



The

HARVARD FOUNDATION Journal

SPRING 2010

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

VOL. XXIX, NO. 2

2010 Distinguished Faculty Award Presented to Dr. Sandra Naddaff



U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 Keynote Speaker at Harvard RAZA Conference



Musical Artist Wyclef Jean Receives Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award



MIT Professor Dr. Paula Hammond Named 2010 Scientist of the Year



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Writers Series Hosts Harvard
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On the cover, clockwise from Bottom Left: U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 (C.) is greeted by Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA student leaders Maricruz Rodriguez '12 (L.) and Miguel Garcia '12; Dr. Sandra Naddaff, Master of Mather House and senior lecturer in literature and comparative literature, is honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award at the Harvard Foundation's annual Aloian Dinner; musical artist Wyclef Jean receives the Harvard Foundation 2010 Artist of the Year Award at the annual Cultural Rhythms Festival; Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter presents the Distinguished Scientist Award to Dr. Paula Hammond, chemical engineering professor at MIT, at the Albert Einstein Science Conference Luncheon in Pforzheimer House.

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

Dear Members of the Faculty and Administration, and Students,

The 2010 spring semester was replete with student-initiated intercultural and intra-cultural projects that were supported by the Harvard Foundation. By all accounts, our annual Cultural Rhythms Festival was “the best ever.” This year’s Artist of the Year Award went to the popular Haitian-American artist Wyclef Jean, who was brilliant as host, and engaging with our students. His presence and participation in the festival engendered tremendous goodwill in our community among students and staff of all ethnic backgrounds. We are grateful to Kirkland House Masters Verena and Tom Conley for their continued support of the Harvard Foundation’s Cultural Rhythms reception and luncheon, which are highly valued by our students.

The College was pleased to welcome numerous alumni back to our campus to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Cultural Rhythms Festival. It is difficult to believe that twenty-five years have passed since I first recommended the Cultural Rhythms Festival to our students and to then-Harvard President Derek Bok. From the outset, over 1,000 students, faculty, and administrators have participated in this event each year with enthusiasm and approval. The first Cultural Rhythms project and several subsequent festivals were attended by President Bok who, during one Cultural Rhythms Festival, joined the students on the stage to dance. The headline of the Harvard Gazette in that year was, “‘Cultural Rhythms’ Unite Harvard.” The first Artist of the Year was the acclaimed dancer and actor Debbie Allen, and the founding student coordinators were Rosie Rios ’87, Lynn Marchetti ’87, Michelle Davila ’88, Lisa Guerra ’87, and Georgia Andritsakis ’87.

Each year, the Harvard Foundation seeks nominations for a scientist who has distinguished herself or himself in a scientific discipline, and who has additionally reached out to disadvantaged communities to attract them to science, engineering, and mathematics. Dr. Paula Hammond, noted MIT professor of chemical engineering, was selected as the 2010 Scientist of the Year. Professor Hammond, whose laboratory has been recognized and visited by U.S. President Barack Obama, is a superb role model for our students of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. She is the consummate scientist and teacher, who enjoys advancing our scientific knowledge while training students in the process.

The Harvard Foundation was pleased to join the students of Harvard RAZA in hosting the 2010 East Coast Chicano Student Forum. The students of Harvard RAZA invited U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios to serve as the keynote speaker for the conference. The East Coast Chicano Student Forum brings together Chicano undergraduate students from universities across the Northeast to discuss relevant political, economic, social and cultural issues that are faced by the Latino community. Over 100 students, representing more than a dozen Ivy League and other East Coast colleges, traveled to Harvard to take part in the three-day event. Reports from students of the Latino community indicated that the conference was a success, and the students of RAZA expressed their appreciation to the Harvard Foundation for our support.

With the assistance of the Harvard Foundation, the Native American Students at Harvard College collaborated with local Massachusetts tribal leaders to erect a wetu, a traditional Eastern Native American dwelling, in Harvard Yard, in commemoration of the 360th anniversary of the Harvard Indian College charter. The wetu was visited by numerous students and faculty of different backgrounds, who were given an explanation of the structure’s importance to early Native American culture in Massachusetts around the time of the Founding of Harvard College. In a related program, The Harvard Foundation also conducted a panel discussion about indigenous running traditions, which was led by Harvard evolutionary biologist Dr. Dan Lieberman ’86 and Christopher McDougall ’85, author of the recently published book *Born to Run*. The Harvard Foundation also presented posthumous certificates of recognition to two Native Americans, Boston Marathon winners Thomas Longboat of the Onondaga nation (who was the first minority to win the marathon in 1907) and Ellison Brown of the Narragansett tribe (who won twice, in 1936 and 1939).

This spring, our annual writers series was pleased to feature emerging author Ms. Noni Carter ’13, a first-year Harvard College student who recently published a book entitled *Good Fortune*. The Harvard Foundation also hosted student panel discussions this spring, which explored issues of race and standards of beauty, in an event titled “Skin Deep,” and ideas of masculinity in an event entitled “Sexism and Hip-Hop.”

As is our tradition, the Foundation closed the academic year with the annual Student/Faculty Awards Banquet in Quincy House, named in honor of former Quincy House Master, David S. Aloian. We presented Harvard Foundation Awards to over 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 Distinguished Faculty/Administrator Award recipient was Dr. Sandra Naddaff, Master of Mather House and director of freshman seminars. Dr. Naddaff was honored for her contributions to intercultural life of the College as a House Master, lecturer, and longtime member of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee.

I would like to thank the members of the Student/Faculty Advisory Committee for their continued support of the Harvard Foundation and their dedicated efforts to uphold its mission. I would also like to thank the office of the president of the University, the office of the dean of FAS, and the office of the dean of Harvard College, for their support of the work of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Harvard Foundation Welcomes Alumni For Cultural Rhythms 25th Anniversary Former Foundation Interns Return to Harvard to Celebrate the Festival's Growth



Above Left: Former Harvard Foundation intern Marlene Losier '01 (R.), now an attorney at law, shares stories with current intern Nworah Ayogu '10 (L.) and Faculty Advisory Committee member Professor Bill Gelbart. Above Right: Former interns (L.-R.) Linda Maxwell '96, Ada Maxwell '02, and Dina Maxwell '06 return to Harvard for the Cultural Rhythms 25th Anniversary Celebration. Their sisters Cindy and Rita were also Foundation interns.

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its flagship event, the Harvard Foundation hosted the Cultural Rhythms Festival's 25th Anniversary Alumni Reception in University Hall. Bringing together Harvard Foundation alumni, current interns, and Student Advisory Committee group leaders, the event commemorated a quarter-century of progress in celebrating diversity on Harvard campus. Current and graduated students had a chance to share Foundation memories and to appreciate the growth and accomplishments of the Harvard Foundation through the annual event of Cultural Rhythms.

Following a video montage by Jessica Ch'ng '12—which showcased performances and Artists of the Year from all the past Cultural Rhythms Festivals, and which captured the cultural richness of the student body and the growth of the event over the years—Jacqueline Hairston '10 and Sara Zaidi '11, coordinators of the reception, welcomed all attendees. Cultural Rhythms co-directors Elizabeth Eze '11 and Kevin Liu '11 spoke of the importance of the cultural celebration and formally invited all attendees to attend the daylong celebration on the following day.

Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, introduced the

history of Cultural Rhythms and its vital role on campus as a venue for students to share different cultures with their fellow classmates. In attendance was Rosie Rios '87, now Treasurer of the United States, who was a student organizer of the very first Cultural Rhythms Festival in 1986. Ms. Rios pointed to the immense impact of the Harvard Foundation on the community and reflected that the first Cultural Rhythms Festival was a day that opened the Harvard community to intercultural dialogue. Other notable alumni at the reception include: Ada Maxwell '02, Dina Maxwell '06, Linda Maxwell '96—three of the five Maxwell sisters who have all worked for the Harvard Foundation—Luis Castro '92, and Niles Lichtenstein '91.

With all the portraits of former presidents of Harvard overlooking the intimate gathering, the students and graduates at the reception were evidence that the Harvard Foundation's work continues both on campus and after graduation. While we have come a long way since first Cultural Rhythms Festival, we still have more work ahead of us as we strive to create a more accepting and unified society; nevertheless, we must remember to celebrate every aspect of diversity.

—Kevin Liu '11



Above: Heriberto "Jungie" Candelaria '91 recalls the early Cultural Rhythms Festivals from his undergraduate years as he chats with students and fellow alumni. Below: Rosie Rios '87, recently appointed Treasurer of the United States, reflects on her role in organizing the first Cultural Rhythms show and its growth in size and scope over the past quarter-century.



Wyclef Jean Honored as 2010 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year



Above Left: Prof. Evelyn Hammonds (L.), Dean of Harvard College, and Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.), director of the Harvard Foundation, present the 2010 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award to musical artist Wyclef Jean. Above Right: Mr. Jean (L.) gives the Harvard Band their cue to play the popular University fight song "Ten Thousand Men of Harvard" as they welcome him to Kirkland House.

In light of his humanitarian efforts in Haiti following the tragic January 2010 earthquake, the Harvard Foundation's announcement of Haitian-born musician Wyclef Jean as 2010 Cultural Rhythms Artist of the Year was enthusiastically received on campus. Starting his career as part of the Fugees in the 1990s, he has since become an internationally popular solo artist. He has received two Grammy Awards and several nominations for his work, which has drawn from diverse musical influences. Mr. Jean is also widely known for his humanitarian work through his organization the Yéle Haiti Foundation, which aims to support the people of Haiti by promoting sports and the arts. The organization also distributes food and mobilizes emergency disaster relief throughout Haiti, including its current efforts in response to the recent earthquake in the Port-au-Prince area.

After formally entering his name into the University guest registry, at the invitation of University Marshal Jackie O'Neill, Mr. Jean was welcomed according to Harvard Foundation tradition in the Kirkland House Junior Common Room (JCR). With the help of the Harvard University Band, students of all backgrounds greeted the Artist of the Year enthusiastically. Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, and Kirkland House Master Verena Conley officially welcomed him to Harvard. At both the JCR gathering and the Kirkland Dining Hall luncheon that followed, Mr. Jean good-naturedly received many student tributes from such

groups as the Pan-African Drum and Music Ensemble, the Harvard KeyChange, and Harvard for Haiti. Reflecting upon the history of the Harvard Foundation's flagship event, 2010 Cultural Rhythms co-directors Elizabeth Eze '11 and Kevin Liu '11 reminded luncheon attendees of how important it has been to have this venue for cultural exchange. When Wyclef Jean took the podium, his stories advocated for remembering one's roots and aiding those in need.

Student participants and Harvard Foundation interns determined to make the 25th Cultural Rhythms one that everyone would remember. A sold-out audience eagerly attended the afternoon show in historic Sanders Theatre, which Wyclef Jean opened with a playfully improvised rap greeting Harvard in several different languages. Throughout the program, Mr. Jean was not content to merely stand by and observe—he took every opportunity to engage with performing students. His participation included a headstand competition with a member of the Asian American Dance Troupe and a back flip tutorial with a member of the Harvard Breakers. He was assisted briefly by Ms. Rosa Rios '87, United States Treasurer. A former Foundation intern and founding organizer of Cultural Rhythms, Ms. Rios joined the Artist of the Year to introduce the student group with which she once performed, Mexican dance troupe Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán.

Dr. Evelyn Hammonds, Dean of Harvard

College, joined Dr. Counter in presenting the 2010 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year Award on behalf of the University. First leaping across the stage and holding the plaque up towards the sky, Mr. Jean then took a moment to thank the Harvard Foundation and Harvard University with respect and sincere gratitude. Originally scheduled for a flight out of Logan Airport to attend another engagement, he was so enamored with the students of Harvard that he postponed his departure to stay for the rest of the Cultural Rhythms Festival.

After taking the time to meet with fans who gathered after the show, Mr. Jean paid a visit to the Cultural Rhythms Food Festival, organized by Foundation intern Bronwen O'Herin '12 in the Science Center. When Cultural Rhythms attendees returned to Sanders for the evening show, Mr. Jean followed. To express his gratitude to Harvard University, the 2010 Artist of the Year treated the audience with an acoustic performance of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song." Evening show co-directors Miguel Garcia '12 and Olamide Oladipo '12 were thrilled to start the show with this surprise, which jump-started attendees' enthusiasm for the talented student acts that followed.

As the evening show came to a close, all in attendance agreed that Wyclef Jean had left an unforgettable impression on the Harvard community, but nothing less was expected for the 25th Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival.

—Jacqueline Hairston '10

25th Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival Celebrates Harvard's Diversity



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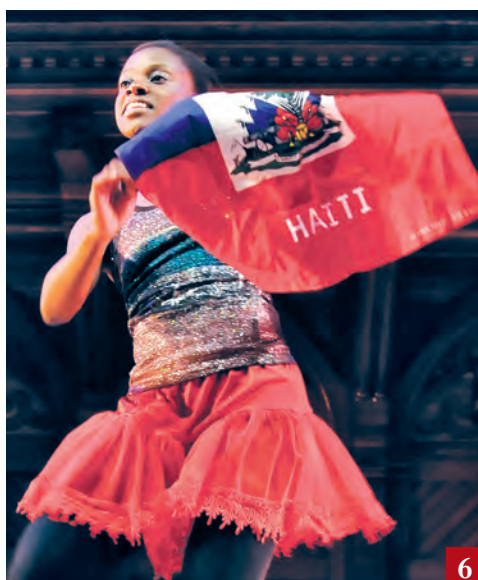
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1: The Instant Gratification Players roast a bashful Wyclef Jean (R.) at the Artist of the Year celebration in the Kirkland House Junior Common Room; 2: Mr. Jean thanks Dr. Verena Conley (R.), Master of Kirkland House, for her welcome at the Artist of the Year Luncheon in the Kirkland Dining Hall; 3: Mr. Jean (C.) greets KeyChange after they present a musical tribute during the Kirkland House luncheon; 4: Mr. Jean visits the Caribbean Club's table at the Cultural Rhythms Food Festival in the Science Center between shows; Student performances at the 2010 Cultural Rhythms Festival Afternoon Show included 5: the Syncopation Step Team and 6: the Caribbean Club Dance Troupe.

Artist Wyclef Jean Joins Student Performers On Stage in Sanders Theatre



Participating student performance groups in the Cultural Rhythms Festival included **1:** the Harvard Intertribal Indian Dance Troupe, **3:** Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, **4:** the Harvard Philippine Forum, **6:** the Asian American Dance Troupe, and **7:** the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College. **2:** 2010 Cultural Rhythms Festival student co-directors Elizabeth Eze '11 (L.) and Kevin Liu '11 welcome to Sanders Theatre an audience of more than 1,000 members of the Harvard community; **5:** 2010 Artist of the Year Wyclef Jean expresses his gratitude to Harvard through a surprise performance at the beginning of the Cultural Rhythms Evening Show; **8:** Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project artist Stephen Coit '71 (R.) joins a member of the Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble on stage.



MIT's Paula Hammond Receives 2010 Harvard Foundation Distinguished Scientist Award



Above Left: Dr. Paula Hammond, Bayer Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT, discusses her research at the Science Conference Luncheon. Above Right: Dr. Hammond meets with Harvard students after the event.

The annual Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, was held over two bright and sunny spring days on the first weekend of April. On Friday, April 2, Dr. Paula Hammond of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was honored with the Harvard Foundation's Distinguished Scientist Award for her efforts in providing opportunities for minorities and women in the sciences, and most especially in her own field of engineering. Student representatives from groups such as the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers (HSBSE) and distinguished faculty were present to hear Professor Hammond speak of the great need for diversity in the sciences.

As an alumna of MIT, and now as its Bayer Professor of Chemical Engineering, as well as executive officer of MIT's chemical engineering department, Professor Hammond is a strong supporter of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Her work includes research that will positively impact the expanding field of solar-energy. Dr. Hammond has worked fervently to create new innovations in the use of solar energy and to increase awareness of its potential. In addition to her role as a researcher and educator, Professor

Hammond works to encourage women and minority participation in science, energy, and technology. Professor Hammond has been granted numerous awards throughout her career, including the Bayer Distinguished Lecturer Award and the Radcliffe Institute Fellowship at Harvard University.

The chosen theme for the second day of the Harvard Foundation Science Conference—called the Partners in Science Program—was “Energizing the Future,” a reference to the recent public interest in renewable energy and Dr. Hammond's important scientific contributions. Student attendees' T-shirts symbolically represented this with bright, hopeful colors comprising a battery with wind, solar, and biofuel energy sources depicted within.

Student organizers Christen Brown '13 and Justin Banerdt '13 extended the Foundation's welcome to more than 100 primary and secondary school students in the Harvard Science Center. Dr. Hammond began the day of lectures and activities by sharing some of her exciting new research on futuristic nanotechnology-based batteries, which could revolutionize the way the world stores and uses energy. Her fun and engaging personality was warmly received by the students, who rushed up at the end of her presentation to take a

group picture.

The rest of the day's presenters included: Professor Robert Lue, director of life sciences education; Dr. Andrew Berry associate of population genetics in the Museum of Comparative Zoology; Dr. Julia Finklestein and Dr. Surabh Mehta, teaching and research fellows, respectively, at the School of Public Health; Mr. Daniel Rosenberg, teaching assistant in chemistry and chemical biology; and members of the student group ExperiMentors.

—Justin Banerdt '13

Opposite Page: Partners in Science program presenters included 1: Distinguished Scientist Award recipient Dr. Paula Hammond, 2: Dr. Robert Lue, professor molecular and cellular biology, 3: Dr. Andrew Berry, associate of population genetics, 5: Mr. Daniel Rosenberg, research assistant in chemistry and physics, 6: Mr. Surabh Mehta, research fellow, and 8: students from ExperiMentors. 4: Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter greets instructors from the Paul Robeson and Mary McLeod Bethune Institutes. 7 and 9: Public school students, undergraduates, and faculty come together for the daylong Partners in Science program.

Foundation Partners in Science Program Brings Public School Students to Harvard



2010 Aloian Dinner Recognizes Student Contributions

Mather House Master Sandra Naddaff Receives 2010 Faculty Award



1: Dr. S. Allen Counter (R.) presents the Director's Award to Nworah Ayogu '10; **2:** Dr. Suzy Nelson, dean of student life, commends the evenings honorees and their efforts this year; **3:** Senior Admissions Officer Mr. David L. Evans (Bottom R.) congratulates Distinguished Senior Award recipients.

The Harvard Foundation celebrated Harvard students and faculty who made significant contributions to diversity relations on campus this year at its annual award ceremony and Aloian Dinner. As in previous years, the dinner was hosted in Quincy House, under the auspices of House Masters Lee and Deborah Gehrke and in memory of former House Master David S. Aloian and his mission to strive for diversity and interracial peace at Harvard.

The 2010 Faculty of the Year Award was presented to Mather House Master Dr. Sandra Naddaff. The award honors her commitment to diversity and intercultural understanding at Harvard, as well as her history of collaboration and friendship with the Foundation. Dr. Naddaff, a senior lecturer on literature and active member of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee, also serves as director of studies in the literature concentration and director of freshmen seminars at Harvard College.

With the Distinguished Senior Award for Excellence in Leadership, the Harvard

Foundation recognized members of the graduating class who have served as leaders and made substantial contributions to intercultural and racial harmony at the College and in the larger community. The Peer Recognition Award was presented to Jacqueline Hairston '10, who was recognized by fellow students for her dedication as a Foundation intern and student group leader. Dr. Counter also presented the Director's Award to Nworah Ayogu '10, to honor his many contributions to student activities and dedicated service to the Harvard Foundation and its mission.

The Harvard Foundation also recognized race relations advisors Raquel Kennon of Pforzheimer House and Carl Miller of Eliot House for their work to

further the mission of the Foundation in the residential Houses. The Harvard Foundation Insignia Award was presented to students who have demonstrated sustained contributions to improving intercultural and race relations on campus. Finally, the Harvard Foundation presented Certificates of Recognition to undergraduate students beginning to make noteworthy contributions to race relations at Harvard College.

In her remarks during the evening's ceremonies, Dr. Suzy Nelson, dean of student life at Harvard College, affirmed the significant contributions of all who were honored that night. She thanked all awardees and encouraged them to continue their admirable efforts at Harvard and beyond.

—Kevin Liu '11, Alexa Rahman '12

2010 Harvard Foundation Award Recipients

Distinguished Senior Award: Nworah Ayogu '10 • Elizabeth Eve '10 • Jacqueline Hairston '10 • Jarrell Lee '10 • Kelsey Leonard '10 • Richard Serna '10 • Nafees Syed '10

Insignia Award: Alexandra Chen '10 • Taylor Chiu '10 • Elizabeth Eze '11 • Spencer Hardwick '11 • Athena Lao '12 • Kevin Liu '11 • Huy Nguyen '10 • Maxwell Nwaru '10 • Bronwen O'Herin '12 • Alexandra Rahman '12 • Abdelnasser Rashid '11 • Diana Robles '10 • David Sengh '10 • Sara Zaidi '11

Certificate of Recognition: Melissa Alexander '10 • Cesareo Alvarez '13 • Justin Banerdt '13 • Clayton Brooks '10 • Christen Brown '13 • Jessica Ch'ng '12 • Carola Cintrón-Arroyo '12 • Michelle Crentsil '10 • James Fish '10 • Miguel Garcia '12 • Maryell Hernandez '11 • Reshma Lutfeali '13 • Diana Marin '12 • Matthews Mmopi '11 • Amanda Nguyen '13 • Ugochi Nwosu '12 • Lucerito Ortiz '10 • Shankar Ramaswamy '11 • Jasmine Rencher '11 • Maricruz Rodriguez '12 • Jessica Roman-Salazar '12 • Eric Smith '13

Race Relations Advisors: Raquel Kennon, Pforzheimer House • Carl Miller, Eliot House

Dr. Dan Lieberman '86 and Author Chris McDougall '85 Discuss Indigenous Running Foundation Posthumously Recognizes Two Native American Boston Marathon Winners



Dr. Dan Lieberman '86 (L.), professor in human evolutionary biology, and author Mr. Christopher McDougall '85 discuss barefoot running.

In April 2010, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations hosted "Running Proud: The Legacy of Indigenous Running" in William James Hall. The event featured a presentation and discussion about indigenous running practices and today's barefoot running movement, led by Professor Dan Lieberman '86, chair of the department of human evolutionary biology, and Christopher

McDougall '85, author of *Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen*.

Foundation intern Kelsey Leonard '10 presented an introduction to the history of Native American runners in Boston. Ms. Leonard described how Thomas Longboat, of the Onondaga nation, was the first person of color to win the Boston Marathon in 1907, also breaking the record time by five minutes. Later, Ellison "Tarzan" Brown, from the Narragansett tribe, won the Boston Marathon in 1936 and 1939. These incredible feats reflect a culture of running in Native American communities. Ms. Leonard then presented posthumous certificates of recognition to the nations of Longboat and Brown to honor their achievements.

Professor Lieberman delivered a presentation about "why people run, and what we can learn from indigenous running." The history of long-distance running began over 2 million years ago; evidence shows that endurance running was first used in hunting. Many other aspects of Native American life—

transportation, communication, and recreation—came to involve running as well. Professor Lieberman explained that the long history of indigenous barefoot running has implications for the "modern marathon era." A third of habitual runners—most of whom wear heavily cushioned running shoes—suffer repetitive and/or overuse injuries. Perhaps these runners, he suggested, would benefit from studying the ways of habitually barefoot runners, who run as the human body was built to do.

Mr. McDougall then offered a presentation of his book, *Born to Run*, and a discussion of his experiences with indigenous barefoot running practices. He described the origins of running as a meditative and communal activity—an activity that has since become an individualized, competitive activity. For the tribe in which Mr. McDougall performed his research, running reflects a larger cultural emphasis on sharing and compassion, contrary to modern materialism and accumulation. Perhaps we have more still to learn than barefoot running techniques from indigenous communities.

—Jessica Ch'ng '12

Panel Discussion Explores Gender Roles and Ideas in Hip-hop Culture



In April the Harvard Foundation, in collaboration with the Harvard College Women's Center and Queer Students and Allies, hosted a screening of the documentary *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*. The screening was followed by an audience discussion moderated by Dr. Michael Jeffries, visiting assistant professor in the African and African American

Studies department at Harvard this year.

In *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* filmmaker Byron Hurt, a self-described lover of hip-hop, questions depictions of women and masculinity in hip-hop music and videos. He explores the topic through interviews with scholars, rappers, and fans. The film discusses the damaging construction of manhood re-created and reinforced in hip-hop—one in which being "hard," objectifying women, committing violence, and denigrating gays becomes the norm.

After viewing the film, Dr. Jeffries led an audience discussion and helped to answer any questions raised by the film. Many students found it interesting that the film engaged particularly with

portrayals of masculinity in hip-hop. They suggested that this focus perhaps demonstrates how sexism is a problem for both genders, not just for women as people often think. They grappled with questions of changing these images in hip-hop music, how to encourage people to be more critical of the music they consume, and the difficulties of being openly critical of the music that is so deeply integrated into college social life. The audience contemplated the implications of the increasingly global popularity of American hip-hop music. These questions remain open-ended, but Dr. Jeffries and audience participants developed a few suggestions: to be critical consumers and to continue the discussion beyond this event.

—Jessica Ch'ng '12

Foundation Writers Series Features College Student Noni Carter '13

Image courtesy of the Harvard College Women's Center



*Rising author Noni Carter '13 (L.) discusses her novel *Good Fortune* with fellow Harvard undergraduates at a reading in Straus Hall.*

Noni Carter, a freshman at Harvard College, has achieved something that most people our age could never dream of doing: completing a full-length novel. Begun when she was only 13 years old, *Good Fortune* was published in January 2010. Just weeks after its release, the

Harvard Foundation featured Ms. Carter's work in a writers series event in Straus Hall, in collaboration with the Harvard College Women's Center.

Inspired by stories passed down of her family history, Ms. Carter began slowly but surely to work on what was at first a short story and that quickly grew in vision and scope. The final product is the story of a girl named Ayanna, from her first memories in Africa to her forced uprooting to America with millions of other Africans as part of the Atlantic slave trade, and her inspiring search for freedom in her life in the United States.

In her discussion with fellow students, Ms. Carter described vividly the trials and tribulations in facing the seemingly insurmountable wall of the publishing industry, in which even writers older and

more experienced than she could not get published. However, she and her father persisted and after months of difficulty received that key endorsement from a Simon & Schuster executive, who was taken by Ms. Carter's energy, talent, and passion.

Her energy became evident, no doubt, in the first words of her reading in Straus Hall. With a clear and powerful voice, Ms. Carter read a passage which describes in vivid detail the death of Ayanna's mother and Ayanna's abduction by slavers. The administrators, students, and faculty present, were deeply moved by Ms. Carter's narrative.

Attendees commented that Noni Carter certainly has a bright future as an author, and the Harvard Foundation looks forward to her future published works.

—Justin Banerdt '13

Student Panel Examines Beauty and Self-alterations to Meet Ideals

The Harvard Foundation, with Latinas Unidas de Harvard and the Harvard College South Asian Women's Collective, presented "Skin Deep: The Makeup of a Beautiful Face," a discussion in Boylston Hall about beauty, race, and how people alter themselves to fit definitions of beauty. The event featured a diverse panel of students: Stephanie Delgado '10, Priyanka Mitra '11, LaMisha Tucker '10, Sanyee Yuan '12, and was moderated by Professor Linda Schlossberg, assistant director of studies for the Department for Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

Dr. Schlossberg raised some of the key questions about race and beauty in the media: why do people (in this case, celebrities) alter their appearances in ways that seem inextricably linked to race? To what lengths are people willing to go to achieve lighter skin, wider eyes, and "good hair"? Discussion drew connections between race and beauty

and between race and gender. As Dr. Schlossberg indicated, these beauty standards tend disproportionately to affect women of color.

The student panelists shared varied perspectives. The panel addressed such issues as the salience of hair texture in African-American communities; emphasis on skin color in Indian culture; the recent proliferation of eyelid surgery among Asian-American women; and the many physical features that may be "prized or despised" in Latin American culture. Panelists discerned a pernicious view of "ethnic" features as less than desirable or even "ugly."

Attendees also offered questions or personal stories. Many remarked that mainstream media seems to only accept minorities with "good hair," light skin, wide eyes, and narrow noses as beautiful, thus normalizing this as the standard for beauty for ethnic minorities.



The "Skin Deep" panel discusses ways in which minorities often feel the need to alter themselves to fit mainstream standards of beauty.

Ms. Yuan suggested being critical of the media, to bear in mind that celebrities, stripped of make-up and digital re-touching, are not very different from other women. An audience member suggested being critical of the norms to which we hold ourselves—creating new conceptions of beauty in which one can be both "ethnic" and beautiful.

—Jessica Ch'ng '12

Harvard Foundation Welcomes Swedish Cultural Counselor Mats Widbom



1: Mr. Mats Widbom (R.) describes his work and goals in his position as Cultural Counselor for the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, DC. 2: Student attendees sample traditional Swedish cuisine at the Mather House reception. 3: Swedish Vice Consul to Boston Ginga Sewerin-Olsson meets with Mr. Widbom at the event. 4: Mather House Master Leigh Hafrey (R.) welcomes Mr. Widbom.

On an April evening in Mather House, the Harvard Foundation had the honor of welcoming Mr. Mats Widbom, cultural counselor for the Ministry of Culture at the Swedish Embassy in Washington, DC. Mr. Widbom came to the Embassy of Sweden in September 2006, straight from the governmental authority Swedish Travelling Exhibitions where he served as head of exhibitions, acting director general and artistic director.

With a master's degree in architecture from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Mr. Widbom has also studied at the legendary Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in New York. He produced and was the project leader of the successful exhibition

"Swedish Folk Art: All Tradition Is Change," which toured for over four years throughout the United States and Canada. From 1998–2004, Mr. Widbom was president of the Swedish National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and a board member of the International Committee for Exhibitions and Exchange (ICEE) from 2001–2006. During the years 1995–1998, he was one of the program coordinators responsible for the largest cultural project within the European Union, the Stockholm Cultural Capital of Europe 1998. Mats Widbom has also written a large number of articles and has co-edited several important books on art, museum development, and architecture.

Many respected members of the Harvard Club of Sweden were present to hear Dr. Counter and Mr. Widbom speak of improved cultural relations between the United States and Sweden. In addition, the gathering proved to be a wonderful opportunity to socialize, not only for members of Harvard's Swedish community but also for those interested in learning more about the country. Students were also excited by the opportunity to meet and mingle with some of the most dynamic members of the Swedish community this side of the Atlantic. As a hub for intercultural relations on campus, the Foundation greatly interested many guests in attendance.

Swedish Harvard graduate student Maria Persson Gulda, a tutor in Winthrop House, was generous enough to provide a spread of Swedish cuisine, and as attendees appreciated the offerings, conversation turned warmly to the prospect of continued cultural collaboration both within Harvard and beyond.

The Harvard Foundation looks forward to further engaging and supporting the growing Swedish community on campus, and to providing opportunities for our students to further experience much more than simply the cuisine of Swedish culture.

—Justin Banerdt '13



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 spring 2010 semester.

RAZA East Coast Chicano Student Forum Hosts U.S. Treasurer Roa Rios '87

At the request of many enthusiastic students, the Harvard Foundation invited U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 to serve as the keynote speaker for the 2010 East Coast Chicano Student Forum (ECCSF). The conference was hosted by Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA and was co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation. As an undergraduate, Ms. Rios was a cofounder of the festival and a student director of Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, Harvard College's traditional Mexican dance group.

The ECCSF was founded in 1984; back then, this gathering was simply a time for Chicano students, mostly from the Southwest, to gather over the Thanksgiving holiday. The forum has since come to be a dynamic social, cultural, and political event that consists of workshops, lectures, and student performances. This year's conference was attended by about 200 students representing more than 15 universities, including Brown, Yale, Georgetown, MIT, Tufts, and Mt. Holyoke College.

This year's conference aimed to explore ways to increase access to culturally relevant literature and arts. Dr. David Carrasco, the Neil L. Rudenstine Professor for the Study of Latin America, engaged students in a lecture on Mesoamerican life and its traceable resemblance in current Chicano art and literature. Professor Irene Mata of Wellesley College discussed ways in which women of color, especially immigrant women, are presented in contemporary cultural productions. Guided by anthropologist Michael Baran, preceptor in expository writing at Harvard, students analyzed contemporary representation of Latino culture in children's movies and characters such as *The Lion King*, Speedy Gonzalez, Dora



the Explorer, and *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*.

Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter introduced the keynote speaker, U.S. Treasurer Rios, on the final day of the three-day-long conference. Treasurer Rios reflected on her undergraduate career at Harvard, and her involvement with the Harvard Foundation during its formative years. Speaking to young Chicanos, and to women in particular, Rios stressed the importance of Latino women's representation in business and politics, and she discussed the challenges of being an elected official and working mother. When asked about her plans after her service as U.S. treasurer, and whether

she would consider running for state or federal political office, Ms. Rios responded, "I have no limits—watch out for me!"

In addition to participating in the ECCSF conference this year, Treasurer Rios joined the Harvard Foundation as a special guest host for this year's 25th Cultural Rhythms Festival.

—Miguel Garcia '12

Above: RAZA students greet U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 (C.). Below Left: Ms. Rios (C.) is welcomed by student leaders Maricruz Rodriguez '12 (L.) and Miguel Garcia '12. Below Right: students of the Spoken Word Society perform.



Building on Tradition: Harvard Students Build a Traditional Wetu Using Poles and Bark

From the *Harvard Gazette*: Thursday, April 29, 2010

For the first time in more than three centuries, a Native American home stands in Harvard Yard.

Over three days, a group of Harvard students built a traditional Wampanoag home, called a wetu, near the site of Harvard's Indian College, one of the first buildings on campus, constructed to house students from nearby tribes.

The structure, of a size that might have housed a small family, was built of traditional materials: long, thin poles lashed together with long strips of bark and sheathed in larger rectangular bark squares. It was left unfinished on one side to let passersby view its interior.

Kelsey Leonard, a senior and member of Long Island's Shinnecock tribe, said the project was conceived as a way to commemorate the 360th anniversary of Harvard's 1650 charter, which dedicated the institution to the education of English and Indian youth alike.

In addition, Leonard said, the project was also intended to commemorate the Indian College, built in 1655, the foundation of which was uncovered last fall by an archaeology class digging in the Yard.

Leonard was joined by other members of the student group Native Americans at Harvard College in the effort. She said the work, which included stripping bark from the thin poles, was sometimes tedious, but "therapeutic." The students



labored in shifts, trading off tasks as they left to attend class.

College administrators and officials at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, who took a lead role in the Yard dig that unearthed the Indian College's foundation, said that though they handled some of the logistical necessities, the project was largely student conceived and run.

Leonard said that Harvard's first Native American students were part of a cultural exchange between the English settlers and the local tribes as the two groups sought to understand each other better.

"We wanted to find a way to continue that exchange, so we're building the first wetu in Harvard Yard," Leonard said. "It's been a very good experience, very positive."

Above: Foundation intern and student leader Kelsey Leonard '10 reflects upon the importance of commemorating the 1650 Indian College Charter. Below: Visitors are invited to explore the wetu in Harvard Yard.

The wetu will stand in the Yard through Arts First weekend and be dismantled on May 3.

Tiffany Smalley, a junior and Aquinnah Wampanoag who co-directed the project with Leonard, said during the wetu's opening ceremony April 22 that the project has made her optimistic about the future of Native Americans at Harvard and helped her understand a little more about her own native culture.

"Personally, I'm learning more and more how to honor my ancestors and how to honor [specific] spaces," Smalley said.

The wetu was constructed with help from the Aquinnah Wampanoag of Gay Head, based on Martha's Vineyard. Tribal council member Jonathan Perry directed the construction, providing traditional materials.

Perry, who has worked on constructing traditional structures like wetus and dugout canoes for several years, said traditional wetus varied widely in size. The largest could stretch 200 feet and be 40 feet wide. Building them was typically

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

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.

Weekly Diversity Dialogues Lowell House

This year, Lowell House race relations advisors created a discussion series that took place twice a month, which provided students with a space in which to discuss current events related to issues of race and diversity. These dialogues involved faculty, tutors, the Lowell House Masters and students from other Houses. They helped to foster a sense of community among students and facilitated meaningful conversation outside of the classroom. We hope to bring this program back next year, as part of the University's Sustained Dialogue initiative.

Avatar and the Racial Imagination Lowell House

Dr. Aisha Beliso-De Jesus, assistant professor of religion and African diaspora studies at Harvard, was invited to speak to Lowell House students about various themes, issues, and modes of representation in the record-breaking film *Avatar*. The event engaged students in a critical discussion of the film's racial themes and images, while providing them with an opportunity to closely read and deconstruct popular narratives and archetypes within Hollywood films.

Controversy Around "Hitler Housing Day" Video Pforzheimer House

A currently popular internet meme makes fun of the scene of Adolf Hitler's emotional breakdown in the 2004 German film *Downfall*. A parody of this scene is made by altering the English

subtitles to suggest that Hitler is upset at something humorous; recently, a parody was posted online in which Hitler was infuriated by not being placed in Pforzheimer on Housing Day. Pforzheimer House residents engaged in a lively debate on the House open e-mail list about the use of this internet meme, whether or not it was offensive, and issues of cultural sensitivity.

International Dumpling Study Break Adams House

One study break featured foods that many students had not tried before, such as Tibetan *momos*. The foods were all related to dumplings in some way—i.e., foods that are wrapped—and represented a number of different cultures. To accompany the food, music videos from around the world were projected onto the wall, illustrating pop culture across the globe. Together the videos and food promoted conversation among attendees. This event was one of the most popular that we've thrown. It is the hope of the Adams House race relations advisors that this will encourage incoming students to think about the diversity of cultures at Adams.

Film Discussions Currier House

An event held at Currier House this spring, in late February, focused on the portrayal of interracial relationships in film over the years. Currier residents gathered for a dual screening of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (starring Sidney Poitier) and *Guess Who* (starring Ashton Kutcher) over two consecutive evenings. The screenings were accompanied by

a soul food dinner on one night and barbecue on the next.

Informal Discussions Eliot House

In addition to other spring semester events in Eliot House, race relations advisors actively engaged in weekly discussions with various Eliot students surrounding issues of race and justice. These discussions ran the gamut from discussing the history of racism in the American South and how it affects prison populations, to discussing the ethical implications of investing money in gold mines in South Africa—without knowing what (if any) exploitation and/or human rights violations there may or may not be.

Sociology and Race Mather House

Mather House's race relations advisor Josiah Epps also serves the House as sociology tutor (with a focus on race, culture, and inequality), and he is in charge of the Du Bois Roundtable. Instead of separating these duties, he held weekly "Sociology Roundtables" in which graduate students spoke to Mather undergraduates on their research. This fostered discussions over dinner about issues of race, inequality, culture, social justice, and politics.



Dr. S. Allen Counter Leads Harvard Relief Team to Haiti

Harvard Team Provides Supplies and Medical Support After Port-au-Prince Earthquake



1



2



3

Just days after the tragic earthquake struck on January 12, 2010, Dr. S. Allen Counter, professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and director of the Harvard Foundation (*photo 1, L.*), organized the first of his two earthquake relief efforts from Harvard and headed off to Haiti with a large supply of tents and donated medical supplies. He later contacted his friend, acclaimed actor Will Smith, and asked him to donate 100 tents to the earthquake-displaced families in Haiti. Smith enthusiastically agreed and shipped over 100 family-sized camping tents to Counter at Harvard through the Will and Jada Pinkett-Smith Family Foundation. Famed actress Debbie Allen also sent along a number of tents for homeless children and families in Haiti. Dr. Counter personally delivered the tents to homeless families in and around the earthquake-ravaged capital of Port-Au-Prince (*photo 2*). Each tent can provide temporary housing for a family of six to eight persons.

Dr. Counter bypassed the logistical bottleneck of supply traffic on damaged and congested Haitian roads, entering Port-Au-Prince by using military helicopters provided by his friend and president of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernandez Reyna. Counter criss-crossed the Dominican Republic and Haiti numerous times on Huey helicopters, delivering his tents as well as supplies of crutches, walking canes, and medicines to different locations in and around the Port-Au-Prince area. He was assisted in the distribution of the tents to homeless families by Haitian churches and

military volunteers from the Dominican Republic. "It was deeply moving to witness entire families who were previously sleeping on the streets move into the comfort and privacy of their own new tent," Counter said. "I felt blessed to be able to offer this small contribution of medicines and temporary housing to displaced Haitian families in the aftermath of this tragic earthquake."

Dr. Counter also organized a Harvard Foundation medical relief team of doctors, nurses and technicians (*photo 3*) who traveled with him to Haiti and provided medical care for scores of injured earthquake victims. The medical team included Dr. Bruce Price, chief of neurology and psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital (and member of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Committee), Dr. Timothy Benson, physician and psychiatrist at McLean Hospital, and Dr. Michael Jenike, physician and psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital. They were assisted by Haitian-American nurse Widy Pierre of McLean, Harvard Biological Laboratories technician Anthony Jacobs, and Dominican-born translator Milca Matos.

Each day, the group visited relief centers, where hundreds of injured and in some cases dying earthquake victims were lying on the ground or on the back of trucks with little or no medical supplies or doctors. In addition to providing medical treatment, the group provided the dedicated paramedical volunteers from Haiti and other nations with an array of medicines, including analgesics and antibiotics, as well as supplies of surgical gowns, surgical masks,

antiseptics, gauze, bandages and flashlights. Most of the medical supplies were donated by the Harvard University Health Services under the auspices of its director, Dr. David Rosenthal, and head of pharmacy Mr. Benedict DiRusso. Counter's team also flew large amounts of water to medical treatment sites in Port-au-Prince, where many dehydrated patients were lying in wheelbarrows that served as small ambulances. In response to a request from the Haitian Embassy in Washington, DC, Dr. Counter also delivered a large number of body bags to Haitian hospitals, donated by the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Counter's Harvard Foundation relief team, including Harvard students, had previously worked together in disaster relief in Louisiana immediately following Hurricane Katrina, where they assisted an estimated 1,500 hurricane victims, including 500 displaced Vietnamese immigrants at St. Anthony's Church Shelter. Some years earlier, Dr. Counter had also assisted earthquake victims in the Andes mountain area of Cotopaxi Province in central Ecuador, where he brought in a team of medical personnel and supplied medicines and tents for the indigenous Andean families who had been injured or lost their homes. Dr. Counter has traveled back-and-forth to Ecuador numerous times over the past decade to identify and provide medical treatment for Andean children who suffer from environmental exposure to lead and mercury poisoning.

—Dr. Leo H. Buchanan,
Harvard University Health Services

Harvard Foundation Joins Memorial Church in Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.

With the change in Harvard's academic calendar came a January without students on campus, a minor hurdle for the Harvard Foundation and Memorial Church in planning the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration. On February 1, 2010, students, faculty, and members of the greater Harvard community gathered in Memorial Church to honor the man who forever changed the state of race relations in the United States.

The Reverend Jonathan Page, Memorial Church Epps Fellow, welcomed the audience and recounted the history of Martin Luther King, Jr., at Harvard, including the last sermon that he preached in Memorial Church prior to his assassination. Excerpts from one of his most famous speeches, "A Christmas Sermon on Peace," originally delivered in 1967, were recited by Jacqueline Hairston '10 and Spencer Hardwick '11. The audience was reminded of the eloquence and power that Dr. King

incorporated into his speeches.

In his speech entitled "We're Called to Make a Way," the Reverend Otis Moss III, pastor of Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ and the celebration's keynote speaker, highlighted the way in which a small action in the past can have a domino-like effect on our understanding of history. This moving speech truly paid homage to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Following the keynote address, Andrea Tyler '10 presented the Children's Defense Fund, the charity organization that would be receiving the donations given by service attendees during the offering. The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College performed musical selections throughout the program, including a moving rendition of "Hold On." Following the benediction given by the Reverend Robert Mark, Memorial Church McDonald Fellow, members of the audience were invited to attend a



The Reverend Otis Moss, III (R.), is welcomed to Harvard University as the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration's keynote speaker.

reception in the basement of Memorial Church. As people of all backgrounds interacted and dined together, it became obvious that Dr. King's influence is still strong.

—Jacqueline Hairston '10

Student/Faculty Advisory Committee: Spring 2010 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 Philips 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 2009-2010 series continued with its first spring semester meeting in February. This meeting featured the

successful admission of two new groups to the SAC: the Harvard College in Asia Program (HCAP), which serves to increase interest and understanding of Asia among Harvard students through exchange programs, and the South Asian Men's Collective (SAMC), which offers a welcoming community to South Asian men and works to collaborate with other cultural groups.

In March, Undergraduate Council (UC) president Johnny Bowman '11 and vice president Eric Hysen '11 joined the SAC to discuss UC initiatives of particular relevance to cultural groups. Discussion topics included: difficulties in holding dining hall parties, potential reforms to the UC grant system, enthusiastic interest for J-term programming, and the new online room reservation tool for student groups.

The April meeting featured Dean Jay Harris, who solicited from SAC/FAC

members ideas for supporting incoming students from under-resourced high schools. SAC members discussed various potential ways of responding to the issue, such as a pass/no-record grade system for freshman fall semester, organizing an extended orientation program in the summer, or sending additional resources and orientation material to certain students after admission.

The SAC has elected Christen Brown '13 and Reshma Lutfeali '13 as co-chairs, Justin Banerdt '13 as treasurer, and Kennedy Mukuna '12 as secretary for the 2010-2011 SAC board. However, Bronwen O'Herin '12 and Alexa Rahman '12, co-chairs emeritus, plan to stay on in an advisory capacity for the fall 2010 semester to facilitate the leadership transition.

—Justin Banerdt '13

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 Bulgarian Club with the Harvard Armenian Club Bulgarian-Armenian Culinary Event

The Bulgarian-Armenian event was first held in 2008 and has become a new tradition. This year, the culinary event was held in the Lowell House Junior Common Room in March. We cooked many traditional Bulgarian and Armenian dishes, and we played traditional music from both Armenia and Bulgaria. Student organization members also shared photographs with one another and especially with other attendees, who became interested in learning more about the two countries and perhaps even in visiting them one day.

—Georgi Vukov '10

Vietnamese Association with Fuerza Latina Wrap and Rollito: A Fusion Food Workshop

The Harvard Vietnamese Association and Fuerza Latina brought back, by popular demand, its Wrap and Rollito Fusion Food Workshop. The event brought together two different cultures and cuisines, highlighting not their differences, but instead what they had in common. This food workshop highlighted burritos and spring rolls.

At the workshop, members of both organizations operated stations, assisting attendees in making their burritos and spring rolls and answering questions about the foods and materials. Not only did the participants learn a lot, but members of the participating organizations also learned a great deal from one another. The workshop gave an accurate representation of the popular foods of both the Vietnamese and Latin traditions. They brought together members of two different communities in a close environment, fostering closer bonds between two usually distinct populations over food and fun.

—Amy Vo '10

Harvard South Asian Association Vikas Khanna Chef Demonstration

Chef Vikas Khanna came to Ticknor Lounge in January, at the invitation of the South Asian Association, to demonstrate how to make *avial* (a South Indian vegetable dish) and to discuss his culinary experiences. He began developing recipes at a very young age, and when he was 16 he opened Lawrence Gardens Banquets to host weddings and family functions. He graduated from the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration in 1994, and he established SAANCH, a cultural festival gala, to bring together various foods and

traditions from different parts of India. This festival has been an important event in the school's calendar. He also learned the art of sculpting stone and wood in Jaipur, Mysore, Udipi, and Sagar (Karnataka). He has worked for the Taj, Oberoi, Welcomgroup, and Leela Group of Hotels, with some of the most influential chefs of India. Many students turned out for this event.

—Vinay Trivedi '13

Latino Men's Collective Latinos Unidos

This event targeted unity in the community because, as had been said in our open discussion, many stereotypes are based on misinformed facts. We explored our similarities, and how some cultures only focus on the differences. Much of the discussion centered on the notion that there were many nationalist agendas that have affected our goal of a wider cohesion. At the same time, it was argued that nationalism has helped Latin American countries to mold a population that is loyal and to create an internal cohesion. Our main concern was how Latinos could integrate different cultures together. It was agreed that much of the time, we Latinos are just placed together, but that this is not legitimated diversity. We also discussed different ways in which we could integrate a wider community, and

how diversity could be beneficial in a community. Among one of these ideas was that of more collaboration with groups of other races. This collaboration only increases interracial contact, and sometimes this contact is all that is necessary to improve diversity. The Latino Men's Collective appreciates the help of the Harvard Foundation in facilitating this discussion.

—Enrique Nava '12



Chinese Student Association leader Monica Liu '10 welcomes guests to the annual Chinese New Year Banquet in Leverett House.

Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Student Association (CSA) Chinese New Year Banquet

The banquet is always the CSA's largest event of the year—on February 25th, this year's event was no different. Decorated with red streamers, traditional new year's decorations, red tablecloths, and posters, the Leverett House Dining Hall was transformed into a celebration of Chinese culture. Filled with Harvard students and members of the Harvard community, everyone was served a hearty 15-course meal from Chinatown, which included bubble tea. Volunteers, as well as the CSA's student board, acted as waiters so that attendees could relax and enjoy the show in store for them. Performers included traditional lion dancers from Chinatown, the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe, and Harvard Wushu. Entertainment also included a contest in which teams of students competed to see who could eat lychee jellies the fastest. The CSA also took a moment to honor its senior

members with thanks and roses. When the closing notes of "Fairytale" rang, it was the end to a very successful banquet.

—Jennifer Zhu '13

Black Students Association (BSA) General Meeting

Thanks to the Harvard Foundation and funds from the Harvard Undergraduate Council, the Harvard Black Students Association was able to hold yet another successful general meeting. This spring, we opened our general meeting up to communicate and discuss the concerns and issues within our community. We partnered with the Black Men's Forum and the Association of Black Harvard Women, as well as other black community organizations to gather our respective constituencies in one room to clarify and receive feedback about the state of our community. The presidents of the three organizations (Spencer Hardwick '11, Elliot Ikehelo '11, and Jasmine Rencher '11) moderated the meeting. The format was a question and answer session that encouraged dialogue through thought-provoking, controversial questions. Examples of these questions included: Should the black community utilize corporate sponsorship? Are there too many black organizations? Should they be consolidated and all brought under the wing of the BSA? Are there too many board members in these organizations? What positions can we afford to remove? Where can we consolidate? Everyone was respectful in their responses. We passed out a survey at the end, from which we made some changes to the structure of our organization. We briefly heard from Harvard Foundation director Dr. S. Allen Counter, and he encouraged us in this type of dialogue.

—Juliana Hernandez '12

Harvard Islamic Society (HIS) Islam Awareness Week: Poetry Night

The Harvard Foundation and Undergraduate Council sponsored the final event of Islam Awareness Week on April 9th. Formally entitled "Evening of Words: Falling in Love with the Divine,"

the HIS's annual poetry night explored the beautiful, expressive, and diverse world of Islamic poetry through a series of poetic recitations in more than ten different languages. On that rainy night, members of the community enjoyed traditional desserts such as *baklava* and chai tea and sat in the Thompson room to listen to the evening's program. People presented poems long and short, ancient and modern, religious and secular throughout the event. Students from freshmen to graduate students rose to present poetry in languages from Swahili to Arabic, from places around the world such as Spain, Malaysia, England, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Iran (Persia), and France. This event was truly a gem in the treasure trove of cultural programs offered during Islam Awareness Week. Several attendees commented after the program that they had never heard Islamic poetry from so many different countries and cultures before. Many were moved not only by the beauty of verses, but also by newfound realization of diversity within the Muslim world.

—Omar Bari '12

Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers (HSBSE)

with the Harvard Black Students Association & Black Pre-Law Association
Black & Brilliant

This year, instead of having three separate annual banquets, the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers (HSBSE), the Black Students Association (BSA), and Black Pre-law Association (BPLA) collaborated to hold one combined banquet, called "Black & Brilliant." The purpose of this event was to celebrate and recognize notable contributions to the black community from Harvard faculty and students. Among students honored were Sam Enumah '10 and Jonathan Diah '10 of HSBSE, Jarell Lee '10 of the BSA, and Ablorde Ashigbi '11 of the BPLA. Moreover, the esteemed faculty members who were honored were Dr. Glenda Carpio, professor of English and of African and African-American studies, and Mr. David L. Evans, Harvard College Senior

Admissions Officer, both of whom gave riveting keynote and closing remarks, respectively.

The event was held on March 26, in the Elliot House Dining Hall. Attendees of the event included Harvard students and faculty, and the awardees' family members. This event's success proved the feasibility and efficiency of collaborations among student organizations in the black community. Every year, various black student organizations on campus hold their own banquets, sometimes even becoming a bit excessive. Black & Brilliant, in contrast, succeeded in consolidating some of these events, and in forming one meaningful event that everyone could appreciate.

—Glyvolner Gabriel '12

Asian American Association (AAA)

Entertainment Artist Eric Byler

Mr. Eric Byler is a half-Asian film director, screenwriter, and political activist. His works have premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and at other international film festivals. In 2003, his first feature film, *Charlotte Sometimes*, was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards in 2003, including the John Cassavetes Award for Best Feature under \$500,000, and a Best Supporting Actress award for Jacqueline Kim's performance. Mr. Byler's second feature is the *Charlotte Sometimes* quasi-sequel, *Tre*, which was the winner of the Special Jury Award at the 2007 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival.

Outside of film, Mr. Byler is active in politics. In February this year, he directed and edited the "How we Started" video for Coffee Party USA, the "National Kick-off" video, and other videos that appear on the Coffee Party YouTube channel. Coffee Party USA was started as an alternative to the Tea Party movement, with its mission to give voice to Americans who want to see cooperation in government. During the 2008 presidential primary, Mr. Byler volunteered as co-director (along with Warren Fu) of a music video of a song written and performed by artist Andres

Useche, entitled "*Si Se Puede Cambiar*," in support of then-Senator Barack Obama.

AAA and Harvard Democrats cosponsored the event which hosted Mr. Byler. We organized an intimate forum between Mr. Byler and students in the audience. He discussed his experience as an Asian American in the media community, as well as political change via the media at large. Students enjoyed having the chance to meet and talk one-on-one with Mr. Byler. In closing, this was a highly successful event, drawing over a hundred students. The Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association warmly thanks the Harvard Foundation, as well as the Undergraduate Council, for generously subsidizing the event.

—Ge "Andy" Zhang '13

Harvard African Students Association

Discussion with Governor Babatunde Fashola

The Harvard African Students Association had the honor of hosting Mr. Babatunde Fashola, the governor of Lagos State in Nigeria, and some members of his cabinet for a discussion with the Harvard community. The event was moderated by Ambassador Jimmy Carter and Business School Professor Catherine Dugan. A charming guest, Governor Fashola chatted in a friendly environment with Harvard students, professors, and other invited guests including international students originally from Lagos State. The governor spoke to the audience about his administration's truly inspiring work in Lagos State and graciously answered questions from the audience.

—Ifedapo Omiwale '12

Harvard Hillel Interfaith Seder

This year's Interfaith Seder brought people from around the community together in the Hillel building to experience a seder, the traditional Passover meal. Undergraduates from the Interfaith Council, Latter-Day Saints Students Association, Native Americans at Harvard, Harvard Islamic Society and other faith and cultural student

groups, as well as graduate students and community members, gathered in Rabb Hall for a meaningful, educational and enlightening seder lead by Rabbanit Sharon. The program worked through the framework of a traditional seder, but it also created opportunities for discussion and questions around Passover themes including freedom, community, slavery, and renewal. Each participant contributed his or her own unique perspective to the conversation, allowing everyone to be both a teacher and learner at the Interfaith Seder.

—Lillian Margolin '11



Student participants play the roles of bride and groom in a mock portrayal of a Hindu wedding, conducted by Harvard Dharma, as the audience is invited to ask questions about the ritual.

Harvard Dharma Mock Wedding

The mock Hindu wedding event demonstrated to the Harvard community the process and meaning behind the complicated rituals performed during a Hindu marriage. A typical Hindu wedding can last over three days and is filled with complex ceremonies, including a *mehndi* (henna) party, an offering of the bride, and a *garba* dance party, among other events. The entire process often leaves outsiders—and Hindus themselves—confused over the meaning behind it all. Our one-hour event walked attendees step-by-step through the simple Vedic rituals during a wedding, and a moderator explained the events as two students played the part of bride and groom. Attendees were even offered the chance to participate by playing such roles as the bride's and groom's parents, a priest, and others. Those who volunteered for

the roles were given instruction for the parts which they would play during the ceremony. Dharma held the event on the steps of Memorial Church, so that it could be seen by the general community. A Hindu priest was invited to lead the ceremonies themselves and to include the most sacred parts of the wedding. Individuals were encouraged to ask questions at any point.

—Suhas Rao '12

Latinas Unidas César Chávez Study Break

This Latinas Unidas study break aimed to bring together a number of diverse students so that they could learn more about César Chávez's accomplishments. Students stopped in to enjoy a spread of food including chips, dip, pasta, and tofu—in honor of Chávez's vegan lifestyle. Once students stopped by, Latinas Unidas members provided information about his work and accomplishments and answered any questions that they had. The event was successful in that visiting students of many different backgrounds proved to be interested in Chavez's work, and they enjoyed sitting and discussing it with

one another.

—Beverly Pozuelos '12



The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College host Mr. Amiri Baraka, writer and activist, in a panel discussion that explores the relevance and importance of the Black Arts Movement.

Kuumba Singers of Harvard College with the Black Students Association Black Arts Festival: Shades of Difference

In March the Black Arts Festival, presented by the Kuumba Singers, opened with its first event, a panel discussion entitled “Shades of

Significance: The Evolution of ‘Black Art.’” The event featured founder of the Black Arts Movement Mr. Amiri Baraka, Dr. Cameron Leader-Picone (Ph.D. in African American Studies from Harvard University), and Joshua Bennett (UPenn senior and Ph.D. in English degree candidate 2016). The discussion focused on the necessity, or lack of necessity, of the category of Black Art. This panel discussion was very important because, nearly 40 years after the Black Arts Movement and after the election of the nation's first Black President, some question whether the category of Black Art is still as powerful and demonstrative as it once was or if the extent of progress rendered the term merely constricting. The discussion shed light on this issue as the three panelists debated it. Audience members spoke very highly of the discussion and the question and answer session which followed; they also noted with interest that a generational divide in opinion was evident. After the main panel discussion, audience members were invited to Ticknor Lounge to attend a book signing by Mr. Baraka.

—Bolaji Ogunsola '10

Students Build Wetu in Harvard Yard Continued from page 14

a community effort, done by men. But women owned the structures in their matrilinear culture, with a man moving to a woman's wetu after marriage, Perry said. The frame was typically constructed of cedar saplings, which are insect- and rot-resistant and considered a sacred wood. The floor was white sand. The thick outer bark sheathing of the structure was typically taken from chestnut and elm trees—giants of the

New England forest that today have been devastated by disease. For the Yard's wetu, Perry provided bark from poplar trees.

Because native people moved with the seasons, families often owned two homes, Perry said. Because they spent most of their time outdoors, homes were relatively small, providing protected space for sleeping and shelter from harsh weather.

To honor those people, students began construction with a ceremony acknowledging the native people who lived there.

The wetu “is significant because of the fact that this place for thousands and thousands of years was home to many native people,” Perry said.

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: Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University; Dr. Evelyn Hammonds, dean of Harvard College; Dr. Michael Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Donald Pfister, professor of systematic botany and chairman of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee; the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, and Ms. Jan Randolph, of Harvard's Memorial Church; Dr. Suzy Nelson, Dean of Student Life; Steve Coit '71, Harvard Foundation portrait artist; Dr. Leo H. Buchanan, for editorial support; and the students and faculty associated with the Harvard Foundation.

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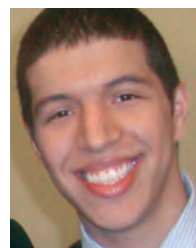
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