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THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WWW.HARVARDSOCAL.ORG

(310) 546-5252

MAY 2021

Upcoming Events

HLS Prof. Michael Klarman on “The Degradation of American Democracy”

WED, MAY 5 @ 3:30PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian Harassment

WED, MAY 5 @ 4:30PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

Harvard Recent Grads Networking Happy Hour

THU, MAY 6 @ 4:30PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

The Legacy of Comfort Women: Objectification of Asian Women

TUE, MAY 25 @ 5:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

151st Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association

FRI, JUN 4 @ 9:00AM

Virtual Event

No charge - RSVP required

Harvard Admissions Update

On April 6, Harvard College offered admission to 1,223 applicants for the Class of 2025 through its regular-action program, with 1,968 admitted in total, including those selected in the early action process. Altogether, Harvard received 57,435 applications, up nearly 43% from last year. Harvard accepted 3.4% of the students applying, a record low rate, down from last year's 4.9%, and eclipsing the previous record low 4.5% of applicants admitted to the Class of 2023.

Southern California had 3,308 applicants this year. 34 were accepted in the early admissions process (out of 353) and 53 were accepted in the regular decision process, for an overall acceptance rate of 2.6%.

Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid William R. Fitzsimons '67 described the admitted class — the first to go through an entirely virtual admissions cycle — as “heroic” and having “unprecedented diversity.”

“These applicants have faced and overcome unprecedented challenges over the past year,” he said. “Their applications and personal stories revealed a window into their resilience, their intellectual curiosity, and their many positive contributions to family, school, and community. They are truly inspiring.”

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Claudine Gay stated that the College chose to admit a full class despite the 349 students accepted to the Class of 2024 who deferred their admissions. “Harvard is committed to opening the doors of opportunity to all talented students, even if it means confronting the challenge of accommodating more students on campus next year,” Gay said.

Traditionally, the Harvard Club of Southern California hosts events for newly admitted students. This year, Harry

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Kim '86, the Club's Schools Vice President, organized a virtual meet-up attended by approximately 60 admitted students. This allowed the students to get to know each other, if only from their individual Zoom boxes. Admitted students must notify Harvard of their decision to attend by May 3.

The Club would like to thank the hundreds of alumni in our community who rose to the challenge of interviewing this unprecedented number of applicants. The application process for the Class of 2026 will begin in the late summer. Alumni interested in interviewing applicants in the fall of 2021 should email Harry Kim at areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com.

A Message from Club Presidents Past, Present, and Future - Revised By-Laws

By-laws guide the proper functioning of any organization, and the Harvard Club of Southern California is no exception! Our Club has been operating under its current by-laws for the past seven years. To update and modernize the document, as well as correct a few typos, Club President Patric M. Verrone '81 appointed a By-Laws Revision Committee chaired by Immediate Past President Steven M. Arkow '84 and Executive Vice President/President-elect Joan Chu Reese '85. Committee members included former presidents George Newhouse, Jr. '76 and Kay Park '86 as well as board members Pooja Nair JD '11, Eva Plaza '80, and Peter Shimamoto JD '85.

In true Harvard fashion, the committee did its homework — in a collaborative process that solicited contributions from multiple sources in the alumni community. Comparisons were made to and best practices were adopted from model by-laws of the Harvard Alumni Association, by-laws of Harvard Clubs of similar size from around the nation, and those of other Ivy League clubs. The committee made revisions in the following key areas: removal of antiquated and outdated provisions; updates to account for our digital times (e.g., virtual meetings); general editing for clarity and conciseness; and incorporation of important Club documents (conflict-of-interest guidelines; board member duties and responsibilities; Title IX training; and a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging statement). After comprehensive review and input from the Board of Directors, the new by-laws were adopted by unanimous vote of the board at its meeting on April 7, 2021. The new by-laws are effective July 1, 2021 and may be found on our website.

The Club Presidents past, present, and future, commend and thank the committee members for a job well done.

President

Patric M. Verrone '81

Executive Vice President

Joan Chu Reese '85

Vice Presidents Communications

Jonathan Aibel '91
Pooja Nair JD '11

Vice Presidents Finance/Financial Aid

Gary Barkin '86, JD '93
John Luna '03

Vice Presidents Membership

Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81
Matthew Stasior '87

Vice Presidents Orange County

German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09
A. J. Rogers MD '79

Vice Presidents Programs

Madeleine Mejia EdM '00
Lisa Watanabe-Peagler '02

Vice Presidents Radcliffe

Elizabeth Gillis '82
Kay Park '87

Vice Presidents Schools

Harry Kim '86
Eva Plaza '80

Secretaries

Jennifer Hsu '95
Maiya Williams Verrone '84

Past President

Steven M. Arkow '84

HAA Regional Director

Kay Park '87

BOARD MEMBERS

Chi H. Bui DMD '02
Joanna Chan '02
Karen Hernandez MBA '00
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Jade Le '10
Maurice Levin '78, MBA '84
Corey Mazza '08
John McHugh MD '94
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George B. Newhouse '76
E. Dryden Pence III '82
Joe Rogers '86
Ethel Seminario-Laczko EdM '84
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

The Legacy of Comfort Women: Objectification of Asian Women Then and Now



Recent events have put “comfort women” into global controversy again. Then, as now, Asian women have been objectified for sexual desire and robbed of their humanity. Please join us for a firsthand account from Lee Yong-soo, a surviving “comfort woman,” in conversation with Phyllis Kim, Executive Director of CARE (Comfort Women Action for Redress and Education), Michael Chwe, Professor of Political Science at UCLA, and Sung Yeon Choimorrow, Executive Director of NAPAWF (National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum).

TUE, MAY 25 @ 5:00PM

No charge, registration required

Joan Chu Reese, joanchu8@gmail.com

HLS Professor Michael Klarman on “The Degradation of American Democracy—and the Court”

Prof. Klarman, a constitutional scholar, will speak on the degradation of American democracy, the Supreme Court’s contributions to that degradation, and possible remedial steps that might be taken.

WED, MAY 5 @ 3:30PM

No charge, registration required

Jim Richardson, james_p_richardson@msn.com



Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian Harassment, with Emily May, E.D. of Hollaback!

In response to the rise in Anti-Asian-American and xenophobic harassment, the Anti-Racism Committee of the Harvard Club of Southern California is welcoming as a guest speaker Emily May, Executive Director of Hollaback!

WED, MAY 5 @ 4:30PM

No charge, registration required

Svetla Alexandrov, 2svetla@gmail.com



Harvard Recent Grads Networking Happy Hour

Join the Harvard Club of Southern California for a casual networking mixer to celebrate new and old friendships and the overall recent grad community. Grads from all Harvard schools and regions are welcome to join in.

THU, MAY 6 @ 4:30PM

No charge, registration required

Brittany Wang, brittlynnwang@gmail.com



Q&A from 02138:

Noah F.G. Evers '22



Noah F.G. Evers '22, a concentrator in psychology, grew up in Venice, California, and graduated from Crossroads School, where he led both his school's Latin and Meditation clubs. Before joining the Harvard lightweight crew team, he rowed high school crew, and his 2016 lightweight 8+ crew was the fifth fastest in the nation. At Harvard, Noah worked as a research associate with professors Daniel Schrag and Arthur Segel to research, develop, and facilitate a freshman seminar on inequality in the 21st century. After finishing his sophomore year, Noah took a leave of absence during the pandemic to do psychology research and launch a startup. His parents are Frank Evers '87 and Lauren Greenfield '87. His grandmother Patricia Greenfield '62, Ph.D. '66 is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at UCLA and collaborates with Noah on research. Her ex-husband, Noah's grandfather Dr. Sheldon Greenfield '60, is the Donald Bren Professor at UC Irvine.

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

NE: I was surprised by how experiential learning was so heavily prioritized. In most of my classes across disciplines, the professors tried to bring you into contact with the material in a very physical way. The teachers stressed that the real-world applications of what you were learning were critical. While studying the Baroque period in Music 1, my whole class went to the New England Conservatory to watch a historically informed Baroque performance by world-class musicians. When I was on a study abroad in Paris, my final research project was to conduct a thorough analysis of an element of Parisian culture or history. I was encouraged to dive deeply into uncovering and experiencing the underground Parisian rave culture to answer the question "What is music?" Even my psychology courses, which by nature study the intangible forces that govern our behavior, emphasize doing your own experiments and finding answers for yourself.

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

NE: The first time I remember visiting Harvard was at my parents' 25th reunion and my grandmother's 50th reunion. I was 11 years old, and I remember everything vividly. It was spring. My parents walked me around all of their old haunts and reminisced about their time. Fresh green ivy crawled over bricks that had stood for hundreds of years. It was so much bigger than me. Not only because I was physically small, but because it felt like the physical buildings were just the surface of something much grander. I felt an inspiring idea of learning for learning's sake, an idea that has almost entirely passed out of today's world, memorialized in those ubiquitous bricks. I knew it was exactly where I wanted to go to college. I never wanted to say it out loud in high school, but I always felt that Harvard was the only college for me.

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

NE: My favorite class was my freshman seminar, The City of Tomorrow: Constructing and Inhabiting the 21st Century. I thought it was the epitome of a Harvard education. Arthur Segel was the professor, but he ran the course as a carefully crafted semester-long program of discussions between Arthur, the students, and whoever was the leading expert on that week's topic. In every class, we obtained knowledge straight from the source. We learned about mass urbanization and slum redevelopment from Bashar Masri, the developer behind the high-tech city of Rawabi, the first

planned city built for and by Palestinians. We learned about the future of transportation through debating practical and moral autonomous vehicle questions with HBS Professor David Yoffie, who had written extensively about driverless tech. We studied utopia and the future of the city through a final project where we presented designs to a panel of judges. These designs were in response to a real-world assignment where Korea had tasked an architecture firm with building the largest private real estate development in history as a smart city of the future, and our final project judges were the actual leaders of that architecture firm.

HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

NE: The funniest moments were always the late-night shenanigans. You forget how special it is when you're in the midst of it all, but I'm desperate to be back in-person so that I can sit around and joke with my friends until the early morning.

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

NE: Right now, Harvard offers mental health services, but only to treat acute problems. Harvard is a high-pressure environment that is capable of breaking students, so students should be given the resources they need to prevent mental health issues and to thrive. Harvard is all about teaching the world's future leaders to think. However, the mind is just as important as the knowledge it is acquiring. Therefore, if I was the president of Harvard, I would make meditation workshops widely available and place more emphasis on encouraging students to partake of them. Meditation is a convenient and effective resource that one can use their whole life to improve their mind. It has been shown to treat many mental illnesses and help people actually think better.

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

NE: I miss the crazy, bohemian lifestyle of my hometown of Venice Beach. I hate routine and living in Venice surprises me and shakes me out of routine every day. It seems like everywhere I go, people are trying to conform, even sometimes at Harvard where the extreme uniqueness of each student is what makes it so special. However, in Venice, I find people embrace their divergent missions and come together in ways that an outsider might view as strange. I remember as a child getting my palm read right by my house and watching the bodybuilders at Muscle Beach. My neighbor's house is made entirely of mosaic, and I know plenty of people who don't care about making more money than they need. It's a weird and funky place, but I'm really proud to call it mine.

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

NE: Out of anywhere in the world, I feel the best in Southern California. I feel weightless, happy, and confident. Maybe it's the weather. Perhaps it's because I grew up there. I don't know, but I think that feeling is fundamental and will always pull me back.

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

NE: You cannot learn as much on Zoom, and all the human interactions of learning that made it so meaningful for me were gone. Still, the transition to virtual classes was overall very beneficial for me. Having more time on my hands because I was not hanging with friends and everything transitioning to SAT/UNSAT, a lot less of my time was taken up by my course load, allowing me to really plunge into the passion projects that I never had the time to do before. I ended up feeling so fulfilled following my dreams that I took a leave of absence to pursue them full-time. I decided to turn my interest in the science of optimizing cognition into a business. For over two years, I have been researching and experimenting with how to harness cutting-edge cognitive science to create coffee that makes you think better, and now, having started to accomplish that goal, I've turned my side project into a startup, Flow, which I'm working on full-time in preparation for rolling out our first line of enhanced cold brew coffees on Harvard's campus this fall. Also, during the COVID pause, I developed a novel methodology for using massive quantities of internet data to measure the psychological and behavioral changes caused by COVID-19 in the American populous. I used this methodology in a scientific study that ended up finding evidence of a psychological, evolutionary adaptation, was published as the lead research article in *Human Behavior and Emerging Technologies'* special issue on COVID and technology, and made international news in outlets such as *U.S. News and World Report*, NPR, and *Russia Today*.



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of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

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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.

| DATE/TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | COST |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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