



HARVARD CLUB OF NEW JERSEY

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Dear Harvard Alumni, Students, and Parents,

It is a beautiful fall day and it brings back fond memories of my days in Cambridge, Massachusetts, rowing on the Charles River. I am delighted and honored to lead the Harvard Club of New Jersey (HCNJ) this year. The HCNJ offers a wide variety of activities and ways to connect with Harvard and I sincerely hope that you will become involved in the HCNJ over the next year.

Why get involved? First, the HCNJ sponsors a full calendar of interesting and varied programs throughout the year. From fall sports outings to cheer on Harvard teams, to our late winter journey to the Hasty Pudding theatrical in New York, to our Annual Dinner in the spring, we do our best to create events that will appeal to the many interests of our members. Other highlights of HCNJ events from last year include:

- *All's Well that Ends Well* at the Shakespeare Theater of NJ
- Programs on hawks and owls at the Raptor Trust
- A nighttime hike in the Great Swamp
- The Annual Musicales featuring talented undergraduate musicians

In addition, the HCNJ provides vital support to the University's admissions program. We partner with the Harvard College Admissions Office to make sure that every applicant in our northern and central New Jersey area has the opportunity for an alumni interview. Alumni interviewers find this a uniquely rewarding way to both serve the College and stay connected.

Finally, we actively support undergraduate education. The Harvard Club of New Jersey makes regular donations to the scholarship fund. Notably, this year we sponsored three summer internships for Harvard undergraduates who worked for New Jersey non-profit organizations.

Please join the Club and participate in our variety of enjoyable events!

Best regards,
Noreen Hughes Verbrugge '81, *President*

HCNJ Crimson Events

Check our website for the details!

www.hcnj.org

MoMA Tour

Fall Habitat for Humanity

Nature and Wildflower Walk

Film: Harvard Beats Yale 29-29

Tibetan Exhibit, Newark Museum

White Christmas at the Paper Mill

NJ Community FoodBank

Jesus Mora Art Exhibit

Hasty Pudding Theatricals

Annual Meeting and Dinner

Additional events are continually added to our calendar.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR HCNJ MEMBERSHIP

By becoming a member of the HCNJ, you will have the opportunity to attend our exciting 2011-2012 activities and to support the HCNJ's scholarship program and summer internship program. Some of our events are offered only to members or are offered to members at a reduced fee.

To join, either fill out and mail the enclosed membership form, or sign up online at www.hcnj.eventbrite.com

Please also visit www.post.harvard.edu to make sure that you are registered with a current user ID and password, and that your address and email information are up-to-date.

WE WELCOME YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Who we are as a Club and what we do is determined by our members. As a member you can make your voice heard about our events, activities, and speakers. As a member, you may also attend monthly HCNJ meetings and volunteer to become involved in the Executive Committee, which provides the leadership of our Club.

Your membership dues and contributions directly support Harvard undergraduates through our scholarship fund and summer internship program. Thank you for your support.

Internship for Students in Public Service

This spring, the Harvard Club of NJ chose three current Harvard students for our annual Summer Community Service Fellowship Program. Each student spent the summer working for a New Jersey based nonprofit organization. Alexander Diaz '14 assisted in the assessment of mental health needs of the Latino community at the North Hudson Community Action Corporation in Union City. Michelle Haan '12 served as a full-time Summer Nature Program Assistant at the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary in Bernardsville, facilitating environmental education programs for the Sanctuary's summer day camp for children. Olajumoke Odelele '13 performed biomedical technology research to improve health care for disabled people at the Veterans' Association Medical Center in East Orange. Congratulations to all our summer interns!

"There are so many things that I am grateful to you for, from my acceptance into Harvard to my latest internship. These opportunities truly bring hope to me, my family, and my community. I wanted to take the time to personally thank you and the Harvard Club of New Jersey for all that they have done, and for the sacrifices made to ensure that there is a summer internship program. I have learned and benefited so greatly from this exposure to not only the non-profit sector, but also to the field of mental health, and I know these experiences would not have been made possible were it not for your dedication and persistent vouching on my behalf. Again thank you so much for giving me a chance and changing my life."

-Alex Diaz '14

The Harvard Club of New Jersey is one of sixteen Clubs throughout the country that sponsor summer public service internships for undergraduates. The program, which operates under Harvard's Center for Public Interest Careers, provides an opportunity for students to develop their interest in public service careers while providing service in their local or nearby communities. When you fill out the membership form, please consider a gift to the HCNJ's very worthwhile summer internship program. Thank you for your support.

Tour the Newark Museum's Extraordinary Tibetan Collection with the HCNJ on Sunday December 4th, 2011

The Newark Museum is home to the foremost collection of Tibetan art in the Western Hemisphere. The museum's collection consists of over 5,000 objects, including paintings, sculptures, ritual objects, fine textiles, documentary photographs, and decorative art. The HCNJ tour will include highlights from the Museum's eight permanent galleries of Tibetan art. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a Buddhist Altar consecrated in 1990 by the 14th Dalai Lama. This special HCNJ tour will offer Club members a fascinating view of Tibetan art, history, and culture.

For information, contact Wendy Livingston at wendyl55@aol.com or (973) 299-2152.

Return to Early Action Admissions Program

Harvard College launched the 2011-2012 admissions season with the important news that after a four year hiatus, the College is restoring its Early Action admissions program. All early applications for the Class of 2016 must be submitted by November 1st, 2011 and students will be informed by December 15th of their admissions status: accepted, deferred, or rejected. The program is "single choice, nonbinding," which means that an applicant can apply to only one Early Action school, and if accepted, has until May 1st, 2012 to decide to enroll.

The decision to return to an Early Action program was reached after several years of study and anecdotal accounts that many talented students were applying to Early Action programs at other institutions and by-passing Harvard in the application process. President Drew Faust explains that "interest in early admissions has increased as students and families from across the economic spectrum seek certainty about college choices and financing. Our goal now is to reinstitute an Early Action program consistent with our bedrock commitment to access, affordability, and excellence."

The implementation of the Early Action program means that alumni interviewers will be interviewing Early Action candidates from early November through Thanksgiving 2011. Regular admissions candidates will be interviewed through February 2012.

Casting Call: Calling all interviewers!

The HCNJ Schools Committee is once again gearing up for the Harvard applicants interviewing season, which will culminate in admissions letters for the Class of 2016. The Committee, chaired by Barbara Meyer, ensures that all applicants from Northern New Jersey are interviewed by a local alumnus or alumna. The Committee, which also includes Area Chairs Rick Haan, Carter Hagaman, Marty Lieberman, and Carole Reading, will be lining up its team of interviewers for the 2011-2012 admissions process.

Additional alumni interviewers are always welcome. If you have an interest in interviewing and connecting with bright and inspiring students from your area, please note this on the enclosed membership form, or contact Barbara Meyer by email at bgmeyer@meyerandassoc.com to volunteer. We are always in need of new alumni interviewers, particularly at the margins of our Club's territory and to meet the challenges of interviewing deadlines in November and February. By adding new interviewers each year, we enable every applicant to the College to have a local interview, even as some experienced interviewers retire from service or leave the area. Alumni interviewers discover that talking to accomplished, interesting and motivated applicants often provides the highlight of an evening or weekend hour.

Holiday Spirit of Caring

Save the date: Saturday, December 17th, 2011!

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey relies on volunteers to help continue its mission of fighting hunger throughout New Jersey. In December 2010, HCNJ volunteers (17 adults and 10 teens) sorted and repackaged holiday meals for distribution to families statewide. After watching a brief video about the FoodBank's outreach program, HCNJ volunteers worked at the "clean warehouse" where they donned hair nets and gloves to pack, weigh, and seal bags of pasta. Participants described having shared "a joyful afternoon" and look forward to assisting at the FoodBank again this year.

Love! Jealousy! Betrayal! Then a fabulous dinner!

The HCNJ "Shakespeare in the Afternoon" event took place on September 24th, 2011 and delighted theatergoers with an outstanding production of *Othello*, often described as Shakespeare's "most perfect play." The annual fall outing to the Shakespeare Theater of NJ included a "talk back" session, an interactive symposium with cast members who discussed their roles and interpretation of the play. Those who attended enjoyed a convivial dinner afterwards, a sumptuous banquet with outstanding jazz accompaniment at Shanghai Jazz, hosted by owner Martha Chang KSG '88 GSAS '93.

Freshman Summer Picnic

Incoming New Jersey Harvard College freshmen gathered for a festive summer picnic at Pleasant Valley Park in Basking Ridge on August 15th, 2011. At this year's summer event, New Jersey's newly admitted students met fellow classmates, shared their questions, and received advice from upper classmen. "What should I bring for my dorm room? Do I need twin extra long sheets? How do I purchase textbooks?" HCNJ members joined in enthusiastic, informative conversations with students and their parents about practical and academic concerns. The coordinator of this excellent and well-attended event, Tanya Perkins '04 also compiled a wonderfully informative packet to give to each student, which included valuable resume writing advice as well as job search and internship materials to help students with job-related concerns. New entrants to the Class of 2015 left the picnic equipped with "information about things I wish I'd known as an undergraduate!" said one recent alum.

HCNJ 107th Annual Meeting & Dinner

One hundred seventy Harvard alumni, newly admitted students to the Class of 2015, and guests attended the HCNJ's Annual Meeting and Dinner held in May 2011 at the Maplewood Country Club. The Club elected its slate of new officers and Executive Committee members, and announced upcoming events on the HCNJ calendar. Guest speaker Mike Reiss '81, writer and producer of the comedy *The Simpsons*, entertained the crowd with a talk "From Harvard to Homer." Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting and helped support the HCNJ's programs.

The Raptor Trust Story Wildlife Rehabilitation

On April 9th, 2011, the HCNJ hosted a classroom session about the wild birds of NJ, the injuries they experience, as well as their rehabilitation. Taught by an instructor at the Raptor Trust in Millington, the session provided insights about the causes and effects of wild bird injuries, including those related to human activities. Participants learned about the care of injured or orphaned wild birds, and met Vilma, an owl that is a permanent resident of the center. The visit concluded with a self-guided walking tour of the facilities, which include 70 exterior cages and aviaries with hawks, eagles, and owls of twenty different species, as well as a medical infirmary. Club members plan to return to the Raptor Trust for an afternoon in the spring of 2012, with a date to be announced.

Early College Awareness Program

This year the HCNJ launched the first Early College Awareness (ECA) Program in New Jersey at the middle school in Orange, better known as the Orange Preparatory Academy. About 30 students and parents attended the four hour workshop. Rae Paltiel '66 MAT '67 and Fran Schumer '74 spearheaded the effort, and will be looking forward to expanding and advancing the program next year.

Harvard College initiated the ECA Program in the early '90s to inform middle school students and their parents and guardians about the benefits of college and to help their families with preparation for the challenges they will face, even during their high school years. Although many people focus on the importance of a college education, few may learn of the many academic opportunities and financial resources available to help in preparing to apply to college. The ECA Program is designed to help with this process.

As acceptance at college becomes more and more crucial, there are increasing obstacles along the path to matriculation. Students who start to prepare for college in the junior or senior year of high school often are unable to complete coursework required by colleges of their applicants. The ECA Program, therefore, highlights what students and parents need to know about steps that can be taken as early as seventh grade, in order to attend a private or public, two- or four-year college in New Jersey or out of state.

The Harvard College ECA Program has conducted workshops in cities as diverse as San Francisco, San Antonio, and Baltimore. Each workshop brings together a range of different speakers: high school seniors about to attend college; young adults who have successfully completed college and entered the workforce; and various school officials who can speak knowledgeably about financial aid issues, as well as about course work and standardized tests required of all college-bound students. Each program emphasizes that preparation for these activities must begin well before the senior year of high school. By providing the start of an academic road map, the ECA Program aims to motivate students to begin thinking about the college process now.

The HCNJ welcomes any members interested in working on our local ECA Program. Please contact ECA coordinators Fran Schumer frannyrs2@gmail.com or Rae Paltiel rae.paltiel@gmail.com

Marie and Bruce

A group of 35 theatergoers attended a Friday night performance in May 2011 of the Off-Broadway revival of *Marie and Bruce*, starring Marisa Tomei and Frank Whaley. The one-act play about a disintegrating marriage was written in 1979 by Wallace Shawn '65. Shawn, who has appeared in a range of movies from *Annie Hall* to *The Princess Bride* to *My Dinner with Andre*, was also profiled in the March-April 2011 issue of *Harvard Magazine*.



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Wesley K Chen Middlesex County Academy
Jane Chung Academy Bus & Comp Tech
James J Damiano Newark Academy
Benjamin L Donald Columbia HS
Priya Duvvuri Columbia HS
Rebecca D Ellis Newark Academy
Temitope T Fagbenle Blair Academy
Yacine Fares McNair Academic HS
Stephanie M Ferrell Mt St Mary Academy
Samuel J Finegold Highland Park HS
Jeffrey J Fischer Millburn HS
Ruth C Fong Timothy Christian Academy
James D Fox St Peters Prep School

Jessica M Gil Union County Acad Allied Hlth/Sci
Rebecca A Gonzalez-Rivas Bernards HS
Cesar A Hernandez Saddle River Country Day
Saheela O Ibraheem Wardlaw-Hartridge School
Michael L Innocenzi Delbarton School
Brian K Kaneshige Columbia HS
Joan S Kim Northern Highlands Reg HS
Stephen J Kim Ft Lee HS
Won I Lee Academy Adv Science & Tech
Bryan Li JF Kennedy Memorial HS
Eric V Li Newark Academy
Jacqueline Y Lin McNair Academic HS
Francis E Loh Dwight-Englewood School
Julian C Lucas Montclair HS
Valentina Lyau JP Stevens HS
Anne M Maguire Westfield Senior HS
Erin P McDonnell Kent Place School
James P McGlone Seton Hall Prep School

Joy C Ming Livingston HS
Rainie E Opel Pingry School
Rei Otake Millburn HS
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Annie W Yang Watchung Hills Reg HS

HCNJ OFFICERS

Noreen Hughes Verbrugge '81 *President* noreenverbrugge@hotmail.com
Jay Mattlin '82 *Vice President* jaymattlin1@aol.com
Rodney Sunada-Wong '85 *Treasurer* rodneysw2003@yahoo.com
Warren Hrung '94 *Secretary* wbhrung@post.harvard.edu
Hyeon Lee '94 *Membership Chair* hyeon_lee_ab94@post.harvard.edu

HCNJ ADDRESS: c/o 290 GREENWAY ROAD RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450

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www.hcnj.org

FOR EVENTS AND MEMBERSHIP:
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