Any Harvard student walking into the Student Organization Center at Hilles on April 10th would have found it nearly unrecognizable: the walls were decorated with posters and photos; red crepe paper and brightly colored flowers hung from the ceilings. Upbeat Chinese pop music played from the speakers, and tables spread full of arts and crafts supplies dotted the rooms. But strangest of all, the penthouse floor was filled with children, children, and more children—buzzing with energy and full of laughter. Carnival had begun!

SONG AND DANCE, MAGIC AND STORY

Combining the traditional and the modern, the East and the West, the new and the old, this year’s set of six Carnival performances delighted the young and the older alike. The Harvard Chinese Music Ensemble opened the stage, playing traditional Chinese tunes with Chinese instruments like the erhu, guzheng, and yangqin. Following the uniquely Chinese musical performance was a uniquely Harvard one: the Harvard Din and Tonics, performing for their third year in a row at the Carnival, sang a set of a cappella songs that delighted the ears of an enthused audience.

Harvard’s Asian American Dance Troupe and MIT’s Asian Dance troupe then graced

Continued on Page 2

HCC SPONSORS THREE SURGERIES

This semester, thanks to the proceeds from the calendar sale and the Children’s Day Carnival, Harvard China Care was able to fund three surgeries. In total, HCC donated $1350, which will provide these three children an opportunity to lead healthy, happy lives.

Li, a six-month-old boy, and Si Yu, a six-month-old girl, were born with bilateral cleft lips and palates. HCC donated $750 to help fund both of their cleft lip surgeries. After a second surgery to close their cleft palates, these two will be completely healthy.

Continued on Page 5
Continued from Page 1

the stage with a taste of traditional Chinese
dance, performing, respectively, an Ethnic
Hui dance and a traditional ribbon dance.

Wellesley Wushu Club was next, coupling
the strength and elegance of the old art of
Wushu with the beat of modern Chinese mu-
sic. Finally, the Harvard Magic Society de-
monstrated their sleight-of-hand skill with a set
of impossible card tricks, while the Harvard
Story-Time Players demonstrated the magic
of storytelling with their self-written, self-
directed play.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES, WITH
A CHINESE TWIST

But performances were not the only things
captivating the guests
at the Carnival. HCC
volunteers manned
over sixteen booths
of games and activi-
ties, which combined
traditional Chinese
games and activities
with more familiar
carnival activities.
Children practiced
calligraphy after
getting their faces
brightly painted at
the Face-Painting
station; they made
their own Chinese
shuttlecocks (known as jianzi in China) after
getting their nails painted; they ate traditional
Taiwanese shaved-ice before heading over to
try their hands (or rather, feet!) at the Dance
Dance Revolution station.

This year’s carnival featured old favorites
from last year, as well as new booths and
rooms. New to Carnival was the make-your-
own instrument booth, where children used
their own originality and creativity to make
instruments from straws, toilet paper rolls,
beads, and string. Our new Nightmarket
room attracted curious families in with the
good smells of make-your-own Taiwanese
shaved ice, smoothies, and boba tea. By the
end of the afternoon, everyone had their
hands and bellies full, faces and nails painted,
and arms and hands tattooed!

A SUCCESS IN MORE WAYS
THAN ONE

In addition to games and activities, the Car-
nival also featured a raffle. With the support
of businesses in Boston and Cambridge,
including Godiva Chocolatier, the Harvard
COOP, Schoenhof’s Foreign Bookstore,
Starbucks Coffee, and Grendel’s Den Restau-
rant and Bar, we were able to offer wonder-
ful giveaways to all winners. One extremely
lucky family left the Carnival with a “double-
happiness”—having won both an armful of
Chinese storybooks and a Godiva chocolate
gift certificate!

The carnival was a success in more ways than
one. With the ticket sales from the event,
Harvard China Care raised just over $1,000.
With this money, combined with previous
fundraisers, we were able to fund the surger-
ies for two more children. Thank you to all
who enjoyed a lovely spring afternoon with
us at Harvard China Care!
Calendar Sales Success!

by Lauren Dai and Maxwell Meyer

Harvard China Care’s first fundraiser of the semester was a Chinese New Year Calendar fundraiser. With the help of children in HCC’s mentoring program, who illustrated lively pictures of the twelve zodiac animals, HCC board members created a festive calendar to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

The calendars were a huge success! As soon as people saw the adorable illustrations, they immediately wanted to buy one.

The calendars were sold at the annual Chinese New Year Banquet on campus as well as at several other events, including the Adams’ House Chinese New Year dinner.

Clockwise from Top Left: Xiao Mei; Wang Li; HCC board members put the finishing touches on the calendars.

Ultimately, HCC raised over $600 with this calendar fundraiser.

The success of the calendar fundraiser enabled HCC to fully sponsor a surgery for one of the Beijing orphans. Li is a one-year-old boy born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate, a birth defect that occurs when the tissues of the upper jaw and nose do not form properly during fetal development resulting in a split (cleft) in the lip and palate. Harvard China Care was able to contribute the full $500 dollars needed to fund Li’s cleft lip surgery.

Remaining proceeds from the calendar fundraiser were used in conjunction with funds raised from our HCC Spring Carnival to fund two additional cases—a cleft lip surgery for one-year-old Siyu and the purchase of a prosthetic leg for three-year-old Xiaomei.

Hidden China: Stigma in Chinese Society

by Hurnan Vongsachang

On Wednesday, March 24th, the Medical Committee of Harvard China Care held one of its main events of the semester: an informal speaker event with Harvard College’s very own Professor Kleinman, one of the world’s most prominent and leading anthropologists whose special research field is stigma in Chinese society. The event was held in the Lowell Lower Common Room from 8-9 PM. The atmosphere was casual and comfortable as attendees situated themselves on couches and enjoyed pizza and soda.

Dr. Kleinman first presented background information about China and stigma in the form of a Powerpoint presentation. He addressed interesting topics, such as how individuals with psychological or physical disorders in Chinese society are generally ostracized and regarded as lesser beings. To have mental or physical deformities is a large detriment to an individual’s and his/her family’s social standing in Chinese society. Due to these factors, it is not uncommon that these unfortunate individuals are simply cast away into mental hospitals or therapy facilities. Dr. Kleinman said that the situation of these individuals may as well parallel the orphans’ who are also thrown into the care of orphanages. After the information portion, a stimulating question-and-answer session and rich conversation with Dr. Kleinman ensued for the rest of the evening.

After the conclusion of the event, attendees of the event expressed the general consensus that they have gained a deeper insight into Chinese society and stigma through this speaker event. In particular, it was a treat for the students who have never taken Dr. Kleinman’s social anthropology classes. All in all, this speaker event was widely enjoyed by all, as everyone emerged having gained deeper understanding of the unspoken side of Chinese society.
Music, Fashion, Dumplings, Oh My!

by Christopher Sun and Eden Liu

What a wonderful semester Harvard China Care Dumplings Playgroup has had! During our Saturday morning escapades, we have sampled the sweet treats of the Night Market, watched a Chinese fashion show, made friends with Mentees on Children’s Day, and gobbled down delicious dumplings at our very last playgroup, the traditional Dumplings at Dumplings.

Music has been a key part of our Dumplings sessions this semester, with musical selections ranging from children’s songs to traditional Chinese tunes. We sang our way through the handkerchief game, the Chinese version of “Duck Duck Goose,” and we listened to the melodic compositions of the Harvard Chinese Music Ensemble while learning about traditional ancient Chinese instruments like the gu zheng, the er hu, the pi pa, and the di zi.

Arts and crafts were, as usual, another of Dumplings’s main components. At the Dumplings at Dumplings playgroup, we made our very own paper fortune cookies and then gave them to our special friends and family members. We also made musical Bingo sheets and origami food for the Nightmarket playgroup. To learn more about Chinese traditional fashion, we even dressed up paper dolls in Chinese clothing, ranging from the traditional silk shen yi to the modern qi pao.

Finally, as our program name suggests, we love to eat and make dumplings! On our last Dumplings event of the school year, we made our traditional spinach-pork dumplings. We certainly made an impressive batch of yummy treats and also tasted a lot of other Asian snacks, including aloe vera juice, rice pudding, and shrimp crackers.

HCC is sad that Dumplings has ended for the summer, but we hope that parents will continue to communicate with one another using the newly created Dumplings google group! You can request an invitation to join by e-mailing harvarddumplings@gmail.com. Lastly, HCC wishes to thank all the volunteers, parents, and Dumplings children who have attended and helped out at our events this school year! We would love to see you all back in the fall!

Mentoring Celebrates End of Semester

by Yuying Luo

The last stretch of the 2009-2010 mentoring program was a busy one for all participants, filled with fun events and exciting excursions. On April 10th, we held our first ever combined event with the Dumplings playgroup. The event, which promoted interaction between the participants of our Dumplings and Mentoring programs, was something we had been planning to do for a while. The theme of the event was Children’s Day, an annual celebration honoring children on various days in many places around the world. It is celebrated in China on June 1 and schools usually hold activities such as camping trips or free movies to allow students to have fun. We watched a video of a typical celebration of Children’s Day in China, and played some interactive games before the main activity. Then everyone created a self-portrait, and all of these drawings were glued onto a cutout of the world. The end result was a beautiful, artistic globe that was displayed at our 3rd Annual Children’s Day Carnival. After the event, many mentees, mentors, and Dumplings participants went to the Carnival to continue our early celebration of Children’s Day.

For the last event of the year, the mentoring program went to China Pearl for an eagerly anticipated annual Dim Sum outing. Many mentors, mentees, and parents joined us in a veritable feast. We enjoyed traditional dishes such as shrimp dumplings, pork buns, congee, egg tarts, and chicken feet.

It is difficult to believe that our 2009-2010 program has come to an end. On behalf of all of us involved with the mentoring program, we wish you a happy and safe summer and we hope to see you again when the 2010-2011 program starts in October! Applications for the 2010-2011 mentoring program will be sent out as well as posted on our website in late August.
This summer, Harvard China Care is sending eleven Harvard undergraduates to volunteer at orphanages throughout China. HCC’s annual internship program provides students with a unique opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of Chinese orphans.

For the internship program, HCC has partnered with orphanages in Beijing, Jiaozuo, Luoyang, and Shanghai. Maria Centeio, Wendy Chen, Su Gao, Dona Ho, Darius Imregun, Eden Liu, Rachel Rauh, Robyn Thom, Liren Truong, Hurnan Vongsachang, and Isabella Wechsler will each be spending 5-8 weeks at one of these four orphanages.

Over the past few months, we have been working to prepare our interns for their time at the orphanages. Our weekly workshops have covered a variety of topics, beginning with the historical context of orphanages in China and their past relationship with foreigners. Next, we were fortunate enough to be joined by parents and siblings of adopted children. Their narratives of the adoption process and anecdotes about their expanded families provided a touching personal illustration of the adoption experience. They also had insightful advice for interns about how to best help the children while they are at the orphanages. One piece of advice that resonated was to make an effort to reach out to the shyer children, rather than solely focusing on the more outgoing ones. In our final workshop, we shared advice from past interns on how to interact with different ages groups and most effectively teach English to the older children. As HCC’s internship program grows older, we find ourselves building relationships and improving the interns’ ability to engage with the children.

After our five-workshop series, our interns are prepared to embark on their journeys to China. I am thrilled to send off HCC’s eleven interns this summer. Their work will truly make a difference in the lives of orphans, one child at a time.

HCC honored its graduating seniors with its annual Senior Celebration held in the SOCH Penthouse. This year’s graduating seniors are: Joa Alexander, Su Gao, Kathy Han, Emily Hsu, Frances Jin, Elaine Liu, Tara TAI, Annie Yao, and Jessica Wen.

The celebration kicked off with speeches by current board members, recounting stories and accomplishments by the seniors. After the speeches, HCC board presented each senior with a framed photo, along with pictures to commemorate all that they have contributed to China Care. A slideshow then followed, which displayed quotes and photos of each senior while Jay Chou’s melodic “Return to the Past” played in the background.

The HCC board wishes to thank all the seniors for their dedication and congratulate them on their achievements. We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors!

The 2010 HCC board poses with the eight graduating seniors. Congratulations!

HCC RECOGNITION

Harvard China Care was awarded the Outstanding Support & Generosity Club Award by the China Care Foundation this year!

This would not have been possible without your generous donations and support.

Thank you!