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THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

MAY 2023

Upcoming Events

HCS Event: *Greenlight to Freedom* Book Discussion

WED, MAY 3 @ 6:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

Understanding China from the US: A Generational Perspective

THU, MAY 4 @ 6:00PM

Live Event (West LA) and Virtual (Zoom)

LIVE: \$15, members; \$25, non-members

VIRTUAL: \$0, members; \$10, non-members

HLSAOC Event: Community Service—Beautification Project

SUN, MAY 7 @ 8:30AM

WISEPlace home (Santa Ana)

No charge, volunteer event

Zoom Lecture: Harvard's Quixotic Pursuit of a New Science

TUE, MAY 9 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

Tech in LA: Meet, Mingle and Fireside Chat

WED, MAY 17 @ 6:30PM

Ace Hotel (Downtown LA)

No charge, cash bar



Class of 2027 Admissions

Admissions to the Class of 2027 were sent out on March 31, 2023. Including Early Action, Harvard received 56,937 applications, down about 7% from last year, and accepted 3.4% of the students applying, the second lowest rate ever, up from the record low of 3.19% last year.

Southern California had approximately 3,242 applicants this year, a decrease of 7.7% from 3,512 last year. Thirty were accepted in the Early Action process (out of 316), eight Early Action applicants were deferred to Regular Action and accepted, and 43 were accepted in the Regular Action process (out of 2926), for a total of 84 acceptances and an overall acceptance rate of 2.5%.

“Each year Harvard seeks extraordinarily talented students from across the nation and around the world,” said William R. Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid. “The students admitted to the Class of 2027 are remarkable by any measure, and we hope they choose to bring their diverse ideas, beliefs, and experiences to our campus.”

The Class of 2027 reflects the increasing diversity of the College's applicants, with 15.3 percent identifying as African American/Black, 29.9 percent as Asian American, 11.3 percent as Latinx, 2.2 percent as Native American, and 0.5 percent as Native Hawaiian. Women account for 53.6 percent of all those accepted.

Continued on page 2

Traditionally, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosts events for newly admitted students. This year, Harry Kim '86, the Club's Co-VP Schools and Scholarships, organized an in person reception for students and their parents at the home of Gary Barkin '86 JD '93 and Haya Handel on April 16. The event was attended by approximately 40 admitted students. Final decisions on accepting Harvard's offer of admission are due May 1. The application process for the Class of 2028 will begin in the late summer. Alumni interested in interviewing applicants in the fall of 2023 should email Harry Kim at areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com.



Previous HCSC president Patric M. Verrone '81 presents the 2019 John Harvard Award for Distinguished Service to the Community to LA Country Supervisor Sheila Kuebl JD '78.

Tickets Now Available to HCSC Annual Dinner!

Tickets are now on sale to the Club's Annual Dinner on June 25 at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. During this event, we will bestow the John Harvard Award, our Club's Educator of the Year Award, the Fred Smith Award for Outstanding Service to the Harvard Club, install our new board members, and recognize alumni who have contributed to our vibrant community.

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Joan Chu Reese '85

Executive Vice President

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93

Vice President Communications

Pooja Nair JD '11
Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84

Vice Presidents Finance/Financial Aid

John Luna '03
Corey Mazza '08

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Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81
Matthew Stasior '87

Vice Presidents Orange County

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'07-'09
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Maiya Williams Verrone '84

Vice Presidents Radcliffe

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Jose Sanchez '89
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Peter Shimamoto JD '85
Brittany Wang '17
Kenneth S. Williams '78

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.

Harvard Club of Southern California
1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Suite 204
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Recent Events

Harvard Family Event - Lunar New Year

On January 22, a dozen Harvard alumni gathered at P. P. Pop in Monterey Park to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The restaurant was located across the street from the location of the mass shooting at a neighborhood ballroom studio. The brunch event occurred just hours after the incident, and the attendance was a fraction of the originally registered guests. Despite these extraordinary circumstances, all enjoyed the array of delicious dumplings, authentic noodles, and savory dishes to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit. Alumni and friends across different disciplines made new connections and traveled from as far as Orange County and Santa Monica to celebrate this important tradition.



Professor Benjamin M. Friedman — Religion and the Rise of Capitalism

On March 14, The Harvard Club of Southern had the pleasure of hosting Professor Benjamin Friedman as part of the Speakers Bureau program. Professor Friedman spoke about his latest book, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. Professor Friedman gave a detailed assessment of the religious origins and continuing religious influence on political economy. The event was well attended and the discussion was very lively since the event was very timely due to the banking crisis.



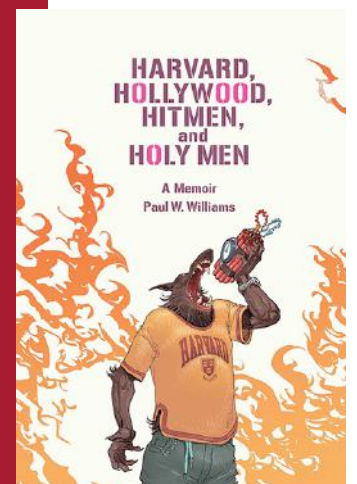
SoFi Stadium Tour

On Saturday, April 15, forty-two Harvard alumni and guests took a tour of the new state-of-the-art SOFI Football Stadium in Inglewood, "City of Champions." Housing both the Los Angeles Rams and the Los Angeles Chargers, fans were able to see several private areas of the stadium not open to the public, including the broadcaster's booth, the owners' suite, the Rams locker room, and the interview room. Alumni then gathered in the players tunnel before charging out onto the field to enjoy some football activities and appreciate the beautiful, Spring afternoon at field level.



Harvard, Hollywood, Hitmen, and Holy Men: Discussion with Paul Williams '65

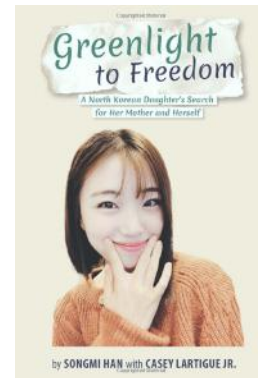
On April 17, almost 90 people had an intimate conversation with Paul W. Williams (néé Goldberg) '65 about his memoir, *Harvard, Hollywood, Hitmen, and Holy Men*, which he wrote from his jungle home, south of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Why did he write it? We are lucky that Paul always wanted to be a character and lived most fully and intentionally through Harvard (auditing the grad courses of the famous thinkers and learning from his brilliant classmates), Hollywood producers, directors, photographers, and emerging actors (who became stars), trying every mind-altering drug, actively pursuing projects to document revolutionary leaders (e.g., Eldridge Cleaver) and Pope John Paul II, and finally deciding to deconstruct his ego until he achieved guilt-free contentment with himself. He is healthy, no longer uses (nor needs drugs), and is enjoying re-engaging with old friends and colleagues and meeting new ones.



Upcoming Events

HCS Event: *Greenlight to Freedom* Book Discussion with Co-Author Casey Lartigue EdM '91

Please join us for a conversation with *Greenlight to Freedom* co-author Casey Lartigue, Jr., EdM '91, moderated by Mahalia Gayle PhD '05, and hear the story of Songmi Han who escaped from North Korea in 2011.



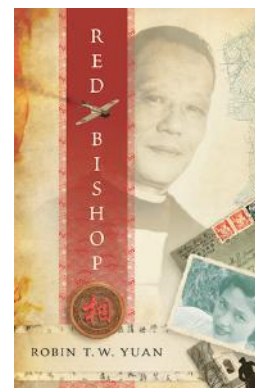
WED, MAY 3 @ 6:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

HBSASC Event: Understanding China from the US: A Generational Perspective

Join us with Dr. Robin Yuan '75, HMS '78 and author of the historical fiction work *Red Bishop*, as we discuss the emergence of China through his unique and vital perspective and family history.



THU, MAY 4 @ 6:00PM

Live (West LA) and Virtual (via Zoom)

Live, \$10; Virtual, Free

Partner Club Event (HLSAOC): Community Service—Beautification Project

Join us along with the Harvard Law School Association of Orange County for a morning of gardening and beautification, followed by lunch, at one of the WISEPlace homes in Santa Ana.



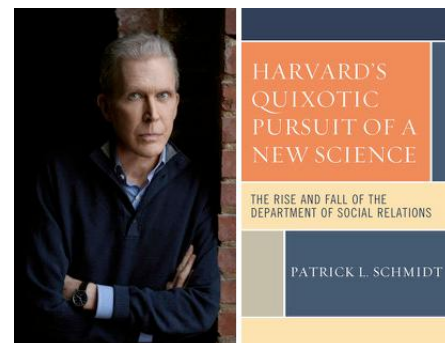
SUN, MAY 7 @ 8:30AM

WISEPlace home (Santa Ana)

No charge

Zoom Lecture: Harvard's Quixotic Pursuit of a New Science

Join us as Patrick L. Schmidt '78 discusses his book, which charts the rise and fall of Harvard's Department of Social Relations, the revolutionary attempt to create a new interdisciplinary social science.



TUE, MAY 9 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

Upcoming Events

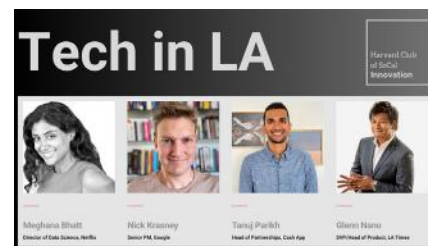
Tech in LA: Meet, Mingle and Fireside Chat

Do you work in tech in Southern California, or are considering it? Did you know that Apple, Spotify, and Google, and Netflix all have teams based in LA? Come hear what a few Harvard LA tech leaders are up to and meet and mingle with a bunch more of us after!

WED, MAY 17 @ 6:30PM

Ace Hotel (Downtown Los Angeles)

No charge, cash bar



Happy Hour/Networking Event with Columbia So Cal Alumni Association

Columbia SoCal and Harvard Club of Southern California are getting together! Please join us for this in-person, happy hour/networking event with Columbia So Cal Alumni Association.

THU, MAY 25 @ 6:00PM

Sorry not Sorry Lounge (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash bar



An Afternoon Tea to Celebrate Alumni Day

Please join us for a traditional afternoon tea to celebrate Alumni Day! Limited space.

SAT, JUN 3 @ 5:00PM

Ye Ol' King's Head (Santa Monica)

\$50, members; \$60, non-members



2023 Harvard Club Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

Spend an evening with the Harvard Club at our Annual Awards Dinner. All club members and their guests are invited to attend the club's Annual Dinner on Sunday, June 25, at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

SUN, JUN 25 @ 5:00PM

Huntington Library, Art Collection, & Botanical Gardens (San Marino)

\$125 club members; \$150 non-members; \$75 recent grads ('19 -'23)



Q & A from 02138:

Noah Brune '24



Noah Brune, matriculated with the class of 2023, took a gap year during the online COVID year and is now in the class of 2024. He is an Applied Mathematics and Economics concentrator and pursuing a language citation in Japanese. He was born in Bellevue, Washington and graduated from Santa Margarita Catholic High School where he swam on the Varsity team for four years. He resides in Eliot House and competes on the Men's Swimming and Diving team where he earned Second Team CSCAA Individual Scholar All-America honors and helped the Crimson capture the Ivy League championship for the fifth straight year. This last summer he worked for Wells Fargo and plans to do investment banking in Charlotte this upcoming summer.

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

NB: I was surprised about how close the Harvard community was and how all students are willing to help one another out. I definitely was expecting a more competitive environment, but that was definitely not the case. Everyone that I have met has come from diverse backgrounds and are all eager to become better students as a whole.

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

NB: I visited Harvard on an unofficial visit during my Junior year of high school. I immediately fell in love with the coaching staff and the swim team as they were extremely welcoming and seemed as if they wanted me to join the program. Apart from the swim team, I loved Cambridge and the campus, which only further made my college decision easier.

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

NB: My favorite class here is any of my Japanese classes. I am half Japanese and whenever I visited my family in Japan, I always felt as if I was missing out because I was unable to speak the language. When I came here, I made a promise to myself to get introduced to the language. After taking the first semester of the intro class, I immediately fell in love with the language and am pursuing a language citation.

HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

NB: My funniest moment at Harvard has been when I coincidentally ran into someone from SoCal in Cambridge and was in complete shock that we were at the same place at the same time. Funny enough, this has happened to me multiple times.

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

NB: I would not honestly change that much about Harvard if I was the President. I love the diverse environment and everything that the school stands for. If

Continued on next page

I was being extremely nit-picky, I would have hot breakfast at every house's dining hall, but at the very least, in every neighborhood.

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

NB: I miss the overall environment of SoCal and my friends. For example, I miss the ability to go to my favorite local Japanese grocery stores or go to outlet malls with friends. I also loved the ability to drive to random places with friends during my high school days and obviously I cannot do much of that when I am on campus here.



HCSC: How will Southern California figure into your future after Harvard?

NB: I definitely want to live in SoCal again after I graduate. That has been my home since I was three years old, so almost all of my pre-college memories have come from there. It would definitely be a blessing if I could end up back in SoCal and raise a family there.

HCSC: How did you manage the transition to virtual classes?

NB: I did not take any Harvard virtual classes, but during my leave of absence, I did take some virtual classes through my local community college. It was definitely different, but I tried to keep a positive outlook and open mind while studying.



Got a Great Idea for an HCSC Event? Share It With Us!

We're always looking for new fun and educational events to give our members opportunities to get together and enjoy what Southern California has to offer!

If you have an idea for an event, please email Madeleine Mejia, EdM '00 at madeleine_mejia@post.harvard.edu or Maiya Williams Verrone '84 at MaiyaWV@aol.com.

You can review the current Harvard Club of Southern California policies for events document, on our website at <https://hcsc.clubs.harvard.edu/article.html?aid=106>.



1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd., #204
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information on events and general club news, visit the club website at www.harvardsocal.org.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Wed, May 3 6:00PM	Greenlight to Freedom Book Discussion with Casey Lartigue	Virtual event via Zoom	No charge
Thu, May 4 6:00PM	Understanding China from the US: A Generational Perspective	Live (West LA) and Online via Zoom	\$15, Live \$0, Virtual
Sun, May 7 8:30AM	HLSAOC Event: Community Service—Beautification Project	WISEPlace home Santa Ana, CA	No charge
Tue, May 9 7:00PM	Zoom Lecture: Harvard's Quixotic Pursuit of a New Science	Online via Zoom	No charge
Wed, May 17 6:30PM	Tech in LA: Meet, Mingle and Fireside Chat	Ace Hotel Los Angeles, CA	No charge, cash bar
Thu, May 25 6:00PM	Happy Hour/Networking Event with Columbia So Cal Alumni	Sorry not Sorry Lounge Los Angeles, CA	No charge, cash bar
Sat, Jun 3 2:00PM	An Afternoon Tea to Celebrate Alumni Day	Ye Ol' King's Head Santa Monica, CA	\$50, Members \$60, Non-Members