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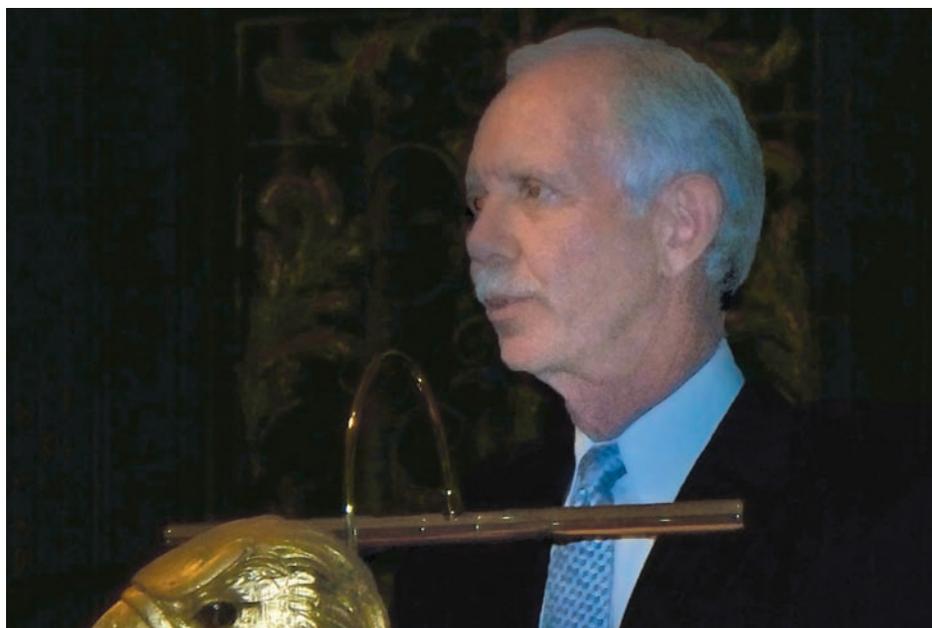
Actor Blair Underwood Artist in Residence



Foundation Writers Series Hosts Aisling Shen



Heroic Pilot Chesley Sullenberger Presented with 2009 Humanitarian Award



Harvard North Pole Centennial Dinner with Keynote Speaker Linda Johnson Rice



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On the cover, clockwise from Bottom Left: Author and businesswoman Aisling Shen reads excerpts from her book, *A Tiger's Heart*; actor, author, and director Blair Underwood returns to Harvard, hosted by Winthrop House, as Harvard Foundation Artist in Residence; airline pilot and safety expert Chesley R. Sullenberger, III, delivers the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture after receiving the 2009 Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award in Memorial Church; Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter (2nd from R.) welcomes Foundation guests (L.-R.) United States Navy Vice Admiral Melvin G. Williams, Jr., *Ebony* and *Jet* magazine CEO Linda Johnson Rice, and Commander Michael Brunner (of the USS Annapolis) to Harvard.

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.



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 under the Harvard motto veritas ("truth"). The symbol, "the unbroken circle of humanity," was designed by Dr. S. Allen Counter in 1981.

The *Harvard Foundation Journal* has been produced semi-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. For more information, or to be added to the Harvard Foundation mailing list, please contact:

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Letter from the Director

President Faust, Dean Smith, Dean Hammonds, and members of the Harvard Faculty,

I am pleased to report to you that the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation conducted a series of superb programs and projects during the fall semester of the 2009–2010 academic year that have served to improve intercultural and racial understanding in the Harvard community. With the support and guidance of our distinguished Faculty Advisory Committee, I have had the honor of serving as steward for the more than one hundred seventy programs conducted under the auspices of the Harvard Foundation during the fall semester.

Our students of Asian background, for example, hosted Asian Awareness Week, a week-long series of educational programs that explored cultural, social, and political aspects of various Asian peoples, including Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, South Asian, and Vietnamese. Our students of the Harvard Islamic Society hosted a traditional *iftaar* series in collaboration with several student organizations, including the Jewish students of Harvard Hillel. Also, the students of Harvard Hillel received support from the Harvard Foundation to host an interfaith Shabbat reception that included students of the Harvard Islamic Society as well as students of all other backgrounds and religions. Harvard RAZA, our Mexican-American student organization, held an excellent intercultural/political discussion entitled “Borderlands,” which dealt with issues of immigration. The Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers was supported by the Foundation to host an annual mentorship luncheon as well as a summer opportunities fair, and the Harvard Vietnamese Association was supported to host a panel discussion on Vietnamese-American identity in the U.S., entitled “Breaking the Hyphen.” These are but a few examples of the over one hundred seventy multicultural programs supported by the Harvard Foundation in the fall semester.

Among our more high-profile programs in the fall semester was a panel discussion on interracial dating and an appearance by the True Story Theater company, an improvisational theater group that acted out a series of personal experiences with racial conflict described to them by our students. We also hosted a panel discussion on the Fort Hood Tragedy led by Harvard Foundation faculty committee member Professor Ali Asani and Muslim Chaplain Taha Abdul-Basser. Our annual writers series featured author Aisling Shen, and our annual film series featured *One Water*, which was introduced by director Sanjeev Chatterjee. The film series also featured the civil rights film *Legacy: Black and White in America*, which was followed by a panel discussion that included a number of distinguished Harvard faculty.

The Harvard Foundation was delighted to join Winthrop House in hosting acclaimed actor Blair Underwood as Artist in Residence. Mr. Underwood was the recipient of the Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award in 2002, and returned as

visiting author in 2005. House Masters Professor Ron Sullivan and Dr. Stephanie Robinson welcomed Mr. Underwood to their House for a week of creative activities with Harvard College students, including a collaborative series of master acting classes with the Office for the Arts. By all accounts, Blair Underwood’s visit to Harvard was a tremendous success and well received by students of all backgrounds.

Each year, the Harvard Foundation presents the Humanitarian Award to a person who exemplifies the Foundation’s mission and ideals. The 2009 Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award was presented to Captain Chesley Sullenberger, the US Airways pilot who skillfully landed his crippled commercial airplane safely on the Hudson River, and altruistically guided all of his passengers and crew to safety. From the time of his arrival through an evening reception and dinner at Lowell House, hosted by House Masters Professor Diana Eck and Dr. Dorothy Austin, he was surrounded by admiring Harvard College students. Captain Sullenberger delivered the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture in Memorial Church to a large audience of students and faculty. With eloquence and aplomb, he spoke of the importance of mastering skills, and the potential for good in all of us. “At the end of our lives,” Captain Sullenberger said, “we will ask ourselves: did I make a difference? I hope for all of you, the answer is ‘Yes.’” His presence at Harvard made a difference for all in our community.

Twenty years ago, President Derek Bok hosted the Harvard North Pole Family Reunion, during which he honored the visiting 80-year-old Inuit sons of North Pole discoverers Matthew Henson and Robert Peary. At the time, a promise was made to the sons, Anauaq Henson and Kali Peary, that in the centennial year of their fathers’ attainment of the Pole, Harvard would celebrate the event with an expedition to the North Pole and a commemorative dinner at the University. On December 1, 2009, the Harvard Foundation kept the *North Pole Promise* by hosting a commemorative dinner for faculty, students, alumni, and other distinguished guests in Winthrop House.

It is important to note that the Harvard Foundation conducted monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee meetings with participation of approximately fifty students representing diverse ethno-cultural groups. Each of these meetings included a speaker and a breakout session for discussions of aspects of intercultural life and interaction at the College. These meetings enabled our students to communicate directly with faculty about any concerns, issues, or conflicts regarding intercultural and race relations.

We look forward to an equally productive spring semester for the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,
S. Allen Counter, D.M.Sc., Ph.D.
Director of the Harvard Foundation

Heroic Pilot Chesley Sullenberger Receives 2009 Humanitarian Award



Above, Left: The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes (L.), Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, and Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.), director of the Harvard Foundation, present the 2009 Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award to heroic airline pilot Captain Chesley Sullenberger. Above, Right: Captain Sullenberger (L.) speaks with a group of students in the Lowell House Junior Common Room after the award ceremony.

With both engines of the aircraft down, it was a matter of seconds for Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger, III, pilot in command of the Airbus A320, on January 15, 2009. Captain Sullenberger successfully carried out an emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, without incurring any passenger injuries or deaths. His heroic feat that day would earn him the nation's admiration. For his incredible poise under adverse conditions, as well as his commitment to making flying safer for all, the Harvard Foundation presented him with its highest humanitarian award.

Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter and the Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in Memorial Church, presented Captain Sullenberger with the 2009 Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award in a November ceremony in Memorial Church.

"Today we are recognizing that there are still heroes among us. We are in the presence of goodness and greatness," said the Reverend Gomes. "It is the Harvard Foundation that cultivates the life of goodness and greatness."

Captain Sullenberger, however, refused to call himself a hero. In delivering the Peter J. Gomes Lecture, he said, "Heroes choose to put themselves in danger. I was

just doing my job." Citing his curiosity and passion for life-long learning and training as what contributed to his actions on that January day, Captain Sullenberger said that through teamwork among a diverse group of people, common ideas and goals were achieved and a challenge that seemed insurmountable was overcome. Captain Sullenberger realized that his actions renewed people's faith in humanity. "It reminded people of the

potential for good."

In the same vein, Harvard Foundation intern Bronwen O'Herin '12 reminded students, faculty, and other members of the Harvard community that Captain Sullenberger is a role model for all. "We too might respond in the same exemplary manner," she said: "meet the challenges we face with the same grace."

—Carola Cintrón-Arroyo '12

Foundation Reaches out to Students at Activities Fair

Hundreds of undergraduates buzzed through the annual Freshman Activities Fair, moving from table to table and engaging with student organizations that served every interest. Situated among the many Harvard cultural organizations (many of which are affiliated with our office), the Harvard Foundation offered the chance to regularly interact with undergraduates and student organizations of all racial and cultural backgrounds.

A team of student interns passed out applications for both intern and Associate positions to interested students, as they excitedly explained the Foundation's mission to new students and listed the many opportunities available to explore diversity at the College through



the Harvard Foundation. The interns emphasized that the Foundation not only hosts its own cultural programming but also helps independent student groups to reach their goals. The Harvard Foundation attracted freshmen and upperclassmen alike, as many students were interested in the chance to contribute to the great diversity characterizing Harvard College.

—Elizabeth Eve '10

Blair Underwood Returns to Harvard as Artist in Residence



It was the third time that actor and director Blair Underwood visited Harvard University as guest of the Harvard Foundation—this time as the 2009 Harvard Foundation Artist in Residence. On his previous trips to Harvard, Mr. Underwood, a longtime friend of the Harvard Foundation, hosted the 2002 Cultural Rhythms Festival as Artist of the Year, and later participated in the Foundation's writers series. As Artist in Residence, Mr. Underwood stayed for a full week on campus as a guest of Winthrop House, under the auspices of House Masters Professor Ronald Sullivan and Dr. Stephanie Robinson. Mr. Underwood participated in numerous events in which students were able to interact with and learn from him.

Mr. Underwood began his week as Artist in Residence by attending a scene study class at Harvard's American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.), where he answered students' questions about finding success in acting. He was able to share with students the successes as well as obstacles he had faced in choosing acting as a career path. Later in the evening he joined students at the opening of *Best of Both Worlds*, an R&B rendition of Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*. The play featured local gospel choirs, including community, university, and church choirs.

Just as much as students were able to learn from Mr. Underwood, he was also eager to learn about the Harvard experience from students. Mr. Underwood toured the campus,

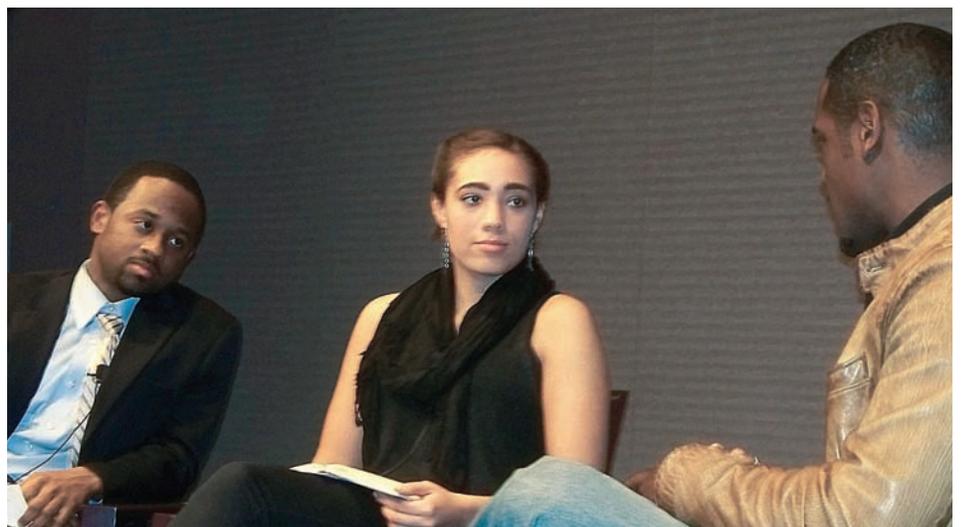
attended a public health class, and ate lunch at Annenberg with freshmen and student group members. Foundation students and members of Harvard's African-American community were also given the chance to have conversations with Mr. Underwood.

At the conclusion of his week as Foundation Artist in Residence, Mr. Underwood was featured in an "Actors Studio"-style discussion at the New College Theatre, co-sponsored by the Office for the Arts. During the interview, moderated by Jordan Reddout '10 and Black Students Association president Spencer Hardwick '11, Mr. Underwood fielded questions from the audience on a variety of artistic subjects. He was impressed to learn that many students in the audience were not only fans, but also aspiring actors and actresses. Mr. Underwood spoke of his television

appearances on shows such as *The Cosby Show* and *Sex and the City*, as well as his breakout role on *L.A. Law*. He shared many life challenges and encounters that he had experienced as an actor from a minority background. Finally, Mr. Underwood spoke to students of the importance of earning a college degree, and of supporting individuals of all racial and ethnic backgrounds in the entertainment industry.

—Carola Cintrón-Arroyo '12

Above: Actor and writer Blair Underwood speaks to a Harvard community gathering at a studio discussion about his experience in film and television as an African-American artist. Below: The studio conversation, held in Harvard's New College Theatre, was moderated by Spencer Hardwick '11, president of the Black Students Association, and Jordan Reddout '10, an undergraduate performer and director.



Panel Discusses the Impact of the Election of President Barack Obama Director Richard Karz Screens the Film *Legacy: Black and White in America*



Above: Award-winning journalist Callie Crossley (Far R.) moderates a panel discussion on race relations in the United States, following the screening of Legacy: Black and White in America. The panel consisted of (L.-R.) Dr. Joseph Ellis, Mount Holyoke College Professor and scholar on U.S. History; Ambassador Swanee Hunt, HKS Eleanor Roosevelt Lecturer in Public Policy; and Dr. Orlando Patterson, John Cowles Professor of Sociology.

To commemorate the one-year anniversary of Barack Obama's election to the presidency of the United States, the Harvard Foundation, the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard Black Students Association presented a screening of the documentary *Legacy: Black and White in America*, which was followed by a panel discussion on the film and modern leadership. Filmmaker Richard Karz was also present to discuss his work on *Legacy*.

The film is centered around footage from a tribute dinner for the Civil Rights Movement generation, hosted by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. This scene serves as a branching point to tell the stories of its participants through interviews with them. The powerful 90-minute documentary compared race relations, specifically the treatment of African Americans, during the Civil Rights era to race relations in the current day. The film was a tribute to the work and pain endured by the brave men and women of the Civil Rights era in order to make possible the tremendous achievements of the subsequent generations featured in the documentary. It highlighted the success and impact of prominent contemporary African Americans such as Condoleezza Rice and Deborah Roberts. However,

it also turned a critical lens on the damaging impact of negative stereotypes of African Americans that have persisted. The film sought to paint a picture of both how far race relations have come since the 1960s and how much further they need to go.

The film was followed by a panel discussion focusing on both the film and the effectiveness and phenomenon of Barack Obama. The panel featured Dr. Joseph Ellis, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Mount Holyoke College professor; Dr. Orlando Patterson, John Cowles Professor of Sociology, who has worked extensively with race and society; and Dr. Swanee Hunt, former ambassador to Austria and Eleanor Roosevelt Lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government. Emmy Award-winning journalist Callie Crossley moderated the panel. Discussion topics ranged from the concept of a "post-racial America" to foreign policy. Ambassador Hunt spoke particularly about the history and interaction between the movements for women's rights and minorities' rights. Through reflection of the film and the discussion afterward, audience members joined panelists in analyzing the construction of race in America, its impact, and how it will affect the future.

—Reshma Lutfeali '13



Mr. Loren Gary (Above), associate director at the Center for Public Leadership, and Mr. David L. Evans (Below), Senior Admissions Officer and member of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee, reflect upon the impact and significance of President Barack Obama's election in 2008, and comment on the role of race in America in this generation.



Author Aisling Shen Discusses her Book, *A Tiger's Heart*

In December, the Harvard Foundation had the honor of hosting author Aisling Juanjuan Shen in the Mather House Junior Common Room. As part of the Harvard Foundation Writer Series, Ms. Shen met with students to discuss her autobiography, *A Tiger's Heart: the Story of a Modern Chinese Woman*.

Born into the poverty of a rice-farming village near China's Yangtze River delta, Ms. Shen chose to rise above a life of hard labor to pursue a college degree. After graduating from a teacher's college and taking a government teaching position with no prospects, she again uprooted herself and pursued a life-long dream of achieving success in business—a journey that took her to Southern China and ultimately to the United States.

Now a *magna cum laude* graduate from Wellesley College, Ms. Shen has finally found happiness in her passionate work at a prominent investment management



*Author Aisling Shen meets with students in the Mather House Junior Common Room for a reading from her book *A Tiger's Heart*, followed by a discussion of her work and life experiences.*

firm in Boston, and in her budding career as a writer.

After a moving account of her journey to Boston, students began asking her of the difficulties she encountered in pursuing a career as a writer, especially

as someone who has struggled yet persevered in teaching herself English. She described in particular how her writing helped her come to terms with her life here in the U.S. and allowed her, most importantly, to heal her heart

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Harvard Foundation Explores Issues Surrounding the Fort Hood Shooting Students Discuss Media Reactions and Personal Concerns

“What are the implications of the Fort Hood shooting for us as a national and campus community?” This was the question posed at the “Reflecting on Fort Hood” panel discussion in November, held in the days after the tragic shooting at the Fort Hood military base in Texas. For members of the Islamic community at Harvard, the superfluous media attention given to the religious background of the gunman, Nidal Malik Hasan, was great cause for concern.

Media outlets often implied that Hasan was driven by his faith, classifying his actions as domestic acts of terrorism. The panel critically considered the media's portrayals of Hasan and how our community (both on campus and nationally) should deal with such portrayals.

The panel featured Dr. Ali Asani,



(L.–R.) Professor Ali Asani, Ms. Nancy Khalil, Ms. Sarah Eltantawi, and Harvard Chaplain Taha Abdul-Basser discuss the popular and media reactions to the November shooting in Fort Hood, Texas.

professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic religion and cultures; Mr. Taha Abdul-Basser, Harvard Muslim Chaplain; and doctoral candidates Ms. Nancy Khalil and Ms. Sarah Eltantawi.

Panelists offered some explanations for why such emphasis was placed on Hasan's religious background: reactionary sensationalism, stereotypes of Muslim individuals, and the process of “othering” the Muslim community. The panel discussed how the media simplified Hasan's motivation by

applying an exclusive lens of explanation to his actions, when in actuality, religion alone cannot account for his actions—religion does not exist in a vacuum.

Furthermore, the panel addressed the extent to which one can or cannot blame the media. Ms. Khalil noted that the media would not generate these stories and the angles from which they tell them if there was not a demand for them in the populace. In many ways, the events at Fort Hood uncovered the hidden

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Commemorative Dinner Honors North Pole Discoverers and Navy Officers Keynote Speech Delivered by Linda Johnson Rice, CEO of *Ebony* and *Jet* Magazines



1: Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons (L.) presents keys to the city to Johnson Publishing Company CEO Linda Johnson Rice (C.) and Harvard Foundation Artist in Residence Blair Underwood. **2:** U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Melvin G. Williams, Jr. (C.), meets Judge Judith Dilday (L.) and Melvin B. Miller '56, publisher of the Bay State Banner. **3:** Dr. S. Allen Counter (C.) introduces Commander Michael Brunner (Far L.) to midshipmen of the Harvard ROTC. **4:** Mr. Sean Brady '89, HLS '92 (L.) attends the commemorative dinner with his parents Hannah Theresa (R.) and John. **5:** Ms. Johnson Rice delivers the keynote address. **6:** Assistant Dean Bob Mitchell attends the dinner. **7:** House Masters Ronald Sullivan (L.) and Stephanie Robinson welcome dinner guests. **8:** Dr. Counter commends Mr. Eric Labat, U.S. Navy Strategic Communications Manager.

In honor of the one hundredth anniversary of the attainment of the North Pole by United States Navy Commander Robert E. Peary and his associate Matthew A. Henson, the Harvard Foundation hosted a commemorative dinner in Winthrop House to celebrate this great achievement. The two American Explorers, accompanied by four Inuit assistants, were the first Americans ever to reach the North Pole, arriving at the top of the planet on April 6, 1909.

The Harvard North Pole Discovery Centennial Commemorative Dinner was attended by Harvard students and faculty, as well as other special guests. After a warm welcome from Professor Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Master of Winthrop House, Dr. Counter introduced the event by recounting the story of the multiethnic North Pole discovery and the Harvard Foundation's role in correcting the historical oversight that left Mr. Henson's crucial role unrecognized.

Although both Commander Peary and Mr. Henson discovered the North Pole together, due to the prevailing racial attitudes in 1909, only Commander Peary was recognized by the media and by history books as an American hero, despite his attempts to attribute due credit to his associate. Also ignored by history was the legacy left by both Mr. Henson and Commander Peary with the Inuit people—during the expedition, both men fathered children with Inuit women.

The Harvard Foundation's connection with the North Pole and Mr. Henson's historical legacy began in the 1980s, when Dr. Counter discovered Anaukaq Henson and Kali Peary, the 80-year-old sons of Henson and Peary living in Northwest Greenland. To fulfill their last request—to travel to the United States and have the chance to “touch the hand of a relative”—and with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Defense and John H. Johnson, president of Johnson Publishing Company and friend of the late Matthew Henson, Dr. Counter was able to bring the two men and ten of their children to the U.S., where they were welcomed to Harvard by President Derek C. Bok, and later to their fathers' graves in Arlington National Cemetery by an official message from President Ronald Reagan. During the historic Harvard North Pole Family Reunion, Dr. Counter promised to return to the North Pole in 2009, with the descendants of Anaukaq and Kali to commemorate the 100th anniversary of its American discovery by Mr. Henson and Commander Peary.

Although poor weather conditions prevented Dr. Counter, his daughter Olivia, and descendants of Matthew Henson and Robert Peary from getting to the actual North Pole in 2009, they commemorated the event with a ceremony on April 6, the date of the centennial, by reading a letter from U.S. President Barack Obama in Qaanaaq, the northernmost village in Greenland and home to the Henson and Peary families.

At the same time the *USS Annapolis*, a Los-Angeles class

North Pole Centennial Celebrated at Winthrop House

nuclear submarine under the command of Commander Michael Brunner, transported the commemorative case created by Dr. Counter to the North Pole. The case contained memorabilia related to the North Pole's discovery. The crew of the *Annapolis* conducted a ceremony at the North Pole, which included a reading of the Harvard Foundation's mission statement and a poem from Henson's diary. At the December dinner, Commander Brunner spoke about this experience and the significance of the North Pole's American discovery. Vice Admiral Melvin G. Williams, Jr., Commander of the United States Navy Second Fleet, spoke to the gathering on the remarkable achievements of the explorers and the doors that they opened for the generations to follow them.



Ms. Linda Johnson Rice, chairman and CEO of Johnson Publishing Company, and one of America's leading businesswomen, delivered the keynote address, reflecting on the importance of recognizing the contributions of minorities in America. She also spoke about her father's role in the initial commemoration in *Ebony Magazine* of Matthew Henson's Arctic contributions, and how she has continued this legacy.



Other tributes followed from Mr. Sean Thomas Brady '89, HLS '92, Treasurer of the North Pole Committee, and Nworah Ayogu '10, Harvard Foundation intern and 2010 class marshal, who spoke about the importance of exploration and of Henson and Peary's legacy, calling them "discoverers in the true sense of the word... blazing new paths racially and geographically." Mr. Ayogu finished his speech with a call to action. "We must remember to take with us the spirit of Henson and Peary, the discoverer's spirit," he urged, "and of maintaining our curiosity and creativity, and not being afraid to push the envelope and take those leaps that let us truly redefine our spheres."



In appreciation for their contributions to the Harvard North Pole Discovery Centennial Commemorative Project, the Harvard Foundation presented medals to Ms. Linda Johnson Rice; Mr. Sean T. Brady; Vice Admiral Melvin G. Williams, Jr.; Commander Michael Brunner; Lt. Commander Howard Craig, officer on the *USS Annapolis*; and Mr. Eric M. Labat, U.S. Navy Strategic Communications Manager, in recognition of their special efforts in the centennial commemoration of the historic contributions of Henson and Peary, and the Inuits Ootah, Egingwah, Seegloo, and Oqueah.



Acclaimed author, actor, and Harvard Foundation Artist in Residence Blair Underwood closed the ceremony with a reflection on the North Pole legacy of Matthew A. Henson and Robert E. Peary, and their contributions. He saluted the guests of honor and Harvard for marking this historic event. Mr. Underwood ended the evening with a challenge to those present, to continue to explore ways of advancing humanity and to make a lasting mark on society.

—Reshma Lutfegli '13

North Pole Centennial Celebrated at Winthrop House



Centennial Dinner participants included **1:** (L.-R.) Dr. Bruce Price '72, Mr. Rob Barber '72, and former Harvard Foundation intern Mr. Sean T. Brady '89, HLS '92; **2:** (L.-R.) Mr. Gideon Gil of the Boston Globe, Mrs. Bibi Conrad, and Mr. Jonathan Conrad of New York; **3:** Ms. Olivia Counter (L.), with medal for traveling to the top of Greenland, and U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Melvin G. Williams, Jr.; **4:** Actor Blair Underwood (C.) with Harvard Foundation interns; **5:** The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, who performed a musical tribute.



Harvard Foundation Welcomes Class of 2013 to Harvard College

To greet the Class of 2013 as they arrived on campus for their first year, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations had the pleasure of hosting a welcome reception for freshman students and their families in the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub. On a sunny afternoon in the Calendar of Opening Days, the reception ushered hundreds of first-year students into a casual environment in which they learned more about the diversity of the Harvard community.

Harvard Foundation interns spoke with many of the guests, sharing their own personal experiences and providing information about the variety of ways to become involved on campus. Dressed in Harvard Foundation T-shirts, the interns were visible examples of the broad range of diversity and diversity-related programming represented by the Harvard Foundation.

The first-year students were encouraged to apply either for internships with the Foundation or for positions with the Harvard Foundation Associates Program. The Associates Program, formerly known as Friends of the Harvard Foundation, offers students the opportunity to organize diversity programming (ranging from ethnic food study breaks to film screenings) in each



Left: Professor Evelyn Hammonds, dean of Harvard College, welcomes the class of 2013 to Harvard College. Right: Dr. Suzy Nelson, dean of student life, encourages students to take advantage of the resources and programming available to them through the Harvard Foundation.



residential House and in the Freshman Yard. The Associates, in a capacity similar to that of Harvard Foundation interns, serve to increase awareness of race-related issues among smaller groups within the student community.

After the students and their families settled into the Queen's Head Pub, Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, warmly greeted the guests. He advised them on a Harvard Foundation axiom: if one does not spend time developing friendships with people of other backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions, one's Harvard education has lost half of its value.

Dr. Counter's words were reinforced by Dr. Evelyn Hammonds, dean

of Harvard College, who spoke on student-administrator relations; Dr. Suzy Nelson, dean of student life, who addressed the importance of student activities involvement; and Mr. Tom Dingman, dean of freshmen, who reminded students to take full advantage of this important first year.

The reception ended with words of advice and encouragement from Harvard Foundation interns, who urged their fellow students to get involved on campus through the Harvard Foundation and the many cultural and ethnic student organizations that it supports.

—Olamide Oladipo '12

Harvard Foundation Opens Its Doors to Students for Open House

For the newly arrived freshmen, the Calendar of Opening Days is an invitation for them to make Harvard's campus feel more like home. Although the Harvard Foundation had also hosted a welcoming reception during this week for parents and students in the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub, the open house was an opportunity to acquaint first-year students with the Harvard Foundation office.

The Freshmen Dean's Office included the Harvard Foundation on a list of "must-visit" resources at Harvard, and many first-year students took advantage

of the open house schedule in the Calendar of Opening Days to visit the office. Interns stationed at a table outside Thayer Hall invited students to sign up for more information throughout the year even if they were unable to stay long at the Foundation open house.

Inside, interns and staff greeted visitors and discussed the Harvard Foundation's mission, the student groups associated collaborated with the Foundation office, and a few notable guests who have participated in past events. As videos of past Cultural Rhythms performances played in the background, students

were encouraged to take copies of the latest *Harvard Foundation Journal* and an internship application.

At any given moment throughout the afternoon, one could overhear a freshman asking about the roles of an intern or the name of the group performing on the Cultural Rhythms stage. The open house was successful in connecting students to their respective cultural groups, informing freshmen of opportunities to get involved and, most importantly, establishing that diversity and culture has a home at Harvard.

—Jackie Hairston '10

“The Color of Love” Panel Discussion Explores Interracial Romance



A discussion panel examines the challenges and reactions that are often faced by interracial couples and their children. Moderated by Professor Werner Sollors (Above, C.), student panelists included (Above) James Fish '10 (L.), Stephanie Delgado (R.), (Below), Daniel Suo '10, and Teake '12 (R.)

Just as the oak trees in Harvard Yard began to change into their fall colors, more than one hundred students gathered on the top floor of Emerson Hall in October for a discussion called “The Color of Love: Interracial Dating at Harvard.” The panel of six undergraduates, representing a spectrum of ethnicities, was moderated by Dr. Werner Sollors, the Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot Professor of English Literature, and professor of African and African-American studies. Professor Sollors has published a number of works on the topic of interracial literature and interaction. The panelists candidly spoke with the audience about their personal experiences dating “outside the race” and the social and personal challenges that accompanied those relationships.

Professor Sollors opened the discussion by citing statistics on what appeared to be the American public’s increasing acceptance of interracial marriage since 1967, which is the year that the Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* deemed the Virginia legislature’s ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional. At that time, only 33% of Americans polled supported the case’s verdict and the notion of interracial marriage, but by the mid-2000s, that approval rating had leaped to 95%. Both panelists and audience members agreed that this was a drastic numerical change and observed the incongruence between

the acceptance of interracial dating and its practice. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, only 5% of American marriages were between people of different races.

According to panelist James Fish '10, despite high approval ratings, he believed that people tended to “exoticize” or question the genuine motives of each party in such relationships, especially since film and television typically portray interracial relationships as spectacle-worthy instead of normal. The idea of “Yellow Fever” was brought up and a panelist suggested that cultural and gender stereotypes caused Asian women to be highly sought after, leaving Asian men feeling “left behind.”

Students also recognized that misconceptions and fear, especially fear of rejection and loss of cultural purity,

played a significant role in inhibiting people from dating outside their race. Panelist Kim Foster '11 followed up by discussing just how significant the fear is of losing one’s culture in a “beige America,” while Stephanie Delgado '10 shared that in her experience, even Latino men who dated women of other races were afraid to let Latina women date around because they wanted them “saved for marriage.”

The conversation subsequently turned to the ways in which interracial relationships can potentially affect those around them, especially the parents and children of the couple. A freshman in the audience asserted that interreligious unions could also be just as controversial and threatening to a family’s stability. In her own family’s situation, for example, religious differences were the most paramount obstacle that her Hindi mother and Jewish father faced when trying to obtain their parents’ approval. The girl’s Jewish grandparents opposed the marriage, not because the potential spouse was Hindi, but because they were most concerned that their future grandchildren would not get a “proper” Jewish rearing. There was an overwhelming sentiment that raising multiracial children in present-day America presented unparalleled challenges; however, the panelists ended the evening with an undeniable sense of hope that as the American mindset becomes more progressive, race will be a less significant identity marker.

—Amaka Uzoh '11



Students Share Their Personal Stories in “Life Unscripted” Actors Perform Stories Provided by Audience Members and Provoke Discussion

Students gathered in Fong Auditorium in October to see real-life accounts of racial and ethnic experiences brought to life on stage. In the event titled “Life Unscripted: Raising the Curtain on Diversity,” the Harvard Foundation aimed to take a more intimate look at race and diversity through dramatic improvisational performance. The scenes were performed by the True Story Theater Company, a nonprofit ensemble cast based in the Boston area that seeks to “use theater for community development and social healing.”

In this unique event, audience members were the most active participants. Indeed, many students showed courage in sharing their personal stories within a public context. One student described her personal struggle to retain her Latina heritage as her family’s military affiliation required her to relocate to a new home every three years. She often questioned her identity and whether she even had the right to claim her Latina heritage anymore, as she assimilated more and more into the “American” culture. As she watched her story enacted on stage, she remarked that the performers had

captured completely the essence of her mixed emotions. Another student described her struggle to blend both her Korean and American identities. She explained that since she was born in the United States, she has preferred to speak English when visiting Korea. However, this was not well received during her time in Korea, as she encountered particularly strong anti-American sentiments brewing a few years ago. As a result, she described the agonizing task of leaving her “American” side behind once she stepped off of the plane in Korea.

Students at this event learned both about the pain of alienation and the power of persistence. One student shared his experience as an intern for the Barack Obama campaign. He was directed to register rural migrant workers for voting in the Southeast. However, he was driven away when others threatened him with violence for attempting to register the workers. This resilient student would not let this deter him; he returned in greater numbers with a team of coworkers to register the migrant workers. He was saddened, he



A player from the True Story Theater stage troupe performs an improvised reenactment of a cultural encounter shared by a student in the audience.

said, by the attempts of some people to recreate the ideal of what America is.

All in all, the students in attendance not only watched, but also felt the emotions of each student who chose to share his or her experience. Although the situations varied across a wide spectrum, they all held the common theme of searching and fostering communities and identities to hold on to.

—Christen Brown '13

Foundation Film Series Hosts Screening of *One Water*



Film director Sanjeev Chatterjee speaks to Harvard students and faculty about the lack of safe, accessible water to world communities.

The Harvard Foundation, in collaboration with the South Asian Association and South Asia Initiative, hosted Professor Sanjeev Chatterjee, vice dean of the University of Miami School of Communication, and executive

director of the Knight Center for International Media, for a screening of his celebrated film *One Water*. Professor Chatterjee delivered an introduction to the audience about the ideas behind the award-winning documentary, which he co-directed with University of Miami colleague Ali Habashi. The film emphasizes the importance of water and presents examples of communities across the globe that, for a variety of reasons, do not have access to safe, clean water.

In the opening lines of the *One Water*, the narrator states, “Water has the power to liberate,” and the Dalai Lama affirms, “Water is the first medicine on the planet.” A sweeping journey across fifteen countries, the film is mostly

visual, with intermittent dialogue and interviews; Professor Chatterjee’s film shows—rather than tells—viewers how water is integral in understanding a variety of cultures and how a lack of it is now essential in understanding the collective suffering of these peoples.

After the end of the film, a lively question and answer session followed. When asked what he thought would be a solution to the problems addressed in *One Water*, Professor Chatterjee replied that he only sees himself as a media maker, and that he hopes that his film will lead to more student-run initiative and awareness campaigns that will ultimately make an impact. Professor Chatterjee described his experience in

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Student Initiated Programs Sponsored by the Harvard Foundation

The Harvard Foundation collaborates with and provides grant funding to over seventy-five undergraduate cultural, ethnic, and religious organizations each semester. This section contains highlights of student-initiated programs and projects from the fall 2009 semester.

Harvard Hillel Invites Students to John Harvard's Bar Mitzvah

A bar or bat mitzvah, literally meaning “the son or daughter of the commandments,” is one of the most important and joyous occasions in a Jewish child’s life. The ceremony, which takes place at the age of 13, is a symbolic way of welcoming a child into the Jewish community as an adult. The individual, rather than his or her parents, is now responsible for his or her own Jewish life. It is the first time that the individual is called up to read the Torah and is subsequently asked whether he or she wishes to remain a Jew. This confirmation shows his or her autonomous choice of continued dedication to Jewish learning, tradition, and faith.

John Harvard’s Bar Mitzvah was a way for Harvard Hillel to share the fun, celebratory aspect of this milestone with the Harvard community by inviting

them to a re-creation of the gathering that follows the Shabbat service. The party included such time-honored customs as the *horah*, a traditional dance which is perhaps best known for “*Hava Nagilah*” (“Let Us Rejoice”), the tune to which it is set. Guests enjoyed kosher food and bar mitzvah games such as “Coke-Pepsi” and the “snowball dance,” and many filled a board with congratulatory messages for John Harvard (as the symbolic guest of honor). Live musical performances included Red Heifer, Harvard’s own Jewish rock band, and the student klezmer band Harvard ReckKlez.



This event, which captured the festive and lighthearted spirit of a bar mitzvah party, was a wonderful way for Hillel to introduce people from across the campus to one of the most fun traditions in modern Judaism.

—Lilli Margolin '11

Harvard Dharma Puja Series Shares Hindu Traditions with Students



Puja is a Hindu ritual which is a form of worship to a particular deity. It is often performed on Hindu religious holidays. Puja involves inviting God to receive one’s worship and making a series of offerings (e.g., honey, milk, yogurt) to seek God’s blessings. Generally, the ritual is conducted in front of an image or idol of the deity which is being worshipped. Our puja series took place in the Dharma prayer space in Canaday

B Basement and we held one puja every month in September, October, November and December. The fall puja series consisted of four pujas to different Hindu deities: Ganesh, Navaratri, Ayyappa, and Saraswathi.

Ganesh, the Remover of Obstacles, is one of the most worshiped deities in Hinduism. Our Ganesh Puja celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi, the day on which Ganesh is believed to bless his devotees. This puja, the first of the year, auspiciously fell near the start of classes.

Navaratri is an auspicious nine-day holiday in Hinduism. The Navaratri puja was one of the most accessible and well-known pujas to our membership, and there was significant interest in holding a Navaratri puja. Additionally,

we invited a few freshmen to host the puja, which helped to build the Dharma community. We sang bhajans (devotional songs), and chanted prayers.

Ayyappa is a deity who represents two of the most powerful gods in Hinduism combined (Vishnu and Shiva). By conducting this puja, which is more typically held in South Indian traditions, we hoped to expose our members to rituals that they might not have seen before.

Saraswathi is the deity of learning and education. Our biannual Saraswathi puja, held during reading period, has been a staple of our puja series, and one of the most popular pujas we conduct. At all of our pujas, Dharma served prasad, or ritual refreshment.

—Suhas Rao '12

News & Notes: Ongoing Foundation Initiatives and News from the Semester

Race Relations Advisor Activity Reports

The Harvard Foundation oversees the race relations advisor/tutor program, which aims to help promote positive and amicable relationships within the Harvard College community on a day-to-day level. Race relations advisors are House and first-year residence tutors and proctors whose responsibilities include facilitating racial and cultural discussions, coordinating House programs on race relations, and immediately addressing any matter in which a student may feel distress with regard to race, ethnicity, or religion. The reports below are only a small selection of their ongoing work.



Eliot House race relations advisor Carl Miller (L.) participates in the training role-playing session.

Fall Training and Orientation for All Tutors and Proctors

The fall orientation session served to introduce new tutors to the Harvard Foundation and to reintegrate returning tutors into their roles as race relations advisors. Each advisor's primary role is to serve as a liaison to the residential and Harvard Yard systems and to serve as first responders to racial incidents. An advisor is also responsible for planning cultural events in his or her House. The orientation was well attended both by new and returning tutors. In the first phase of the orientation, tutors and proctors discussed the mission of the Foundation and were given background information. The next part consisted of a role-playing workshop and discussion on various issues of race, ethnicity, religion, and socio-economic class. True Story Theater, an improvisational theater group, moderated the role-playing workshop. This activity gave the advisors a chance to become acquainted with each other and to bond as a group.

Film Screening: *Good Hair* Dunster House

Dunster House hosted a discussion

that focused on how beauty and attractiveness are shaped by social and cultural context. After the discussion, the group watched Chris Rock's film *Good Hair*, a documentary narrated by Mr. Rock that examines the styling industry for African-American women's hair. The film examines what society accepts or considers fashionable for a black woman's hair, and how the industry and cultural standards affect African-American culture.

Film Screening: *Mickey Mouse Monopoly* Cabot House

Students at Cabot House discussed the role of race in Disney films. The group watched selected clips from the 2001 documentary *Mickey Mouse Monopoly* and participated in a discussion about Disney and diversity led by Dr. Michael Baran, a cultural anthropologist and preceptor in expository writing with a specialty in diversity. In December 2009, Disney introduced the world to its first African-American princess in the much-anticipated *The Princess and the Frog*. Despite the movie's recent release, it has already sparked a heated debate.

Much of the debate is based on specifics of the film: the princess's name change, the fact that she spends much of the movie as a frog, the fact that her prince is not black, etc. However, other important questions remain under-examined: how do children learn about race and how much do they actually know about it? How much do children notice the race of their favorite princesses? How do movies without any human characters still convey messages about race and ethnicity?

Race Relations in the Media: Dinner Discussion with Professor Hua Hsu Leverett House

An informal dinner discussion invited students to examine issues surrounding race relations and media with Dr. Hua Hsu, visiting professor of English, who is teaching courses this year on literature beyond race and racial identity in literature. The purpose of this dinner was to provide a place to discuss how mass media portrays and affects race relations, especially in arts media, in which Professor Hsu specializes. Overall, the discussion was primarily a question and answer session between the professor and the attendees, as many of the attendees came with specific questions for the Professor Hsu. Though the event was scheduled near Thanksgiving break, the event saw a diverse group of attendees with different interests and perspectives on race relations. The group asked a wide range of interesting questions and facilitated a productive conversation about race relations in media with Professor Hsu.

Film Screening: *Catfish in Black Bean Sauce* Adams House

Students gathered to view *Catfish in Black Bean Sauce*, a comedy/drama about an African-American couple that adopts two Vietnamese children and events that occur when they are grown. At the film event, attendees enjoyed Vietnamese sandwiches as they held informal conversations about the topics touched upon in the film, such as interracial adoption and relationships, as well as black/Asian relations.

Foundation Agents Strengthen Ties Between Satellite Programs

In November, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations initiated a new series of Foundation mixers in an effort to foster exchange between three different supporting groups of the Harvard Foundation mission: interns, Foundation Associates, and race relations advisors.

Race relations advisors are House and freshman residence tutors and proctors whose responsibilities include facilitating racial and cultural discussions, coordinating House programs on race relations, and immediately addressing any matter in which a student may feel distress with regard to race, ethnicity, or religion.

Harvard Foundation Associates are student volunteers who work with race relations advisors to plan diversity-oriented events and activities in their

respective residences, and who also support major Harvard Foundation programs.

Harvard Foundation interns are students employed directly in the Foundation office to assist in the execution of its mission through its events, student organization services, and numerous other programs.

The primary purpose of the fall gathering was to strengthen the connection among the three working groups, and the evening offered them a good opportunity to become better acquainted and to exchange experiences and ideas. Attendees gathered in the Lowell House Junior Common Room to discuss the benefits and challenges of living and working in such a diverse community as that found at Harvard University.

An important topic which arose was that of the role of the Harvard Foundation in racially charged matters on campus. As an example, participants cited the recent incidence of offensive or discriminatory emails sent over House e-mail lists, which attendees all agreed was an important issue to address. Interns, Associates, and tutors then discussed what would be their best methods of response in such matters. Conversation throughout the evening also ranged from personal stories and academic interests to extracurricular commitments. At the end of the mixer, all participants came to a greater appreciation for their fellow supporters of the Harvard Foundation.

—Olamide Oladipo '12

Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings

Each month the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations meets with faculty and guest speakers to discuss issues pertinent to student groups.

At least one representative from every SAC group, along with members of the Foundation's Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC), Harvard Foundation interns, and the SAC student leadership board attend the monthly meetings held in the Phillips Brooks House Parlor Room. At every gathering, SAC groups are encouraged to share updates and notifications about their upcoming events and to ask questions of guest speakers, who are generally members of the greater Harvard community who serve as valuable resources for cultural groups on campus.

The 2009 series opened with our October meeting, which featured Dr. William Fitzsimmons, Dean of Harvard College Admissions and Financial Aid,

as guest speaker. Dean Fitzsimmons answered questions about trends in undergraduate admissions as well as the evolution of financial aid policy. He also briefly discussed his college admissions blog "The Choice," which was featured on the *New York Times* website this fall.

In November, the Office of Career Services (OCS) hosted the Student/Faculty Advisory Committee meeting and delivered an insightful presentation on minority recruitment and general tips for job searching. For this meeting, the SAC met in the Office of Career Services to learn more about the various career resources which OCS makes available for students of all backgrounds. SAC representatives were then given the opportunity to discuss these resources and other issues in small group sessions led by OCS staff.

For the last meeting of the semester in December, the SAC hosted a presentation by Mr. Steve Bloomfield, executive director of the Weatherhead

Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Mr. Bloomfield spoke about the center's financial resources and opportunities it has to offer to student groups such as those that comprise the SAC.

In the fall semester, the Student/Faculty Advisory Committee welcomed the Palestine Solidarity Committee as a new member of the SAC. The Palestine Solidarity Committee strives to promote awareness of Palestinian culture on campus. The SAC Board also pioneered a new meeting format, which includes small group discussion after the speaker's presentation as well as an open forum question-and-answer session. The SAC Board has received many positive responses on this new method that is meant to encourage more individual discussions and questions from student representatives. The Board has plans to continue with this method for all future meetings.

—Alexa Rahman '12

2009 Nobel Peace Prize Ceremonies for President Barack Obama in Oslo, Norway



The Harvard Foundation of Harvard University was represented at the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony by Dr. S. Allen COUNTER and Mr. David L. EVANS. **1:** Dr. S. Allen COUNTER (R.), director of the Harvard Foundation, professor of neurology, and consul general of Sweden in Boston and New England, congratulates Nobel Peace Prize laureate President Barack Obama at the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony and Banquet in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, 2009. L.: Dr. Thorbjorn JAGLAND, chair of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee. **2:** Dr. COUNTER (R.) and Dr. Geir LUNDESTADT (C.), secretary of the Nobel Prize Committee, invited Mr. David L. EVANS, senior admissions officer at Harvard College, to attend the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo. **3:** Dr. COUNTER is greeted by Mette-Marit (L.), Crown Princess of Norway. **4:** Dr. COUNTER meets with David AXELROD, senior advisor to President Barack Obama. **5:** Film producer James LASSITER (L.), accompanied by his wife Mai LASSITER (R.), join chairman and CEO of Sony Pictures Michael LYNTON at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. **6:** Ms. Stine ORE (R.) of the Nobel Concert staff meets with Ms. Jana BABATUNDE-BEY, Overbrook executive. **7:** Dr. COUNTER nominated former Harvard Foundation guests Will SMITH (L.) and Jada PINKETT-SMITH to serve as hosts for the Nobel Peace Prize Concert.



Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports

Each year in the fall and spring semesters, the Harvard Foundation distributes grant funding to 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 grant 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.

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*.

Harvard Dharma with the Harvard Islamic Society Henna Workshop

One of the latest South Asian traditions to go mainstream in the U.S. is *gorintaku*, the designing of hands with *mehndhi* (henna). The tradition has long been associated with religious festivals, including weddings and Diwali, the festival of lights. Approximately one hundred students gathered in the Lowell House Dining Hall for our henna workshop event to learn more about the *mehndhi* tradition and South Asian culture. Attendees enjoyed samosas and South Asian drinks, and we provided henna cones for students to decorate their hands.

—Suhas Rao '12

Asian American Brotherhood

with the Asian American Association, Asian American Dance Troupe, Asian American Christian Fellowship, Chinese Students Association, Half-Asian People's Association, Vietnamese Association, Undergraduates for Human Rights in North Korea, Organization of Asian American Sisters in Service, South Asian Association, South Asian Dance Company, South Asian Men's Collective, and the South Asian Women's Collective

Asian American Awareness Week (AAAW)

Asian American Awareness Week united student groups that do not regularly work together to organize a week-long series

of discussion and celebratory events. Along with the many undergraduate student groups that participated, other events such as the fashion show Project East were also included in the week's event lineup.

Guest speakers included Jay Bhatt, co-founder of South Asians for Obama, who spoke to students about political activism. The Vietnamese Association's screening of the film *Don't Burn It* brought together students from Harvard, MIT, and the Cambridge community to discuss Vietnamese immigration and aftermath of the war. The week's other events included panel discussions, a traditional dance workshop, and a cultural food festival. Asian American Awareness week showed Harvard what it means to be Asian in America, and we hope that it becomes a tradition in future years.

—Byron Lichtenstein '11

Asian American Association (AAA) Dinner Discussions

The AAA dinner discussion series was part of an effort to promote an increased awareness of interethnic identities, both within and outside the Harvard community. Drawing on knowledgeable members of the community, we organized informal events in which

participants enjoyed ethnic food while simultaneously learning about the culture, heritage, and history of a chosen ethnicity or identity. This cultural event focused on enriching student's lives at Harvard and introducing new cultural perspectives through casual discussion over dinner. The fall dinners specifically concentrated on two topics: (1) what it means to be Asian-American, and (2) Asian-Americans in politics and the media. In addition to sharing and learning about different cultures, we also brought up the issue of what defines Asian-American identity and what our roles are as Asian Americans. Participants discussed the influence on Asian-American cultures, from within the continent and beyond. This topic is the main purpose of the AAA, and although we were able to bring up this issue throughout the year at other events, these two dinners provided a perfect setting for a light yet entertaining discussion without too much pressure or formality.

—Tin Dinh '12

Japan Society Haiku Contest

The Harvard Japan Society invited members from throughout the Harvard community to submit entries to our haiku contest. After receiving about 100 entries, the winning haiku were chosen

by Dr. Edwin Cranston, a professor of Japanese literature whose work specializes in Japanese poetry. Winning entries of the contest will be displayed in the concourse of the Knafel Building in February 2010.

—*Iddoshe Hirpa '11*

Harvard African Students Association (HASA) HASA Wisdom Series

HASA had the privilege to host speaker Dr. Hope Sadza, vice chancellor and founder of the Women's University of Africa. Her institution is the only adult women's university in Africa, which opened with 145 students in 2002, and now has a student population of 1,500, staff of 90, and a 285-hectare commercial dairy farm (which serves as the growth engine of the university). Dr. Sadza gave a very enlightening talk about the challenges facing women in Africa and how education of African women can help to confront some of these obstacles. She spoke about the practical challenges that she encountered as she brought her vision to life, to open a university for mature women. Dr. Sadza explained that she hopes to see her institution become the best university in Africa in the promotion of gender equity and equal opportunities in tertiary education.

—*Ifedapo Omiwole '12*

Harvard College Latino Men's Collective Professor Dinner

Dr. David Carrasco, world-renowned the Neil L. Rudenstine Professor of the Study of Latin America, is not only the first faculty member of Latino descent to receive tenure at Harvard University, but he is also an active figure within the campus Latino community-at-large. At this open-admission event, students dined on Latin cuisine as Dr. Carrasco discussed his academic exploits, most specifically his experiences as a Latino male in academia. The discussion served to deepen the connection between students and the much respected and much loved Dr. Carrasco. The event also granted students the opportunity to discuss the current (as well as future) status of the Latino teaching community

here at Harvard and nationwide.

—*Ben Hur Gomez '11*

Association of Black Harvard Women (ABWH) Road To Success Career Panel

ABWH gathered over 40 Harvard College women from a variety of academic backgrounds for a career panel discussion. The program featured a panel of Harvard alumnae, including a law partner, a doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a first-year consultant and entrepreneur. These panelists provided undergraduates with insight for career exploration, attaining work-life balance, and making the most of their experience here at Harvard. Following the discussion was a networking reception that included representatives from Kaplan and the Boston Consulting Group, so our members could learn more about opportunities with those organizations.

—*Adia Matthews '10*

Harvard RAZA Dia de la Raza

This fall, Harvard RAZA discussed why Columbus Day in the United States is celebrated as *Dia de la Raza* (Day of the Race) in Mexico and other Latin American countries. We discussed the cultural and historical basis for the change of this celebration. Members discussed the different perceptions of both Columbus and the Spanish in Mexican society, and how *Dia de la Raza* attempts to celebrate cultural mixture of Latin America instead of the years of battle, bloodshed, misunderstandings, and treachery that might otherwise come to mind. Celebrating this event with the RAZA membership allowed us to discuss our history and our culture, and to consider the ramifications of the past on our lives today.

—*Marvin Urzua '11*

Harvard Islamic Society Fall Dinner

The Harvard Islamic Society's annual fall dinner is held in order to increase knowledge of Islam on campus as well as provide an opportunity for Harvard

Muslims to come together. This year, our speaker was Dr. Kahar Barat, Ph.D. '93, an expert on Uighurs who gave an enlightening and interesting presentation on the history and plight of the people over a delicious ethnic dinner. The event was open to the community, and the Eliot House Dining Hall was completely packed with guests and students from many different schools, including Northeastern, University of Pennsylvania, Tufts, Boston University, and many others! We sincerely thank the Foundation, as does the community, for helping us to host such a successful and important event.

—*Eftitan Akam '12*

Harvard Korean Association Choosuk Festival

Choosuk is a traditional Korean holiday that is equivalent to Thanksgiving in the United States. In our Choosuk festival, we celebrated with traditional Korean food and games that are representative of the holiday. Participants ate *dduk*, a rice flour dish, and played *yoot-nori* as part of the traditional celebration of the new harvest. This year's Choosuk festival was a great success in sharing Korean culture and food especially with Harvard students who are not Korean by descent.

—*Kwang Yul Kim '12*

Latinas Unidas de Harvard Annual Latina Empowerment and Development Conference (LEAD)

The Third Annual Latina Empowerment and Development Conference (LEAD) Conference was an all-day event that connected Latinas from all over the Northeast. The event seeks to foster the development of networks that support culturally and experientially diverse workplaces by facilitating mentoring relationships, and networking among a traditionally underrepresented demographic in leadership positions. Besides drawing on undergraduates from the area's local universities, this year's LEAD Conference attracted women from a wide-range of paths including a Massachusetts State Senator, the dean of Harvard College,



Students learn the basic steps of traditional tinikling dance at the Harvard Philippine Forum's *turon* and tinikling workshop.

and the president of a local nonprofit organization, as well as high school students, recent college grads, and other talented women from very diverse fields.

The conference was composed of panels, workshops, networking breaks, and a keynote speech. Panel discussions included "Negotiation Strategies from the Professional Latina," "The Many Roles of the Multi Dimensional Woman", and "What Does it Mean to be a Latina?" After each speaker offered insight and shared with the audience personal anecdotes relating to the topic, audience members were invited to engage the speaker in a question and answer session. The networking breaks, although informal, were valuable in allowing for personal connection between the speakers and the audience members.

—Nancy De Haro '12

Mariachi Veritas de Harvard with Ballet Folklorico de Aztlán Sights and Sounds of Mexico

Mariachi Veritas de Harvard has been holding one concert a semester for the past few years, featuring our band along with many guest singers from the Harvard undergraduate community. This semester, we continued this tradition and further spread the beautiful tradition that is mariachi music by

holding our third joint concert with Ballet Folklorico de Aztlán (BFA), Harvard's traditional Mexican dance troupe. This performance marked the third successful performance with BFA, and we look forward to future joint events.

—Karl Wichorek '11

Harvard Philippine Forum (HPF) *Turon* and *Tinikling* Workshop

The Harvard Philippine Forum's *Turon* & *Tinikling* Workshop is an annual event that the club hosts at the beginning of every year. HPF uses this workshop to give students a taste of 2 aspects of Filipino culture: food and dance. *Turon* is a fried Filipino dessert that consists of banana, jackfruit, and brown sugar wrapped in a *lumpia* wrapper. It is a fun and fairly easy dessert to make, so for about half of the workshop, a few HPF members led attendees in making and eating *turon*.

In the second half of the workshop, members of the HPF Dance Troupe taught the students the basics of *tinikling*, a dance that is native to and very popular in the Philippines. *Tinikling* involves dancers weaving in and out of a pair of clapping bamboo sticks, imitating the movements of the tikling bird as it weaves in and out of farmers' traps.

Anyone interested in learning more were invited to join the dance troupe, which performs regularly at various events, including Cultural Rhythms.

This year's *Turon* and *Tinikling* Workshop was successful thanks to the grant provided by the Harvard Foundation. This workshop brought together many students, both HPF members and non-members alike, to meet new people and to experience a taste of Filipino culture. HPF certainly plans to continue to hold this event in the future.

—Elizabeth Miranda '11

Harvard Sangeet An Evening of Hindustani Music with Santoor Maestro Rahul Sharma

Rahul Sharma, an acclaimed Indian classical instrumentalist, traveled from India to perform under Sangeet's auspices in Lowell Lecture Hall. The concert was Sangeet's biggest event of the semester and was well attended by both an on- and off-campus audience. Mr. Sharma supplemented his performance with an extensive explanation of the santoor, a unique Kashmiri stringed instrument. As a result, the concert served as both a musical and an educational experience for the audience, which included a large body of undergraduates who had not encountered Hindustani classical music before and were hearing it for the first time.

—Anusha Tomar '11

Fuerza Latina Latino Political Series: Conversation with an IOP Fellow

This year, Fuerza Latina was able to host Institute of Politics fellow Kim Gandy, former president of the National Organization for Women, as a special guest for one of our board meetings. Ms. Gandy has worked extensively as a grassroots movement proponent and has worked in the area of gender relations and women's rights. As such, she has advocated for the advancement of women's rights in the workplace and state laws, and has actively fought to diminish gender discrimination. Fuerza Latina invited her to speak about her experience and offer her perspective

on gender relations, especially those pertaining to the Latino community. Students discussed with Ms. Gandy the roles of women within Latino communities. Our conversation was quite fruitful, as it revealed a number of deep-rooted stereotypes that are held in the Latino community. It also inspired some Fuerza members to continue this dialogue in Ms. Gandy's study group. Fuerza Latina strives to incite an interest in politics within the Latino community, and this event certainly helped to foster a political interest.

—Phillip Acevedo '13

Harvard Half Asian People's Association (HAPA) Freshman Social Events

HAPA's Freshman Social Events were designed to build and retain freshman membership because they are one of the keys to the success and survival of the club. Through these small social events—which included a cookie making session, picnics, and movie nights—we were able to reach out to many "HAPAs" who were unaware of the club or even too shy to approach it. These intimate events, held in freshman common rooms and upperclassmen rooms, provided a great atmosphere for board members, members, and newcomers to bond and have a great time.

—Alan Ibrahim '11

Harvard College Sri Lanka Society Sri Lankan Music and Dance Night

The Sri Lankan Music and Dance Night was designed to be an introduction to the diverse range of music and performance that can be seen and heard in Sri Lanka. To make this presentation, we asked the New England Lanka Academy, which is comprised of performing students from various parts of New England, to perform at Harvard. The presentation introduced various instruments, dances, and music used in Sri Lanka and the various historical events that have influenced these styles. The group performed chants, religious songs, instrumental improvisations, and dances.

Overall, the event was very successful, the Leverett Old Library was full, and everyone learned about Sri Lankan tradition. The Sri Lanka Society was very happy to close our semester with this event and appreciates the funding received from the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council that made it possible.

—Fahmi Jahufar '11

Harvard Vietnamese Association

Don't Burn It, It's Already on Fire: An Exploration and Discussion of Vietnamese History Through Visual Media

As part of Asian American Awareness Week, the Harvard Vietnamese Association screened the film *Dung Dot: Don't Burn It*, to explore how Vietnamese culture comes from both inside the national borders of Vietnam and from the minds of Vietnamese immigrants abroad. The Institute for Vietnamese Culture and Education, the New York-based nonprofit organization that sponsored the film, annually tours universities in the Northeast with new and interesting cinema from Vietnamese and Vietnamese immigrant directors.

Dung Dot, by director Dang Nhat Minh—hailed by the LA Times as "Vietnam's finest filmmaker"—is based on the diary of Dang Thuy Tram, a doctor from Hanoi. During the Vietnam

War, she headed an infirmary in a war-ravaged area where, according to her diary, "death can be easier than having a meal." Her diary documents her love for people, her longing for her family and relatives, and her dreams about peace, which touched the heart of an American soldier on the opposing side. The screening ended with an hour-long question and answer session between the audience and the director himself, leaving many wanting more.

—Thuy Quan '11

Youth Alliance for Development in Africa (YALDA)

Responsible African Development Panel

One of the main criticisms of African development projects is that they are not planned and carried out responsibly. With this panel, YALDA exposed students to the common obstacles that hinder the success of development projects in Africa, such as lack of a formidable relationship with the benefiting community and lack of on-the-ground support. The panel included a College undergraduate who worked last summer with a non-profit organization in Tanzania; a Kennedy School graduate student who started an NGO in Kebera, Kenya; and an Ugandan radio host and international scholar.

—Paul Byatta '12



Celebrated Vietnamese film director Dang Nhat Minh (R.) is introduced by a member of the Harvard Vietnamese Association at the screening of his film *Dung Dot: Don't Burn It* at Harvard.

Taiwanese Cultural Society National Taiwan Day Banquet

Double Ten Day is a national day in Taiwan, similar to July 4th in the United States. It celebrates the Wuchang Uprising of October 10 (or “10-10”), 1911, which resulted in the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the formation of the Republic of China. In Taiwan, official celebrations begin with the raising of Taiwan’s flag, the singing of the National Anthem, and an address from the President of Taiwan. The celebrations culminate with a fireworks display throughout Taiwan’s major cities. At Harvard, the Taiwanese Cultural Society commemorated the event with a celebration of Taiwanese cuisine accompanied by a cultural and historical presentation. Students from across campus stopped in to enjoy traditional Taiwanese food and to learn more about Double Ten Day.

—Peter Hung '12

Harvard Hong Kong Society (HHKS) Freshman Dinner

HHKS provided a chance for Cantonese students (particularly freshman) to interact with the new board members and become more involved with the organization as they enter their upperclassmen years. The dinner is also a good venue for first-year Hong Kong students to bond with and seek mentorship from upperclassmen in HHKS. We also used this dinner to introduce the new freshmen to their upperclassmen buddies, as a part of the new Freshman Buddy System that HHKS has started this year.

—Linda Yao '10

Author Aisling Shen Discusses *A Tiger’s Heart* *Continued from page 7*

and feel happy with whom she was. In response to a question on what it was like returning to the place where she grew up, she discussed the difficulties in reconnecting with her family and others. Although her family still disapproves of many of her choices in life and her community finds it difficult to appreciate her successes and triumphs, she has found the strength and wisdom to forgive them and love them.

Students in attendance were moved by Ms. Shen’s story. One student, an

aspiring artist and writer, commented, “Aisling inspired me to write once again.” Certainly, there is nothing more rewarding for an author than to see the inspirational impact of her work on the students here. Ms. Shen cheerily expressed her interest and hopes to continue her writing career with work on a second book. The Foundation looks forward to seeing what the future has to hold for this talented writer, whose work remains an inspiring voice for those who often still have none.

—Justin Banerdt '13

Panel Examines Media Portrayal of Ft. Hood Tragedy *Continued from page 7*

sentiments of the American people.

As for solutions, the panelists suggested viewing the media critically, because the media is never completely objective—the influences of politics and personal bias are never absent from the media. In addition, all the panelists agreed that the best solution is the expansion of religious education and religious literacy, or as Professor Asani said: “becoming pluralist in spirit.” Without religious

literacy, individuals in the community are ill equipped to understand difference when they encounter it. The result is reactionary intolerance, the alienation of minority communities, and the proliferation of ignorance. By expanding religious education and religious literacy, we can combat the forces that create stereotypes and create a more tolerant, knowledgeable, and just world.

—Jessica Ch’ng '12

Professor Sanjeev Chatterjee Discusses *One Water* *Continued from page 13*

India, and how there often is a disparity between how the media portrays a local population and the population’s local view of their situation. Lastly, a faculty member asked the poignant question of how we can justify using water bottles when the cost of producing one water

bottle pollutes so much water. Professor Chatterjee optimistically pointed out ways in which we all can do small things in our life, such as refilling water bottles, to make a difference.

—Justin Banerdt '13

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