

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MARCH 21

DARK CLOUD ENCOUNTERS

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Phillips Auditorium
60 Garden St., Cambridge,
7:30 p.m.

Cold, thick clouds of interstellar gas and dust slink throughout our galaxy. They can condense to form stars and planetary systems. But they can also silence life on planets by swallowing solar systems whole. Can our Sun’s protective sheath, or heliosphere, shield us from these cosmic marauders? This Observatory Night talk will be followed by viewing through telescopes (weather permitting).

APRIL 4

GALLERY OPENING LECTURE: EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCE

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge,
6 p.m.

The Harvard Museum of Natural History presents this free lecture by Francis A. Macdonald, assistant professor of Earth and planetary sciences at Harvard University. Free event parking for evening lectures in the 52 Oxford St. Garage.

MARCH 23

NATALIE MacMASTER

Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall
45 Quincy St., Cambridge,
8 p.m.

Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster’s live performances are a testament to her incandescent musicianship and boundless energy, featuring foot-tapping rave-ups, heart-rending ballads, and world-class step dancing. She is backed by a five-piece band, playing a breathtaking combination of old and new with updated Celtic jigs, strathspeys, reels and an occasional air. Tickets available through the Harvard Box Office by calling 617-496-2222. Ticket prices: \$50, \$42, \$37, \$28.

APRIL 13

COMMUNITY DAY: MEN’S LACROSSE VS. UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Harvard Stadium,
1 p.m.

Come cheer on the Harvard’s Men’s Lacrosse team as it takes on Penn. Residents of Cambridge and Allston-Brighton receive FREE admission with a valid I.D. or proof of residency. For tickets, contact the Athletic Ticket Office at 617-495-2211.

MARCH 26

FORECLOSURES: THE GREAT UNTOLD STORY

Harvard Kennedy School,
Belfer Building, Weil Town Hall
79 JFK St., Cambridge,
6 p.m.

Sponsored by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies and the Harvard Graduate School of Design Department of Urban Planning & Design. Speakers to include Chris Arnold, NPR housing correspondent; Bruce Marks, Gary Klein, and Mike Calhoun.

APRIL 13

FORECASTING THE FUTURE: CAN ECOLOGISTS PREDICT THE FATE OF PLANT AND ANIMAL POPULATIONS?

Arnold Arboretum
Hunnewell Building
125 Arborway, Boston, 6:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Crone, population ecologist at Harvard Forest, will describe how plant ecologists monitor populations and collect demographic information. She will also speak about successes and failures in forecasting the futures of different plant populations, and describe how ecologists go about the science of ecologic fortune-telling. This lecture is free, but registration is requested. For more information, please call 617-384-5277.



HARVARD in the COMMUNITY

CONNECTIONS CAMBRIDGE

Winter 2013

HARVARD PARTNERS WITH CAMBRIDGE TO HELP WITH NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL

This past fall Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) shifted its longstanding model by creating a new upper school system for children in grades six through eight. In order to help the district navigate the transition, Harvard is working with CPS to target programming to serve every middle school student.

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Community Affairs

Harvard Community Affairs
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Cambridge, MA 02138

SUSTAINABILITY AT HARVARD: MEASURING OUR IMPACT TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

Harvard is a leader in responding to both local and global challenges, including climate change and environmental sustainability, which are widely recognized as two of the most pressing problems facing our world.

A new Sustainability Impact Report released by Harvard's Office for Sustainability, available at www.green.harvard.edu/report, provides a University-wide snapshot of the progress that has been made by students, staff and faculty to reduce the environmental footprint of Harvard's campus.

Sustainability initiatives across campus seek to align individuals and policies at every level of the University with a clear and aggressive sustainability vision and goals. One of Harvard's flagship sustainability commitments is its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2016.

The report also shows that the University's commitment to sustainability goes well beyond climate concerns.

- 23 percent of Harvard's electricity is generated from renewable or alternative energy sources.
- Harvard University has more LEED green building project certifications than any other higher education institution in the world.
- From 1999 to 2012, the drive alone rate for commuters in Cambridge and Allston dropped from 25 percent to 13 percent. 79 percent of commuters bike, walk, or take transit.
- Last year, Harvard's surplus recycling program donated over 2.5 million dollars worth of products to over 200 charities.

The report was also designed as a learning tool to provide the public with solutions, case studies, and lessons learned. Visit the Office for Sustainability's website, www.green.harvard.edu/, to learn more and to sign up for the email list to receive the Green Tip of the Month.



NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 1

Highlights of the Harvard programming include:

- Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) 8th grade Science and Engineering Showcase
- Harvard Graduate School of Education's EcoMUV, a program offering all 6th graders a deeper understanding of ecosystems, using Multi-User Virtual Environments (MUVs)
- Harvard Public Affairs & Communication's TEACH Program, an early college awareness program for 7th graders

For the past two years, SEAS has hosted every CPS 8th grader on campus to showcase the students' science and engineering projects. This year, CPS and SEAS expanded the program to include a Harvard mentoring component with SEAS graduate students visiting CPS 8th grade classrooms to work closely with students as they conceptualize, plan, and develop their showcase projects.

The EcoMuv program taps Multi-User Virtual Environments (MUVs), which are 3-D virtual worlds that have a look and feel similar to video games. They are accessed via computers and can recreate ecological settings within which students explore and collect information, and allow students to learn science by exploring and solving problems in realistic environments. This is part of research to see the impact of technology on learning.

Project TEACH aims to raise students' educational aspirations and to encourage 7th graders to think about attending college. The visit to Harvard's campus includes a college awareness session with Harvard students, a tour of campus, lunch in Annenberg Dining Hall, and attending a



lecture or visiting the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

These are three of the many Harvard programs, learning experiences, and mentoring opportunities that touch every grade level and public school in Cambridge. Each year, more than 6,000 program participants from Cambridge schools take part in mentoring and enrichment programs, visit the University's museums, and learn from Harvard educators.

For more information, go to www.community.harvard.edu.

HARVARD SCIENCE INITIATIVES CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAMBRIDGE ECONOMY

Scientific research conducted at Harvard is a key driver of the Cambridge economy. Harvard attracts federal funding for Harvard-based research, and Cambridge companies founded by Harvard researchers or based on discoveries made in Harvard labs receive venture capital from around the world.

- In 2012, Harvard and its affiliates secured \$1.66 billion in research grants from the National Institute of Health to fuel basic scientific research.
- In 2012, Cambridge biotech companies with a connection to Harvard received more than \$381 million from venture capital investors to allow for company expansion and continued operation.
- More than 130 life science companies with a presence in Cambridge occupy 7.5 million square feet of leasable laboratory space in the city. And, to meet the demand caused by the weekly arrival of more companies an additional 2 million square feet of lab space is under development.

Tens of thousands of researchers and scientists work in Cambridge labs and contribute to the local economy. Harvard faculty have participated in the founding of many local life science companies, including: Biogen Idec, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, SciFluor Life Sciences, Shape Pharma, and Diagnostics for All.



ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS FOR ALL AGES AND INTERESTS

On any given day, Harvard hosts a variety of events that are open to the public and appeal to a wide range of ages and interests.

The University's museums host family-friendly events and public lectures all year long. Admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History is free to Massachusetts residents every Sunday morning from 9 a.m. to noon and on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m., excluding commercial groups. Check out the museum's website for a full listing of events at www.hmn.harvard.edu/.

The Arnold Arboretum's Director Lecture Series holds a public lecture each month at its Hunnewell Building in Boston. In March, the Arboretum will host a variety of gardening and planting events in preparation for spring. For more information, visit www.arboretum.harvard.edu/.

Save the dates for the Harvard ARTS FIRST Festival taking place from April 25 through 28. Harvard invites the public to enjoy four days of non-stop art. Over 225 music, theater, dance, film, and visual arts events are on tap. Whether you are a fan of a cappella or bhangra, tap or Tchaikovsky, installation art or painting, improv comedy or pipe organ performance, ARTS FIRST has an arts experience for you.

For a full calendar listing of events happening at Harvard, visit the Harvard Gazette's calendar: news.harvard.edu/gazette/.

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, e-Connect, to receive information about events and activities taking place on campus. To sign up, go to www.community.harvard.edu.

DIGITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT HARVARD

Harvard has produced online courses and other forms of digital learning for several decades with the goal of making educational content available to both a local and a global audience. Experience courses, public lectures, and other unique examples of Harvard's learning content on the web. You can browse a collection from the Harvard Art Museums, listen in on topics in education with the Harvard EdCast, and learn from Harvard Medical School faculty about topics ranging from medication to aging, through the Longwood Seminars mini-med school classes.

Last May, Harvard joined forces with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to form edX, a not-for-profit enterprise dedicated to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The aim is to use the power of the Web to take the "learning to the learners" and to research how students learn and how technology can transform learning — both on campus and worldwide. Visit www.harvardx.harvard.edu to learn more about the HarvardX course offerings.