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HARVARDgazette

Taking the Business School in new directions

Online Highlights

ARTS PROVE INTENSIVE
Across campus, students participated in a series of arts intensives during January's Wintersession that let them tap their creative talents.
⏩http://hvd.gs/100359

HARVARD'S TIES TO INDIA
As Harvard continues to ramp up its involvement with India and South Asia, President Drew Faust embarked on a January visit to India with faculty and alumni, who blogged about the storied trip.
⏩http://hvd.gs/99127

A GREAT DAY FOR DANES
Claire Danes, who has won back-to-back Golden Globe awards as Best Actress, can now add another trophy to her collection, the Hasty Pudding Theatricals' Pudding Pot, which she received on Jan. 26, following a Harvard tour, parade, and traditional roast. Master Muppeteer Jason Segel will be honored as Man of the Year on Feb. 3.
⏩http://hvd.gs/100624

Police Log Online ⏩www.hupd.harvard.edu/public_log.php

EDUCATION'S FUTURE, GLOBALLY
Future generations of leaders in international education gathered at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to explore solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges in the field.
⏩ http://hvd.gs/100668

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Distribution and Subscriptions: mirlind_zhabjaku@harvard.edu
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Photos: (top) by Kris Snibbe, (center) by Ned Brown, (right) by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographers

Cover & inset photo by iStock
Top photos: (left) courtesy of Wyss Institute; (center) by Rose Lincoln, (right) by Jon Chase, (above) by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographers

Decoding keys to a healthy life

NOW 74 YEARS YOUNG, the Harvard Study of Adult Development continues to yield a treasure trove of data about how people behave, and change — including predictors of strong indicators to a happy life.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

For 74 years, one of the longest-running studies of normal adult development has been examining not disease and illness, but what may be life's magic question: How can you live long and happy?

The answers that have emerged — and are still emerging — are surprising and obvious both. Having a difficult childhood, for example, matters a lot in early adulthood, but its effects fade as the years go by. Among those who had tough beginnings, self-starters who seek out jobs as kids do better than those who don't. And education — specifically going to college — is more important than money or social status in determining lifetime success.

More recently, the study's aging subjects have shown that lifestyle choices at age 50 regarding exercise, smoking, and alcohol use have more to do with one's health and happiness at 70 than what happened earlier in life. And surprisingly, the quality of vacations younger in life — a measure of the ability to play — is a better indicator of late-life happiness than income.

The study highlights both controllable and uncontrollable factors that affect healthy aging. While there's not much someone can do about parents' social class, early family stability, or ancestors' longevity, a person certainly has a say over whether to smoke, abuse alcohol, exercise, and keep weight down. The study also highlights the importance of a healthy, stable marriage to late-life happiness and underlines the importance of having mature coping mechanisms for the adversity sure to come.

"We used to think that if you had relatives who lived to a ripe old age, that was the best predictor" of a long life, said Robert Waldinger, director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, a psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, and an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "It turns out that the lifestyle choices people make in midlife are a more important predictor of how long you live."

Waldinger became director of the Harvard study in 2003, when longtime director and Professor of Psychiatry George Vaillant stepped down from day-to-day management. To Vaillant, who continues to work on the study, the most important findings concerned the negative effects of alcohol on marital and lifetime success and the evidence that programs like Alcoholics Anonymous work better than other interventions. The study also added nuance to understanding adult development, Vaillant said, which is often thought of as stalling in middle age or peaking at 50 and then declining.

"You only have to think of distinguished 70-year-olds in art and politics to see that something is wrong with

Photo by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographer

"We used to think that if you had relatives who lived to a ripe old age, that was the best predictor" of a long life, said Robert Waldinger, director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development. "It turns out that the lifestyle choices people make in midlife are a more important predictor of how long you live."

that view," Vaillant said. "Adult development from 30 to 80 certainly takes place. [But] it's like watching the hour hand of a clock; that's why it's not appreciated."

Waldinger said the study's central focus now is on marriage, examining how couples have weathered life's storms and cope with challenges such as declining health and concerns about finances. In recent interviews, researchers asked older couples about conflicts and how they resolve them. But couple after couple, Waldinger said, couldn't recall conflicts.

"They said, 'We used to argue about all sorts of things, but we just don't anymore,' " Waldinger said. "The main developmental task for younger couples is managing conflicts. The main task for older couples is mutual support. ... Being in a good marriage buffers you from the effects of pain and disability."

Both Waldinger and Vaillant have published extensively on the study's findings. Some of them were published just last year. In a recent paper, Waldinger, Elizabeth Kensinger, and Marc Schulz utilized functional neuroimaging to find that older adults who are more satisfied with life process emotional information differently from those with more negative views. Vaillant, who has written scholarly articles and several books based on the study, is at work on a history of the study itself.

The research has its roots in a Harvard University Health Services examination of 268 members of Harvard classes between 1939 and 1944. Begun in 1938 and called the Grant Study, it started with exhaustive physical examinations and included regular follow-ups over the years.

The second arm of the study began with Harvard Law Professor Sheldon Glueck, who recruited 456 young men from inner-city Boston neighborhoods between 1940 and 1945 as controls for a study of juvenile delinquency. They were added to the study in the 1970s. Today, just 68 of the Harvard cohort are still alive, many in their early 90s, while 120 of the Glueck Study are alive, most in their early to mid-80s.

Over the decades, subjects have answered biennial questionnaires, allowed health information to be gathered from their doctors, and sat for in-depth interviews. In recent years, they've also submitted to

neuroimaging scans and given blood for DNA analysis. Researchers have also begun to engage their wives in the study, whose reaction, Waldinger said, was, "It's about time."

Though the study has led to many publications, Waldinger and Vaillant view the decades of data, interview notes, questionnaires, and videotapes as a barely tapped treasure trove for researchers, providing a rare view of much of these men's lives. Over the years, researchers have studied the effects of World War II combat, substance abuse, childhood trauma, education, and other factors. To make data easier to access for researchers, Waldinger said, they've embarked on a digitization project for the records, currently held in 50 filing cabinets.

"When we are finished, you will be able to search for the word 'father,' and the computer will pull out every time that word was used in the hundreds of pages that comprise each man's life record," Waldinger said.

Vaillant said the study still can surprise, even though he has been involved with the data for 40 years. Just last year, he said, he found that 57 percent of all divorces among Grant Study men involved alcoholism. That statistic had been artificially low until then because, though the men had spoken of their own alcohol problems, many hadn't been forthcoming about those of their wives until later in life.

"It's still a treasure trove, and with each passing year more people mine it in different and imaginative ways," Vaillant said.

In addition to adding new genetic techniques, Waldinger said the researchers are seeking funding to continue the study by enrolling children and even grandchildren. Most longitudinal studies — which follow subjects over long periods — fade after a decade or so because subjects drop out, funding dries up, and researchers move on to new projects. A study lasting as many decades as the Harvard one is exceedingly rare, Waldinger said.

"We know how they felt about their parents when they were 19, we know how their parents felt about them, we know what their childhoods were like," Waldinger said. "It's so unique, it'll never be done again."

Photo by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographer

Faculty Profile

Making the worms turn

Biophysicist Aravinthan Samuel has developed new techniques to monitor and influence the behavior of roundworms, a first step to understanding the circuitry in more complex creatures, like humans.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

To biophysicist Aravinthan Samuel, the roundworm Caenorhabditis elegans provides a pathway to understanding the brain and nervous system, first of the worm, then of higher animals, and even, perhaps, of humans.

But to Samuel, working on anesthetized or immobilized worms can only tell you so much about how the brain and nervous system work. To truly understand the system, researchers need to see it in action.

So Samuel and researchers in his lab set to work designing equipment that could measure nerve activity in living, wiggling worms. They first succeeded three or four years ago, becoming the first to record neural activity in freely moving worms. Then, last year, they topped that, using pulses of green and blue light on worms that had been genetically modified so that their nerves contained light-activated proteins. This allowed researchers to exert control over the worms by aiming pulses of light at specific nerves.

To do this, they had to design some sophisticated equipment: a tracking microscope to follow the worms' movements and image-processing software to estimate the location of individual neurons and control a mirror to direct light to the target nerve cells.

The system worked spectacularly. Researchers were able to simulate a touch that caused the worms to recoil by shining a light at a nerve near the worms' front. They were able to goose the worms into action by shining a light at a nerve toward their back end. They were able to steer a worm left and right and even get it to lay an egg, all without a single physical touch.

At the time, Samuel described the method as perhaps his lab's "greatest invention" and said it would provide a new tool in the arsenal of researchers seeking to understand the nervous system.

Today, Samuel and members of his lab are moving ahead with their work on the roundworm. Samuel, a physics professor who uses the tools of that field to explore important biological questions, said he chose to work on C. elegans, a millimeter-long roundworm often used in laboratory research, for several reasons. It is transparent, so researchers can see what's going on inside it, and it's so simple that researchers have all of its 302 neurons mapped out. That means researchers seeking a beachhead from which to explore the complex workings of the nervous system can look for basic principles in C. elegans that would also apply to more complex creatures.

After years working on C. elegans, Samuel's laboratory is tackling increasing complexity. A few years ago, the researchers began working on larva of the fruit fly Drosophila. While Drosophila is another commonly studied laboratory animal — favored for genetics research because of its short life span — it is usually studied in its adult fly form. Its wormlike larva, which Samuel said has a nervous system an order of magnitude more complex than C. elegans, is not as widely studied. One project, if successful, will yield a complete map of the nerves involved in the larvae's sensitivity to light and heat.

Although he has been on Harvard's faculty since 2003, Samuel has been at the University far longer, for 23 years. After growing up in Sidney, N.Y., with an interest in mathematics and physics, Samuel came to Harvard as an undergraduate. While looking for laboratories where he could conduct biological or physics research, he visited the lab of Howard Berg, a biophysicist who studies movement in bacteria. Samuel found a home there, conducting both undergraduate and graduate studies under Berg.

"Everything he touched seemed to work. He roamed and read widely. At one point he was learning Japanese ... and reading James Joyce," Berg said. "We are lucky to have him here. He is working at the interface of physics and biology and needs the support of both communities."

Samuel said he was attracted to Berg's lab — and biophysics generally — because so many fundamental biological questions remain unanswered that he felt there were ample opportunities to conduct basic research.

"You can do fundamental work quickly. That's not so easy to do in physics," Samuel said.

Samuel received his doctorate in biophysics in 1999, spent four years doing postdoctoral research at Harvard, and then became an assistant professor of physics in 2003. He became an associate professor in 2007 and professor of physics in 2010.

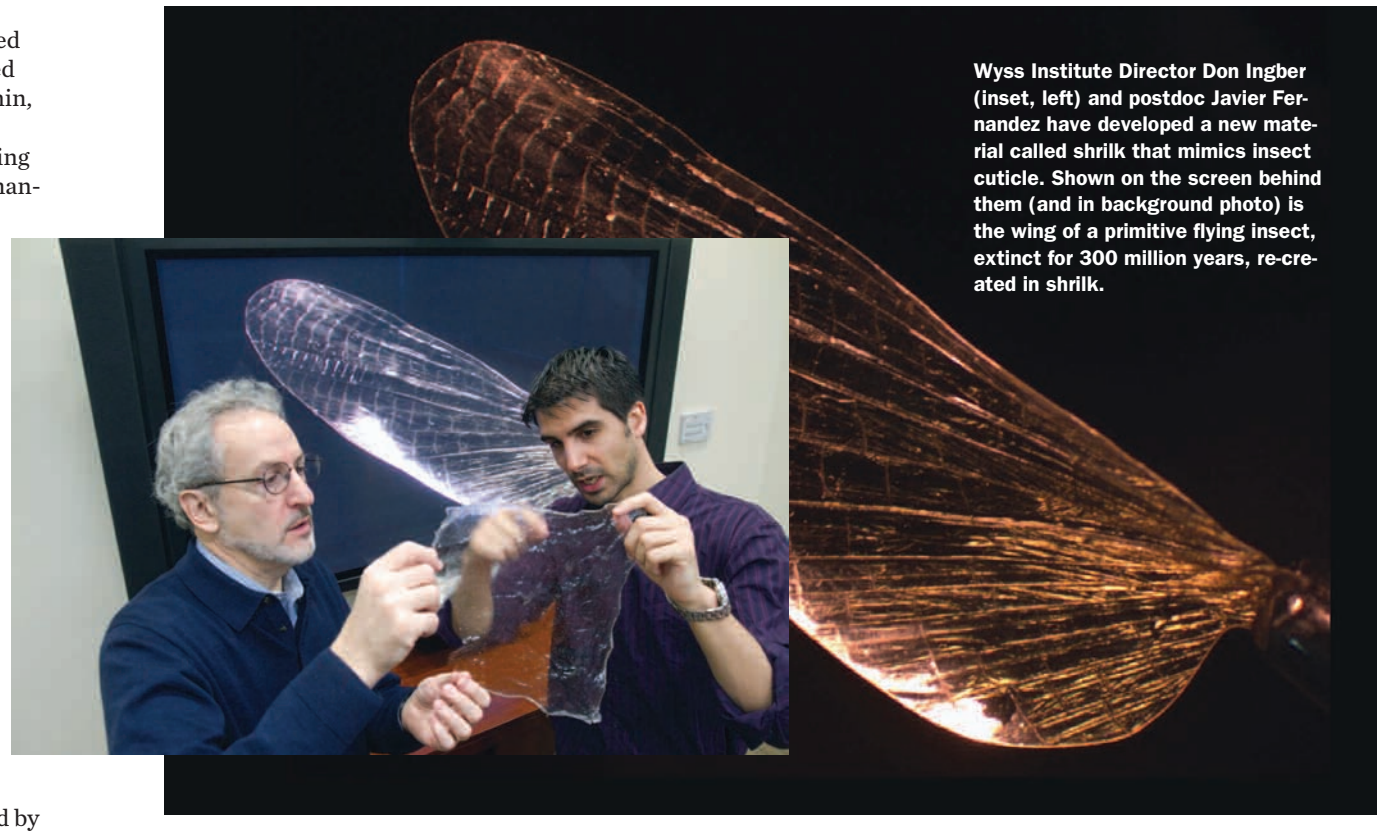
Over his career, Samuel has come to understand what he calls the "inefficiencies" in science, the research down blind alleys that can consume a lot of effort but yield no results. As the leader of his own lab, Samuel said he tries to touch base with each lab member daily instead of waiting for lab meetings, to head off forays down paths that won't prove fruitful.

"I try to make sure everyone is working on solvable problems," Samuel said.

As strong as an insect's shell

WYSS INSTITUTE SCIENTISTS have created a material that mimics the hard outer skin of bugs. The result is low-cost and easily manufactured, and tough. It eventually might provide a more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer



Wyss Institute Director Don Ingber (inset, left) and postdoc Javier Fernandez have developed a new material called shrilk that mimics insect cuticle. Shown on the screen behind them (and in background photo) is the wing of a primitive flying insect, extinct for 300 million years, re-created in shrilk.

Harvard researchers at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering have come up with a tough, low-cost, biodegradable material inspired by insects' hard outer shells. The material's inventors say it has a host of possible applications and someday could provide a more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic.

The material, made from discarded shrimp shells and proteins derived from silk, is called "shrilk." It is thin, clear, flexible, and strong as aluminum at half the weight, according to postdoctoral fellow Javier Fernandez, who began work on chitin-based materials as a doctoral student at the University of Barcelona and developed shrilk during a year-and-a-half stint working at the Wyss Institute with Director Donald Ingber.

Ingber, the Judah Folkman Professor of Vascular Biology at Harvard Medical School and Harvard-affiliated Children's Hospital and professor of bioengineering at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, said companies have already expressed interest in the material, particularly for medical applications. Possible medical uses are boosted by the fact that the ingredients in shrilk have already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Potential uses include meshes or sheets that would dissolve over time in hernia repair, protective coverings for burns and wounds, and a scaffold on which cells can grow to regenerate tissue.

A major benefit of the material, which was described in a December issue of the journal Advanced Materials, is its biodegradability, Ingber and Fernandez said. Plastic's toughness and moldability represented a revolution in materials science during the 1950s and '60s. Decades later, however, plastic's very durability is raising questions about how appropriate it is for one-time applications such as plastic bags, or short life-span consumer goods, used in the home for a few years and then tossed into a landfill where they will decompose for centuries.

"All this plastic, what's the point of making something that lasts 1,000 years?" Fernandez asked.

Shrilk not only will degrade in a landfill, but its basic components are used as fertilizer, and so will enrich the soil.

Natural materials, Fernandez said, were supplanted by synthetic materials partly because synthetics can be easily controlled in manufacturing and made into a wide variety of goods. Natural materials are making a comeback, however, as scientists learn from nature the manufacturing techniques needed to mimic the properties that make them desirable. Shrilk is a good example of the Wyss Institute's mission, which is to learn how to make things from nature's own engineering.

"This is the second chance for natural materials," Fernandez said.

Shrilk's secret, Fernandez and Ingber said, is not just its chemistry but also its design. There are two basic ingredients, a variation on the material chitin that makes up a large part of an insect's tough outer layer, called chitosan, and fibroin, a protein derived from silk. But just combining those two ingredients doesn't produce a flexible, tough material. Instead of blindly combining the materials, Fernandez and Ingber looked to nature to see not just what materials were used, but how.

In an insect's body, the fibroin protein and chitin are layered, creating the kind of stiff design that gives plywood its strength and rigidity. By mimicking nature's design and layering the chitosan and fibroin protein, shrilk was born.

"Much of the structural properties found in nature are not just chemistry, they're architecture," Ingber said.

Shrilk has great potential, the two said. Chitin is one of the most abundant materials in nature, found in everything from shrimp shells to insect bodies, snail and clam shells. That makes shrilk not only low cost, but also potentially scalable should it be used in applications demanding a lot of material.

Work on shrilk is continuing in the lab, the two said. Ingber said the material becomes flexible when wet, so they're exploring ways to use it in moist environments. They're also developing simpler manufacturing processes, which could be used for products in non-medical applications, like for computer cases and other products inside the home. They're even exploring combining it with other materials, like carbon fibers, to give it new properties.

Photos: (inset) by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer; (insect) courtesy of the Wyss Institute

Triumphs against smallpox, polio, AIDS

Harvard physicians have been at the forefront of many battles against devastating diseases, leading pivotal breakthroughs against scourges from 1800 to the present.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

As Harvard celebrates its 375th anniversary, the Gazette is examining key moments and developments over the University's broad and compelling history.

Over Harvard's history, researchers and physicians have played key roles in vanquishing disease, from testing and distributing the first American smallpox vaccine in 1800, to the breakthrough in the 1940s that led to a polio vaccine, to the myriad advances of today's broad-ranging medical research.

In just the past few decades, labs on Harvard's campuses, at its affiliated hospitals, and in research centers have been the birthplace of key findings against disease, from the 1980s characterization of a frightful condition called AIDS, to new ways of fighting cancer by choking off its blood supply, to pioneering stem-cell-based approaches that use a cell's innermost secrets to attack degenerative ailments.

Harvard's disease fighters today share the mission of those who preceded them, but they wield weapons that would be foreign to doctors of yesteryear. They use stem cells to create disease-bearing tissues for lab study, advanced imaging equipment to peek inside the body, genetic techniques that probe a cell's DNA, and vast statistical databases from which researchers pick out rare anomalies and open doors to understanding.

The list of Harvard's medical advances includes many vital contributions, from the first use of anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1846, to the invention of the iron lung in 1927, to the discovery in the 1950s that vitamin A is essential to vision, to the invention of the heart pacemaker in 1952, to the first human organ transplant in 1954, and many others.

"Harvard has certainly been a leading center for research and therapeutic innovation," said Scott Podolsky, assistant professor of global health and social medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and director of HMS's Center for the History of Medicine.

HMS faculty members began fighting disease almost as soon as the Medical School started. In 1800, one of the institution's first three professors, Benjamin Waterhouse, was the first person in America to test Edward Jenner's smallpox vaccine, developed in Britain two years earlier.

After reading Jenner's account of milkmaids' immunity acquired by a mild infection with cowpox, Waterhouse sent for a sample. He tested it on his 5-year-old son, Daniel, and then inoculated his family and servants. He became a smallpox vaccination advocate, gaining the ear of President Thomas Jefferson.

Photos courtesy of Harvard University Archives

In 1800, one of Harvard Medical School's first three professors, Benjamin Waterhouse (far left), was the first person in America to test the smallpox vaccine, developed in Britain two years earlier. In 1926, George Minot (on right) tackled another deadly ailment: pernicious anemia, which often killed sufferers within three years.

In the decades to follow, many ailments stalked the American countryside. One, puerperal fever, killed as many as one in five new mothers in European hospitals. In America, where hospital delivery was rare, deaths would follow doctors as they went from delivery to delivery. Caused by streptococci bacteria, it was carried from patient to patient by physicians' poor hygiene habits in an era before germ theory became standard.

Boston doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes, who was HMS dean from 1847 to 1853, wasn't the first to suspect puerperal fever was contagious. But his 1843 pamphlet, "The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever," went a long way toward convincing a skeptical medical establishment that it was carried by the physicians themselves.

Podolsky said Holmes is an example of another important Harvard medical contribution: skepticism. Holmes pointed out flaws in how things were done at the time, as did a later skeptic, Maxwell Finland, who regularly debunked ineffective antibiotics.

In 1926, HMS faculty members George Minot and William Murphy tackled another deadly ailment: pernicious anemia, which often killed sufferers within three years. Their study showed that a diet heavy in raw liver improved the sufferers' condition. Later studies isolated the active ingredient, vitamin B12, that today is given routinely. Minot and Murphy, together with George Whipple, shared the 1934 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for the work.

Even as progress was made against other diseases, polio was a stubborn holdout. Polio could cause paralysis just hours after infection, and, if the paralysis involved breathing muscles, death. Because the disease attacked nerve cells, researchers found it difficult to culture in the lab.

In 1948, HMS Professor John Enders, along with colleagues Frederick Robbins and Thomas Weller, were trying to grow chicken pox virus in a mixture of human embryonic skin and muscle tissue. In a nearby cabinet was a sample of polio virus, which they decided to try in the new culture. The successful result set the stage for the development of polio vaccines by Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, and netted Enders, Robbins, and Weller the 1954 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

In the early 1980s, the world struggled to understand a mysterious ailment raging through the gay community. In the Harvard lab of Max Essex, researchers were connecting the dots gleaned from his research into feline leukemia, a disease of cats that has startling parallels to human AIDS. Caused by a retrovirus — which carries its genetic information as RNA rather than DNA — feline leukemia often doesn't cause that actual leukemia but instead suppresses the immune system so other diseases can attack.

Essex, the Lasker Professor of Health Sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health and director of the Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative, was the first, with Robert Gallo, to propose that a retrovirus causes AIDS. His lab contributed several other major findings in AIDS research, including the discovery of GP 120, a protein on the virus' surface. That finding enabled development of an AIDS screening test, and the protein remains a focus of vaccine research. He also traced the development of HIV in hemophiliacs to HIV-positive blood donors, identified HIV-2, a less virulent strain of the virus mainly found in West Africa, and an HIV analog in other primates called simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV, which has provided an important laboratory model for how HIV works in the human body.

Sensibly saving Jane Austen

Two of Jane Austen's letters — thousands of which were written but only dozens of which were preserved — undergo careful repairs at Harvard, where they reside at Houghton Library.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Allison Holcomb (top), a conservation intern at the Weissman Preservation Center, recently assessed, cleaned, and fixed two rare Jane Austen letters. The job requires precision tools (center). To brighten one of the 200-year-old letters (below), Holcomb rubbed the surface with vinyl eraser crumbs.

British romantic novelist Jane Austen died penniless on July 18, 1817, at the age of 41. Four of her six novels were already in print, but her obscurity was so deep that it was not until December that Austen was identified as the author. In life, fortune and fame eluded Austen, a minister's daughter whose writing is now widely celebrated for its wit and realism.

But fame did follow. A collected edition of Austen's novels appeared in 1833, and they have been in print ever since. By 1880, Austen was the subject of a public adulation so wild that Victorians called it "Austenolatry." In the 21st century, this fervent literary fandom remains unchecked.

But Austen's fame is a problem for scholars in search of scarce clues to her life. Consider, for one, the fate of her letters. By some estimates, Austen wrote 3,000, but only about 160 survive.

Harvard's Houghton Library owns five complete letters and one fragment. They are little storms of gossip, fashion, and drawing-room intrigue — novels in miniature that show off Austen's ready humor and astute powers of observation.

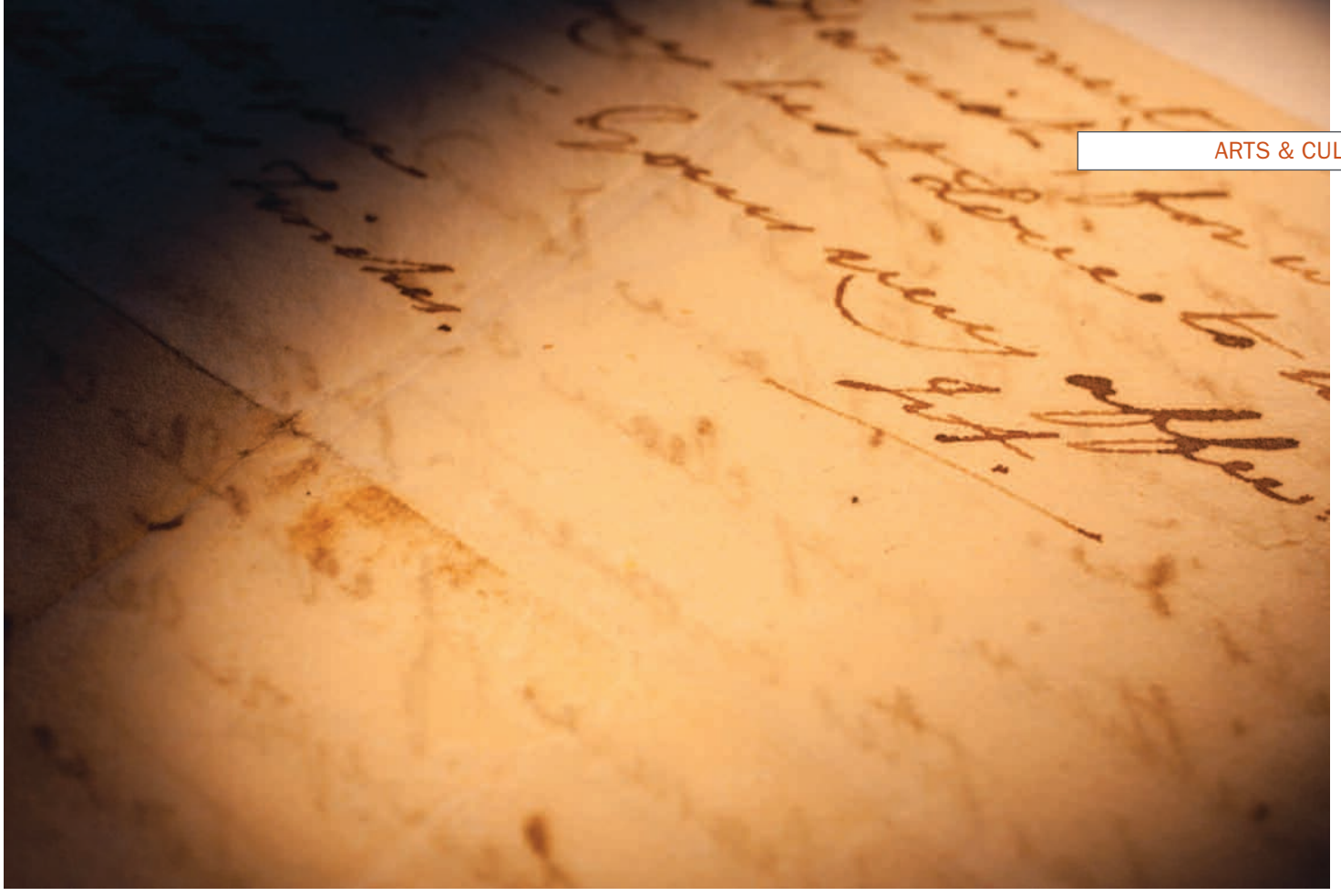
Even in their lightness, they remain valuable to scholars. In the fall of 2010, Harvard Assistant Professor of English Andrew Warren arranged for his class to see

one of the Austen letters, because the experience "draws us into Austen's social world, which after all is the inspiration for the novels," he said. "The world of the novels is uncannily close to the world depicted, or rather enacted, in the letter."

For Harvard, it's only a matter of sense and sensibility to treat the Austen letters well, with temperature and humidity controls, flat storage in acid-free folders, protection from ultraviolet light, and limited physical access.

Add to those protections the expert ministrations of the Weissman Preservation Center, an arm of the Harvard University Library. Last month, experts there finished restoring two of the University's Austen letters, one written in 1805 and the other in 1813.

Photos by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer



Both are “autograph letters,” handwritten missives addressed to Austen’s sister and lifelong confidante Cassandra. They were gifts from Amy Lowell, the Brookline poet and John Keats biographer who in 1925 bequeathed to Harvard an extensive literary collection of books and autographs. (A Houghton exhibit of the Lowell collection is planned for the fall.)

The letters, on cream-colored writing paper, are in remarkable shape, despite the intentional creases common in Austen’s day, when letters were folded for mailing. (The modern envelope appeared nearly a century later.)

The two letters are also full to the edges with Austen’s neat, small handwriting, in lines as straight as a ruler. “Keats wasn’t so tidy in his letters,” said Debora Mayer, the Weissman’s Helen H. Glaser Conservator. (Lowell’s Keats collection is ample and comprehensive.) But however neat the handwriting, she added, the Austen letters illustrate one joy of the conservation business: the thrill of proximity to the greats of history and literature.

“We’re artists, we’re historians, and we like to be connected,” said Mayer of conservators. “Working on objects connects us, very much so ... to another place and time.”

Closest to the Austen letters was Harvard conservation intern Allison Holcomb, a master’s degree student in the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation. Late last year she examined the letters and wrote a detailed “proposal record” for repairing each. It’s a technical job, but a private thrill, said Holcomb. She emailed a friend about the project, filling in the subject line with exclamation points.

Holcomb showed her tools, which illustrate the cleanliness, care, and precision required for literary conservation: specialized blotters to protect text, needle-like awls, delicate brushes, magnifying glasses, long-fibered Japanese tissue for mending tears, surgical scalpels, and a stainless steel tool for turning pages — aptly called a “micro spatula.”

Photos by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer

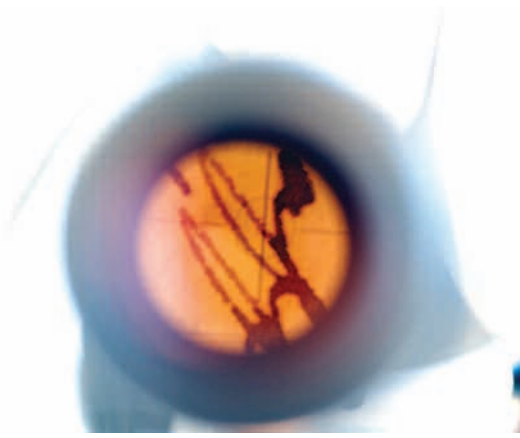
Before treatment, Holcomb examined the Austen letters under magnification, traced water marks to determine the origin of the paper, took documentary digital images (a step repeated after restoration), and used “raking” (oblique) light to search for minor distortions in the paper. Conservation work, said Mayer, first involves “looking closely and intently.”

During the treatment, Holcomb used vinyl eraser crumbs to gently clean the letter surfaces. (Using water was out of the question; it would accelerate the destructive chemistry of the iron gall ink common to Austen’s era.) But she left the graphite marks within each letter untouched, because they are editorially significant attempts on the part of early editors to mark logical paragraph breaks. To finish, Holcomb removed old repairs, flattened bent corners, and fixed several tears.

The two letters bring Austen alive — observant, funny, gossipy, and irreverent. The 1813 missive closes with what might be a message to anyone still under the spell of Austenolatry today. “Now I think I have written you a good sized Letter & may deserve whatever I can get in reply,” she wrote. “Infinities of Love.”

Online ⏩ Photo gallery: http://hvd.gs/100497

Writing to her sister Cassandra, Austen signed the Aug. 24, 1805 letter “J.A” (above). A detail from the same letter (below), magnified and screened on a computer monitor. To minimize touching letter surfaces, Weissman Preservation Center intern Allison Holcomb uses a micro spatula (bottom), a common tool in literary conservation.



Niall Ferguson: "Things don't always happen gradually in history; sometimes they fall apart quite fast. So there's a certain urgency in my argument. If you don't watch out, things can go wrong very rapidly. By the way, I think that's what's happened in Europe. The financial crisis has gone from bad to worse in the span of a year."

HARVARD BOUND

The West, plagued by self-doubt

In his new book, noted historian Niall Ferguson sees Europe and America as facing a profound crisis of confidence in what the future holds.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

Niall Ferguson is a little concerned these days. The feeling started years ago, during one of his stints leading a course in Western civilization. "Each time I taught it, I felt I was getting closer to an original answer to the question, 'Why did the West dominate the rest?' plus the subordinate question, 'Is it over?' "

Ferguson, the Laurence A. Tisch Professor of History, believes we are witnessing the end of the predominance of the West — "Europe and North America, broadly," he says — relative to countries like China, India, and Brazil. Much of the rest of the world has not only caught up with Western achievements; according to Ferguson, the West also has lost faith in its own civilization because of the widespread perception that its success was almost exclusively the result of violence and imperialism.

So his latest book, "Civilization: The West and the Rest," was mostly produced amid a mood of uneasiness, he admits. "I was worried that the West was losing sight of what made it so successful, and perhaps losing those advantages that had previously been so important."

In "Civilization," Ferguson dubs these Western advantages his six "killer apps," which are competition, science, property rights, medicine, consumerism, and the work ethic. "The prescription must be to reinstall and update these apps, to take these six things and make sure we're doing them as well as we can," he argues.

"I've spent a lot of time lately thinking about how healthy these things are in the West, and the answer is not very. While I was writing the book I also realized that what other fallen civilizations had in common was the speed with which their downfall happened. Things don't always happen gradually in history; sometimes they fall apart quite fast. So there's a certain urgency in my argument. If you don't watch out, things can go wrong very rapidly. By the way, I think that's what's happened in Europe. The financial crisis has gone from bad to worse in the span of a year."

The candid and sometimes controversial Ferguson is especially troubled by the rampant belief that all civilizations are not only equal, but that "the West was actually bad because Western power was based exclusively on conquest and colonization."

"That self-flagellation, which has been a feature of the academe for a generation, is quite corrosive, because if you teach a generation that the West was essentially wicked and its passing shouldn't be mourned, then your students aren't going to feel tremendously committed to its values."

"The West, in some respects — not all — was a more successful civilization than any other because it was successful economically in making people richer than they ever were before; successful socially in creating greater opportunities, not least for women than any previous society; and successful culturally in opening up whole avenues of scientific and other inquiry that had previously been closed," he says. "Therefore, we shouldn't think of the West just in terms of conquest and colonization, slavery and exploitation. That's only a part of the story. The least original thing that the West did after 1500 was empire."

Apart from his prolific writing (he's now at work on a multivolume biography of Henry Kissinger), Ferguson makes ample time for his four children, including a new son, and for playing the double bass.

The former high school punk rocker ("We had several different names, one of which was 'The Strand'; we were closely modeled on the Jam") traded in his six-string after discovering jazz. He still plays bass occasionally with the London-based quintet "A Night in Tunisia."

Ferguson's sobering message will air on television this spring, when PBS screens the series 'Civilization: Is the West History?', which he wrote and presented. "My argument is, 'Look, let's identify the strengths, and let's not pretend that in the period after 1500 something remarkable didn't happen. There's a reason why the West got so much richer, longer-lived, healthier, and better educated than anybody else, and it wasn't just machine guns.' This idea annoys some people," he shrugs, "but that's OK."

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer

Up by his bootstraps

CAMBODIAN WRITER Tararith Kho, who grew up amid war and pushed relentlessly to be educated, is now a Harvard Scholars at Risk fellow. His weapons are well-turned words.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer

As a child, Tararith Kho spent many nights with his family in a cave dug into a hillside in the Samrong district of Cambodia. "We were under fire," said Kho simply.

The boy who saw death early grew up to become a poet and short story writer — and now a 2011-12 Scholars at Risk fellow at Harvard. Wartime and the continuing tension of Cambodian politics still deeply inform his work. Talk with Rith, as he is called, and you will hear the mantra of a witness: "I have seen this."

The onetime international writing fellow at Brown University has a literary blog, composes poems and essays in his native Khmer, and has written a dozen stories. One of them, "Red Print," was about war and took him a decade to finish. "I'm not a political man," he said recently. "I'm a writer, and I write what I have seen."

Even as a newborn in 1974, Rith was immersed in war. That was the year before the Khmer Rouge regime established the killing fields, places of execution, starvation, and disease where a third of Cambodians died from 1975 to 1978. After that, civil wars flared and raged until 1991. These templates provided Rith with his childhood memories of firefights and artillery exchanges and the fatal detritus of war.

Thousands of landmines are still buried in impoverished Oddar Meanchey Province, where Rith grew up.

This hat-shaped region in northern Cambodia was the Khmer Rouge's original redoubt. "On the street and in the forest, I witnessed fighting," said Rith. "Sometimes I saw people die."

His father was killed in 1975 while fighting the Khmer Rouge. He and his brother grew up with their mother, a primary school teacher and farmer. They lived in a wooden hut roofed with palm leaves, not far from their dugout shelter. They cooked outside over a wood fire, grew vegetables, picked fruit, snared rabbits in the forested Dangrek Mountains, and fished from a nearby stream. There were no books in the house, and newspapers arrived long after they were printed. "We lived in a valley," Rith said, "and knew nothing."

By comparison, Harvard for Rith is a paradise of safety and opportunity. "I heard people talk about places like Harvard, Brown, and universities in Europe," said Rith of his childhood. "But I come from a poor place close to the Thai border. I never dreamed I would come here."

His fellowship is supported by Harvard's Scholars at Risk program, with help from the Office of the Provost and the Scholar Rescue Fund in New York, an arm of the Institute of International Education.

By comparison, Harvard for Rith is a paradise of safety and opportunity. "I heard people talk about places like Harvard, Brown, and universities in Europe," said Rith of his childhood. "But I come from a poor place close to the Thai border. I never dreamed I would come here."

The road to Harvard was long and winding. Despite the chaos of war, Rith managed to attend primary school in his village before moving to high school in Siem Reap province. That was less than three hours away by car, but for him three days away on foot. In 1991, Rith moved to Phnom Penh to take preparatory courses for university. He worked as a builder, housecleaner, and motorcycle taxi driver before entering the Royal University of Phnom Penh on a scholarship.

By 1999, he had a bachelor's degree, the next year a teaching certificate, and in 2004 a master's degree in political science from the capital city's Chamroeun University of Poly-Technology. That same year, Rith married screenwriter Amara Chhaya, whom he had met in a writing class. (Today they have two children, ages 7 and 5.)

In Phnom Penh, writing was one of Rith's desires; travel was another. He had already crossed many times into Thailand and Vietnam, a country he considers a refuge and second home. But starting in 2006, Rith traveled to France, Sweden, and the United States.

He still dreams of Cambodia, a land where, as one of his poems says, "happiness and suffering live side by side." Still, he fears returning. His writing is nostalgic but increasingly political. That has earned him the enmity of authorities, whom he accuses of land theft and repression. "This beautiful island is gone," one of his poems reads.

In history this island was Cambodia.
All generations of Khmer remember.
When the island will return to us
the long suffering will end;
our anger of the many years will be over.
We are waiting for that.

But Rith isn't just waiting. For years, he has helped students from his remote province get university training through his self-supported Oddar Meanchey Students Association. With assistance from private donors and from Alan Lightman's the Harpswell Foundation, which is based in Cambridge, Rith provides 30 university students annually with housing, food, books, and computers. Sixteen live in his Phnom Penh apartment; 14 more live in his house there.

Some are aspiring writers. "Read and listen," Rith tells them. "If we don't read and don't listen, we don't know."

Not your average ROAD TRIP

Harvard Business School just sent all 900 first-year M.B.A. students into the field to solve real-world problems in emerging markets from Buenos Aires to Mumbai, in the most ambitious element of an experimental new course. HBS, pioneer of the celebrated case-study method, is working to craft a business education model for the 21st century.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

A marketplace in Chennai, India, one of a dozen cities where Harvard Business School students traveled in January.

Until recently, January usually meant one thing at Harvard Business School: a frenzy of summer internship interviews known affectionately as "Hell Week." Like her fellow first-year M.B.A. students, Parker Woltz was prepared to spend her winter break handing out business cards.

Unlike her predecessors, however, Woltz found herself making those introductions not in New York or Boston, but in a conference room in Ho Chi Minh City.

Early last month, Woltz and five classmates found themselves lined up for a formal exchange of cards with their new Vietnamese associates. The students had read up on local customs: Start with the highest-ranking person in the room. Line up the cards you receive in front of you on the table. And, whatever you do, don't pass out your card without using two hands. That's rude.

Photo courtesy of Melody Koh

"It took forever," Woltz said. "It felt very ritualistic. But by the end of the week, they were taking us out for lunches."

If the process was initially nerve-wracking, Woltz and her classmates could take heart in knowing that they were hardly alone. Their weeklong visit, during which

A team of first-year M.B.A. students doing fieldwork in a local market in Accra, Ghana.

they feverishly tackled a marketing project for a telecommunications company, was part of an ambitious new field-learning course now required of all first-year M.B.A. students.

The 900 students all took whirlwind trips to emerging market economies. In teams of six, the students fanned out across a dozen locations — from Cape Town and Mumbai, to Shanghai and Warsaw, to Istanbul and Buenos Aires — to tackle business challenges with real companies. Each team received a proposal from its global partner for a new product or service and was asked to present a helpful plan by the end of the week.

The trips were the focal point of an experimental new supplement to HBS's long-standing curriculum, called Field Immersion Experiences for Leadership Development, or FIELD. The three-part project — carried out on campus and abroad over the academic year — has educational leaders and observers looking to HBS, standard-bearer of the celebrated case-study method, to create a strong business education model for the 21st century.

"FIELD reflects our understanding of what it means to be a leader in a global century," said Nitin Nohria, dean of HBS. "We see FIELD as a powerful way of complementing the case method by putting students in real-world business scenarios, both here on campus and in emerging economies around the world."

The project was announced a year ago to a flurry of media coverage and speculation. FIELD would be a test of how innovative an elite business school — known for pioneering the use of a rigorous, classroom-based teaching method, no less — could be while remaining true to its core principles. In the weeks leading up to the student trips, "Poets & Quants," the business-school rankings website, called FIELD "arguably the boldest experiment ever carried out in graduate business education."

THE M.B.A. RECONSIDERED

FIELD was the result of several years of discussion at HBS, spurred by preparations for the School's centennial celebration in 2008.

Photo courtesy of Harvard Business School

"It was a point at which we as an institution engaged in some deep reflection," said Youngme Moon, Donald K. David Professor of Business Administration and senior associate dean. "HBS pioneered so much of the methodology of how business education is done around the world today. The question we asked ourselves was: 100 years from now, what will be our legacy, and how can we begin building it today?"

Jay Light, then dean of HBS, commissioned a faculty panel to assess the state of the M.B.A. program and the readiness of its graduates to lead in a new century.

"This started in 2006-07, when everyone thought the [business] world couldn't be going better than it was going," said Srikant Datar, Arthur Lowes Dickinson Professor of Accounting. But as Datar and his colleagues started interviewing other school's deans, business leaders, students, and recruiters, they heard serious concerns about the state of business education that prefigured the coming global economic crisis. It was clear that the need to reconfigure the M.B.A. extended well beyond HBS, and beyond the timeline of the 2008 anniversary.

In 2010, Datar and colleagues David Garvin, C. Roland Christensen Professor of Business Administration, and Patrick Cullen, then a research associate at HBS, published "Rethinking the MBA: Business Education at a Crossroads." The book was more than a philosophical treatise. Containing reams of data and several case studies of top B-schools, it identified skills that were in desperately short supply, even in elite M.B.A. programs.

The book's central theme urged business schools to teach ways of doing and being, rather than simply knowing. That idea became the basis for FIELD's areas of focus: leadership (the being of business), global immersion (the doing of business), and the integration of that learning across the academic year.

"No matter how much we fill our students with knowledge, the fact of the matter is that when they encounter a problem, that knowledge is not going to be enough," Datar said. "How do you train people to think about the inevitable gaps that are going to be in their knowledge, to be able to think through situations for which their knowledge is going to be incomplete? In those instances, critical thinking becomes fundamental."

For Moon, who became chair of the M.B.A. Program after Nohria's appointment as dean, the answer was to develop FIELD, with input from faculty across the School. In the fall, all 900 new students met for the first component of the course, which incorporated small group activities and projects meant to develop leadership. In October, students received their assignments for FIELD 2, the global immersion trips. This month, when students return for the spring semester, they'll be assigned to new groups of six. Each team will be given $3,000 and charged with conceiving and developing a scalable business of its own.

"When you undergo a change this dramatic, it can only come from the bottom up," Moon said. FIELD, she added, "is really just the tangible manifestation of a more conceptual commitment that the faculty has made to field-based learning, small-group learning, and experiential learning opportunities."

(see HBS next page)

HBS

(continued from previous page)

FLEXING SOME NEW MUSCLES

Students, too, have shown an increasing interest in getting out into the field while in business school. The old M.B.A. stereotype — a young twenty-something sent to business school by a company hoping to put him on the management track — rarely applies today. Incoming M.B.A. students are now slightly older, more experienced, and less likely to have their way paid by an organization. Some students are hoping for a change of field after they graduate; many say they'd like to learn the tools to start and run their own businesses.

"The students we accept today are more business savvy than ever," Moon said. "The standard for what we teach in our classrooms has gone up over time."

Youngme Moon, Donald K. David Professor of Business Administration and senior associate dean: "The students we accept today are more business savvy than ever. The standard for what we teach in our classrooms has gone up over time."

Popular student clubs, such as the long-standing Entrepreneurship Club or the newer, consumer Internet-focused Startup Tribe, coupled with University-driven initiatives such as HBS's Arthur Rock Center for Entrepreneurship and the Harvard Innovation Lab, have catalyzed that interest, giving M.B.A. students the space, funding, and social supports to tackle real-world challenges while juggling case readings and internship interviews.

"On one hand, you could say, 'Why change?' On the other, it's our responsibility to have our antenna up on the extent to which the demands of the business environment are changing," Moon said. "We're operating in a context now in which the world of business and the world at large have become increasingly complex. It affects not just traditional business, but domains like education, government, health care, and social enterprise."

The trips were also an experiment in HBS's logistical capabilities. Sending 1,000 students, faculty, and support staff around the globe took the coordinated efforts of HBS Executive Education, external relations, legal and other administrators, and the School's global research centers. While HBS prides itself on a robust alumni network, the task of finding enough global partners to help create 150 team trips required HBS to reach out and work with alumni on an unprecedented scale, Moon said.

"We've had to use muscles we've never really had to use before," she said. "In the process, we're developing some different kinds of flexibility we're just beginning to tap into. We're inspired."

THE REALITIES OF GLOBAL MARKETS

The FIELD trips represented a creative opportunity to train students in many of the critical skills identified in "Rethinking the M.B.A." Those include developing a global perspective, implementing effectively in the face of organizational realities, responding creatively to problems, and — perhaps most important in the wake of the financial crisis — understanding the limits of the financial models and markets that students learn about in the classroom.

Nowhere are the models less certain than in rapidly developing markets like the ones just visited. Although HBS already boasts a student body that's one-third international, and many more students who have worked abroad, Datar stressed the need to give students a leg up in tackling the unique challenges that American companies face overseas.

"A large number of companies are going to have to get connected with emerging markets in the coming years," Datar said. "They're very different [from the American market], and if you think about and approach them as if they're the same, you won't succeed."

Melody Koh, a first-year student whose FIELD experience was in Chennai, India, found that despite her own global background — she grew up in Taiwan, before moving to the United States for college — tackling a new international market was still a challenge.

She was struck by the daily contrasts they saw between the upper classes and people with limited incomes. Their global partner's product might sell to a prosperous middle-income market in America, but in India the middle class meant something else entirely.

That was an important realization for the team members, one they could only have learned on the ground. But it also spoke to a larger theme that emerged during the trip.

"The income disparity is huge," she said. "The living situation between a middle-class and an upper-middle-class family is very different. You think, 'Oh, India is an emerging economy with 8 or 9 percent GDP growth,' " but that growth isn't always visible in the field.

The experience broadened her understanding of what a rapidly developing market looks like, and how growth affects the people in those economies, sometimes unevenly.

"It's easy to bucket these emerging countries in the same group, but they're not the same," she said.

SUPPLEMENTING THE CASE METHOD

As the FIELD course heads into the final phase of its trial year, one thing is certain. The case method isn't going anywhere, HBS leaders say. It remains the core of the required curriculum — 80 percent of the courses at the School employ it — as well as HBS's international calling card among aspiring M.B.A.s and business leaders.

Barrie Altshuler, a first-year M.B.A. student, chose to attend HBS "mainly because of the case study method," which she'd used in her undergraduate business education at the University of California, Berkeley. "It keeps you on your toes," she said. "You just don't have the chance to zone out."

While Altshuler hadn't heard the news about FIELD before deciding to attend HBS, the new course surpassed her expectations.

"I think it was really valuable just being on the ground, face-to-face with your client," she said. "You're diving deeper into the business, bouncing ideas off them, coming up with an actual solution, and getting live feedback. When you do a case, you discuss it, and that's it."

She and her teammates are now back in Boston. But officials from their partner company in Sao Paulo, Brazil, have promised to weigh the team's suggestions and follow up with the steps they've chosen to take. Unlike a case, in which a business's course of action can be rigorously argued but not truly affected, the results from the FIELD experience are still very much in play.

"It was cool to establish that, to have a relationship that's going to continue in the future," Altshuler said.

Photo courtesy of Youngme Moon

Applications to Harvard College stabilize

Applications have leveled off after five consecutive years of record numbers. A total of 34,285 applications were received, a dip from last year's record 34,950. Two years ago, 30,489 applied; 10 years ago, 18,932 applied.

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer

Applications to the College have leveled off after five consecutive years of record numbers. A total of 34,285 applications were received, down from last year's record 34,950. Two years ago 30,489 applied; 10 years ago 18,932 applied.

"A number of factors may be involved," said William R. Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid. "The return of Early Action here and at Princeton and the University of Virginia may have led more students to make their college choices earlier and not apply to as many colleges in Regular Action. And demographic downturns in the number of high school seniors, particularly in the Northeast (which will continue over the next few years), may also have played a part. If so, we may experience a period of greater stability and less frenzy in college admissions, a welcome result for everyone," he said.

As might be expected, there is a great deal of similarity between this year's and last year's applicant pools. One change worth noting, however, is the modest (5 percent) increase in the international pool, compared with a 20 percent increase last year (from 5,006 to 6,014).

"Outreach to international students by American colleges and universities historically has usually produced large annual gains as relatively few international students had ever considered coming to the United States for college," said Marlyn McGrath, director of admissions. "Now an American college education is considered a normal option by more international students than in the past," she added.

"Harvard's generous financial aid program once again was a critical factor in attracting a large and diverse applicant pool," said Sarah C. Donahue, director of financial aid. "Over 70 percent of students receive some form of financial aid." The program requires no contribution from families with annual incomes below $65,000 and asks on average no more than 10 percent of income from families with incomes up to $150,000 and typical assets — and does not require students to take out loans. The average financial aid recipient's family pays only $11,500 annually.

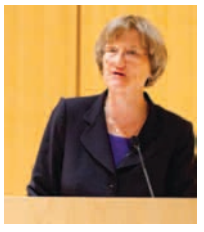
Over the next few months, the Admissions Committee will review the applications of those deferred during Early Action as well as those who applied for the Jan. 1 Regular Action program. Applicants will be notified of the committee's decisions on March 29.

Admitted students will be invited to Cambridge for Visitas, the undergraduate-named visiting program, which this year will be held from April 21 to 23, the Arts First weekend. Students will notify Harvard by May 1 of their intention to enroll.

An artistic view of Lowell House, one of the Harvard residences where students move after their freshman year.

More Campus & Community Online
news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/campus-n-community/

Opportunities for women and people of color to pursue careers in science have improved in recent years, but still lag behind those of white men, Dean Evelynn M. Hammonds noted in her keynote address at MIT. hvd.gs/100918



President Drew Faust kicked off the John Harvard Book Celebration, a recently announced program that will commemorate Harvard's 375th anniversary. hvd.gs/99541

STUDENT VOICE

“We are all told from the outset of freshman year that Harvard has unparalleled resources: the largest collegiate library; large collections of bequeathed journals and letters; nearly 17 million volumes. Spending hours tracking books in Pusey Library or gently leafing through originals in Houghton, I’ve developed a deep appreciation for the immensity of Harvard’s holdings.”

Finding a place in research

A Harvard undergrad sees her work at Radcliffe with visiting fellows as pivotal to her academic development.

By Rachael Goldberg ’12 | English

Three years ago, I knew nothing about Toni Stone or the Negro League. I didn’t know a thing about baseball’s racial history, with the exception being a vague familiarity with the legacy of Jackie Robinson, the African-American player who broke the major leagues’ color barrier. I certainly didn’t know about gender in baseball.

But a year later, I held in my hands a copy of “Curveball: the Remarkable Story of Toni Stone, the First Woman to Play Baseball in the Negro League.” The author, Martha Ackmann, a former Augustus Anson Whitney Scholar in nonfiction at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, was my research mentor in what would become one of my most valuable experiences at Harvard.

Since my freshman year, I have worked at Radcliffe, researching alongside visiting fellows on a slew of projects. I am always impressed by their range, the scope of which is revealed during an annual celebratory dinner. Scientists, musicians, writers, and artists work with students, mentoring in their respective fields and researching side by side. The research element has been fundamental in my development as a student.

As a perhaps-too-confident freshman, I thought that I was well versed in research, until my fellow encouraged me to explore the abundant Harvard resources. We are all told from the outset of freshman year that Harvard has unparalleled resources: the largest collegiate library; large collections of bequeathed journals and letters; nearly 17 million volumes. Spending hours tracking books in Pusey Library or gently leafing through originals in Houghton, I’ve developed a deep appreciation for the immensity of Harvard’s holdings. Working with the Radcliffe fellows has allowed me to develop relationships with great thinkers and navigate the wealth of historic and literary sources.

More than the research, however, I have come to value the essence of cooperation that the Radcliffe Research Partnership epitomizes. Learning from people who have been trailblazers in their fields is an opportunity that few receive. Further, the administrative support at Radcliffe from both Sharon Bromberg-Lim and Marlon Cummings is extraordinary. Acting as radical activists on behalf of all researchers and fellows, they organize a remarkable program for those involved. The program is creative, dynamic, and vibrant. When I was a freshman, my desire to be involved in research was limited by my own imagination. Having had little experience with research tools, I could not imagine the possibilities that Radcliffe encourages.

As researchers guide students through their projects, they simultaneously act as mentors in various capacities, both academic and professional. I dread the day when my ID no longer gives me access to Harvard’s resources. Nevertheless, the hours spent researching for Radcliffe crafted me into a better thinker and writer than I ever hoped to be. Though I have not completed the fabled three things before graduating (nor is that likely), I am delighted that my Harvard experience has invited the intimacy of library research and the thrill of new discoveries shared with the fellows.

If you’re an undergraduate or graduate student and have an essay to share about life at Harvard, please email your ideas to Jim Concannon, the Gazette’s news editor, at Jim_Concannon@harvard.edu.

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer

ATHLETICS

Basketball, with perspective

Crimson forward Victoria Lippert, set to pass the 1,000-point scoring milestone, has other interests too, ranging from volunteer work to crime-fighting technology.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

In a refreshing twist, atypical of many Harvard students, Victoria Lippert doesn't have a plan for what to do after graduation. "I don't know," she shrugs. "I've been exploring that a lot lately, thinking about possibilities."

But the junior history and science concentrator isn't the least bit worried. There's her soon-to-be historic basketball career with the Crimson in which she's poised to surpass the 1,000-point mark in one of her upcoming games — a feat that Lippert was blithely unaware of. But in reaching that goal, she'll be only the sixth underclassmen and 16th player overall to reach 1,000 points. "It's kind of cool," Lippert says.

Lippert, who left sunny San Diego three years ago to take up residence in chilly Cambridge, "hasn't looked back since."

"I love Harvard," she says. "And the snow was marvelous the first time I saw it."

When not racking up baskets as a forward for the Crimson, the down-to-earth Lippert is involved with the campus Christian group Athletes in Action. In the summer of 2010 she traveled with the organization to Pretoria, South Africa, where for a month the athletes worked to create a tutoring program at a local school.

"It was a humbling experience, seeing the conditions there, listening to the kids' stories, and knowing they have to deal with so much — disease, AIDS, poverty," she recalls. "I grew a lot from that trip; it was a really powerful experience."

As the Crimson head into the final games of their season, Lippert's versatility and scoring touch will be critical to their success. "We really want an Ivy League championship this year," she says. "This group of girls is very special. We have amazing chemistry off the court, which really helps us on the court. Right now, we're trying to bring consistency to the competition. Anything can happen on any given night. We have to have our game faces on."

"Vic is exceptional in many regards, both on and off the floor. First, she is an extremely talented, versatile player, who has a passion for the game that is contagious," says Crimson coach Kathy Delaney-Smith. "And one of her most remarkable qualities is her unselfishness and will to win. Even though she's a tremendous scorer in many ways, she puts the team first. She'll do whatever it takes for the team to win."

And this determination will certainly aid her in whatever career path she chooses, too. There is, of course, the possibility of playing basketball overseas, but Lippert is considering an option closer to home, too.

"I wrote a paper on the history of fingerprinting, and it got me thinking about crime and crime-fighting technology," she says. "I'm considering something in law enforcement or the intelligence community. But I'm just poking around right now."

There's plenty of time to figure all that out, of course. "I'm not afraid of change or adventure," Lippert says. "I'm generally pretty adaptable. I like exciting, new possibilities."

Online ▸▸ See coverage of men's basketball: hvd.gs/99857

Photo by Amanda Swinhart | Harvard Staff Photographer

Hot jobs

CURATORIAL FELLOW, ARNOLD ARBORETUM, REQ 25508, GR. 90
Harvard University Administration, FT

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, REQ 25820, GR. 59
Harvard University Administration, FT

UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION AUDITOR, REQ 25865, GR. 59
Office of the VP of Finance, FT

SENIOR FINANCIAL/GRANTS MANAGER, REQ 25772, GR. 57
Graduate School of Education, FT

NETWORK & SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR, REQ 25815, GR. 57
University Operations Services, FT

GIFT PROCESSING-COORDINATOR II, REQ 25900, GR. 55
Alumni Affairs and Development, FT

TIME LIMITED STAFF ASSISTANT III – HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, REQ 25870, GR. 53
Alumni Affairs and Development, FT

Online ⏩ See complete opportunity listings at www.employment.harvard.edu or contact Employment Services at 617.495.2772.

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JOB SEARCH INFO SESSIONS
Harvard University offers information sessions that are designed to enhance a job-seeker's search success. These sessions may cover topics ranging from preparing effective resumes and cover letters to targeting the right opportunities to successful interviewing techniques. Sessions are held monthly from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Harvard Events and Information Center in Holyoke Center, 1350 Massachusetts Ave., in Cambridge. More specific information is available online at employment.harvard.edu/careers/findingajob/.

Harvard Neighbors members Liliya Gozdadze (left) of Russia and Insung Hwang (right) of South Korea participate in a weekly English language conversation group to get to know other members of the Harvard community while practicing English skills.

Photo by Amanda Swinhart | Harvard Staff Photographer

Neighbors for the 21st century

Once a club for faculty wives, the century-old Harvard Neighbors has evolved into one of the most diverse community organizations on campus, and an informal welcoming committee for international staff and scholars and their families.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

Neighborliness is something of a dying ideal these days, a once-cherished quality that most overworked, hyperconnected Americans now scarcely have the time to embrace. In one corner of the University, however, the dedicated group of volunteers who run Harvard Neighbors is proving that the concept is alive and well — and that the definition of a neighbor extends well beyond the house next door.

What started in 1894 as a prim club for faculty wives has evolved into one of the least exclusive, most eclectic social organizations at Harvard. Faculty, staff, visiting scholars, fellows, postdocs, and retirees may join, along with their spouses or partners. The group currently has nearly 300 dues-paying members. (Graduate students and their families have their own support network, the Harvard Students' Spouses and Partners Association.)

"People may consider this an old-fashioned organization, but I believe it has and continues to serve the University well," said Jacoba von Gimborn, Harvard Neighbors' director since 1998. "The goal is simply to make people say, 'I was at Harvard, and it was a really good experience.' "

While that mission has remained the same over the years, von Gimborn stressed, Harvard Neighbors has evolved to serve it as the needs of the Harvard community have changed. As Harvard has become more diverse, so have Harvard Neighbors' offerings. Daytime playgroups for international parents, evening lectures by faculty, weekend outings to art galleries or apple orchards: If it can be done in a group, Harvard Neighbors likely hosts it.

"We're here to provide what people need," von Gimborn said. "Maybe in the 1950s and '60s, that was a cocktail hour. Maybe in the 19th century, it was an afternoon tea.

"Now," she added, looking around the organization's cozy, multipurpose space in the Loeb House basement, "it's this."

As Harvard has become more international, so has Harvard Neighbors. In recent years, the group has been an invaluable resource for the University's immigrant community, including visiting researchers or fellows and their significant others. One recent afternoon, a meeting of an English conversation practice group drew a gaggle of fellows and spouses from Poland, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and Israel.

"I [wanted] to meet people in the same situation as me, because my fiancé works a lot," said Agnes Ebinger, who emigrated from Warsaw in January for her fiancé's job at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

While she plans to take courses at Harvard Extension School, she wanted a chance to practice her English in a more relaxed setting, she said.

Insung Hwang, a visiting scholar in the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School (HLS) and a judge in his native South Korea, found that the meetings offered a casual atmosphere he wouldn't find in an English-as-a-second-language class. The one thing the group lacked? Male camaraderie.

"It's very difficult to be one man among so many women," he joked good-naturedly to his all-female conversation group.

Harvard Neighbors began to expand in the early 1970s, when Sissela Bok, wife of President Derek Bok, undertook the task of modernizing the organization. Bok created a system of neighborhood networks, spreading out to towns like Belmont and Arlington to hold "coffee-klatches" for Harvard families, von Gimborn said.

While volunteers no longer show up at new members' homes with trays of cookies, that welcoming spirit is still very much alive, its members stressed.

When Will Suter joined the University Planning Office in 2010, a colleague suggested he look into Harvard Neighbors. "At first I was confused, since I don't live in Cambridge, let alone near the campus," said Suter, an urban design planner who is now a board member. "But I think the name actually captures part of what's great about Harvard Neighbors. We're surrounded by a community of talented individuals from around the world, but all too often only interact with those in our immediate vicinity, department, or field."

The organization relies heavily on volunteers, who serve as board members, organize events, or lead interest groups ranging from a German book club to an outdoor excursions group. (Von Gimborn is the only paid staff member.) Volunteers are especially crucial in welcoming new members from abroad; in some cases, they've even taken newcomers to the region on shopping trips for proper winter coats, von Gimborn said.

"It's almost like a welcoming committee for Harvard," said Scott Cipolla, a staff assistant at the Peabody Museum who leads the popular interest group Adventures in Art, which takes members on tours of area galleries and museums. "It offers people a chance to come, and they speak their own language, so they have the camaraderie of being in this strange land together."

Harvard Neighbors is also a haven for the University's sizable underground art community, said Mary Lancaster, a sculptor and senior financial manager at the Joint Center for Housing Studies. For more than 30 years, Harvard Neighbors has showcased staff artists' work, including Lancaster's, turning the Loeb House meeting room into a de-facto art gallery.

"There seems to be a yearning [among staff] for more opportunities to meet other artists or to perform or display their art," Lancaster said. "But it's hard to connect that interest with actual opportunities. Harvard Neighbors fills an important piece of that puzzle."

It's not easy being a catchall club in the social-networking era, when it's now easier than ever to find others who share one's niche interests, von Gimborn said. But Harvard Neighbors' enduring presence on campus proves that the desire for community persists, even in the Internet age.

"People will use Facebook or the Internet, but they still want to meet people face-to-face," she said. "We try to offer that connection, especially in a world that can be harsh at times. I think people miss that."

Newsmakers

A ceramic mural brightens up Harvard-affiliated Cambridge Health Alliance.

CERAMICS PROGRAM DONATES MURAL TO CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE

The **Ceramics Program at the Office for the Arts at Harvard** recently donated a handmade mural to the Harvard-affiliated Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA). The mural's installation was celebrated at a Jan. 25 reception and featured contributing artists and participants from the program, including Rosanna Bonnet, Elissa Freud, Tina Gram, Marek Jacisin, Cathy Moynihan, Stephanie Osser, Arlene Wang, Pam Ward, and Allison Newsome, an instructor for the Ceramics Program who led her students in creating the artwork for CHA.

"The mural will bring a human touch to the high-tech hospital environment," said Newsome. "Cambridge Health Alliance was chosen for this project because it is a community hospital that works with courage and determination to serve the needs of a very varied and underserved population. It is good to give back to those who give."

To read the full story, visit http://hvd.gs/100797

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR INTUITIVE EATING SEMINAR

Tired of the endless cycle of deprivation and overeating? Feel anxious and guilty about your eating? Intuitive eating helps you find a balance between eating what you want and eating for health in a way that is sustainable and life-affirming.

The class, held each Wednesday from Feb. 8 to April 18, costs $95 for HUGHP members and Harvard students and $150 for others with valid Harvard ID. The seminar is led by **Michelle P. Gallant**, registered dietitian. To register, email nutrition@huhs.harvard.edu, or visit http://huhs.harvard.edu/AnnouncementsAndEvents/Announcement.aspx?id=200239.

PROFESSOR CHARLES LIEBER RECEIVES ISRAEL'S WOLF PRIZE

Charles Lieber (above), the Mark Hyman Jr. Professor of Chemistry, was recently awarded Israel's prestigious **Wolf Prize**.

A pioneer in the synthesis of a wide range of nanoscale materials, the characterization of the unique physical properties of those materials, and the development of hierarchical assembly methods for nanoscale wires, Lieber has demonstrated the use of nanoscale materials in nanoelectronics, nanocomputing, biological and chemical sensing, neurobiology, and nanophotonics.

Awarded by the Wolf Foundation, the prize has been given annually to six recipients in recognition of their contributions to agriculture, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, and physics. The prize is also awarded for contributions to the arts.

Laureates receive their awards from the president of Israel in a special ceremony held at the Knesset Building in Jerusalem.

(see Newsmakers next page)

Photos: (top) by Rose Lincoln, (above right) file photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographers

Newsmakers

Newsmakers

(continued from previous page)

STRAUS CENTER CURATOR FRANCESCA BEWER AWARDED FOR DISTINCTION IN SCHOLARSHIP, CONSERVATION

Francesca Bewer has won the 2012 College Art Association/Heritage Preservation Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation. Bewer is research curator in the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at the Harvard Art Museums. The award is presented annually to recognize an outstanding contribution by a person who has an enhanced understanding of art through the application of knowledge and experience in conservation, art history, and art.

To read the full announcement, visit http://bit.ly/zJiR0x.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY HOUSING ESTABLISHES NEW 2012-13 RENTS

In accordance with the University's fair market rent policy, **Harvard University Housing** (HUH) charges market rents. The greater Boston rental market is experiencing unusually low vacancy rates and more robust rent increases. Following three years of nominal rent increases, the proposed 2012-13 market rents will be limited to a 5.5 percent average increase relative to last year, across the 3,000-unit Harvard University Housing portfolio. Most current Harvard University Housing tenants who choose to extend their lease for another year will receive either a 4.5 percent increase or will be charged the new market rent for their apartment, whichever rent is lower.

To view the proposed new market rents, which will take effect July 1 for a term of one year, go to http://www.huhousing.harvard.edu.

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER HELEN WHITNEY TO DELIVER NOBLE LECTURES

Mormons, Trappist monks, gang kids, McCarthy era victims, Pope John Paul II, the mentally ill, presidential candidates, Richard Avedon, 9/11, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Rwandan genocide, forgiveness: a small sampling of the documentary subjects treated by **Helen Whitney**, who will deliver the Memorial Church's William Belden Noble Lectures titled "Spiritual Landscapes: A Life in Film" Feb. 27 through 29. Whitney is an award-winning producer, director, and writer of documentaries whose features have aired on PBS, HBO, and ABC.

Helen Whitney will deliver the Noble Lectures titled "Spiritual Landscapes: A Life in Film," Feb. 27-29.

For more information, visit http://www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu/seasonal.php?cid=4&sid=60.

IOP ANNOUNCES SPRING FELLOWS

Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics (IOP) has announced the selection of an experienced group of individuals for resident and visiting fellowships this spring. Over the course of an academic semester, resident fellows interact with students, participate in the intellectual life of the Harvard community, and lead weekly study groups on a wide variety of issues. Visiting fellows join the institute for a shorter period and maximize their time meeting with students, faculty, and Harvard research center staff.

To view a list of the fellows, visit http://bit.ly/xWXj2N.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HONORS FACULTY

The **National Academy of Sciences (NAS)** will honor 17 individuals with awards in recognition of their extraordinary scientific achievements in a wide range of fields spanning the physical, biological, and social sciences. Of the 17 chosen, four are members of the Harvard faculty, including **Michael J. Hopkins**, professor of mathematics; **Jonathan B. Losos**, the Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for the Study of Latin America and curator of herpetology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology; **Andrew H. Knoll**, Fisher Professor of Natural History in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology; and **Jason P. Mitchell**, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences in the Department of Psychology.

To read the full release, visit http://www.nasonline.org/news-and-multimedia/2012_01_19_Awards.html.

SHORENSTEIN CENTER WELCOMES SIX SPRING FELLOWS

The **Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Polic**y, located at the Harvard Kennedy School, has announced its 2012 spring fellows and visiting faculty.

"This semester the Shorenstein Center will once again be bursting with brainpower and talent," said Alex Jones, the center's director. "Pulitzer Prize winner **Ron Suskind** has a life's worth of writerly wisdom to impart; **Micah Sifry** and **Susan Crawford** are on the forefront of the digital revolution; **Nazila Fathi** is a courageous Iranian journalist; **David Greenway** is one of the nation's most respected commentators on foreign affairs; and **Nina Easton** is a star of political reporting."

To read full bios of the new fellows, visit http://www.hks.harvard.edu/presspol/fellowships/fellows_current.html.

DONALD INGBER RECEIVES 2011 HOLST MEDAL

Donald Ingber, the Judah Folkman Professor of Vascular Biology at Harvard Medical School and founding director of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, has been awarded the 2011 Holst Medal in recognition of his pioneering work exploring the cellular mechanisms that contribute to mechanical control of tissue and organ development, and his groundbreaking development of bioinspired technologies, ranging from Organ-on-Chip replacements for animal studies, to new engineering approaches for whole organ engineering.

Holst Medal winners are among the most eminent researchers who have made major contributions in the natural sciences for the benefit of industry and society. The prestigious annual award was presented on Dec. 16 at the High Tech Campus Eindhoven in the Netherlands during a ceremony at the close of the 2011 Holst Symposium. As the medal winner, Ingber also presented the 2011 Holst Memorial Lecture titled "From Cellular Mechanotransduction to Organ Engineering."

FORBES HONORS STUDENT INNOVATORS

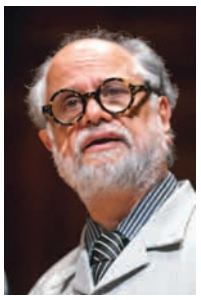
Jessica Choi '12 and **Dalumuzi Mhlanga** '13 have been named one of three winners of the 2011 College Social Innovator Contest — hosted jointly by the Harvard College Social Innovation Collaborative and the "Common Good" column at Forbes.com.

Choi is founder of Beyond the Cardboard, an organization aimed at helping the homeless in two ways: by giving them a voice and by providing them tangible resources to overcome homelessness. To read her winning essay, visit http://onforb.es/zgSV81.

Mhlanga is founder of Lead Us Today, a nonprofit organization in Zimbabwe whose mission is to inspire, mobilize, and empower young people to work together beyond socioeconomic barriers so that they can lead community development efforts.

To read his winning essay, visit http://onforb.es/wgZXlr.

Photos: (left) courtesy of Helen Whitney; (above) file photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer



BHABHA AWARDED BY INDIA PRESIDENT
Homi Bhabha, the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities, has been awarded a Padma Award for literature and education, India's highest civilian award. The awards are given in all disciplines, including visual art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, and civil service. All awards are approved by the president of India, and will be conferred by the president at a function in March or April.

For more information, visit http://ibnlive.in.com/news/full-list-2012-padma-awards/224135-53.html.

HAA OPENS ELECTION FOR OVERSEERS, DIRECTORS
This spring, alumni can vote for a new group of Harvard Overseers and elected directors for the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) board.

Ballots will be mailed no later than April 1 and must be received back in Cambridge by noon on May 18 to be counted. Results of the election will be announced at the HAA's annual meeting on May 24, on the afternoon of Commencement day. All holders of Harvard degrees, except Corporation members and officers of instruction and government, are entitled to vote for Overseer candidates. The election for HAA directors is open to all Harvard degree holders.

To view the list of candidates, visit http://hvd.gs/99762

STRING QUARTET FOCUSES ON SCHUBERT
The Music Department's Blodgett Chamber Music Series will continue with a performance by the Chiara Quartet. The Chiara is in residence at Harvard University for four one-week periods each academic year, as the Blodgett Artists-in-Residence.

Chiara (key-ARE-uh) is an Italian word meaning "clear, pure, or light." Comprising Rebecca Fischer and Hye Yung Julie Yoon on violins, Jonah Sirota on viola, and Gregory Beaver on cello, the Chiara Quartet's concert is free and will be performed in Harvard's John Knowles Paine Hall at 8 p.m. Feb. 17. Tickets will be available beginning Feb. 3.

For tickets, visit
http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/cal/details.php?ID=42532.

— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney

The Chiara Quartet will perform a free concert on Feb. 17. The quartet includes Jonah Sirota on viola, Rebecca Fischer and Hye Yung Julie Yoon on violins, and Gregory Beaver on cello.

Photos: (top) file photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer; (above) by Liz Linde

Obituaries

Charles M. Haar
Land-use law pioneer, 91

Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law *Emeritus* Charles M. Haar '48, a pioneer in land-use law whose scholarship focused on laws and institutions of city planning, urban development, and environmental issues, died on Jan. 10. He was 91.

During his more than five-decade career, Haar influenced urban policy and planning throughout the country, drafted key legislation for inner-city revitalization, developed influential legal theories to support equality of services for urban dwellers and access to suburbs, helped pioneer the modern environmental movement, and mentored a generation of scholars and activists. To read the full obituary, visit
http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2012/01/13_charles-m-haar.html.

David Wheeler
Former A.R.T. resident director

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) learned with great sorrow of the loss David Wheeler, longtime resident director and later associate artist. Wheeler died Jan. 4 at the age of 86.

Since 1982, when Wheeler directed his first production — Sam Shepard's "True West" — at the A.R.T., he created more than 20 productions. The A.R.T. planned to honor Wheeler with the annual Robert Brustein Award at its gala on Feb. 13, and intends to present it posthumously to his family at a separate memorial event to be held at the Loeb Drama Center. The date will be announced shortly.

John Milton Ward
Dedicated professor donated collections to Harvard's libraries

John Milton Ward, Harvard's William Powell Mason Professor of Music from 1961 to 1985, died quietly at home in Cambridge on Dec. 12. He was 94 years old.

Ward founded the Archive of World Music, which began with recordings from his collection. He also established the Charles Seeger Room, which contains all the ethnomusicological volumes in the Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library. After Ward retired from Harvard, his long-standing fascination with opera, ballet, operetta, vaudeville, and social dance led him to form extensive new collections. He donated what he had gathered to the Harvard Theatre Collection of Houghton Library.

Predeceased by his wife, Ruth Neils Ward, Ward is survived by his sister-in-law, Margaret Padelford, of Seattle, 11 nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

Memorial Service

Memorial service for Bernie Wolfman

Harvard Law School will host a memorial service in honor of Bernard "Bernie" Wolfman on Feb. 3 in the Caspersen Room of Langdell Library. The service starts at 3 p.m., with a reception to follow. The service is open to the public. Wolfman was the Fessenden Professor of Law *Emeritus* at the School. He died on Aug. 20.

To read a full obituary, visit
http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2011/08/22_bernard-wolfman.html.

STAFF PROFILE

Helping scholars find library nooks

Ask any graduate student: Sometimes the right work ethic depends on snaring the perfect study space. Ann-Marie Costa, along with a team of Widener Library and Berkman Center staff, developed an online solution that simplified the process of booking carrels.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

A carrel can be many things to a harried thesis-writer or researcher: a distraction-free oasis, a handy personal storage unit, or, as deadlines draw near, a veritable campsite. No one understands the stakes of obtaining a prime library study enclosure better than Ann-Marie Costa, who doles out carrel assignments at Widener Library.

But until recently, assigning those desks was an arduous, paper-based process, one that left students submitting preferences and hoping for the best. Convinced there could be an easier way, Costa oversaw creation of an online application that makes picking the perfect nook as simple as selecting a seat on a flight through an airline website.

Inscriptio was launched with support from the Harvard Library Lab, an innovation-minded program for University librarians, this past fall. Now, any qualified researcher seeking a carrel in Widener can simply log in and view a map of 300 choices, with vacancies updated in real time. It's an elegant solution that lets patrons focus on the how of their research, rather than the where.

"This just seemed like a universally good idea," said Costa, head of billing and privileges for Widener and Lamont libraries.

While some scholars and students rarely use their carrels, others occupy them with a fanatical zeal. After all, libraries are where serious studying happens, and Widener in particular has a reputation for fostering concentration.

"A lot of people use the library as a space to up their game," said Cheryl McGrath, head of access services at Widener, who first proposed the idea for an online carrel system to Costa. "The space defines your mental state; it creates that research atmosphere."

Carrel-seekers' preferences can be finicky. Many researchers prefer to be near the stacks that they plan to frequent, while others simply want a spot in a quiet or well-lit area.

Before Inscriptio, "people would come down [to the desk] and say, 'I'd like a carrel that's near the bathroom and faces the south-side windows, and I'd like there to be sunlight from 1 to 2,' " Costa said with a laugh. "It was almost like selling real estate."

Inscriptio also aims to minimize scheduling conflicts among scholars who must share carrels, a common occurrence. Its bulletin board feature allows students to upload their schedules and work out their hours.

"It takes the staff out of the mix and allows the carrel holders to work out any issues directly with one another," Costa said, adding that she and her staff are always available to mediate the occasional heated dispute.

Inscriptio has been a boon not just to stressed-out students and faculty, but to library employees as well. Widener estimates that the switch to an online system has saved Billing and Privileges five weeks' worth of man-hours.

"The paper's gone, the Excel spreadsheets are gone, even the carrel cards are gone," Costa said.

Costa is quick to acknowledge that the project was a collaborative effort, involving developers from the Berkman Center for Internet & Society and many other members of the Widener staff, who helped with everything from designing graphics to providing feedback on the user experience. "I was just here making sure we were all talking and figuring out what needed to happen," she said.

That kind of teamwork and idea sharing has become essential as the Library Transition — a reorganization of Harvard's 70-plus individual libraries — gets under way, Costa said. "Knowing that things are going to change — I think that's a real prompting to get out there and work with everybody. Being in our respective silos is no longer an option."

Costa's leadership on Inscriptio garnered her a Harvard College Library Excellence in Service Award in November. It was her second honor in as many years; in 2010 she received the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean's Distinction award.

"She's an excellent listener, and she really offers hospitality," McGrath said of Costa's work with patrons on billing and access issues. "She realizes that some of our patrons have come sometimes thousands of miles to do research that can only be done here."

So far, Inscriptio has proved a success. It will soon be piloted at other Harvard libraries, and representatives from Yale recently visited Widener in the hope of acquiring it for use in their library system.

Still, Costa is the first to admit not everything at Widener can be computerized.

"We're the first people scholars and students see when they come in," she said. "People will always have questions, will always want to talk things out with a real person. You can't replace that."

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer

Any qualified researcher seeking a carrel in Widener can now simply log in and view a map of 300 choices, with vacancies updated in real time. Ann-Marie Costa, head of billing and privileges for Widener and Lamont libraries, oversaw the creation of this online application, Inscriptio.

Calendar

HARVARD.EDU/EVENTS

Maxfield Parrish, “The Frog Prince,” Heart’s Magazine, 1912

See complete Calendar online ▸▸ news.
harvard.edu/gazette/section/calendar

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2012

su	m	tu	w	th	f	s
february			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

The deadline for Calendar submissions is Wednesday by 5 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Calendar events are listed in full online. All events need to be submitted via the online form at news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar-submission. Email calendar@harvard.edu with questions.

Photo by Dan Burn-Forti

Katie Leung, Julyana Soelistyo, Orion Lee, and Ka-Ling Cheung in “Wild Swans”

Feb. 3. Harvard Initiative on Teaching and Learning (HILT) Symposium Resource Fair. Northwest Labs, lower level, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Learn about resources available to support innovative teaching across Harvard. harvard.edu/president/hilt-symposium-2012.

Feb. 3-4. Grimm Legacies: Symposium Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Publication of the Tales Collected by the Brothers Grimm. Thompson Room, Barker Center, 4-7 p.m. on Friday; 8:45 a.m.-6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Jack Zipes, keynote speaker, and others. Free. hhutchis@fas.harvard.edu, web.me.com/folkmyth/Folk_%26_Myth/Welcome.html.

Feb. 6. Famine in the Horn of Africa. Radcliffe Gym, 5:30 p.m. Opening remarks by Paul Farmer, Partners In Health, followed by a panel discussion featuring Harvard Professor Caroline Elkins and others. Free; one ticket per person. ghsm.hms.harvard.edu/news/articles/famine_in_the_horn_of_africa_talks_to_be_presented_feb_6/.

Feb. 8. Noon Service: Hosted by HDS Improv! Andover Chapel, noon – 1 p.m. An opportunity for all the HDS community to pray or meditate with our companions across the boundaries of our many respective traditions. rsl@hds.harvard.edu.

Feb. 11-March 11. Wild Swans. American Repertory Theater, Loeb Drama Center. World premiere stage adaptation of Jung Chang’s astonishing personal memoir and international bestseller. Cost: $25 and up. Check website for dates and times. 617.547.8300, americanrepertorytheater.org/events/show/wild-swans.

Feb. 15. Is America in Decline? 124 Mt. Auburn Street, Suite 200-North, 4:10 – 5:30 p.m. Joseph Nye, Harvard Kennedy School. Free. bruce_jackan@hks.harvard.edu, 617.495.7548, ash.harvard.edu/Home/News-Events/Events/Is-America-in-Decline.

Feb. 16. The Life of Super-Earths. Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden St., 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dimitar Sasselov, Harvard University. Free. 617.495.7461, cfa.harvard.edu/events/mon.html.

HARVARD gazette
Holyoke Center 1060
Cambridge, MA 02138

A look inside: Radcliffe Quad

It's a peaceful, nature-filled life

When the straws are drawn on Housing Day each spring, the phrase "You got quadded?" is sometimes heard. It's meant to suggest that someone drew the short straw. But the residents say that's not so.

In the fresh air of Radcliffe Quad, where the contoured and traditional lawn chairs have arms for books or laptops or lunch, the grass is perfectly manicured, not pock-marked or brown, not worn on the edges. Frisbee matches are uninterrupted by tourists. Occasionally, solitude reigns.

Currier, Pforzheimer, and Cabot Houses also border the Quad, but mostly it belongs to Cabot House, which has residences on three of the four sides. In midafternoon, the sound of children laughing can be heard, as youngsters in the after-school program at Graham & Parks elementary school roll down the grassy slope.

It is peaceful on Radcliffe Quad. There's no river traffic or geese to waken weekend slumber. There are no late-night revelers passing open widows facing Harvard Square. The view from the southern tip of Cabot as the sun rises or sets is lovely. "Got quadded?" Yes, indeed!

Photos and text by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer

Online ▸▸ View photo gallery: hvd.gs/97816