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DR. HANS ROSLING RECEIVES 2012 PETER J. GOMES HUMANITARIAN AWARD



*30th Anniversary
Celebration*

**Kristin Chenoweth
Visits Harvard**



In this issue:

- Crisis of (Mis)Understanding
in the Middle East
- Domestic Violence
Panel Discussion
- Mental Health Matters
Campaign
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Discussion

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On the cover, clockwise from top: World renowned global health statistician Hans Rosling (center), the 2012 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award recipient, is joined by Norwegian Honorary Consul Terje Korsnes, Harvard Faculty Advisory Committee members Professor John E. Dowling, Dean Xiao-Li Meng, and Dr. S. Allen Counter; Broadway and television star Kristin Chenoweth visits Harvard to share her story; United States Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 and Sean T. Brady '89 are recognized for their notable contributions to the Harvard Foundation at the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

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, cultural and religious backgrounds in the ongoing enterprises of the University. The Foundation sponsors annual programs and activities that are designed to promote interracial understanding and intercultural awareness and in the Harvard community, as well as to highlight the 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 diversity 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 community about the programs sponsored by the Harvard Foundation throughout the academic year that address a variety of salient topics related to intercultural, racial, ethnic, and religious harmony. The *Harvard Foundation Journal* is produced by the Harvard Foundation director, staff, and interns. For more information please contact:

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Letter from the Director

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

Dear Colleagues and Students,

The mission of the Harvard Foundation is to improve intercultural awareness and understanding among students of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds by cultivating an atmosphere of racial harmony and concord through a broad spectrum of student/faculty-initiated programs and projects. I am delighted to submit a summary of the programs and projects of the Harvard Foundation for the fall semester of 2012. With the guidance of the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation, we conducted approximately 255 programs in the period between early September and the holiday break in December of 2012. While most of these programs were student initiated, some were student/faculty initiatives, designed to focus on specific interests and needs of the college. However, all of these programs were created to foster intercultural, interethnic, and interreligious cooperation and understanding among our students and faculty. Moreover, these programs welcomed and involved the broad participation of Harvard College students of all backgrounds.

Professor E. O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus once said that "One of the things I like most about the Harvard Foundation is the quality of speakers and programs that it brings to our students." It was in keeping with this standard that we invited the distinguished Swedish physician and statistician Dr. Hans Rosling, renowned for his international work in health care for the world's poorest populations, to Harvard to receive the 2012 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award from the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation. Dr. Rosling was selected as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World. He is also co-founder of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) in Sweden. He is currently professor of International Public Health at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. The event was co-sponsored with the Harvard Department of Statistics at the invitation of Professor Xiao-Li Meng. During his visit, Dr. Rosling also delivered a lecture at the Harvard School of Public Health.

In the artistic arena, the Harvard Foundation collaborated with the Office for the Arts and the FAS Office of Diversity Relations at Harvard in hosting the acclaimed Tony and Emmy Award winner Kristin Chenoweth. Ms. Chenoweth played the role of "Glinda" in the Broadway musical *Wicked*, was an Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee and is an internationally acclaimed icon in the performing arts. Chenoweth spoke about her life and her work in the arts to the Harvard community at Farkas Hall, where she was interviewed for the audience by Harvard College students Cary William '16, and Eric Padilla '14. She was well received by a large audience of students, faculty, and members of the Cambridge community.

During the crisis in the Middle East in the fall of 2012, a number of students from the Muslim community brought to our attention their concerns about misunderstandings at the College, as well as in the community at large, about the reactions in some Islamic countries to a provocative film posted on the internet and viewed widely as anti-Islamic. In response to student concerns, the Harvard Foundation organized a panel discussion with Harvard scholars and

students entitled "The Current Crisis of (Mis) Understanding in the Middle East." The panel featured Dr. Ali Asani, Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures; Dr. Malika Zeghal, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Life and Thought; and student Yacine Fares '15, a representative from the Harvard Islamic Society. I served as moderator for the panel. The audience consisted mainly of Harvard College students, FAS graduate students, and some members of the Muslim community from the greater Boston area. The panelists informed the audience about aspects of Islam and reviewed issues related to the Middle East, as well as the spectrum of reactions among Muslims to the controversial film. This timely and informative program, which included a lively question and answer period, was conducted with decorum and civility.

Our student-initiated programs focused on a number of the important issues of the day. These programs included a panel discussion, "Domestic Violence and Social Inequality," a forum entitled "The Colors of Love: Interracial Dating," and a special joint project developed by the Harvard Foundation interns in collaboration with the Harvard College Women's Center and the Harvard College Office of B.G.L.T.Q. Student Life, titled "Mental Health Matters." Each of the programs involved broad student participation and engaging discussions on these important topics.

The high point of the fall semester programs was the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Harvard Foundation on December 1st, 2012. Over 100 students, faculty, and alumni came together in the Lowell House dining hall to celebrate 30 years of successful and memorable programs in intercultural and race relations at Harvard College conducted by the Harvard Foundation. Many of the alumni spoke of specific programs that they worked on as undergraduate students at Harvard College, which had great impact on their lives. House Masters, Professor Diana Eck and Dr. Dorothy Austin welcomed the guests to Lowell House and extolled the work of the Harvard Foundation in creating an atmosphere of inter-ethnic harmony at Harvard. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of special awards to individuals who have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Harvard Foundation as students and faculty. The honorees were Derrick C. Bok, President Emeritus of Harvard University and founder of the Harvard Foundation; Rosie Rios '87, United States Treasurer; Sean T. Brady '89, HLS '92, manager Credit Suisse; Professor John Dowling, founding member of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee; and Professor Don Pfister, current chairman of the Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee.

In conclusion, our students, faculty and administrators have expressed their appreciation and approval of the many programs administered by the Harvard Foundation during the fall 2012 semester. Our mission of improving and sustaining positive intercultural and race relations at Harvard College was fulfilled. I am grateful to the Harvard students, faculty, and administrators for their advice and generous support.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Allen Counter, D.M.Sc., Ph.D.
Director of the Harvard Foundation
Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Hans Rosling Receives the 2012 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award



(1) Dr. Hans Rosling engages Harvard students in conversation after his presentation on global health statistics. (2) Harvard Foundation intern Nader Daoud '16 kicks off the dinner with opening remarks. (3) Dr. Hans Rosling illustrates future population growth trends with rolls of toilet paper provided by Winthrop House.

Statistics of the people, for the people – Dr. Hans Rosling, Recipient of the 2012 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian of the Year Award

Noted international scientist, Dr. Hans Rosling, was presented the Harvard Foundation's 2013 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian of the Year Award by Dr. S. Allen Counter on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at Winthrop House for his work to "enhance the quality of our collective life." Dr. Rosling is a professor of International Public Health at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden and has done major humanitarian work in global health in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He served as a past advisor to the WHO and UNICEF, and most recently cofounded the Gapminder Foundation, a website (www.gapminder.org) which takes the usually incomprehensible economic, social, health-based, and environmental international statistics and presents them in an engaging, accessible, and interactive manner.

Harvard Foundation intern Nader Daoud '16 opened the evening's program with welcoming remarks and a tribute to Dr. Rosling. Dr. Counter, the director of the Harvard Foundation, welcomed Dr. Rosling, students, and faculty to the dinner and ceremony. The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College performed a classical gospel spiritual rendition of "I'm on My Way to Freedom Land." Alice Shen

'14, Michele Zempenyi '13, and Reshma Lutfeali '13 offered tributes to Dr. Rosling's humanitarian work. Shen mentioned the fluidity of data and education's essential role in creating change, while Zempenyi commented on Rosling's self-description as "not an optimist, but a serious possibilist." Lutfeali posed the questions: "How do we tell stories? How do we make them into something that not only keeps people awake but also changes the way that people think?" She declared that Rosling's work with Gapminder holds the answers.

In presenting the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award to Dr. Rosling, Dr. Counter reminded the audience that Dr. Rosling is not only an awe-inspiring humanitarian, but also a "brilliant scientist, teacher, and scholar" and that he is also a man of great humor, personable with people of all backgrounds, and a self-described "renowned sword-swallower."

Upon receiving the award, Dr. Rosling's humility came through as he took to the podium to give the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Lecture. He commented, "I feel like a sportscaster at the Olympics who is given a medal for what a good job I am doing." Elaborating on his work's importance as a "tool of understanding," Dr. Rosling said, "I am not doing anything, I am only

sitting back and looking at the world."

Dr. Rosling offered a different perspective on how to use statistics, reaffirming a few times that "you can never understand the world without numbers – but you can never understand the world with only numbers." His presentation spanned decades of data, illustrating the shift from a fact-based world view (with a clear delineation between the developed and developing world) to a modern perspective. The modern view, he argued, should incorporate the pace of progress in health and economic matters in the understanding of a much more cohesive world that is "catching up" faster than most individuals can keep track of. According to Dr. Rosling,



2012 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award (continued)



(4) Harvard Foundation interns join Dr. Hans Rosling for a group photo. From left to right: Yolanda Borquaye '14, Cary Williams '16, Justin Banerdt '13, Soyoung Kim '14, Rahim Mawji '15, Kirin Gupta '16, (back) Dr. Hans Rosling, Aubrey Walker '15, Eric Lu '14, Ifan Mahmud '16, Nader Daoud '16, Reshma Lutfeali '13. (5) Dr. Hans Rosling adds his signature to the Harvard guest book in the Marshall's Office. (6) Dr. Counter presents Dr. Rosling with the 2012 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award.

European world views are framed by a societally perpetuated yet anachronistic social construction of separate "worlds."

"This is the problem with the world view," Dr. Rosling stated. "It is so far from fact. The time lag in our perception of reality is 25 years." What Dr. Rosling's data demonstrate about modern times, he suggested to his audience, is that "the world has improved immensely, but it is still very far from good." Dr. Rosling illustrated his points by creating data-sets using a variety of props from the complex code involved in the Trendalyzer software on his computer to a pyramid of toilet paper rolls borrowed from Winthrop House's bathroom (each roll was used to model a billion people in the rapidly growing world population).

"We are approaching a ten billion person population – looking at health statistics and economic trends, there is no getting around this," and as Dr. Rosling explained in the lecture, this is going to be the "new balance." And to work within that new balance, we need "industrialization; we need the improvement of human productivity," Dr. Rosling exclaimed emphatically. Using

a long pointer, he showed a picture of a woman carrying water to her home from a pump that was not in her village, "This is poverty. I hate this. Women wasting their entire day carrying water or wood."

What is necessary, Dr. Rosling explained, was nothing gigantic –

these are not impossible dreams. "I love economic growth," he said, and pointed to the myriad of positive results that a little bit of industrial improvement can make on an individual life.

Following Dr. Rosling's excellent presentation, Dr. Xiao-Li Meng, Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Whipple V. N. Jones Professor of Statistics, offered closing remarks. He commented that to his memory, "no other lecturer has triggered the kind of demand it takes to 'sellout' a talk on statistics." Dr. Rosling also gave lectures in the Harvard Statistics Department and at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Motivating, funny, and deadly serious, Dr. Hans Rosling brought to Harvard a wealth of perspectives as an academic, field worker, physician, and statistician. His lecture was well received by the over 100 Harvard students and faculty in the audience and inspired those present to think creatively about the human experience.

- Kirin Gupta '16



Illuminating Thirty Years at the Harvard Foundation's 30th Anniversary Gala

On the evening of December 1, 2012, one hundred guests gathered at the Lowell House Dining Hall to illuminate thirty historical years of programming since the inception of the Harvard Foundation.

In 1981, the Harvard Foundation was founded with a vision of improving relations among racial and ethnic groups within the University, and most importantly, to “enhance the quality of our common life.” The Harvard Foundation represents the active choice to make this campus not only a place for collaboration in learning and innovation, but also an all-inclusive and welcoming environment that everyone can truly call home. Although the Harvard community is today more ethnically diverse, a common thread ties all of its members together: The constant flow of opportunities to learn and inspire that is experienced by all, irrespective of ethnicity.

The desire to positively impact the various communities to which we all belong teaches us the power of choices. In fact, the rich history of the Harvard Foundation reveals the power of this active choice to harness student and faculty skills and passions to unify this campus in a tangible way. Over the past thirty years, thousands of people from diverse backgrounds have been an integral part of this collective choice.

Through flagship events such as the annual Cultural Rhythms Festival and the annual Science Conference, as well as through smaller programs that

focus a wide range of topics, such as socioeconomic status and interracial dating, members, friends, and supporters of the Harvard Foundation community have all worked towards bridging differences and providing a platform for productive discussion. Even more exciting, is the future of the Harvard Foundation and what lies ahead, as we continue to strive toward its vision of enhancing the quality of our collective life.

The 30th Anniversary Gala was an exciting event in which past and present Harvard Foundation interns, distinguished faculty and administrators, supportive Harvard Foundation staff, and current Harvard University students gathered to reflect on this shared vision for a campus that is, and will continue to be an inclusive environment for people of all backgrounds.

Moreover, the interconnectedness of the Harvard Foundation community shone brightly throughout the entire night. The Harvard-Radcliffe Asian-American Dance Troupe, Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, and Harvard College KeyChange, all members of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee (SAC), graced the guests with their exuberance and talent. Reflections from Harvard Foundation alumni Nworah Ayogu '09 and Jessica Ch'ng '12 were shared, and two distinguished Harvard Foundation alumni, Rosa Rios '87, United States Treasurer, and Sean Brady '89, Manager of Credit Suisse NY, were

recognized for their work in carrying the Harvard Foundation's mission beyond the Harvard College campus. At the conclusion of the evening's program, founding President Derek C. Bok, founding faculty member Professor John Dowling, and Faculty Committee Chairman Professor Don Pfister were recognized for their notable contributions in guiding the aims and programs of the Harvard Foundation.

In summary, the Harvard Foundation's 30th Anniversary Gala served not only as a night of celebration of the Foundation's significance and achievements, but also as a strong reminder of the hard work and passion that has been invested in the Foundation by students and faculty for thirty years, in order to bring about tangible and positive social change and diversity at Harvard College.

The words of Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Award recipient and former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan capture the feeling of many of the guests as the night came to a close: “To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there.”

It is our hope that the Harvard Foundation can continue to serve all members of our extended communities in enhancing the quality of our common life, and remind us of the power of our collective choices.

-Soy (Soyoung) Kim '14

Co-Director of the 30th Anniversary Gala



(1) Harvard Foundation interns, alumni, and staff. (2) Faculty Committee Chairman Professor Don Pfister (archive photo). (3) Harvard Foundation founder President Derek C. Bok (archive photo).

Rosie Rios '87 Awarded Harvard Foundation Alumni Plaque of Honor

Rosie Rios '87, Treasurer of the United States, was given the Outstanding Alumna Award to mark the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Harvard Foundation and to recognize Ms. Rios' notable contributions to the development of the Harvard Foundation, to the creation of the annual Cultural Rhythms Festival, her work with Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán de

Harvard, and her unceasing dedication to Harvard College. At the 30th Anniversary celebration, Dr. Counter re-counted his pride when Ms. Rios invited him to her swearing in ceremony as US Treasurer. Ms. Rios credits the Foundation for altering her path and making her feel a part of Harvard College life as a respected Hispanic student from a low-income family in Northern

California.

During her years at Harvard, Rios participated in numerous extracurricular activities and, as an undergraduate in the humanities, she demonstrated leadership beyond her years. As a member of a panel of Harvard alumni in 1986, that included graduates of the classes of 1930, 1938, and 1969, she spoke eloquently about her work with "promoting not only cultural relations, but student relations." She further stated in a Boston Globe quote in 1986, "Though a lot of changes still need to be made, Harvard is heading in the right direction." Over the years, Rios has returned on numerous occasions to speak with undergraduate student groups, and to actively work with the Harvard Alumni Association. In 2004, she returned to Harvard College to serve as honorary host for the annual Cultural Rhythms Festival. "Rosie Rios was greatly admired by her fellow students and faculty at Harvard for her diligence, leadership, intelligence, and boundless energy," said Director S. Allen Counter. "We all appreciated her willingness to conduct cultural projects that served persons of all ethnic and religious backgrounds with creativity and sincerity."

-HF Staff



From left: Soyoung Kim '14, Ms. Rosie Rios '87, Dr. S. Allen Counter, and Justin Banerdt '13.

Sean Brady '89 Awarded Harvard Foundation Alumni Plaque of Honor

Sean T. Brady '89, HLS '92 was given the Outstanding Alumnus Award on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Harvard Foundation. Brady, who is presently financial manager at Credit Suisse, was honored for his notable contributions to the mission of the Harvard Foundation and The Harvard Irish Cultural Society. During the ceremony, Dr. Counter related his first encounters with the then-young Mr. Brady when he first came to the Foundation in search of support for forming of the Irish Cultural Society at Harvard. From the outset, Brady was instrumental in bringing a number of distinguished guests to Harvard, most notably John Hume, European parliamentarian and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1998).

Upon receiving the award, Brady recounted his experiences working with the Harvard Foundation as a student with nostalgia, emphasizing the positive impact that working with Dr. Counter and the Foundation had on both his experience at Harvard and his career choices after graduation. He cheerfully reminisced about the time he boldly invited the Irish Head of State to Harvard without prior approval from the Foundation. Brady also served as a student host for the visiting Henson-Peary



From left: John Brady (father), Hannah Teresa Brady (mother), Haley Curtin (niece), and Sean Brady '89.

Inuit families from Greenland in a historic event sponsored by Harvard's president, Derek Bok, and the Harvard Foundation. Sean Brady has continued to support the Foundation and its endeavors over the last thirty years through contributions to student work-study and various Foundation intercultural projects. In conjunction with other Harvard Foundation Alumni, he

announced the endowment for the Dr. S. Allen Counter Scholarship for Diversity in Undergraduate Education at Harvard. "Sean Brady was one of the most remarkable and impressive students that I have known at Harvard," said Dr. Counter, "He is compassionate, generous and a brilliant role model for persons of all backgrounds."

-HF Staff

Harvard Foundation's 30th Anniversary Gala



(1) Dean Jay Harris and Lowell House Co-Master Dorothy Austin. (2) Sean Brady '89, HLS '92 relates his experiences working as an intern at the Harvard Foundation. (3) Mariachi Veritas de Harvard performs a traditional Mexican song. (4) Harvard Foundation alumni participants Nworah Ayogu '10, Jackie Hairston '10, Matthew Claire '09, and Elizabeth Eve '10 join the 30th Anniversary Celebration. (5) Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee member and Senior Admissions Officer David L. Evans and Dr. Walter Claire '77, HMS '82 conversing before the dinner. (6) Members of Harvard KeyChange sing for the guests of the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

Harvard Foundation's 30th Anniversary Gala



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(7) The Harvard-Radcliffe Asian-American Dance Troupe perform a traditional dance for guests at the dinner. (8) Lowell House Masters Professor Diana Eck and Reverend Dr. Dorothy Austin welcome Harvard Foundation alumna Jackie Hairston '10. (9) United States Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 speaks about her time as a student at the Harvard Foundation. (10) Eliot House Race Relations Advisor Carl Miller greets Harvard Foundation alumna Jessica Ch'ng '12. (11) Professor John E. Dowling '57 speaks after receiving the Faculty Award from University President Drew Gilpin Faust for his 30 years of distinguished service to the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Dialogue with Artist in Residence Kristin Chenoweth

Just before Reading Period began, the Harvard Foundation, in collaboration with the Office of the Arts and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Office of Diversity Relations, brought to campus an Artist in Residence who offered inspiration and insight to her adoring audience. On December 7, 2012, Kristin Chenoweth made her way to Cambridge as Harvard Foundation's Artist in Residence.

Chenoweth is known for her work both on stage and screen. On Broadway, she received a Tony Award for her performance of Sally in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and originated the role of Glinda in *Wicked*. She won an Emmy for "Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy" for her portrayal of Olive Snook in *Pushing Daisies*. She has gone on both national and international concert tours singing pieces drawn from everything from Broadway to the original work on her solo albums, displaying the breadth of her talent and repertoire.

The discussion with Chenoweth was an event that resembled the show "Inside the Actor's Studio." Chenoweth was seated on the stage of a filled-to-capacity Farkas Hall—students lined the back wall and squeezed in to find a place to stand until the ushers had to turn people away—along with two student interviewers, Eric Padilla '14 and Foundation intern Cary Williams '16. The students prepared questions to ask Chenoweth beforehand, which covered topics ranging from her training, the evolution of her career, her most famous moments, her advocacy work, and her aspirations for the future. As soon as Chenoweth started sharing her journey with the audience, it was clear that she was a natural storyteller. Her answers to questions were told in anecdotal accounts of her life, always sprinkled with a few jokes and outbursts of laughter from her audience. The comedienne in her was present, but even more striking was her authenticity.

Chenoweth emphasized, time and again, the importance of living true to one's self. She encouraged the members of the audience to reflect on what they do every day and to ask themselves if they could imagine doing anything else and being happier. She challenged them to find what gives them the most joy and to dedicate their lives to it. Chenoweth championed being present in the current moment, a practice she strives to follow. Her advice was made more powerful by its being grounded in her own experience, a journey that has many moments of triumph, but which was not without obstacles. She spoke of the pressure on her to be pigeonholed into a limited scope of roles when she knew her heart lay with widening her range. Chenoweth, instead of allowing her future to be dictated to her, made her own decisions for her career that ultimately led her to the success she now enjoys.

In conjunction with her career as a performing artist, Chenoweth has made advocacy an important part of her life. She spoke of her work in seeking equality for the BGLTQ

community, which is based on her belief that every person has a right to happiness and safety. Growing up, she valued social justice and often found herself challenging the more conservative opinions of the people around her. Chenoweth sees her artistic talent as a vehicle for her advocacy. Particularly in a concert setting, she uses the opportunity to be herself, not an actor portraying a role, to reach out to her audience in between songs and to talk with them about the values in which she believes.

Hearing Chenoweth's story was a special opportunity for those at Farkas, many of whom were dedicated fans and budding artists coming from schools all around Boston. Just as hearing from her was a treat, she took a genuine interest in her fans. The Din and Tonics sang for her and she lit up in delight—after the performance she even admitted that she was a little bit gaga for them because of how sharp they looked in their tails! When Padilla and Williams opened the floor to the audience for questions, Chenoweth wanted to

—Continued on page 22.



Dr. Counter meets with Harvard Foundation guest Kristin Chenoweth in the Green Room of Farkas Hall in preparation for her interview before a crowded auditorium filled with Harvard students, staff, faculty, and guests.

Kristin Chenoweth Visits Harvard



(1) Robert Mitchell, Assistant Dean of Diversity Relations and Communications, presents Kristin Chenoweth with a pink Harvard sweatshirt, a dog leash for her beloved Maddie, and a gift from Tiffany & Co. (2) Ms. Chenoweth thanks Harvard KeyChange for their musical tribute. (3) Members of the Harvard Din and Tonics serenade an emotional Chenoweth. (4) Interns of the Harvard College Women's Center join Ms. Chenoweth over lunch for a more personal conversation. (5) Harvard Foundation intern Cary Williams '16 and singer Eric Padilla '14 of the Harvard Din and Tonics enjoy a good laugh as Ms. Chenoweth quips about her life experiences. (6) The Din and Tonics offer an encore to Ms. Chenoweth during the reception after the interview.

The Current Crisis of (Mis) Understanding in the Middle East

On Tuesday, September 18th, 2012, the Harvard Foundation and the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program came together with the Harvard community to discuss the recent events that had led to violent protests in Muslim communities worldwide. The beginning of September 2012 was marked by a series of protests against the anti-Islam film *Innocence of Muslims*. From Pakistan to Indonesia, Muslims were outraged at the buffoonish caricatures of prominent Islamic figures and ignorant portrayals of believers in Islam. The event at Harvard, titled The Current Crisis of (Mis) Understanding in the Middle East, sought to address these concerns and provide a space for dialogue over the events following the release of the movie.

Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, began the event by welcoming the Harvard community and introducing the panelists for the discussion. The panel featured Professor Ali Asani, a Harvard professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures. Another distinguished panelist was Professor Malika Zeghal, a Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Life and Thought. Finally, the panel also featured a student representative, Yacine Fares '15, from the Society of Arab Students and the Harvard Islamic Society in order to offer college students' perspectives of the recent events.

The first words of the night came from panelist Yacine Fares, a student officer from the Harvard Islamic Society, who described the disturbing online trend known as "Muslim rage." Often used in hash tags on twitter and in different images around the web, this trend was the source of disturbing perceptions and hate speech towards Muslims around the world. In addition, because the film *Innocence of Muslims* was made in America, there was significant hatred directed towards Americans from the Muslim world. Fares described how he was working on a campaign with other Muslim-Americans to send condolences overseas and build ties between Muslim-Americans and Muslims around the globe.

Later during the discussion, Professor Ali Asani addressed the issue of religious and cultural illiteracy and how this misunderstanding had caused the hateful sentiments towards the Muslim community. He noted that historical attitudes towards Islam as the "backwards" religion contributed to the ignorance of many non-Muslims towards the meaning and practice of the religion. "What do Muslims want most from the West?" Asani asked, "It is respect. Muslims around the world seek freedom from constant humiliation." Thus, Asani strongly advocated for intercultural understanding throughout his talk. Asani believed that by engaging in new dialogues and education on the true meaning of Islam, people would move past their ignorance and avoid the issues of hate speech and violence that were present at the time. By fusing student perspectives with the scholarly views of two distinguished professors, the panel discussion left the audience with new ideas for improving intercultural relations in their own lives. The panel was able to challenge perceived notions of the Muslim tradition and also encouraged the audience to seek out the necessary knowledge to form an informed view of the world. In the wake of the violent

protests surrounding the *Innocence of Muslims* film, this event was both necessary and memorable and certainly challenged audience members to develop their own understanding and a spirit of inclusivity.

-Eric Lu '14



(1) Students from the Harvard Islamic community join the audience for the panel discussion on the crisis in the Middle East. (2) Panelists Professor Malika Zeghal, Professor Ali Asani, Yacine Fares '15, and Dr. Counter. (3) Audience composed of students and faculty attend the panelists' comments.

Domestic Violence and Social Inequality: A panel conversation



Moderator and Harvard Foundation intern Kirin Gupta '16 (far right) observes as the panelists Ekoo Beck, Kendra Graves, Sarah Rankin, and Julie Kahn-Schay discuss the impact of domestic violence in communities of color.

In a conversation that packed Boylston Hall Room 105, students, faculty, and staff gathered to discuss domestic violence issues in minority communities during an event entitled Domestic Violence and Social Inequality. The event was cosponsored by the Harvard Foundation; the Office of Sexual Assault, Prevention, and Response (OSAPR); Native Americans at Harvard College; Black Men's Forum; Queer Students and Allies; Fuerza Latina; the Harvard College International Women's Rights Collective (IWRC); and the Dominican Students Association.

The expert panel featured speakers from both Harvard and the greater Cambridge and Boston communities, including OSAPR director Sarah Rankin, Harvard College student Ekoo Beck '16, and Julie Kahn-Schaye, the Director of Youth and Family Services from the Transition House Shelter in Cambridge. Harvard Foundation intern and event organizer Kirin

Gupta '16, moderated the discussion. The event focused on the particular challenges—such as stigma, reporting structures, and survivor support—related to domestic violence encountered by traditionally marginalized communities in American society, including various communities of color. It was also part of a larger series of events and initiatives led by IWRC designed to end rape culture at Harvard and beyond.

Among the issues discussed were jurisdiction, law enforcement, and legal resources available to deal with perpetrators of domestic violence. Citing examples from her home reservation in Montana, Beck spoke about the challenges created by law enforcement gaps on sovereign territory and FBI jurisdiction over domestic violence cases on Native American reservations. Beck also discussed some of the initiatives that are being developed at the grass roots level in order to combat these issues, including efforts to turn jurisdiction

on domestic violence cases over to tribal authorities.

Other panelists discussed the additional cultural and societal stigmas and barriers that domestic violence victims may face as a consequence of their ethnicity, race, and/or sexuality.

In addition to considering the problems inherent in the current system, attendees and panelists sought to formulate solutions to address domestic violence issues within their own communities. They discussed methodology for creating culture shifts, both within their home communities and at Harvard, in order to reduce the stigma around reporting domestic violence and support survivors while appropriately penalizing and stigmatizing perpetrators. Panelists also brought pamphlets and other resources for dealing with domestic violence to distribute to event attendees.

-Reshma Lutfeali '13

Mental Health Matters Campaign

On Monday November 26th, the Harvard Foundation, in partnership with the Harvard College Women's Center and the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, launched the Mental Health Matters Campaign. This ongoing event was extended until the end of the fall semester in part to recognize mental health issues on campus and to guide those who may be struggling with mental-health-related problems to resources and support. The campaign mission, as outlined on the Mental Health Matters Tumblr, is as follows: Mental Health Matters is a campaign to create a welcoming and inclusive community conversation about student mental health at Harvard College.

The competitive atmosphere of Harvard College creates an environment in which everyone must always be "doing fine" or "feeling well." In reality, however, people are not always doing fine or feeling well in college. Feeling as if one is the only student on campus who is struggling to balance academics, extracurriculars, social life, and even sleep, can take a severe toll on one's mental health. The stress from midterm season or performing well in an athletic competition can weigh students down. The culture on campus, however, shows nothing of the sort. This ongoing campaign is a first attempt by the three offices to combat this complacent attitude towards not recognizing broad mental health issues on campus.

This campaign consists of two approaches to reach the student body: an online Tumblr account and campus-wide posterage. Each of the partnering offices asked their interns to contribute photos of themselves holding a mental health message they would like to share. Using these images, Harvard Foundation interns drafted posters to publicize the campaign through Tumblr and venues on campus. The Office of BGLTQ Student Life reached out to the various resources, such as University Mental Health Services, Bureau of Study Counsel, Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response,

Student Mental Health Liaisons, Contact Peer Counseling, The Happiness Project at Harvard, Room 13, and many others, to participate in this campaign and hold related events. And finally, the Women's Center created the Mental Health Matters Tumblr for students to share their messages and read what other students have shared.

This Tumblr received many hits from students, anonymous and named alike, sharing their thoughts or stories, or just reading the thoughts shared by others. For instance, one anonymous student wrote, "I am not as put together as I look. Admitting that is really hard for me. Especially here." These are the kinds of messages that students do not share when a passing friend asks, "How are you doing?" Another anonymous student wrote, "no one on campus looks like me, and it makes me feel like I'm such an alien." Helping to address issues of personal identity and cultural dissonance is why the mental health campaign matters to the Harvard Foundation. Mental health is an issue that resonates across cultures and races. And to "enhance the quality of our common life," the Foundation is pleased to recognize and try to improve the mental health culture on campus. Mental Health Matters is the first official program on which the three offices (under the Office of Student Life) have collaborated. The offices really came together, divided the work based on the focus of each office, and then followed through. During weekly meetings,

interns and staff of all three offices put their heads together to create the photo campaign and find resources and mental-health groups on campus, resulting in a successful campaign and friendly relations among the offices. The Harvard Foundation looks forward to building on this relationship and continuing to work with the other Office of Student Life interns.

-Irfan Mahmud '16



Mental Health Matters Tumblr Page

MENTAL
HEALTH
MATTERS

A PLACE TO LISTEN,
SHARE AND CONNECT

Mental Health Matters is a campaign to create a welcoming and inclusive community conversation around student mental health at Harvard College.

Read what other students have shared, share your thoughts, stories and struggles, and browse our list of resources. Mental Health matters to all of us!

**** TRIGGER WARNING ****

If you find this website triggering in any way, please use the resources listed below!

Navigation

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About Mental Health Matters

Resources

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Submit A Post

I feel so angry so much of the time. Angry and anxious. And I don't know how to talk about it because I'm afraid it'll scare everyone I love away.

37 minutes ago

Permalink

praying for you

I had a horrible freshman year at Harvard & I seriously considered transferring, but I'm writing this to tell you that there's always hope. I just finished my junior fall, and I'm so content here. I faced a lot of rejection and struggled to find a friend group, but over time I was able to find a group of people who truly care about me and want to see me happy. There's so much pressure around us, but you're here for a reason and you're better than you think you are. Don't be afraid to reach out and be bold! I've talked to people and told them "I'm so unhappy here I can't stand it but I don't know what I can do" and even if they can't do anything but murmur sympathetically and hug you, it helps to know you're not alone. Be brave and make yourself vulnerable and people (the people that matter) will be there for you.

I wish I could talk to all of the people who are posting their struggles on this tumblr, but I don't know who you are; keep reaching out and one day I (or someone like me) will find you.

3 days ago

Permalink

Grief and Finals 2

Dear Grief and Finals,

This blog does not allow replying/commenting, which makes sense. I just wanted you to know that my grandmother also recently passed and that you aren't alone. Things have been tough for me too lately and reading your post really helped me out. We'll get through this together.

Empathy

3 days ago

Permalink

Grief and Finals

How am I supposed to care about my final papers when my grandfather just died? It feels like my finals don't even matter. Or that I don't have energy for them. I cry all of the time. And I just want to stop. I feel like I'm becoming a burden on my friends because I need to talk things out and just be with people, but they're doing their finals too. Can't I just fast forward to next Monday????

Light at the End of the Tunnel

I'm a legacy and my family put a lot of pressure on me to come to Harvard. I was a good student in high school and I think I deserve to be here anyway, but I don't know if I would have chosen it if it weren't for my family pressure. I don't think it's the right place for me.

I've been really sick (physically) my entire time here and it's really taken a toll on my ability to make the most of my experience. I've struggled with depression for a while before Harvard but being sick all the time really has made it worse. I don't know if it's illness or depression that makes me unable to get out of bed in the morning. I'm also really heavily involved in my extracurriculars, and people in my extracurriculars have been really unsympathetic. I think that most of my stress during my time at Harvard doesn't come from academics or any desire to "be the best" or whatever was alluded to in those articles, but from my peers being about extracurriculars. They say you have no social life at Harvard without adding activities but is it worth having a social life with people who don't support you? My biggest regret at Harvard, second to coming here in the first place, is joining this organization. The only reason I haven't quit or dropped out or worse is that I'm a senior now and I'm so close to graduating and the end is finally in sight so I just need to get by until then.

5 hours ago

Permalink

Thank you

I am a low income first-gen minority student about to graduate. I'm terrified. I don't have a family like other students, and I never learned to be part of a community. Sometimes I just feel so alone and so depressed and because I've never thought of suicide, it seems like my feelings aren't severe enough. But I'm so sad. I worry I will lose everything once I graduate. That no one will stay my friends. I feel like a failure. So much potential, and my fragile 3.0 will slip so much this semester. I almost failed a class. I will get C's, yes, I won't fail, but every written word, every keyboard stroke is agony. I just want to continue to sleep and not leave my bed and cry all day. Or escape into a fantasy world.

I say thank you because this tumblr shows me I'm not alone. I felt alone so much of my life, to have this, to show I'm not a failure, I'm not the only one who feels this way, is just wonderful. Thank you to whoever started this. Please let us keep the conversation going.

3 days ago

Permalink

I just have no more energy. I have no friends on campus (I'm a senior). I shy away from relationships. I am completely and utterly alone. My parents are struggling to understand me. My old friends from high

Affirmative Action Discussion



(1) Students shared their perspectives on affirmative action at Harvard. (2) Event moderator and Mather House Race Tutor Anthony Jack raises questions about the impacts of affirmative action policies on students, the Harvard community, and society as a whole.

After a long day of classes and preparation for finals, over 50 students gathered into Grays Common Room to discuss affirmative action on December 4, 2012. Inspired by several articles in various campus publications, this conversation focused on the effects of affirmative action rather than views for or against the policy, asking students to think about what affirmative action should look like in 2012. Leading the discussion, and acting as moderators were Harvard Foundation intern Tiffany Ramos '16 and Mather House Race Relations Tutor Anthony Jack, who both did an excellent job of directing the conversation away from a debate over views for or against the policy.

From the onset of the discussion, students defined affirmative action in terms of diversity that included more than just race. One student remarked that admissions “cannot be black versus white” and “must be a whole myriad that includes class as well as race.” “But what about self-segregation?” asked one student, expressing that he felt race-based affirmative action could be going against diversity, and instead creating self-segregation across campuses. “A negative side-effect of race-based affirmative action,” he asserted, “could be that minorities have to live on campus with a doubt of whether or not their race gained them acceptance.”

When asked about how some students

may feel as a result of race-based affirmative action policies, one student shared a personal story: “While I do agree with the need for the policy, it does hurt me to know that some of my classmates may think that I am undeserving of my place at this university after all my accomplishments and hard work here and before even coming here.” Other students supported her sentiments, remarking how they have heard classmates of color state the same fear or sharing personal stories of their own. The conversation continued with students exploring how affirmative action may take on other forms in 2012. These included athletic ability or legacy status: “Diversity, in all of its forms—intelligence, athletic ability, race, gender, socioeconomic background, geographic location, and nationality—is important for a class, and something that I think Harvard should continue to consider while making admissions decisions.”

Students even explored the argument that supports affirmative action for historically disadvantaged groups. To start, one student presented statistical data that showed height and weight to yield potential disadvantage in society. In response, another student stated that “James Madison, a short person, was elected president at 5 feet and 4 inches, but Barack Obama, a black man, was not elected until now.”

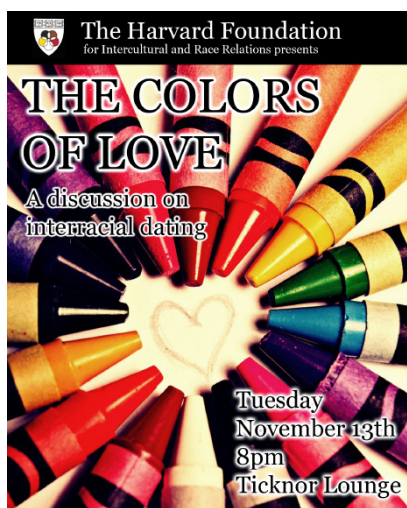
But despite high emotions, the moderators kept conversation around

the heated topic respectful and balanced. They guided the conversation, asking questions that looked at statistical data. One of the questions asked for students’ opinions on race-based affirmative action using data from a study that showed that blacks and other minorities tended to perform lower on their SATs than their white counterparts. Many student responses strongly disagreed with the study results, highlighting how intelligence can be measured many ways and how the study had not controlled for socioeconomic background. But above all, the conversation opened the door for personal experiences, providing students with a safe space to discuss their views and experiences on affirmative action, showing that students can hold a civil, respectful, and informed conversation on affirmative action.

After an hour of conversation and debate, the event was wrapped up with comments from Dr. S. Allen Counter. Dr. Counter put the discussion into perspective by drawing on over 30 years of experience debating the matter with fellow students and eventually colleagues at Harvard University. With no clear solution to appease everyone’s concerns, affirmative action is sure to be an issue that students of all ethnicities and socioeconomic statuses will be grappling with for years to come.

-Yolanda Borquaye '14

The Colors of Love Interracial Dating Forum



The Harvard Foundation hosted “The Colors of Love,” a discussion on interracial dating, on Tuesday, November 13th at 8:30PM. The event took place in Ticknor Lounge at Boylston Hall. The program was free and open to members of the Harvard Community. This event was sponsored

with the purpose of promoting greater understanding of the challenges and social stigmas that interracial couples may face, and how certain assumptions can be addressed in our own social circles. The event also addressed more personal aspects of dating across race during the discussion, including reasons why people choose to date or not to date across racial lines.

Event organizers and Harvard Foundation interns, Tiffany Marie Ramos '16 and Eric Lu '14, chose to have an open discussion rather than a panel to make the conversation more personal. Moderator Judy Park '14, from Sustained Dialogue, encouraged everyone to contribute to the discussion. Some of the questions that helped spark the lively discussion that evening included: Do you feel comfortable or uncomfortable dating someone outside of your race? Do your current social circles or family influence this answer? What would your family and friends think if you were dating interracial? What is it like to be a child of an interracial couple?

Approximately thirty people attended the discussion – a large enough group to promote diverse perspectives while still allowing a comfortable, if not cozy, space for conversation. There were multiple interracial couples present, which gave participants the chance to hear about the experiences of the couples themselves. Interestingly though, even individuals within these relationships differed in their experiences with families and friends, and their views on interracial dating overall. The Harvard Foundation looks forward to continuing this discussion in the near future, possibly cosponsoring with various groups on campus to promote greater diversity of thought while maintaining an open and welcoming space in which to discuss these matters.

-Tiffany Ramos '16



(1) Harvard Foundation intern Eric Lu '14, Sustained Dialogue moderator Judy Park '14, and Harvard Foundation intern Tiffany Ramos '16 discuss their views on interracial dating. (2) Harvard College Women's Center intern Lindiwe Rennert '14 speaks on the topic of interracial dating. (3) Other Harvard students participate in the conversation about the role of race in dating.

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 Harvard South Asian Association

Kalpanam

Kalpanam, which means “imaginings,” is the South Asian Associations annual classical dance show. *Kalpanam* exhibits the classical art called *Bharatanatyam*, that originated in South India, in the state of Tamil Nadu. The dance form integrates expression, music, rhythm, and dance into a single art form. Many describe *Bharatanatyam* as a dance style that truly conveys all types of human emotion, while simultaneously telling a story to the audience. This year, *Kalpanam* was both engaging and intriguing, and included performances from both Harvard and MIT students. The cultural chairs of the SAA Executive Board also wrote a skit, which was performed by its members. The skit was based on the story of Heer Ranjha, which is one of the most renowned tragic romances from the state of Punjab. The audience was thrilled by the performances and skit, and the SAA was honored that many Harvard professors like Ali Asani, Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures, and their families attended. Following the show, with funding from the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council, we served traditional South Asian snacks and beverages, including

samosas, pakoras, and, mango lassi.

- Prateek Agarwal '15



Bharatanatyam performance during Kalpanam.

The Harvard Radcliffe Catholic Student Association Holiday Reception

The Holiday Reception was an event hosted by the Catholic Student Association (CSA) after our annual Candle Mass. It was open to all undergraduates, and we had some non-CSA members join us in celebrating in a festive and well-decorated environment. The grant money allowed us to purchase holiday decorations and food. This was a great opportunity for many members of

the Harvard Community to meet and get to know Catholic students better in a social, relaxed setting on the Harvard Campus. It was also a great opportunity to get into the holiday spirit in the midst of final exams. Around 110 people attended this event.

-Mat Schnorenberg '14

The Harvard Black Students Association Confronting Media Representation of African Americans

African Americans are often shown in a negative light through various forms of the media. While there are many positive figures in the African American community, there seems to be an increasing interest in those African Americans who have poor professional conduct and who confirm negative stereotypes. On October 1, 2012, students of all ethnicities were invited to attend a meeting to confront the negative media representations of African Americans.

This meeting aimed to provide an open forum for discussion of the role of African Americans in media. The focus was particularly on professional athletes and reality television stars of African descent. Students presented their personal thoughts and beliefs regarding

the African American images in media. Some students expressed their discontentment with such misrepresentations, while others questioned the magnitude of effects produced by such negative representations. We also discussed whether reality television focusing on minorities should be considered harmless entertainment or if the image of African Americans at large has been damaged by the existence of such entertainment. We reviewed positive black celebrity role models, speaking about the extent to which their presence nulls the harm done by broadcasting the obscene behavior of others. Students attempted to provide potential solutions to such problems. Light refreshments were served prior to the start of discussion.

—Crystal Johnson '15

Native Americans at Harvard Columbus Day Vigil

Every October, many welcome the break from classes that Columbus Day brings. However, our student organization, Native Americans at Harvard seeks to re-examine this holiday. We joined other indigenous peoples across the Americas, who choose not to celebrate the man who marks the beginning of 500 years of racism and genocide. Although other schools have begun referring to this holiday as a "Fall Break," Harvard still refers to this time as Columbus Day. This has provoked discussion about what Columbus Day truly represents. It is because of the legacy of racism and genocide that began with Columbus that we chose this time to remember our history.

On October the 8th, we held a vigil outside of Matthews Hall, the site of the old Indian college at Harvard. At sunset, we lit candles to commemorate those that were lost as a result of conquest and colonialism. We formed a circle and shared our thoughts on Columbus Day with other members of the Harvard community. Each person in turn, reflected on the history and implications of Columbus Day. Afterward, we celebrated the survival and resistance of the diverse peoples and cultures of the Americas by cooking Indian tacos

in Winthrop House basement. Grant money was spent on the ingredients for the tacos, made of fried dough topped with beef, cheese, and other toppings. We enjoyed the food and discussion, as did those who joined us at the vigil.

—Dakota Diggs '14

Harvard Islamic Society "Fastathon"

Harvard Islamic Society organized an interfaith event that brought together over seven on-campus religious groups for a common purpose. There are many religious groups on campus that follow different traditions of fasting. Many religious groups on campus organize mixers and events with one another, but it is uncommon to see so many religious groups coming together at one time.

To raise awareness of religious groups and their presence on campus, Harvard Islamic Society put together a Fastathon event in collaboration with six other religious groups including the Harvard Radcliffe Christian Association, Harvard Hillel, Harvard College Interfaith Council, Latter-Day Saints Student Association, and Harvard Dharma.

The event was open to the student body at large and was attended by over 70 people. The proceeds from the donations went to the Save the Children Organization, a nonprofit group for children in the developing world.

This event was a huge success as it led us to build relations with religious organizations across campus and raised awareness of the traditions in different faiths, while supporting a good cause. It was a phenomenal way for students to come together from across campus and the conversations at events like this always add to the rich diversity on campus while giving us all something to ponder.

—Muneeb Ahmed '14

Under Construction Fall Concert - "Jamanji: an A Capella Journey"

"Jamanji: an a cappella journey" was the title of this year's Christian a cappella jam by Harvard's Under Construction, founded in 1984. Jamanji took place



Under Construction sings during "Jamanji."

on Saturday, December 1, at 8 p.m. in Paine Hall, and featured a set of ten songs, performed by 18 members of our group. Numerous music genres were represented: traditional hymns, pop/rock, contemporary Christian, mainstream gospel, and R&B. Artists included Avalon, Mary Mary, Sara Bareilles, Tye Tribbett, Tenth Avenue North, and Kirk Franklin, among others. Six of the ten songs were new arrangements created by group members, and two of the songs were arrangements from our most recent album, *Quintessential*, released in Spring 2011. Admission to the concert was free and approximately 75 Harvard undergraduate students attended, as well as over 50 other students and community members. In addition to our musical set, we wrote and performed an original dramatic skit, loosely based on the popular film *Jumanji*; we enacted the different segments throughout the performance, in between groups of songs. Besides entertaining our audience, we sought to encapsulate the often hectic and unpredictable nature of student life at Harvard with our music and drama, as well as express our common faith and how it assists us in overcoming these challenges. The performance was followed by an informal reception in the Science Center that allowed the audience and group to mingle. The concert was made possible in part by generous grants from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations and the Undergraduate Council.

—Eric Graves '14

Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports *Continued*

Asian American Association Annual Stoplight Dance

Through the second annual Stoplight Dance we sought to continue the previous year's successful celebration of the Asian diaspora on campus and create an Asian American Association (AAA) tradition at Harvard. Attendees came dressed in one of three different colored clothes: green for single, red for taken, and yellow for somewhere in between. This social event seeks to introduce our organization to the undergraduates, specifically to the freshmen, therefore it is led by the freshmen representatives of AAA. The event was open mainly to Harvard students, with a few student guests. We held the spotlight dance in the SOCH, and we estimate that around 300 people stopped by throughout the night. The goal of this event was not only to allow the Harvard undergraduate population to have a very fun night, but to also give them an extra opportunity to make new acquaintances through a social gathering and fun dance. We also provided our guests with a wide variety of non-alcoholic beverages when they wanted to take a break. Overall the dance was a great success and many students thoroughly enjoyed their time. We extend our deepest thanks to the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council for helping to fund this event and continuing our newly-established tradition of hosting an annual "Stoplight Dance."

-Michelle Geng '15

Harvard College Dominican Students' Association Latina Women in Business and Entrepreneurship

Clara de Villar, a Dominican businesswoman whose work concerns managing stocks on Wall Street, as well as managing her own business in Small Business Consulting and Management, visited with members of the Harvard community to discuss being a Latina on Wall Street and some of the associated challenges and experiences. She spoke



The Harvard Haitian Alliance dance workshop group.

to students about the effects both her ethnicity and gender have had on her success in the financial sector, noting that at times, her ethnicity has proven an advantage to her, and at other times has led her to encounter obstacles. She answered questions from participants about the process by which she came to work on Wall Street. She also spoke about how her Dominican heritage influences her work. In particular, her experiences working with the Dominican community were what influenced her to start her second business. She hopes to support small business owners like her immigrant relatives to navigate the complex systems of banking, investments, and taxes to help them expand upon their own business ventures.

We connected with Ms. De Villar through our club adviser, Dario Collado, who had previously worked with Ms. De Villar as a donor supporting the Latino Leadership Initiative of the Harvard Kennedy School.

-Rony Cepeda '15

Harvard Haitian Alliance Haitian Folkloric Dance Workshop

Building on the successful Haitian Folkloric Dance Workshop that took place last fall semester, we held this two-part dance workshop again this fall. The workshops were open to the Harvard

community, actively publicized across campus, and designed to introduce students to the rich and diverse Haitian culture through dance. We aimed to not only share the exciting Haitian culture across campus, but also to foster an environment conducive to the type of cross-cultural communication that makes each of us more informed and positive members of our growing global community. To this end, we hosted these workshops to encourage both Haitians and non-Haitians alike to work together and find within our midst a supportive and open-minded community. Each dance workshop was 1.5 hours, and the dancers worked extensively with a professional dance company from the Boston/Cambridge area, Fantezi Kreyol. The company provided accompanying drummers to promote a lively, upbeat, and realistic cultural experience. The first 15 minutes of each session was dedicated to introducing participants to the history of Haitian folkloric dance, focusing on the roots that spread across the globe. The remainder of the time was used to introduce participants to three different sub-genres of Haitian dance in an engaging atmosphere. This was an opportunity for students from a variety of backgrounds and a variety of perspectives to enjoy themselves in an exciting, respectful, and intellectually and physically stimulating environment. We also enjoyed great music, the benefits of exercise, and exciting conversations amid earnest laughter.

Race Relations Advisor Activity Report

The Harvard Foundation oversees the Race Relations Advisor/Tutor Program in the Harvard Houses. The Race Relations Advisor/Tutor Program, aims to promote positive and amicable relations among Harvard College Students in the Harvard Houses. Harvard Yard proctors and Harvard House Tutors are selected to be trained to serve as Race Relations Advisors for first-year students in the Harvard Yard and student residents of the Harvard Houses respectively. Their collective responsibilities 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 our programs throughout the College, and the cooperation of the proctors and tutors who serve as Resident Race Relations Advisors. Below are a few examples of some of the Race Relations Advisors' initiatives.

Unity Table Adams House

Adams House Race Relations tutors conducted a "Unity Table" event on November 18th, 2012. Also, monthly dinner discussions in the Adams House dining hall covering various topics related to race relations and diversity at Harvard. In November, students discussed Affirmative Action. This choice of topic was part of their effort to address a Harvard Crimson op-ed article* that was written by a student in Adams House. The monthly discussions were lively, and at times heated, but the students were respectful and civil.

*<http://www.thecrimson.com/column/the-snollygoster/article/2012/11/2/Siskind-affirmative-action/>

"Arranged" - Study Break Dunster House

Dunster House Race Relations Advisors organized a discussion and film screening on love and religion. The screening of the film *Arranged* took place on November 11, 2012. Students stopped by for brunch and to watch the movie. Several students stayed on afterwards to discuss the film. Those who stayed for the entire event expressed how much they enjoyed the film's examination of the intersection of religious beliefs and views on dating and marriage.

"Ask Big Questions" Mather House

Mather House hosted the "Ask Big Questions" discussion series on September 27, 2012 at 6 p.m., in the Mather House A&B Dining Room. The title of the discussion was called "What does it mean to speak Spanglish?" The discussion focused on how Latino children and youth are changing the language landscape of the United States and the complicated questions that arise when two cultures and two languages merge. The discussion was moderated by Dr. María Luisa Parra, Senior Preceptor in Romance Languages and Literatures, and Course Head for Spanish 59: "Spanish in the Community," at Harvard University.

Voting Preference Study Break Harvard Yard

The Race Relations proctors in the Yard coordinated a study break to discuss race and politics, in particular, "Who can be president in the United States," an activity-based discussion held in Wigglesworth Common Room. We analyzed how the students felt about ethnic, religious, and gender biases that Americans possess in relation to their voting preferences. We compared these views to historic Gallop polling going back to 1933 to see how Americans have changed in their political prejudices. One educational component of the event was that students learned about the current highest ranking elected official in each minority group (for example, the Mormon representative would be Harry Reid). Students were surprised to learn how few atheists were elected officials.

Race & Diversity Study Break Lowell House

Lowell House sponsored a Race and Diversity Study Break on December 5, 2012 in the Junior Common Room. Given a string of race-related issues across the campus this fall, we thought it important to reaffirm the visibility of the race relations tutors at the end of the semester. We hosted a house-wide study break that provided an opportunity for students to mingle and casually meet each other. The students also met race relations tutors, and both discussed student views regarding various racial incidents that have occurred on campus.

Judge Patti B. Harris Cabot House

The Race Relations team at Cabot House partnered with the Pre-law tutors and Cabot's Masters to invite Patti B. Saris, a District Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts and Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission to share dinner with Cabot's students. Judge Saris was an attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice from 1982 to 1986, and held the position of Chief of the Civil Division, Office of the United States Attorney for Massachusetts, from 1984 to 1986. Judge Saris received her undergraduate degree in 1973 from Radcliffe College and her law degree in 1976 from Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk to the late Justice Robert Braucher of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court from 1976 to 1977. The event was well attended by Cabot residents and tutors.

FAC/SAC Meeting Updates

Each month, the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) convene a meeting at the Phillips Brooks House parlour room to discuss the state of intercultural relations on the Harvard College campus. The SAC is comprised of officially recognized student organizations that further the mission of the Harvard Foundation, and the FAC membership consists of distinguished faculty members who support the work of the Harvard Foundation. Our monthly meetings are an important opportunity for us to gather and discuss relevant issues on campus. This fall, we were honored to host several distinguished guests to facilitate these important monthly conversations; we were also excited by the student-driven discussions that took place at our monthly meetings. In October, for example, we played the game *Barnja* to demonstrate the importance of intercultural communication between diverse groups on campus. In November, we held our annual meeting at the Office of Career Services (OCS) to discuss the OCS's resources as well as the role of identity and diversity in job searches and the workplace. In December, we were honored to host Dr. Paul Barreira and several Student Mental Health Liaisons (SMHLs) to discuss the role of culture and identity in mental health. The SAC is also responsible for distributing \$25,000 of funding among the SAC cultural organizations for programs that promote intercultural dialogue and understanding at Harvard College; this fall, we funded 255 such programs.

Sustained Dialogue Fall Update

This semester, Sustained Dialogue worked toward strengthening annual programming and forming new partnerships. In addition to moderating the second annual Race Relations Dialogue and Dinner event with the Asian American Association, Black Students Association, and Fuerza Latina, Sustained Dialogue partnered with the Harvard Foundation for a dialogue event on interracial dating at Harvard. Sustained Dialogue also became involved in Harvard's Sex Week by moderating a dialogue event about the intersection between sexuality and ethnicity. We also formed new relations with the Women's Center and the Pakistan Student Association through the screening and discussion of *Saving Face*, a documentary on acid-attack victims in Pakistan. Along with these external events, Sustained Dialogue has successfully moderated four weekly dialogue groups and implemented the semester-based action forum and action plans, including a campaign promoting more positive and individualized discourse on campus.

Articles Continued

Discussion with Kristin Chenoweth (Continued from page 10)

know about the background and motivators of the audience members who rose to ask her questions. In a particularly poignant moment, she applauded the dedication of a performing arts teacher, saying that her work with students is the most meaningful contribution to be made. In another heartwarming interaction, Chenoweth sang a bit of the *Wicked* hit "Popular" at the request of a child in the audience.

At the conclusion of the event, the Foundation, along with the co-sponsoring offices, presented Chenoweth with a Harvard sweatshirt in pink, her favorite color. In closing, she surprised the audience and sang "Till There Was You" from *The Music Man*. Her stunning performance marked the end of an inspiring and honest conversation that seemed to touch everyone present. Afterwards, Chenoweth was escorted to a reception with Harvard Foundation interns, student leaders of cultural organizations, and students involved in the performing arts, at which KeyChange sang and the Din and Tonics gave an encore. She charmed students that she spoke with by engaging in conversation, laughing, and taking the time to take pictures with anyone who asked (which were then promptly uploaded to Facebook by dazzled students!).

Before departing, she signed her name on the wall of the Green Room in Farkas, commemorating the occasion during which she became a part of the Harvard community and shared her remarkable talents, warm personality, and inspiring words that will stay with all those with whom she connected.

-Cary Williams '16

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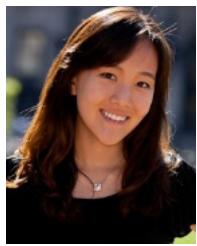
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