Anti-Racism 101 for Parents

June 1, 2020: One week after the death of George Floyd, the eruption of civil protests, and approximately 2.5 months into the continuing pandemic with stay-at-home orders, I sent a small email to our then HCSC President Patric Verrone to see what we (as the Harvard Club of Southern California) could do as a community to bring hope, heal, and re-build.

From that small message, and with the thankful support of our club, community, and alma mater, over the past year, we formed an Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) and have hosted a series of events and provided resources to help educate, engage, and support our community. Through the connections and strength of our community, one of these key events last year included an “Anti-Racism 101” (July 2020), with panelist and now HCSC board-member Andy Riemer (Ed.M, Harvard Graduate School of Education).

As a parent of two small children myself (5 and 3), who are starting to (thankfully) go back to school in-person (keeping fingers-crossed), education and the relationship(s) our next-generation of society will have with each other has been of particular interest.

With that in mind, the strength and support of our community once again allowed us to recently kick-off a family-oriented (parent/child) “Anti-Racism 101 for Parents”, led once again by board member Andy Riemer and included panelists Dr. Tracey A. Benson (HGSE EdLD), Farzana Nayani (she/her) B.Ed, M.A. (UH Mānoa), Anri Wheeler, M.Ed. (HGSE), and Jenny Woo, M.Ed., MBA (HGSE). For those of you who joined us for this event and have continued with us on this ARC journey over the past year – Thank You. For those of you interested in learning more – WELCOME.

Learning and unlearning is a life-long endeavor, and we are happy to have you. Together.—John Luna ’03, HCSC Vice President of Finance
Recent [Virtual] Events

Summer Reading: Unconscious Bias in Schools

On August 26, the Harvard Graduate School of Education hosted an Alumni Summer Reading event featuring Unconscious Bias in Schools. In the book, two seasoned educators, Tracey Benson, Ed. L.D. ‘16 and Sarah Fiarman, Ed.M’05, Ed.D’09, describe the phenomenon of unconscious racial bias and how it negatively affects the work of educators and students in schools. The event featured an active discussion with the authors and questions from the audience.

HGSE EducationNow Event: Keeping Our Schools Healthy

On September 15, HGSE sponsored a virtual Zoom discussion on ensuring that schools stay healthy while prioritizing the physical and mental health of educators amid the continuing strain of an ongoing pandemic. The event featured the deans of HGSE and the School of Public Health along with key faculty members. The panel provided a collective perspective on how to keep schools healthy as well as practical ideas, actionable steps, and inspiration for educators navigating the challenging school year and working to support their communities. A recording of the program is available online.

Unity Weekend at Harvard

On September 23-25, Harvard hosted a virtual Unity Weekend: Celebrating Harvard Alumni of Color. Unity Weekend was a three-day virtual conference led by and in celebration of Harvard alumni of color that was open to all Harvard alumni, affiliates, and guests. The conference began on September 23, with a Thursday opening session featuring Franklin Leonard ‘00 and Celesé Ng ‘02, who discussed “Crashing the Gates: the Fight for Equity in Hollywood and the Arts.” Baratunde Thurston ‘99 gave a keynote address. On September 24, alumni storytellers participated in a Story Slam event. On September 25, the conference concluded with a full day of panels on environmental justice, entrepreneurship, and education.

Elections, [Dis]Information, & Civics Education with Michael Bender & Eric Soto Shed

On September 29, the Harvard Graduate School of Education hosted a virtual discussion on “Elections, [Dis]Information, & Civics Education.” The event featured Eric Soto Shed, Harvard Graduate School of Education lecturer on education, and Michael Bender, the senior White House reporter for the Wall Street Journal and author of Frankly, We Did Win This Election: The Inside Story of How Trump Lost. The speakers engaged in back-and-forth dialogue surrounding Bender’s recent experiences on the campaign trail and his thoughts watching the recent Presidential election process “up close.”
Upcoming Events

The Climate Boot Camp
Harvard alumni have the credibility and influence to deliver urgent action on climate change. Please join others in our Harvard community to create greater climate impact!

THU, OCT 14, 2021 thru THU, OCT 28, 2021
No charge, registration required
Harvard Alumni for Climate and the Environment (HACE)

150th Year Commemoration of 1871 Los Angeles Chinatown Massacre
The UCLA Chancellor’s Arts Initiative, UCLA Asian American Center, UCLA Asia Pacific Center has partnered with the Chinese American Museum to commemorate the massacre’s 150th anniversary with a live performance featuring music, movement, and VIP guest speakers.

SUN, OCT 17 @ 2:00PM PT
No charge, registration required
UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Welcome to Your City Event
Join us for this for special event for alumni who live in Los Angeles or have plans to move there. The evening will offer new arrivals a welcome to Los Angeles while providing an opportunity for alumni in the area to connect. Attendees will also learn about the many Harvard Clubs and Shared Interest Groups available. Harvard alumni who graduated between 2011 and 2021, from the College or any of the graduate schools, are invited to participate.

THU, OCT 21 @ 7:00PM
No charge, registration required
Brittany Wang, brittlynnwang@gmail.com

The Enigmatist and Special Post-Show Conversation with Magician David Kwong ’02
The Harvard Club of Southern California has reserved a limited number of tickets for a performance at the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, and David will be joining us for a post-performance discussion. This event is sure to sell out, so please buy your tickets now. Due to the limited number of tickets, there is a two-ticket max per person.

THU, OCT 21 @ 8:00PM
Geffen Playhouse
VIP Premium Table: $140 members/$150 non-members; VIP Table: $120/$130; Standard Seating: $75/$85
John Luna, john.luna@gmail.com
Harvard College Class of 2025 Send-off Party

On Sunday, August 8, 2021, Dr. Sonia Molina DMD ’89, MPH ’89 hosted approximately twenty incoming freshmen and their parents at a send-off party before their departure to Cambridge for pre-frosh orientation events. This was the first in-person event with admitted students since the Early Action reception in January 2020, and the subsequent restrictions instituted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. HCSC Vice President, Schools Harry Kim ’86 and Vice President, Radcliffe Kay Park ’87 also attended the event. The students acquainted themselves with each other and compared notes about their Harvard Yard housing assignments, about which they were notified earlier in the month.

“Harvard is expecting another record year for applications this year, and we anticipate Southern California to exceed last year’s level of interview requests, especially since SAT and ACT tests are again optional this year,” said Mr. Kim. “Admissions views the alumni interview as a critical component of a candidate’s application, making it crucial for our area to have sufficient numbers of interviewers to meet the demands of the applicant pool,” he said. Alumni interested in serving as interviewers should contact Mr. Kim at areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com. Both undergraduate and graduate alumni of Harvard University are eligible to serve as interviewers.
The Harvard Club of Southern California congratulates and welcomes:

Southern California’s Harvard Class of 2025

Central Los Angeles
- Alida Andon, STEAM Legacy High School Complex
- Claire Beddingfield, Marlborough School
- Samantha Chung, Marlborough School
- Aracely Davila, STEAM Legacy High School Complex
- Ming-An Fasquelle, Lycee Int’l de Los Angeles Int’l School
- Owen Gaffney, Loyola High School
- Sophie Garrigus, Marlborough School
- Grace Kim, Fairfax High School
- Yu Jun Li, Alhambra High School
- Sebastian Marroquin, Oscar De La Hoya Animo Charter High
- Anjali Mehta, Marlborough School
- Athalia Meton, Harvard-Westlake School
- Jesse Troyer, Loyola High School
- Lulu Troyer, Marlborough School

West Los Angeles
- Matthew Allana, Beverly Hills High School
- Nicole Austen, Harvard-Westlake School
- George Cooper, Harvard-Westlake School
- Jonathan Cosgrove, Harvard-Westlake School
- Maxi Duncan, Home School 0110401
- Silas Garcia-George, Santa Monica High School
- Andrew Gong, Harvard-Westlake School
- Leah Kelly, Marymount High School
- William Kissinger, Crossroads School
- Alexandria Lange, Harvard-Westlake School
- Cameron MacDonald, Brentwood School
- Mihret Melaku, New Roads School
- Katrina Mortenson, Crossroads School
- Andrew Palacci, Alexander Hamilton High School
- Allison Park, Harvard-Westlake School
- Audrey Platt, Crossroads School
- Sophia Scott, Marymount High School
- Reza Shamji, Brentwood School
- Turandot Shyegan, Harvard-Westlake School
- Brooke Stanford, Harvard-Westlake School

South Bay
- Maya Alvarez-Harmon, Gretchen Whitney High School
- Marco Burstein, Chadwick School
- Salaidh Perez, North High School
- Hudson Yang, Da Vinci Communications High School

San Fernando Valley
- Rishi Goel, Santa Susana High School
- Marco Joven Dominguez, Social Justice Humanitas Academy
- Samarth Kadaba, Westlake High School
- Kailan Mackey, Viewpoint School
- Kade McGovern, John Burroughs High School
- Wellington Upstil, Van Nuys High School

San Bernardino/Riverside
- Chidimma Adinna, Chaffey High School
- Joy Anyiam, Jurupa Hills High School
- Amari Butler, Alta Loma High School
- Edwin Dominguez, Ramona High School
- Elizabeth Esteban-Hernandez, Desert Mirage High School
- Lydia Fraser, Los Osos High School
- Byron Gonzalez, Western Center Academy
- Avery Hansberger, John W North High School
- Tyler Kim, Temecula Valley High School
- Mohammed Maarouf, Claremont High School
- Rodrigo Rodriguez, Alta Loma High School
- Ivana Ron, Chaparral High School
- Monique Vobeczy, Glendora High School
- Jamaal Willis, Barstow High School
- Leslie Zaragoza, Vista Del Lago High School
- Nicole Zuno, Valley View High School

North Orange County
- Joanna Choi, Sonora High School
- Andrew Chung, El Dorado High School
- Julia Do, La Quinta High School
- Cielo Echegoyen, Santa Ana High School
- Oziel Flores, Santa Ana High School
- Stephany Gutierrez, Santa Ana High School
- Sky Jung, Troy High School
- Emilie Kalkus, Mater Dei High School
- Erin Kim, Foothill High School
- Joyce Park, Sunny Hills High School
- Emily Ruiz, Fullerton Union High School
- Jack Tian, Troy High School
- Joanna Walters, John F Kennedy High School

South Orange County
- Jolin Chan, Sage Hill School
- Kevin Du, Portola High School
- Scott Giuliano, Corona del Mar High School
- Kaitlyn Greenwald, Corona del Mar High School
- Austin Kaufman, University High School
- Lev Kruglyak, University High School
- Sebastian Lozano, Los Amigos High School
- Kevin Miura, Northwood High School
- Vivian Nguyen, Marina High School

San Gabriel Valley
- Kareem Ansari, Polytechnic School
- Nicholas Chebat, Diamond Bar High School
- Nicholas Ige, South Hills High School
- Ellaney Matarrese, La Canada High School
HCSC: What surprised you about being a student at Harvard?

IM: As a Harvard student, I am constantly surprised by the breadth of interests and expertise that exists within the student body itself. Sometimes you meet someone new and begin chatting with them, only to learn that said person is extremely well-versed in some obscure skill you had never considered or that they study a field you’ve never been exposed to. But more often than not, these random talents and interests don’t even come up in conversation—people are modest about prior accomplishments and it’s only by really getting to know people that obscure hobbies and pursuits—which is perhaps the best surprise yet.

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

IM: I visited Harvard for the first time the summer before my Junior year of high school, on a pseudo “dream tour” with my mother. I loved the campus, had a wonderful tour guide, and was overall taken by the feeling (read: vibe) of the college—J-term, concentration flexibility, students with such a wide swath of interests. I never thought I’d get in, so I didn’t dedicate a lot of mental energy to loving it (that said, I surely did).

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

IM: My favorite class thus far has been Linguistics 104: “Word Structure,” which I took on a total whim during my first semester at Harvard. The course focused on morphology, which is something I had no background in and which—even within Linguistics—is fairly niche. On one hand, the content was tremendously interesting: learning about how words are formed and understanding how languages fit together. On the other hand, the type of work we were engaged in was pretty entertaining: logical and puzzle-like, demanding that we reverse engineer the structure of mystery languages by way of their affixes.

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

IM: Wow, that’s a tall ask. I’m certain there are a lot of big things that could use changing, but I’ll hone in on school spirit…I think we could use more of it! Class unity and a sense of togetherness are definitely undervalued.

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

IM: I think that what I miss most about Southern California is the pace of life. Whether cultural, weather-induced, or a product of my own perception, Southern California has a much more relaxed and simple manner of being than...
Boston. Things just feel a little bit more…mellow. When I’m away, I miss that ease of existence and not-too-forced simplicity of quotidien life. In Boston, it often feels like the day is chock-full of transitions from one thing to the next. Back home, I think that folks are more liable to take time to (guiltlessly) do nothing.

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

IM: Although I’m quite unsure what I’d like to do in the future, I do think that I will try out living in a few different places before settling down. That being said, I love Southern California, and I would be very happy to eventually ‘settle’ closer to home.

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

IM: I’m not going to lie, virtual classes were tough for me and a big reason I took last semester off. I found it much harder to focus and remain totally present with my learning via Zoom. That being said, there are a bunch of distinct opportunities created virtually that cannot exist in person, which is something I hope to take advantage of in the coming term!

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**Harvard Shared Interest Groups**

Did you know that the Harvard Alumni Association sponsors more than 50 Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)? Each SIG is a recognized community of University-wide alumni who actively engage around a central unifying purpose, mission, background, or activity beyond class affiliation, School, or regional proximity. SIGs offer opportunities to grow personal and professional connections with alumni who:

- share your interests, identities, profession and/or avocations
- access professional resources and a network of alumni both in and beyond your geographic region
- engage in intellectual enrichment and community service
- and stay connected to Harvard and the alumni community.

SIGs are global organizations that engage with their members online and, in areas where there is a critical mass of alumni, in person. The Harvard Club of Southern California and various SIGs often work together to sponsor or cross-promote programming, including such annual events as the Global Networking Night, Welcome to Your City, and various other programs. For more information, please visit Harvard’s Shared Interest Group site [https://alumni.harvard.edu/community/clubs-sigs/sigs-directory](https://alumni.harvard.edu/community/clubs-sigs/sigs-directory) where you can explore Harvard’s vast and varied SIGs. And keep an eye out for more in-depth profiles of Harvard’s SIGs in future newsletters.
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).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE/TIME</th>
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<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu, Oct 14 5:00PM (Sess. 1)</td>
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<td>Virtual Event Online via Zoom</td>
<td>No charge, RSVP required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Nov 20 8:30AM</td>
<td>“The Game” Viewing Party – Orange County</td>
<td>Virtual Event Online via Zoom</td>
<td>$10 for members, $20 for non-members</td>
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