

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

P R E S E N T S

APRIL 5TH, 2021



7:00-8:30 PM EST

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Njikota

connection • bonding

The COVID-19 pandemic has left our world feeling fractured, and limitations on our ability to gather with family and friends have made facing the hardships of the past year all the more challenging. Nevertheless, we have persevered thanks in great part to the communities and relationships we have formed despite the distance between us. As such, our class has decided to title this year's FABRIC Njikota.

Njikota means connection and bonding in Igbo, which is a language widely spoken in Nigeria.

We hope that this performance will serve as a testament to the loving and supportive bonds we have cultivated in the midst of the past year's adversities.

FABRIC'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

In the past, HMS hosted Revisit Weekend and Alliance Weekend to welcome admitted students. Alliance Weekend was specifically created to welcome underrepresented minority students to HMS. In 2001, the HMS Black Health Organization created FABRIC to showcase the diversity of the HMS community during Alliance Weekend.

In its original form, FABRIC was an exhibition of the fashions of the African Diaspora. Over the years, FABRIC was integrated into Revisit weekend and became an exploration of the broader artistic and cultural traditions of the African Diaspora.

Today, FABRIC represents a unique opportunity for members of the HMS/HSDM class to come together to celebrate the diversity of backgrounds within our community. By contributing our individual gifts to a common purpose—FABRIC—we provide incoming students, minorities and otherwise, with the knowledge that their future class at HMS and HSDM is truly a family.

EVENT PROGRAM

ACT 1

- FASHION** Fabric Fashion Show
- DANCE** Latino Medical Student Association
- POETRY** HMS Racial Justice Coalition
- DANCE** Caroline Lee
- MUSIC** HMS Chamber Music Society
- DANCE** Tyler LeComer & Jimmy Wei
- DANCE** HST Class of 2024
- MUSIC** Nereida Ramirez
- DANCE** South Asian Medical and Dental Association
- MUSIC** Maddy Kline, Dan Kim, & Nico Poux

ACT 2

- MUSIC** Student National Medical Association
- DANCE** Arinzechukwu Nwagbata & Daniel Gabriel
- DANCE** HMS Social Dance
- MUSIC** The Wailin' Peabuddies
- DANCE** Student National Medical Association
- DANCE** Brigid Bane
- DANCE** Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
- POETRY** Shahaan Razak

With guest appearances and words of wisdom from the class of 2023 and above

FABRIC FASHION SHOW

Clothing and fashion can carry great significance. They can symbolize connection to a place, a time, and a culture, and because they are tangible artifacts they can be passed down generations. In addition to reflecting our heritage, fashion can also be used to project how we see ourselves as individuals. Through alterations and self-exploration, we make the most of the fabrics we have inherited and collected to curate our own distinctive looks. In this way, fashion can simultaneously bind us together and make us stand out.

LATINO MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Before coming to HMS, I knew very few Latinx physicians. Through LMSA, I have connected with my peers and met many role models that have helped me see myself as a future physician. It is always a fun time celebrating our heritage and cultures with other students at HMS and getting to know the diverse Latinx student body. We hope you enjoy this celebration of Latinx music featuring some popular songs!

- Andrea Garmilla

HMS RACIAL JUSTICE COALITION

The Racial Justice Coalition is dedicated to furthering social justice and health equity at HMS and in the broader Boston community. Poetry is a meaningful medium through which to communicate with one another and strengthen our ties even when we cannot physically be together. The poem “A Physics of Sudden Light” by Alberto Rios illustrates the transformative nature of light, which for us represents the hope of a more just world, and a universal force that unites us together.

CAROLINE LEE

Aerial silks is a performance art where you climb two pieces of suspended fabric to tie yourself into wraps, poses, and drops. For the performer, it is a constant tension between falling/security and strength/grace - but to the viewer, it is a fluid dance. This dynamic is what symbolizes the beauty and challenges of Njikota (connections) to culture, identity, and self-discovery.

HMS CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

The HMS Chamber Music Society is excited to share a Disney medley quartet, featuring music from Aladdin, Tarzan, and Pocahontas. Although this year has been difficult in so many ways, we believe music is an amazing vehicle to foster Njikota, combatting the isolation and anxiety experienced in difficult times.

TYLER LECOMER & JIMMY WEI

Jimmy and I's choreography bridges our styles and is set to a song that bridges funk, hip-hop, and afrobeat. It's a celebration of new friendships, the fun that we've had, and all the fun that has yet to come.

- Tyler LeComer

HST Class of 2024

I constantly feel inspired by the 32 other students in the HST Class of 2024+. We have grown together throughout this past year celebrating each other's achievements, birthdays, or just to have some fun. Our HST experience has been a wild ride, but I'm so happy to experience it with them. And I think they can all agree with me that although we definitely aren't geniuses, us HSTers sure are crazy!!

- Andrea Garmilla

NEREIDA RAMIREZ

Premiering on the stage in 1974 and then on the big screen in 1978, *The Wiz* is an iconic tribute to black culture. As a child, this retelling of *The Wizard of Oz* with an all-black cast made a huge impression on me and sparked my love for musicals. “Home”, is the final song of the show where Dorothy reflects on everything she has learned on her journey, and how she’s become more appreciative of the people and blessings in her life. I found myself reaching for this song a lot this past year since I have been physically distant from family. In singing this, I remember that home is more than a place, it is the feeling of being loved and being connected to the people that you love, and those emotions transcend the limitations of space. This knowledge has kept me grounded in my new environment. Moreover, it has enabled me to start forming new bonds and a sense of home with people here at HMS.

SOUTH ASIAN MEDICAL & DENTAL ASSOCIATION

This video is a story of destiny. Two soulmates, first interviewing together at HMS and later partnered for a simple physical exam activity, fall in love. However, their bond is tested by the physical distance separating MGH and the Brigham. For FABRIC 2021, SAMDA brings to life a spicy, musical Bollywood twist to your standard med school romance.

MADDY KLINE, DAN KIM, & NICO POUX

Nico, Maddy, and Dan all experience music as a way to feel connected with others. We thought Jack Johnson’s “Better Together” embodies the theme *Njikota* because it emphasizes that, even in this isolated time of COVID-19, we are stronger, happier, and better together.

STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

How did we get from being “So Anxious” to having our “Souls Anchored”? When enslaved peoples were taken from West and Central Africa and brought to the Americas, they brought their musical traditions with them. This music continued to grow despite the hostile soil, yielding rhythms and melodies that would define America’s soundscape and spread across the world. What is amazing is not only that these traditions survived, but that they never stopped evolving. From spirituals to ragtime and blues, jazz and swing, rock n’ roll and country, soul and funk, salsa and reggaetón, R&B and hip-hop. Our musical DNA is always evolving, sampling the old to make something new. It’s doubtful that Ginuwine would have predicted his 1999 hit would be covered by a church choir 20 years later, but it just goes to show how culture is a living thing that is connected to both its roots and contemporary environment.

ARINZECHUKWU NWAGBATA & DANIEL GABRIEL

Some would agree that dancing to Afrobeats is like dancing with an experienced dance leader. Sometimes all it takes is to separate oneself from the environment and let the rhythm possess you. Forget where you are and go where it takes you, and you just might be in sync with the madness.

HMS SOCIAL DANCE

This video showcases connection in the form of swing dancing. The love of Lindy Hop, originally created in Harlem, connects people of all ages, heritage, genders, and languages around the globe. This group grew their friendship as they learned and performed this choreography, and we can’t wait for you to see it!

THE WAILIN' PEABUDDIES

"The Parting Glass" is a traditional Scottish song of parting after a gathering of friends. It is symbolic of connection that transcends physical distance which resonates with the theme of Njikota. The three of us have been choral singers for a long time and we are excited to collaborate on this performance together and share it with the class!

STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Since receiving our acceptance letters last spring, nearly every monthly news cycle has been accented by the murders of Black Americans. The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor were fresh on our minds as we logged onto our virtual Revisit last April, and each of us was looking to see whether HMS would be a place where we could find community. Within the first day, we started drifting towards each other, and those bonds only grew stronger over the course of the summer and fall. SNMA has been a source of support, not only for collective mourning and action but also joy, which in itself is an act of defiance. This dance is an embodiment of that joy and defiance. Defiance against the institutional racism we have overcome to be here. Defiance against the social discourse attempting to break our spirits. Defiance against those would prevent us from continuing our climb. This is our time to shape the future of medicine, and we will do it together with joy in our step.

BRIGID BANE

In this video, my brother is playing the accordion while I perform an Irish set dance called King of the Faeries. Participating in Irish dance and music is a fun way for people in Ireland to get together and form social connections. We really enjoyed making this video together and we hope you enjoy our family performance!

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

This dance is a way for the AAPI community at HMS to showcase vibrance, connectivity, and perseverance during this pandemic. A lot of us have never danced before, but working together on this performance was an amazing bonding experience. We really hope you can enjoy this video and come join us next year!

SHAHAAN RAZAK

My first experience at HMS was through an early immersion program centered on Oncology exposure through a partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute called the Poussaint Prematriculation Summer Program. During this experience, I was inspired by the patients we were able to speak with and galvanized to reflect on my family's own battles with cancer. This piece is a celebration of the strength and resilience of those who fight this disease, with a call for us to do more to alleviate disparities in healthcare.

Illustrations by Crystal Song



PERFORMANCE GROUPS

Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association

Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology

HMS Chamber Music Society

HMS Racial Justice Coalition

HMS Social Dance

Latino Medical Student Association

South Asian Medical and Dental Association

Student National Medical Association

PERFORMERS

Abby Aymond

Aisha Oshilaja

Alaleh Azhir

Alan Yang

Amanda Urke

Andrea Garmilla

Andrew Chang

Angela Mercurio

Anji Misra

Anna-Sophia Boguraev

Apurva Kanneganti

Arinzechukwu Nwagbata

Arushi Saini

Bijal Rajput

Brian Benítez

Brigid Bane

Bryce Starr

Caroline Lee

Dahee Chung

Daniel Gabriel

Daniel Kim

David Xiang

Derrick Williams

Dominic Schnabel

Emily Hsieh

Emily Schneider

Erika Lynn-Green

Ethiopia Getachew

Gha Young Lee

Ginny Sun

Grant Riew

Jamie Baik

Jason Juang

Jeanna Qiu

Jimmy Wei

John Lee

Jose Carillo

Julia Cho

Julia Duvall

Kate Tanawattanacharoen

Kathryn Li

Laboni Hoque

Lansing Sugita

Luke He

Lynn Hur

Maddy Kline

Maia Mesyngier

Maryann Zhao

Maud Jansen

Natalie Sadlak

Nereida Ramirez

Nico Poux

Reena Goswami

Rohan Jha

Rory Mather

Samuel Zinga

Sanjana Rane

Shahaan Razak

Shahin Saberi

Sheridan Danquah

Sheridan Rea

Sherry Yang

Susan Gonzalez

Tarika Srinivasan

Tarun Kamath

TJ Hazen

Trinity Russell

Tyler LeComer

Tyler Warner

Vineet Desai

Vivian Ha

William Zhuo-Ming Li

Zach Zhao



DIRECTORS

Brianna Wright & Nereida Ramirez

VIDEO EDITORS

Anna-Sophia Boguraev

Daniel Gabriel

Felícita Kuperwasser

Kathryn Li

Nereida Ramirez

Speakers

Adetomiwa Victor Owoseni

Ahmed Elnaiem

Ashley Kyalwazi

Felícita Kuperwasser

LaShyra “Lash” Nolen

Tyler LeComer

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Rosa Soler

The Aesculapian Club