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**Achieving Change Together**

## February 2023 ClassACTions Bulletin

Early in 1969, the Class of 1973's freshman year, students at Kent State proposed what was the beginning of modern Black History Month. In the fall of 1969, approximately 139 Black students arrived to study at Harvard/Radcliffe. The next four years would prove to be an awakening for all students to Black history and culture, the University's white privileged view of its students and its investments in companies that were engaged in neo-colonial activities around the world, underscoring the urgent need for students to come together to make positive changes in the system. Now, fifty-four years later, Harvard's African American Studies Department is well established. In addition, the University awaits a Supreme Court decision after defending its diversity-focused admission policy and is beginning to come to grips with and respond to the impact of slavery on its academic, social and financial history. The Black students of the '60s and '70s created a model of activism and involvement for us all. ClassACT HR73 reflects the activism of our college years and continues to promote positive change. Gratefully, it's not too late to change the world, and, indeed, we cannot stop trying.

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### **SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING HR73 FORUMS**

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**#ClassACTHR73Forum**

**Addressing Anxiety & Depression in Young Adults: Leveraging What Works**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 7-8:30pm EST**

[Register here](#)



*Click above to view video teaser, created by **Rick Brotman '73***

One of the critical ongoing health problems exacerbated by the pandemic has been the increase in anxiety and depression in our young adults. This has highlighted the longer-term failures and limitations of our overburdened healthcare system to address these mental illnesses. Often young adults face the stigma of discussing mental health problems and have nowhere to turn for help. This is particularly true for people of color and those in underserved communities.

Multiple approaches that may be effective are being utilized and others are in development. In addition to medical treatment and medications, other models have been implemented that leverage community resources: peers and families, other partners, and the young adults living with anxiety and depression themselves. Some of these approaches may help reduce the considerable inequities in health care and resources.

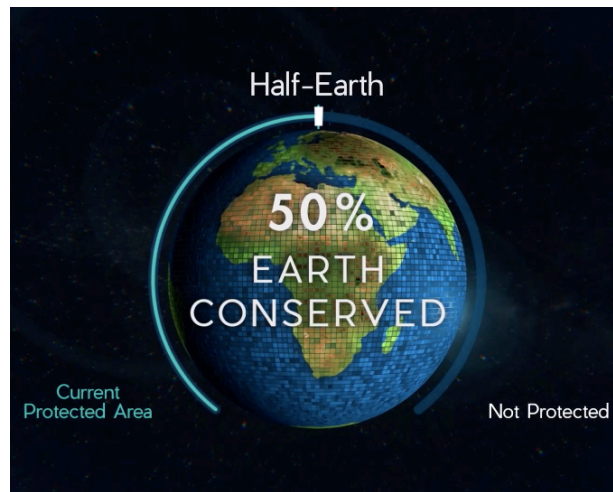
ClassACT HR73 invites you to join us for a zoom discussion of this crisis and these promising opportunities. The forum will be moderated by **Deborah Winn, HR73, Ph.D.**, retired epidemiologist at the National Cancer Institute, who will be joined by panelists **Gene Beresin, MD, MA**, Executive Director of The Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds at Massachusetts General Hospital, Professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and senior educator in child and adolescent psychiatry at MGH; **Mary Lyons-Hunter, PsyD**, Unit Chief of Behavioral Health at the MGH Chelsea Health Care Center; and **Lucy Ogbu Nwobodo, MD, MS, MAS**, Asst. Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of California, San Francisco.

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#ClassACTHR73Forum  
Protecting Half-Earth: Opportunities and Obstacles

Monday, April 17th, 7:00pm - 8:30pm ET

[Register Here](#)



In his 2016 book *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson (1929-2021) proposed designation of half of Earth's surface, both terrestrial and marine, as a natural reserve to safeguard the remaining biodiversity of the planet, including ourselves. Today about one-sixth of land and one-twelfth of marine areas receive (on paper) protection of the kind Wilson envisioned. Tough economic, social, political, and psychological forces work to impede any further expansion of protection.

During the initial ClassACT HR73 forum on "Half-Earth" last October, five members of the Class of 1973 discussed from a variety of scientific, geographical, disciplinary, professional, and ethical viewpoints the merits and feasibility of protecting the planet. The second, follow-up Forum, scheduled for April 17 at 7:00 ET and entitled "Protecting Half-Earth: Opportunities and Obstacles," will again bring together a variety of expertise and perspectives to address how Half-Earth will unfold in the future focusing on the challenges of conserving the planet. Topics will include: What are the drivers of environmental change? What do we do with the 50% of the planet that is not protected? What are the pathways to achieving this goal from the perspective of local to subnational to global hurdles? How do we harness the forces at work in the world today to achieve Half-Earth?

The panel of experts who have devoted their careers to preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainability include **Kiani Akina**, Class of 2025 and an Environmental Science and Public Policy Major at Harvard College; **Jason**

**Clay '73, Ph.D.**, Senior Vice President, Markets and Food, and Executive Director, Markets Institute for the World Wildlife Fund; **David Foster, Ph.D.**, Director Emeritus, Harvard Forest, Harvard University; and **Cristián Samper, Ph.D.**, Managing Director and Leader for Nature Solutions at the Bezos Earth Fund. **W. John Kress '73, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Scientist and Curator Emeritus, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, who moderated the first ClassACT HR73 “[Half-Earth](#)” panel last fall, will lead the discussion of the second panel on April 17 as well.

ClassACT HR73 invites everyone to register below for the “Protecting Half-Earth: Opportunities and Obstacles” Zoom Forum, which aims to scope the challenges we face in the protection of Nature.

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Richard Golob '73 and the United Nations Association of Greater Boston  
by **Jacki Swearingen '73**



*Click above to watch accompanying video created by **Rick Brotman '73***

Through wars and humanitarian crises during the last fifty years, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston (UNAGB) has educated Bostonians about the ways that the great multinational organization it champions has struggled to broker peace, feed the hungry, and preserve the planet. Generations of Massachusetts students have discovered how closely intertwined their world is by taking part in UNAGB’s Model UN General Assemblies. UNAGB’s forums have allowed audiences worldwide to listen to experts and entrepreneurs discuss the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals that can put an end to global poverty and irresponsible economic growth and

that promote improved health care and the preservation of biodiversity.

With the guidance of **Richard Golob '73**, UNAGB's former president and current board member, ClassACT HR73 has sustained a long and fruitful relationship with UNAGB as one of its Bridges. The influence of this Bridge grew in recent years after the COVID pandemic forced it to move much of its educational programs and symposiums online. As a result it was able to bring students worldwide into its Model UN program and allow audiences across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to tune into talks on sustainability goals like "Affordable and Clean Energy."

Golob's own journey reflects the many ways that internationalism has grown in the years since the Class of 1973 came to Harvard. For him, that hope for a more peaceful and just world continues to rest on the United Nations and the nonprofit advocating for it in Boston.

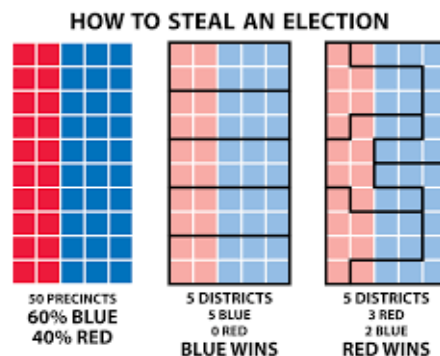
Watch the video above to hear Richard Golob describe the work of the United Nations Association of Greater Boston. Click below for a longer article about the programs of the UNAGB and classmate Richard Golob's commitment to a more equitable and sustainable world.

[Click here for full article!](#)

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### Pending Critical Court Cases on Gerrymandering and Voting Rights

By **Jim Harbison '73**, **Ryan O'Connell '73**, and **Marilyn Go '73**



For those of you who have been following our Committee's work in fighting gerrymandering and voter suppression, we wanted to bring to your attention a valuable report recently written by Michael Li of the Brennan Center for Justice titled "[How Voting Districts Could Change Before 2024](#)." Li is one of the nation's experts on gerrymandering and, as you may recall, was a panelist



in our ClassACT HR73 Forum on "[Gerrymandering: Our Democracy at Risk](#)" in June 2021.

In this recent piece, Li highlights several key lawsuits that could weaken voter protections or restore gerrymandered districts. As we discussed in our white paper, "[Gerrymandering: Our Democracy at Risk – A Primer on Redistricting Reform](#)," a large amount of redistricting occurs once a decade following each census due to population shifts, which, in certain states, has resulted in attempts to gerrymander in order to deprive the politically less powerful of proper representation. While some court challenges have been effective in the short term in thwarting such efforts, court cases on gerrymandered districting plans often take years to bring to conclusion. We are in the midst now of challenges that could affect the Federal election in 2024. As Chris Leaverton, a research and program associate in the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center, [observed](#), "[a] relatively small number of districts drawn by commissions and courts played an outsized role in deciding control of the House" in the 2022 election.

As Li discusses, these pending legal actions include efforts to restore some gerrymandered districts, as well as challenges to certain newly drawn maps, on the grounds that the new maps are themselves highly gerrymandered. Li further notes that these cases involve claims of partisan and racially discriminatory gerrymandered lines. Li also briefly mentions *Moore v. Harper*, a crucial case currently before the Supreme Court which may address the question of whether state courts even have the authority to invalidate or overrule districting plans approved and/or formulated by state legislatures.

The jury is still out on whether such cases will succeed or not. However, it is important that, as concerned citizens, we are aware of what is happening in this arena. We agree with Li that the outcomes of these cases could have a major impact on the ground rules for conducting the 2024 election.

**Here are two important elections coming up soon that present opportunities for volunteering.**

- A Special General Election will be held on February 21, 2023 in the 4th Congressional District in Virginia to fill the U.S. House seat previously held by the late Representative Donald McEachin.
- The primary election will be held on February 21, 2023 for selecting a judge to replace the current Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice, who is retiring. This is a non-partisan election for the election of two candidates who will then run in the general election.

We encourage classmates to volunteer to be poll workers or to work with organizations focused on getting out the vote. One organization that is

seeking volunteers to send "get out the vote letters" and/or making phone calls is [Big Tent U.S.A.](#), which has expressed concern over strict Wisconsin voter ID laws. [Souls to the Polls](#) is another organization you can volunteer with that works to provide voter assistance in Wisconsin. You can also volunteer to work with organizations of state political parties or other partisan organizations, including Harvard-affiliated [Crimson Goes Blue](#), or its counterpart, the [Harvard Republican Club](#).

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## BENAZIR BHUTTO LEADERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

By **Marion Dry '73**

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### THE BBLP FELLOWS



*Click above to watch video created by **Rick Brotman '73***

On Saturday, January 7 at 9am Eastern US/7pm Pakistan, four of the Benazir Bhutto Leadership Fellows—current fellow **Laila Khondkar** of Bangladesh, **Roohi Abdullah** (in DC and from Pakistan), **Natasha Jehangir Khan** and **Nadia Rehman**, both of Pakistan—met with ClassACT Hr73 Board Members **Marion Dry**, **Leigh Hafrey**, **Stan Mark**, **Carl Muller**, **George Putnam** and **Therese Steiner**, as well as ClassACT HR73 Coordinator Kate Freed, on Zoom. **Zeina Majdalani** of Lebanon was not able to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather our fellows together so that they could become more familiar with one another and meet in discussion with ClassACT HR73 Board Members to think about the future of the BBLP. This

was a wonderful reunion and a great first step, post-pandemic, toward refreshing the BBLP.

You will see above a video from the session in which the fellows discussed their current work and the ways in which the Fellowship has made a difference for them. As a result of this meeting, we are making plans for the fellows to meet again on Zoom, this time with a larger cohort of our BBLP and ClassACT members. Plans to gather in person in Boston in May with current fellow Laila Khondkar are in the works, and we want to re-engage the BBLP Steering Committee and the BBLP Associates. This will take time and we are looking for classmates who would like to jump in and help. If you have time and interest, email us at [classacthr73@gmail.com](mailto:classacthr73@gmail.com).

This fellowship is providing the fellows with the skills they need to work to make the world a better place. All of us who have/are contributing to it, are helping to make a difference. If you are a member of the Class of 1973, please consider donating up to half of your reunion gift to the BBLP Fellowship at HKS. It will count for Class credit so long as the other half goes to the Harvard College Fund. Learn more about the class gift [here](#).

Please help keep this important fellowship going.

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### **Notice on the Death of Ann Bailen Fisher '73**

It is with great sadness that I write to announce that we received word of the death of our beloved classmate, [Ann Bailen Fisher](#). Ann was a wonderful, accomplished woman and mother, and a great friend.

She was an important member of the ClassACT HR73 Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Steering Committee and hosted a beautiful reception for the launch of the program in her apartment in New York. Our guest of honor at that event was Benazir's son, Bilawal, who is now Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Ann was a generous and gracious hostess then and a stalwart supporter of BBLP. But most of all she was our beloved friend and classmate. We will miss her greatly.

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**Mehta Lecture 2023**





*Marion Dry, Elisa Loncón Antileo, Tomico Brown-Nagin*

On Wednesday, January 31, the Harvard Radcliffe Institute hosted the Rama S. Mehta Lecture for 2022-23 after a five year hiatus. This lecture was established by our classmate **Peter Galbraith's** parents, John and Catherine Galbraith, and the Mehta family, and the first person to deliver it was Benazir Bhutto. For our 45th Reunion, ClassACT encouraged classmates to give part of their reunion gift in support of the lecture, whose funds were running low. As a result, we helped sponsor both the lecture in 2018 and this year's lecture. Each event features a distinguished woman in public affairs, the sciences, or the arts who has a deep understanding of the challenges of women in developing countries.

This year's lecture was given by Elisa Loncón Antileo.

Of Antileo, the Radcliffe Institute wrote: "In 2021, Loncón was elected as one of the representatives of the Mapuche people to the Chilean Constitutional Convention, and was then named the Convention's first president (July 2021–January 2022). The Convention was tasked with rewriting the dictatorship-era constitution, a process that began after mass protests across the nation in 2019 and a national vote in favor of replacing the old constitution in 2020. Although Chilean voters rejected the proposed revisions in September, the process of developing the recommendations—which directly addressed issues of gender parity in representation and environmental protections, among other changes—was instructive and will inform subsequent efforts toward reform.

"Loncon discussed her experience—from personal, professional, and philosophical perspectives—leading the historic Chilean Constitutional

Convention as an Indigenous woman, as well as lessons learned from her involvement. The roles of gender and indigeneity are inextricably linked in her analysis, and she will share her thoughts in the context of the Mapuche philosophy and knowledge paradigm, feminine spirits of the earth, and research methodologies shared by Indigenous peoples.”

Dean Tomiko Brown-Nagin thanked the ClassACT HR73 initiative to raise funds for our 45th and all classmates who donated, both at the beginning of the lecture and as the VIP dinner began. As the representative for ClassACT, I was seated at the head table with both Dean Brown-Nagin and the inspiring and down-to-earth Elisa Loncón Antileo. Around the table were Harvard and Radcliffe Institute indigenous scholars, describing their work and a scholarly world where indigenous culture is being meaningfully explored. It was one of those moments when the future looked brighter.

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### Zoom House Parties



On January 25, close to 200 members of the Great Class of 1973 gathered via Zoom to kick off the 2023 Pre-Reunion activities. After hearing from members of the Campaign and Program Committee, and Zoom party producer Therese Steiner, classmates gathered at individual House Parties to reconnect, tell stories and laugh. Who walked around with a fork embedded in his ear? Who rode a motorcycle up the Quincy House dining room stairs? Who skinny-dipped in the Adams House pool? The answers to these questions and more are available in conversations to come. The Zoom parties were a great success, but in person is so much better. Please consider attending not only our reunion in Cambridge (5/30-6/2), but also one of the following regional pre-reunion events.

- Minneapolis, MN: Tuesday, March 28, 2023
- Los Angeles, CA: Sunday, April 2, 2023 (Tentative)
- Charleston, SC: Saturday, April 22, 2023
- Washington, DC: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

To RSVP, contact Abby Fischer at [abby\\_fischer@harvard.edu](mailto:abby_fischer@harvard.edu).

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### Helping Worldwide Refugees



*Photo by Victor J. Blue for The New York Times*

Our classmate and White Pony Express ClassACT Bridge liaison **Emily Karakashian** has alerted us to a new public/private program created by the Biden Administration called the [Welcome Corps](#).

After attending training sessions, the program enables groups of private citizens to sponsor refugees from all over the world including Afghanistan and Ukraine. Over the past year Emily, along with others including Mary Brooks and her husband Peter '66, have participated in a trial version to assess the program's effectiveness. This [clip](#) from a CNN interview highlights Mary and Afghan refugee Abraham Amirzad discussing the positive effects of the program for the sponsors and the Amirzad family. Emily reports, "Mary is spotlighted in the New York Times article. In it you'll see pictures of the Amirzad family in their home, which is down the street from ours. The children attend the school where I work, so I see them every day and have watched them blossom and thrive in their new home."

If you, your church, synagogue or community group would like more

information about the Welcome Corps program, please see the following [link](#).

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### **Interested in helping ClassACT HR73?**

ClassACT HR73 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 HR73 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 HR73 also welcomes financial support. To support our work in this way you can donate below.

[Donate Here](#)

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