



The  
**HARVARD FOUNDATION**  
Journal

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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**The Sultan of Sokoto Visits  
Harvard**



**Harvard Artist in Residence:  
Agnes Nixon**



**Portrait Unveiling of  
Dr. Preston Williams at  
Harvard Divinity School**



**In this issue:**

**The Ivy Class:  
Socioeconomic Awareness**

**Sustained Dialogue**

**Celebrating 30 years of  
the Harvard Foundation**

**Lionel Richie Honored with  
the *Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award***



**The Harvard Foundation  
and the Undergraduate Council  
Present  
*Diversitas: A Celebration of Culture at Harvard***



## Table of Contents

### Harvard Foundation Journal Contents and Featured Programs

- p. 3 Letter from the Director
- p. 4-5 Lionel Richie Presented with the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award
- p. 6-7 Portrait Unveiling of Dr. Preston Williams at the Harvard Divinity School
- p. 8-9 Legendary Soap Opera Creator, Agnes Nixon, Honored as Artist in Residence at Harvard
- p. 10-11 Diversitas: Celebrating Diversity at Harvard!
- p. 12-13 The Annual Harvard Foundation Freshmen Reception
- p. 13 The Ivy Class: Socioeconomic Diversity at Harvard
- p. 14 The Sultan of Sokoto Visits Harvard
- p. 17 Spotlight on the Harvard Foundation Interns: Fall Retreat 2011

### Student Initiated Programs

- p. 16 Sustained Dialogue Fall 2011

### News & Notes

- p. 15 Race Relations Advisors Activity Reports
- p. 15 Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings
- p. 18- 21 Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports
- p. 22 Journal Articles Continued

### p. 22 Acknowledgements

- p. 23 List of Student and Faculty Advisory Committee Members

**On the cover, clockwise from bottom left:** Dr. Preston Williams (with wife, Dr. Connie Williams) honored in portraiture at the Harvard Divinity School. Soap opera creator, Agnes Nixon, celebrated as the Harvard Foundation's 2011 Artist in Residence. The Sultan of Sokoto visits Harvard. Dr. S. Allen Counter presents Lionel Richie with the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award. Diversitas celebrates diversity at Harvard and brings over 2,000 Harvard students, faculty, and administrators together (students featured in the photo from left to right, back row: Aubrey Walker '15, Reshma Lutfeli '13, Justin Banerdt '13, Rahim Mawji '15, Eric Lu '14, and front row: Soyoung Kim '14, Maya Dorje '15, Yolanda Borquaye '14, and Jessica Ch'ng '12).

### 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 programs sponsored by the Harvard Foundation throughout the year that address a variety of salient topics related to intercultural, racial, ethnic, and religious understanding. 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

To the President, Faculty, Deans, and Students of Harvard University:

Dear Colleagues and Students,

I am delighted to report to you that the students, faculty, and staff of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations have conducted a semester of successful programs that are in accordance with our mission to improve understanding, tolerance, and diversity at the University. During the fall semester of the 2011/2012 academic year, the Harvard Foundation sponsored a broad range of projects in the area of race and intercultural relations. We received a total of 271 grant proposals from students at Harvard College, requesting the amount of \$68,508 to support their initiatives. Our Student Advisory Committee selected from among this number 214 student proposals to receive funding at a total of \$25,000, the maximum amount allotted for student projects by the Dean of the College for each semester.

The 214 projects that were supported included, for example: the Harvard Islamic Society's annual interreligious dinner, a Native Americans at Harvard College "Talking Circle," a Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán and Mariachi Véritas Mexican cultural event, Queer Students and Allies' "National Coming Out Day," Association of Black Harvard Women's "Road To Success" panel, Hillel's John Harvard's Bar Mitzvah, and Harvard Philippine Forum's Academic Scholars Program, to name a few. Unfortunately, and to the chagrin of both students and faculty, we did not have enough funds to support the many other worthy student proposals that were submitted to the Foundation, and which would have been helpful in advancing our mission of intercultural and race relations. We hope that in the future, the students will be provided with an increase in the grants budget to support additional worthy student initiatives in race relations.

One of our most creative programs during the fall semester involved our collaboration with the Undergraduate Council in hosting DIVERSITAS, a college wide, student celebration of diversity at Harvard. The event, held in the Science Center Plaza, attracted over a thousand students, faculty, and administrators in a cheerful and harmonious celebration of the University's rich ethnic and cultural diversity. The president of the Undergraduate Council, Senan Ebrahim '12 and the vice-president, Bonnie Cao '12, are to be commended for their hard work and collaboration with the students of the Harvard Foundation in making this project a reality. We look forward to making Diversitas an annual fall semester collaboration between the Undergraduate Council and the Harvard Foundation.

Among our most salient programs in the fall semester was the welcoming to Harvard College of one of Africa's most prominent Islamic leaders, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, the Sultan of Sokoto, Nigeria. The Harvard Foundation brought students and faculty together in Lowell House to greet the Sultan and to hear his perspective on a variety of subjects including the conflict between Muslims and Christians in northern Nigeria. This well-received program, which was conducted in collaboration with the Harvard Divinity School, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, was a tremendous success with our students, and particularly our Muslim students, who are associated with the Harvard Foundation through the Harvard Islamic Society.

In another signature program, the Harvard Foundation hosted a visit by noted screenwriter and television pioneer, Agnes Nixon, who visited campus as part of the Harvard Foundation's Artist in Residence program. This was Ms. Nixon's second visit to Harvard as guest of the Harvard Foundation. She first visited Harvard College in 1984 to be recognized for her contributions

to the racial integration of American television through her screenwriting and creating soap operas such as "All My Children." Her visit was co-hosted by the late Richard C. Marius, then director of Expository Writing at Harvard. In her most recent visit, as in the past, she was serenaded by Harvard student singing groups and welcomed by a number of faculty and administrators. The highlight of her visit was a studio interview before a large audience at Farkas Hall (formerly the New College Theatre), where she discussed her life's work and intercultural inclusion in response to questions posed by Harvard College student and soap opera enthusiast, Sanyee Yuan, class of 2012.

Each year for the past 28 years, the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation have given a special award to an individual, who is nationally or internationally recognized for her or his humanitarian contributions. In past years, this award was given in Harvard's Memorial Church and with the support and blessings of the late Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes. The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation voted to name this annual award the "Reverend Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award." On Monday, December 5th, the Harvard Foundation presented the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award to the acclaimed singer and songwriter, Lionel Richie. Richie is well known for his humanitarian efforts with Africa famine initiatives and the Breast Cancer Foundation. However, what is less known about Lionel Richie is that he was under the tutelage of Reverend Peter J. Gomes, when he was a student at Tuskegee University, where Reverend Gomes served for two years as visiting professor. Gomes was a close friend to Richie's grandmother, and in Richie's words, was asked by his grandmother to, "advise Lionel on how to become an outstanding student and a good person." At a dinner in his honor at Kirkland House, under the auspices of professors Tom and Verena Conley, Richie praised Reverend Gomes as a positive influence in his life.

During the fall semester a number of Harvard undergraduate and graduate students organized a protest in the Yard called "Occupy Harvard." While the Harvard Foundation was not associated with Occupy Harvard, the director did speak to a number of the students involved and requested that they comport themselves peacefully and in a matter respectful of their fellow students, faculty, and administrators. On Thanksgiving day, the director and his family supplied the students of Occupy Harvard, who did not travel home to be with their families, with roasted turkeys, and an assortment of holiday foods.

Finally, as part of the Harvard Foundation's collaboration with the Office of the President, our students and faculty joined the Harvard Divinity School in the installation of the portrait of professor emeritus, Dr. Preston Williams, in Andover Hall. The program, which coincided with the Harvard Divinity School's convocation, was conducted by the Chairman of the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Committee, Professor John E. Dowling, and the Dean of HDS, Professor William Graham. Both Professor Preston Williams and his wife, Dr. Connie Williams, professor emerita from Brandeis University, were delighted with the portrait unveiling and the reception that followed.

We thank the Office of the President, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of Harvard College, the faculty, and the cooperating House Masters for their continued support of the intercultural initiatives and programs of the Harvard Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

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



## Lionel Richie Receives the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award at Harvard



(1) Mariachi Veritas performs in the Kirkland JCR. (2) Professor Verena Conley, Kirkland House Master, welcomes Lionel Richie. (3) Mr. Richie visits Memorial Church and speaks to members of Kuumba. (4) University Marshal, Jackie O'Neill welcomes Mr. Richie and his associates to Wadsworth House. (5) Jan Randolph, Executive Assistant to Reverend Peter J. Gomes, accepts an award of appreciation from the Harvard Foundation.

On Monday, December 5, 2011, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations honored Mr. Lionel Richie with the annual Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award. The award recognized Mr. Richie's extraordinary philanthropic efforts for disaster relief and breast cancer research.

His song "We are the World," co-written with Michael Jackson, raised funds for hunger victims in Africa as well as victims of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Additionally, Mr. Richie is a strong advocate for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and he devotes much of his fundraising attention to this important cause. This year, the Humanitarian Award also served to honor the memory of the late Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, who had always hoped to welcome Mr. Richie to Harvard's campus.

Mr. Richie was welcomed to Harvard by Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, and students at the Inn at Harvard. He was treated to a performance by The Harvard Din and Tonics, which would be the first of many student performing groups to showcase their talents in the presence of the musical genius.

Mr. Richie was then officially welcomed to Harvard by University Marshal, Ms. Jackie O'Neill, at the historic Wadsworth House, the site of General George Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Richie signed the official Harvard University guest register to commemorate his visit to the university as the Humanitarian Award

recipient. Next, Mr. Richie met with the deans of the university for an official welcome and greeting. He was then escorted to Memorial Church, where the late Reverend Peter J. Gomes pastored for forty years. There, he spoke with the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College about his memories of Reverend Gomes and his humanitarian work.

The Harvard Foundation hosted a reception and dinner in honor of Mr. Richie at the historic Kirkland House, where House Masters Tom and Verena Conley extended a gracious welcome to the honored guests and over 100 students. The reception began with a vibrant performance from Harvard Mariachi Veritas, whose performance Mr. Richie described as "a true prize." The reception continued with Mr. Richie answering students' questions about his career path and his musical interests. He gave aspiring musicians advice and urged all students to follow their passions.

Edy Magma '15, a freshman from Kenya, began his question by saying that it was a long-held dream of his to see Mr. Richie in person. Mr. Richie replied to Magma by graciously inviting him up to the front of the reception hall for a hug and a photo. This warmth to Magma exemplified Mr. Richie's attitude towards students throughout his visit—he could not have been more gracious or excited about meeting and talking with Harvard students.

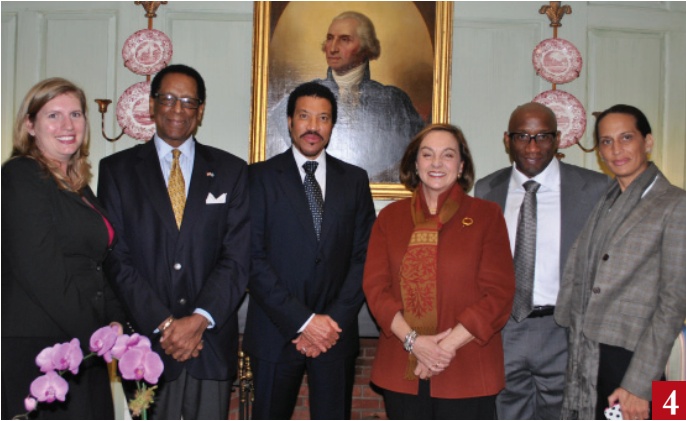
Magma said afterward, "It was a dream come true. I've always wanted to meet him—I've always seen him on TV. But to come so close to him, I couldn't even imagine! I thank Harvard for this. He's such an inspiration. This is one of the greatest moments of my freshman year."

Next, Mr. Richie, students, and distinguished guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the Kirkland House dining hall. The event featured three student tributes to Mr. Richie. First, Eric Lu '14, an intern at the Harvard Foundation, spoke eloquently of the impact of Mr. Richie's music on his own father's life as an immigrant from China. Chris Guenard '12 from the Harvard Cancer Society thanked Mr. Richie for his extensive fundraising for breast cancer research, and they presented him with their organization's t-shirt. Seniors





## The Harvard Foundation Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award (continued)



(6) Lionel Richie proudly shows off his Crimson pride after being awarded a Harvard sweatshirt from Harvard Foundation interns, Carola Cintron-Arroyo '12 and Jessica Ch'ng '12. (7) Harvard College KeyChange wows the crowd with a soulful performance. (8) The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College give a beautiful performance during the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award ceremony.

from Kirkland House thanked Mr. Richie for his presence at Harvard, and more specifically, at Kirkland. One student spoke of how the strong relationship between Kirkland and the Harvard Foundation has benefited her undergraduate career.

After wonderful performances from the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College and Harvard KeyChange, Dr. Counter officially presented Mr. Richie with the 2011 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award. Interns Jessica Ch'ng '12 and Carola Cintron-Arroyo '12 presented Mr. Richie with a Harvard sweatshirt as a memento for his memorable visit.

Mr. Richie then addressed the dinner audience in a serious manner. He spoke openly and passionately to students about his definition of a humanitarian. "A humanitarian," he told students, "means a lover of people, of all people, for no other reason but for the fact that they're alive."

He talked of his fond memories of meeting Reverend Peter J. Gomes at Tuskegee University and Reverend Gomes's friendship with his grandmother. He noted that the triumphant thread running through both his music and his philanthropic work is love. He reminded students to "dare to be different" and remember "the three words that never go out of style: I love you." Mr. Richie's inspiring words were a fitting capstone to his visit at Harvard.

-Grace Chen '15



## Portrait of Dr. Preston Williams Unveiled in Harvard Divinity School



(1) Dr. Preston Williams reflects on his work and expresses his appreciation for the portrait unveiling (2) Dean of the Harvard Divinity School, Dr. William Graham, speaks about the importance of the portrait unveiling. (3) Mr. David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer, speaks about Dr. Williams's contributions. (4) Dr. John Dowling, Chairman of the Portraiture Committee, speaks about the Portraiture Project's mission. (5) Steve Coit '71, portraiture artist, reflects on his experience painting the portrait. (6) Dean Graham gives Dr. Williams a replica of the portrait as a surprise gift. (7) Dr. Dowling and Dean Graham begin to unveil the portrait at the Harvard Divinity School. (8) The portrait of Dr. Preston Williams is unveiled much to the delight of everyone in attendance.

On a warm and welcoming August afternoon in historic Andover Hall of Harvard Divinity School, the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Project unveiled its most recent addition in an effort to bring greater diversity to those commemorated on Harvard's walls. Students, faculty, and administrators from Harvard Divinity School and across the University gathered to honor Dr. Preston N. Williams, Houghton Research Professor of Theology and Contemporary Change Emeritus, and his newly unveiled portrait.

In over four decades of service to the University—well beyond the quarter century required for consideration by the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Committee—Williams served as acting dean of Harvard Divinity School from 1974 to 1975 and as the first director of Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research. In addition, he served as the director of the Summer Leadership Institute from 1998 to 2008, which serves to train religious leaders from urban settings.

Senior Admissions Officer David L. Evans reflected upon the individual behind such an auspicious career, calling him a “worthy and honorable man [who] extended himself to students at the undergraduate level and otherwise, and we are the better for it.” Indeed, Williams will leave a lasting legacy through the countless students whose minds and hearts he touched in his many years of teaching and mentorship.

Steve E. Coit '71, the Portraiture Project artist, included in the portrait an item of special significance that sought to embody the life and work of Williams. A portrait of Reverend Francis Parkman, the influential 19th century theologian, can be seen in the backdrop of Williams', an addition Coit said was inspired by Parkman's “kindness, his tolerance, his generosity... He had a uniform benevolence and kind feelings with which he regarded all around him.” So too, do such words so perfectly describe the life that Williams lived and shared with generations of Harvard's

community. The two portraits, one within the other, represent “the change in the religious community, the change in what challenges [we face], the changes in the nation, and changes at Harvard,” said Coit.

Williams was deeply grateful for all those who contributed to the unveiling. However, he expressed his sadness over the absence of Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes who passed away last February. Rev. Gomes, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, had chaired the Portraiture Committee and helped make the event possible. Williams stated, “We are pleased to become a part of Peter's legacy. We miss him, but he will always be a part of our relationship to each other.”

The timing of the unveiling was significant in other respects for Williams, coinciding with the birthday of his grandfather, Anderson James Williams Sr. Williams also recalled his parents, “who mightily struggled under segregation and discrimination to create opportunities for their sons and their grandchildren.” In accepting the award, he stated “my father and my mother... would be very appreciative of this honor bestowed upon me by the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard Divinity School.”

-Justin Banerdt '13



## Portrait of Dr. Preston Williams Unveiled in Harvard Divinity School (continued)





## Legendary Soap Opera Creator Agnes Nixon Honored as Artist In Residence at Harvard

The audience at Farkas Hall studio on Tuesday, December 6th, 2011, was captivated by the clip playing on the screen: a young woman said to her mother, “You think that I came out, that I told you that I’m gay, to hurt you?” In December 2000, the soap opera *All My Children*, aired an episode in which one of the characters, Bianca, comes out to her mother, Erica. Emmy Award-winner Agnes Nixon was one of the writers for the show at the time, and as the Harvard Foundation Artist in Residence, she discussed both her career and the capacity of the entertainment industry to encourage social change.

“LGBT women would write letters to me saying, ‘I wish I had seen that on TV when I was younger,’” Mrs. Nixon, the creator of *All My Children* and *One Life to Live*, recounted. She explained the connection between telling stories and addressing social issues; by pushing the boundaries of television and exposing viewers to characters unlike themselves and stories unlike their own, she has used her shows to force the audience to examine their own prejudices.

In addition to Bianca’s coming out story, Mrs. Nixon shared narratives about race and gender that she has written. In *One Life to Live*, which began airing in 1968, the lead character Clara, because she was light-skinned, pretended to be white. For five months, viewers of the series were not told of her background -- when her mother, Sadie, says that she has “lost her,” audiences assumed her daughter had passed away. Mrs. Nixon recalled how a television station in Texas cancelled the show after an episode aired in which Clara -- whom audience members still perceived to be white -- kissed an African American man. When it is finally revealed that Clara is Sadie’s daughter, Clara says, “You don’t know what my life was.” She says to her mother, “I remember walking down the street with you, and someone asked you, ‘Who’s that white girl you are taking care of?’ And you dropped my hand.” Clara’s storyline was the first in daytime soap opera history to feature an African American main character.

Talking about her creative process, Mrs. Nixon -- who is often dubbed the “queen of contemporary soap opera” -- creates well-rounded characters with fully fleshed-out biographies, imagining their lives from the day they are born. Her wit and humor are also distinctive in her writing. In *All My Children*, Erica, as her mother is dramatically chastising her, says, “Mom, you watch too many soap operas,” to which her mother replies, “I don’t need to watch soap operas. I live one!”

As the program drew to a close, Dr. S. Allen Counter awarded Mrs. Nixon the Distinguished Artist medal for her work as a “pioneering television writer and producer.” Harvard Foundation interns (Justin

Banerdt ‘13 and Maya Dorje ‘15) presented her with a Harvard sweatshirt on behalf of the student intern team. The students offered that, “Just judging by the number of tears we’ve seen in the audience, I think you have touched all of us.” —Justin Banerdt ‘13



(1) Harvard College senior, Sanyee Yuan, interviews Artist in Residence, Agnes Nixon, at Farkas Hall. (2) Dr. Counter and Justin Banerdt ‘13 present acclaimed soap opera legend, Agnes Nixon, with the Harvard Foundation Artist in Residence Award.



## Agnes Nixon Returns to Harvard (continued)



(3) Honored guest, Agnes Nixon, speaks to attendees at the Artist in Residence special luncheon in Lowell House. (4) A gathering of soap opera fans give Agnes Nixon a warm welcome to Harvard. (5) Lowell House Co-Master, Dr. Dorothy Austin, and Thomas Lee, Director of the Learning from Performers Program and Communications at the Office for the Arts, welcome Agnes Nixon to the luncheon. (6) Daughter-in-law, Sarah Guinan Nixon, with Agnes Nixon's grandchildren: Bobby, Jack, and Mary Agnes. (7) Agnes Nixon is greeted by University Marshal, Jackie O'Neill, and signs the official guest register. (8) The Nixon family including son, Bob, and daughters: Cathy, Mary, and Emily, enjoy the kind hospitality of Wadsworth House.



## Diversitas: A Celebration of Harvard's Diversity



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(1) Undergraduate Council President, Senan Ebrahim '12, and Vice-President, Bonnie Cao '12, celebrate their collaboration with the Harvard Foundation. (2) Deans: Gene Corbin, David Friedrich, Josh McIntosh, and Suzy Nelson join in the celebration of diversity at Harvard. (3) Under Construction performs. (4) Candela Dance Troupe takes center stage. (5) Wushu demonstrates martial arts. (6) Speak Out Loud performs. (7) Dr. Counter welcomes the crowd to the event.

*Diversitas*: On November 9, 2011, the Harvard Foundation, the Undergraduate Council, and 36 student groups came together to light up the Science Center Plaza with food, colorful lights, performances, and cultural exchange.

It was “a beautiful way to showcase the multiculturalism of Harvard,” said Harvard Foundation intern Yolanda Borquaye '14. The response was equally positive from the perspective of the Undergraduate Council (UC).

“*Diversitas* was a wonderful celebration of the diverse cultures at Harvard! The UC received a lot of positive feedback from the student body, and many students expressed hopes for more events like *Diversitas* in the future,” said UC president Senan Ebrahim '12.

The event brought together an eclectic blend of students and organizations, creating a fun and unique setting for people to make new friends and learn pieces of cultural history. Cultural organizations such as the Pakistani Students Association and the Queer Students and Allies (QSA) set up booths and mingled with attendees from all parts of the Harvard community. UC representatives Afoma Umeano '13 and Darragh Nolan '15 acted as MCs for two sets of student performances that featured groups from the South Asian Dance Company to Wushu Martial Arts. Between performances, the MCs raffled off Harvard gear.

Student groups decorated their booths with lights, traditional clothing, and informational posters. Many organizations also provided refreshments, so event attendees strolled from booth to booth, chatting with representatives and sampling new types of food as well as old favorites. In a vibrant example of Harvard's cultural diversity, event attendees could be seen proudly sporting henna tattoos of the Sanskrit letter for “ohm” (provided by Harvard Dharma) while enjoying shrimp chips from the Harvard Hong Kong Society and learning about Southern culture at the Southern Students Association booth. And all of this cross-cultural interaction took place as music groups such as Mariachi Veritas de Harvard and dance troupes such as Candela Salsa wowed

the crowd.

*Diversitas* provided a unique opportunity for student groups of all sizes to come together on an equal footing to share their culture with the larger Harvard community. “For smaller organizations like ours, *Diversitas* was a great way to showcase our culture and cuisine to the entire college. The cultural fair format allowed each group to get exposure, and brought them together,” said Pakistani Students Association president Nur Ibrahim '13.

Harvard University Dining Services provided a multicultural selection of finger food and drinks ranging from egg rolls to empanadas and chai to churros for students to feast on as they wandered through the booths and enjoyed performances. Between each set of performances, Mariam “DJ MariB” Braimah, '13, kept the atmosphere upbeat with a mix of popular songs and international music provided by participating cultural groups.

*Diversitas* was the brainchild of UC president and vice president Senan Ebrahim and Bonnie Cao '12, who included an event called “Cultures @ Harvard” as part of their campaign platform. They brought the idea to the Harvard Foundation for support and collaboration. They hoped to celebrate how far diversity at Harvard has come in the 30 years since the founding of the UC.

This fall, Ebrahim, Cao, and Social Programs Task Force Chair Crystal Trejo '13 collaborated with the Harvard Foundation, which is also celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. In their most recent collaboration, the Harvard Foundation and the UC hosted a memorable celebration open to the entire Harvard community.

Originally scheduled for October 29 in Tercentenary Theatre, *Diversitas* was delayed due to an unseasonably early snowstorm. Despite the initial setback, event organizers remained enthusiastic and rallied to find an alternate date and venue for the event.

*Continued on page 22*



## Diversitas (continued)



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(8) Members of Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán dance to traditional Mexican music. (9) Harvard Foundation interns, Christen Brown '13 and Olamide Oladipo '12 enjoy the festivities. (10) Harvard College students have fun embracing culture and diversity on campus. (11) The Hong Kong Society proudly shows off their student organization's booth at the Diversitas event in Science Center Plaza at Harvard University.



## Freshmen Reception

Continuing a longstanding tradition, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations welcomed the class of 2015 to campus in a reception held at the Queen's Head Pub. Hundreds of freshmen and their parents took time out from a busy move-in week to come together and hear about the diverse family that is Harvard.

Harvard Foundation interns were present to greet families in attendance, talk about their personal experiences, and answer any questions about college life. Indeed, this is always a special occasion for interns, who have an opportunity to meet many future student leaders in diverse communities.

First-year students were encouraged to apply either for internships with the Foundation or for positions with the Harvard Foundation Associates Program. The Associates Program, formally known as the Friends of the Harvard Foundation, offers students

the opportunity to organize diversity programming (ranging from ethnic food study breaks to film screenings) in each House and in the Freshman Yard. The Associates, in a capacity similar to that of Harvard Foundation interns, serve to increase awareness of race-related issues among smaller groups within the student community.

Loc Truong, the Assistant Director of the Harvard Foundation, warmly welcomed students to the beginning of their time at Harvard. He reminded students that the Foundation will always be there to support them, their communities, and their future endeavors. Mr. Truong's presentation was followed by Dr. Donald Pfister, chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Harvard Foundation, who encouraged students to be open minded and explore their passions in their time at college.

The reception ended with words of advice and encouragement from

Harvard Foundation interns, who urged their fellow students to get involved on campus through the Harvard Foundation and the many cultural and ethnic student organizations that it supports.

The interns were particularly moved by the enthusiasm and willingness the first-year students showed in embracing the diverse community that Harvard has to offer.

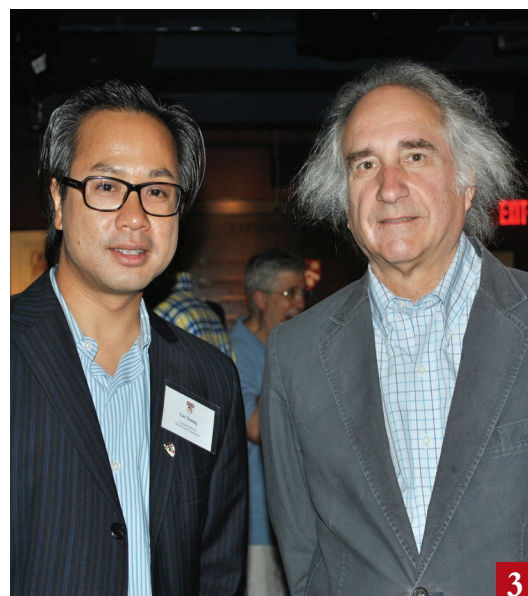
-Justin Banerdt '13



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(1) Harvard Foundation interns: Abdul Ly '13, Miguel Garcia '13, and Justin Banerdt '13 welcome freshmen students and their families to Harvard and introduce them to the Harvard Foundation. (2) Professor Donald Pfister, Chairman of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee, gives opening remarks about the importance of the Harvard Foundation. (3) Loc Truong, Assistant Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Professor Robert Woollacott, member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, greet students and family members. (4) Reshma Lutfeali '13 speaks to a group of freshmen about the Foundation's programs. (5) Professor Pfister welcomes parents of first year students to the Freshmen Reception.



## Freshmen Reception (continued)



## The Ivy Class: Socioeconomic Diversity at Harvard



On Tuesday, October 4, nearly 50 undergraduates gathered to discuss unique perspectives on socioeconomic status and diversity at Harvard. In her opening remarks, student moderator Bronwen O'Herin '12 surprised many in attendance when she noted that of the 20 most selective private universities, only 10% of students came from the pool of 40% of U.S. families with the lowest incomes. Students in attendance acknowledged that most discussions of diversity center around topics of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and/or sexuality, and they appreciated that this event provided a forum to discuss issues related to all spectrums of the socioeconomic scale at Harvard and beyond.

And indeed, various perspectives were represented at the event. Many students candidly admitted that they were unaware that class differences even existed before their arrival at Harvard, while others stated that their socioeconomic status was a marker that will forever be embedded within their identities. One female student pointed out the relative nature of classifying socioeconomic status – while she once considered herself lower-middle class before coming to Harvard, her peers deemed her upper-middle class upon her arrival. Despite these differing perspectives, however, all students agreed that socioeconomic status greatly affects your opportunities and experiences while at Harvard.

Two female students, for example, noted how social class has affected their student organization participation and experiences on campus. Despite Harvard's financial aid initiatives, the University factors in student employment into financial aid packages, requiring many students to dedicate their time to earning money for their tuition rather than participating in student activities.

On the same note, Harvard frequently offers subsidized trips to international locations over holiday breaks and over the summer, but this can still be inaccessible to students who can barely

afford the expensive airfare, leaving many students to question the true breadth of opportunities for low-income students at Harvard.

Still, rather than calling for a homogenous socioeconomic environment on campus, students simply urged for an acknowledgement of the issues related to socioeconomic diversity on campus, and a true acceptance of all students – regardless of social class.

-Christen Brown '13

*Photograph: (1) Bronwen O'Herin '12 opens up the discussion of socioeconomic diversity at the Phillips Brooks House Parlor Room. (2): Abdul Ly '13, moderates the discussion and listens to different student perspectives on the subject.*





## The Harvard Foundation Welcomes the Sultan of Sokoto to Lowell House



The Harvard Foundation, the Harvard Divinity School, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs were pleased to welcome to the University, his Eminence Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, the Sultan of Sokoto, and the most influential leader of Muslims in Nigeria. During his visit, he delivered the Jodidi Lecture at the Weatherhead Center and also participated in panel discussions on *Muslim Women's Religious Literacy* and *Nigeria and the World* at the Harvard Divinity School, and was welcomed by Dean William A. Graham.

On Sunday, October 2nd, the Harvard Foundation hosted a student/faculty brunch in honor of the Sultan of Sokoto at Lowell House. The event was hosted by Harvard Foundation director, Dr. S. Allen Counter, and held under the auspices of Professor Diana Eck and Dr. Dorothy Austin, Masters of Lowell House. Attending the brunch were Muslim students from Harvard College and throughout the University.

"We were pleased to bring together members of the Harvard Islamic community, students and faculty alike, with the distinguished African Muslim leader, the Sultan of Sokoto,"

said Dr. S. Allen Counter. "His presence and his words of peace and tolerance were inspiring and encouraging. Our students were deeply moved by his remarks and example."

The Sultan, who serves as Nigeria's president-general of the National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, spoke of his diplomatic work and peace initiatives in Pakistan and in northern Nigeria. During his presentation, he reminded those assembled of an old adage, "there is no problem between Muslims and Christians. There is only a problem between some Muslims and some Christians, and there are few."

"Hearing the Sultan's words about the role of youth in future religious and cultural unity during the luncheon at Lowell House was one of the more memorable experiences I have had at Harvard this year," said Layusa Isa-Odidi '09, a Harvard Business School student. The brunch was also attended by attorney Walter Carrington '52 and HLS '55, former Ambassador to Nigeria, and his wife Dr. Aresa Ukpoma Carrington.

1.) Dr. Counter greets the Sultan of Sokoto 2.) Dr. Counter and Harvard students and administrators welcome the Sultan of Sokoto to brunch at Lowell House. 3.) The Sultan of Sokoto and his Nigerian associates take a moment to pose for a picture with Harvard College students and administrators. (4) Lowell House Masters Dr. Diana Eck and Dr. Dorothy Austin host the Sultan's visit with Dr. Counter, and Ambassador and Mrs. Carrington.



## Race Relations Advisor Activity Reports

The Harvard Foundation oversees the race relations advisor/tutor program, which aims to help promote positive and amicable relationships within the Harvard College community on a day-to-day level. Race Relations Advisors are House and first-year residence tutors and proctors. The responsibilities of the House Race Relations Advisors and Harvard Yard Freshman Proctors include facilitating discussions, coordinating House programs on race relations, and offering guidance following incidents of racial and ethnic conflict and distress. We are pleased with the effect and outcomes of these programs and the cooperation of the tutors who serve as House Race Relations Advisors.

### *Ribbons of Hope* Winthrop House

Approximately 150 students in the Winthrop House Dining Hall were invited to write a message of hope/remembrance/community-building on ribbons that would become part of a public art display in Battery Park for the 10th anniversary of 9-11. The ribbons were shipped to a partner nonprofit organization in New York City that put them up on display for Winthrop House.

### *First Responder on Race Concern* Pforzheimer House

At Pforzheimer House, we developed a powerpoint presentation on issues relating to immigration including late-nineteenth century political cartoons on "Yellow Fever," immigration statistics, quotations for the Arizona bill, and projected it during dinner in the dining hall. We used this information to spark discussions about immigration and to entice students to come to the film screening in the Hastings room, immediately following the media presentation in the dining hall. There, we screened the film, "Crossing Arizona," and had a discussion afterwards with Berryline ice cream.

### *Is the American Racial Order Being Transformed?* Lowell House

Is there a fundamental transformation occurring in the American racial order? If so, are these changes for the better or worse? These questions drive Professor Jennifer Hochschild's US in the World course "Is the American Racial Order Being Transformed?" Professor Hochschild spoke briefly at a dinner and led a discussion with a group of students and faculty in the Lowell House small dining room.

## Monthly Student/Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings

Every month members from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) along with Harvard Foundation interns convene at the Philips Brooks House Parlor Room for a meeting hosted by the SAC Board. The first meeting of the semester kicked off with an evening networking and collaboration session held on campus. The meeting provided a special opportunity for SAC members to bounce ideas off of each other and to encourage partnership in planning future events.

In October, Deans of Student Life Suzy Nelson and David Friedrich were invited as guests to discuss the Office of Student Life's new initiatives to support alternative opportunities for weekend student programming. Dean Suzy Nelson highlighted the wider issue of student group funding and potential for collaboration and increased

transparency between granting bodies. After the presentation, SAC members assembled into smaller groups to discuss how the new initiatives could benefit their respective SAC groups.

The November 2011 meeting was held at the Office of Career Services (OCS), where staff discussed career, fellowships and study abroad opportunities along with potential ways to fund them. Benny Belvin, pre-law adviser and coordinator for the OCS specifically addressed the ways in which minority students may navigate the job market. Mr. Belvin also emphasized networking with peers and that the OCS is enthusiastic about partnering with SAC groups to provide further assistance.

December's meeting featured race relations tutors and proctors discussing the events and initiatives created within the past few months. The meeting

focused on how the tutors and proctors could better support intercultural life in the houses and dorms. Further, SAC members offered the tutors and proctors advice on how to increase attendance at events and how to reach out to a greater number of students.

The defining characteristic of the fall semester was the surge in events and initiatives created by SAC members as a result of the SAC board's increased emphasis on collaboration.

The fall semester featured a record-breaking grant cycle in which \$68,053 was requested by over 40 SAC groups. We reviewed a total of 271 grants and dispersed over \$25,000 in funds to the SAC groups. In the future we hope to increase this amount as more funds become available.

-Bianca Okafor '14

## Sustained Dialogue Fall 2011: Conversations About Diversity and Tolerance



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In Fall 2011, Harvard College Sustained Dialogue began its second year on campus with support from the Harvard Foundation, Office of Student Life, Women's Center, and Freshman Dean's Office. Sustained Dialogue is a student-led initiative that promotes the transformation of relationships through dialogue and the improvement of campus community through action. As an organization, Sustained Dialogue has provided students with a space to talk about issues related to identity, to reflect upon their own experiences as well as engage with others, and to think critically about life on campus.

In September, Sustained Dialogue trained 14 students at their annual moderator training meeting. Over 50 students signed up to participate in the weekly dialogue sessions coordinated by Sustained Dialogue, and they were divided into four dialogue groups to talk about diversity, identity, and campus life.

This year, the organization was committed to both maintaining program quality and increasing Sustained Dialogue's presence on campus. Their first major campus-wide event of the year was "De-Stereotype Me Day" — an event that a number of Sustained Dialogue campuses put on this year as well. The purpose of this event was to open the dialogue on how stereotypes mislabel individuals. Sustained

Dialogue distributed t-shirts and buttons, on which participants wrote an aspect of their identity or a way a stranger might label them and a statement that defies a stereotype often associated with that identity or something unexpected about themselves. For example, one student wrote "I am a Asian... and I was born and raised in the South." Another student wrote, "I am an athlete... and I love to sing." An administrator wrote, "I am a man... and I support women's rights." An estimated 200 or more students and several administrators and Harvard University Police Department officers participated by wearing their t-shirts and/or buttons on De-Stereotype Me Day, and more than 50 students attended a follow-up dialogue in the evening to talk about the impact of the event.

In addition, student leaders have worked to encourage other student organizations to view the Sustained Dialogue as a campus resource; in particular, Sustained Dialogue has collaborated with other organizations to facilitate dialogue in events and communities beyond SD's own participants. In October, Sustained Dialogue worked with the Asian American Association, Black Students Association, and Fuerza Latina to facilitate a "Dinner & Dialogue" event, which brought together a diverse group of participants to talk about racial identity at Harvard. The goal of the event was to foster interpersonal

connections and a spirit of collaboration among these organizations and related communities.

To conclude the semester, Sustained Dialogue held an "Action Forum" event, in which SD leaders, moderators, and participants sat down with campus administrators and race relations tutors to present the issues dialogue groups discussed over the course of the semester. Topics presented and discussed include transitioning from home to Harvard, socioeconomic status, race and privilege, social space, and segmentation. The event proved to be a productive dialogue among students and administrators, in which they were able to speak honestly about campus life considerations and areas for growth. Looking ahead, attendees collectively imagined the possibilities for dialogue-informed action in the spring semester.

-Jessica Ch'ng '12

*Photographs: (1) De-stereotype Day: Harvard students proudly show off their Sustained Dialogue shirts (2) Breaking down stereotypes with their t-shirts, Sustained Dialogue inspires students on campus to promote better understanding of each other's identities (3) Sustained Dialogue student moderators: back row- Cherone Duggan, Humza Bokhari, Chris Fruge, Ted Gioia, Adrian Gonzalez, Teake, Chinwe Madubata front row- Diana Marin, Judy Park, Jessica Ch'ng, Carola Cintron-Arroyo, Jenny Ye, Gabby Malatesta, & Joel Sanchez (4) Rhonda Fitzgerald, SDCN Program director, welcomes everyone to training.*



## Spotlight on the Harvard Foundation Interns: Fall Retreat 2011



Prior to returning to their full-time, busy schedules in the fall semester of 2011, the interns of the Harvard Foundation gathered for the fall semester intern retreat. Held in the Harvard Student Organization Center at Hilles (SOCH), the event allowed for increased dialogue among the interns as well as facilitating substantial planning for the semester to come. By combining a mixture of fun activities, such as team-building exercises and breaks for snacks, with more serious conversations regarding discussion norms and event planning, the intern retreat was a productive mixture of learning and fun.

The day-long retreat began with a conversation about group norms. The interns agreed on a few set rules that laid the foundation for successful discussions and debates in the year to come.

For example, one important “ground rule” for conversation was the importance of “assuming best intentions.” This meant that interns should come to a mutual understanding with one another that dialogue is meant to be constructive and that interns do not mean to hurt others with the words that they say.

Another important rule was mutual respect during the discussion process.

Although these ideas may seem trivial, establishing them during the intern retreat proved to be a core contribution to the success of future discussions and deliberations.

With the conclusion of this discussion, the interns went on to brainstorm ideas for events during the upcoming year. By combining their thoughts, there were many successful ideas for events presented. These included an event on socioeconomic status, a discussion on gender and higher education, and many others. Many of these ideas, including the one on socioeconomic status at Harvard, came into fruition and became very successful examples of the Foundation’s programming and innovative spirit.

“I felt the sustained-dialogue-esque forum we did was valuable and gave me the opportunity to understand my peers on a more personal level,” said Olamide Oladipo, a senior intern at the Foundation.

*Continued on page 22*



(1) The Fall 2011-Spring 2012 Harvard Foundation interns celebrate their first intern retreat (2) Interns work on problem solving activities together and build their collaboration skills (3) Bronwen O’Herin ‘12, Miguel Garcia ‘13, and Christen Brown ‘13 enjoy training activities outside in the academic quad (4) Interns brainstorm on events for the fall and spring semesters of the upcoming academic year. (5) Abdul Ly ‘13 and Soyoung Kim ‘14 listen to presentations during the fall intern retreat and training session.

## 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*.

### **The Association of Black Harvard Women Road To Success**

On November 21, ABHW held its annual *Road to Success Panel* with prominent African American women in their respective fields. Road to Success provided a forum that exposed current undergraduate females to women in various forms of leadership positions and facilitated a discussion specifically on how to develop one's leadership (conventional and nonconventional routes).

This year, for our panel discussion, we hosted three impressive women: Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies, Alesha Gunn, video editor, TV producer, and journalist, and Talia Whyte, founder of Global Wire Associates and freelance journalist.

—Kanyinsola Aibana '12

### **Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association Multicultural Dance Lesson**

The event took place on Monday, November 14th in Boylston Hall's Ticknor Lounge. The idea of the event was to use a central aspect of cultural

engagement, dance, in order to produce the possibility of interactions between all members of the Harvard community in the context of a very fun and interesting cultural activity. The planning for the event was extensive. We scouted an experienced salsa instructor from the Harvard Ballroom team in Cambridge.

Throughout the course of the night's events, between 50 and 60 students attended, representing the many corners of Harvard and many levels of experience in Latin dance. In particular, a number of students from Harvard's Ballroom organization, several Latino organizations, our own Cuban American Undergraduate Students Association, and the broader undergraduate community made for a delightful experience for all. The focus of the night was Cuban salsa. The instructor proceeded to teach attendees the basic steps of the dance. Upon acquiring some practice with the dance, we moved on to more advanced versions, each of which entailed a greater level of difficulty and excitement.

All things considered, the event was a great success. Our organization met all of its objectives and we managed to share an art many of our members love and cherish with the rest of the community.

—Valentin Fernandez '12

### **South Asian Dance Company Raunak 2012**

Raunak 2012 was held on October 22, 2011 in Lowell Lecture hall to a sold out crowd of 300. The event was intercollegiate, drawing dancers from 13 other schools ranging from MIT to Dartmouth and two troops from Penn.

For the past twelve years, Raunak has been the largest collection of college level Indian fusion dances, and it is a hallmark of this dance community.

This year, we were happy to share the stage with the Harvard Breakers, Expressions, and AADT. Building on this relationship, we performed in the AADT fall show as well. The show was attended by a variety of Harvard students, but also many community members and parents from other schools. The costumes we ordered for this year were fantastic and really made a great statement. Many other dance teams have nicely coordinated outfits, but due to funds this was not possible until this year. We greatly appreciated the assistance from the Harvard Foundation so that everyone was able to dress alike and fulfill the choreographer's vision. We would not have been able to do any of it without you.

—Lillian Kivel '13



## Hillel

### John Harvard's Bar Mitzvah

John Harvard's Bar Mitzvah celebrated an iconic school figure's annual Jewish "coming of age." Taking the form of a traditional Jewish-American Bar Mitzvah celebration, the event featured food, a DJ, dancing, and decorations. The event was open to all members of the Harvard community and encouraged a unique display of school spirit in the context of a party that light-heartedly rejoiced in honor of Mr. John Harvard himself. In addition to funding from the Harvard Foundation Grant, this event was funded by donors who contribute to Hillel's activity budget, DAPA, and the UC. The event was quite successful, encouraging participation from a diverse sampling of the Harvard community which united in a festive spirit.

—David Sackstein '14

## Harvard Islamic Society Fall Dinner

The Harvard Islamic Society's Fall Dinner is our biggest event in the Fall semester. This annual event is held a few weeks before the beginning of reading period, and serves as a place for people to reconnect by the end of a busy semester. In addition, this event serves to bring together the Muslim community at Harvard for an evening of socializing, spiritual enlightenment, and a chance to invite their non-Muslim friends.

These friends will then witness the spirit of the Muslim community. Students will have an opportunity to try different ethnic dishes from all over the Muslim world and hear impressive speakers, in addition to mingling with Muslims and non-Muslims from around the Harvard campus and the area.

Past speakers include distinguished Harvard Muslim alumni and international scholars on Islam. Special entertainment (such as skits, movies, songs, etc.) are also planned for each year, to show the participants the exciting side of the Harvard Islamic Society.

—Mohammed Rahman '14

## Native Americans at Harvard College *Talking Circles* Native American Heritage Month

The *Talking Circles* program provides a forum for discussion on various topics that are relevant to the Native community at Harvard, Indian Country at large, and other people of color. This semester our Talking Circles were well attended and provided fruitful ground for sharing perspective and opinion.

Our Talking Circle in October focused heavily on a discussion of the appropriation of Native culture for use as Halloween costumes. We talked at length with Adrienne Keene, founder of the Native Appropriations blog which discusses many issues on indigenous appropriation. This conversation also touched upon the use of multiple ethnicities, races, and cultures for use as costume. Within communities there are differing opinions on what constitutes 'offensive' behavior, and it was interesting to hear the personal feelings and motivations for condemning or condoning such costumes.

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, November's event consisted mainly of NAHC members and focused on discussing traditional craft-making in our communities. We used this opportunity to share with one another various crafts that we have been taught by our family and communities. Beading, basket-making, and weaving are some traditional practices that have, in some cases, suffered after colonial contact. By emphasizing the unique traditions of our home communities we seek to discuss the vital role that cultural continuity plays in identity.

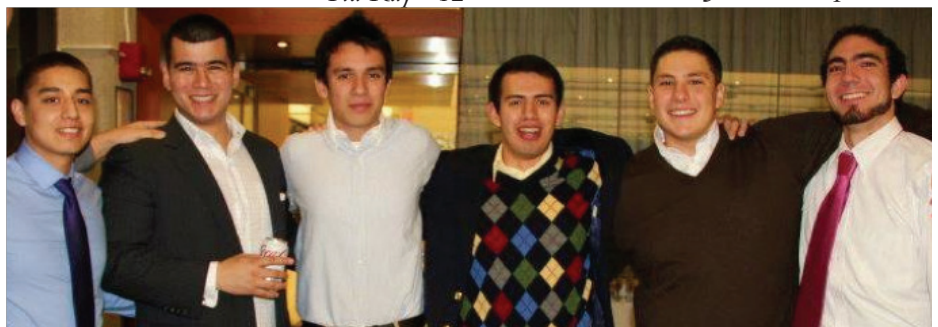
—Tia Ray '12

## Latino Men's Collective Professional Development Workshop: Resumes 101

The workshop was successful because it allowed us to bridge both the professional and social aspect of our club. Many of our members have never created a resume or cover letter, and do not have the professional development skills to apply for internships. We were very fortunate to have our former president, Oscar Basantes, who is currently working at Credit Suisse, come and speak at our event. He was there to offer advice and help our members develop their professional skills. With his help, we were able to offer advice on resumes, cover letters, industry research, internship opportunities, and interview preparation. While we were limited on the extent of preparation we could offer, this event was a great starting platform for professional development.

Again we were fortunate to secure funding from the Harvard Foundation in order to plan and execute this event. Without its support, we would not have been able to prepare the materials necessary. We were very excited to hold this event because of the impact we knew it would have on our members, many of whom are first-generation college students with no professional experience. One of our main goals as a club is to foster the growth and development of our members, and this event directly tied into that. We are very grateful for the funding made available for this event.

—Emilio Jimenez Gopar '13



Members of the Latino Men's Collective come together for a workshop in professional development.

## Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports

### Harvard QSA (Queer Students and Allies) National Coming Out Day

*Co-sponsoring Group:*

*GLOW (Gay, Lesbian, Or Whatever)*

National Coming Out Day is an internationally-observed civil awareness day for promoting a healthy relationship with sexuality and coming out and for fostering discussion about LGBTQ issues. It is observed by members of the LGBTQ community and allies on October 11th every year.

The National Coming Out Day celebration at Harvard centered around a vigil, at which Lowell House Masters Dr. Diana Eck and Dr. Dorothy Austin, President Drew Faust, Dean Evelyn Hammonds, Professor Matthew Kaiser, and students spoke to the importance of inclusion and acceptance of all people, specifically with regards to issues about sexuality and gender, but also noting race, ethnicity, and other facets of identity in their remarks.

Approximately 150 students and community members attended the vigil, many of whom spoke to affirm the experiences and identities of their fellow attendees and to create a feeling of community. A common theme amongst the speeches given was the struggle of the LGBTQ community in terms of mental health given the recent trend of suicides of queer teenagers.

The community constructed by the vigil was both intimate and supportive of all those who spoke out concerning the losses of these members of our community. Additionally, rainbow pins and safe space markers were passed out the day of October 11th in order to raise awareness and visibility of LGBTQ students and issues on campus.

–Keith Grubb '13

### Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble

We had a series of performances this semester, with two at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government for two separate events and two with the Kuumba singers as opening guest performers to their winter concerts – thanks to the funding we received from the Harvard Foundation we could buy any new costumes and fix our drums whenever necessary before performing at such occasions.

The first performance at the Kennedy School took place at a women's leadership event and went phenomenally well. Not only did we deliver the same caliber of dancing and drumming as we usually would at a public event, but we also noticeably moved the crowd—after our five-minute show had ended we invited the female guests present to dance with us. These ladies who then disregarded their constraining business attire, jumped in, and showed their spirited moves! It was a memorable twenty minutes of a African-styled gala with women from a variety of ages.

The second performance at the Kennedy school started at 7 pm in the Taubman Penthouse on December 1st, where we showed our enthusiasm and vigor for African performance arts to more than fifty attendees of a micro-finance event. There, dancers wore black tank tops, black leggings, and ethnic-print-styled strips tied around their waists, while the drummers wore traditional African men attire that could be categorized into colorful long-body shirts.

Our last performance this semester was at the Kuumba singers' winter concerts in Memorial Church on the 2nd and 3rd of December. Along with the Christian chanting, the dancing we provided for the audience added a wonderful vibrance to the solemn air of Memorial Church. In the middle of the main aisle, we moved left to right, bobbed up and down, and waved to every section of the audience, all with the spirits of African dancing. And of

course, the drummers intensified, if not created, the novel rhythm for this opening piece, for which the audience applauded passionately as well.

*Jinzhao Wang '14*

### Mariachi Véritas de Harvard The 5th Annual Sights and Sounds of Mexico

*Co-sponsoring Group:*

*Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán*

This past November, Mariachi Véritas de Harvard and Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán's held their 5th Annual "Sights and Sounds of Mexico" fall concert in Cabot House Theater, performing classic Mexican songs and dances to a sold-out crowd. The concert opened up with a combined performance of "Zacatecas," a traditional march considered as Mexico's second national anthem. Ballet Folklórico and Mariachi Véritas then performed their own individual sets, each to the acclaim and applause of the audience.

This concert featured the debut of a lot of new repertoire from both groups, especially from the mariachi, which had recently been invited to perform at San José's 20th Annual Mexican Heritage Festival. The final song, La Madrugada, was a culmination of all this effort, featuring both groups in a combined performance with multiple singers and dancers.

As the concert ended, both groups paid tribute to senior members, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, recognizing the efforts of their director, Maricruz Rodriguez '12, and Mariachi Véritas de Harvard celebrating the birthday of Natalí Alcalá Moreno '12, a long-time violinist and singer. Overall, it was a great success. Mariachi Véritas and Ballet Folklórico would like to extend many thanks to the Foundation on behalf of all of our members for making this concert possible. –Anthony Liu '14



## Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports

### Harvard African Students Association (HASA)

#### Benefit dinner for the Somali Famine/ Fall Feast

*Co-sponsoring Group: Nigerian Students Association, Harvard for the Horn*

This event was really a combination of two separate events: HASA's fall feast and a Benefit Dinner for the Somali Famine. We thought it would be more effective and could raise more for Somalia by combining the two events. We decided to dedicate our Fall Feast proceeds towards the Somali famine. It was only reasonable that we combined the two events.

The event involved 18 volunteers who cooked various dishes from the East, West, and Southern parts of Africa. Of the 18 volunteers, 5 were non-Africans who simply wanted to learn how to prepare simple African dishes. We used four kitchens in the quad for all the cooking. Groceries cost us \$736 and we had catered meats for \$330. We had speakers from the Somali community living in Boston. They shared with us the cultural and religious aspects that led to the famine and the various efforts made by the Somalis living in the US to help in alleviating the famine.

The event, in addition to providing the guests with delicious food, was very educational to everyone and shined a light on the severely underreported famine. Representatives of Harvard for the Horn also gave a speech on the gravity of the situation and sold t-shirts in an effort to raise \$5000 for the famine.

*-Samuel Killewo '14*

### Harvard Philippine Forum

#### On Being a Filipino Academic

The event, On Being a Filipino Academic, took place in Sever 110 on Friday October 28th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. The educational event featured Professor Zosimo Lee, a philosophy professor from the University of the Philippines and a visiting scholar on a Fulbright scholarship in Harvard's philosophy department. About 18 people came to hear Professor Lee speak about his experience as a Filipino academic and discuss some of his research, including the concept of a 'nation'.

His talk began with details of his academic life and how he first became interested in philosophy as a result of the declaration of martial law in the Philippines and the philosophical and ethical issues arising from that turbulent period.

He then discussed the challenges he has faced as a philosophy professor in an academic environment that stresses pre-professionalism and practical disciplines, arguing for the educational importance of philosophy. To conclude his talk, Professor Lee talked about the concept of a 'nation,' delving into philosophical issues of what constitutes a 'nation' and how it is identified.

This segued into the question and answer session, which eventually turned into an interesting interactive discussion about racial identity and Filipino culture. One of the most interesting questions brought up involved why Filipino immigrants tend to not pass their language onto their children while other Asian races make it an important point to do so. The discussion allowed those involved to explore important Filipino racial issues and learn more about

Filipino identity from a philosophical standpoint. Overall, the event was successful in giving attendees a glimpse into the life of a Filipino academic and an opportunity to discuss philosophical issues of racial identity and nationhood.

*Jared Lopez '14*

### South Asian Men's Collective

#### SAMC Fall Formal Dinner

The SAMC Fall Formal Dinner gave members the opportunity to reflect on the successes and failures of the semester and bond over fine cuisine. The primary focus of this dinner was to welcome new members to the group as well as honor graduating seniors for their contributions to SAMC over the last four years.

Each of the graduating seniors shared his fondest memory as a part of the organization. This included such topics as organizing past SAMC fundraising parties such as "Step Up," volunteering for dorm crew as an entire collective in order to raise funds for our associated non-profit ASHA, or even the seniors' first experiences early on in the organization and their concerns coming to Harvard. The SAMC Chair Emeritus shared his experiences with the collective and how his involvement allowed him to grow personally over the years and become more culturally aware of his position in the South Asian community both at Harvard and at large.

These stories were supplemented by personal accounts from other members about how the seniors helped shape their experiences in SAMC and served as role models for their own personal development. The dinner represented a defining moment for freshmen and new members in the collective because it allowed them to witness what their future involvement with SAMC could become as well as reflect on successfully completing their first semester with the organization. This was certainly not a dinner to be forgotten.

*-Naveen Murali '14*



*Harvard students enjoy HASA's fall feast.*

## Articles Continued

### Diversitas Article (continued from page 10)

Ebrahim expressed his satisfaction with the event and his hope that collaborations between the UC and the Harvard Foundation would continue. “With the UC never having attempted something like this ourselves before, I am very grateful to the members of the Harvard Foundation for their visionary partnership with the UC in making Diversitas such a success!”

Overall, Diversitas was a successful and enjoyable event that brought together students, faculty, and administrators from all over the Harvard community for an evening of fun, food, performances, and cultural interaction. *–Reshma Lutfeali ‘13*

### Intern Retreat (continued from page 17)

The retreat concluded with a group meal and some fun and games. It was a bonding experience for everyone involved, and played a crucial role in the Foundation’s success for the academic year. *–Eric Lu ‘14*



The Harvard Foundation Interns and Staff: Fall 2011

## Acknowledgements

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## Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee Members 2011-2012

Dr. Donald H. Pfister, *Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany, Curator of the Farlow Library and Herbarium, Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee*

Dr. Ali Asani, *Professor of the Practice of Indo-Muslim Languages and Cultures*

Dr. Leo H. Buchanan, *Audiologist, Harvard University Health Services*

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

Dr. John E. Dowling '57, Ph.D. '61, *Gordon and Llura Gund Professor of Neurosciences, Professor of Ophthalmology*

Dr. Scott Edwards, *Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Curator of Ornithology*

Mr. David L. Evans, *Senior Harvard College Admissions Officer*

Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons '67, *Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid to Students*

Dr. William Gelbart, *Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology*

Dr. Robin Gottlieb, *Professor of the Practice of Mathematics*

Dr. William A. Graham, *Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, John Lord O'Brien Professor of Divinity, Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies*

Dr. Benedict Gross, *George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Mathematics*

Dr. Evelyn Hammonds, *Dean of Harvard College, Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and of African and African-American Studies*

Dr. J. Woodland Hastings, *Paul C. Mangelsdorf Research Professor of Natural Sciences*

Dr. Robert Lue, *Professor of the Practice of Molecular and Cellular Biology; Director of Life Sciences Education*

Dr. Michael McElroy, *Gilbert Butler Professor of Environmental Studies*

Dr. Sandra Naddaff, *Director of Freshman Seminars, Master of Mather House, Director of Studies in the Literature Concentration, Senior Lecturer on Literature and Comparative Literature*

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Dr. Robert Woollacott, *Professor of Biology and Curator of Marine Invertebrates in the Museum of Comparative Zoology*

Harvard Foundation Administrative Associates

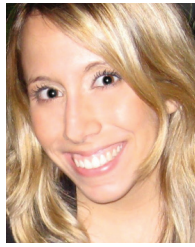
Mr. Robert Mitchell, *Assistant Dean for Diversity Relations and Communications*

Dr. Suzy Nelson, *Dean of Student Life at Harvard College*

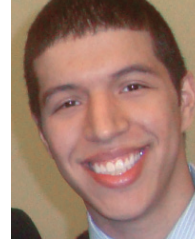
## Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Member Groups 2011-2012

Harvard College Act on a Dream | Harvard African Students Association | Harvard College Albanian Club | Harvard Armenian Society | *Ascent Magazine* | Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association | Asian American Brotherhood | Harvard Asian-American Dance Troupe | Harvard Asian American Women's Association | Association of Black Harvard Women | Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán | Harvard Bhangra | Harvard BlackCAST (Black Community and Student Theater) | Harvard Black Men's Forum | Harvard Black Pre-Law Society | Harvard Black Students Association | Harvard Bulgarian Club | Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club | Harvard-Radcliffe Catholic Students Association | Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association | Concilio Latino de Harvard | Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association | Expressions Dance Company | Harvard Darfur Action Group | Dharma (Harvard's Hindu Students Association) | Fuerza Latina | Harvard College Global China Connection | Harvard Haitian Students Alliance | Harvard Half Asian People's Alliance | Harvard Hillel | Holoimua O Hawaii | Harvard Hong Kong Society | *The Harvard Ichthus* | Harvard College Interfaith Council | Harvard College Irish-American Society | Harvard Islamic Society | Harvard Italian-American Association | Harvard Japan Society | Harvard Korean Association | Harvard Kung Fu | Kuumba Singers of Harvard College | Latinas Unidas de Harvard | Harvard College Latino Men's Collective | Harvard College Latinos in Health Careers | Mariachi Veritas de Harvard | Native Americans at Harvard College | Nigerian Students Association | La Organización de Puertorriqueños en Harvard | Palestine Solidarity Committee | Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble | Harvard Persian Society | Harvard Philippine Forum | Harvard Polish Society | Harvard Queer Students and Allies | Harvard/Radcliffe RAZA | Harvard Romanian Association | Harvard College Sangeet | Harvard College Scandinavian Society | Harvard College Sierra Leone Initiative | Harvard Society of Arab Students | Harvard Society of Black Scientists & Engineers | South Asian Association | South Asian Dance Company | South Asian Men's Collective | Harvard Spoken Word Society | Harvard College Sri Lanka Society | Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society | Harvard College Teatro | Harvard Thai Society | Under Construction | United World Club at Harvard College | Harvard Vietnamese Association | Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe | Woodbridge Society for International Students | Harvard Wushu Club | Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

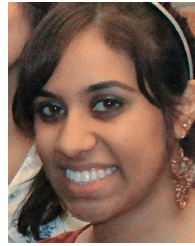
Harvard Foundation Staff, Interns, and Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Officers



Loc Truong, *Assistant Director*  
Jennifer Gutierrez  
*Administrative Coordinator*  
Justin Banerdt '13, *Intern*  
SAC Co-chair  
Yolanda Borquaye '14, *Intern*  
SAC Co-chair  
Christen Brown '13, *Intern*,



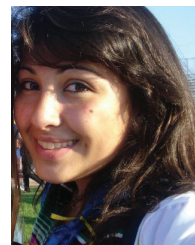
Jessica Ch'ng '12, *Intern*  
Grace Chen '15, *Intern*  
Carola Cintrón-Arroyo '12,  
*Intern*  
Maya Dorje '15, *Intern*  
Miguel Garcia '12, *Intern*



Soyoung Kim '14, *Intern*  
Eric Lu '14, *Intern*  
Reshma Lutfeali '13, *Intern*,  
Abdul Ly '13, *Intern*  
Rahim Mawji '15, *Intern*



Bronwen O'Herin '12, *Intern*  
Bianca Okafor '14, *Intern*  
SAC Treasurer  
Olamide Oladipo '12, *Intern*  
Alexandra Rahman '12, *Intern*,  
Aubrey Walker '15, *Intern*



Leslie Montes '14,  
*SAC Secretary*

