



# The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

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## Harvard Armenian Society Welcomes President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic



*Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, welcomes President Arkady Ghoukasian of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic at a Kirkland House lecture and reception sponsored by the Harvard Armenian Society. Harvard College students Alison Tarbell '08, Jonathan Collette '07, Nina Kouyoumdjian '08, Christine Megerdichian '07, and Armen Yerevanian '08 (left to right).*

## Annual Harvard Foundation Writers Conference: *Complexities of Color*



*2004 distinguished writers Gish Jen, Jamaica Kincaid, and Claudia Carpio with panel moderator Professor Werner Sollers and student hosts.*

## Dharma Celebrates Fall Hungama



*Over four hundred students took part in this year's Harvard Hungama. The program included three dances: Garba, Raas, and Bhangra.*

## ABHW's Road to Success Panel



*The Association of Black Harvard Women (ABHW) held its Fourth Annual Road to Success event at the Harvard Faculty Club.*

## Harvard RAZA's *Dia de los Muertos*



*Harvard RAZA recreates the Dia de los Muertos celebration at the Adams House Upper Common Room.*





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## Harvard Armenian Society Welcomes the President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Despite the freshly fallen snow that covered Harvard campus, the Kirkland JCR was unusually crowded on the morning of Saturday, November 13th. That was because Armenians and non-Armenians alike, from across the College and the Greater Boston area braved the weather to attend a panel discussion featuring the Honorable Arkady Ghoukasian, President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR). Harvard University was his first stop on a two-day tour of Boston with the Armenia Fund USA to raise money for the water rehabilitation project in Stepanakert. The Honorable Arkady Ghoukasian was on a nationwide tour that was scheduled to close with the Armenia Fund USA's Thanksgiving Day Telethon to raise \$12.5 million towards completing Karabakh's North-South Highway.

Armenia Fund USA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 as the first of 18 international centers of the Armenia All-Armenian Fund and serves the Diaspora found in the Eastern U.S. A nonprofit and nongovernmental organization, Armenia Fund USA has no political ties so it can represent and serve all its constituents. According to its mission statement, Armenia Fund USA is "dedicated to supporting large-scale, self-sustaining initiatives" in Armenia and the NKR, "primarily focused on building sustainable infrastructure for the region through the development of roads, schools, medical facilities and utilities." It has already funded and completed projects resulting in 138 miles of roads, 81 miles of waterways, 36 schools, 3 electric transmission networks, 210 residential buildings and 14 health-care institutions. While presently working on the North-South Highway in Karabakh, Armenia Fund has already helped build the Goris-Stepanakert Highway which today



*President Arkady Ghoukasian of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic at a Kirkland House lecture and reception sponsored by the Harvard Armenian Society. He is joined by Harvard College students Alison Tarbell '08, Jonathan Collette '07, Nina Kouyoumdjian '08, Christine Megerdichian '07, and Armen Yerevanian '08 (left to right).*

connects Karabakh to Armenia.

Born in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh, and graduating with a Linguistics degree from Yerevan State University in Armenia, President Ghoukasian symbolizes this connection between Karabakh and Armenia, and it is precisely this same connection he desires to establish between the Diasporan Armenian youth and Karabakh Armenians. For two months prior to the event, the elected officers of the Harvard Armenian Society worked with Armenia Fund USA, the NKR Representative to the United States, Mr. Vardan Barseghian, as well as other members of the Harvard Armenian Society, and executive members from Armenian Societies at other universities around the Boston area to plan what turned out to be an extraordinarily successful educational student program. To begin the event, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of

the Harvard Foundation, warmly welcomed President Ghoukasian on behalf of the President and Deans of Harvard University. This was followed with a welcome by Christine Megerdichian, and a formal introduction and biography of the President by Mr. Barseghian. The President was accompanied by representatives of the Armenia All-Armenian Fund, including Executive Director Naira Melkoumian, as well as its Eastern U.S. affiliate, Armenia Fund USA, with its Chairman of the Board, Kevork Toroyan, and Executive Director, Irina Lazarian.

To provide background for the approximately 100 young adults who filled Kirkland JCR, ranging from the high school students of the St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School in Watertown, to undergraduate and graduate students from different collegiate

*(Continued on page 15)*



## Annual Harvard Foundation Writers' Conference: *Complexities of Color*

On Saturday, November 6th, the Harvard Foundation hosted its annual writers' conference, entitled "Complexities of Color," in the Barker Center at Harvard College. Our speakers included the animated Gish Jen, a Radcliffe Institute Fellow and author of a recently released book entitled *The Love Wife*, and the outspoken Jamaica Kincaid, a visiting professor at the African and African American Studies Department, currently teaching a creative writing course at the College. The distinguished Professors Glenda Carpio and Werner Sollers of the African and African American Studies Department were also kind enough to join us again for this year's conference. Attendees included Harvard and Lesley University students and members of the Harvard faculty, as well as several local community members.

The kick-off event was a lunch in the Adams House Conservatory, where students had a chance to speak informally with Jamaica Kincaid before the conference began. Afterward, a panel discussion concerning issues of race, color, and even gender elicited the thoughts and observations of Ms. Jen, Professor Carpio, and Professor



*Distinguished writers Jamaica Kincaid and Gish Jen are welcomed by Profs. Werner Sollers and Glenda Carpio of the African and African American Studies Department and undergraduate organizers Ranim Elborai '06, Kathleen McKee '06, Brian Clair '05, and Stephanie Paiz '05 (right to left).*

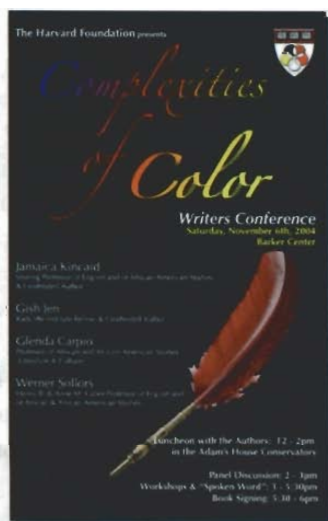
Kincaid, while Professor Sollers moderated the discussion.

Among the topics presented by the panelists was the question of ethnic identity, and how individual writers face the issue of having readers and critics alike considering their work as representative of their entire culture. In response to a question from a member of the audience concerned with representing the voiceless masses, Professor Kincaid responded, "I never claimed to speak for the unrepresented masses. I cannot speak for a people. I can only speak for myself." Her answer reminded the participants, as well as the panelists, that writers are in constant peril of being misunderstood.

Following the panel discussion, Professor Carpio and a smaller group of participants discussed her field of academic interest, humor and race, through a screening of a controversial, and often hilarious, racial commentary.

In the Thomson Room, students edged their sofas and armchairs closer to Professor Kincaid and Ms. Jen, who decided to consolidate their respective workshops into a general discussion of how they integrated themes of color, race, and ethnicity in their respective writings.

Shortly thereafter, the tempo of the evening changed as the *Complexities of Color* Evening Reading began. A crowd, including Professor Kincaid, Ms. Jen and Professor Carpio, gathered



## The Harvard Society of Arab Students and Harvard Students for Israel Co-Sponsor *Stand Up for Peace*

On October 15th, the Harvard Society of Arab Students and Harvard Students for Israel co-sponsored "Stand up for Peace" which featured two comedians, one Palestinian-American and one Jewish-American, who sought to inject humor into often-contentious Arab-Jewish issues. Dean Obeidallah and Scott Blakeman are renowned comedians who have appeared on various late-night shows and television programs. At the "Stand up for Peace" event at Harvard, each comedian gave a 30-minute comedy routine relating to their respective ethnicities and cultures. They also tried to use humor when talking about the Arab-Israeli conflict; namely the second *intifadah* that has engulfed Palestine and Israel in recent years. The event attracted over 100 people to the Science Center.

Both the Harvard Society of Arab

Students and Harvard Students for Israel thought that such a light-hearted event was a positive step towards dialogue and cooperation between two cultures that have largely been viewed as at odds. The audience was largely composed of Arab and Jewish undergraduates. However, Harvard affiliates of all ethnicities attended the event. Judging from the roaring laughter of the audience, student reaction to the comedy show was undoubtedly positive. The event was a testament to the healthy dialogue and cooperation between cultural groups on campus. The Harvard Society of Arab Students would like to affirm that this event, along with other beneficial pursuits, would not have been possible without the generous support of the Harvard Foundation.



Comedians Dean Obeidallah (left) and Scott Blakeman (right).

to listen to undergraduate students talk about their own experiences with race and culture. Sponsored in conjunction with the Spoken Word Society, this segment of the conference created a positive environment to display the literary and poetic work of students. Students' pieces varied in style, from lyrical flows to short stories delivering unique messages and cultural perspectives. There was a wide range of topics and styles represented. Angela Makabali '06, a member of the Harvard Philippine Forum, read "*Pinoy Pinay*," a reflection on the Philippine experience in America. Okechukwu Iwealā '06 demonstrated her profound lyrical stylings, and her performance focused on the racial injustice and socioeconomic divisions that color reality for many. The readings brought together a myriad of tales and ideas that capped off a splendid conference.

Ranim Elborai '06



Alice Cohen '06, Emcee for the Spoken Word performance segment of the evening's program.



Angela Makabali '06, a member of the Harvard Philippine Forum, read "*Pinoy Pinay*," a reflection on the Philippine experience in America.



## 2004 Presidential Election Panel: *Implications for Racial and Social Justice*

On October 25th, the Harvard Foundation hosted a panel discussion on the implications of the 2004 presidential election for race relations in the United States. The panel, which was moderated by Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter, included Professor Gary Orfield, the founding Co-Director of The Civil Rights Project at Harvard, Professor Lawrence Bobo, Norman Tishman and Charles M. Diker Professor of Sociology and of Afro-American Studies, and Ms. Carmen Lopez, Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program, as well as student representatives Priscilla Orta '05, Brandon Terry '05, and Rashad Hussain (Kennedy School of Government).

Professor Orfield opened the panel debate, stressing the connection between the presidential election and the selection of United States Supreme Court justices. Professor Orfield predicted that during the new 2005-2009 presidential term, at least one current Supreme Court seat would open for replacement. Professor Orfield then discussed the great political power

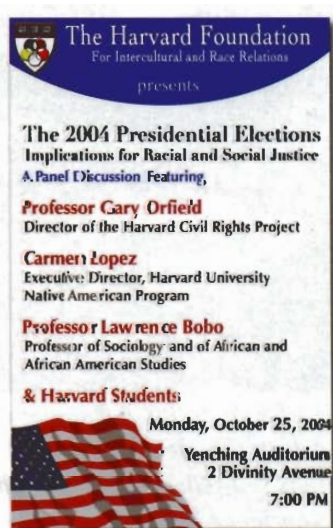


*The 2004 Presidential Election Panelists were (left to right) Brandon Terry '05, Ms. Carmen Lopez, Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program, Rashad Hussain (KSG), Prof. Gary Orfield, founding Co-Director of The Civil Rights Project at Harvard, Prof. Lawrence Bobo, Norman Tishman and Charles M. Diker Professor of Sociology and of Afro-American Studies, and Priscilla Orta '05. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, served as panel moderator.*

that the Supreme Court has had in influencing race relations in American society, from access to higher education for minorities to urban policy in the racially segregated cities to changes in voting rights after the 2007 expiration of the United States Voting Rights Act. Ms. Lopez and students Priscilla Orta, Brandon Terry, and Rashad Hussain spoke on how the outcomes of the presidential elections would affect the Native American, Latino, African American, and Arab American populations, respectively, as well as on the need for these populations to leverage their collective power in politics. Professor Bobo discussed the phenomenon of "endless engagement" between minorities and the major political parties, with minority groups constantly needing to remind the political parties

of their obligations to social justice and the improvement in the situation of minorities in the country. Professor Bobo closed by noting that the 2004 elections would be "easily the most consequential election in [his] lifetime." After all of the panelists had spoken, the panel was opened for a question and answer session with attending students. The panel discussion was well-attended by students from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, and students stated that they came out of the discussion with a better understanding of the role of minorities in the American political system and the ways in which the choice of president affected different populations.

*Yui Hirohashi '06*





## Harvard RAZA's *Dia de los Muertos*



Every year near the beginning of November, cemeteries all over Mexico brim with life and color as the living take time to remember those who have passed away. Altars of food, flowers, and personal memorabilia surround family graves, and for a few days, the living and the dead are reunited to remember the past and to look forward to the future. This is the celebration that Harvard RAZA recreated on campus this year to bring people of all backgrounds together to celebrate this long-established Mexican tradition.

The Adams upper common room overflowed with guests as Mirla Urzua '07 gave a welcoming speech that addressed the history, meaning, and significance of the Dia de los Muertos celebration. Martha Casillas '05 and Raudel Yanez '06 followed with samples of traditional dances from various regions in Mexico, at times dancing only to the stomp of their feet. The night also included readings of poetry in the language of the Aztecs. Concluding the night was Harvard's own Mariachi Veritas, who played a variety of songs, each with a style traditional in a certain region in Mexico. Claudia Garcia '05, director and singer for Mariachi Veritas, encouraged the audience to sing along, creating an entertaining and warm atmosphere. All performances were well performed and received much applause and appreciation.

The room was adorned with a Mexican flag and streamers, and featured an altar made up of portraits, candles, handmade ceramic skulls, and flowers. Everyone was kept well fed by the traditional Mexican food that was provided by a local restaurant, thanks to the funding by the Harvard Foundation. There was a strong feeling of togetherness among the more than 60 people who attended, solidifying the reason Dia de los Muertos continues to be one of Harvard RAZA's best known events.

*Rolando Flores '07*



## Association of Black Harvard Women's (ABHW) *Road to Success Panel*

On the evening of October 18th, the Association of Black Harvard Women (ABHW) held its Fourth Annual *Road to Success* event at the Harvard Faculty Club. The purpose of the *Road to Success* was to expose minority female undergraduates to outstanding minority women achievers in the fields of business, law, medicine and science. Over the course of the evening, ABHW members and members of the Harvard minority community were given the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the panelists and learn how each defined and attained success as a woman of color.

Keynote speaker Reverend Gloria White-Hammond, M.D., opened the event by offering words of wisdom to undergraduate students interested in careers in medicine and science. Rev. Dr. White-Hammond described her experiences practicing medicine in the Boston community as well



(Top row, left to right) Dr. S. Allen Counter, Alecia McGregor '06, Amara Omeokwe '08, Tania Clerisme '07, Whitney Washington '05, Lisa Gordon '06, Joy Cooper '06, Natasha Alford '08, Ifna Ejebe '07, Tiffanye Threadcraft '07. (Bottom row, left to right) Rev. Dr. White-Hammond, Tara Pollard, Ayanna Holloway, Sarah Vincent, Cecile Thaxter.



Keynote speaker Rev. White-Hammond, M.D., Minister at Bethel Church in Boston and a medical missionary in Africa.



Tara Pollard, National Recruiter for INROADS.



Cecile Thaxter, Director in the Global Industrial Group at UBS Investment Bank.



as her work as a medical missionary in South Africa, Cote D'Ivoire and Botswana. Her powerful accounts of administering healthcare in disadvantaged communities both locally and abroad were exceptionally moving for all those in attendance. Rev. Dr. White-Hammond's remarks gave warm encouragement to undergraduate women wanting to make an impact within the medical field.

Opening remarks were followed by a five-person panel discussion, during which the panelists offered inspirational anecdotes replete with strategies for achieving professional success. This year's *Road to Success* panel included Sarah Vincent '97, Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement; Ayanna Holloway, a Harvard Physics Department Ph.D. candidate; Tara Pollard, National Recruiter for INROADS; and Cecile Thaxter, Director in the Global Industrial Group at UBS Investment Bank. Each panelist elaborated on her distinct experiences related to her

career and workplace culture, defining success using her own personal and professional goals as a framework. A common theme was the unbreakable link between professional success and personal happiness. The workplace and the home environment were given equal importance and attention in the definition of success.

Undergraduates in the audience were able to ask questions of the panelists during the question-and-answer segment of the program. All of the panelists cited the challenges and rewards of sustaining a work-family balance, building minority networks within the workplace, and giving back to the community through service and through mentoring younger women of color. As this year's *Road to Success* came to a close, undergraduates in attendance walked away encouraged and better informed about how to carve their own path to success, inspired by the panelists' stories.

*Helen Ogbara '05*

## The Harvard Foundation Welcomes Class of 2008 at Annual Freshman Intercultural Brunch

On Sunday, September 12th, the Harvard Foundation hosted a gathering for freshmen and their families to meet with members of the larger Harvard community. Over the past 22 years, the Harvard Foundation Intercultural Brunch has been a staple event of Freshman Week for many wide-eyed first years excited to make their place at Harvard. At this year's brunch, over 200 students and family members gathered in Dudley House to listen to Harvard Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter, student leaders, and Foundation interns speak about the opportunities that await them at the College. Dr. Counter reiterated the College's commitment to promoting interaction across ethnic and cultural lines and welcomed all freshmen to visit the Harvard Foundation and see the Foundation as an accessible, student-friendly resource. Mariachi Veritas Founder/President and Harvard Foundation intern, Claudia Garcia '05, introduced freshmen to the various ways in which they could stay in touch with their cultural roots and share their culture with others. She also spoke specifically of her experiences founding Mariachi Veritas and let freshmen know that with some energy and initiative, they too could have a great impact on the Harvard campus. The freshmen left the brunch in high spirits as their formal orientation to the Harvard Foundation drew to a close. The ongoing tradition has been instrumental in setting the tone for harmonious interactions in an ethnically and culturally diverse academic community.



*Sarah Vincent '97, Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement.*



*Ayanna Holloway, Ph.D. candidate in the Harvard Physics Department.*



## In Memoriam: Kiyo Morimoto Adviser and Friend to Generations of Students

Kiyo Morimoto, who helped tens of thousands of students adjust to college life in his 27 years at Harvard's Bureau of Study Counsel, and who served for six years as the Bureau's director, died February 22, 2004, at the age of 86.

Born in rural Pocatello, Idaho, to parents who had emigrated from Japan in 1917 and worked as tenant farmers growing potatoes and sugar beets, Morimoto left school at 15 to help his family work the land. Ten years later, the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

He was assigned to the all-Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, one-third of whom came from the internment camps that the U.S. government established for Japanese Americans during World War II. Morimoto's family and other Japanese who lived too far from the coast to be considered a threat to U.S. security were spared imprisonment. The unit was one of the most highly decorated in American military history. For his service in France and Italy, Morimoto won the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

After the war, he took advantage of the G.I. Bill to attend Idaho State College, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1950. He earned a master's degree in sociology from Boston University in 1952. After working on a number of research projects (including an early study conducted by the Boston Psychiatric Hospital on the effects of LSD) and



**Kiyo Morimoto (1917-2004)**



*The day after Pearl Harbor, Morimoto enlisted in the U.S. Army. For his service in Europe he won the Silver Star and Purple Heart. For his service at Harvard, he won the love and respect of generations. Kiyo Morimoto (right) with his dog Guess and his younger brother, Isao, or Ace, on the farm in Tyhee, Idaho.*



attending graduate courses at Harvard, he took a job as a counselor at the Bureau of Study Counsel in 1958.

In that capacity, he supervised and trained counselors, ran sessions for graduate teaching assistants, instructed students in reading skills, and personally counseled more than a dozen students per week. Morimoto was also a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and a lecturer on education. He taught courses in the School of Public Health, the Business School, and the Graduate School of Education.

As a counselor, Morimoto was renowned for his ability to listen to students' problems in a sympathetic, nonjudgmental way. In 1985, the year he retired, Brina Caplan quoted him in an article in *Harvard Magazine* as saying that "the individual is the expert on his or her experience."

His adherence to this philosophy created a gently accommodating atmosphere in which students were able to disburden themselves of fears, insecurities, and other self-defeating thoughts and free up energy for their work. Morimoto's approach to counseling, Caplan writes, "offers those discredited, abandoned aspects of the self a way 'to be welcomed into life.'"

Part of what made Morimoto such an effective counselor was the richness of his life experience. While in the Army, he graduated from cooks and bakers school (he later displayed his diploma on his office wall at Harvard), and while in Italy after the fighting was over, he took voice lessons and seriously considered a career in opera.

While working toward his master's degree, he supported himself in many ways, including working on the railroad in Philadelphia (he knew how to shoe a railroad car) and working for the president of Boston University as a butler and handyman.

His early experiences in Idaho also contributed to his ability to understand those who felt marginalized or out of

place. He often said that growing up as a Japanese American in the predominantly white Tyhee section of Pocatello, near a Blackfoot Indian reservation, made him a natural anthropologist.

While at Harvard, Morimoto served as a member of the first faculty and administrative advisory committee of the Harvard Foundation. Dr. S. Allen Counter, the Foundation's Director, remembers him as "a wonderful person who was very supportive in his work with students." Counter said that Morimoto helped to reach out to Asian students during the early days of the foundation and helped organize a successful conference on the internment

of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Morimoto is survived by his sister Miye Hikida and his brother Doug of Pocatello, Idaho; his wife, Lorinda Gannon Morimoto of Templeton, Mass.; his former wife, Francoise Robitaille Morimoto of Rockland, Mass.; and three children, Monique Morimoto-Flaherty of Quincy, David of Watertown, and Philip of Somerville.

*Ken Gewertz*

*Courtesy of the Harvard News Office*

*Thanks to Kiyo Morimoto's son David who supplied much of the information on which this article is based.*

**JET**  
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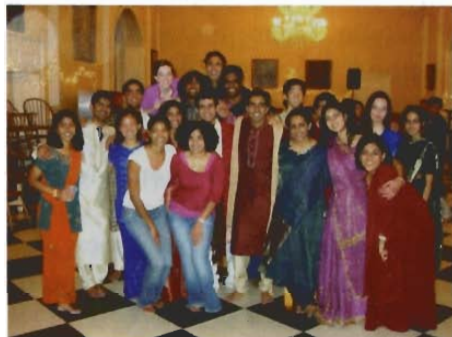
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■ **NEW CONSUL GENERAL OF SWEDEN:** Swedish Ambassador to the U.S. Jan Eliasson presents Dr. S. Allen Counter, director, Harvard Foundation at Harvard University, with a decree from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden that appoints Counter Consul General of Sweden in Boston and New England, during a ceremony at Harvard in Cambridge, MA. Counter will represent Sweden in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. "Sweden is a great nation with a respected tradition of peace, objectivity and humanitarianism," said Counter. "I am pleased to represent the people of Sweden in my native land." Counter received his doctor of medical science degree from Sweden's prestigious Karolinska Nobel Institute where he is an appointed visiting professor. Counter also serves as professor in neurology at Harvard Medical School. He is the first Black to be appointed Consul General of Sweden in an American city.





## Hungama: Harvard's Semi-Annual Celebration of Garba, Raas, and Bhangra



South Asia's cultural landscape is home to delightful palettes of tastes, dances, music, languages and clothing. And yet, despite the subcontinent's truly awe-inspiring diversity, the pages of Indian history are written with the tales of fierce ethnic regionalisms far more often than voluntary harmony. A single venue where one could observe the delicate footwork of *Garba* dancers, hear the claps of twirling *dandia* sticks, and feel the pulse of the Punjabi farmers as they dance for rain has never existed in this home to a sixth of humanity. You can, however, witness this unlikely spectacle twice a year in one of the most unlikely of places: Harvard's Lowell Dining Hall!

Remixing ancient footwork with the pulsating beat of a "Punjabi MC," and juxtaposing the dances of Gujarat and Rajasthan with those of the Punjab, Dharma's semi-annual *Hungama* represents a cultural celebration which engages hundreds of members of the Harvard community and beyond. Taking place under the auspices of both



University and City halls, and with the logistical and financial support of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, the Harvard *Hungama* features three traditional dances of North India: the *Garba* and *Raas*—both of which hail from Gujarat and Rajasthan—as well as the *Bhangra* of the Punjab. The Harvard *Hungama* distinguishes itself from the campus' more traditional cultural shows which feature the formalities of a stage, performers and a passive audience; here, there is no stage and there is no audience, because everyone is a participant. The sheer numbers of non-South Asians who come to the event each year—entering the night having never seen any of the dances before and leaving with a very personal enjoyment of the festivities—is a testament to the *Hungama's* ability to enrich the quality of cultural life at Harvard.

Each of the *Hungama's* three ethnic dances has a rich history. The *Garba* is a very delicate and highly aesthetic form generally associated with the *Navaratri*



festival, a celebration and worship of the Mother Goddess in her several roles as the deity of learning, prosperity, fertility, and protection among other things. Traditionally, the *garba* was performed primarily by the local village women who dance gracefully in large concentric circles. It gives great attention to both the footwork—which follows a 4-beat pattern—and the intricate hand gestures and twirls. Dancers are typically dressed in very colorful dresses containing exquisitely embroidered mirrors as well as silver-oxidized jewelry; anklets are also very common. Modern *garbas*, of course, include both sexes. Males typically wear a long cotton/silk shirt over loose pants (a *Chudidar/Kurtha*) with a turban to shield from the beating sun of the Rajasthan. The *Raas*, also hailing from the same region as that of the *Garba*, traces its roots back to the mythological hero Krishna, the simultaneously playful and supremely wise incarnation of Vishnu, the cosmic preserver. It was said that Lord Krishna





used to dance *Raas* on moonlit nights with his beloved Gopis along the banks of the Yamuna River. This dance is entirely defined by the rhythmical structure; the most popular form follows a 5-beat cycle though more sophisticated structures (12 beats, etc.) are also common. Pairing up in lines moving anti-parallel to each other, dancers use their pair of *Dandiya* sticks to keep the beat by clapping them with those of different partners. The most unique feature of this dance is that every dancer ends up dancing with every other dancer because of the way the lines move. The dress for this dance strongly resembles that of the *Garba*. Finally, the *Bhangra* is a trademark folk melody/dance of Punjabi farmers who celebrate the first rains and the coming harvest. Characterized by rhythmic shaking of the shoulders and energetic footwork, the *Bhangra* is often thought to be the most free-form, spontaneous, and exuberant of the three. It is a form thought to be well over 600 years old—like the other dances—and was originally a male dance with an accompanying female dance called the *Giddha*. Clothing for the males consisted of kilt-like pieces called *dhothis/lungis* and *kurthas* with a turban and vest, while women wore the *salwar kameez* (baggy pants with long colorful shirts) with a brightly colored shawl called a *dhuppata*. Unlike most other Indian folk-dances, however, *Bhangra* has expanded far beyond its original scope to become a dance of truly international appeal. Seen in cosmopolitan clubs from Paris



## Kuumba Singers' 34th Annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert *Behold That Star*



The Kuumba singers of Harvard College performed the 34th annual Dr. S. Allen Counter Christmas Concert, *Behold That Star* on December 10th and 11th at 8 p.m. in Memorial Church. The concert included a combination of song, readings, movement and spoken word for an audience of over 1000 people each night from Harvard and the Cambridge community. The 90-member choir sang contemporary gospel (including works by John P. Kee, Hezekiah Walker, Kirk Franklin and Walter Hawkins), original compositions (arranged by Kuumba director, Sheldon Reid), Negro spirituals (including "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord," "Behold That Star," and "Mary Had a



Baby") and a Zulu song from Namibia called "Malibongwe." Readings included works by famous poets such as Langston Hughes and Nikki Giovanni, a biblical passage and readings written by members of the choir. We also had special performances by the Brothers and Sisters a cappella subsets of the choir, as well as Genithia Lilia Hogges '01. The theme of this concert, "Behold That Star," was—to borrow a phrase from one of our songs—to celebrate "the real meaning of Christmas," as well as our mission of celebrating African American music, spirituality and creativity.

Maria Francesca Nardell '06

to London to NYC, Bhangra has even made it to modern popular music such as in the 2004 chart-topper featuring Punjabi MC and hit rap artist Jay-Z.

Altogether, of course, the Harvard *Hungama* is simply a fun cultural

party in which the entire community can partake. Dharma takes great pride in putting on this event each year and thanks members of the University, the City, and the Harvard Foundation in particular for their continued support each year. We hope to enjoy their continued support for future *Hungamas*, to the benefit of future classes of Harvard College students and graduate students, and members of the intercollegiate and Greater Boston community at large.

Vivek Rudrapatna '06





## Final Clubs: A History Behind Closed Doors

Under the auspices and umbrella of the Harvard Foundation, a group of students representing a Race, Culture, and Diversity (RCD) Initiative hosted a lecture about final clubs in the Fong Auditorium of Boylston Hall on Friday, November 12th. The event began at 7:00 p.m. with a reception in Ticknor Lounge featuring cheese, grapes, and punch and was followed by a 45-minute lecture on the history of final clubs given by the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes. A discussion amongst the students followed until 9:30 p.m. Sensing an increase in the frequency of talk about the place of final clubs at Harvard – and being aware that such discussions are often plagued with misinformation – the RCD Initiative felt that this past fall was a good time to hold an event on final clubs. The event was geared toward a school-wide audience and the hope was to bring people together not only to disseminate information about the history of final clubs, but also to allow multiple perspectives to be heard.

This project was part of the RCD Initiative's slightly revised program for the fall of 2004. The overarching goal of the RCD Initiative is to work with student leaders of the Harvard Foundation to provide a space within the residential communities of the houses and dorms for dialogue about ability, class, gender, race, religion, and sexuality. The purpose of doing this is to promote an understanding of how



*Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in Memorial Church, delivered an eye-opening lecture on the history of final clubs at Harvard to a full house in the Fong Auditorium. Students continued to discuss the issues raised for well over an hour after the talk.*

our individual identities compare with the myriad identities of others. To this end, RCD attempts to complement the activities of Harvard's student groups (athletic, cultural, ethnic, feminist, political, religious, and queer) by providing a forum for addressing issues that transcend the lines between these organizations.

Gomes began his talk by questioning the very notion of "extracurriculars." According to Gomes, what began as extracurriculars have now, to a large degree, become co-curriculars. He read from a historic list of extracurriculars and presented the concept of a "final club" as arising within that framework. According to Gomes, to be a club you need three things: a president, a treasurer, and someone to exclude. Final clubs started as a place where students – provided they were members – could obtain better food than that offered in the dining halls. From there, the clubs evolved into social groups

and ultimately into the institutions that we know today. According to Gomes, the role of final clubs today is that of providing a social space on campus – a role they were never intended to fill. It was the movement to the house system and conversion of the Student Union into first the freshman union and recently into what is now the Barker Center for the Humanities that caused the destruction of common social space and increased reliance on final clubs to fill that void. Gomes also noted that when final clubs were formed, the Massachusetts drinking age was 18. Thus, unlike today, there was nothing a final club offered that could not also be obtained elsewhere.

Gomes concluded his talk with a rallying cry to students to demand a student union and a building to go along with it. Gomes cited his travel to other universities as proof that almost all students have some sort of common space slightly better than that which



we know as Loker Commons. Gomes remarked that because everyone has such grandiose notions of Harvard they tell him that they bet the Harvard student union must top them all. Gomes always replies that it's so incredible, "you can't even imagine it."

At the conclusion of Gomes' talk, members of the RCD board, including Damien Wint, presented a segue into an open dialogue. They pointed out that this was not the first discussion about final clubs on this campus. They asked students to think back to past discussions they've had. "What was the context? Who was present? Were there questions about the clubs or about opposition to the clubs that no one present could answer?" The board members informed the crowd that now was their chance to engage in an informed dialogue. They then read several statements from cards that people had filled out during the reception regarding their opinion about final clubs and asked students

to think back to past discussions they have had – the context, present parties, questions that arose, and/or opposition to the clubs. The board members informed the crowd that they would have a chance to engage in an informed dialogue. During the reception, people filled out statement cards with their opinion about final clubs. Some read, "They're so mysterious" and "Final clubs make me sad..."

The discussion that followed was a potpourri of opinions, voices and perspectives given the wide range of people present for the talk, which left some feeling frustrated for a lack of solutions. Some students responded to Gomes' cry for social space with a defense of the house system. Others agreed we should fight for a student union. Undergraduate Council President Matthew Mahan pointed out that the UC was aware of the dearth of social space and was currently conducting an inventory of all common spaces on campus to try to maximize use of

that space. Many students decried the final clubs' exclusivity and history of intolerance, while others supported them as incredible communities of men that had an invaluable impact on their Harvard experience. It became apparent that group consensus had not been reached, but at least the dialogue had begun.

*Kathleen McKee '06*



*Board members Kevin Koo '07 and Kathleen McKee '06 talk with Reverend Gomes before the lecture.*

*(Harvard Armenian Society Welcomes President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, continued from page 3)*

Armenian Societies, including those of Harvard, Tufts, Boston College, Boston University and Northeastern, the President began with a brief history of the region. He explained how the region of Karabakh (also known as Artsakh) had been a part of Armenia for hundreds of years prior to World War I. After the Armenian Genocide of 1915, the Caucasus was later invaded and annexed as a Soviet oblast in 1921, and Josef Stalin put Artsakh under Azerbaijani rule. It became the only Christian territory in the world to be placed within a largely Muslim nation. Moreover, for the next 70 years, Azerbaijan attacked Artsakh with several levels of ethnic and religious discrimination and economic abuse. Nevertheless, in 1991, after the fall of the Soviet Union, Artsakh established itself as the free and sovereign nation of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (although still not officially recognized

by the U.S. or other countries around the world). Unfortunately, however, the violence did not stop there, and from 1991 to 1994 tensions between Azerbaijan and Karabakh escalated to formal armed conflict.

Despite its continuing struggles, Karabakh has persevered and had many successes in its pursuit of independence, including the acquisition of vital garrisons and ammunition from Azerbaijani forces. The quality of Nagorno-Karabakh's determination through relentless hardship and adversity was reflected in the President's quiet, firm, and influential narration. At the end of his visit, President Ghoukasian invited student discussion. He handled many questions, ranging from those concerning the area's intellectual development and information technology capabilities to what he desires the *spyurk* ("Diaspora") to do for Karabakh.

Though it was only the beginning, the President's visit with the youth of the Greater Boston area was a great start of a bigger mission to involve the Armenian youth of the United States with both the accomplishments and the setbacks of the Karabakh. President Ghoukasian ended the discussion by encouraging the youth to continue on the path of higher education, and revealed his future hope of one day seeing some of these same students in the NKR, urging them to remember Nagorno-Karabakh when they think of their *hayrenik* ("fatherland"), as it still is, as it once was, very much linked to Armenia.

*Christine Lisa Megerdichian '07*



## The Harvard Foundation Awards 126 Grants

A lecture and reception honoring the president of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, a Scandinavian Marten Goose dinner, a professional women's panel called "Road to Success," the Latino Welcome Day program, the Japan Society's Winter Mochi - these are just a handful of the projects funded by the Harvard Foundation in the fall 2004 semester. In all, the Foundation awarded 126 grants totaling \$25,000 to some 48 undergraduate student organizations for cultural projects.

"The students of the Harvard Foundation are really excited about the diversity of projects that we are sponsoring for our fellow students this year," said Brian Clair '05, a Harvard Foundation intern of three years. "I am certain that students of all races and backgrounds will appreciate the exciting cultural programs that students have developed for the fall semester."

Some of the other programs include the Chinese American Author Series sponsored by the Harvard Chinese Students Association; the "Stand-up for Peace Evening of Comedy" hosted by the Harvard Society of Arab Students, Harvard Hillel, and Harvard Students for Israel; a Vietnam Cultural Workshop by the Harvard Vietnamese Students Association; an Inter-Ethnic Arts Collective by the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association; and an Eid Celebration to commemorate the end of the holy month of Ramadan by the Harvard Islamic Society. Also receiving grants this semester were Holoimua o Hawaii, the Black Men's Forum, Harvard RAZA, Native Americans at Harvard College, and the South Asian Association, among many others.

"The faculty advisers were pleased to support the student representatives of the Harvard Foundation in reviewing and approving these 126 commendable projects," said Don Pfister, chair

of the foundation's Faculty Advisory Committee. "These activities represent Harvard College students of many ethnic and cultural backgrounds and reflect our effort to improve intercultural relations at the University."

One of the most popular Harvard Foundation-sponsored projects this fall was the Adams House concert performed by Mariachi Veritas, a recently formed 13-member student Mariachi band that features traditional Mexican music. The oldest Harvard College theater group, Black C.A.S.T., was supported by a grant for the production of the play "Before It Hits Home," a drama about the impact of AIDS on a black family. The Foundation supported the Harvard Bulgarian Club's Bulgarian Sedyankas homage, a traditional gathering of Bulgarian people to discuss their common history, spirituality, and struggle for freedom.

"The projects we support enable our students to express their cultural interests and aspirations in an academic environment, and to share cultural knowledge and information with a larger Harvard community," said Harvard Foundation Director S. Allen Counter. "The number of student applications to the Foundation has increased dramatically over the years, and the quality of the proposals demonstrates the students' commitment to improving racial and cultural understanding at Harvard."

The Harvard Foundation's next round of grants will be awarded in February. The Foundation encourages students of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds with projects that seek to promote interracial and intercultural awareness and understanding in the Harvard community to apply.

*Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette*



### Asian American Dance Troupe (AADT)

#### *Performances*

For over a decade, the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe (AADT) has sought to spread an appreciation and awareness of Asian culture through the medium of dance. Our repertoire includes a diverse range of dance forms including traditional, ethnic minority, fusion, martial arts, modern, and hip hop.

This fall semester has been another productive and enjoyable semester for AADT. Supported by grants from the Harvard Foundation and from the University Council, AADT has performed at a number of events including the Chinatown After-School Benefit Concert, Asian American Association's Feast: A Cultural Extravaganza, the Boston Asian Students Intercollegiate Conference at MIT, and Lincoln-Sudbury High School's "China Day." We reached over 1,500 students and residents of Massachusetts this year with our performances.

Through dance, we hoped to encourage more intercultural exchange and education. For example, our visit to a Massachusetts high school included not only dances but also a question-





and-answer period when the freshmen were given a chance to ask about Asian culture. Likewise, we continue to work with other dance troupes including the South Asian Dance Company to create fusion dance pieces that show how two different forms of cultural dance might contrast with and complement one another. We look forward to another semester of performances!

*Dina Wang '06*

## Association of Black Harvard Women (ABHW)

### *Body Image Discussion*

ABHW's first general meeting topic was "Exploitation or Expression" and took place in October in Adams Lower Common Room. The meeting did not feature any speakers, but was used to acquaint ABHW members with our general meeting format. The chairs were set up in a circle in order to facilitate communication among members. One ABHW board member was elected mediator of the meeting and she ensured that the discussion remained on topic and that comments from every interested woman were heard.

Prior to the start of the meeting ABHW board members cut out different

images of black women from magazines and used them to create several posters which were hung around the room. The meeting went in several different directions: pornography as art, portrayal of black women in men's magazines versus women's magazines, and the question of whether a single member can represent the image of an entire group. We used money from the UC and the Foundation to provide snacks for the event.

The meeting was well attended and we were able to start the year off on a positive note.

*Nenna Nwazota '06*

## Harvard Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan (BFA)

### *Traditional Jalisco Attire and Dance*

Harvard Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan is Harvard's traditional Mexican folk dancing group. We learned and performed Mexican dances from four regions of Mexico throughout the year at campus events like Cultural Rhythms, Presencia Latina and weekly meetings of REACH, one of Harvard's social service programs. We did two small performances: one at the Harvard Museums Open House and one at a weekly meeting of REACH. At Cultural Rhythms, we will be dancing a medley of three dances from the Veracruz region of Mexico; thus, we modified our original plan to buy new Jalisco costumes to buy some new Veracruz dresses. We decided to revamp our female Veracruz costume collection because these dresses have started to look worn. With the money provided by the Harvard Foundation, BFA funded part of the purchase of five new Veracruz dresses from The Mariachi Connection, Inc., which are currently being made in Mexico and will be shipped to our group shortly.

*Lina Sestokas '05*

## BlackC.A.S.T.

### *"Before It Hits Home"*

BlackC.A.S.T. produced Cheryl L. West's play "Before It Hits Home" in the Adams Pool Theatre. The play ran for 3 days and was very well attended. The closing show was performed to a full house! We received grants from the UC and the Harvard Gilbert & Sullivan Players who thought the message of this play was profound enough to warrant the granting of G&S's only fall semester grant.

The play follows the last few months in the life of an African-American bisexual jazz musician whose double life endangers both himself and his loved ones. This play was chosen because it fit the BlackC.A.S.T. mission which is dedicated to bringing black artistry and creative expression to the wider Harvard community.

In order to put on this production, we used Harvard's common casting in order to recruit actors for the play. Fortunately, we were able to recruit friends to assemble parts of the set, work with stage and lighting, and do other general work for the show.

*Nenna Nwazota '06*

## Black Students Association (BSA)

### *Apollo Night*

Apollo Night 2004, a talent showcase held in memory of Harvard students DeShaun Hill '99 and C. Nabri Stephens '99, took place on the evening of Friday, October 20, in Lowell Lecture Hall. This year, all proceeds went to the Mattapan Public Library. The event was hosted by Brandon M. Terry '05 and Ashley R. Siler '07 and had a diverse audience of approximately 180 students, faculty members, parents, friends, and esteemed guests. Performances ranged from singing, dancing, and spoken word to the playing of musical instruments and magic. The performers included



Christopher Vu (MIT), Whitney Washington '05, Azhar Richmond '05, Yadani Beyene '05, Cassandra Cummings '05, Chaandi McGruder '05, Marcus Miller '08, Charisse Crenshaw (GSAS), Harrison Greenbaum '08, Mac Soto '07, Okechukwu Iweala '06, Daniel McClain '05, Zachary Raynor '05, Caleb Franklin '05, Tracy Tyrone Moore '06, Kavita Shah '07, and the Louis Fouché Band. Special performances included the Candela Salsa and Candela HipHop groups of Fuerza Latina, the Caribbean Club Dance Troupe, Chester French, The Expressions Dance Company, Kameka Dempsey of the Harvard School of Education, and the '08 Steppers. The winner of a \$250 cash prize was decided by the intensity of the audience's support. This prize went to Christopher Vu, who sang an original composition "Oh Too Late" and accompanied the piece on the piano.

## Concilio Latino

### *Dia de la Raza*

Dia de la Raza took place at the Harvard Divinity School and was a panel discussion featuring Professor David Carrasco and Professor Samuel Huntington. It was intended to enlighten the Harvard community, both Latino and non-Latino, about the comments written in Professor Huntington's recent book. He made certain assertions and conclusions about the past and future of the Latino community in America. The debate was intended to clarify some of his points as well as to create a forum for discussion as to whether or not they are valid. Concilio Latino provided food for the event as well as some decorations but it was intended to be more of an intellectual forum. We had a very good turnout of roughly 70-100 people and were fortunate enough to engage those who attended in a deep discussion about what the Latino community in America has to look forward to in the coming years.

Dia de la Raza means Day of Race

and we commemorated our heritage as well as reflected on it. This event was a big success due to the large turnout of the present Latino community in the United States. It brought out Latinos from the southwest, New York and Miami, to name a few places. These are the areas that are most impacted by the recent Latino boom in the United States and those individuals from other areas are beginning to see what Latinos in these larger areas are already seeing – an increasing Latin influence. The Concilio Latino co-chairs and members would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for their support.

Zuriel Chavez '06

## Dharma

### *Deepavali: The Festival of Lights*

Deepavali (Divali), perhaps the most auspicious day of the Hindu calendar, symbolizes the lunar new year and is also referred to as the festival of lights. This event provided a great opportunity for students to observe and understand Hindu ritual in a student-run setting. It brought together members of the Hindu community and others throughout the Harvard community to partake in this important festival. This year, Dharma continued its long tradition of annual Deepavali celebrations as our biggest event of the year, drawing many people from the entire campus. We were delighted to welcome the entire Harvard Community to this greatest of Hindu cultural events. We were grateful that this year, Lowell House Master Diana Eck graciously agreed to host the event in the Lowell House Master's Residence, which was a perfect place in all aspects for this event, in terms of space, ambience, and respect. We decorated the residence in festive colors and with traditional deepas (lights) and statues. Overall, the event was a great success. We had front and back page coverage in *The Crimson* for this event, much to the delight of all of our



The cast of "Before It Hits Home" after our final show in the Adams Pool Theater (from left to right) Shawna Strayhorn, Kia Alexander, Steven Smith, Zachary Raynor, Caleb Franklin, Faith Imafidon, Miles Johnson, Julia Cassis, Lori Adelman, and Bryan Barnhill.

members. We must thank the Harvard Foundation for its support in this event, which would not have been possible without the funding that we received. Thank you very much.

Vijay Yanamadala, '07

## Diversity & Distinction

### Winter 2004 Issue: Borders

Our most recent issue featured full-length articles on perspectives less heard concerning the "innumerable borders constructed along physical, social, political, legal, and economic lines" that divide all of us.

How can we deny marital equality to same-sex couples on a moral basis when there are 1400 legal rights conferred upon married couples? The growing economic divide within the black community is intensified by the blurring boundaries amongst minority groups, with Latinos fast becoming the largest minority. The stereotypes of Arabs and Americans erect perceived barriers that contributed to the abuses at Abu Ghraib, and these stereotypes were created and propagated by the media. This raises questions as to the distinctions that should or should not be

made between wartime enemies in civil society. Single-sex education fosters solidarity and empowerment but at the risk of stifling diversity and socializing those who attend those institutions with an inaccurate representation of real society.

We also feature unique, artistic expressions of these borders. We have a poetry piece expressing the wistfulness of the separation from childhood, and a photo essay on the physical and cultural distance from Chinatown to the North End, two ethnic enclaves. We have a commentary on the separation that still exists in fact at Harvard across gender lines, in the lack of female faculty and resources available for females. We spotlight a campus organization that has worked hard not only to question the nature of boundaries of sexuality but also to celebrate those lines that divide in a way that diminishes the importance of those distinctions.

Our "compers" have joined a staff of over sixty members in bringing this magazine to fruition. Our business staff have worked tirelessly soliciting advertising and sponsorship revenue so that the voices of our writers, photographers, and designers may be heard. Our design staff, despite our computer crashing numerous times, stayed the course to produce an easy-to-read and appealing layout for the magazine. Our photography staff have worked in close alliance with our writers to portray physical nuances of the ideas expressed by the writers, contributing enormous aesthetic appeal to our magazine. We distributed copies of our magazine to all house and freshmen dorm distribution centers, and have mailed out our subscriptional copies to various faculty, organizations, and community members.

Jeong Oh '06

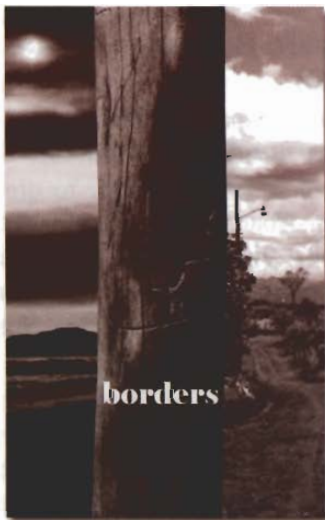
## Expressions Dance Company

### *BOUNCE – The Expressions 2004 Fall Show*

The Expressions 2004 Fall Show, Bounce, was the culminating performance featuring the work produced by the various student choreographers that Expressions selected this fall. This year the company was under the direction of Cassandra Cummings '05, Shana Cloud '06, Olugbenga Okusanya '05, and Anneliese Torgerson '07. In addition to the ten Expressions pieces presented in the show there were three pieces created by the Caribbean Club Dance Troupe as well as guest appearances by City Step and Brown University's Fusion. Bounce received a number of compliments regarding its exceptional levels in excitement and creativity.

This semester, as in semesters past, the show was held in Lowell Lecture Hall and was sold out within a week. Lowell provides a personal atmosphere where dancers and audience members interact, enhancing the energetic environment of the show. Expressions Dance Company's Fall Show was only made possible by the generous support of many individuals and groups including the Harvard Foundation. It was an incredible show that included many talented dancers and choreographers.

The Expressions show consistently serves as the main venue for hip-hop dance on the Harvard campus while it additionally features other genres of dance such as reggae, jazz, and lyrical. The bi-annual Expressions show is one of the most diverse events on campus as it hosts dancers and choreographers of all ethnic backgrounds. It celebrates a fusion of culture and ideas.





## Fuerza Latina

### *La Vida at Harvard*

*La Vida at Harvard* has truly changed the face of the campus by creating an awareness of the beauty of Latino culture. We started our second edition of *La Vida* which will hopefully be distributed to everyone come the spring. This guide has involved participants of all backgrounds, not just Latinos, in attending Latino events all over campus and all over Boston. In fact, as part of our goal to spread knowledge of Latino culture we offered tours into the Latino neighborhoods and will create an essay contest to involve the diverse campus in learning more about the Latino community. We have taken photos of different Latino events. For the first time we made a concerted effort to find the history of Latinos at Harvard rather than creating a compilation of previously written histories. Written essays have involved Latinos and non-Latinos alike in sharing their interests in the Latino community. Overall we are covering as much of the diversity of the Latino community as possible in order to share Latino culture and heritage with all of the Harvard campus. The funding provided by the Harvard Foundation has proven to make these efforts a reality and really to involve the

different Latino groups on campus in working together and creating a unified Latino presence on campus.

*Leyla Bravo '05*

## Harvard Half-Asian Person's Association (HAPA)

### *Lecture Series*

On January 11th, 2005, the Harvard Half-Asian Person's Association held its lecture series both in a common space in Winthrop House during the day and at MIT in Kendall Square in the evening, along with a video showing. The lecture series was composed of speakers who have direct experience in multi-ethnic and trans-cultural issues, either being from a mixed demographic themselves or doing research that centers on ethnicity and identity. A few issues that we engaged, discussed, and debated were: (1) the identity of self between an Asian and non-Asian background; (2) the creation of self through the input and categorization from one's peers; (3) the celebration of difference while still attempting to maintain a strong morality; and (4) the place of mixed people in an increasingly global marketplace and community. Of particular interest is Harvard graduate Julie Mallozzi, who currently TFs VES 150, "Intermediate Filmmaking." Ms. Mallozzi has made several documentary films, including her most recent, "Monkey Dance," which portrays three teens of Cambodian descent living in Lowell, and which will be screened along with other films at MIT. Ms. Mallozzi is Half-Asian herself and we have met with her extensively to talk about the mission of our club, as well as certain issues, such as the liberation of confronting radical otherness, that our members are sure to bring up during the discussion.

*Dian Lefkowitz '06*

## The Harvard African

### *Publication of 4th issue*

This semester the Harvard African prepared for the Spring 2005 publication of our fourth issue. We solicited submissions by poster throughout campus and sending emails to students and house lists. We also presented the magazine in Africa-related undergraduate courses in order to solicit submissions and recruit new staff members. We have received all the submissions to be included in the issue. Each submission was read by at least four staff members; each editor presented opinions on the pieces reviewed and the entire staff voted to accept or reject submissions. So far, we have pieces representing several genres, including poetry, fiction, and research, and we are planning to do a special art section featuring the work of Paul Stopforth, an internationally recognized artist. We have also selected the artwork for the cover. We plan to finalize editing and begin layout and design during reading period and, if necessary, at the beginning of the spring semester. We will be sending the template to the printer in late February, and distributing starting March 7.

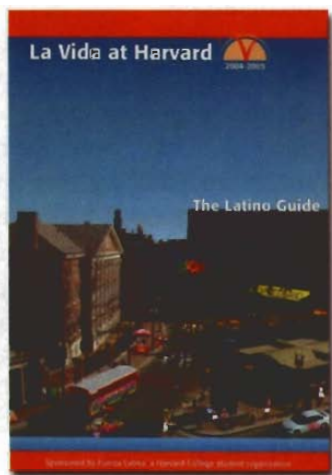
*Mariam Fofana '06*

## Harvard Bulgarian Group (HBG)

### *Bulgarian National Student's Day*

What is "banitza"? How do you dance "horo"? Where exactly is Bulgaria?

As part of the poster for the celebration of the Bulgarian National Student's Day, these questions were a real catch for all those people who had not left the campus days before Christmas, when the Harvard Bulgarian Club prepared Bulgarian cuisine and showed how our antecedents kept their traditions alive by dancing "horo." On a gloomy afternoon, the





surprise came not from the delicious meals and intimate atmosphere in the Owen Room, but from the diversity of students who showed up to try a meal with an impossible-to-pronounce name. The blend of nationalities included representatives of several countries, such as the United States, Germany, Macedonia, and Serbia. After the guests tried the Bulgarian dishes, they joined the members of the Harvard Bulgarian Club in the “horo,” a dance that would be presented to Harvard College at Cultural Rhythms. Students not acquainted with the Bulgarian culture were given handouts with information about the country.

The cultural interaction, however, would have never happened without the help of the Harvard Foundation, which funded the event. The money was used exclusively for the ingredients that were needed for the preparation of the tradition Bulgarian cuisine, which, even if not considered a delicacy in the Balkan country, turned out to be pretty expensive if cooked in the United States. In addition to the extraordinary cuisine, the dances cheered up the attendees. Those who expressed their interest in learning how to dance other variations of “horo” later had the chance to do so,

since the members of the HBG planned to participate in Cultural Rhythms, another event sponsored by the Harvard Foundation.

*Filip Filipov '07*

## Harvard Hong Kong Society (HHKS)

### *Cantonese Cultural Week*

From December 12th to 18th, the Harvard Hong Kong Society successfully held the first Cantonese Cultural Week. During these seven days, the major cultural events included “The Soong Sisters—Movie Screening,” “Career Panel: Working in Hong Kong,” “Games Night,” “Hong Kong through the Lens—An Exhibition,” and “Cultural Panel: Clashing Values and Interest in Cosmopolitan Hong Kong: A Discussion with Professor James Watson (‘Changing Social Identities in Hong Kong’), Professor Rubie Watson (‘Hong Kong’s Old Villages in the Twenty-first Century’), and Dr. Nicole Newendrop (‘Immigration and Social Conflicts in Hong Kong’).” During this week, a variety of Harvard undergraduate groups, roughly 120 formal attendees, have participated

in and benefited from our events. We, as the Cantonese representative organization in Harvard College, have succeeded in bringing Hong Kong as well as Chinese culture to the Harvard community. The Cultural Panel discussion was the most successful event, which attracted not only students in various Harvard institutions, but also professional scholars from all over Boston. In general, all the events were very well publicized, and all received positive feedback from the attendees. It was the first year that Harvard Hong Kong Society held this cultural week, and HHKS really hopes to continue in coming years and make the events ever better!

*Jin Zhou '07*

## Harvard Islamic Society (HIS)

### *Fast-A-Thon*

In an effort to build bridges with other campus organizations, the Harvard Islamic Society hosted a college-wide Fast-A-Thon on November 5th. HIS believes that working with other groups on campus is important in facilitating interfaith and intercultural dialogue and in reaching out to the diverse student population. We invited students from all religious and ethnic backgrounds to fast with us on this day to help raise money for the Save the Children Foundation (which helps people from all religious and ethnic backgrounds). We were able to get over 20 co-sponsoring organizations for this effort, and mounted a massive effort for this event. We had over 600 registrants by the morning of the 5th, when registration for the Fast-a-thon was closed. These 600 students fasted from dawn to dusk on the 5th of November and were invited to a dinner at the end of the day. Harvard University Dining Services (HUDS) donated a certain amount of money to the Save the Children Foundation on



behalf of every student who fasted on this day (the exact amount is still being negotiated). All benefits, therefore, went to the charity. Over 300 Harvard undergraduates attended the dinner that was held in Lowell Dining Hall. Two speakers also spoke at the dinner, Prof. Diana Eck, Lowell House Master, and Taha Abdul-Basser (Ph.D. student in Islamic Studies at Harvard).

Hasan Siddiqi '07

### Harvard Radcliffe Japan Society

#### Japanese Movie Night: Battle Royale Showing

On December 10th, the Harvard Radcliffe Japan Society and the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations co-sponsored a movie showing of the psychological thriller *Battle Royale*, one of the hit films among the recent flood of Japanese film exports to the United States. Based on a novel by Koushun Takami, *Battle Royale* depicts a near-future Japan where civil unrest is commonplace. In this eerily not-too-unfamiliar fictional Japan, the country has suffered a massive recession that has led to an all-time high unemployment rate. As a rebellion against the stifling adult world, hundreds of thousands of Japanese students have rejected the educational system. In order to deal with this problem of juvenile delinquency and the youth's disregard for discipline and order, the Japanese government has decided to take extreme measures: the systematic extermination of teenagers. The method: groups of high school children are systematically kidnapped and brought to a deserted island. They are given weapons, food, and one instruction: to go out and kill each other. The last student standing is allowed back into society. If more than one student survives during the three day event, then every survivor will be killed.

### Harvard RAZA

#### Christ-Mex: A Carlitos Brown Christmas

This year Harvard RAZA's version of the traditional Mexican Posadas was named "Christ-Mex: A Carlitos Brown Celebration." During this event we celebrated Christmas with elements and traditions present in a Mexican observance of the holiday season. Approximately 40 individuals, members and non-members, were present to participate in the festivities. The celebration was characterized with red, white, and green decorations, desserts, music, a piñata, a Secret Snowflake gift exchange - and of course the posada songs. We decorated Adams Conservatory with streamers and Papel Picado. We placed doilies under the homemade centerpieces and sprinkled red and green sparkles on the tables. Everyone had dinner from the Adams Dining Hall and we provided the desserts as well as drinks. Spanish Christmas music played in the background. We had pan dulce (Mexican sweet bread) and flan. For drinks we had atole, which is a warm Mexican drink usually served to children. We had vanilla as well as strawberry flavors. Atole is somewhat like a hot chocolate type of drink, but different. We also had whole milk to go along with the desserts. As soon as everyone was settled down, we sang the Posada song. It is a traditional song that hosts and visitors sing during the Christmas Eve celebrations in preparation for the arrival of baby Jesus. The Secret Snowflake gift exchange followed. All those who signed up to participate in the gift exchange spoke about their recipient and exchanged gifts. It was a very fun-filled event with the biggest highlight being the breaking of the piñata, when everybody became a kid again! The piñata was a Spongebob Squarepants dressed as Santa Claus and was filled with candy. Two people swung the piñata back and forth as

people tried their shot at hitting it while blindfolded.

Muriel Payan '08

### Taiwanese Cultural Society

#### "Naruwan: Welcome to Taiwan" (Taiwan Fair)

"Naruwan!" Jennifer Pan '06 and Benjamin Lee '06 greeted newcomers with a smile, as they welcomed visitors to Boylston Hall's Ticknor Lounge. "Naruwan" is "welcome" in one of Taiwan's many aboriginal languages. This large-scale event welcomed the visitors to "circle" around the island, moving from interactive exhibits on each of the geographical regions in Taiwan, as well as religion, aboriginal culture, traditional arts, and pop culture. Participants smiled at the newest Jay Chao pop hits, tried their hand at puppets, tasted "uo wa jian" (oyster omelets), raffled for prizes by answering questions posed at each booth, and learned their futures through authentic fortunes originally told at the famous Matsu temple of Lu Gang. Though each exhibit was designed to entice the students—with food if necessary—to move on from the last, "Naruwan: Welcome to Taiwan" was a leisurely experience; many students came in around 2 p.m. and somehow managed to stay all three hours that Saturday afternoon.

Funded by the Harvard Foundation and Undergraduate Council and well publicized to other Taiwanese-American student organizations in the Boston area, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, and the *World Journal*, the event was free to all and drew many participants from beyond the Harvard community. Anticipating over 120 participants, TCS had no trouble packing the room with longtime members of the Taiwanese student community at Harvard, including students from Harvard Medical School, non-Asian



American students on campus—especially those who happened to study Romance languages and other fields in Boylston Hall—and older members of the Cambridge community. We were honored by a visit from the local TECO representative and a reporter from the *World Journal*; coverage of the event was published the next day. The general praise from all visitors was that “Naruwan: Welcome to Taiwan” had taught them more than they ever knew about Taiwan—undeserved praise, when it was they, the participants, who did all the hard work.

*Michelle Yang '07*

### Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association (AAA)

#### *Feast: A Cultural Extravanga*

On December 11th, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association hosted “Feast: A Cultural Extravanga”—Harvard’s only pan-Asian celebration of the year—in the Lowell Dining Hall, in coordination with a myriad of other ethnic organizations and cultural performance groups on campus. As one of AAA’s signature events, “Feast” was designed to showcase the many different cultural activities and culinary delights across Asia.

Starting with a buffet-style meal, participants got to savor the many different flavors of Asia before settling down to an evening of artistic performances. The various tasty Asian dishes were provided by the

Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association, South Asian Association, Taiwanese Cultural Society, Korean Association, Harvard Philippines Forum, and Harvard Vietnamese Association. Performers included the Asian American Dance Troupe, Bhangra, Chinese Yo-Yo Club, Harvard Wushu Club, and Harvard Breakers Organization. In addition to food and entertainment, participants were also able to sign up and learn more about any one of the numerous activities showcased during the event.

Overall, the event was an overwhelming success, drawing approximately 200 attendees of different ethnicities. Not only did “Feast” provide a chance for the many Asian ethnic organizations to work together, it also presented an opportunity for the Harvard community, and others, to realize and enjoy the multi-faceted nature of Asian cuisine and artistic expression. Through creative events such as this, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association is committed to spreading and strengthening awareness and understanding of various ethnic cultures within and beyond the Harvard undergraduate community.

*Nat Sakdatorn '05*

### Harvard Thai Society

#### *Thai Cooking Workshop*

The Harvard Thai Society hosted its semi-annual cooking workshop this year on the evening of November 30th. In contrast to last year, we decided to have the workshop at Loker Commons because we would like more people (and from diverse backgrounds) to participate. We also made a minor change to the dish we exhibited. Originally, our top choice was Drunken Noodle but after considering the practical aspects and what Harvard students like, we decided to go for a milder Thai noodle salad. This exquisite dish is one of the most

adaptable, innovative, and dynamic dishes of Thai food. As expected, the attendees seemed to thoroughly enjoy mixing and matching various ingredients such as the Thai exotic noodles and life-packed, multi-colored, and crisp vegetables. Some more adventurous attendants even added our sharp, fragrant dressings from various Thai spices ranging from tamarind puree to Thai chilies.

*Weerawat Runguphan '06*

### Harvard Radcliffe Chinese Students Association (CSA)

#### *Chinese Pop Culture Night*

At our event, we had three tables set up where people could play (or learn to play) Mahjong. This was frequented quite often as many people had to wait in line to get a turn. Most people could be found at the food booth where we served three different types of bubble tea (Jasmine, Regular and Rose). We also had many different type of pastries that we cut up so each person could try more than one. These included egg tarts, red bean balls, and sponge cake. The Karaoke Machine was set up in the background so that people who weren’t eating or playing Mahjong could sing or watch other people sing and make fun of themselves. Many people commented that the event was a great study break, while others inquired how to get more involved with CSA.

*Alex Lee '06*







### Harvard Radcliffe Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society

#### *Marten Goose*

The Harvard Radcliffe Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society had its Marten Goose roast the Monday of Thanksgiving Weekend in the Kirkland Senior Common Room. We had anticipated a turnout of approximately 20-25 students, and had a turnout of over double that. Thankfully, with a lot of difficult carving, everyone left with a sample of goose. We were very, very pleased with the turnouts we have had at our events. Members of the group baked two geese for the event. We also served pickled herring, chocolate balls, cinnamon rolls, and apple pies. We planned to serve black soup, but we couldn't find the ingredients. We also planned to serve boiled potatoes, but they somehow exploded in the pot (don't ask me, I didn't cook them). The cultural presence was good, although not as strong as it could have been. Our President was the one who knew by far the most about the significance of the event, but was unable to attend. Still, the rest of us were able to answer most of the questions people asked about it. We also played popular Scandinavian music, and hung flags around the room. Overall, the event was quite successful, although next year we'd like to have more types of food and more food in general. Based on the turnout we received for this event, hopefully that will be possible.

*Karin Johnsson '06*

### Harvard Wushu Club

#### *Fall Semester Instructor and Equipment*

With the help of funding from the Harvard Foundation, the Wushu Club was able to successfully complete its scheduled fall semester programming. Most of the grant went towards bringing in our coach, Sifu Rick Wong, from Medford each Saturday to teach class. His expertise in different styles of Wushu helped elevate the club to a higher level. On top of being open to the Harvard community, our club performed in AAA's Feast and planned to perform in many different events in the spring, such as the Foundation's Cultural Rhythms.

Fall semester funding also went towards subsidizing the purchase of shoes, shirts, and staffs that will stay with the club. Intermediate members started learning weapons this semester, and staff was the natural first choice.

Wushu is the practice of contemporary Chinese martial arts. Although many people do not recognize the word "Wushu," the vast majority have seen it popularized in movies through Wushu athletes Jet Li and Jackie Chan.

In recent years, Wushu's emphasis has shifted from combat to performance, stressing flexibility, form, and speed. Still, every movement must exhibit sensible combat applications. It is widely practiced for the benefit of health, self-defense skills, mental discipline, recreational pursuit, and competition.

Harvard Wushu was started by a handful of students who wanted to see the sport represented at Harvard with the hope of setting a precedent for other east coast universities.

*Jeremy Chang '06*

### Korean Association (KA)

#### *Documentary Night: "Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women"*

On October 31st, the Korean Association received a grant of \$100 for *Documentary Night: "Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women,"* an event planned to increase the general awareness of the issue regarding Korean comfort women during the Japanese invasion. The event took place on November 9th, at Fong Auditorium with the help of about ten undergraduate KA members and hosted about 40 students in total. The documentary showing was followed by an audience discussion regarding the issue and also general topics regarding Korean culture. The brief of the discussion was given by Prof. David McCann, faculty advisor to this event. We did not receive any money from the Student Activities Office, so we were only granted \$200 in total (\$100 from Harvard Foundation and \$100 from the UC). We did manage to host the event with \$200, using the grants on tech support and delicious Korean breads, snacks, and drinks. Thank you very much for the support in increasing awareness of issues such as comfort women in Korea and Korean society in general, for the general undergraduate population.

### Native Americans at Harvard College (NAHC)

#### *All Ivy Native American Student Summit*

On November 5th - 7th, Native Americans at Harvard College hosted the First Annual All Ivy Native American Student Summit (AINSS). NAHC is a member of the Native American Ivy League organization, the Ivy Native Council. NAHC was happy and proud to host the All Ivy Native American Student Summit. Students

from every Ivy League school except Princeton attended. AINSS opened with a Welcome Brunch, where NAHC honored Dr. Lisa Brooks (Abenaki), currently Harvard College's only Native American female professor, as NAHC Role Model of the Year. Co-organizer Erica Scott '06 (Lenape) welcomed the students to the event, while Leah Lussier '07 (Red Lake Ojibwe) delivered a greeting in her Native language of Anishinaabe. Carmen Lopez Ed.M. '01 (Navajo), Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program, also spoke about Harvard College's history with American Indians. The 1650 Charter of Harvard College called for "the education of English and Indian Youth" and 2005 marks the 350th anniversary of the Harvard Indian College, which was located where Matthews Hall currently stands. AINSS also provided NAHC and other Ivy League Natives with academic, professional, and social networking opportunities. AINSS ended on Saturday night with a Native Social, featuring drumming and dancing along with a barbeque feast for all. The First Annual AINSS at Harvard University was truly a success, with greater than anticipated attendance. NAHC thanks the Harvard Foundation, UC, HUNAP, and the Ann Radcliffe Trust for funding.

*Erica Scott '06*

## **Society of Arab Students (SAS)**

### ***Manakeesh Night***

The event was a tremendous success. We held the event in the Quincy Junior Common Room. People mingled while Arabic music played in the background. We were unable to make our own food as hoped because we were unable to acquire a kitchen facility near the venue. However, we purchased traditional food. Hummus and bread,

lentil salad, a mashed eggplant dish, and grape leaves were only some of the many foods available for consumption. People stayed and mingled for hours while enjoying the food. The room was quite full for most of the evening. Many members brought their friends for a taste of the culture. One of the members of the club invited Barbara Bodine who graciously spent well over an hour at the event. During her time at the event she talked to a circle of students that had formed around her. She told stories about her time as a staff member in Baghdad. She talked of her harrowing experience at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion, during which she gained notoriety for inventiveness and courage. She also talked about her time as Ambassador to Yemen. She was a great guest to have at our event. The event lasted for approximately two and a half hours. It was certainly a great success, as there was a great mix between non-members and members of the club. Those in attendance had great food, had the opportunity to learn from a well respected Ambassador, and in general had a great time.

## **South Asian Association (SAA)**

### ***Tabla Lessons***

The Harvard South Asian Association has been offering tabla lessons for the past two semesters and the biggest problem we ran into was the lack of tablas. The tabla is a set of two drums to be played by the hands, and is a very popular instrument in South Asia. The grant money was used to buy tablas for SAA, so that the students can have one during lessons every year. These tablas will then be passed on to the next SAA students learning tabla. The instructor, Sandeep Swadia, is incredibly talented, and learned from a very famous and renowned tabla master Ustad Zakir Hussain, who plays tabla in the local



band Karyshma. He split the class into two sections, one for beginners and one for more advanced students, so that everyone was welcomed. It was clear from the dedication of the students in the class, who practiced outside of lessons for many hours a week, that they were really inspired by the lessons, and truly enjoyed them.

*Gayatri Datar '07*

## **Harvard Spoken Word Society (SWS)**

### ***"Word" an open mic event***

In addition to hosting weekly writing workshops, the Spoken Word Society put on open mic events that were open to the entire Harvard community. The events were free of charge, not ticketed, and included free samosas and refreshments for all who attended. This year as in years past, we drew over two hundred students to the Kirkland JCR to hear their fellow students perform their original writings, eat samosas and meet friends, new and old. This fall's open mic incorporated more traditional, beautiful spoken word pieces with other innovative, impressive poetry, and overall it was a huge success. More than 20 students performed, some of whom had signed up in advance, and some of whom decided only minutes before; some performers were members of spoken word who come weekly to workshops, and others were those who write on their own. The performances spanned a range of styles, topics, and even languages, but one thing that was consistent was the honesty and quality



of the students' expression.

While planning for this event, the Spoken Word Society decided to do something a little different, by inviting poet Simone Felice from New York to come and perform. He performed in the middle of the reading for about 20 minutes, and gave the audience an interesting and exciting performance. It was great to get a visiting voice into the reading, and SWS hopes to do this again.

Altogether, the reading was a beautiful image of what Harvard can be. The audience was a mix of all the classes, and many countries, concentrations and backgrounds, who supported and encouraged all the performers who came from their midst. Those who took the mic were as varied as the audience. Some read for the first time, and were veterans, known for their distinctive styles, power and humor. The reading was one of our longest, lasting for almost three hours, but everyone had a great time and left with ideas and the voices of poets ringing in their heads.

*Rebecca Chase '07*

## **The Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers (HSBSE)**

### ***Mentorship Luncheon***

The Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers (HSBSE) held an annual Mentorship Luncheon in order to foster an interactive environment where students could build meaningful relationships with professionals in their fields of interest. This year's luncheon was a huge success. Approximately 60 undergraduates were in attendance. Many students have commented on how they appreciated the strength and caliber of the minority professionals who attended the luncheon. Each professional met with a group of students who were interested in his or her field of study. They then discussed

the advantages and disadvantages of their careers and ways in which they succeed despite a multitude of obstacles that seem to obstruct everyone's path to success. This meeting enabled each student to choose his or her career more wisely. It also showed students that a career in the sciences is attainable. After the group meetings, a keynote speaker presented his thoughts to everyone to conclude the luncheon. Although this luncheon was undoubtedly successful in providing students with information pertinent to the science and their science-related careers, one day of advising is not nearly adequate to foster relationships. Many students plan to keep in contact with these mentors for further advising in the future.

## **Woodbridge Society**

### ***Barazas***

Woodbridge Society has a long tradition of hosting study breaks called "barazas" (Swahili for "open house"), with culturally themed food. The barazas offer an excellent opportunity for students to come and socialize, unwind and enjoy food from different cultures from all over the world. The barazas have evolved into a nexus for senior international students and their roommates who became good friends during the First-year International Program (FIP) program and other Woodbridge events.

The first baraza featured Chinese food and music and was attended by roughly 30-40 students in the Strauss Common Room.

The second baraza served a dual purpose of FIP reunion and again, we had food and drinks in the Strauss Common Room. This time we enjoyed Mexican food and culture and the event was attended by 35-45 people, mainly freshmen who were eager to meet their friends from FIP (September 2004). We also had the Freshman Representative election so that the class of '08 can be

represented on the Woodbridge Board and gain experience for when they will one day head the society.

We had a third baraza during reading period. It was a social gathering of friends and interested parties with exotic food and multilingual students in attendance to break the monotony of reading period.



## Uppsala University of Sweden: President and Scholars Visit

*Professor Doctor Bo Sundqvist, president of Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden, and a delegation of ten top administrators and faculty from Uppsala University visited Harvard in November. The purpose of the visit was to study various Harvard programs including the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the School of Government, and the Medical School. President Sundqvist and his delegation were welcomed by a number of Harvard faculty and students, including Professor Göran Ekström (top left), FAS Dean William Kirby (top center), Harvard College Dean Benedict Gross (top right), Professor James McCarthy (middle left), Ms. Carmen Lopez, head of the Harvard University Native American Program (middle center), Maria Troien '07 (middle right), Professor Scott Edwards (bottom left), Professor Donald Pfister (bottom center), and Professor Stuart Shieber (bottom right). Dean Benedict Gross spoke with the delegation about a variety of educational initiatives at Harvard including the general education curriculum and the curricular review.*

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**THE HARVARD FOUNDATION**

Harvard University  
7 Thayer Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
[harvfoun@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:harvfoun@fas.harvard.edu)  
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~harvfoun>