



The ClassACT Chronicles

March 1, 2017

Dateline, Cambridge, December: The Bhutto Leadership Program Assembly

When we started ClassACT we had two principal goals, the first to help classmates with the nonprofits they were engaged with, and the second, to launch a few Big Ideas of our own that classmates could participate in- we call these Class Acts.

Our first Class Act, the Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program, is to identify and support leaders from predominantly Muslim countries to come to Harvard to develop leadership skills and their own networks of fellow leaders. Our program honors our classmate Benazir Bhutto, first woman prime minister of a Muslim country, and recognizes fundamental principles to which she was committed. If you want to learn more, please click [here](#).



Linda Bond and Rick Brotman '73

Since it's such a big idea, it has been developing gradually.

We got a great group of classmates to serve on a *Steering Committee*, started assembling an *Advisory Board*, and identified current Muslim scholars at Harvard interested in furthering leadership in their countries and eager to help us craft a worthy program. We've had conversations with people at the Kennedy School, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, the Radcliffe Institute, the Divinity School, the Alumni Association, and other Harvard groups. And in early December we chose to mount a *day-long discussion* with *classmates, experts, and current scholars* at the Kennedy and Law schools to ask about barriers to leadership and to posit solutions to those barriers.



Panelists from L to R: Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani '73, Maroof Syed, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend '73, Therese Steiner '73, Farzana Yaqoob, Peter Galbraith '73, Jacqueline Bhabha, Holly Weeks '73, Erum Sattar, Kimball Chen '73, Asad Ghaffoor
K. Sundstrom

It was an extraordinary day, convened by rockstar academic and human rights lawyer Jacqueline Bhabha and moderated in the afternoon by the indefatigable Holly Weeks, offering altogether 3 stimulating panel discussions. To see short, concentrated versions or long verbatim recordings of the entire day, check out video-recording by our classmate Rick Brotman--the 7-minute video summary of the panels is [here](#) and more comprehensive video accounts can be accessed [here](#).



*Jacqueline Bhabha
Lauren McLaughlin,
Weatherhead Center for
International Affairs*



*Panelists George de Lama, Kimball Chen '73, Leigh Hafrey '73, Asad Ghafoor, and Yasmin Radjy in a light moment.
K. Sundstrom*

The day was capped off by a fun dinner with classmates and participants at Peter Galbraith's house in Cambridge. Sixty people came to the Assembly, and 40-odd classmates joined us for dinner. And for a photo album of folks at dinner and at work during the Assembly, feel free to browse our [Facebook page](#).



*L: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend '73, Robert Bowie '73
Top R: Asad Ghafoor, Therese Steiner '73, Erum Sattar*

In addition to attendance by the entire *ClassACT board*, many members of the Bhutto Project Steering Committee and lots of other HR '73 classmates, we had support from our co-sponsor, the Weatherhead Center, participation by many of the Bhutto Associates, video-recording by Rick Brotman (who, with his wife Linda Bond, also came up with the signature portrait of Bhutto), and the incredibly **satisfying experience of many hands making lighter work** for a cause we find, now more than ever, very compelling. Let us know what you think!



*ClassACT board L to R: Bahman Mossavar-Rahmani,
Therese Steiner, Carl Muller, Marion Dry, Jonathan
Sprague, George Putnam, Sallie Gouverneur
K. Sundstrom*

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