



The

# HARVARD FOUNDATION

*For Intercultural and Race Relations*

Journal

SPRING 2013

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

VOL. XXXII, NO. 2

## NICOLE SCHERZINGER—2013 ARTIST OF THE YEAR



*Dr. Annemarie Schimmel  
Portrait Unveiling*



**Interview with  
Coach Tommy Amaker**



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## 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 in the Harvard community, as well as highlight the contributions of students from all backgrounds.



The *Harvard Foundation Journal* has been produced semi-annually since 1982. It is designed to inform University members about Foundation-sponsored programs that address topics related to intercultural, racial, ethnic, and religious harmony. The *Journal* is produced by the Harvard Foundation's director, staff, and interns.

### Corrections from Fall 2012 Journal:

Derek C. Bok's was misspelled on page 3 and Judge Patti B. Saris' name was misspelled on page 21

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.



On the cover, clockwise from top: Artist of the Year, singer and dancer Nicole Scherzinger signs "hang loose" with members Jenai Akina '16, Nicholas Keone Lee '15, LeShae Henderson '16, and Paoakalani Montgomery '15 of Harvard's Holoimua O Hawaii student organization. Harvard men's basketball coach Tommy Amaker joins Harvard soccer team goalie Jessica Wright '13 during a panel discussion on African American athletes. Portrait of Dr. Annemarie Schimmel, professor of Indo-muslim culture at Harvard, is unveiled in the Eliot House library.



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

Dear Colleagues and Students,

It is with pleasure that I submit to you a summary of the programs, projects, and events of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations for the spring semester of 2013. As in past years, three of the flagship programs of the Harvard Foundation were held in the spring semester: the Cultural Rhythms Festival, hosted by U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 and Nicole Scherzinger; the Albert Einstein Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, honoring Professor Lisa Randall as 2013 Scientist of the Year; and the Student-Faculty Awards Ceremony and Aloian Dinner.

In addition to these annual events, the Harvard Foundation sponsored more than 150 programs during the spring semester, including a panel discussion titled "The African American Athlete: Challenges in Today's Sports World"; a unique Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration that featured a new, one-hour film documentary highlighting civil rights leaders, songs of the Civil Rights Movement, and excerpts from Dr. King's speeches; a forum on first-generation college students; a "Mental Health Matters" campaign; and a screening of the PBS documentary *North Pole Promise*, the story of the mixed-race Inuit/Eskimo descendants of North Pole discoverers Matthew Henson and Robert Peary. The Harvard Foundation Portraiture Committee was honored to unveil the portrait of Annemarie Schimmel, Professor *Emerita* of Indo-Muslim Culture, at Harvard's Eliot House.

It is important to report that, as part of our annual Science Conference, the Harvard Foundation hosted more than 100 boys and girls from Boston-area public schools for a "day of science" at Harvard that included presentations and science demonstrations by Harvard faculty and students. This program brought together 25 Harvard undergraduates of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds in a collaborative endeavor that enabled them to work with intercity youth and come to know their classmates better.

Student organization membership in the 2013 Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee numbered more

than 80 different ethno-cultural groups. I am pleased to report that most of our students of different ethno-cultural groups are getting along, working together, and developing friendships across ethnic lines that we hope will continue into their post-college life.

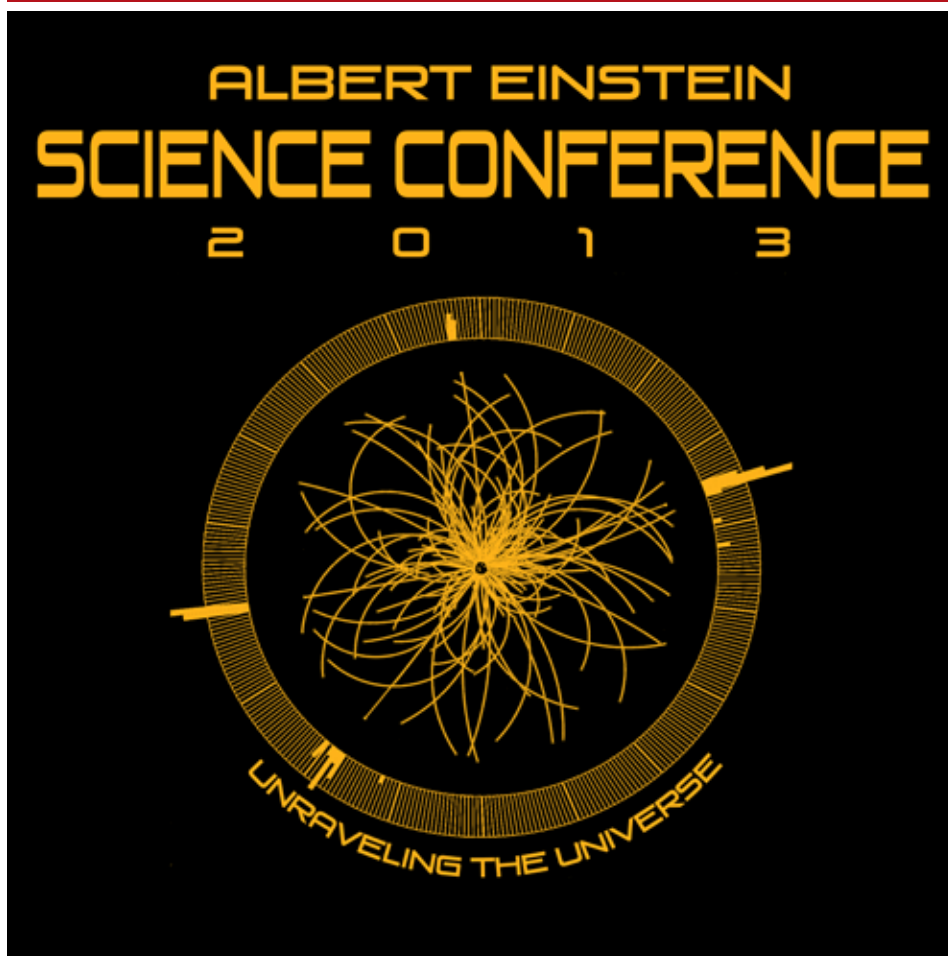
Among the challenges faced by The Harvard Foundation this past semester was a conflict that arose between student members of the Palestine Solidarity Committee and Harvard Hillel (a Harvard Jewish student organization), which gathered both national and international publicity. Both these student groups are approved Harvard College organizations and affiliated with the Harvard Foundation. The point of contention centered around a week of activities sponsored by the Palestinian student organization, some of which were opposed by some students at Harvard Hillel and others. These activities included a speech at the Harvard Science Center by MIT professor Noam Chomsky and the distribution of "eviction notices" flyers in the dormitories that members of the Palestine Solidarity Committee said were designed to bring attention "the plight of Palestinian evictions in the Middle East."

I met with student representatives from each of these groups on a number of occasions, including a sponsored lunch at the Harvard Faculty Club where we discussed their differences, and achieved a greater understanding and a reduction in tensions. I believe that the matter was resolved in an amicable manner consistent with Harvard's policy, and that the student leaders of both groups will continue to work together to resolve differences.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the graduating seniors of the Class of 2013 who gave excellent service to the Harvard Foundation as interns and SAC officers throughout their undergraduate years. These outstanding student leaders were Justin Banerdt '13, Reshma Lutfeali '13, Abdul Ly '13, and Maria Theophanous '13.

Finally, I wish to express my genuine appreciation to the faculty and administrators whose support and special efforts were crucial to the success of the Harvard Foundation throughout this academic year. Thank you.

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



Under the theme “Unraveling the Universe,” the 2013 Albert Einstein Science Conference:

Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, kicked off on March 29 with the Scientist of the Year Luncheon, followed by the Partners in Science program on March 30. By recognizing women and minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and bringing together a diverse group of local youth and the Harvard community in celebration of science, the Harvard Foundation can increase intercultural interaction in a fun academic setting.

*“What is so cool about science is that it leaves questions unanswered – it leaves room for research and all of the exciting things I get to do.”*

*-Professor Lisa Randall,  
2013 Scientist of the Year*

## UNRAVELING THE UNIVERSE WITH PROFESSOR LISA RANDALL

A fun mix of students and professors came together in Pforzheimer House to honor the Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science, Dr. Lisa Randall, as the 2013



Lisa Randall accepts the 2013 Scientist of the Year Award from Dr. S. Allen Counter at Pforzheimer House.

Albert Einstein Science Conference Scientist of the Year. Professor Randall is a leading theoretical physicist researching

extra dimensions in space, the Large Hadron Collider, and dark matter. She was named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in 2007, and actively communicates scientific advancement to the public through venues such as “Charlie Rose” and “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.”

Barr Yaron ‘14, representative of Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe and concentrator in applied mathematics, gave a moving tribute to Professor Randall. Yaron revealed her interaction with girls from the Middle East and how they look up



This year’s Science Conference Coordinators, Tiffany Ramos ‘16 and Maya Dorje ‘15 remarked on the importance of science in their lives during the luncheon to honor Dr. Lisa Randall.

to female scientific leaders in the news and on television. She added, “Lisa Randall’s accomplishments and public presence make her an inspiration not just for students at Harvard, but also for students around the world.”

During the luncheon, Professor Randall was honored for her contributions to astrophysics with a plaque signed by Harvard’s president.

## PARTNERS IN SCIENCE: A DAY OF SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION

Equipped with “Unraveling the Universe” T-shirts and folders, more than 100 Boston and Cambridge public school students filed into Harvard University’s Science Center for a day of exciting lectures and interactive presentations from Harvard faculty and undergraduates on March 20. The Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year, Professor Lisa Randall, gave advice to the visiting students via a video presentation, followed by an engaging discussion on “What Is Science” by Eric Lu ’14 and Yolanda Borquaye ’14.

Opening with a special Tibetan “Tashi delek” to welcome students in the lecture hall, Dr. Andrew Berry, assistant head tutor of organismic and evolutionary biology, carried the audience through an intriguing audio-visual presentation on the evolutionary history the planet.

Following the morning exercises, the students split into groups by age, and each group attended presentations facilitated by Harvard faculty.

Many of the visiting students had the opportunity to try on 3-D glasses in a fun, hands-on demonstration during which Professor of Astronomy Alyssa Goodman led the participants in examining the wonders of the universe through a look at the stars.

Other participants built rockets and contemplated the Big Bang Theory with volunteers from the undergraduate student group ExperiMentors. The remaining groups discovered insights about the biology of birds with Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Scott Edwards.

Glover Professor of Applied Mathematics and Applied Physics Michael Brenner explored the hidden mysteries behind cooking an egg and making Jell-O with student groups.

Physics Demonstrator Daniel Rosenberg and his wife, Isabelle, presented suspenseful and colorful demonstrations of chemistry, instigating many gasps and smiles in the audience towards the end of the days’ activities. For the grand finale, the Rosenbergs solicited volunteers for an experiment involving balloons, fire, and oxygen (as well as safety gear). The audience was, quite literally, shaken out of their seats by the resulting reaction!

Another successful collaboration by students and faculty from a variety of backgrounds, the 2013 science conference was a fun-filled day of scientific exploration. The visiting K-12 students left smiling, as did the Harvard College students and faculty participants.

*Maya Dorje ’15*



(1) Professor Michael Brenner demonstrates a Jell-O trick for the visiting students. (2) Professor Andrew Berry introduces evolutionary biology. (3) Professor Alyssa Goodman demonstrates astronomy in 3-D. (4) Professor Scott Edwards exhibits bird specimens. (5) Isabelle Rosenberg assists a student in putting on safety goggles and earplugs in preparation for the finale of the Science Conference.



## SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

### CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND MESSAGE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

“We shall overcome. We’ll walk hand in hand. We’ll all be free. We are not afraid. We are not alone. The whole wide world around, we shall overcome. Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday,” crooned Anthony Hamilton as the screen in Memorial Church faded to black.

The celebration of the life and message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. took place this year on Monday, Feb. 4. This year’s celebration was organized by the Harvard Foundation, the Harvard Chaplains, and the Harvard Memorial Church, and cosponsored by the Black Students Association, the Association of Black Harvard Women, the Black Men’s Forum, and the Harvard Undergraduate Council. Normally scheduled to take place on Martin Luther King Day, organizers moved the program to Feb. 4 to allow for wider student participation and attendance.

The students, faculty, and guests in Memorial Church were welcomed by Reverend Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer

nonviolence by giving a contemporary voice to the songs that defined and catapulted a movement.

With origins deeply rooted in slave chants, the labor movement, and the black church, the freedom songs were performed by contemporary artists including John Legend, Wyclef Jean, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Mary Mary, and the Roots. During the film viewing, attendees also heard first-person accounts from civil rights pioneers such as Lula Joe Williams, Julian Bond, Andrew Young, Harry Belafonte, and John Lewis. The audience learned that the songs were not simply melodies, but tools used by African Americans to sing words they could not openly articulate when their nonviolent protest was met with brutal aggression. The lyrics of these songs served as words of encouragement, galvanization, protest, and change. Following the film, the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College sang the civil rights song “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round.”

The contemporary renditions of these songs reminded the audience of how far we have come, but more importantly how far we have to go in civil rights. Paraphrased below are lyrics from a defining freedom song written by Sara Groves:

“Freedom’s name is mighty sweet,  
and one day soon we are gonna meet...

Ain’t no man on earth control,  
The weight of glory on a human soul...

When you see a man walk free...  
When you see a child walk free...  
When you see a family free,  
It makes you dream of jubilee.

The wait is slow, and we’ve so far to go.  
The wait is slow, and we’ve so far to go.  
Keep your eyes on the prize, and hold on.”

To all of those in attendance, the film and the evening’s program urged social involvement and defense of the civil liberties that we enjoy today. We must examine the ways in which institutional oppression continues to manifest itself in our lives and how King’s legacy can help us combat injustice with nonviolent protest and action; and how truly important it is to keep our eyes on the prize, and hold on.

*Aubrey Walker ’15*



Harvard Foundation intern Aubrey Walker '15 delivers remarks during the annual celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, and by Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. This year’s celebration featured the screening of *Soundtrack for a Revolution*. Directed by Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman, this critically acclaimed documentary revisits the Civil Rights Movement and King’s message of

## PROFESSOR ANNEMARIE SCHIMMEL PORTRAIT UNVEILING

The Harvard Foundation was proud to honor a former Harvard professor, the late Dr. Annemarie Schimmel, a distinguished scholar of Islamic literature and Culture, with its 15th portrait unveiled in the Eliot House library on May 8. Approximately 40 students, faculty, administrators, alumni and friends of all backgrounds gathered in the library and watched as Asmaa Rimawi '14 assisted Dr. S. Allen Counter in pulling free the veil covering the striking portrait of Professor Schimmel.

The unveiling was followed by remarks from Dr. Sandra Naddaff, co-chair of the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Committee; Ali Asani, professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic religion and cultures; and artist Stephen Coit '71. Asani recounted Schimmel's impressive work and her long-standing connection with the Harvard community as a brilliant and well-respected teacher.

Appointed in 1970 as professor of Indo-Muslim culture at Harvard, Annemarie Schimmel ranks among the earliest tenured female professors in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. One of the truly great scholars of Islamic studies in the 20th century, she mentored many of the leading scholars in the field, and today her writings continue to shape the thinking of new generations of scholars. Author of more than 100 books on Muslim literatures and Islamic art and philosophy, Schimmel strove to address misunderstandings about Muslim cultures in the West.

**Author of more than 100 books on Muslim literatures and Islamic art and thought, Professor Schimmel strove to address misunderstandings about Muslim cultures in the West.**

Her efforts to improve public understanding of Islam, together with her scholarly work, were recognized through her numerous honorary degrees from universities and prestigious awards from institutions and governments, both in the West and across the Muslim world.

Following Asani's remarks, Coit '71 discussed finding a suitable image of Dr. Schimmel. This proved to be a challenging task, since she

often lectured with her eyes closed. Coit expressed special thanks to Dr. Diana Eck for providing the photo of Schimmel, taken during commencement ceremonies. Coit also invited Asani to explain the significance of the Arabic script in the background of the painting, which symbolizes "all eternal one." The calligraphy was originally created by Schimmel for the epitaph of a friend.

It is significant that the portrait of Annemarie Schimmel hangs in the library of Eliot House. During her time as a tenured Harvard professor, Schimmel resided in Eliot House in the spring semesters, when she taught more than a year's full course load in one semester.

Students and faculty alike expressed excitement and awe during and after the unveiling in regard to Schimmel's accomplishments and legacy as an internationally-respected scholar of Islamic culture. During the program, Asani mentioned that Schimmel was loved not just at Harvard, but all over the world, and that "her greatest fan" was Prince Charles of England! The Harvard Foundation is pleased to have commissioned and placed the portrait of Professor Annemarie Schimmel on the walls of Harvard for our students to view.



Professor Ali Asani speaks during the unveiling of the Schimmel portrait.



Student members of the Harvard Islamic Society join their president Asmaa Rimawi '14 (third from right), and Dr. S. Allen Counter (right) at the unveiling of the Dr. Annemarie Schimmel portrait.

## THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATHLETE

### Challenges in Today's Sports World

With the list of African-American athletes who are facing financial struggles, legal cases, and enormous temptations and pressures as professional sports figures growing ever longer, the Harvard Foundation organized a spring semester panel discussion titled “*The African-American Athlete: Challenges in Today's Sports World*.” Panel members included Tommy Amaker, Harvard men's basketball coach; Norman Nixon, former Los Angeles Lakers great and two-time NBA All-Star; Harvard women's tennis head coach Traci Green; noted sports psychiatrist Dr. Timothy Benson of Harvard's McLean Hospital; and Harvard women's soccer goalkeeper Jessica Wright '13. Harvard Foundation intern Yolanda Borquaye '14 moderated the discussion on April 30 bringing to light the many challenges faced by African-American athletes.

The panelists provided insight and perspective on a multitude of topics, including media responsibility in the portrayal of athletes, the prevalence of professional athletes who struggle financially shortly after their playing careers end, and double standards that African-American athletes face when making personal decisions about their professional lives.

Asked how the media portrays athletes, Benson stated that “the media plays a great part in portraying how the public will view athletes,” and “tend to focus on the downfall of high-profile athletes, many of whom are African-American.” Nixon agreed with this sentiment and added “the media has been helpful in improving the acceptance of African-American athletes in today's sports world but has also been hurtful to all athletes due to their perceived fascination with negative stories regarding athletes and giving minimal acknowledgement of the positive attributes that athletes possess.”

Green commented that the media has had a positive impact on club sports like golf and tennis. She noted that “I remember Tiger Woods being new to the tour and doing this fist bump thing, and for older folks it was like ‘What is he doing?!’ but for younger folks it was like ‘Wow you're so cool,’ and it brought so much attention to the game.”

Wright argued that “there is a stigma associated with being labeled a student-athlete within the Harvard community.” She has overheard comments from classmates implying that student-athletes are admitted because of their athletic prowess since “they're lucky to be graduating from Harvard anyways.”

The evening concluded with Coach Amaker and Mr. Nixon receiving honorary awards for their achievements in athletics and fostering character, integrity, and intercultural cooperation in college and professional athletes.

-HF Staff

## Coach Amaker Up Close

**Q:** Coach, do you have any particular angle or strategies to confront the phenomenon where the young men look at basketball, or sports in general, as a means of “getting out” of low-income neighborhoods?

**Amaker:** I don't want them to ever feel like this is a passion, angle, or dream that they shouldn't have. But I do impress upon them that this can't be the only dream. That's the difference...we have kids here at Harvard that want to be professional basketball players, which is great, we want them to have that passion in their hearts to be very good at whatever it is that they're putting their time into. But we also make sure that they know, and kids from all walks of life know, that basketball can't be the only dream.



**Q:** During your coaching career, how did you and your staff help educate your players about career options inside and outside of sports, life skills, and other personal development tools?

**Amaker:** We're always trying to bring people in front of our players...people with interesting stories, interesting professions, and unique walks of life. I always ask my kids to write down three things that they would like to do other than play basketball. So I take that [their answers] and make sure that I expose them to people who work in the industries that they mentioned an interest in. We want to bring people in front of our players that are not just sports-related, but people that are involved in a variety of professions in our society.

**Q:** What kind of challenges do you see that minority coaches face when trying to enter the coaching ranks at the collegiate and professional level?

**Amaker:** Well I think, like any profession, coaching is going to be very competitive. In the world of coaching in general the opportunities are there. There are so many more ways now. I know there are a lot of older coaches who have sort of paved the way for so many of us [minority coaches] to come along. Just like coaches before me, whether that's John Thompson at Georgetown, or Leonard Hamilton who is at Florida State, Tubby Smith who was at Kentucky...who have done great things and have allowed people to look at me as a realistic candidate, maybe more so now than before those coaches achieved their accomplishments.

Interview conducted by Nader Daoud '15 and Jon Moorehead



(1) Coach Tommy Amaker accepts a Harvard Foundation award for his achievements as Harvard men's head basketball coach. (2) NBA great Norman Nixon (center) addresses the audience of students and faculty during the panel discussion.



## HARVARD PREMIERE: NORTH POLE PROMISE



(Left) Dr. S. Allen Counter joins Kali Peary and Anauaq Henson, Greenlandic Inuit sons of North Pole discoverers Admiral Robert Peary and Matthew Henson, in laying a wreath at Peary's grave in Arlington National Cemetery. (Right) A Centennial Commemorative Case Counter created was delivered to the North Pole by U.S. Navy submarine Annapolis under Commander Michael Brunner on April 6, 2009, the 100th anniversary of its discovery.

This spring, the Harvard Foundation hosted the premiere of the WGBH/Oregon Public Broadcasting documentary *North Pole Promise*, a story that began at Harvard 27 years ago, and was a collaborative effort to recognize the discoverers of the North Pole in 1909, Admiral Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson, and their mixed-race Greenlandic Inuit (Eskimo) descendants. The "North Pole Legacy Project" was developed in 1986 at the Harvard Foundation by its director, Dr. S. Allen Counter, and was supported by Harvard President Derek Bok, the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes of Memorial Church, Professor Dudley Herschbach, Professor John E. Dowling, and Harvard College students. Many of the supporters, faculty, alumni, and friends joined the Harvard Foundation reception and film premiere of *North Pole Promise* at the Lowell House junior common room on April 9 to reminisce and reconnect.

As described by the Oregon Public Broadcasting Pressroom, *North Pole Promise* is a timeless story of two American explorers and the secret legacy they left behind at the North Pole 100 years ago. Peary and Henson both

fathered sons with Greenlandic Inuit women during their attempt to reach the North Pole in 1906. Peary and Henson last saw their young sons as 3-year-olds in 1909, after they successfully reached the North Pole and left Greenland, never to return. The boys were adopted by two Eskimo brothers and remained childhood friends until circumstances separated them for years. This film documents their reunion and addresses

*"In*

*North Pole Promise,*

*Dr. Counter has made a film that reminds me why storytelling is our greatest medium: It moves; it educates; it inspires; and it reminds us that, as humans, we are all in this journey called 'life' together."*

*Will Smith*

the inequity of how history remembers the two explorers. Peary, who was white, was given many honors and wealth. Henson, who was black, was essentially left in historical obscurity. Counter discovered the two Inuit sons in 1986 during his exploration of Greenland, and arranged for the men to visit their relatives in America for the first time. In a 2009 centennial celebration of the North Pole discovery, with the help

of the U.S. Navy nuclear submarine Annapolis, Dr. Counter delivered to the North Pole a capsule that honors the accomplishments of Henson, Peary, and their Inuit associates.

During a short presentation before the screening, Counter recounted some of the harrowing struggles the explorers encountered in trying to reach the North Pole. He also described how he and his 16-year-old daughter, Olivia, traveled to the top of Greenland on a small plane that could not reach the Pole because of refueling challenges.

Photos of Harvard faculty and Harvard Foundation student interns who participated in the Harvard reunion of Peary and Henson's Inuit and American descendants were also shown. Some of the Harvard College students who participated in this historical project were former intern Sean T. Brady '89 (who attended the premiere), Mariana Ortiz-Blanes '89, Camille Holmes '89, and Sherman Alexander '89. Among the faculty who attended the premiere were Professor Michael Wiedman, clinical professor of ophthalmology and Arctic specialist, and Professor of Biological Oceanography James McCarthy.

*HF Staff*

# THE 28th ANNUAL CULTURAL RHYTHMS FESTIVAL

On Feb. 23, the Harvard Foundation was proud to host the 28th annual Cultural Rhythms Festival. This daylong tradition involved more than 25 undergraduate student cultural groups that celebrated the breadth of cultural and ethnic diversity on campus. Each year, students from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds participate in Cultural Rhythms by sharing their talents through performances and international cuisines as part of the Cultural Rhythms Food Festival to enrich the Harvard community. This year, the Harvard Foundation had the pleasure of honoring Nicole Scherzinger as the 2013 Artist of the Year. United States Treasurer Rosie Rios '87 was also welcomed back to campus as the festival's honorary host.

As one of the founding students of Cultural Rhythms in 1986, Rosie Rios has made several contributions to Harvard's student life over the years. Her generosity has also manifested itself through her support for women in finance and issues of economic recovery during depression.

Our esteemed guests were welcomed at the Kirkland junior common room to the harmonious sound of the Harvard Marching Band's "Ten Thousand Men of Harvard." As the band played, students cheered in delight at Scherzinger's presence and demonstrated their excitement for the day's events. The

ceremonies kicked off with a light, humorous, roast of Scherzinger by the Immediate Gratification Players (IGP), a student improvisational comedy troupe. The IGP was followed by the Harvard Hawaiian Students Association, who welcomed Scherzinger with a traditional Hawaiian hula dance.

At the luncheon, students continued to showcase their talents for their peers, faculty, and our guest. Mariachi Véritas

faculty, and guests eager to support their classmates, hear from Scherzinger, and witness the cultural and ethnic diversity Harvard has to offer. Ten groups performed in the afternoon show, ranging from mixed martial arts to choirs singing from the black diaspora to Asian dance troupes to Bhangra. With each performance, the crowd went wild, and Scherzinger could not help herself from participating. Audience members watched in glee as she sang along with KeyChange, attempted to breakdance with members of the Breakers, and taught performers moves from her hit single "Jai Ho."

The Food Festival took place in the Science Center, where participants gathered to taste food from countries around the world before heading to the evening show.

When asked to comment on this year's Cultural Rhythms festival, one student remarked at the beauty of all the diversity at the show: "Being part of Cultural Rhythms this year has made me proud of

Harvard all over again!" Other students commented on the talent of their peers, and how friendly and warm Scherzinger was with the students. This year's Cultural Rhythms Festival truly served as a reminder and celebration of all of Harvard's rich diversity.

*Abdul Ly '13 and Yolanda Borquaye '14*



Honorary host Rosie Rios '87 (lt) and Dr. S. Allen Counter (rt) present Nicole Scherzinger with the 2013 Artist of the Year award.

played several songs as the House Masters of Kirkland welcomed everyone to the annual event. During the luncheon, individuals from various student groups, and the Hawaiian and Filipino communities in particular, paid heartfelt tributes to Scherzinger for her inspiration as an influential minority woman.

That afternoon, Sanders Theater was filled with hundreds of students, staff,



## NICOLE SCHERZINGER NAMED 2013 ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Talented recording artist, television personality, and philanthropist Nicole Scherzinger has been named 2013 Artist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation of Harvard University. Independent recording artist (“Her Name Is Nicole,” “Killer Love”), former lead singer of the Pussycat Dolls, and a talent judge on television’s “X-Factor,” Scherzinger was awarded the Harvard Foundation’s most prestigious medal at the annual Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms Award Ceremony on Feb. 23, before an audience of 1,200 from the Harvard community.

Known for her voice and dancing skills, Rolling Stone ranked Nicole ninth as best dancing musician. Further demonstrating her dancing skills, she won the 10th season as a celebrity contestant on “Dancing with the Stars” with pro partner Derek Hough.

Scherzinger demonstrated all of these talents, and more, for the packed audience

of Sander’s Theatre. She danced with student performers and wowed the crowd as she belted out a birthday song in classical Italian opera for a student.

“The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation were delighted to present the distinguished artist Nicole Scherzinger with the 2013 Artist of the Year award at Harvard University,” said Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation. “Her contributions to the performing arts, as well as her support for breast cancer research and initiatives for adults and children with special needs are commendable, and set an excellent example for our students.”

A champion for women and those



Co-directors Yolanda Borquaye '14 and Abdul Ly '13 present Nicole Scherzinger with a Harvard sweatshirt as part of the ceremony.

with special needs, Scherzinger remains a true inspiration through her music and philanthropic work. “Her fine example as a performing artist who is concerned for the welfare and needs of others is a source of inspiration to our students, and all who welcome her to the University,” said Professor Donald Pfister.

*HF Staff*

### Rios '87 Returns

Harvard alumna and former Foundation intern Rosie Rios '87 returned to Harvard this spring to serve as honorary host of the 28th Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival. Rios joined the audience for both the afternoon and evening shows, and took part in the Food Festival during the intermission.

Pictured below, Rios joins Harvard’s Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán after their performance. Rios danced with Ballet Folklórico during her days as an undergraduate, and was one of the first to perform at Cultural Rhythms when it began in 1985.



### EVENING SHOW HOSTS WITH THE MOST

The fun didn’t stop with the Food Festival, but kept on into the evening show, the second act of the Cultural Rhythms Festival. This year’s evening show was hosted by the brilliant Alex Garcia '13 and Michael Shayan '13, who had the audience captivated with their wit as they introduced the performance groups. During intermission, Garcia facilitated a lively dance contest whose competitors included alumni and students.



Alex Garcia '13 and Michael Shayan '13 host the 2013 Cultural Rhythms evening show, where 11 Harvard College student groups performed for an audience at Sanders Theater.

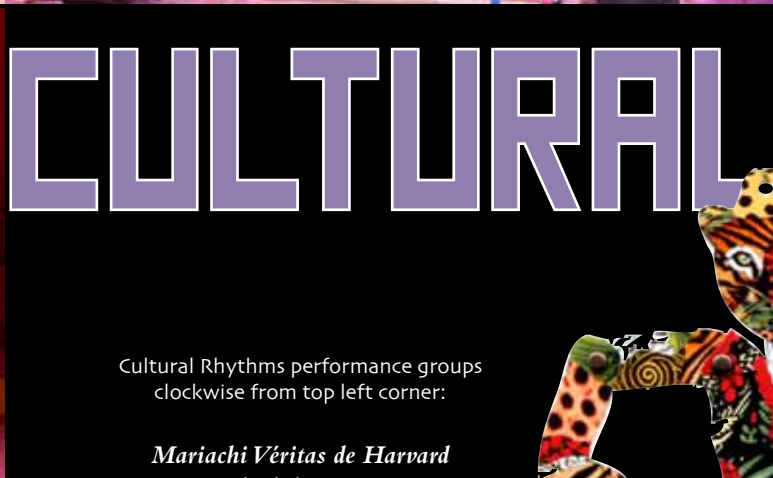
In addition to the hosts’ wonderful act, the student performers really stole the stage. With so many impressive performances packed into the evening show, it is no wonder that one show is not enough! This year the Harvard Foundation was pleased to present the following student groups:

**Reylon Yount, Chinese Dulcimer**  
**Harvard Hellenic Society**  
**Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán**  
**Harvard College Deepam**  
**Speak Out Loud**

**Harvard Vietnamese Dance Troupe**  
**T.H.U.D**

**Harvard Bulgarian Club**  
**Under Construction**  
**Harvard Ballroom Dance Team**  
**The Freshman Black Table**





# CULTURAL

Cultural Rhythms performance groups  
clockwise from top left corner:

*Mariachi Veritas de Harvard*

*Harvard Philippine Forum*

*Harvard Bhangra*

*Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble*

*The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College*

*Harvard Wushu*




# FESTIVAL





# RHYTHMS



# 2013

*Asian American Dance Troupe  
Harvard College KeyChange  
Harvard College Middle Eastern Dance  
Company  
Corcairdhearg: The Harvard College Irish  
Dancers  
Harvard Breakers  
Show Finale with Nicole Scherzinger*



## HARVARD FOUNDATION AWARDS CEREMONY AND DAVID S. ALOIAN MEMORIAL DINNER

For over 25 years, the Harvard Foundation has hosted an awards ceremony at the end of each academic year to recognize students and faculty for their outstanding commitment to improving intercultural and race relations on campus and in the community. Nomination requests are sent to all of the House Masters, resident deans, tutors, proctors, and other members of the faculty, in addition to students. This year, more than 100 students were nominated for the awards. After the Harvard Foundation interns carefully discuss and deliberate over the candidacy of the nominees they are submitted to the director for approval.

The event took place in Quincy House, with a reception in the senior common room and the dinner and awards ceremony hosted in the dining hall. Quincy House staff members were all very gracious and accommodating and helped make the event a great success. Over 100 guests attended the reception and dinner. The dinner and awards program began with remarks from House Masters Lee and Deborah Gehrke, followed by a keynote speech from Faculty Advisory Committee member Dr. Bruce Price. While the guests enjoyed their dinner, the a cappella group KeyChange serenaded them.

After dinner, Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter, along with administrative coordinator Heidi Wickersham and visiting administrative fellow Jon Moorehead presented students with their awards. Student awards were given in three categories: Certificates of Recognition, Insignia Awards, and Distinguished Senior Awards.

This year, 20 students were honored with Certificates of Recognition for their notable contributions to race and intercultural relations on campus. The awardees were

Kidus Asfaw '13 ~ Eliot	Michelle Ferreol '15 ~ Mather
Joselyn Lai '13 ~ Quincy	Evelyn Ramirez '15 ~ Leverett
Kayla Shelton '13 ~ Winthrop	Rodriguez Roberts '15 ~ Mather
Adrienne Smallwood '13 ~ Quincy	Dorothy Villarreal '15 ~ Mather
Mariana Castanon '14 ~ Adams	Octavio Viramontes '15 ~ Quincy
Eric Chung '14 ~ Kirkland	Debbie Onuoha '15 ~ Quincy
Preetha Hebbar '14 ~ Cabot	Danielle Feffer '16 ~ Dunster
Daniel Lobo '14 ~ Quincy	Reylon Yount '16 ~ Lowell
Kimberly Ellis '15 ~ Mather	Alexis Dominique '16 ~ Dunster
Luke Escobar '15 ~ Lowell	Melinda Wang '16 ~ Currier



Harvard Foundation senior interns are recognized for their years of dedication and service to the Harvard Foundation and its mission.

The following outstanding students were presented with Insignia Awards to recognize their impressive contributions to improving intercultural and race relations and understanding:

Lena Awwad '13 ~ Winthrop	Anastasia Walhovd '13 ~ Adams
Amrita Dani '13 ~ Lowell	Stephanie Charles '14 ~ Dunster
Yacoub Kureh '13 ~ Quincy	Leila Pirbay '14 ~ Leverett
Maria Theophanous '13 ~ Pforzheimer	Asmaa Rimawi '14 ~ Lowell
Hurnan Vongsachang '13 ~ Winthrop	David Sackstein '14 ~ Adams

This year's Distinguished Seniors were recognized for their unique and outstanding work in furthering the mission of the Harvard Foundation to "enhance the quality of our common life." The five recipients were:

Jenny Ye '13 ~ Kirkland	Laura Herrera '13 ~ Winthrop
Marjorie Lacombe '13 ~ Cabot	Nicolas Joffe '13 ~ Currier
Nur Ibrahim '13 ~ Winthrop	

Harvard Foundation senior interns Justin Banerdt '13, Abdul Ly '13, and Reshama Lutfeali '13 were presented with Senior Service Awards for their outstanding work, service, and commitment to the Foundation and the Harvard community as interns. Justin Banerdt was additionally recognized with the Peer Recognition Award as a senior intern who went above and beyond his or her role at the Foundation.

Other awards included those for exemplary race relations advisors and an award for distinguished faculty. Professor Scott Edwards received the Distinguished Faculty award to honor his service as scholar, teacher, and mentor and to recognize his notable contributions to improving intercultural understanding in the Harvard community.

The race relations advisor awards went to Charrise Barron of Adams House and Anthony Jack of Mather House for their continued dedication to working with students to improve racial and cultural understanding on campus.

It was inspirational to recognize outstanding members of the Harvard community for improving intercultural and race relations on campus and in the community during the 2013 Harvard Foundation Student and Faculty Awards Ceremony and Aloian Dinner. We look forward to seeing the continued work of awardees and thank the Quincy House Masters and staff for their support.

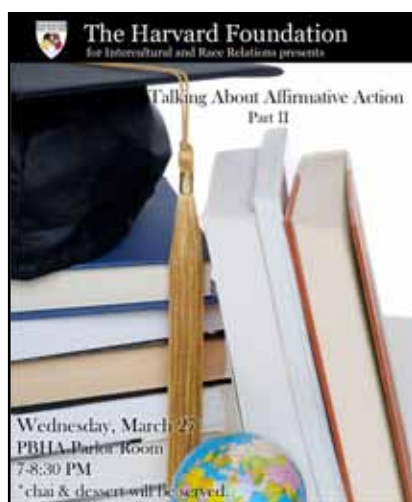
*Ifan Mahmud '16*



Recipients of the Harvard Foundation certificate of recognition at the award ceremony in Quincy House.



## TALKING ABOUT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Part II



On March 27, the Harvard Foundation hosted “Talking About Affirmative Action: Part II,” a continuation of conversations that took place in the fall. Attendees reacted to the Fisher v. University of Texas case before the Supreme Court and a number of op-ed pieces published in campus publications. The main topics discussed were affirmative action policy on campus

and in college admissions processes as a whole.

Around 30 students and House tutors, including race relations tutors, joined Foundation interns and moderator Carl Miller, Winthrop House race relations tutor, for a conversation in the Phillips Brooks House parlor room. Foundation intern Cary Williams '16 facilitated the discussion and opened with the questions, “After being admitted to the College, do students need to prove that they belong here? To whom? And what does ‘belonging’ mean?” With that prompt on the floor, students, representing a variety of diverse backgrounds, began a dialogue.

Earlier in the academic year, students from the class of 2016 reached out to Foundation interns voicing concerns about the Harvard community’s reactions to affirmative action in relation to their recent admission to the College. They wanted a space to discuss how it felt to be admitted to Harvard at a time when questions about the legitimacy or fairness of the admissions process were

being raised.

Students, tutors, and faculty discussed the relevance of the affirmative action policy in different stages, from college admissions, graduate school admissions, and after graduation, reflecting back on the college experience. While students acknowledged that affirmative action may be a factor in the college admissions processes, they noted the importance of Harvard’s holistic approach to evaluating candidates. With Harvard’s specific approach in mind, students emphasized that they don’t question whether or not they earned a spot at the College, but rather, some felt as though others questioned their merit and dismissed their admission as a result of affirmative action, assuming that they were less qualified.

While not everyone in the room agreed on the impact of affirmative action in admissions decisions, the forum did create a space for respectful exchange of thoughts and personal experiences.

*Cary Williams '16*

## FIRST IN THE FAMILY: An Event for First-Generation Students

How does the experience of first-generation college students differ from their peers? This was one of the questions that inspired the Harvard Foundation to host an event for first generation college students in the Phillips Brooks House parlor room on the evening of Tuesday, April 23. With more than 40 students, race relations tutors, and even the new dean of student of life, Stephen Lassonde, in attendance, a wonderfully diverse array of stories and experiences were shared. The program was designed to give students an open platform to share their thoughts and feelings about being first-generation college students and the many implications that entails. The event was co-sponsored by Students for Education Reform, Fuerza Latina, Concilio Latino, United World Club, Bureau of Study Counsel, Black Men’s Forum, and Harvard’s African Student Association.

The first portion of the program was open-microphone, during which

students were provided the opportunity to share their unique stories as first-generation students at Harvard and the impact that has had on them and their families, and how they believe they are perceived by others on campus. Individuals from various backgrounds



came forward to describe emotional and critical components of their first-generation student experience. Audience members interacted with the speakers and supported those volunteering their experiences.

The evening concluded with a

brainstorming session of strategies and action steps that students and the College alike could take to promote institutional support for first-generation students on campus. Many students described the event as extremely liberating and inspirational. A number of audience members stayed after the program to continue the conversation.

According to a survey conducted a week later, most participants felt as though the Foundation had succeeded in creating a safe, welcoming space to discuss these sensitive issues, and said they looked forward to using the Foundation as a resource in the future. The main goal of the event was to kick off the budding movement toward advocacy, resources, and community for first-generation students at Harvard College. Our office looks forward to the development of this movement and will continue collaboration with and support for first-generation students on campus.

*Tiffany Ramos '16*

## YOUR RACE ABROAD: Exploring Racial Identity While Living Abroad

On April 25, the Harvard Foundation partnered with the Office of International Experience and the Office of Career Services to host a moderated panel discussion, which explored student experiences with racial identity while living abroad. The five student panelists shared their experiences and insight gained from travels to a wide range of countries: Morocco, India, Brazil, Guatemala, Cuba, India, Japan, and France.

The first question panelists and audience members discussed was how race may have played into their experiences living abroad. From the onset, panelists agreed that each country has a racial language, or a way in which their community addresses race. Often times, this understanding of race and interactions of race relations can deviate from the understandings of race relations we may adhere to here in the United States. It was clear from listening to the diversity of experience, that differing racial language is not something that should deter one from international travel, but rather inspire opportunity for cultural immersion, personal growth, and new friendships. Chadwick Eason '13 shared how his new understanding of race in East Asian countries like China and Japan has shown him that the emphasis placed on his race is not necessarily a bad thing. He used the attention he received from people asking questions about his hair or his skin tone to learn the native language and forge new friendships.

Eventually the conversation branched away from the



Panelists, (from left) Madeline Holland '14, Chadwick Eason '13, Paula Maouyo '14, Elizabeth Lopez Beltran '13, Alex Stote '14, and moderator Naa Ammah-Tagoe.

panelists and into the audience, where students posed questions and solicited recommendations about specific regions and countries. Panelists also provided action steps and strategies on how to overcome these differences. One suggested technique was to listen first, and comment later to help debunk some of the stereotypes that audience members might encounter abroad.

*Abdul Ly '13*

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS STUDY BREAK

The Harvard Foundation joined forces with the Harvard College Women's Center and the Office of BGLTQ Student Life on May 8, to sponsor the Mental Health Matters Study Break as a culmination of the yearlong Mental Health Matters Campaign initiated in the fall of 2012. Students from all corners of the Harvard community came to the study break to relax with their peers in the midst of a stressful reading period, and learn about and connect with various mental health resources on campus. Interns from all three offices under the Office of Student Life enthusiastically collaborated to provide attendees with delicious cookie decorating, chai tea, and relaxing music. In addition, a slide presentation was shown that promoted the online blog at [mentalhealthmatters-harvard.tumblr.com](http://mentalhealthmatters-harvard.tumblr.com), and explained the mission of the campaign.

Students also were able to connect with representatives from the Student Mental Health Liaisons, the Bureau of Study Counsel, ECHO, Room 13, Contact, Response, and the Peer Contraceptive Counselors. The well-attended event also served as a milestone in the Mental Health

Matters Campaign, as a final study break for the school year, and a way to kick off the National Mental Health Awareness Month of May.

Beyond using online tools to raise awareness, the Harvard Foundation also collaborated with interns from the Office of Student Life on a continued poster campaign. The posters were placed all around campus and displayed pictures of student advocates holding up messages related to mental health, while providing information on additional campus resources. The opportunity to see their peers express themselves in the posters ignited a strong community discussion on mental health over the past year.

The Mental Health Matters Campaign manifested itself in many ways in 2013 – in increased awareness, more open discussions, and stronger connections between students and resources. The Harvard Foundation's part in facilitating this community conversation will continue to impact the lives of many students at Harvard.

*Irfan Mahmud '16*



Women's Center intern Bex Kwan '14 and Office of BGLTQ Student Life intern Ariel Churchill '15 relaxing at the Mental Health Study Break.



## The Harvard Foundation Student Associates

Interested in working toward improved intercultural relations in your House?  
**JOIN US** as an associate!  
For more information check out our website.

This semester the Harvard Foundation interns set out to reignite the Harvard Foundation Student Associate Program, through the Foundation strives to enable the creation of student-led intercultural programming in the Yard and Houses of Harvard College. The goal of the Associates Program is to improve the common life of student residences, develop communities on campus, and increase student participation in cultural programs. The associates work independently, on committees, and in collaboration with their race relations tutors and proctors toward the Harvard Foundation's mission. A few of the programs initiated by our new associates in the spring semester were My Big Fat Greek Stein Club, an International Dessert Study Break, and a screening of *Black in Latin America* with *empanadas* and Haitian *patés*. All of these programs successfully drew diverse crowds within their respective Houses. We look forward to supporting future programs run by our Associates!

## ENGENDERING THE DREAM ACT

**“Why should I have to be a wife to be a good citizen?** Why is it not enough to be a good sister, daughter, mentor, and friend? Why, if I marry a citizen, am I suddenly eligible, but not if I can be part of other relationships in ways that are just as important or more important to me?” Leslie Montes '14 asked the room at the Harvard Foundation event “Queering and Gendering the Dream Act” on April 16.

Montes was joined by Enrique Ramirez '16, Professor Caroline Light (Harvard, gender and sexuality studies), and Professor Christopher Capozzola (MIT, history) as guest panelists who initiated the discussion about gender and identity issues within immigration reform.

The legislation under the microscope was the Dream Act, which offers conditional permanent residency to undocumented youth who enter the military or a four-year college. Much of the audience was composed of students involved in undocumented activism on campus, and included the co-sponsoring organizations Act on a Dream, Queer Students and Allies, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and the International Women's Rights Collective. The event re-examined how immigration reform has been historically heteronormative and how the Dream Act will break with or continue such patterns. In the past, queer people, including people of gender and sexuality minorities, have been excluded from consideration by the law.

During the two-hour discussion, the panelists considered how exclusionary legislation shapes American ideas of the 'ideal citizen.' The Dream Act, which is currently on the table for Congress and has been under consideration for a couple of years, is a chance for the comprehensive immigration reform that the Obama administration has promised. Undocumented students and attending professors and graduate students considered whether this is the kind of measure that is “not quite enough, but better than nothing?”

The discussion centered around who the immigration

reform targets as the “desirable” immigrant. How are men and women affected differently by the mandatory college attendance or military service? What if you are transgendered and automatically excluded by the rules in place? How feasible is it for undocumented immigrants across class, family status, race, gender, and sexuality to fulfill the citizenship requirements? The Dream Act reaffirms the conservative hierarchy of family constructions that privilege legally confirmed (heterosexual) marital relations above any other relationship.



Aside from excluding non-normative sexualities and genders, the Dream Act often doesn't span a wide enough age range, as Ramirez highlighted, to include the parents of the current student generation. “The original Dreamers,” as activists call the parental generation, are excluded from citizenship privileges regardless of whether the legislation passes. Ramirez's parents work three jobs so he can go to school. They trust him implicitly, and have pushed him to seek the greatest opportunities. “Nothing I can do would have been possible without the sacrifices that they made,” Ramirez said.

But students pointed out that it is worth considering now is the time to push harder. Are activists, lobbyists, or immigrants in any position to do so, when these segments of legislative advocacy are already so disadvantaged within the current system?

This is a conversation that is deeply personal and, simultaneously, intensely political. It is an ongoing conversation on campus as much as it is in Congress. Unresolved as it stands, it is an important conversation to carry forward, bearing in mind that this affects the lives of students in every classroom, in every dining hall, and in every Houses and dormitory. The ultimate question is how can we avoid contemporary forms of legal exclusion that affects our classmates?

Kirin Gupta '16



## Student Grant Summary Reports

Each semester, the Harvard Foundation distributes grant funding to member organizations of the Student Advisory Committee. Any of the undergraduate student organizations that are 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. At the end of each semester, student organizations that received grants from the Harvard Foundation are asked to submit grant summaries. A selection of these summaries is included in the biannual *Harvard Foundation Journal*.

### RAZA *East Coast Chicano Student Forum*

The East Coast Chicano Student Forum is a triennial conference with the purpose of bringing together Chicano undergraduate students from universities across the Northeast to discuss the political, economic, social, and cultural issues that we face as a community. This year's conference addressed the topic of Latino representation in the media and the narrative being portrayed about Latinos in television, print media, film, and other information media. We welcomed delegates from about a dozen East Coast universities on the weekend of Feb. 15, and provided them with opportunities for learning, discussion, and networking led by distinguished speakers from various Latin American media sources, including renowned Univision news anchor Maria Elena Salinas, the conference's keynote speaker. Salinas was awarded our Hugo Morales Award for Excellence, and all of our speakers received leadership awards. Following the conclusion of the conference, attendees enjoyed a catered dinner in Leverett dining hall, as well as a social event at the Student Organization Center at Hilles later that night. The conference was a great opportunity for Harvard undergraduates to make connections with other East Coast university students and the many distinguished panelists in attendance. The Foundation grant was used to help cover the cost of conference expenses ranging from space and audiovisual equipment rentals, food, conference packets, printing, and awards for our keynote speaker and other guests.

*Leticia Quezada '15*

### Asian-American Dance Troupe (AADT) *Eastbound 2013*

Eastbound 2013 was this year's culmination of AADT members' countless hours spent in rehearsals polishing dance pieces of various styles related to Asian culture. The afternoon show started at 3 p.m. and the evening show at 7 p.m. in Lowell lecture hall. The evening show was sold out within a week, and the afternoon show was only 30 seats from being sold out. Members of the Harvard community, including AADT alumni, friends of AADT, as well as the

Greater Boston community, were among the 700 attendees. We treated the audience to a two-hour-long program featuring the talents of 120 dancers.

For more than 20 years, AADT has sought to spread an appreciation and awareness of Asian culture through the medium of dance. Our repertoire includes a range of dance forms including traditional (Chinese, Korean, and Japanese), ethnic minority, fusion, martial arts, ballet, and hip-hop. This year was no different. We had a diverse program consisting of a contemporary ballet piece set to a Korean score, a Japanese fan dance complete with authentic kimonos, and a Dai (Chinese minority) piece invoking the motions and spirit of the proud peacock. All our pieces were either choreographed or arranged by students and featured both undergraduate and graduate school students of all races and ethnicities.

Through our troupe, we hope to give students of all experience levels the opportunity to participate in dance, hence our no-audition, all-are-welcome policy. We are especially proud of our troupe's growth in recent years. We believe this is mainly due to the fun experiences and friendships forged in preparation for our annual productions.

We could not have accomplished another production without the Harvard Foundation's support for Eastbound 2013. This year's grant allowed us to purchase and rent new costumes, allowing our members to look spectacular on stage to show off the year's work.

*-Jennifer Wang '15*





## Native Americans at Harvard College *Talking Circles 2013*

Every semester, Native Americans at Harvard College are committed to organizing a Talking Circle not only for our members, but for the outside community as well. It is generally held in an informal setting that is meant to bring people together under a common topic and we invite a speaker to come share with us a subject pertinent to Indian country.

Having an informal discussion with a person who has had experience within the Native community allows us to fully engage in the topic at hand, and feel safe to ask questions regarding topics that may be under debate within our own communities. In this way we can learn more about our own communities by becoming more aware of the issues that affect other of the many diverse Native communities. We can feel confident returning to our communities, where many of these issues are relevant, and take the opportunity of bringing the larger Harvard community into our Talking Circles as a way to share the contemporary issues facing our communities. By coming together in a way that is open to feedback and discussion, everyone involved can feel safe to share his or her thoughts or questions.

This semester we invited Professor Joseph Singer to speak to us at the Native American program office at 14 Story St. Singer is

a professor at Harvard Law School, and spoke to us not only about federal Indian law — a field in which he specializes — but also about the history leading to the formation of federal Indian law that directly affects Tribal Nations.

The 2013 Talking Circle event was a



Former Foundation intern Kelsey Leonard '10 performs in the annual HUNAP powwow.

wonderful opportunity for the involved undergraduates to engage with such a kind and passionate professor. We hope to continue

these kinds of engagements throughout the coming semesters, and look forward to the opportunities to bring people of the Harvard community together in an effort to further our understanding of topics most relevant to Indian Country.

*Nizhoni O'Connell '14*

## Hellenic Society *Farewell Lamb Picnic*

The Hellenic Society hosted a picnic with lamb, chicken souvlaki, pilafi, pita, tzatziki, and Mediterranean salad as a farewell event for students before finals period. The feast was immensely successful and a joy for all attendees!

Although it was not the full lamb roast we would traditionally enjoy, since a full rotisserie machine was inaccessible and unaffordable, cooked lamb was purchased and served instead. Lamb is a traditional Greek food that is a feature of many household dinners; it is a staple at Orthodox Easter feasts, as well. Other Greek foods and soft drinks accompanied the roasts.



More than 35 undergraduate students gathered around the ethnic food on picnic blankets in John F Kennedy Park between the Charles River and the Kennedy School on Saturday afternoon. In addition to the traditional Greek food, participants enjoyed playing badminton, Frisbee, and football in true American-picnic style. Members of the Hellenic Society, as well as many students from the greater Harvard College community, attended.

Our Farewell Lamb Picnic was a wonderful final event of the year and the perfect way to send off our graduating seniors. Celebrating our members' time together over the past few years in this fun, tasty, and cultural fashion was the perfect way to honor and spend time with our community.

*Katerina Glyptis '14*

## Harvard African Students Association (HASA) *Africa Night*



The annual Africa Night celebration is a showcase of African culture, food, and dancing, as well as a time for sharing the company of our brothers and sisters throughout the Harvard community. This year's Africa Night was a great success, offering a broad array of the different cultures of Africa through a variety of dances, poems, and food from across the continent.

Around 300 people attended the evening's activities, which began with a catered dinner. The money received from the Harvard Foundation was used to fund the cost of the food catered by Karibu restaurant and drinks. The variety of traditional African foods was a big hit, with multiple lines stretching the length of the Science Center.

Throughout the evening's festivities, a "Face of Africa" talent contest was held, in which each region in Africa. Each contestant was tasked with portraying themselves and their regions to the best of their ability through a talent. After a series of demonstrations such as singing, dancing, or even acting, the attendees voted with their applause and the judges ruled which contestants best represented their region.

Although all the contestants were charming, the winners of the "Face of Africa" competition were Harald Oswin '15 from Swaziland and Ekene Agu '13 from Ghana.

*Martha Obasi '15*

## Harvard Foundation Student Grant Summary Reports Continued

### Harvard South Asian Association "Ghungroo"

Produced by the Harvard South Asian Association, "Ghungroo" is an annual South Asian cultural showcase that features dance, musical pieces, and skits from the South Asian subcontinent. With more than 400 performers from Harvard's undergraduate community and more than 1,000 people in attendance, "Ghungroo" is one of Harvard's largest student productions and our organization's most important event of the year.



"Ghungroo" directors are chosen a year in advance to make all the necessary arrangements to produce this immensely successful cultural show, which has been running annually for 25 years now. The production of "Ghungroo" serves as a focus of our organization for the whole year, and any "Ghungroo" expenditure can therefore be viewed as an operational cost for the organization. When taking the performers, directors, tech team, and others into consideration, "Ghungroo" actively involves nearly 450 students in the production of the show from start to finish, and a major driving force for the overall success of this event is the beautiful set that is created by the tech team.

The set incorporates numerous elements of South Asian culture and, in some sense, serves as the main physical embodiment of the mission of our organization. The grant provided by the Harvard Foundation was used for the purchase of building materials that contributed to the creation of this set.

*Bharath Venkatesh '15*

### Global China Connection Lunch Discussion with Peking University - Global View Initiative (GVI)

The GVI delegation from Peking University is one that we host every year – members of the delegation come to Harvard for three days and we plan activities for them, including mixers and discussions with Harvard students, attending Harvard classes, touring Harvard/Boston, etc. This year we had a lunch discussion with the GVI delegation, which was open to all Harvard students, about U.S.-China issues. It was well attended and we had a very productive discussion, and managed to facilitate cultural exchange between students of the two universities.

*Jennifer Wu '14*

### Black Students Association Black History Month Focus Week

During the last week of February, the BSA, in collaboration with other SAC groups, held a black history focus week. This week aimed to draw attention to black community events on Harvard's campus, in addition to black history in general. The goal of this focus week was to raise awareness and sentiments for Black History month and the history that it celebrates for people of all races.

The week included various events celebrating aspects of black culture and history. One event was a jazz lounge in the SOCH featuring artists from the graduate schools. There was a discussion about education for black Americans with students from the Graduate School of Education. This event allowed students to voice their opinions in an informal manner.

Another discussion hosted by the Freshman Black Table, a subsidiary of the Black Students Association, focused on the 40 million principle and being black at Harvard and beyond. Our organization also sponsored a party titled "Black in the Day," where attendees were asked to wear clothing that represented black culture in past decades; the music had a similar theme.

Funding from the Harvard Foundation was used to cover audio-visual equipment costs as well as the refreshments served at all events. All of these events were well-publicized and open to all Harvard students, as it was a goal that the programming be aimed toward students of all backgrounds who wanted to know more about black history.

*Crystal Johnson '15*

### Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble (PADAME) Cultural Rhythms

Cultural Rhythms is an event organized by the Harvard Foundation every spring, with more than 1,000 persons in attendance each year. PADAME has taken part in the festival for the last seven years. It allows individuals from different cultural performance groups to perform together, or rather, on the same stage, and in this way engages the different cultural groups at the same time. It is one of the few events where PADAME is able to perform for a non-African audience.

This year PADAME was again selected to participate in Cultural Rhythms. We used Harvard Foundation great funding to pay our instructor/choreographer over a period of two weeks, in which we intensely prepared for our performance. After this, all that was left was the performance itself. For many of our dancers it was the first time in front of a crowd as large as the one that was gathered in Sanders Theater, but they enjoyed it immensely.

*-Aisha Lee '15*



Back row: Juliet Musabeyezu '15, Sarah Odunga '16. Front row: Debbie Onuoha '15, Kit Gattis, Aisha Lee '15, Selena Hurtado '15.



***Race and Comedy***

Harvard Yard

During Winter Session, race relations freshman Yard proctors Gregory Rudolph and Sheehan Scarborough collaborated with Harvard Foundation staff and other Harvard College tutors to hold a discussion about how comedy and identity intersect at Harvard and within our greater global society. This program was designed to bring together an intimate group of administrators, tutors/proctors, and students to discuss the implications of comedy in the context of race relations and intercultural understanding.

The proctors worked together to collect a series of comedic clips, ranging from stand-up material to television shows, featuring comedians and actors discussing controversial subjects such as use of the “N” word, derogatory comments directed toward BGLTQ community members, the acceptability of “outsiders” making jokes about cultural groups other than their own, and whether comedians’ freedom of expression trumps any responsibility to their viewers.

Approximately 35 people were in attendance to analyze, discuss, and unpack the subject matter from comedians such as Chris Rock, Louis C.K., Key and Peele, Jerry Seinfeld, and Wanda Sykes. The comedic clips were shown in Ticknor Lounge and those in attendance enjoyed pizza and other refreshments. Attendees included representatives from the Foundation, Harvard College Women’s Center, Harvard College Stand-Up Comic Society, and the Office of BGLTQ Student Life.

The evening ended after a lengthy discussion period in which students, proctors, and tutors expressed their views on the role of race and identity in comedy, both positive and negative. The Harvard community would benefit from more introspection of this topic as it is complex and changing.

*HF Staff****Dinner With Photojournalist  
Karim Ben Khelifa***

Cabot House

“Whether speaking for militants and soldiers squaring off on the front lines, or for civilians caught in between, he shoulders a camera and a responsibility to transmit stories. By documenting conflicts the world over, (Karim) Ben Khelifa transmits messages in the hopes of starting a conversation, one that could lead to lasting resolutions.” – Takepart.com

Khelifa shared dinner with students and discussed his work documenting conflict in the Middle East, perceptions of the “outsider” and “insider” in his work as a

## RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY PROGRAM Activity Reports

The Harvard Foundation oversees the Race Relations Advisor Program in the Harvard Houses and Yard and aims to promote positive and amicable relations among Harvard College students. Harvard Yard proctors and Harvard House tutors are selected to be trained to serve as race relations advisers 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 race relations advisers. Included are a few examples of some of the race relations advisers’ initiatives.

photographer, and reflections on the social and political underpinnings of the current state of the Middle East.

His photographs have appeared in *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, *Le Monde*, and *Stern*, among other publications.

Khelifa recently cofounded *Emphas.is*, an online platform where photojournalists can submit projects for crowdfunding. *Emphas.is* offers a unique bond between photojournalists and their audience, and in the process aims to create a new financial model for photojournalism. He is currently a Nieman Fellow at Harvard.

*Dustin Saldarriaga****An Open Discussion with  
Professor Henry Louis Gates***

Adams House

The Adams House lower common room was standing room only for a discussion with Professor Henry Louis Gates, attracting members across the Harvard community on April 22.

Adams House race relation tutor Charrise Barron and Harvard Foundation visiting administrative fellow Jon Moorehead, who co-moderated the discussion, began the evening with a series of questions. Gates’ responses guided the discussion through his current projects and research studies, the impending *Fisher v. University of Texas* ruling and its implications on affirmative action, as well as his work with genealogical studies and tracing the family lineage of many American celebrities.

Gates believes that affirmative action still has a place in American society, particularly regarding college admissions, and that his own achievements would have been impeded without the aid of the policy.

After the opening questions, the program was opened up to the audience to ask questions. Popular themes that arose included his research on race and identity in the Caribbean and Latin American countries, media representation and scrutiny of African-American athletes, his impressions of President Obama, and other political topics of interest.

At the end of the program the moderators presented Gates with a gift to express appreciation for engaging in dialogue with students and to recognize his outstanding work in race relations.

*HF Staff*

## 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 parlor 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 spring, we were honored to host several distinguished faculty guests to facilitate these important conversations, spark student-driven discussion, reflect on key racial and intercultural issues that affect our campus, and address campus-wide concerns regarding a variety of identity-sensitive matters.

For instance, in April, we fostered a discussion about the choice of the artist Tyga as this year's headliner for the annual Yard Fest. In March, we welcomed Kimberly Pacelli, newly-appointed associate dean of student life, to our monthly meeting to discuss her role in promoting the mission of the Harvard Foundation SAC.

We held our SAC board elections during our May meeting. The candidates for the positions of co-chair and treasurer spoke passionately about their vision for the SAC in the coming year. The 2012-2013 elected SAC co-chairs are Harvard Foundation interns Maya Dorje and Irfan Mahmud, and the elected SAC treasurer is Harvard Foundation associate Christina Vourakis.

This year's SAC meetings were a great venue to further the mission of the Harvard Foundation and its SAC groups to improve intercultural and race relations on campus and in the community. We hope to continue this tradition in the coming year. The SAC is also responsible for distributing \$25,000 of funding each semester among the SAC cultural organizations for programs that promote intercultural dialogue and understanding at Harvard College; this fall, we helped fund more than 200 such programs.

*HF SAC Board*

## Sustained Dialogue Update

The 2013 Sustained Dialogue (SD) Conference was a high-impact, three-day gathering of our international community featuring past, current, and soon-to-be college members from 30 institutions. Harvard hosted this year's conference in the Student Organization Center at Hilles, with the theme "Tell Me More/Dime Más," the first conference involving an international contingency all the way from La Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico City. As embodied in the theme, participants were trained in sensitivity and encouraged to meaningfully engage with others through highly personalized breakout sessions like "The Five Stages of Dialogue-to-Action" for those new to SD, "Strong Advising: Common Challenges, Successful Approaches" for advisors and administrators, and "SD as a For-Credit Course" facilitated by the founder of SD, Harold Saunders. The weekend also inaugurated the celebration of the Fetzer Award for Essays on empathy, winners of which were awarded \$500 and a feature in The Huffington Post. The conference was notably focused on converting the SD experience into careers while still highlighting classic themes of sharing best practices, capability building, and facilitating connectivity within our ever-growing community. The conference was sponsored by Harvard College Sustained Dialogue, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, and the Harvard College Office of Student Life.

*-Judy Park '13*

## Acknowledgements

The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations would like to thank the president and administration of Harvard University. We thank the following individuals for their contributions to the mission and work of the Harvard Foundation: Dr. John E. Dowling and Dr. Sandra Naddaff, Co-chairs of the Harvard Foundation Portraiture Committee; Dr. Nicholas Christakis and Erika Zuckerman Christakis, Masters of Pforzheimer House; Dr. Diana Eck and Rev. Dr. Dorothy Austin, Masters of Lowell House; Drs. Tom and Verena Conley, Masters of Kirkland House; Drs. Lee Gehrke and Deb Gehrke, Masters of Quincy House; Daniel Rosenberg and Isabelle Rosenberg, research assistants and science demonstrators; Professor Michael Brenner; Professor Andrew Berry; Professor Alyssa Goodman; Professor Lisa Randall; Steve Coit '71, portrait artist; Jay Connor '77, photographer; Nicole Linderman, Harvard Art Museums; Regina Niles, financial manager; the ExperiMentors and all the students and faculty associated with the Harvard Foundation.

## Commencement



Dr. S. Allen Counter welcomes Oprah Winfrey, honorary doctorand, at Harvard's 2013 commencement ceremony.



## Harvard Foundation Faculty Advisory Committee Members 2012-2013

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. Steven B. Bloomfield, *Executive Director, Harvard University Weatherhead Center for International Affairs*

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

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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. Cassandra Extavour, *Associate Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology*

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 in the teaching of Mathematics*

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

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

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 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. Xiao-Li Meng, *Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Whipple V. N. Jones Professor of Statistics*

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

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

Dr. Bruce Price '72, *Associate Professor of Neurology, Chief of the Department of Neurology at McLean Hospital*

Dr. Michael Shinagel, *Dean of Continuing Education and University Extension, Senior Lecturer on English*

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

## Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Member Groups 2012-2013

Harvard College Act on a Dream | Harvard African Students Association | Harvard Armenian Society | Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association | Asian American Brotherhood | Harvard Asian- American Dance Troupe | 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 Association | Harvard Black Students Association | Harvard Bulgarian Club | Harvard-Radcliffe Catholic Student Association | Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association | Concilio Latino de Harvard | Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association | Harvard Darfur Action Group | Dharma | Fuerza Latina | Harvard College Global China Connection | Harvard Haitian Alliance | Harvard Half Asian People's Association | Harvard Hillel | Holoimua O Hawaii | Harvard Hong Kong Society | Harvard Islamic Society | Harvard Japan Society | Harvard Korean Association | Kumba 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 | Harvard College 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 Society of Arab Students | Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers | Harvard South Asian Association | South Asian Dance Company | South Asian Men's Collective | Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society | Harvard College Teatro | Under Construction | United World Club at Harvard College | Harvard Vietnamese Association | Harvard Wushu Club | Harvard College Peruvian Association | Harvard College Lebanese Club | Harvard College Dominican Students Association | Harvard College Francophone Society | Harvard College Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever | Harvard Organization for Latin America | Harvard Students for Israel | Harvard College Hellenic Society | Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia Association

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