Number 4 WWW.HARVARD-LA.ORG (310) 546-5252 APRIL 2016

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, April 17, 2016 @ 3:00 P.M. Science Pub Series #8 - Celebrating our Planet **Location:** Dupar's Restaurant and Bakery (Pasadena)

\$30 per person Cost:

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 @ 6:00 P.M. instaHarvard Los Angeles: A Grad Mixer

The Wellesbourne - Game Room (Los Angeles)

Cash Bar Cost:

Saturday, April 30, 2016 @ 4:00 P.M. Private Wine Tasting at Villa Wine Bar & Kitchen

**Location:** Villa Wine Bar and Kitchen (Santa Barbara) \$50 per person (limited to 10 people)

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 @ 5:30 P.M. Friends of Harvard Football Dinner - With Coach Tim Murphy

**Location:** Jonathan Club, The Library (Los Angeles) Cost: \$250 includes Harvard Football Nike workout

gear; \$150 classes of 2009 and prior;

\$75, classes of 2010 - 2016

Sunday, May 22, 2016 @ 5:30 P.M. 2016 Harvard Club Annual Dinner and Awards

**Location:** UCLA Faculty Center (Los Angeles)

Cost: **TBA** 

Friday-Sunday, November 4-6, 2016 Harvard Women's Weekend - Save the Date!

**Location:** Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)

Registration required Cost:

Please visit www.Harvard-LA.org for a complete list of upcoming events and to register

## Follow the HCSC







facebook.com/groups/harvardsocal twitter.com/harvardsocal instagram.com/harvardsocal

### Sunday, May 22, 2016:



### **Annual Membership** Meeting and Awards Dinner

You are invited to attend the annual membership meeting and awards dinner. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of three incredible members of our local community: Rabbi Marvin Hier, Anthony Yom, and Daniel Medina AB '79, MBA '83. Musical entertainment will be provided in addition to good food and great company.



The 2016 John Harvard Award for Distinguished Service to the Community will be presented to **Rabbi** Marvin Hier. In 1977, Rabbi Marvin Hier founded the Simon Wiesenthal Center, named in honor of famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal. Under his leadership, the Center and its museum have become one of the foremost

Jewish human rights agencies in the world. In 2007 and 2008, Newsweek magazine named him the "Most Influential Rabbi in America."

The Center's educational arm, the Museum of Tolerance, opened in February 1993 to worldwide acclaim. Founded to challenge visitors to confront bigotry and racism and to understand the Holocaust in both historic and contemporary contexts, the Museum hosts 350,000 visitors a year, including 130,000 school students.

Rabbi Hier is the only rabbi who is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and is the recipient of two Academy Awards®, for "Genocide" and "The Long Way Home." The Center's

Continued on next page

### 2016 Annual Dinner and Awards, Continued from previous page

film division, Moriah Films, has produced fifteen documentaries, which have been viewed by tens of millions of people around the world.



The 2016 Educator of the Year Award will be presented to **Anthony Yom**, math teacher at Abraham Lincoln High School, a public school in Lincoln Heights. The majority of families of students at Lincoln High are low-income and 20 percent are English-language learners. For the past three years, all of the students in his AP Calculus class have passed the exam. Last May, 17 of his 21 students

received the highest score, including one who scored a perfect exam. Of the 302,531 students who took the exam, only 12 scored a perfect exam. Mr. Yom was recently featured in the Los Angeles Times and on NPR; Mr. Yom received his B.A. from UC Irvine and M.Ed (TEP '06 / PLI '09) from UCLA.



The Fred Smith Award for Outstanding Service to the Harvard Club of Southern California will be presented to **Daniel A. Medina AB '79, MBA '83**, who has served as Vice President for the Schools and Scholarship Committee since 2011. Under his leadership, the Club's Schools and Scholarship Committee coordinates over 600 alumni interviewers, who each year meet with over 2,400 applicants to the college. Dan also served as President of

the Club from 2010 through 2012, and Vice President for Membership and Communications. He and his wife, Laura Martin MBA '83, also an alumni interviewer, have three children, Andy, Laura, and Ali. Dan works at Needham & Company, LLC, where he publishes research on the largest internet and entertainment companies.

### Club Dinner Details:

**Date:** Sunday, May 22, 2016

**Time**: 5:30 p.m

**Place:** UCLA Faculty Center, 480 Charles E. Young Drive East,

Los Angeles, CA 90095

Cost: TBA

**Register:** http://www.Harvard-LA.org

**Contact:** Eva Plaza, Eplaza@gerardfoxlaw.com



### Inter-Ivy Art Exhibition, Discussion, and Reception

On Saturday, February 27, over 40 alumni from Harvard, Yale and

Dartmouth gathered for the special Inter-Ivy Exhibition, Discussion and Reception at the CB1 Gallery in Los Angeles to learn about the art career of Gil Cuatrecases, Harvard '57 and Yale School of Art '59.

### HARVARD CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

#### **OFFICERS**

**President** Kay Park, MD, AB '87

Executive Vice President Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81

Vice Presidents Programs Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89 Lisa Watanabe-Peagler AB '02

Vice Presidents Communications Jonathan Aibel AB '91 Steven M. Arkow AB '84

Vice Presidents Finance/Financial Aid William G. Glass MBA '59 Aaron J. Wilson AB '03

*Vice Presidents Schools* Daniel A. Medina AB '79, MBA '83 Eva Plaza AB '80

Vice Presidents Orange County Elizabeth Gillis AB '82 A. J. Rogers, MD '79

Vice Presidents Membership James Low PLDA '09 George B. Newhouse AB '76

*Vice Presidents Radcliffe* Beverlee Bickmore AB '64, MPA '74 Isabelle I. Fox AB '47

Vice Presidents Education Priscilla Heim AB '52 JoAnn McKenna AB '65

German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09

Past President
Albert Chang, MD, AB '63

*HAA Regional Director* Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Harvard College Recent Graduates Tomi Adeyemi AB '15 Lindsay Louie AB '11

Asian-Americans Outreach John Wang AB '88 Kay Park, MD, AB '87

Prize Book Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89

Latino Graduates Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84 Gus Frias EdM '94

Early College Awareness Gus Frias EdM '94 John Wang AB '88

### **CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE**

Terry Nathan (310) 546-5252, email: HarvardSoCal@gmail.com

This newsletter accepts items for publication. Materials must be submitted by the 12th of the prior month to appear in the following newsletter. Please include a phone number or email address with all submissions. Email submissions to: HarvardSoCal@gmail.com

### RECENT EVENTS...



Left to right - front row: Kaleen Blue Bottle Coffee lead barista - 2nd row: Lisa Choi AB '04; Guest of Lisa Choi; Madeleine Mejia Ed.M.'00; Karen Newman; Stephen Newman AB '92; Brooke Fredric, Loran Fredric AB '03 Back row: Timothy Whang, Samantha Go AB '11; Guest of David Eldan, David Eldan AB '89; Zachary Rosenthal AB '09

# **Harvard Tours Blue Bottle Coffee Roastery in the LA Arts District**

On Saturday, February 13, a group of Harvard alumni met at Blue Bottle Coffee Roastery in downtown LA's Arts District for a private tour of the roastery and a cupping (tasting) class. Our lead barista Kaleen was extremely knowledgeable about the coffee brewing process and shared with the group how Blue Bottle establishes and maintains partnerships with farmers from all over the world, how different coffees are selected daily, and how quality measures are put in place so all other baristas can replicate the fine coffee flavors for each particular roast. We also learned how Blue Bottle roasts their many coffee beans using vintage gear. Our tour ended with a cupping experience, and Kaleen selected a few different types of coffee roasts and flavors and brewed them in front of us in cups. Water temperatures were checked, timers were

used, and we experienced the rich flavors of these finest and responsibly sourced beans. A special thanks goes out to Rose Hogan AB '12, who helped organize this event.



From left to right: Kay Park '87, Jeannie Park (Wellesley), Councilmember David Ryu, Jay Chen '00

# **Lunar New Year Dinner with Wellesley and MIT Clubs**

On Feb. 22, Harvard, Wellesley and MIT alumni celebrated a Lunar New Year dinner, ushering in the Year of the Fire Monkey at Genwa, a Korean barbecue restaurant in mid-Wilshire. The guest speaker was Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, who represents District 4 and is the first Korean American and second Asian American to serve on the Los Angeles City Council. Councilmember Ryu spoke about his election campaign, first running

as an outsider against 13 other candidates during the primary, and then winning by a landslide 9% in a runoff. Councilman Ryu also answered questions about his plans for addressing the city's homeless problem, dealing with developers, and mitigating the impact of construction along Wilshire Blvd. on businesses.



Front row (from left): Dinah Touny JD '03; Krav Maga coach; Madeleine Mejia Ed.M '00; Liane Johnson MBA '88 Back row: Sean Po AB '12; Mickic Vojislav AB '99; John Wang AB' 88; Joyce Cao SM '12; Madison Greer AB '13; June Vayo AB '78, AM '81, GSA '90; Alain Koyama SM '11, SD '15; Jeff Loi SM '07 Not pictured: Micheal Ryan JD '70 and Matthew Temple AB '86

# Discover Your City: Get Fit with Krav Maga

A second event in our Discover Your City: Get Fit series included learning some Krav Maga self-defense moves. On Saturday, February 27, a group of 15 Harvard alumni endured a one-hour long class in the Alliance Culver City studio. Through a series of coached mini-sessions, we learned how to properly use a stance (left foot forward), throw quick punches impulsed by hip actions (while protecting the face), and kick with enough force to defeat an opponent. It was a great class, intense, active and it went by very quickly. In the end, our group was a little tired, but it was a good kind of tired. "I had a blast!" said Michael Ryan JD '70. Matthew Temple commented: "I thought the class was great! I tweeted about the Krav Maga class this morning and mentioned @HarvardSoCal."



Picture left to right Bottom row: Lindsay Louie AB '12, Madeleine Mejia EDM. '00; Denise Payan AB '08, MPP '10; Alain Koyama SM '13, SD '15; Daniel Payan AB '08, MPP '10.

Back row: Taryn Kurcz, AB '13; Suzanne Guy AB '02; Justine Plaut AB '13; Mirla Urzua AB '07; Dinah Touney JD '03; Jennifer Wang, AB '15

### Harvard Club at The Price is Right

On Sunday, March 6, a group of Harvard alumni from across the college and graduate schools attended a taping of The Price is Right: College Rival edition. Our group was seated up front right next to George Gray, one of the show's announcers. During the first round, Lindsay Louie AB '12 was called to "Come on Down!" and represent Harvard against Princeton. Lindsay represented Harvard well and made it to the showcase showdown. During one of the short breaks, Drew Carey approached our section and spoke to some members from our group. After a six-hour day in the CBS studios, our hands were red from all the clapping and our cheeks hurt from all the smiling, but overall the group had a great time: "This was such a fun event!" said Jennifer Wang AB '15; and Justine Plaut AB '13 added: "I had a great time, it was great to meet other alums and I look forward to attending more events soon."



Pictured left to right: Guest of Alain Koyama; Madison Greer AB '13; Connie Chung MUP '03; Sandy Chung MAR '04; Gary Vinant-Tan, ALB '85 Patricia Tang; Alain Koyama SM '11, SD '15; Not pictured: Madeleine Mejia, Ed.M. '00

# Discover Your City: Get Fit — Vasquez Rocks Hike

On Saturday, March 12, Harvard Club members explored the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park, a desert locale known for its striking rock formations which have been seen in several films and television shows. The 5 mile hike traversed a variety of changing scenery, including the famous rock formations, grassy meadows, along canyon walls, and through a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. This event is part of the Discover Your City: Get Fit event series, aimed at encouraging alumni to get out and explore Los Angeles through fitness oriented events. Be on the lookout for more events coming soon.



Pictured left to right: Dawn Hudson AB '77, Derrick Ashong AB '97, GSA '09, Ajarae Coleman AB '02, and Harvard Kennedy School Professor, Timothy Patrick McCarthy AB '93

# Alumni Talk: Why Are The Oscars Still So White?

On Monday, March 14, about 80 alumni and guests attended a panel discussion, "Why Are the Oscars So White?: The Politics of Race and Representation in Hollywood" led by Harvard Professor and Program Director of the Carr Center for Human Right Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, Timothy Patrick McCarthy AB '93. The event was held downtown at The Los Angeles Theatre Center. Panelists included Dawn Hudson AB '77, CEO of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Derrick N. Ashong AB '97, GSA '09 musician and activist/entrepreneur and Ajarae Coleman AB '02, actress and entrepre-

neur. The panelists discussed their experiences and views on how to address the lack of diversity and opportunity at all levels of the entertainment industry and took questions from the audience. The program is part of The A.R.T. of Human Rights, a collaboration between the American Repertory Theater and the Carr Center, aimed at using the arts and the humanities in public conversations.



### 2016-2017 CLUB ELECTION SLATE

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Club By-Laws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following nominations for officers and directors of the Harvard Club of Southern California for the year 2016-2017:

Title Name

**OFFICERS:** 

President Steven M. Arkow AB '84

Executive VP Marsha J. Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81

VP Programs Madeleine Mejia EdM '00

VP Programs Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89 VP Programs Lisa Watanabe-Peagler AB '02

VP Finance John Wang AB '88
VP Finance Aaron Wilson AB '03

VP Schools Daniel A. Medina AB '79, MBA '83

VP Schools

VP Orange County

VP Orange County

VP Communications

VP Communications

VP Membership

Eva Plaza AB '80

Elizabeth Gillis AB '82

A.J. Rogers MD '79

Jonathan R. Aibel AB '91

Patric M. Verrone AB '81

James Low MBA '09

VP Membership George B. Newhouse, Jr. AB '76
VP Radcliffe Beverlee Bickmore AB '64, MPA '74

VP Radcliffe Isabelle I. Fox AB '47

VP Education Priscilla Smith Heim AB '52
VP Education Ethel Seminario-Laczko GSE '84

Secretary German A. Enciso, HMS Research Fellow '07-'09

Past President Kay L. Park, MD, AB '87

**Term Ending 2017** 

Director William Glass MBA '59
Director Karen Hernandez MBA '00
Director Maurice Levin AB '79, MBA '84

Director Casey Lough ALM '12 Director Russell Riopelle AB '86

Director Maia Williams-Verrone AB '84

**Term Ending 2018** 

Director Ethan Brown, JD '96
Director Chi H. Bui DMD '02
Director Albert Chang, MD, AB '63
Director Lindsay Louie AB '11
Director E. Dryden Pence III AB '82
Director Kenneth S. Williams AB '78

**Term Ending 2019 DIRECTORS:** 

Director Tomi Adeyemi AB '15
Director Dino Barajas JD '93
Director Gus Frias, EdM '94

Director Herbert D. Goldman MD, AB '76

Director Ed Ogosta MAR '01 Director Kevin Wegener MBA '08 This slate of candidates has been approved by the Board of Directors. All candidates are running unopposed. On or before April 15, 2016, any 25 or more active members of the Club are entitled to file with the Club Secretary a nomination of any other eligible member for any office. The Ballot will be sent out with the May Newsletter. Members may vote for every candidate on the Election Slate should they choose to do so.

**Note:** Applicants for the Harvard Club of Southern California Board of Directors are welcome. Please write to Albert Chang, chair of the Nominations Committee, AlbertChang@charter.net

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# April 2016 is Harvard's Global Month of Service — Get Involved! — Volunteer Opportunites

Whatever your skill, and wherever your neighborhood, we've got a volunteer activity for you. Each listing below includes a description of volunteer activities available, along with a date/time (if available), and person to contact. If you have any difficulty please contact Lindsay Louie at lindsay.louie.21@gmail.com.



### Cabrillo Ivy League Mentorship Program (http://lbcabrillo.schoolloop.com/)

When: Last Thursday of each month, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Where: Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90810

Contact: Ethel Laczko, 626-429-3138 or etheledu@yahoo.com

Need speakers in different fields to speak and mentor High School students interested in attending Ivy League Schools.

### Community Lawyers, Inc. (www.community-lawyers.org)

When: Throughout April and beyond

Where: 1216 East Compton Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221

Contact: Rosa Hirji, rosa@rkhlawoffice.com

Provides low and moderate-income people access to affordable legal services and develops innovative opportunities for attorneys and law students in underserved communities. CLI is located in Compton, CA and serves many Spanish speak-

ing clients in and around Los Angeles in such areas of law as family law, immigration law, and landlord-tenant law. Outreach to the greater L.A. community for fundraising and support is always needed and appreciated.



### Global Education, Peru (www.globaled.us)

When: Dates per consultation of volunteers and coordinator

Contact: Ethel Seminario-Laczko at 626-429-3138 or etheledu@yahoo.com

The program's purpose is to teach literacy in English to children from "barriadas" so they can become part of globalization process. This program runs in Lima, Peru. There is a need for fundraising, reading to students in English, transporting books, implementing technology to present a more current program. We also train local teachers in" best practices" and teaching to standards.



### **Harvard Tutors in the Schools**

When: One hour or more/week during school year. Time of day: TBD. Where: 32nd St. USC Magnet School, 840 32nd St., Los Angeles

Contact: Priscilla Heim at 310-472-4478 or priheim@verizon.net

Alumni are invited to tutor children K - 12 in all subjects. A knowledge of your subject and an understanding of children is helpful.



#### Los Angeles Conservancy x Los Angeles Chinatown (https://www.laconservancy.org/chinatown)

When: Sunday, April 17, 2016

Where: 727 N. Broadway Suite 208; Los Angeles, CA 90012

Contact: Shirley Zhang; 213-680-0243; xszhang@chinatownla.com

The Los Angeles Conservancy is a nonprofit membership organization that works through education and advocacy to recognize, preserve, and revitalize the historic architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County.



RELAY

### OC Animal Care (http://ocpetinfo.com/)

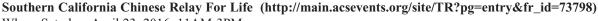
When: Throughout April

Where: 561 The City Drive South, Orange, CA. 92868

Contact: Chi Bui; orthochi@yahoo.com

OC Animal Care strives to save the lives of all healthy, treatable and manageable dogs and cats in our community. To reach that goal, we host monthly adoption events and promote our animals online. In addition, we work very

closely with our non-profit rescue adoption partners, other local animal shelters and our volunteer foster caretakers. We are also fortunate to have the support of Noble Friends Foundation for OC Animal Care who fundraises on our behalf.



When: Satuday, April 23, 2016; 11AM-3PM

Where: 350 S. McPherrin Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754

Contact: Vivian Chan, 2vivianchan@gmail.com

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement is the world's largest and most impactful fundraising event to end cancer. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved

ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. With the support of thousands of volunteers like you, the American Cancer Society is helping save more than 500 lives a day. Please join us and take action against a disease that has taken too much!

# Science Pub Series #8 - Celebrating our Planet



Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016

**Time:** 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

**Location:** Dupar's Restaurant & Bakery (Pasadena)

Cost: \$25 per person

Contact: German Enciso, enciso@uci.edu

Celebrate Earth Day with Dr. Chris Field AB '75, Harvard Overseer, Director of Global Ecology at Carnegie Science; and Dr. Katherine Mach AB '04, Senior Research Associate at Carnegie Science's Department of Global Ecology.



# Private Wine Tasting at Villa Wine Bar and Kitchen

The Harvard Club of Santa Barbara (HCSB) has reserved a closed-door wine tasting at Villa Wine Bar and Kitchen. Join us as we sample wines and appetizers in an event organized jointly with the Harvard Club of Santa Barbara.

# Limited to 10 people. Please register before this sells out!

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2016

**Time:** 4:00 P.M.

**Location:** Villa Wine Bar/Kitchen (Santa Barbara)

Cost: \$50 per person
Contact: Madeleine Mejia,

Madeleine Mejia@post.harvard.edu

# instaHarvard Los Angeles:



# A Grad Mixer for all alumni of the Graduate & Professional Schools

Come join us as we come together for the first annual instaHarvard Los Angeles. This event is designed to bring together alumni from all twelve graduate and professional schools that make up one Harvard.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

**Location:** The Wellbourne (Los Angeles)

**Cost:** Cash Bar

Contact: Madeleine Mejia,

Madeleine Mejia@post.harvard.edu



## 2016 Friends of Harvard Football Dinner With Coach Tim Murphy

Join the Thomas Stephenson Family, Head Coach for Harvard Football Tim Murphy, and fellow Harvard football alums, friends and fans for this special dinner co-hosted by the Harvard Club of Southern California and Friends of Harvard Football. 2015 Ivy Championship Review - Update on Class of 2020 Recruits - 2016 Season Preview and more!

**Date**: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

**Time**: 6:30 P.M.

**Location:** Jonathan Club (Los Angeles)

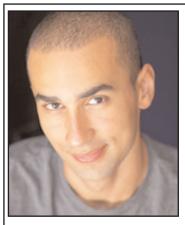
**Cost:** \$250 per person (includes Nike Workout

Gear); \$150, classes of 2009 and prior;

\$75, 2010-2016

Contact: Kelsey Curtis, kcurtis@fas.harvard.edu

Kelsey Conrad, kconrad@fas.harvard.edu



# Q&A from 02138... Camden Alexander McRae '16

**Camden Alexander McRae '16**, resident of Eliot (off-campus), a psychology concentrator, graduated from Harvard-Westlake School in 2012 in Los Angeles.

In high school, Camden was the captain and MVP of the junior varsity basketball team twice, played varsity basketball, and was head of the Peer Tutoring program. After being accepted into Harvard in December of his senior year, he was asked to be a member of the Harvard varsity team. Although he was "incredibly excited about the opportunity to fulfill one of my lifelong dreams," he eventually decided not to play "to have more time to focus on my classes and other interests on campus."

At Harvard, he kept up with basketball and was the captain of the club basketball team for the past three years, as well as being involved with the Harvard Black Men's Forum and its David Walker Scholars mentoring program for middle school children. Camden also has been involved with the Harvard College European Society, the Harvard Sports Analytics Collective, has been a leader of the Harvard Chapter of the Coaching Corps national organization, and has been a researcher in Professor Daniel Gilbert's Lab on affective forecasting.

Related to his studying psychology and happiness, Camden wrote a paper about the use of gratitude therapies and techniques to improve outcomes for various clinical disorders (primarily depressive and mood disorders), as well as less severe emotional distress. He highlighted techniques such as gratitude journaling and gratitude letters, and favorably compared these methods (in terms of price, side effects, and availability) to more popular treatments such as medication and therapy.

This past summer, Camden worked as a legal intern for WME-IMG, a major sports and entertainment agency, in its New York office, where he learned about contract law and creative development. As a result of his experience, he wants to pursue a career in sports law and business. His father is Marcellus McRae HLS '88, a former federal prosecutor and counsel in the recent Vergara lawsuit involving a child's right to education and teacher tenure in California.

### HCSC: How did you spend your last summer?

**CAM:** The majority of my summer was spent in New York working at WME-IMG. I was also fortunate enough to be able to travel with my family in Europe for a few weeks after my internship ended, specifically in London, Madrid, and Barcelona.

### HCSC: What surprised you about being a student at Harvard?

**CAM:** I was definitely surprised at how I developed such close relationships with my professors and got the opportunity to work with them on a lot of papers and projects, in addition to getting to know them well personally. Before starting classes at Harvard, I heard a lot about how there were so many big classes and that most of our interactions would be with teaching assistants, so I was very excited about being able to create these relationships.

### HCSC: When was the first time you visited Harvard and what were your impressions at that time?

**CAM:** I visited Harvard for the first time with my dad when I was 15 and I could immediately appreciate all of the history on campus. The constant flow of tourists walking through the yard and taking pictures made it really seem like a big attraction, on top of being a great school. I had wanted to go to Harvard since I was 5, so it was definitely a memorable first impression.

#### HCSC: What was your favorite class (or professor) and why?

**CAM:** My favorite class at Harvard was SLS 20, an introductory psychology course with Professor Gilbert. I planned on coming in and concentrating in economics, but that class sparked my passion for learning about psychology, specifically understanding the way that people think and the motivations behind behavior. That class had a huge, positive impact on my overall worldview and perspective, something that I actually wrote about in my law school application essays. I've had the great opportunity to work in Professor Gilbert's lab for the past year and a half.

#### HCSC: Describe some of the work in Professor Gilbert's lab.

**CAM:** The lab is technically focused on affective forecasting, which deals with an individual's ability to predict future emotional states. However, our projects greatly varied in terms of subject matter. One of our most significant projects focused on looking at the dichotomy between likes ("good things") and dislikes ("bad things"), with the main conclusion that people assume greater consensus with things that they dislike compared to things that they like. Another major area of research involved analyzing people's decision

Continued on next page

### Camden Alexander McRae '16, Continued from previous page

to split their time between different activities/goods rather than choosing a single activity/good. We found that people often predict they will be happier splitting between goods, but have better experiences picking a single good (demonstrating a prediction error).

### HCSC: Any tips for happiness?

**CAM:** In terms of improving happiness, some of my best advice would be being truly grateful for what you have rather than what you don't have and appreciating your life rather than constantly comparing yourself to others. I think it's also really important to pursue things that you are really passionate about instead of doing what you think should be done or what is expected.

#### HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

**CAM:** There have been a lot of funny moments, but one of the best was probably last spring when we had our final social event for club basketball. We had a roast for all the seniors that were graduating and leaving the team. Everyone came with hilarious stories that most of us hadn't even heard before, so it ended up being a really great night.

### HCSC: If you were President of Harvard, what would you change?

**CAM:** There are a lot of things to consider, but I would emphasize trying to change the culture and atmosphere at Harvard so that it is less competitive and more conducive to promoting better mental health. Clearly, everyone here is very driven and accustomed to being successful, which can definitely be a good thing in terms of pushing each other to get better and strive for even greater goals. However, people feel so much pressure to keep up with their peers socially, academically, and professionally that they are often afraid to speak out about their problems, leading to a very troubling rate of depression and anxiety disorders on campus.

### HCSC: What do you miss most about Southern California (other than the weather and family and friends)?

**CAM:** I know this might sound crazy, but I actually miss being able to drive my car, even with all the traffic! For me, it's a nice feeling to have more control in getting around and it's relaxing to just have that time alone to think or listen to music.

### HCSC: How do you think Southern California will figure into your future after Harvard?

**CAM:** Southern California is definitely going to be a huge part of my future. Right now, I feel really strongly about starting my career and living in Los Angeles. In the short-term, I might end up there as soon as next fall for law school. Right now, I am waiting on decisions from Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, UC-Berkeley, and USC, and I've been accepted to UCLA.

### HCSC: If you could give advice to any freshman at Harvard to maximize their experience, what would you say?

**CAM:** Harvard can be an overwhelming place in a lot of ways, especially for a freshman, but I would say the most important thing is really pursuing your passions, in terms of the classes you take, the friends you make, and the social groups that you join. It's really easy to get caught up with following what other people are doing, but as a senior, I can definitely say that my most enjoyable experiences have come from doing what really feels uniquely right for me. Trying to be "cool" or part of a certain social scene might feel necessary, but I think you can get way more out of the Harvard experience by really finding interesting and unique people that you truly connect with.

#### HCSC: What are your plans after graduation?

**CAM:** I graduated a semester early and will be attending Stanford Law School next fall. This summer, I will be traveling to Greece and I will also be going to China as part of a college consulting venture that I'm hoping to start with one of my other Harvard friends (Zena Edosomwan). We're hoping to start a consulting company that prepares high school students for elite American universities and we'll be having a conference in Shanghai this summer as part of this aspiration. In the future, I'm looking to pursue a career in sports law, possibly in a team front office.



Left to right: Antoine Poissonnier MBA '08; June Vaio AB '78, AM '81, GSA '90; Amina Jambo Cornell '13; Ehsan Bazaz MBA '10

### **Networking Event with Yale & Cornell**

On February 16, a group of Harvard alumni from the college and the graduate schools met at FOH, one of downtown LA's newest restaurants, to network with alumni from Yale and Cornell. Several new Harvard alumni to the area were present and were glad to know that our club organizes these types of events to bring the community together. One recent LA implant from Moscow is Antoine Poissonnier MBA '08; having recently moved to Los Angeles, Antoine said: "I am glad I was able to meet other Harvard alumni and that these events are available for us to network and meet one another."



c/o Membership VP 1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 204 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



For more information on events and general Club news, visit the Club web site at www.harvard-la.org

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

To recommend an event or volunteer for one, contact one of our Programs VPs. Contact information can be found on page 2. \*All checks for events are non-refundable unless explicitly stated otherwise. <u>Unless specifically noted</u>, <u>RSVPs are not confirmed</u>.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	Cost*	CONTACT
Apr. 17, Sunday 3:00 P.M.	Science Pub Series #8 - Celebrating our Planet	Dupar's Restaurant and Bakery Pasadena, CA	\$30 per person	Ethel Laczko, etheledu@yahoo.com
Apr. 20, Wednesday 6:00 P.M.	instaHarvard Los Angeles: Grad Mixer	The Wellesbourne - Game Room Los Angeles, CA	Cash Bar Mad	Madeleine Mejia, eleine_Mejia@post.harvard.edu
Apr. 30, Saturday 4:00 P.M.	Private Wine Tasting at Villa Wine Bar and Kitchen	Villa Wine Bar and Kitchen Santa Barbara, CA	\$50 per person Mad	Madeleine Mejia, eleine_Mejia@post.harvard.edu
May 17, Tuesday 6:30 P.M.	Friends of Harvard Football Dinner w/Coach Tim Murphy	Jonathan Club - The Library Los Angeles, CA	\$250 with extras \$150 per person \$75 recent grads	Kelsey Curtis, kcurtis@fas.harvard.edu
May 22, Sunday 5:30 P.M.	The 2016 Harvard Club Annual Dinner and Awards	UCLA Faculty Center Los Angeles, CA	TBA	Eva Plaza, Eplaza@gerardfoxlaw.com
Nov. 4-6, 2016 Time TBA	Harvard Women's Weekend - Save the Date!	Harvard University Cambridge, MA	Registration req'd HAA	HAA Alumni Education, _AlumniEducation@harvard.edu
Ongoing	Volunteer in a School	32nd Street/USC Magnet School Los Angeles, CA	N/A	Priscilla Heim, priheim@verizon.net