James J. McCarthy Named Scientist of the Year

Dartmouth President-Elect Jim Yong Kim Guest of Harvard Foundation

Actor/Musician Dan Aykroyd Artist of the Year at Cultural Rhythms Festival

Dolores Huerta Presented with 2008 Humanitarian Award

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On the cover, clockwise from Top Left: Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.), director of the Harvard Foundation, presents Professor James McCarthy with the Scientist of the Year Award; Dr. Counter and Professor Evelynn Hammonds (R.), dean of Harvard College, present actor/musician Dan Aykroyd (C.) with the Artist of the Year Award; labor activist Dolores Huerta accepts the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award; Professor Kathleen McCartney (R.), dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, joins the Harvard Foundation in hosting a discussion with Professor Jim Yong Kim to address the impact of his appointment as president of Dartmouth College.

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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Dolores Huerta Presented With Humanitarian of the Year Award

This spring, the Harvard Foundation honored the 2008 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian of the Year Dolores Huerta in the Senior Common Room of Quincy House. Students, including representatives from co-sponsoring organizations RAZA, Fuerza Latina, the Black Students Association, Latinas Unidas, the Student Labor Action Movement, and the Latino Men’s Collective offered their thoughts on and support of Ms. Huerta’s accomplishments. A celebrated labor organizer and social activist, she is recognized today for co-founding the United Farm Workers Association with Cesar Chavez and continuing her fight for civil rights as president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

Ms. Huerta was honored both because of the humanitarian spirit of her work and her dynamic, energetic persona—colleague Cesar Chavez once called her “totally fearless, both mentally and physically.” Ms. Huerta has also been inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame and received the 1993 Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, the 1999 Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award, and the 1999 Eleanor Roosevelt Award. Most recently, the National Hispanic Women’s Magazine also named Ms. Huerta “the most prominent Chicana labor leader in the United States.”

Mariachi Veritas de Harvard opened the ceremony with a musical tribute performance to the guest of honor. Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, then formally introduced event attendees to Ms. Huerta. The presentation of her award began with several remarks from leaders of student organizations. First to speak was Alyssa Aguilera ’09, president of Students Labor Action Movement. Ms. Aguilera addressed the continuing importance of Ms. Huerta’s work in mobilizing farm workers in contemporary America. She also commented that the honoree inspired her personally to pursue labor organization from a young age, reading books about Ms. Huerta’s professional career and background growing up as a child of miners and farm workers.

The president of RAZA, Marvin Urzua ’10, and president of Black Students Association Timothy Turner ’09 echoed her sentiments of joy and satisfaction at Ms. Huerta’s visit to campus. In conclusion, Eliana Murillo ’10, president of Latinas Unidas, emphasized how Ms. Huerta stands out as a model for young Hispanic women making a difference in society.

Dr. Counter and Foundation intern Miguel Garcia ’12 then presented Ms. Huerta with the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award, citing her outstanding contributions to the improvement of conditions for American workers. Upon receiving the award, Ms. Huerta then expressed her intent to continue her work, particularly in Washington, DC, in collaboration with President Barack Obama’s new administration to better conditions for migrant workers.

–Alexa Rahman ’12

The Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms Festival is a stunning extravaganza that showcases the musical, dance, and even culinary talents of Harvard’s diverse student body. Renowned Canadian actor, comedian, and screenwriter Dan Aykroyd was 2009 recipient of the Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award, and guest of honor at this celebration of the richness of cultural and ethnic diversity at Harvard.

Mr. Aykroyd was a standout choice for the Harvard Foundation’s flagship award because, says the Foundation’s director Dr. S. Allen Counter, “His contributions to the performing arts have been appreciated by people throughout the world, and he has demonstrated admirable generosity through his humanitarian efforts.” In film, Mr. Aykroyd has written and appeared in more than 80 films, including Driving Miss Daisy, for which he received an Academy Award nomination. His work as an original writer and actor in Saturday Night Live earned him an Emmy Award in 1977 and several subsequent nominations. Off-screen, Mr. Aykroyd’s love for music can be seen in his work with the Blues Brothers Band and as co-founder of the House of Blues, a music club chain that hosts musicians of various genres and aims to “celebrate the diversity and brotherhood of world culture.”

Though the afternoon show in Sanders Theatre, hosted by the Artist of the Year, is typically considered the main event of Cultural Rhythms Festival, excitement spread early on Saturday morning when Mr. Aykroyd met lottery winners from the class of 2012 in Annenberg Hall for a breakfast co-sponsored by the Freshman Dean’s Office. After the breakfast, he was officially welcomed by the student body at the traditional Kirkland House roast and luncheon, graciously hosted by House Masters Tom and Verena Conley. The Harvard Band’s blazing welcome march, a signature of the reception, was followed by a crowd-pleasing roast of Mr. Aykroyd by On Harvard Time, a student-run comedy troupe. At the luncheon students, including Pforzheimer House bluegrass musician Clint Miller ’11 and Mr. Aykroyd’s own countrymen from the Harvard Canadian Club, offered tributes and performances.

The afternoon show, directed by Foundation interns Jacqueline Hairston ’10 and Nworah Ayogu ’10, dazzled a sold-out Sanders audience. Mr. Aykroyd treated the crowd with witty interjections and quizzed student representatives from each of the thirteen performing groups, from the Corcairdhearg Irish Dancing Troupe to Harvard Bhangra, about their backgrounds and the history behind their dances. The finale, a multicultural collage of steps from every act performed by representing students from each group, was a tribute to Mr. Aykroyd’s own Ghostbusters and Blues Brothers films. The students’ performances left the guest of honor speechless until he proclaimed that this day ranked among the best in his life.

Right: Harvard University Marshall Jackie O’Neill (L.) invites musician/actor Dan Aykroyd (C.), joined by his wife Donna Dixon Aykroyd, to sign the University Guest Registry. Left: Mr. Aykroyd opens Cultural Rhythms with a display of his own musical talent. Mr. Aykroyd good-naturedly endures his “roast” by Nelson Greaves ’10 (R.) and Tyler Hall ’11 (L.) of On Harvard Time.

The annual Cultural Rhythms Food Festival offered the Harvard community the chance to sample a rich variety of delicacies prepared by Harvard ethnic student groups. Visitors then returned to Sanders for the evening show, hosted by Alison Rich ’10 and Jarell Lee ’10, in which eleven more performance groups took the stage and brought the day to a close. Cultural Rhythms 2009 highlighted Harvard’s cultural treasures in the backdrop of humor and a cultural appreciation that hurls past mere tolerance in favor of genuine celebration. Proceeds from the shows were donated to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

—Amaka Uzoh ’11
Student Performers at the 2009 Cultural Rhythms Festival

1: Cultural Rhythms co-directors Nworah Ayogu '10 (L.) and Jacqueline Hairston '10 welcome audience members to the Cultural Rhythms afternoon show. 5: Dr. Evelynn Hammonds (R.), dean of Harvard College, presents Dan Aykroyd (C.) with the Harvard Foundation 2009 Artist of the Year Award as Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter looks on. The Cultural Rhythms Festival included Harvard student performances by 2: Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán; 3: Kuumba Singers of Harvard College; 4: Ukrainian Folk Dancers; 6: Leña Dance Company; and 7: Harvard Gumboots. 8: Performers from the show’s participating groups merge their respective dance routines together to create a Ghostbusters and Blues Brothers themed finale.
Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference
Professor James McCarthy Named Scientist of the Year

Each year, the Harvard Foundation invites elementary, middle, and high school students from the Boston-area to campus to learn from Harvard faculty at the Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. This year’s conference, themed “Grooming Leaders for the Green Revolution,” focused on ways in which the next generation of scientists will solve existing ecological and climate problems.

The two-day conference in fact began with a traditional Pforzheimer House luncheon honoring the Harvard Foundation’s 2009 Scientist of the Year, Dr. James McCarthy, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography and, coincidentally, Master of Pforzheimer House. Dr. McCarthy shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore for his groundbreaking research and advocacy concerning global warming. He is also chair of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest scientific society and publisher of the magazine *Science*. Dr. McCarthy’s notable achievements include work in climate science and marine biology, as well as his discovery of the disappearance of ice in a vast region of the polar Arctic.

Though day two of the conference, called the Partners in Science program, aims to encourage the participation in the sciences of women and people of color, students of any race, gender, and background are welcome. For nearly two decades, the Harvard Foundation has connected socioeconomically and culturally diverse groups of grade school students from the Boston metropolitan area with inspirational Harvard faculty members and undergraduate volunteers in the applied, natural, biological, and engineering sciences. Each year, the visiting students are treated to presentations by distinguished instructors and hands-on experiments to excite them about the marvels of science and to encourage their pursuit of science education. This year’s conference included award-winning geochemists, world-renowned molecular and cellular biologists, physicists, engineers, and evolutionary biologists.

Bearing new Harvard University folders and Harvard Foundation-themed T-shirts, over 150 visiting students from such programs as the Paul Robeson Institute and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School were welcomed to the University as scholars and explorers. The morning’s lectures were introduced by Dr. McCarthy himself, who also stayed to chat with the students over a pizza lunch. The day’s presentations invited participants to examine how science interacts with their daily lives, whether through video clips, hands-on activities, or the launching of an empty trash can up to the ceiling of the lecture hall.

The Foundation believes it important for students not only to excel in the sciences, but also to strive to lead in whichever fields they pursue. The world’s current climate and energy problems will require solutions from tomorrow’s leaders in science and policy as well as from daily practice by everyday citizens. It is our hope that programs such as the Albert Einstein Science Conference will go a long way toward educating tomorrow’s leaders and citizens in the environmental issues of our time.

—Petros Eghziabher ’09

2009 Partners in Science Presenters and Lecturers

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| Teaching Assistant in Chemistry and Chemical Biology | |
Foundation Hosts Dartmouth College President-Elect Jim Yong Kim

After remarks by Harvard Vice President Jamie Hoyte, Dean Kathy McCartney of the Graduate School of Education, and Harvard Foundation assistant director Loc Truong, Dr. Kim fielded questions from a panel of undergraduate and graduate students and from the audience. While most known for his work as former World Health Organization director, Dr. Kim was also asked about the pressures he faced as the first Asian-American president of an Ivy League university. He explained that the “Model Minority Myth” is in fact a reality, but one that is also misused by people unconcerned with removing the structural barriers which prevent the advancement of their fellow minorities; such people instead use it to advance their own personal agendas. Dr. Kim stressed the importance of engaging respectfully and critically with various viewpoints. When asked whether he would be able to continue his work in medicine and teaching, Dr. Kim was confident that he would be able to do both. It was, in fact, a reason why he took the position at Dartmouth: his experience in teaching undergraduates inspired him to take a position where he would be able to have an even greater influence on them as they, in his own words, “make fundamental decisions about how they will interact with the world.” Everyone at the event was greatly inspired by the word of Dr. Kim, and his passion is mirrored in his students who have all been motivated by him. Harvard will miss Dr. Kim, but the Foundation wishes him the best as he continues to make his mark on students and on the world.

–Nworah Ayogu ’10

Students Gather for Viewing of “We Shall Remain” Native American Series Screened and Discussed in Residential Houses

The 2009 spring term saw the premiere of an innovative multimedia project entitled We Shall Remain, an installment of the award-winning PBS series American Experience. The Harvard Foundation, in collaboration with Currier and Dunster House race relations advisors and the Harvard University Native American Program, hosted screenings for each premiere night of the five-part television series in April and May 2009. Many students attended for a break from studies in order to watch the series and enjoy food with their housemates over an informal cultural and historical discussion.

We Shall Remain establishes Native history as an essential part of American history, and it shows how Native peoples valiantly resisted expulsion from their lands and fought the extinction of their culture, such as the Wampanoags of 1600s New England, some of whom were among Harvard’s first students, who used their alliance with the English to weaken rival tribes; and the bold Native leaders of the 1970s who harnessed the momentum of the civil rights movement to forge a pan-Indian identity. Installments of the series included “After the Mayflower,” “Tecumseh’s Vision,” “Trail of Tears,” “Geronimo,” and “Wounded Knee.” We Shall Remain represents an unprecedented collaboration between Native and non-Native filmmakers and is a unique project for its consultations of Native communities, advisors, and scholars throughout the making of each episode. Unlike other historical depictions of Native people, We Shall Remain for the first time explores how Native Nations within the United States of America built complex societies on a powerful political and economic history marked by their relations with the settler since the arrival of the Mayflower. This event series proved to be an enlightening in-House break for students, and the Harvard Foundation looks forward to more like it in the future.

–Kelsey Leonard ’10
To Protect and Serve
A Conversation with Harvard Police About Race and Community

With students from the Black Men’s Forum, Latino Men’s Collective, South Asian Men’s Collective, Asian American Brotherhood, and Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) officers, the Harvard Foundation hosted a discussion titled “To Protect and Serve” led by Jarell Lee ’10, a Black Men’s Forum member and director of the Boston Black Student Network. Students, representatives and officers of all genders, racial, and ethnic groups were encouraged to attend. Chief Francis D. Riley and over 25 officers attended, agreeing that the HUPD must address negative accusations in order to maintain credibility and gain support from the students whom they serve.

Officers and students gathered in the Quincy House Junior Common Room to address issues of racial profiling, student-police relations, and student-student relations. Beginning with a discussion of recent incidents on campus involving officers and students, as well as student-initiated racial incidents, students shared experiences with the HUPD and expressed a variety of viewpoints concerning race relations on campus.

Many cited the 2007 “Quad incident” [see Harvard Foundation Journal, spring 2007] in which officers responded to calls about a black student group event in the Radcliffe Quad. Officers were targeted by asking participants for identification and questioning their presence on the lawn. Students felt collectively targeted; however, some students admitted that their resentment towards the HUPD stems in part from previous experiences with police. It was also suggested that part of the problem lies not between officers and students but among Harvard students themselves. Some officers explained that actions that day were prompted by complaints from Harvard students; the response was an “uncomfortable obligation” to adhere to police protocol, not an example of the HUPD targeting minorities on campus.

Students asked about police protocol regarding campus incidents, asked officers to describe their diversity training programs, and offered suggestions for increased transparency. Mr. Lee concluded that this event was a good opening dialogue, saying, “Soon we will reach a position where the HUPD can be not simply a ‘police’ force, but also members of this community.”

The following day, HUPD spokesperson Steven Catalano announced the creation of a Diversity and Community Outreach Coordinator position, which will work with the leaders of seven HUPD teams who already interact closely with students, tutors, administrators, and student groups. Students have expressed eagerness to collaborate with the position and to improve and maintain mutually supportive relationships.

–Miguel García ’12
Students and Faculty Honored at Foundation’s Annual Aloian Awards Dinner

At the end of a year of hard work, the Harvard Foundation honored over forty members of the Harvard community for contributions to diversity and improving intercultural and race relations at Harvard. The annual Harvard Foundation Student/Faculty Awards Dinner was held in Quincy House in honor of former Quincy House Master David S. Aloian, striving to continue his legacy by recognizing those Harvard students and faculty members who have promoted diversity and tolerance on campus and beyond.

Students who have started to make notable contributions to race relations at Harvard College were first honored with Certificates of Recognition. Race relation advisors who have shown outstanding effort and dedication to promoting the mission of the Harvard Foundation in the Houses were also recognized with Certificates of Recognition. Harvard Foundation Insignia Awards were presented to those students who have shown a sustained effort in improving intercultural and race relations and discussion at Harvard College. Members of the graduating class of 2009 who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment to increasing awareness and diversity on campus and beyond were honored with Harvard Foundation Distinguished Senior Awards for Excellence in Leadership. Layusa Isa-Odidi ’09 was also honored with the Peer Recognition Award.

The Faculty of the Year Award was presented to Dr. David Gordon Mitten, James Loeb Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology and Harvard Islamic Society advisor, to honor his long-time efforts to promote tolerance at Harvard and his significant contribution to the mission of the Foundation. Remarks were also given by senior Foundation interns, Dean William R. Fitzsimmons, Dr. Leo Buchanan, Quincy House Masters Lee and Deobrah Gehrke, and Mr. David L. Evans.

It is to be hoped that there will always be such passionate and dedicated people at Harvard, and that the many people honored in May will continue to carry the mission of the Harvard Foundation to the world beyond Harvard’s gates.

–Sara Zaidi ’11

Foundation Award Recipients

Certificate of Recognition
Jessica Ch’ng ’12 | Elizabeth Eze ’11 | Miguel Garcia ’12 | Bronwen O’Herin ’12 | Olamide Oladipo ’12 | Fabian Poliak ’11 | Alexandra Rahman ’12 | Julia Tartaglia ’11 | Marvin Urzua ’11 | Nwamaka Uzoh ’11 | Sara Zaidi ’11

Certificate of Recognition, Race Relations Advisors
Jennifer Kan Martinez, Dunster House | Brendan Randall, Ivy Yard | Cameron Van Patterson, Lowell House | Sherry Deckman, Adams House

Insignia Award
Kevin Liu ’11 | Christopher Magliozi ’11 | Nworah Ayogu ’10 | Raul Carrillo ’10 | Jacqueline Hairston ’10 | Michelle Kellaway ’10 | Jarell Lee ’10 | Kelsey Leonard ’10 | Amanda Mangaser ’10 | Richie Serna ’10 | Ola Aljawhary ’09 | Matthew Bresnahan ’09 | Kameron Collins ’09 | Robert Raviv Murciano-Goroff ’09 | Emily Owens ’09 | Ravi Parikh ’09 | Kemeyawi Wahpepah ’09 | Susan Yao ’09 | Joyce Zhang ’09

Distinguished Senior Award
Sadia Ahsanuddin | Bianca Caban | Matthew Clair | Petros Egziabher | Layusa Isa-Odidi | Vikas Mouli | and Lumumba Seegars

Peer Recognition Award
Layusa Isa-Odidi ’09

Faculty of the Year Award
Professor David Gordon Mitten
Student Initiated Programs Sponsored by the Harvard Foundation

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. This section contains highlights from student events of spring 2009.

Student Advisory Committee Organizations Represented at Presidents’ Dinner

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) elected board met in April with presidents of its member organizations to review the effectiveness of the second semester Student Advisory Committee meetings and grant review process, as well as to foster collaboration among groups.

The presidents agreed that the monthly meetings continue to improve, particularly in regard to discussion topics pertinent to Harvard’s cultural groups. In the future, it was decided that a report would be circulated to the SAC organization leaders after each meeting.

Student leaders also approved of this year’s changes to the grant review process—not only was the process efficient and quick, but the meetings were informative of the types of grants and events available to their members, and the online voting system allowed for an efficient and private voting procedure.

Additionally, student group presidents asked that the Harvard Foundation intern liaison partnership be restructured. Intern liaisons are assigned to each group to facilitate communication with the Foundation office. The officers of the SAC assured leaders that they would strive to improve contact between liaisons and student groups in the coming year.

In all, SAC organization presidents found that the Student Advisory Committee events have improved from past years, and the committee’s elected board thanked participants for helping to identify an area in which they can improve. Next year’s officers—co-chairs Bronwen O’Herin ’12 and Alexa Rahman ’12, and treasurer Maxwell Iweabichu ’10—all look forward to fostering further communication between the Harvard Foundation and the member groups.

—Elizabeth Eze ’11

Asian American Dance Troupe Holds Annual Eastbound Performance

The Asian American Dance Troupe’s Eastbound 2009 show, held in Lowell Lecture Hall, was performed before sold-out audiences on two nights in March. Emceed by Michael Ayoub ’10 and Alex Duarte ’10 and performed by more than 80 students, the program consisted of a total of seventeen acts. The acts included fan dances (“Flames,” “Spring Mountain After Rain,” “Imperial,” “Buchaechum”), traditional dances (“Paper-Cutting Girls,” “Peach Maidens,” “Joy to the Beats”), an Ughur minority dance (“Tambourines”), and hip-hop dances (“Purple Line,” “East meets West,” “Hip-hop Medley”). The show also featured guest groups Harvard Wushu, the Harvard Philippine Forum, and a local children’s dance troupe. All dances except one were student choreographed and arranged.

The Asian American Dance Troupe has grown tremendously as a student group over the years, and this was the first year in which Eastbound was expanded to two show times. Even with twice as many tickets to sell, Eastbound was sold out at the box office a week before the show. Just as the South Asian Association’s Ghungroo is Harvard’s prominent event in celebration of South Asian artistic culture, Eastbound has become the most visible dance event that celebrates East Asian culture. The spectrum of cultural styles displayed at Eastbound is very broad, ranging from classical Chinese dances to South Asian fusion dances and from Ughur minority dances to modern Korean hip-hop. Eastbound is also an important social event on campus, bringing together hundreds of students to celebrate a rich display of dance and music.

—Anna Zhang ’10
Race Relations Advisor Activity Reports

The Harvard Foundation oversees the race relations advisor 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.

Film Outing: Benjamin Button

We had students join us for a viewing of The Curious Case of Benjamin Button at the Harvard Square Theatre. After the event we followed up with a series of informal conversations about themes and social issues raised in the film, which takes place in New Orleans. In conversations following the film students touched on everything from Hurricane Katrina to interracial dating, adoption, and the story of Ota Benga—a Congolese pygmy who was displayed as an exotic spectacle in American zoos—referenced in the film. Students enjoy this type of event since it gives them a break from studying, and engages them in a fun yet intellectual way.

—Cameron Van Patterson
Lowell House Tutor

Screenings: Malcolm X and We Shall Remain

Currier House used in-House movies as a low-key way to engage students around discussions of race and ethnic relations. We first screened the film Malcolm X, with a historical introduction given by our own resident Harvard Foundation intern Petros Egziabher ’09. Later, Currier hosted College-wide screenings of several parts of We Shall Remain, a five-part PBS documentary showcasing the historical contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

—Allison Dahl
Currier House Tutor

Screening: Mickey Mouse Monopoly

A screening of the documentary Mickey Mouse Monopoly examined racial and gender stereotypes in popular Disney movies ranging from “Snow White” to “The Lion King.” After the screening Dr. Michael Baran, who teaches the course Race in America at the College, led the hundred-student audience in a discussion about whether Disney’s portrayals of race and gender are objectionable. The screening also made audience members realize how these films have shaped their own views and values, and they discussed the social influence that Disney wields and the responsibility that it has as a result.

—Brendan Randall ’88
Ivy Yard Proctor

Race Relations Advisors Meet to Discuss Programs in the Houses

The primary responsibility of the race relations advisors is to serve both proactively and reactively in matters of race and cultural enlightenment, as well as mediators in instances of racial misunderstanding and conflict within their Houses. The Harvard Foundation’s task is to train the race relations tutors and proctors in ways of creating a racially harmonious atmosphere in the Houses (through targeted programs and projects), as well as effective ways of serving as first responders in cases of racial conflict.

In early spring 2009, race relations tutors and proctors gathered to discuss upcoming events in the Houses and to clarify their roles and responsibilities. The second half of the training was spent discussing a racial incident on campus using the case study method. Advisors were given the opportunity to facilitate a group session discussing the case and the necessary steps to resolve the situation. Serving as facilitator for the case was Ms. Rita Poussaint Nethersole ’74, assistant dean of graduate studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her extensive experience in education and student advising stems from her work at UMass with the vice president for programs and policy and the vice president for academic affairs, and she has previously served as associate vice president for student affairs. The Foundation is grateful for her time and expertise in educating our race relations advisors to deal with racial matters on campus.

—Loc V. Truong
Marking a Century Since North Pole Discovered

The 100th anniversary of the discovery of the North Pole was marked this year on April 6. For more than 20 years, Harvard Foundation director S. Allen Counter has made it a mission to bring to light the work of Matthew Henson, the African-American Arctic aide of Robert Peary, the sole explorer credited for reaching the North Pole in 1909.

Both explorers served in the U.S. Navy—Peary was a commander, and at the time of the North Pole exploration, he was on a military mission of geographic discovery, while Henson was a messenger and a field assistant (the highest positions that a “colored” man could hold in the Navy at that time, Counter explained).

“Henson, who by some accounts reached the North Pole first, and of whom Cmdr. Peary has said, ‘I cannot make it without him,’ was ignored by the press and left out of the history books because of racial attitudes in the United States toward African Americans at that time,” explained Counter.

Through a series of meetings in the 1980s with Peary’s and Henson’s sons, born to Inuit women in Greenland, Counter oversaw the Harvard North Pole Family Reunion, which was completed in 1987. Counter flew the explorers’ 80-year-old sons to the United States to meet the American Henson family and to attend a reinterment ceremony as Counter’s request to remove Henson’s remains from a common grave in New York’s Woodlawn Cemetery was approved.

Henson’s body was reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery adjacent to Peary’s grave with a fitting new monument and full military honors. The story captured the American imagination and was national news. It is covered in Counter’s book Counter boarded the USS Annapolis to travel to the North Pole carrying a sealed memorabilia case honoring the two explorers.

During the ceremony, Counter presented the families with the case containing an American flag; a Holy Bible from Harvard’s Memorial Church, signed and dedicated to the North Pole centennial by the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes; Peary’s 1910 book, The North Pole; Henson’s 1910 book, A Negro Explorer at the North Pole; a letter from President Ronald Reagan in recognition of Peary’s and Henson’s achievements and their sons’ visit to America in 1987; Counter’s book chronicling the events; and Inuit ephemera, as well as photographs, letters, and poems from others associated with or touched by the story of Peary, Henson, and their Greenlandic descendants.

“During the ceremony, I presented the families with a letter sent to me by President Barack Obama to mark the occasion,” said Counter. An excerpt of Obama’s letter reads: “I am pleased to join all who are commemorating the last hundred years of Arctic exploration. … It is only fitting that we honor all those who have risked their lives and well-being to expand our knowledge of our continuously evolving planet.”

From the Harvard Gazette

Harvard North Pole Discovery Centennial Commemorative Committee

The 100th anniversary of the discovery of the North Pole was marked this year on April 6. For more than 20 years, Harvard Foundation director S. Allen Counter has made it a mission to bring to light the work of Matthew Henson, the African-American Arctic aide of Robert Peary, the sole explorer credited for reaching the North Pole in 1909.

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Through a series of meetings in the 1980s with Peary’s and Henson’s sons, born to Inuit women in Greenland, Counter oversaw the Harvard North Pole Family Reunion, which was completed in 1987. Counter flew the explorers’ 80-year-old sons to the United States to meet the American Henson family and to attend a reinterment ceremony as Counter’s request to remove Henson’s remains from a common grave in New York’s Woodlawn Cemetery was approved.

Henson’s body was reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery adjacent to Peary’s grave with a fitting new monument and full military honors. The story captured the American imagination and was national news. It is covered in Counter’s book Counter boarded the USS Annapolis to travel to the North Pole carrying a sealed memorabilia case honoring the two explorers.

During the ceremony, Counter presented the families with the case containing an American flag; a Holy Bible from Harvard’s Memorial Church, signed and dedicated to the North Pole centennial by the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes; Peary’s 1910 book, The North Pole; Henson’s 1910 book, A Negro Explorer at the North Pole; a letter from President Ronald Reagan in recognition of Peary’s and Henson’s achievements and their sons’ visit to America in 1987; Counter’s book chronicling the events; and Inuit ephemera, as well as photographs, letters, and poems from others associated with or touched by the story of Peary, Henson, and their Greenlandic descendants.

“During the ceremony, I presented the families with a letter sent to me by President Barack Obama to mark the occasion,” said Counter. An excerpt of Obama’s letter reads: “I am pleased to join all who are commemorating the last hundred years of Arctic exploration. … It is only fitting that we honor all those who have risked their lives and well-being to expand our knowledge of our continuously evolving planet.”

From the Harvard Gazette

Harvard North Pole Discovery Centennial Commemorative Committee

The 100th anniversary of the discovery of the North Pole was marked this year on April 6. For more than 20 years, Harvard Foundation director S. Allen Counter has made it a mission to bring to light the work of Matthew Henson, the African-American Arctic aide of Robert Peary, the sole explorer credited for reaching the North Pole in 1909.

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From the Harvard Gazette
Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings

Once a month, the Harvard Foundation brings its students and faculty together in a forum for exchange and discussion. The Student Advisory Committee (SAC), which consists of the Foundation interns and one representative from each of the student groups, and the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) meet monthly in Phillips Brooks House. At the meetings, a guest speaker is invited to facilitate conversation between the broader Harvard community and the Foundation, especially on topics of diversity. The SAC members serve as a bridge between the represented student groups and the Foundation by voicing insights and proposing initiatives as well as reporting the information presented from meetings to their groups.

The semester began with the February meeting, at which Mr. Bill Purcell, director of Harvard’s Institute of Politics (IOP) at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, urged the students to participate in the various public service opportunities from the IOP. In March, dean of freshmen Mr. Tom Dingman, director for freshman programming Katie Steele, and director of community and diversity programming Brendan Randall spoke about the new programs from the Freshman Dean’s Office on diversity and race relations along with other issues regarding freshmen participation in extracurricular activities. In April, Office for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (OSAPR) director Sarah Rankin and prevention specialist Gordon Braxton spoke on the new initiatives from OSAPR, including the launch of a new website called Men Speak Up (found at www.menspeakup.org), which includes videos of different men supporting gender equality. Robin Mount, interim director of the Office of Career Services (OCS), followed with a review of the programs at OCS this year and about program opportunities for next year. At the final meeting for the semester in May, the One Harvard Campaign spoke to representatives about possible collaborations next year. In addition, the SAC elected co-chairs Bronwen O’Herin ’12 and Alexa Rahman ’12, and treasurer Maxwell Nwaru ’10 for the 2009-2010 year.

At the monthly Harvard Foundation meetings, committee members voted to approve requests by student organizations to become members of the Student Advisory Committee. The organizations welcomed into the SAC were the Harvard Ichthus, a student published journal of Christian thought which aims to act as a voice of reconciliation and understanding between people of all backgrounds and religions, and Harvard College Act on a Dream, which seeks to motivate Harvard students to become actively involved in immigration reform and to provide students with the resources necessary to pursue immigration-related goals. Act on a Dream seeks to provide immigrants equal educational opportunities by means of lobbying and educate the public by raising awareness within campus communities and throughout the nation.

—Kevin Liu ’11
Spring Open House Welcomes Prospective Students

During the April Visiting Program, known more commonly as “Pre-frosh Weekend,” students admitted to Harvard visit campus with the hope that their time here would make the decision easier about whether to attend Harvard. The Foundation hosted an open house as part of this program, in which interns welcomed “pre-frosh” students and their families to the Foundation office to learn about its programs, its support of Harvard’s cultural groups, and its availability to individual students. Prospective students learned that the Foundation conducts programs that facilitate cross-cultural dialogue, and it serves as a safe space for discourse on issues of discrimination or prejudice.

Interestingly, the recording of the 2009 Cultural Rhythms Festival playing in the background sparked discussion about the authenticity of what were presented as traditional dances in the show. Foundation students were pleased that what might typically be the topic of a Harvard Foundation program formed organically in the Foundation’s office among people who had known each other for a mere few minutes. Many visitors even expressed interest in continuing such conversations in their time at Harvard.

—Jacqueline Hairston ’10
Half-Asian Persons Association (HAPA)
“So What Are You Anyway…”

Biracial and multiracial identity politics have come a long way in America in the last century alone. Until 1967, interracial marriage was a crime; until 2000, you had to pick one, and only one, of five race options on the United States Census (now you may “mark one or more”). Recently, we elected our first ever biracial president, Barack Hussein Obama. However, the future of mixed race in America is still uncertain, and anyone can agree that interracial tensions in America are still strong. Will America see a mixed-race revolution in the next century, or will the color lines keep us divided? Harvard HAPA’s conference set out to address these issues as well as many others. Speakers included Professor Kimberly McClain Dacosta of Harvard, Professors Karen Suyemoto and Sam Museus of the University of Massachusetts Boston, and several doctoral students. Topics included mixed race in science fiction movies, identities in hip-hop, and the multiracial movement. Attendees had a chance to ask questions and participate in small discussion groups. Everyone was also treated to live musical performances by Massachusetts locals Afro DZ Ak and Adam Payne.

—Alan Ibrahim ’11

Harvard College Interfaith Council
Film Screening

The Interfaith Council held a screening of a thought-provoking new film, Beyond Our Differences, which documents interviews with prominent leaders of diverse religious traditions from all across the globe. The director of the movie, Peter Bisanz—a graduate student at the Kennedy School—was present to introduce his film and to moderate a discussion afterward. Over twenty students attended the screening, held in the cinema room at the Student Organization Center at Hilles. The audience was composed of Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim students. The movie included interviews with luminaries as the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela. After the movie, students gathered in a circle at the front of the cinema as Peter recounted his experiences directing the film, answered questions about the film, and discussed how to promote understanding amongst people of different religions, especially when centuries of conflict provide the backdrop for modern-day relations.

—Michelle Chiu ’10

Latino Men’s Collective
Latino Youth Outreach Forum

Through the Latino Youth Outreach Forum, the Harvard College Latino Men’s Collective sought to engage Harvard and the greater Boston community in a discussion of the unfolding obstacles and possibilities for Latinos in the United States. In continuing the LMC’s mission of community service and involvement, local Latino high school students and teachers were invited to actively participate in a dialogue with Harvard students, faculty, and esteemed guests. We discussed issues related to Latinos and the economy, politics, and social awareness. We also held break-out sessions in which members were able to have personalized discussions with the students to better gauge their perspective on Latino issues in education and society at large. We hope we were able to embolden and inspire these youth toward endeavors of change and collaboration within their community.

—Daniel Diaz ’11

Mariachi Veritas de Harvard
Que Bonita Es Esta Vida

“Que Bonita Es Esta Vida” is the annual spring concert, this year performed in the Dunster House Dining Hall to a sold-
out audience that was filled with energy and excitement. The concert began with a debut performance by one of our newest members, Maggie Geoga ’11. For the rest of the concert, Mariachi Veritas performed a variety of songs, ranging from traditional mariachi standards to Mexican pop. As always, we featured several guest singers who truly showcase Harvard’s diversity and talent. At the end of the concert, band members paid a tribute to the two seniors, Lauren Yapp ’09 and David Garcia ’09, in farewell. It is always a sad time of year, but we are sure that they will keep us in their hearts and that they will take mariachi wherever they go. Mariachi Veritas would like to thank the Foundation, on behalf of all the members of the mariachi, for making this concert possible.

—Yening Qin ’10

**Harvard Polish Society (HPS)**

**Stories for Polish Orphans**

This semester Harvard Polish Society cooperated with another Harvard group, Harvard College Stories for Orphans, in a joint semester-long project aimed at creating, illustrating and translating individualized stories for small 3- to 9-year-old children in Polish orphanages. The HCSO club has been active since last fall, and they successfully created 23 distinct children stories for 23 children in an orphanage in Lima, Peru, last fall. This semester, they worked with three orphanages in Poland, and the Polish Society was honored to offer help in translation as well as explaining cultural trends among Polish children to the story writers. We organized a “Translating Night” on April 9, 2009, during which HPS members translated the written original stories, with the help and assistance of the original writers. Thanks to the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council for making this event possible.

—Aleksandra Stankiewicz ’11

**Harvard-Vietnamese Association**

with Harvard Philippine Forum, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia Association, Harvard Thai Society

**Southeast Asian Night**

In April, the Leverett House Dining Hall was transformed from an undergraduate eatery into a Southeast Asian experience. Brightly colored lanterns decorated the hall, and over 200 undergraduates flowed into Leverett to sample Southeast Asian (“SEA”) delicacies, both catered and homemade. This year’s theme, “A SEA of Change,” invited performers to showcase not only their beloved traditions but also to display its transition to modernity. The night began with the Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia Association’s musical performance of the well known tale of Puteri Gunung Ledang, which tells of a love affair between a princess and a renowned warrior. The Harvard Philippine Forum took the stage with their famous tinikling act, a traditional dance involving large bamboo sticks which they blended with modern pop music. The Vietnamese Association danced to a Vietnamese song expressing the joys of the coming spring, then surprised the audience with a hip-hop fusion finish. Andrew Le ’10 performed a stand-up comedy routine playing on known stereotypes and his experience as a Vietnamese American in Texas. The night culminated in a fashion show, in which all four groups showed off the costumes of their ancestors—beautiful ao dais, silk dresses, and bahags were all displayed for the audience. We hope attendees left Southeast Asian Night 2009 with a greater appreciation of the diversity and versatility of Southeast Asian culture, and that they will join us again next year for another venture into Southeast Asia. Special thanks to the Harvard Foundation and Undergraduate Council for making this event possible.

—Thuy Quan ’11

**Harvard Wushu Club**

**Wushu Instruction**

Wushu is the practice of contemporary Chinese martial arts, which has a history of thousands of years and is deeply ingrained in Chinese culture. Examples of its modern influence include
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, Sifu Rick Wong, to come teach us new movements and forms and to correct and perfect our previous skills. Our many performances this semester around Harvard and in the surrounding area included demos at the Asian American Dance Troupe's Eastbound, the Harvard College in Asia Program Conference, and the Harvard Foundation's Cultural Rhythms Festival. We publicize our club’s activities heavily and practices are open to all College affiliates. We emphasize that no experience is necessary and encourage people of all skill levels and backgrounds to attend practice and learn more about our art.

—Chioma Madubata ’11

Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) Multimedia Contributions to the Discourse on Africa

In March 2009, Harvard undergraduate and graduate students attended a panel discussion in Ticknor Lounge that addressed issues regarding the media, Africa and African development, ways for students to get informed, overcoming skepticism and criticism, maintaining journalistic integrity, and specific, tangible opportunities for students to contribute to the discourse on Africa with three panelists.

Joanna Lipper is an author and filmmaker currently residing at Harvard as a W. E. B. DuBois Institute Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow, and whose recent work includes a film adaptation of Roger King’s A Girl From Zanzibar. Dennis Matanda is a former Ugandan radio host and a graduate student at the Kennedy School of Government. Oludamini Ogunnaike ’07 is president emeritus of the Harvard African Students’ Association, a graduate student in the department of African and African-American studies, and was a Hoopes Prize winner for his thesis on Africa. YALDA assistant director Remy Bizimungu ’10 served as the moderator for the panel. The panel was then opened to questions from the audience and shifted into an engaging and informative group discussion.

—Kalaya Okereke ’09

Harvard Thai Society Thai Dinner Study Break

In May, the Harvard Thai Society hosted its last event of the year, the Thai Dinner Study Break, in the Leverett House Private Dining Room. This event invited students to enjoy the taste of authentic Thai food and relax during the exam period, especially on the night just before the last day of exams. Students had a chance to try kaeng moo (hot pork basil leaves), authentic country-style pad thai, and somtum (spicy salad). Not only did undergraduates get to take a break from their studies, but they also had a chance to make new friends.

—Chanati Jantsrotechotchawawan ’12

Harvard Asian American Association (AAA) Asian Educational/Political Discussions

For the past couple of semesters, the Asian American Association Educational/Political Committee has spearheaded the push for an Asian-American Studies (AAS) curriculum at Harvard. The committee has made tremendous strides in such a short amount of time by establishing AAS as a secondary field within the East Asian Studies concentration. This semester, our education/political chairs Winston Chang ’11 and Athena Lao ’12 focused on working with other ethnic groups such as RAZA, Fuerza Latina, and the Native American Program to establish an overall Ethnic Studies program at Harvard. The hard work involved conducting meetings with senior faculty members and members of the administration, rallying students, and generating awareness across the Harvard campus. During Ethnic Studies Week, a week devoted to spreading awareness of the push for an Ethnic Studies program, AAA and the other ethnic and cultural groups helped to organize lectures by professors, a panel discussion, and small discussion groups. Although a lot of work still needs to be done in future semester, we believe that our hard work will pay off in the end.

—Alan Ibrahim ’11

Harvard Bulgarian Club with the Harvard Romanian Association EU Enlargement Discussion and Reception

The year 2009 marks the two-year anniversary of Bulgaria and Romania’s membership in the European Union. The Harvard Bulgarian Club and Harvard Romanian Association brought together a panel of expert speakers to reflect on the way European Union membership has changed our respective countries, to discuss the merits and drawbacks to membership, and to share the common history and culture of these two countries. The panelists included Honorary Consul of Bulgaria Frank Bailey, Honorary Consul of Romania Dan Dimancescu, and Center for European Studies visiting scholar Cosmina Tanasoiu. The panelists answered questions about notable changes in Bulgarian and Romanian society, business, and government, and they presented strikingly different perspectives and backgrounds. The audience, which included Bulgarian and Romanian undergraduates and graduates, students interested in the European Union, international students, and even some students from other Boston-area universities, participated in the discussion as well. This event complemented a similar one held exactly two years ago, as Bulgaria and Romania were crossing the threshold of the European Union. Back then, both hope and uncertainty about the future shone through in the discussion, as it did in our respective countries. A self-reflective tone was the main characteristic of our dialogue and hope for our countries’ approaching future.

—Eva Kirilova ’11
Dear Students and Faculty,

We are pleased to have had another successful semester of programs and projects in the area of intercultural and race relations for students at Harvard. In the spring semester of 2009, the Harvard Foundation grants program supported over 70 student organizations in conducting 160 ethno-cultural student initiatives, including such programs as the “Talking Circles” Native American discussion series; a Nigerian cooking series; a “Latino professionals” panel discussion; an open Cantonese lesson event; and a celebration of Armenian music. By all accounts, attendees of these programs were delighted by the level of intercultural exchange and enlightenment that they engendered within the Harvard family.

At the beginning of the semester, Foundation was proud to honor Ms. Dolores Huerta with the annual Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award. Ms. Huerta, who is well known for her leadership role in Latino farm workers’ rights, was given an honorary reception and luncheon in Quincy House. The event, attended by students and faculty, was co-hosted by student groups such as RAZA and Latinas Unidas. Ms. Huerta delivered eloquent remarks on human rights and the history of the United Farm Workers Association after receiving her award. Her appearance at Harvard was particularly meaningful to Latino students at Harvard College.

Each year the Foundation selects an Artist of the Year to be honored for his or her contributions to American performing arts and humanitarian efforts. Renowned actor and musician Dan Aykroyd was selected as the 2009 Artist of the Year and host of our annual Cultural Rhythms Festival. Over 1,000 students, faculty, and administrators attended the festival, and many have said that it was an inspirational event. During his presence at Harvard and accompanied by his wife Ms. Donna Dixon Aykroyd, Mr. Aykroyd shared with students stories of his experience in film, television, and music. He was quoted as saying that the award of recognition from the Harvard Foundation and the student programs represented one of the greatest moments of his life, and he was deeply appreciative.

In March, we sponsored our Annual Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. During the conference Professor James J. McCarthy, Professor of Biological Oceanography and Master of Pforzheimer House, was honored as the 2009 Scientist of the Year. Dr. Jim McCarthy was recognized for his groundbreaking research in global climate change, for which he shared the Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore, and also for his long-standing support of the intercultural programs of the Harvard Foundation. Professor McCarthy also attended our Partners in Science program, which brought over 150 children this year from inner city of Boston and Cambridge public schools to the Harvard Science Center for a day of science lectures and demonstrations by Harvard faculty and undergraduates.

One of the Harvard Foundation’s most widely respected projects is the Portraiture Project, which was created in 2004. The aim of the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project is to reflect the diversity of Harvard’s faculty and administrators in Harvard’s portrait collection by commissioning paintings of Harvard’s minority faculty of color and others who have dedicated themselves to inclusion and have served the University with singular distinction for 25 years or more, or who are deceased. In February, at the request of students for Black History Month, the Foundation held a special viewing of Dr. Ewart Guinier, the first chairman of Harvard’s African-American Studies Department and Dr. Florence Ladd, former director of the Radcliffe Bunting Institute. (Mary Ingraham Bunting was president of Radcliffe College from 1960–1972.) We look forward to future ceremonies in which each of these two portraits will be permanently placed on campus for the Harvard community to view.

We were delighted to host a visit to the College by Dartmouth President-elect Jim Yong Kim, who discussed with our students his views of academic leadership and some of his thoughts on diversity in a College setting. We are also grateful to Professor Ali Asani, professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic religion and cultures, for leading a discussion for Harvard College students on India-Pakistan relations in the wake of the Mumbai tragedy of last fall.

As is our tradition, the Foundation closed the academic year with the annual Student/Faculty Awards Banquet and David S. Aloian Dinner in Quincy House. We presented Harvard Foundation Awards to 40 students who were nominated by their House Masters, faculty, and peers for their outstanding contributions to the intercultural life of the College. This year, the Faculty/Administrator Award recipient was Dr. David Mitten, James Loeb Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology. David Mitten was honored for his long-standing support of the Harvard Foundation’s mission and for his contributions to College intercultural life as faculty advisor to Harvard College student groups.

I would like to thank the members of the faculty and students, who committed their time, talents, and guidance to the Harvard Foundation and its programs. Our mission remains that of improving and sustaining intercultural and race relations among our students, faculty, and staff of the Harvard family.

Sincerely yours,

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

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 2009 semester: Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University; Dr. Evelynn Hammonds, 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; 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, and the students and faculty associated with the Harvard Foundation. The Harvard Foundation is grateful to Dr. Leo H. Buchanan for his proofreading assistance.
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