action Group | Dharma (Harvard's Hindu Students Association) | Diversity & Distinction (magazine) | Fuerza Latina | Harvard Half Asian People's Association | Harvard Hillel | Holoimua O Hawaii | Harvard Hong Kong Society | Harvard College Interfaith Council | Harvard College Irish-American Society | Harvard Islamic Society | Harvard Italian American Association | Harvard Japan Society | Korean Association | Kuumba Singers of Harvard College | Harvard College Latinos in Health Careers | Harvard College Latino Men's Collective | Latinas Unidas de Harvard | Mariachi Veritas de Harvard | Native Americans at Harvard College | Nigerian Student Association | La Organización de Puertorriqueños en Harvard | Harvard Philippine Forum | Harvard Polish Society | Harvard/Radcliffe RAZA | Harvard Romanian Association | Harvard College Sangeet | Harvard College Scandinavian Society | Harvard Society of Arab Students | Harvard Society of Black Scientists & Engineers | South Asian Association | Harvard Spoken Word Society | Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society | Harvard Thai Society | United World Club at Harvard College | Harvard Vietnamese Association | Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe | Woodbridge Society for International Students | Harvard Wushu Club | Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA)





photo by Romana Vysatova



Left: Spencer Wells PhD '94 joins Harvard Foundation students during his visit with the Genographic Project. Above: Sergio Ramirez '10 and Diego Renteria '11 play at Mariachi Veritas de Harvard's concert in Lowell Lecture Hall.



Left to Right: Professor Ingrid Monson and Kirkland House master Dr. Verena Conley welcome Mr. Herbie Hancock to the Kirkland House Cultural Rhythms luncheon.



Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter discusses the Portraiture Project with Ms. Sandra Grindlay, curator of the Harvard Portrait Collection, at the Rulan Pian portrait unveiling.



Celebrated actor Ray Liotta meets with students of the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard Italian American Society in the Harvard Foundation conference room in Thayer Hall.



Taiwanese Society co-presidents Benjamin Wu '10 and Jackie Hsieh '10 speak of the impact of Professor Rulan Pian's leadership on Harvard's Taiwanese community.



Harvard Foundation Staff, Interns, and Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Officers



Elizabeth Salazar,  
*Administrative Coordinator*  
Shannon O'Brien,  
*Student Activities*  
*Coordinating Assistant*  
Nworah Ayogu '10, *Intern*  
Simi Bhat '08, *Intern*  
Matt Bresnahan '09, *Intern*



Theresa Cheng '08, *Intern*  
Matt Clair '09, *Intern*  
Petros Egziabher '09, *Intern*  
Liz Eve '10, *Intern*  
Lizzy Eze '11, *Intern*



Jackie Hairston '10, *Intern*  
Layusa Isa-Odidi '09, *Intern*  
Kelsey Leonard '10, *Intern*  
Elise Liu '11, *Intern*  
Kevin Liu '11, *Intern*



Amanda Mangaser '10, *Intern*  
Louizza Martinez '09, *Intern*  
Muriel Payán '08, *Intern*  
Marisol Pineda-Conde '08,  
*Intern*  
Richie Serna '10, *Intern*



Rauda Tellawi '08,  
*SAC Secretary*  
Sara Zaidi '11, *Intern*



**THE HARVARD FOUNDATION**

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