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(310) 546-5252

FEBRUARY 2023

## Upcoming Events

### HLSA-OC Event: Creating a Prison to University Pipeline

TUE, FEB 7 @ 4:30PM  
UC Irvine Law School (Irvine)  
No charge

### The Heisenberg Variations - Imagination, Invention, and Uncertainty

THU, FEB 16 @ 1:00PM  
Virtual event via Zoom  
No charge

### Virtual Book Talk: *Making Black Girls Count in Math Education*

MON, FEB 27 @ 9:00AM  
Virtual event via Zoom  
No charge

### HGSE Event: How We Talk About Climate Change with Kids

WED, MAR 8 @ 12:00PM  
Virtual event via Zoom  
No charge

### Harvard Men's Tennis Visits Southern California

MON, MAR 13 thru SUN, MAR 20  
Various Locations in San Diego  
Cost TBA



## Welcome to the Class of 2027 - Early Admit Reception

On January 8, 2023, Harry Kim '86, VP of Schools, Kay Park '87, VP Radcliffe, and Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi EdD '81, VP Membership, hosted a reception for the Early Action admits to the Harvard Class of 2027 at the lovely Hancock Park home of Sonia Molina DMD '89, MPH '89. Also in attendance were Steven Arkow '84 and John Wang '88. Admitted students and their family members spent the afternoon meeting future classmates and new Harvard families over pizza. The Early Action admits from Southern California numbered 30 out of 316 applicants, an acceptance rate of 9.5%. Nationally, Harvard accepted 722 out of 9,553 Early Action applicants, an acceptance rate of 7.5%.

According to William R. Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid, "Once again, there was a remarkable pool of applicants in the early admissions cycle... This year's admitted class, like the ones before it, is brimming with talent, and will shape our community for years to come."

Kim asks that alumni interviewers submit their interview reports quickly to enable the Admissions Office to assess candidates on a timely basis. Interviews will be ongoing until early March. Any alumni interested in interviewing should email Kim at [areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com](mailto:areachairsfvharvard@gmail.com).



# President's Letter February 2023

Sadly, the news over the last weeks demonstrated that California is not immune to the horrific national wave of gun violence. The Harvard Club of Southern California stands with the community of Monterey Park and those impacted by the senseless attack over the Lunar New Year weekend, and of those affected by the tragic workplace shooting in Half Moon Bay. We are deeply saddened by the loss of life, especially during what should be a time of celebration and joy in the Asian American community here in our own backyard. If any of you are moved to help or know someone who needs resources, here is a list of organizations vetted by the California Community Foundation: <https://aapiequityalliance.org/support-for-monterey-park/>

On a more hopeful note, Harvard has two new leaders who will undoubtedly have a tremendous positive impact on our college and alumni experience. The first is Harvard's new president, Claudine Gay. As the first person of color and second woman to lead Harvard, she came to her post with a deep resume of accomplishments, from Stanford tenured professor (after a short 5 years) to Harvard Dean of Social Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and last December, to the 30th University President. Colleagues have praised Gay's clarity of purpose, brilliant scholarship, and focus on increasing the geographic and intellectual diversity of the Harvard faculty.

In another first, Sarah C. Karmon has been named executive director of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) and an associate vice president of alumni affairs and development, succeeding Philip Lovejoy as the first woman in the top HAA administrative position. Sarah explained, "With a dedicated network of more than 17,500 alumni volunteers and exceptional colleagues on the HAA staff, we have important work to do in connecting alumni to Harvard and ensuring we are connecting the institution with our outstanding graduates, who are contributing to their communities around the world." Sarah's goals are to promote "engagement and stewardship of an inclusive, University-wide alumni community, supporting the evolution of a global network, and introducing new ways to connect alumni through technology."

A lot of those alumni volunteers are members of the Harvard Club of Southern California. We could not create our many educational and fun events, interview thousands of college applicants, or help Harvard students in need without our volunteers. If you have a desire to become more involved, please do! Contact anyone on the board, we'd love to hear from you!

Joan Chu Reese '85  
President, Harvard Club of Southern California

<b>President</b> Joan Chu Reese '85	<b>Vice Presidents Programs</b> Madelaine Mejia EdM '00 Maiya Williams Verrone '84	<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>CLUB NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE</b>
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<b>Vice President Communications</b> Pooja Nair JD '11 Cynthia Torres '80, MBA '84	<b>Vice Presidents Schools</b> Harry Kim '86 Eva Plaza '80		
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<b>Vice Presidents Orange County</b> German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07-'09 A. J. Rogers MD '79			

## Recent Events

### A Cappella Triple Feature - The Dins, Pitches and Kroks Return to L.A.

On Saturday, January 14, a crowd of more than 250 Harvard alumni and guests filled the Westwood Presbyterian Church for the return of one of the Club's signature events — a winter a cappella concert. This year the capacity crowd was treated to a triple header, as the show featured not one, not two, not four, but three of Harvard's most prestigious singing groups: the Harvard Din & Tonics, the Radcliffe Pitches, and the Harvard Krokodiloes. All three groups performed impeccable and entertaining sets and the audience was thrilled to be hearing live singing again after a 2 year hiatus. The groups were in town as part of their Wintersession tours, which saw them leave cold and snowy Cambridge for cold and rainy Los Angeles. We look forward to welcoming them back next year for what is sure to be another fantastic show.



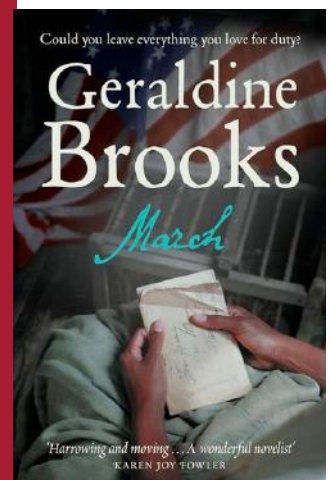
### A Cappella Event - The Din & Tonics in Orange County

Orange County hosted a sold-out Harvard Din & Tonics a capella concert in Newport Beach on Sunday, January 15. The event opened with a sublime rendition of God Bless America from The All-American Boys Chorus followed by a soulful Loch Lomond from an Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) barbershop ensemble. After performing their repertoire, the Dins got the crowd singing and laughing when joined by Din alum Gary Chun SM '80, MD, and Din founder Patrick Whelan AB '82, MD, to sing the group's signature number Sh'Boom. The Dins then broke into a rousing Happy Birthday for current Din Andrew Courtney COL '24, son of the event's host Phuong-Vien Nguyen '86. Co-host and emcee Rob Stone '87 thanked the event's participants including HCSC luminaries in attendance including German Enciso HMS Research Fellow '07- '09, HCSC VP for Orange County; John McHugh MD '94, former board member; and Matthew Stasior '87, co-host and HCSC VP for Membership.



### HCSC Crimson Book Club - *March* by Geraldine Brooks

On Tuesday, January 17, a group of ten Harvard alumni gathered to discuss *March*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Geraldine Brooks. Brooks is a former journalist and current visiting lecturer of English in Harvard's Department of English. *March* is a Civil War novel focusing on the absent father from *Little Women*. The discussion was animated and engaging. The HCSC Crimson Book Club meets once a quarter to discuss books by Harvard-affiliated authors. The next book and date will be posted soon.



## Partner Club Event (HLSA-OC): Creating a Prison to University Pipeline

Join the Harvard Law School Association of Orange County (HLSA-OC) along with UCI Professor Keramet Reiter (AB '03) and Nahal Kazemi (AB '02, JD '04) for this in-person CLE event (which satisfies the “Elimination of Bias” requirement).



**TUE, FEB 7 @ 4:30PM**

Online via Zoom

No charge

## Virtual Event (Radcliffe): The Heisenberg Variations - Imagination, Invention, and Uncertainty

How do we create art? How do we become ourselves? In this lecture, Jennifer Finney Boylan considers the way revision and reinvention serve—not only as necessary aspects of the creative process—but also as a model for the way we live our lives, and create ourselves, through trial and error.

**THU, FEB 16 @ 1:00PM**

Online via Zoom

No charge



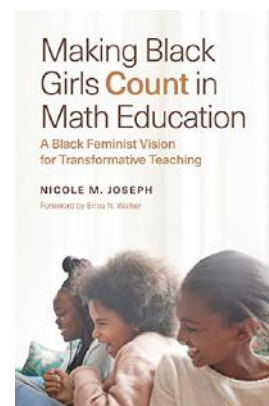
## Gutman Library Virtual Book Talk - *Making Black Girls Count in Math Education*

*Making Black Girls Count in Math Education* explores the experiences of Black girls and women in mathematics from preschool to graduate school, deftly probing race and gender inequity in STEM fields.

**MON, FEB 27 @ 9:00AM**

Online via Zoom

No charge



## HGSE Education Now Event: How We Talk About Climate Change with Kids

The results of a new survey from the Aspen Institute suggest that concerns for children could unify and inspire more Americans to confront the climate crisis. But for many parents and caregivers, talking about climate change with children — especially if they themselves are anxious about it — is a challenge.

**WED, MAR 8 @ 12:00PM**

Online via Zoom

No charge



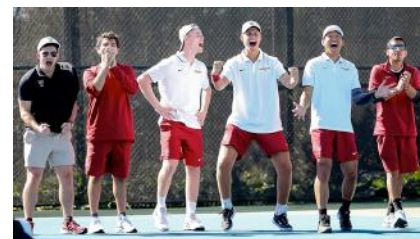
## Harvard Men's Tennis Visits Southern California (March 13-17, 2023)

Come watch and cheer on the nationally ranked #16 Crimson as they take on some of the nation's best tennis competition. There is no cost to attend.

**MON, MAR 13 thru SUN, MAR 19**

Various Locations in San Diego, CA

No charge



## *Save the Date!* Harvard Global Networking Night

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.

**THU, MAR 16 @ 6:00PM**

Location TBA

Cost TBA



Q & A from 02138:

## Simon Lamar '23



Simon Lamar '23, a concentrator in Human Evolutionary Biology with a secondary in Molecular and Cellular Biology, was born in Pomona, California, and graduated from Sonora High School where he ran the Red Cross Club. He was a CIF Champion in swimming and a member of the California Scholarship Federation. He is a senior residing in Mather House. At Harvard, he is a member of the Varsity Men's Swimming and Diving team, Co-President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Vice-President of the Athlete Medical Mentorship Program, and a member of Short-Term Capital Management. His summers have been spent representing Team USA at international competitions such as the FINA World Championships and preparing for a possible life in medicine or in the healthcare consulting industry.

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

SL: At Harvard, I was surprised by the community and support I received from faculty and peers. This component of institutionalized help and resources allowed me to flourish after struggling during my freshman year. I'm still in close contact with my proctors, deans, and alumni that have had a significant impact on my time at Harvard thus far, and can't thank them enough for shaping me into the person I am today.

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

SL: I visited Harvard in the fall of 2017 for a recruiting trip. I came in with a preconceived notion that Harvard wasn't the place for me and after the end of my trip, I knew I had found a place to call home. I was enamoured with the buildings and history surrounding Harvard, but ultimately it was the people that hooked me in. The diversity of people and backgrounds allowed me to believe that this was a place where I could succeed and fulfill my dreams while making memories to last a lifetime.

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

SL: My favorite class was my Freshmen Seminar on Sleep. It was taught by world-renowned sleep researcher and doctor, Dr. Charles Czeisler. I learned everything there was to know about sleep and how important it is to an individual's health and well-being. From that class, I spread knowledge to my teammates, family, and friends. It changed how I viewed sleep and inspired me to take further classes and do my own reading on the topic.

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

SL: There hasn't been one specific moment thus far, but all the memories I have made with my friends. From my team to my friend group, we've made unforgettable memories and I can't wait to retell these moments in the future.

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

SL: A big complaint from the student population is the need for A/C in the dorms. It's an issue that has been brought up for years, but from a structural component, I think it would be of value to have classes/workshops that teach FGLI students how to incorporate themselves into the community. It can be a shock to join the university coming from a completely different background and I believe people could benefit from a service that teaches them certain skills.

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

SL: One thing I miss is using my car. It was one of the things I didn't appreciate until I didn't have it anymore. It's not that difficult to walk or take the shuttle or the T, but the convenience of being able to leave and drive to another location is something I yearn for. However, being in the Northeast has provided an opportunity for me to figure out directions and get accustomed to walking.

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

SL: I'm not entirely sure yet, I would like to spend time there to get away from some of the harsh winters and be around my family and friends. For now, I've enjoyed my time on the East Coast and want to spend some more years here, it's an interesting place and I'm not done with it yet. I would love to get back to the warm weather and beaches at some point in the future.

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

SL: I had a strange experience just like everyone else. I didn't enjoy it too much, and I decided to take a gap year in 2020-2021 because I felt that I wasn't learning much or retaining information. Spending time collaborating in a classroom setting is a way that I thrive, and I wasn't able to get that with virtual classes. I'm glad that things have returned to normal for the most part. I'm having a great time on campus this year.



**Send Us Your Event Photos!**



Have photos from recent Harvard Club events? Share them with us by emailing them to [photos@harvard-social.org](mailto:photos@harvard-social.org) and include your name, the date and name of the event, and a description.

*\*Please note that any photos shared may be shared on our Club's social media channels and newsletter. Please receive consent from all photographed parties.*

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THE HARVARD CLUB  
of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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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
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