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# THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

MARCH 2024

## Upcoming Events

### 2024 Harvard Varsity Club California Golf Tournament

MON, MAR 11 @ 10:00AM

Strawberry Farms Golf Club (Irvine)

Check event site for pricing

### Harvard Men's Tennis Visits Southern California

TUE, MAR 12 thru SUN, MAR 17

Santa Barbara, Pepperdine and UCLA

Check event sites for pricing

### Harvard Global Networking Night - IN-PERSON

WED, MAR 13 @ 6:00PM

Sorry not Sorry Lounge (Los Angeles)

No charge, Cash Bar

### Grandi Voci Concert Event at Soka Performing Arts Center

SAT, MAR 23 @ 3:00PM

Soka Performing Arts Center (Aliso Viejo)

\$60, members; \$70, non-members;

\$85, to join the Club AND attend the event

### Science Pub #24 - A Visit to USC Neuroimaging and Informatics

FRI, APR 5 @ 12:00PM

USC Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Inst.

No charge

## Upcoming Harvard Elections: HCSC Board Endorses Two Local Candidates in Spring HAA Elections

At the February board meeting, the HCSC Board voted to endorse Nworah Ayogu '10, MD '15, MBA '15 for Harvard Overseer, and Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 for HAA Elected Director.



Nworah Ayogu '10, MD '15, MBA '15 has been nominated to serve a six-year term as a Harvard Overseer. Dr. Ayogu is the General Manager and Chief Medical Officer of Amazon Clinic. If elected, he would join one of the two governing bodies of Harvard University. Harvard Overseers provide counsel to the University's leaders on a wide range of concerns including strategic direction and review of the University's schools, departments, activities, and programs. An interview with Dr. Ayogu is included on page 6.



Madeleine Mejia, Ed.M. '00, a long-time HCSC board officer, has been nominated to serve a three-year term as a Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director. She is an assistant professor of literacy and reading education at California State University, Fullerton. If elected, she would serve on the HAA Board, an alumni advisory body that aims to foster a sense of community, engagement, and University citizenship among Harvard alumni around the world. HAA Elected Directors provide leadership for the HAA and its various committees, a capacity often demonstrated by a record of service to Harvard and an ability to communicate widely and effectively with other alumni. An interview with Dr. Mejia is included on page 7.

Voting begins April 1. Eligible voters will have the option of voting either online or by paper ballot. Completed ballots must be received by 5 p.m. (EDT) on May 14. All holders of Harvard degrees may vote.

# Upcoming Events

## 2024 Harvard Varsity Club California Golf Tournament

The Harvard Varsity Club is returning to the West Coast for the 4th HVC California Golf Tournament on Monday, March 11 at the beautiful Strawberry Farms Golf Course in Irvine, CA.

**MON, MAR 11 @ 10:00AM**

Strawberry Farms Golf Club (Irvine)

Prices starting at \$200 per person



## Harvard Men's Tennis Visits Southern California

Come watch and cheer on the nationally ranked #10 Crimson, their highest preseason ranking in history, as they take on some of the nation's best tennis competition in Southern California. There is no cost to attend.

**TUE, MAR 12 thru SUN, MAR 17**

Santa Barbara, Pepperdine and UCLA

Check event sites for pricing



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### CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Terry Nathan

(310) 546-5252

email: [info@harwardsocal.org](mailto:info@harwardsocal.org)

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: [info@harwardsocal.org](mailto:info@harwardsocal.org).

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

# Upcoming Events

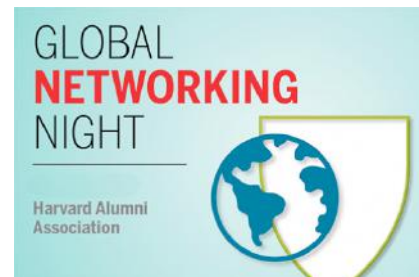
## *In-Person Event!* Harvard Global Networking Night

Please join us for this LIVE EVENT, sponsored by the Harvard Club of Southern California, Harvardwood, Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, Harvard Black Alumni Society of SoCal, H4A, Harvard Alumni for Education, First-Generation Harvard Alumni, HBSASC and the Harvard Alumni Association.

**WED, MAR 13 @ 6:00PM**

Location: Sorry not Sorry Lounge (Los Angeles)

No charge, cash bar



## Grandi Voci Concert Event at Soka Performing Arts Center

Join the alumni of Harvard, Princeton and Stanford for an afternoon of vocal splendor at the Soka Performing Arts Center in Aliso Viejo, followed by a reception in the Soka Founders Art Gallery.

**SAT, MAR 23 @ 3:00PM**

Soka Performing Arts Center (Aliso Viejo)

\$60 club members; \$70 non-members; \$85, to join the Club AND attend the event



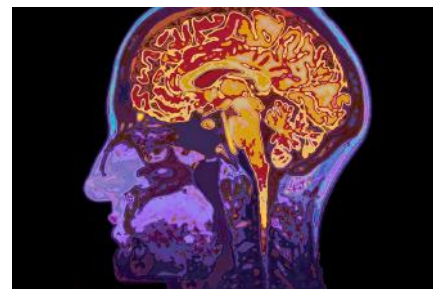
## Myron Kayton Science Pub #24 - A Visit to USC Neuroimaging & Informatics Institute

Join us to learn about new brain neuroimaging techniques and recent approaches to understand Alzheimer's disease, during an in-person visit to a USC research center led by Center Director Dr. Arthur Toga.

**FRI, APR 5 @ 12:00PM**

USC Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute (Los Angeles)

No charge, but pre-registration is required - space is limited



## Breakfast Networking Event in Santa Monica

Join us for a casual networking event at Tartine in Santa Monica. Bring a friend and/or a colleague.

**TUE, APR 16 @ 8:00AM**

Tartine (Santa Monica)

No charge, cash coffee bar





## Recent Grads Hike - Old Towne Orange

On February 18, a group of recent grads met up to hike the Orange Hills Trail in El Modena Open Space in Orange County followed by lunch at Finney's Craft-house. The group represented graduates across the classes of 2017-2022 and are alumni from Harvard College, Harvard Graduate School of Education and more! A special thank you to Dessiree Cuevas GSE '22 for helping to organize the gathering!



## Radcliffe Institute Webinar with Nnedi Okorafor

On February 20, Harvard Radcliffe Institute hosted a webinar featuring Nnedi Okorafor, author of science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism books and comics for children and adults. The webinar focused on how writing, reading, and teaching books and comics with themes of climate change and climate justice can encourage young people to learn and think about these issues.



## Breakfast Networking Event at LaLa Land Cafe

Alumni and friends gathered for their favorite caffeinated beverage and breakfast bites at Santa Monica's LaLa Land Café on Thursday February 22. Nearly 40 people stopped by, including several current students who were visiting Los Angeles as part of a term-time sabbatical. Everyone enjoyed catching up with friends and making some new connections. This event is part of a series of casual networking opportunities designed to bring people together to enjoy the varied locales and food our great city offers, and to build community. Hosted by Joan Chu Reese '85 and Madeleine Mejia EdM '00, this event also afforded attendees the chance to get to know Madeleine in person, who is running for Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director. We hope to see you at a future networking event! Photos to the right: 1. LaLa Land event organizers and HCSC Club officers Madeleine Mejia EdM '00 and Joan Reese '85 in a relaxed moment. 2. Attendees at the LaLa Land Cafe event enjoyed lively conversation with fellow alumni in Santa Monica.



Q & A from 02138:

## Marbella Marlo '24



Marbella Marlo '24, a concentrator in History and English, was born in Newport Beach, CA, and graduated from Corona del Mar High School where she served as the captain of the Varsity Sailing Team and was Valedictorian of her graduating class. She was the founder and president of Newport Beach's Council of Youth Ambassadors, an internship program for high school students and the City of Newport Beach. She is a senior residing in Mather House. Her brother, Jake Marlo, graduated in 2022 and lived in Adams House. At Harvard, she was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard Independent* and an active member of the Harvard Sailing Team. She wrote for *The New York Sun* two summers ago as an editorial intern. Last summer, she worked at Morgan Stanley as a Wealth Management Summer Analyst, and she will be returning to work there full time in New York City after her graduation.

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

MM: The biggest culture shock for me was how talented, ambitious, and passionate everyone was in their respective fields. Many people had the same interests and perspectives back home in Southern California, so it was very interesting to experience life with so many different points of view.

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

MM: The first time I visited Harvard was in the summer of 2018, dropping my older brother off for his freshman year. I thought the campus was beautiful and intimidating.

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

MM: My favorite class so far (which I am currently enrolled in) is English 151AN: The Age of the Novel, by Professor Tara Menon. I've taken numerous English classes here at Harvard, and I've always found something very special about learning how such traditional and renowned stories still have relevance today. Professor Menon also teaches such complex themes from these novels in a very engaging way.

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

MM: My funniest moment was probably this past fall, when we were studying the work of the philosopher Amartya Sen in an economics class. I had scheduled office hours with my professor, not realizing that she (Emma Rothschild) and Amartya Sen were married. The office hours were at her house, and at the end of our hour-long conversation regarding Sen's work, she invited me in to meet him. I was incredibly caught off guard.

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

MM: Sometimes I miss how slow-paced the Southern California lifestyle is. It's very easy to get caught up in trying to be the best at everything, and it's rare to find anyone stopping and appreciating the small victories in life.

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

MM: I'm a sixth-generation Californian, so I hope to return to the West Coast one day!



## Harvard 2024 Election Spotlight:

# Interview with Harvard Overseer Candidate, Nworah Ayogu '10, MD '15, MBA '15

by Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84, Past President, Harvard Club of Southern California

### **Q. Please tell us about yourself.**

A. I live in the Los Angeles area with my wife and almost 2-year-old son. I am a physician, and I have spent my career working at the intersection of medicine, technology, and business. I've spent the last several years at Amazon leading their efforts in healthcare, first as Chief Medical Officer of Amazon Pharmacy, and now as the General Manager of Amazon Clinic.

### **Q. Please tell us a bit about your Harvard experience.**

A. While at Harvard, I spent time working with and advocating for the Boston community as part of PBHA and the Black Men's Forum. As the Student Chair of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, I spent a lot of time working with the University and with the multitude of cultural organizations on campus to ensure that Harvard was a safe place for learning, dialogue, and expression.

### **Q. What do you hope to accomplish as a Harvard Overseer?**

A. I firmly believe that the key challenges facing Harvard mirror those facing the world:

1. Driving technological innovation,
2. Embracing diversity and fostering community, and
3. Promoting justice – specifically inequity and climate change.

The role of the Board of Overseers is to support the President and senior officers by “contributing to reasoned deliberations, exercising careful and independent judgment, offering thoughtful, broad-based, and candid comments, asking probing questions, respecting the views of others, and maintaining the collegial character of the Board's discussions.” This means listening and providing a broad perspective, informed not only by my experience but those of my peers, colleagues and friends. It means inspecting the strategic priorities of each school to make sure they are aligned with values of the broader community and focused on the issues of greatest import; and asking critical questions to make sure that our pedagogy is evolving to meet the everchanging environment students find themselves in.

### **Q. Final thoughts?**

A. Harvard is an institution that has given me so much, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to give back to it.



## Harvard 2024 Election Spotlight:

# Interview with Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director Candidate, Madeleine Mejia EdM'00

by Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84, Past President, Harvard Club of Southern California

### **Q. Please tell us about yourself.**

A. I grew up in Huntington Beach and live in LA, two cities dear to my heart. I am an assistant professor of Literacy and Reading Education. In this role, I prepare K-12 teachers with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of a literacy expert — skills I gained while at Harvard and developed when I was teaching 1st and 2nd grade in Boston.

### **Q. Please tell us a bit about your Harvard experience.**

A. I think of my time at Harvard as a shared journey marked by collaboration, mutual support, and a collective commitment to making a positive impact on the world. Community became the cornerstone of my experience.

### **Q. You have been a longtime Harvard alumni volunteer. Please tell us about that experience.**

A. Now, as a nominee for the HAA Board, I carry this deep appreciation for community with me. As a longtime Harvard alumni volunteer in various roles, like VP of Programs for the Harvard Club of Southern California, co-chair for the Anti-Racism and COVID-19 Committees, and co-founder of the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance in Southern California, I have witnessed the transformative power of creating spaces that allow Harvard alumni to connect, collaborate, develop and execute new ideas, and support one another.

### **Q. Why do you want to serve as an HAA Elected Director?**

A. My goal is to contribute to the Harvard community's continued vibrancy, ensuring that the sense of togetherness and shared purpose that defined my student experience persists and grows stronger for current and future generations of Harvard alumni. If elected, I am committed to giving back to the institution that has played a pivotal role in my personal and professional development. I plan to leverage my experiences and dedication to enhance the alumni experience, promote engagement at a larger scale, and strengthen the bonds that make the Harvard community truly exceptional.

### **Q. Final thoughts?**

A. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the Harvard community in a new capacity.





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## *Calendar of Upcoming Events*

For more information on events and general club news, visit the club website at [www.harvardsocal.org](http://www.harvardsocal.org).

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST
Mon, Mar 11 10:00AM	<b>2024 Harvard Varsity Club California Golf Tournament</b>	Strawberry Farms Golf Club Irvine, CA	Check site for pricing
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Wed, Mar 13 6:00PM	<b>Harvard Global Networking Night - IN-PERSON</b>	Sorry not Sorry Lounge Los Angeles. CA	No charge
Sat, Mar 23 3:00PM	<b>Grandi Voci Concert Event at Soka Performing Arts Center</b>	Soka Performing Arts Center Aliso Viejo, CA	\$60, members \$70, nonmembers
Fri, Apr 5 12:00PM	<b>Science Pub #24 - A Visit to the USC Neuroimaging &amp; Informatics</b>	USC Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute	No charge
Tue, Apr 16 8:00AM	<b>Breakfast Networking Event in Santa Monica</b>	Tartine Santa Monica, CA	No charge, cash coffee bar