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ClassACT

Achieving Change Together

July 2023 ClassACTions

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Reunion, Recovery and Rebound

Summer often brings nostalgic memories of “school’s out” and feeling the need for release, relaxation and regrouping. At ClassACT HR73, we’re no different. The pace may be slower, but there’s a great deal of exciting work being done. Please take a look at the latest news below and look for the next ClassACTions newsletter in September.

The Continuing Saga of Legislative Efforts to Suppress Voting Rights in Ohio

By Marilyn Go '73

Edited by Ryan O'Connell '73, Jim Harbison '73, Jacki Swearingen '73

Much attention has recently been focused on a Special Election in Ohio on August 8 to amend the Ohio State Constitution. On the ballot is the question of whether to raise the voter threshold for approving amendments to the Constitution, a change sought by the Republican-led legislature. Critics of the proposal say that it is actually designed to curb current efforts by Ohioans to protect abortion rights in their Constitution, as well as to strengthen the power of the Ohio GOP lawmakers, who currently hold super-majorities in both the House and Senate.

We encourage you to participate in the upcoming election in the following ways. If you live in Ohio, we suggest you familiarize yourselves with the issues raised and make every possible effort to vote in this off-cycle election. This will help to ensure that the outcome reflects the will of the majority of Ohio voters, not a small minority with targeted interests. If you are already registered to vote in Ohio, you may vote by mail, but must request an absentee ballot by August 1 from the Ohio Secretary of State. See instructions [here](#).



Linda Wagner of Galena holds up a sign during a protest against the SJR 2 before the Ohio House session, May 10, 2023, at the Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio. (Photo by Graham Stokes for Ohio Capital Journal.)

We also encourage you to support or volunteer at organizations that will assist voters in Ohio, including the following:

- [Common Cause](#)
- [League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland](#)
- [Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates: <https://nova-ohio.org/volunteer/>](#)

- [Ohio Voter Rights Coalition](#)

You can also provide support virtually: :

- [VoteRiders](#) August 3, 7:00 - 8:00pm - Virtual text bank to provide information about new Ohio voter ID laws

[Click here for full article](#)

Harvard Alumni Allyship Program Highlights Benazir Bhutto

On June 21, ClassACT, in collaboration with the Harvard Clubs of Boston, Pakistan and Ireland, presented a one-hour tribute to classmate Benazir Bhutto as part of the Harvard Alumni Allyship Series.

Take a look at the video below.



Featured in the video are ClassACT HR73 Chair, **Marion Dry**, former US Ambassador to Croatia and Benazir's lifelong friend and advisor **Peter Galbraith**, 2022-23 BBLP Fellow **Laila Khondkar MPA '23** and ClassACT HR73 Board member **Leigh Hafrey**.

Inspired by the words of President Bacow, who said at Commencement in May 2022, "Nobody in the world accomplishes anything on their own," the Harvard Alumni Allyship Series was created as a joint initiative of the Harvard Clubs of Boston and Ireland. The series is intended to raise alumni voices from historically marginalized communities and provide them with a platform to tell their stories to the global Harvard Alumni community as they continue on their respective journeys towards peace, justice and equality. The series has included topics such as Indigenous peoples and their relationship with the people of Ireland, homelessness, racism, and LGBTQ rights. ClassACT HR73 is pleased to have had the opportunity to honor our classmate and explain how we are carrying on the legacy of her abbreviated democratic leadership.

Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Fundraising A Success!



Graphic by **Rick Brotman '73**

Thanks to the efforts of ClassACT board members **George Putnam** and **Carl Muller**, Harvard was persuaded to allow half of our 50th reunion contributions to Harvard to be designated for the [Benazir Bhutto Fellowship Program](#), a fellowship which supports scholars from Muslim majority countries enrolled in the Edward S. Mason Program (MC/MPA) of the Kennedy School of Government. As a result of their efforts and the generosity of 40 classmates who made direct donations, as of July 13th we raised \$857,000 toward the program. ClassACT is deeply grateful to classmates whose donations, large and small, will enable continuation of the program for several more years.

Since the Reunion...



Members of the ClassACT HR73 Board have been following up with 40-to-50 potential new ClassACTors who bring a wide range of skills and experience that promise to elevate ClassACT's work!

In addition to joining the ClassACT working groups, these folks are offering their expertise to our [Bridge Partners](#) (classmate sponsored nonprofits we work with). Areas of expertise needed include strategy, marketing, finance, grant writing, communications, fundraising, legal, board development, small business consulting, community outreach and setting up a 501(c)(3), to name a few.

If you want to get more involved with ClassACT or you have skills and expertise you would like to offer pro bono to one of our Bridge Partners, please email [Stan Mark](#).

Harvard's Global Day of Service, September 1st



The Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship at Harvard is the clearinghouse for all public service efforts throughout the College. It also supports **Phillips Brooks House Association**, the largest student-run, community-based, nonprofit public service organization at Harvard College.

Associate Dean Travis Lovett has reached out to ClassACT HR73 to say:

“volunteer registration is open for Harvard's fourth annual **Global Day of Service** on Friday, September 1st – **you can sign up to volunteer [here](#)!** The Global Day of Service is open to the greater Harvard community (all students, staff, faculty, and alums). Projects include helping local schools get

ready for the upcoming school year;organizing supply drives; developing lesson plans, resource guides, and curriculum; conducting voter registration drives; organizing social media campaigns;and working on multimedia and technical projects. Site assignments will vary between **locally based projects** in the Greater Boston area and **all access projects** that will be hosted remotely for volunteers to join from around the world. All of the above access projects will have a designed campus hangout space for volunteers to connect with one another.”

Travis goes on to say, “If you know any great nonprofit organizations that could use a team of 15+ volunteers, please share my contact information (tlovett@fas.harvard.edu) and I’ll be happy to talk about potential projects with them.”

ClassACT HR73 Supports Bridge Program UNAGB

This summer ClassACT HR73 has again lent support to our Bridge Program, the [United Nations Association of Greater Boston](#). Board member **Leigh Hafrey** was able to provide space at MIT for a session of UNAGB’s Summer Institute in Global Leadership. The Summer Institute consists of a series of week-long Model UN programs that provide high school students a chance to work together to address global issues. During the week, students learn about the issue from expert speakers, are trained in public speaking and negotiation, participate in team building and Model UN simulations, and have fun!



Photo courtesy of UNAGB

Caitlin Moore, Executive Director of UNAGB, says, “Thanks again, Leigh, for your support. Helping to make this space available is an important contribution to our program. It is another example of ClassACT in action. Onwards and upwards.”



Photo courtesy of UNAGB

Meanwhile, the 12th year of Summer Institute in Global Leadership continues. **If you know of a young person who might be interested in attending a session, here is information about the remaining summer programs:**

- Topic: Advanced Public Speaking
 - Dates: August 7 – 11, 2023
 - Grades: Open to grades 9-12
 - Location: The Foundry (Cambridge, MA)
 - Registration: Click [here](#) to register!
- Topic: Women in Leadership
 - Dates: August 14 – 18
 - Grades: Open to grades 7-10
 - Location: Bentley University (Waltham, MA)
 - Registration: Click [here](#) to register!

APPy Days Are Here!

Now you can access ClassACT HR73 from the palm of your hand! Search upcoming events, volunteer for ClassACT or one of our Bridge Projects, watch a forum recording, register for a symposium, read a past bulletin, locate contact information for HR73 classmates, even donate funds – all these options are now accessible through your cell phone, smartphone, or tablet.



Use the camera function on your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code – don't worry, it will know if you are an Apple (MAC/iOS) or Android user – and follow the instructions to download, install, and open the ClassACT HR73 app.

If you are already a member on the ClassACT HR73 website, log in to the app with the same username and password that you set up for the website. If you are unable to log in to the app, that may mean that your account on classacthr73.org has lapsed. First, please try logging into the website, and if your account has lapsed, send us an email at classacthr73@gmail.com and we'll help.

If you are a new user, you can register on either the app or the website and be registered for both.

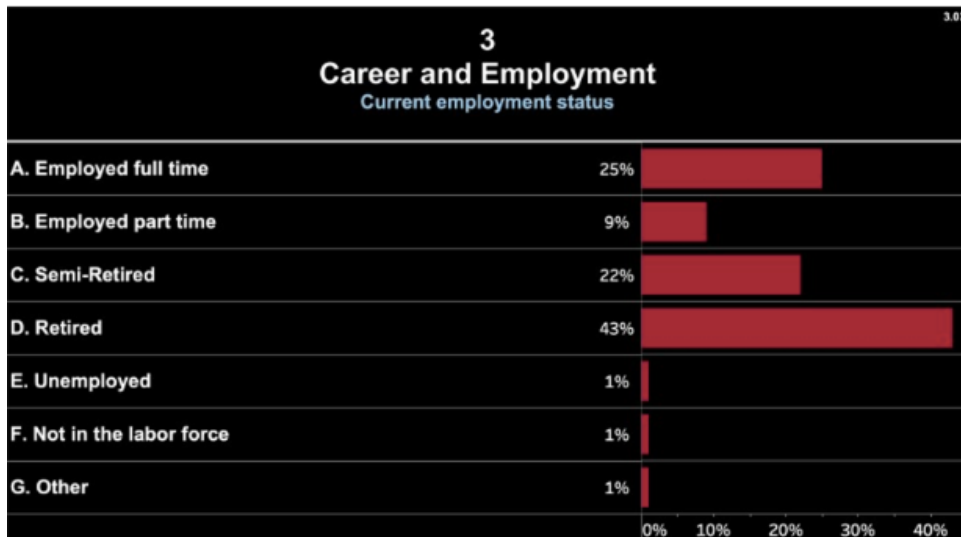
The app is still a work in progress! We welcome feedback, both positive and negative, about your experience using it. **Any suggestions regarding its features, graphics or its “user friendliness” would be appreciated.** Please contact us at classacthr73@gmail.com.

Class Survey Results

A few months ago you had the opportunity to fill out our class survey, which inquired about everything from demographics to hobbies to your Harvard experience.

Now, every month we will send out aggregated, anonymous results to one question from the survey so you can see how you stack up compared to your classmates!

3. What is your current employment status?



**If you would like to view all the aggregated results, click [here](#).*

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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