Chinese yo-yos flew in the air, brightly-feathered fans fluttered delicately, and stories spun of legends and fantasy captivated children and parents alike. In addition to performers ranging from returning storyteller Li Min Mo to the Harvard Magic Society, this year’s carnival included exciting activities such as the tricky Pin the Tail on the Ox (in honor of 2009’s zodiac animal), the rubbery Chinese Jump Rope, and skillful caricature drawings. New performers and activities made HCC’s second annual Children’s Day Carnival on April 11, 2009 even bigger and more fun than last year for children of all ages.

Mentees from HCC’s mentoring program, children from the Dumplings playgroup, and families and friends of all ages came together on that beautiful spring day to enjoy an event together and celebrate children everywhere.

PERFORMANCES TO AMAZE AND ENTERTAIN

Once again returning to the carnival, story-teller and artist Li Min Mo, dancers from the Harvard Radcliffe Asian-American Dance Troupe, and the Harvard Din & Tonics a cappella singing group entertained and delighted the audience.

After the dance demonstration by the Asian-American Dance Troupe, kids of all ages tried dancing too and dressed up in traditional costumes. The world-famous Din & Tonics demonstrated both their musical talents and comedic sides, most memorably in a final song that included climbing on each other to form golden arches with their bodies.

(continued on page 3)
In partnership with Half the Sky foundation, all the children in China Care Children’s Homes all over China have moved into the state-of-the-art medical home in Beijing. This move will facilitate many logistical issues and situate the children closer to modern hospitals. The Baoji Children’s Home was closed on March 1st, 2009. The facility along with the equipments will be donated to the Baoji Social Welfare Institute where the Baoji Children’s Home is located in.

The Baoji Foster Care program continues as before to put the Baoji children into carefully selected loving families in the Baoji region. Since this March, five Baoji children (at the Beijing Children’s Home) have been placed into the care of foster families. Two children (one boy with an extra toe who had been malnourished and one girl who had a deformity on her tongue) have been internationally adopted. Both children were treated and placed into the foster care program within 4 months of their entry into the Baoji’s Children’s Home. And now, they have mommies and daddies.
HCC Carnival (CONT)

(continued from page 1)

New acts to the carnival were no less impressive. The Harvard Story-Time Players performed a hilarious excerpt from their spring show, teasing the imagination of all who watched. Students, parents, and children could not keep their eyes off the Harvard Magic Society’s optical illusions and magic tricks. No one could figure out the secrets to some of their magic tricks! Just as amazing, the unforgettable acrobatic feats of the MIT Yo-Yo Club had everyone trying to master the Chinese yo-yo afterwards.

SOMETHING TO TAKE HOME, TOO

This year’s carnival not only saw new performers take the stage to entertain the audience, new activities added to returning favorites made the day even more exciting. Tissue paper flowers of every color in the rainbow blossomed in the hands of children and shone brightly tucked behind an ear or tied to a pony tail. While holding on to a sandwich and orange juice卡通, kids could try their hand at painting a Chinese watercolor, drawing Chinese calligraphy, making a paper bag panda puppet, and winning prizes to take home at the bamboo ball toss or game room.

This year also featured traditional Chinese children’s games in addition to more familiar games with Chinese twists. Boys and girls learned the Chinese words for different colors by playing a Chinese version of Red-light, Green-light. They then practiced these words at activity stations such as the zodiac coloring station and the manicure station, which was so popular that nearly everyone had brightly colored nails at the end of the day.

CHILDREN’S DAY SUCCESS!

The winner of the Guess-the-Number-of-Fortune-Cookies-in-the-Jar game was only one fortune cookie away from the exact number. Thanks to Maria Kulskick, Herrell’s Ice Cream, Grendel’s Den, and other local businesses, the carnival offered wonderful give-aways to all the winners at the carnival.

With families and even students buying rolls of tickets to make beautiful crafts to take home and play games again and again, HCC successfully raised over one thousand dollars to support its many programs. The second annual HCC Children’s Day Carnival was unforgettably a success both in support of HCC and more importantly, as a celebration of all children.

Thank you all for enjoying a lovely spring day with us at HCC’s second Children’s Day Carnival!

SENIOR NIGHT

Reflecting upon the accomplishments of the 2008-09 school year, Harvard China Care hosted its annual end-of-the-year celebration on May 5, 2009 in the Penthouse of the Student Organizations Center at Hilles. The event especially thanked the graduating HCC members, many of whom had served on the Executive Board for multiple years.

After a reception, the event commenced with a fun though tricky trivia game, testing HCC members’ knowledge of the organizations’ history, with questions ranging from what was the first program of HCC to be created (internships) to who was the guest speaker at the Third Annual HCC Fall Benefit (Thomas Lennon).

A main highlight of the evening featured speeches by various HCC members in honor of the seniors. Many speakers talked about the great memories and the inspiration the seniors have brought.

Dumplings Playgroup Coordinators Dianne Xiao ’11 and Daphne Xiao ’11 spoke of how they were motivated to get more involved in HCC because of Jessica Duby ’09, who had directed the playgroup for two years and had interned at Hope Foster Home in China. “We were so inspired,” Dianne said. “She is the epitome of what a Dumplings Coordinator should be.”

The graduating seniors also took the opportunity to share some words of wisdom with HCC members.

“It’s a tough experience, China Care, but if you put your heart into it, you get so much out of it,” Duby said. “I really recommend to each and every one of you to make China Care a big commitment. It’s worth it in the end.”

Sherri Geng ’09, who had served as the 2008 club president, emphasized how much the people with whom she worked in HCC had shaped her experience.

“There is no other group like this,” Geng said.

To cap off the night, a slideshow featured pictures of events from throughout this past year.

Harvard China Care would like to express its deep appreciation to the Class of 2009 HCC seniors for all their contributions and the memories. Thank you so much!

Ann Chao
Katherine Chau
Jessica Duby
Jennifer Esch
Sherri Geng
Brittany Lin
Lydia Lo
Shifra Mincer
Sarah Mortazavi
Diana Siu
Marianna Tu
Tiana Wong
Susan Yao

The graduating Class of 2009 at Senior Night.
DUMPLINGS AT DUMPLINGS: Playgroup Wraps Up Another Great Year

by Dianne Xiao and Daphne Xiao

Dumplings kicked off the spring semester with a celebration of the Chinese New Year! The kids learned more about the Chinese Zodiac through a cute and short movie clip that explained how the Zodiac came to be. Even though the clip was in Chinese, the animals’ facial expressions and actions made it easy for everyone to understand the story.

February closed with an exciting performance from the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe. We made jingle bell bracelets and traditional headwear, and Eva taught us some neat Taiwanese aboriginal dance moves! Afterwards, the children proudly performed their newly learned dance in front of the parents.

Our next Dumplings playgroup was themed, “Saturday Morning Chinese Cartoons.” We watched clips of Chinese cartoons, beginning with the very first animated film, Princess Iron Fan to the modern day CG-animated Century Sonny. The activity, where we made little TV sets, was a real favorite with the kids! Scenes from each cartoon could be placed inside the TV so the kids could “re-watch” their favorite shows.

April started off with puppets, lots of masks, and even some magic tricks! For our first April playgroup, we learned about Sichuan opera. Sichuan opera has a unique funny and dramatic style, and often incorporates amazing “magical” tricks, such as face-changing (bian lian), fire-breathing, and puppetry. The kids were fascinated by a video of a young man who changed his face a total of ten times in the space of a few minutes.

“How does he do it?” everyone asked. However, the technique of face-changing is a heavily guarded secret, passed down from generation to generation, so no one really knows! Afterwards, the kids made their own two-sided masks, so they too could “bian lian”.

Then, on April 18th, we celebrated Duanwu Jie, or the Dragon boat festival, occurring during the summer months. We decided to learn about it a little earlier in the year! During Dragon boat festivals, the tradition is to eat zongzi, or sticky rice with filling wrapped in bamboo leaves, and race dragon boats. For our activity, we made dragon boats with real oars, and dragon puppets. The real treat, though, was during snack time where we sampled real zongzi and Chinese pastries bought from Chinatown!

Finally, we had our annual Dumplings at Dumplings playgroup. Many of the kids are pros at making dumplings, finishing one in less than thirty seconds. After about thirty minutes of intense dumpling making, our industrious and skilled Dumplings kids finished making over three hundred dumplings, which were really mind-boggling. What was even more amazing is that we actually finished eating all of them!

We would just like to thank everyone—parents, volunteers, and of course, all the Dumplings kids—for an awesome spring semester! We’re going to really miss a few of our older kids who will move on to mentoring next year, and we wish them all the best in the future. Have a great summer—we look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

MED COMMITTEE PROMOTES CAMPUS AWARENESS THROUGH SPEAKER EVENT

By Nan Du and Robyn Thom

Beginning in February, the China Care Medical Committee worked to establish the main goals of the semester, which was to create an actual Medical Committee and to develop partnerships with other groups on campus to further our message. In realizing that there are many medical associations on campus, who have a substantial following, we figured it would be beneficial to partner with some to generate more interest for Harvard China Care Medical Committee.

The first major event, Mardi Gras Study Break, was held in conjunction with Team HBV, KDSAP, and Harvard Premedical Society, where we managed to solicit over 20 names for our email lists. Following this event, we continued the partnerships that we had developed with Team HBV and KDSAP, by working on our speaker event with Dr. Howard Koh. Dr. Howard Koh is slated to be in a top health position in President Obama’s administration, an associate dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, a prominent figure in the Asian American medical community, and numerous other impressive accomplishments. At this event, Dr. Howard Koh spoke about Asian American health, as well as the future of international and domestic health policy, to a packed room of engaged Harvard students.

Following this event, the Medical Committee has begun planning for the upcoming fall semester’s speaker, as well as contacting orphanages about their current needs for supplies.

A Dumplings volunteer and participant at a recent playgroup.

Dr. Koh (pictured in the center wearing a black suit) with HCC, Team HBV, KDSAP, and Harvard Premedical Society boardmembers.
INTERNS HEAD TO CHINA

by Tian Feng

As the school year wraps up, all the interns are in eager anticipation of the upcoming summer. We ended the year with a special workshop with Maura Moran and Connie Orcutt, mothers of two of the girls in our Mentorship program. They presented the interns with their heart-warming stories of adoption in China, starting with what prompted their decisions, and ending at a recent trip back to visit the orphanage of one of the girls. The presentation was extremely enriching, and we’d like to thank Maura and Connie again for their help!

This summer, Harvard China Care is proud to send 8 interns to China. The interns will be going to Luoyang and Bethel locations, as well as in a new program in partnership with the Good Rock Foundation, which works with various orphanages in the Xinjiang area. Two interns, Sheng Si and Chris Sun, will be going to Xinjiang with students from the Hong Kong Polytechnic Institute in August.

We wish our interns the best of luck this summer!

THESIS BOOK DRIVE

by Danni Xie

In April, the Fundraising Committee planned our first Thesis Book Return Fundraiser. For a small donation, HCC volunteers personally went to each individual upper-classman house to return library books seniors had used to write their theses. Sometimes, volunteers had to haul as many as one hundred books to Lamont Library! Throughout the course of just a few days, we raised more than $125! This was our first time trying such a fundraiser, and we were pleased to have been able to use this money to help the children we support in China while simultaneously benefitting the students in our school community. This fundraiser was a great learning experience, and we can’t wait to improve upon it in years to come!

MENTORS AND MENTEES HEAD TO CHINATOWN

by Yuying Luo and Francis Jin

For our February mentoring event, we celebrated the Chinese New Year together! We heard a dramatic retelling about the historic race that determined the order of the zodiac. We also shared our resolutions for the new year with each other anonymously, and tried to guess which resolution belonged to which mentee or mentor. Of course, we also celebrated with great, classic Chinese New Year’s food!

In March, we decided it was time to take a look at all the different ethnic groups within China, since China is not nearly as homogeneous as most people think. We watched a film clip which presented a representation of many of the groups. Then, to celebrate the meshing of many different groups and cultures, we gave each mentee their own sheet of paper to decorate with things they felt defined themselves, and glued them all together in the end to create our own Great Wall of China (Care)! In April, we had the exciting opportunity to learn all about the rich culture of the famed Beijing Opera. We learned about its historical origins, enjoyed dramatic reenactments of some of the most renowned operas, watched an operatic cartoon version of The Monkey King (a common childhood story in China), and last but not least, made our very own masks! The designs were incredibly creative and colorful, and many strikingly resembled the famous masks used on stage.

To wrap up another successful mentoring year, mentees, mentors and families alike convened for Dim Sum at China Pearl in Chinatown. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food which included favorites like shrimp dumplings and bao zi. We look forward to seeing you all again in the new school year and on behalf of all the mentors, we hope you have a safe and fun summer! And to our graduating mentors, thank you all so much for your commitment. We will miss you and wish you best of luck in your future endeavors!