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THE HARVARD CLUB of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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(310) 546-5252

MAY 2022

Upcoming Events

Harvard Recent Grads April “First Mondays” Happy Hour

MON, MAY 2 @ 6:00PM

North Italia (Santa Monica)

Free - No host food and drinks

Kids’ Foil Fencing Class Taught by an Olympian

SAT, MAY 14 @ 1:00PM

Elite Fencing Club

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

Friends of Harvard Football LA Reception w/Coach Tim Murphy

MON, MAY 16 @ 6:30PM

The Griffin Club (Los Angeles)

\$150, alumni & friends; \$100, classes of '17-'21

Virtual Classroom V1: Justice Today – Money, Markets and Morals

MON, MAY 16 @ 7:00PM

Online via Zoom

No charge

The Parent Trap: A Presentation by Economist Nate Hilger PhD '13

THU, MAY 19 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event

No charge - registration required



HCSC Events for Kids and Families

This month, HCSC is hosting a number of in-person events for kids and families. We welcome the SoCal alumni community to join us.

Foil Fencing

On May 14, 2022, kids ages 8-14 can take an Introduction to Foil Fencing Class taught by Olympian, Tarek Ayad. Tarek has been a member of the Egyptian National Team since 1998 and is a two-time Olympian, having competed in London 2012 and Rio 2016. This special class for the Harvard community is a great opportunity for your child to experience the sport of foil fencing. Attendance is limited to 30 kids.

LA County Arboretum

On May 15, 2022, alumni of all ages are welcome for a visit to the LA County Arboretum. The Arboretum has 127 acres of plants, natural landscapes, wildlife and historic buildings. Alumni and their families will have the opportunity to discover plants and trees from all over the world as you wander along paths and learn about California history on your journey through the garden.

Museum Playdate at the Cayton

On May 22, 2022, the Club is hosting a playdate at Cayton's Children Museum in Santa Monica. The Cayton offers 21,000 square feet of discovery-based exhibits and immersive play, from a real-life helicopter to a miniature marketplace to reactive VR for kids ages 0-8.

Space is limited and registration through the HCSC website is required for all of these events.



H4A Arts & Entertainment Event Series Highlights Powerhouse Creators

HCSC, H4A, and Harvardwood have joined forces for a series of events showcasing Asian-American authors and creators. The H4A Arts & Entertainment series is the product of a collaboration by Jennifer Hsu '95 and Peter Shimamoto JD '85 and features books, TV series, and movies.

The series gives attendees the unique opportunity to get a window into the inspiration and process behind the work. Most events include time for audience interactions and questions.

The series launched with an event featuring writer-producer Soo Hugh, the showrunner and executive producer of Apple TV+ series PACHINKO.

The next event in the series is an in-person event on May 13, featuring Jeff Yang's new book *RISE: A Pop History of Asian America from the Nineties to Now*.

On May 22, author Vanessa Hua will discuss her new novel, *Forbidden City*. The novel tells the story of how a teenage girl in 1960s China became Mao Zedong's protégé, lover, and poster child for the Cultural Revolution and comes to doubt the certainties she held so dear.

On July 10, 2022, Kirstin Chen, author of bestselling novels *Soy Sauce for Beginners* and *Bury What We Cannot Take* will be discussing her new book *Counterfeit*.

Events are typically \$5 for Harvard Club and H4A members and \$30 for non-members. Tickets are available on the HCSC website. If you have ideas for future events in the series and want to get involved, email Jennifer Hsu at h4asocal@gmail.com.

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CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

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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



Admitted students for the class of 2026 get together on April 9 at the home of Gary Barkin '86, JD '93 and Haya Handel.

Class of 2026 Admissions

Admissions to the Class of 2026 were sent out on March 31, 2022. Including Early Action, Harvard received 61,220 applications, up nearly 7% from last year, and accepted 3.19% of the students applying, a record-low rate, down from 3.43% last year, and eclipsing the previous record-low 4.5% of applicants admitted to the Class of 2023.

Southern California had 3,512 applicants this year. Thirty nine were accepted in the early action process (out of 345) and 45 were accepted in the regular decision process (out of 3,167), for an overall acceptance rate of 2.4%.

Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid William R. Fitzsimmons '67 described the admitted class as “truly remarkable in every way.” Dean Fitzsimmons went on to say that “[b]eyond their academic and extracurricular accomplishments noted in their applications are the many contributions they made to their families, schools, and communities, during a time of pandemic and economic challenge.”

The Class of 2026 reflects the increasing diversity of the College’s applicants, with 15.5% identifying as African American/Black, 27.8% as Asian American, 12.6% as Latinx, 2.9% as Native American, and 0.8% as Native Hawaiian. Women account for more than half, 54.2%, of all those accepted.

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 9. The event was attended by approximately 30 admitted students. Final decisions on accepting Harvard’s offer of admission are due May 2nd. The application process for the Class of 2027 will begin in the late summer. Alumni interested in interviewing applicants in the fall of 2022 should email Harry Kim at areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com.

Welcome to New Members...

The Harvard Club of Southern California welcomes the following new members:

Christine Chung '96, MD '01,
MPH '07

Peter Dahabreh ALM '19

Jeffrey Derr ALM '20

Leandro Grimaldi Bournissaint
MPH '14

Willie Goffney '78, MD '82

Tiantian He DMD '21

Yungi Jung MAR '20

Jason Kim MPH '20

Belle Lee '18, EdM '21

Ian Racca Lopez AMD '20

Jiangpeng Luo PLDA '21

Oscar Mercado (class of '25)

Amaris Olguin MTS '18

Ashleigh Parsons EdM '12

Sabrina Schloss (JD class of '24)

Robert Stone '87

Alyssa Truong '21

Izgi Uygur MLA '18

Christina Yi '93, JD '96

Ioana Zelko '16, PhD '21

Christina Zupanc (EdM class of '22)

and the entire class of 2021 living in
Southern California

Recent Events

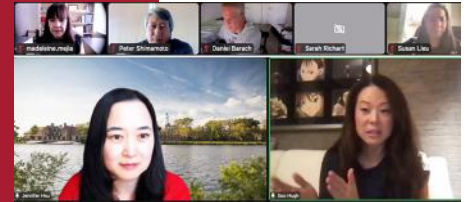
Harvard Recent Grads Happy Hour

We've got another First Monday's Happy Hour in the books! On April 4, the Harvard Recent Grad community met at the Intercontinental Hotel to share drinks and conversation at the Lobby Lounge. We loved the view of the downtown LA skyline as the sun set. If you'd like to get alerts for our next social activity, please join our WhatsApp group at: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FpRAeL1m6HDCyUCZ76j6mn>



PACHINKO Q&A with Writer-Producer Soo Hugh

On April 8, fifty-eight members of HCSC, H4A and Harvardwood got together virtually for the PACHINKO Q&A with writer-producer Soo Hugh. Topics ranged from the process of adapting the book for the Apple TV series to her career switch from an advertising executive to a television showrunner. Interested attendees were invited to apply to The Thousand Miles Project incubator for new Asian American writers. After the talk members socialized in breakout rooms for HCSC, H4A and Harvardwood.



How to Be Perfect: Author Michael Schur '97 Talks with Eric Kaplan '89

Members of the HCSC, Harvardwood, and the Harvard Club of the Research Triangle were treated to a thought-provoking and laughter-inducing conversation on April 19 featuring Emmy-winning TV producers Mike Schur '97 (The Good Place) and Eric Kaplan '89 (The Big Bang Theory). The two part-time philosophy scholars and full-time comedy writers informed and entertained the largest Zoom crowd at a Club event in over a year with the proper approach to moral decision-making (read Schur's new book *How to Be Perfect*); how to answer "The Trolley Problem" (don't ask it); and what makes Kierkegaard funny (it's the multiple "K" sounds). A recording of the event is available on the Past Events page of the Club website.



Myron Kayton Science Pub #20 - The Past, Present and Future of the James Webb Space Telescope

On April 24, HCSC's long-running Science Pub hosted Dr. Alan Dressler, Astronomer Emeritus at the Carnegie Observatories for the second time. Dr. Dressler described the history and recent launch of the James Webb Space Telescope.



Upcoming Events

Harvard Recent Grads May “First Mondays” Happy Hour

Start off your month with good food and new friends! We'll be meeting at North Italia in Santa Monica for Happy Hour from 6-7PM on the first Monday of May. Please RSVP below and contact us if you have any questions.



MON, MAY 2 @ 6:00PM

North Italia

No charge, no host food and drinks

HAA Speakers Bureau: Professor Juliette Kayyem: “Learning to Live in an Age of Disasters”

Please join us for this special session featuring Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Senior Lecturer in International Security, Juliette Kayyem. In academia, the private sector, government and media, Juliette Kayyem is a national leader in homeland security, cybersecurity, resiliency and safety.



WED, MAY 11 @ 3:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

Kids’ Foil Fencing Class Taught by an Olympian

Elite Fencing Club, a 10,000-square-foot facility near Marina Del Rey, is offering an “Introduction to Foil Fencing” class for kids ages 8-14. This special class for the Harvard community is a great opportunity for your child to experience the sport of foil fencing. To provide the best experience possible, we will be limiting attendance to 30 kids.



SAT, MAY 14 @ 1:00PM

Elite Fencing Club

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

Los Angeles County Arboretum Visit

Self-guided group visit with an opportunity for coffee and socializing before exploring the gardens. The Arboretum has 127 acres of plants, natural landscapes, wildlife and historic buildings. Alumni will have the opportunity to discover plants and trees from all over the world as you wander along paths and learn about California history on your journey through the garden.



SUN, MAY 15 @ 9:00AM

Los Angeles County Arboretum

\$13, members; \$20, non-members; \$5, children (5-12); Free, children under 5

Upcoming Events

Friends of Harvard Football LA Reception With Coach Tim Murphy

Join the Thomas Stephenson Family Head Coach for Harvard Football, Tim Murphy, and fellow alumni, friends, and fans for the Friends of Harvard Football LA Reception.



MON, MAY 16 @ 6:30PM

The Griffin Club

\$150, alumni & friends, \$100, recent grads

Virtual Classroom V1: Justice Today – Money, Markets and Morals

Come join our virtual classroom group where we will meet every other week and take a class together. The format will be similar to larger classes taught at Harvard where we watch a lecture and read supporting materials “offline”, and then meet as a virtual “section” to discuss.



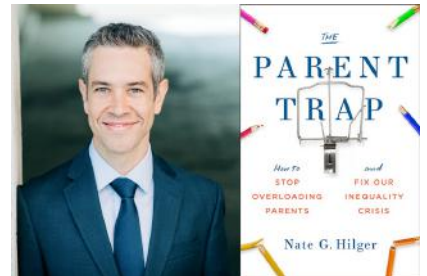
MON, MAY 16 @ 7:00PM

Online via Zoom

No charge

The Parent Trap: A Presentation by Economist Nate Hilger PhD '13

Please Join us as Nate Hilger PhD '13 discusses his timely and thought provoking new book which offers a proposal - grounded in science - to increase child skill development and end inequality.



THU, MAY 19 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge

Harvard Family Playdate at Cayton Children's Museum in Santa Monica

Please join other Harvard alum families with children for a playdate at Cayton's Children Museum. The Cayton offers 21,000 square feet of discovery - based exhibits and immersive play, from a real-life helicopter to a miniature marketplace to reactive VR - and so much more - for kids ages 0-8



SUN, MAY 22 @ 1:00PM

Cayton Children's Museum, Santa Monica Place

No Cost for LA County Residents, \$16, others (children under 1, free)

Upcoming Events

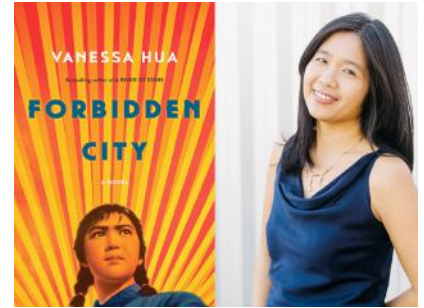
H4A Book Talk: Discussion and Q&A with Vanessa Hua

Join fellow alumni for a Book Discussion and Q&A with bestselling author Vanessa Hua for her new book *Forbidden City*.

SUN, MAY 22 @ 2:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

\$5, Harvard Club members; \$5, H4A members; \$5, Harvardwood members; \$10, non-members



Harvard Krokodiloes Come to Orange County

Join the Harvard Club of Southern California in welcoming the Harvard's most prestigious a capella group as it returns to Southern California.

SAT, MAY 28 @ 7:30PM

Marina Park

\$20, members; \$50, non-members



Myron Kayton Science Pub #21 - Mathematical Models of the Spread of Diseases

UCLA Mathematics professor Mason Porter will describe how to model social networks, as well as how diseases and misinformation spread across them.

SUN, MAY 29 @ 3:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



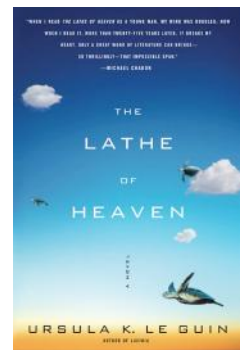
HCSC Crimson Book Club - *The Lathe of Heaven*

Do you love books? So do we! Join us for a discussion of award-winning author Ursula K. Le Guin's classic science fiction novel, *The Lathe of Heaven*. The book is an eerily prescient novel that masterfully addresses the dangers of power and humanity's self-destructiveness, questioning the nature of reality itself. Space is limited, so register early.

WED, JUN 8 @ 7:00PM

Virtual Event via Zoom

No charge



Q&A from 02138:

Noah Hodge '22



Noah Hodge, '22, a concentrator in Molecular and Cellular Biology, was born in Mission Viejo, California and graduated from Santa Margarita Catholic High School where he was a three-time varsity starter and two-time captain of the water polo team. As a goalkeeper, Noah won a CIF title in 2016. He was also named to multiple All-League, All-County, and All-Academic teams over his tenure at SMCHS, as well as being an active member in the school's orchestra ensemble. He is an academic junior residing in Adams House. At Harvard, he is currently serving his second year as captain of the varsity water polo program and just recently finished his third season as a varsity starter. He is a three-time first team all-conference goalie, and he was awarded All-American honors for the 2019 season. Over the pandemic, he chose to take a leave of absence over the spring semester in order to retain his athletic eligibility and come back to Harvard for one last season in 2022. Over the spring and summer, he was able to work as a research associate for the fast-growth startup Fount, a business that caters personalized wellness programs for high-profile athletes, business executives, and high performers. He aided in project design and conducting deep research dives to further advance the company's database and was instrumental in accelerating the scaling of the early foundations of the company.

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

NH: The one thing that surprised me the most coming in as a Harvard student has been the sense of community and camaraderie amongst the undergraduate student body. Stepping onto campus for the first time as student, I was expecting a much more cutthroat and competitive environment, one where I would have to fight to succeed. However, much to my delight, I was met with a much more welcoming and cooperative atmosphere, one in which both students and faculty help ensure that each individual is given the best chance to prosper in their given field.

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

NH: The first time I visited Harvard was in the spring of my junior year of high school. I was invited to Harvard Water Polo's Junior Day which is a whole weekend of events with the coaches and players from both the men's and the women's team, providing an opportunity for high school recruits to learn more about the program and the school as a whole. I was taken away by the school as a whole, learning about the history and taking tours around the athletic and academic parts of campus left me in awe of such a historically beautiful school. Learning about the social life and what it was like being a student athlete on campus sold me even further on a school whose name sells itself. After that day I knew that Harvard was my top choice to continue my academic and athletic career.

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

NH: My favorite class thus far in my time at Harvard has to be The Art of Film taught at the time by Kate Rennebohm. I was able to take this course spring of my sophomore year, and being a molecular and cellular biology concentrator, most of my schedule up to that point had consisted of introductory STEM classes and general education classes to fulfill my requirements. Taking a chance on this course in a field where I knew little to nothing about was daunting at first; however I quickly fell in love with the course and Professor Rennebohm's teaching. Throughout the lectures and weekly film screenings I was introduced to a plethora of films which I would not have gotten the chance to see otherwise. We learned several different ways to analyze films as an art form and I found

Continued on next page

myself looking forward to each lecture and the brilliant discussions we were able to have as a class. I was left with a newfound appreciation for film that will stick with me for the rest of my life.

HCSC: What has been your funniest moment at Harvard?

NH: Throughout my time at Harvard, several different funny moments come to mind, including late-night walks back from the quad, visiting the famous John Harvard statue a few times, team breakfast banter in Annenberg after early morning weights, the list goes on. But if I had to choose, I found the funniest moments to come from late-night group study sessions. The communal delirium of staying up grinding out papers or problem sets late into the night led to the most ridiculous, and hilarious, exchanges that I can remember. These group sessions, especially freshman year, helped me grow closer to friends who I now consider family and these late-night grind sessions are fond memories we can look back on and laugh about.



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

NH: If I were President of Harvard, the first thing I would change would be the undergraduate's meal plans to include a stipend to go out to certain eateries around campus. No disrespect to Harvard University Dining Services, as they work so hard to ensure that students are properly fed, but often times there are days during the week where students get a little tired eating the dorm food and would rather go out to eat and support the surrounding restaurants such as Jefe's or Pinocchio's Pizza. However, eating out can get expensive quickly, especially for broke college students. If it were up to me, I would use a small cut of students' room and board fees to be used in certain cheaper restaurants surrounding campus.

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

NH: The biggest thing I miss most about Southern California has to be the ocean. I was fortunate enough to grow up near the water and I am forever grateful to my family for introducing me to the ocean at a young age. Whether it be surfing, bodysurfing, swimming, or just enjoying the sunshine on the sand while listening to the waves crash, being near the ocean has always been my happy place. We're incredibly lucky to live in a place as beautiful as Southern California and whenever I see the ocean, I'm reminded of just how good we have it.

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

NH: I would absolutely love to come back to Southern California at some point in my time after Harvard. Being able to live on the East Coast during my time at Harvard has bolstered my appreciation for California and Southern California specifically. That's not to say I don't enjoy being on the East Coast, I could easily see myself living in Boston or another city post graduation for a few years, working and traveling around. But when it comes to raising a family, in my eyes there's no better place than Southern California and it is definitely in my future plans to return for good at some point.

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

NH: The transition to virtual classes wasn't the easiest but I was able to make it work in the long run. Being kicked off of campus in March of 2020 was incredibly difficult at first and shifting to online learning didn't help much either. Dealing with the time change meant early morning classes were even earlier, and not being in person made it much harder to connect with trailblazing professors, one of Harvard's perks that I love to take advantage of. After a few weeks it got a bit easier to manage online learning, but throughout the proceeding semesters I began to miss in person learning more and more.



THE HARVARD CLUB
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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
Mon, May 2 6:00PM	Harvard Recent Grads May "First Mondays" Happy Hour	North Italia Santa Monica, CA	No charge - No host food and drinks
Sat, May 14 1:00PM	Kids' Foil Fencing Class Taught by an Olympian	Elite Fencing Club Los Angeles, CA	\$15, Members \$25, Non-Members
Sun, May 15 9:00AM	Los Angeles County Arboretum Visit	Los Angeles County Arboretum	\$13, Members \$20, Non-Members
Mon, May 16 6:30PM	Friends of Harvard Football LA Reception With Coach Tim Murphy	The Griffin Club Los Angeles, CA	\$150, alumni \$100, recent grads
Mon, May 16 7:00PM	Virtual Classroom V1: Justice To- day - Money, Markets and Morals	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge
Thu, May 19 7:00PM	<i>The Parent Trap</i> : A Presentation by Economist Nate Hilger PhD '13	Virtual Event Online via Zoom	No charge
Sun, May 22 1:00PM	Harvard Family Playdate at Cayton Children's Museum	Cayton Children's Museum Santa Monica, CA	No charge for LA Country Residents