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January ClassACTions Bulletin

Welcome to 2021. Despite a rollercoaster beginning that has brought, in only a few days, both exhilarating and profoundly disturbing events in our country, ClassACT hopes that 2021 will be a year of health, understanding and progress.

As 2020 began, ClassACT planned in-person events in New York, Ohio, and Boston. The Ohio pilgrimage included baseball, courtesy of **Nick Sakellariadis '73** and the Dayton Dragons, and a visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, courtesy of **Dan Hoffheimer '73**. The intention of this wonderful weekend and other events in NYC and Boston was to create more community and to advance the work of ClassACT. We hope we will be able to reschedule these and other events in the future. Meanwhile, the work continues!

MEET OUR NEW CLASSACT BOARD MEMBER



ClassACTHR73's newest Board member is classmate **Dr. Vivian Lewis '73**. In some ways, we caught Vivian at the perfect stage: a little more than a year ago, she stopped practicing as an OB-GYN and fertility specialist. While she remains professor emerita at the University of Rochester's School of Medicine and Dentistry, running a mentoring program for graduate students and faculty who are involved in biomedical research, she also has the time to devote to endeavors such as ClassACT. In July, Vivian was the moderator of the Zoom Forum on "Health Disparities: Lessons from COVID-19." That became her entree to the Board.

"I am trying my best to learn as much as I can about COVID-19 and how it's affecting all of our lives," says Vivian. "So, I was very glad to know that there was interest in doing a Forum around it. Being instrumental in how it was organized was something I enjoyed. Moderating it was an opportunity I really embraced. That became a way I spent more and more time talking to people who are on the Board."

As she learned more about ClassACT, she was especially taken with the activities of JusticeAid. "Those were particularly important to me," she says. "I thought the relationship between [JusticeAid](#) and ClassACT was fascinating. As a person who cares very much about social justice, I thought that was a great collaboration."

At Rochester, Vivian maintains a role in helping promote diversity. She hopes to do the same helping ClassACT meet its goals. "I want to see more inclusiveness," she says. "If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that more people from our class would get engaged if given the right opportunities. It's a fabulous opportunity for more minorities, and others, to take advantage of. I'm encountering people that I didn't know—or didn't know well—and learning things about them, and that is very fulfilling."

CLASSACT FORUMS IN 2021



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Vivian Lewis, Dr. Mary Bassett, Dr. Prentiss Taylor, and Al Franken from our Health Disparities Forum in June

ClassACT will present Zoom Forums in alternate months for 2021. The first, held on January 11, focused the impact of COVID on the performing arts. Our own Marion Dry moderated. If you didn't get a chance to attend, information and a link to resources can be found on our webpage [here](#). Meanwhile, here is some preliminary information regarding plans for March and May.

As part of ClassACT's [Justice & Civic Engagement Initiative](#), the March Forum will focus on the efforts of JusticeAid's 2021 grantee partner the [PACE](#) program (Police Accountability and Community Empowerment) of [Neighborhood Defender Service](#) relating to police impunity, reducing over-policing, the school-to-prison pipeline and the racial wealth gap.

The May Forum, currently titled, "Health Disparities and the COVID-19 Vaccine" will continue the discussion started during our [first Health Disparities Forum](#) held in July 2020. This second Forum will focus on issues surrounding the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, nationally and internationally.

More information and the dates for both the March and May Forums will be forthcoming.

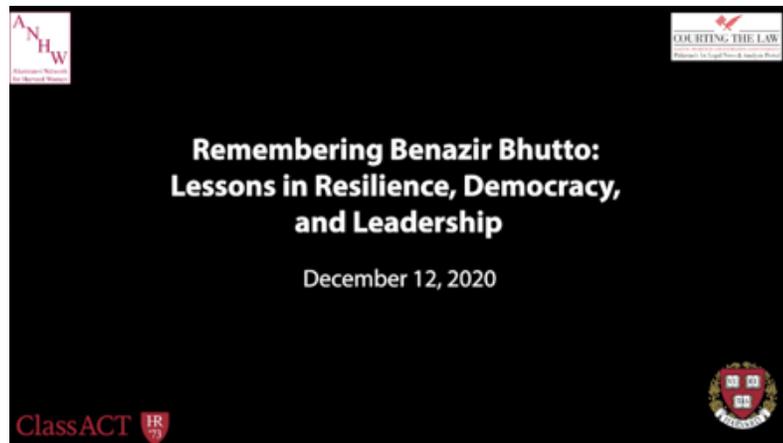
OTHER EVENTS

ClassACT HR73 is often involved with or becomes aware of other events that emphasize aspects of our mission, please see below for events of interest.

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ClassACT was a co-sponsor of the Zoom Forum:

Remembering Benazir Bhutto: Lessons in Resilience, Democracy and Leadership



[Click here to watch](#)

The event focused on Benazir's efforts to maintain democracy for Pakistan and the important legacy she left to Pakistan and the world. Former ClassACT [Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program](#) Fellow, Natasha Jehangir Khan, served as one of the moderators, and classmate **Peter Galbraith** was a panelist. Highlights from the interactive session organized by the Alumnae-i Network for Harvard Women (ANHW) Pakistan in partnership with #CourtingTheLaw can be accessed through the link below or on the ClassACT website. The session features reflections from speakers who either personally knew Benazir Bhutto or have studied and written about her life's work.

Save the Date! Wednesday, January 20 at 8am, EST, The Harvard Club of Dubai presents a discussion with HBS Alum Stéphane Bancel, MBA 2000, Chief Executive Officer at Moderna.



Stephane Bancel, CEO of Moderna

It is open to all. Stéphane and his team are leading the way in delivering vaccines which will get the world back on its normal course, and it will be great to hear his views on his current and future journey. We also note that our classmate **Kenneth Chien** is one of the founders of Moderna.

[Click here for more information](#)

Save the Date! Feb 22, 7pm Central: A zoom Forum hosted by Temple Israel, Minneapolis, MN and co-sponsored by ClassACT HR73, Stanford Alumni Association and others, will feature a discussion about Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor moderated by classmate, **Cliff Greene**, with classmate **Evan Thomas** and his wife, Oscie, who are co-authors of the biography *First: Sandra Day O'Connor*, as well as former clerks of Justice O'Connor.



Former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Click for Evan's biography [here](#).

Registration link for this Forum will be provided in the February bulletin.

Save the Date! On February 23, 6-7:15 pm ET, sister ClassACT HR79 presents an online event spotlighting their classmate Ray McGuire, candidate for Mayor of New York City, to be interviewed by NPR's Michel Martin (HR80). Details to follow.

BRIDGE PROGRAM UPDATES

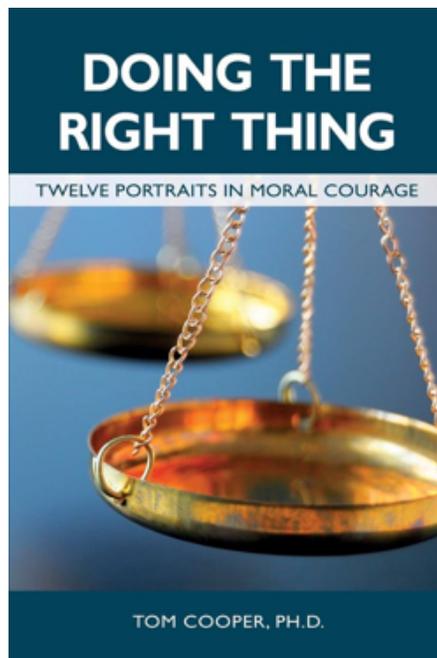


Sue Press

ClassACT partnered with Sue Press, president of the [Ole & Nu Fellas Social Aid & Pleasure Club](#), in the annual winter coat giveaway to neighborhood

children in the Treme neighborhood of New Orleans. As a result of ClassACTs promotion, we donated 50 coats to kids in need.

Tom Cooper's new book "Doing the Right Thing" was published recently.



Thanks to the efforts of **Peter Mazareas**, **Jerry Murphy** and **Rich Kelly**, word about this important book is spreading. Tom spoke about his book at the Harvard Club of the North Shore, the Harvard Club of New York and other Harvard Clubs. Based on the NYC presentation, **Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani** generously purchased copies to be donated to youth groups and libraries. ClassACTs Bridge program UNAGB (United Nations Association of Greater Boston (<https://unagb.org/>)) was the recipient of several copies, as were Jesuit youth projects and academic programs suggested by **Rich Kelly**. The Harvard Coop, through **Jerry Murphy**, and the Harvard Bookstore, through **Jeff Mayerson**, have made arrangements to make the book available. [Here](#) is a link to Tom's presentation at the NorthShoreClub.

CLASSACT FOCUS ON HEALTH WORK GROUP REPORT





*ClassACT Healthcare group member and founder of Kids Care Everywhere
Dr. Ron Dieckmann*

ClassACT's Health Work Group had its most recent meeting on January 6. There are several initiatives anticipated during the next few months including support for our 2019-2020 Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Fellow, Nadia Rahman, who is now part of a team leading Pakistan's response to COVID-19; organizing an information exchange and discussion for classmates engaged in international health to discuss COVID-related challenges; developing a ClassACT Forum to be held in May related to health inequities focused on the status and future of COVID vaccination programs; continuing to support the distribution of clinical support software through our Bridge Program [Kids Care Everywhere](#), and exploring options for multi-class collaboration on projects or educational initiatives.

OTHER CLASSES JOIN THE ACT



ClassACT HR73 continues its discussions with the Harvard Alumni Association and ten classes interested in expanding classmate engagement, including several interested in developing ClassACT models for action and organization. Representatives of eight classes and HAA met on January 7 to explore options for individual classes and possibilities for multi-class collaboration. An informational meeting to discuss ClassACT concepts with representatives of major Reunion Classes will be held in February and additional options for presentations to groups of Harvard Clubs is being considered. The collaborating classes and HAA would welcome the interest of any classes that would like to learn more about ClassACT and alternative models.

Interested classmates or alumni from other classes can send inquiries to ClassACThr73@gmail.com.

Interested in helping ClassACT?

ClassACT is built on classmate participation and we are interested in having every classmate as a member of our ClassACT community. If you are interested in learning more about ClassACT and how you can be involved, please visit our [website](#) or send us an [email](#).

While encouraging the sharing of time and willingness to work together, ClassACT also welcomes financial support. To support our work in this way you can donate below.

[Donate Here](#)

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