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HARVARDgazette

Want to live well?

Harvard experts offer pragmatic pointers on getting healthy and staying there.



Online Highlights



Q&A ON HARVARD'S ALLSTON PLAN

In a letter to the Allston community, Harvard President Drew Faust outlined the University's path forward for its presence in Allston. The Gazette sat down with Executive Vice President Katherine Lapp (left) to learn more about what's on the drawing boards.

► news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=32725

MIDYEAR COMMENCEMENT COMMENCES

A midyear celebration to honor Harvard College students who graduate outside of the schedule for the academic year took place at the Radcliffe Gymnasium. Among the speakers was Nwora Ayogu (left), first marshal of the Class of 2010.

► news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=33091

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DU BOIS

Eight receive W.E.B. Du Bois Medals for aiding African-American culture, including Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Hugh M. "Brother Blue" Hill, Vernon Jordan, Daniel and Joanna S. Rose, Shirley M. Tilghman, Bob Herbert, and Frank H. Pearl.

► news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=32486

AT 800, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY REMAINS HARVARD'S SENIOR

To celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the University of Cambridge, Gordon Johnson (left), the institution's deputy vice chancellor, gave a talk at Harvard about the import of universities in society.

► news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=32361



DRAWING ATTENTION

Jytte Klausen, author and research associate at Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, explored the cartoon controversy over depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper in 2005, offering her take on the unrest chronicled in her new book, "The Cartoons that Shook the World."

► news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=31936



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Harvard-assisted SmartTALK evening at Dorchester school helps students to develop homework skills, with family participation. Page 18

HOUGHTON TO CONCLUDE SERVICE AS MEMBER OF HARVARD CORPORATION

James R. Houghton, the longest-serving member of the Harvard Corporation, announced his plans to step down at the end of the 2009-10 academic year. Page 20

ATHLETICS/IN BRIEF

Jeremy Lin takes home Ivy Player of the Week. Victoria Lippert is lauded with honors. Andre Akpan is a Hermann Trophy finalist. Page 22

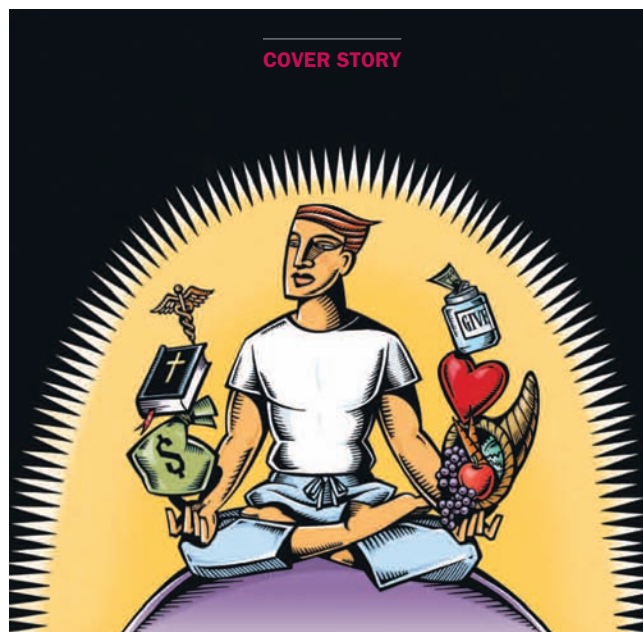
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A novice poet learns her craft by presenting her work in front of open-mic audiences at Adams House. Page 22

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Health, the Harvard way

Harvard faculty members from a range of fields offer advice, research, and insight on living the good life.



By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

You are what you eat. You're also how you feel, how you exercise, how you sleep, how you handle money, how you relate to people, and what you value.

If you're worried about your well-being, Harvard experts across an array of fields have some advice: Eat thoughtfully, exercise often, raise your children well, stash a few bucks away, and stop thinking it's all about you.

People make choices every day that affect their health and happiness, but life's complexity and its bewildering array of options — not to mention the species-wide lack of willpower — can make living well a challenge.

Vast research conducted across Harvard's myriad Schools and programs continues to help push back the boundaries of understanding about human health and behavior, enhancing the knowledge of what makes people ill and what makes them well, what makes them wilt and what makes them prosper.

And the answer that has emerged to many of those questions points right at the face staring back from the bathroom mirror each morning.

JoAnn Manson, Elizabeth Fay Brigham Professor of Women's Health at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Walter Willett, chair of the Harvard School of Public Health's Nutrition Department and Stare Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, said that, to a large extent, our physical health is in our own hands.

The long-running Nurses' Health Study shows that as much as 80 percent of heart disease, 70 percent of strokes, and 90 percent of diabetes — three of the nation's top 10 killers — are related to just four lifestyle factors: avoiding

smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, and embracing a heart-healthy diet.

"They are absolutely astonishing numbers," said Manson, who is beginning a large trial of vitamin D's role in preventing illness. "Studies demonstrate the powerful role of lifestyle factors in preventing chronic disease. One of the most important prescriptions doctors can write is to prescribe regular physical activity."

One area where knowledge has advanced rapidly in recent years involves the importance of maintaining a healthy body weight, which Willett said is understood much better today than even a decade ago and is linked to heart disease, diabetes, and many cancers.

While a "healthy weight" depends on a person's body type, Willett said that people ought to maintain the weight they had coming out of college, assuming they weren't overweight then. For those who find it difficult to shed the pounds packed on since their early 20s, Willett said that even a 5 to 10 percent weight loss would be beneficial.

Eating healthy includes watching quality and quantity, Willett said. A healthy diet is full of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, liquid vegetable oils, fish, poultry, beans, and nuts, which Willett said are underrated as a health food. One should minimize red meat and avoid sugary beverages and processed foods, which are loaded with refined carbohydrates and sugar.

Even people who tend to take care of themselves may well engage in questionable behavior now and then. Family gatherings over the holidays not only ruin diets, they can spark domestic disputes, increase depression, and put more people on the roads after drinking alcohol, said Michael VanRooyen, an emergency medicine specialist at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital and an associate professor at both Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health.

VanRooyen said the Brigham's emergency room serves as a barometer of people's lives. As the year draws to a

close, there's an uptick in travel-related injuries tied to drunk driving and foul weather. Doctors also see an increase in depression, sometimes because someone has no close relatives at this family-centric time of year — and other times because they do, and don't get along with them.

For those looking to avoiding the ER, VanRooyen has a list of recommendations:

1. Don't drink and drive;
2. Don't drink and drive;
3. Don't drink and drive.

"Don't drink and drive is the first 10 things I would remind people of," VanRooyen said. "While everybody is worried about eating poinsettia leaves [over the holidays], the way to stay out of the Emergency Department is to not drink too much, and certainly don't drink and drive."

VanRooyen counseled those with chronic conditions not to put off regular doctor visits, since every year the ER sees a huge influx of patients who tried to get through the holidays without seeing their doctors and couldn't make it.

One often-neglected aspect of everyday health involves what people do when they're not doing anything else: sleep. Research is rapidly expanding the understanding of sleep's importance to mental and physical functioning. In addition to its obvious importance in alertness, sleep has been shown to affect memory formation and learning. Missing too much sleep, it's now understood, can be downright dangerous for those in certain fields, from truck drivers to doctors.

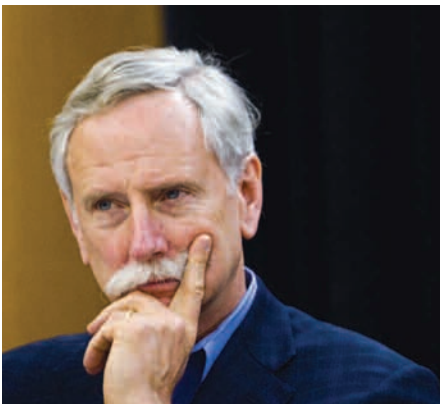
"We are just starting to realize how important sleep is to our health," said Daniel Aeschbach, a sleep specialist at

(see *Health* next page)



Three of the nation's top 10 killers are related to just four lifestyle factors: not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, regular exercise, and a heart-healthy diet.

JoAnn Manson, Elizabeth F. Brigham Professor of Women's Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital



While a 'healthy weight' depends on a person's body type ... even a 5 to 10 percent weight loss would be beneficial.

Walter Willett, chair of Harvard School of Public Health's Nutrition Department



Maintaining one's spiritual health takes just that — maintenance.

Cheryl Giles, Peabody Professor of the Practice of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Harvard Divinity School

Health

(continued from previous page)

Brigham and Women's Hospital's Division of Sleep Medicine and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. "Staying awake for 24 hours impairs your functioning comparable to being legally drunk. It is dangerous."

Aeschbach suggested several rules for getting a good night's sleep. Among them are to keep a regular sleep schedule; allot enough time (eight or eight-and-a-half hours); avoid caffeine in the afternoon and evening; make sure there's fresh air and a comfortable temperature in the bedroom; avoid activities right before bed that are hard to unwind from; and keep the bedroom clear of televisions and other disruptive devices.

Though it's a step in the right direction, having a rested body doesn't guarantee a refreshed, healthy spirit, a sense of life's importance and meaning. Cheryl Giles, Peabody Professor of the Practice of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Harvard Divinity School, said that maintaining one's spiritual health takes just that — maintenance. She recommended a daily respite from the thousand worries that plague everyone as a way to maintain spiritual health.

Giles, who teaches future pastors how to counsel members of their congregations, said people are often stressed and depressed these days, and trying to reconcile what's happening to them with their own religious life.

Giles said spiritual practice — regardless of personal belief — should not be limited to Saturdays or Sundays but should be part of every day. Giles recommended that people find quiet time each day for meditation, prayer, journal writing, or other forms of reflection. It's an important exercise, she said, that helps people to avoid being consumed by routine daily demands.

"You should take 10 minutes, 15 minutes a day to sit down and be silent," Giles said. "All this stuff goes through your head. This is an opportunity to let it out."

For those whose prayers include improved financial health, David Laibson has got your back. Laibson, the Robert I. Goldman Professor of Economics, applies lessons from psychology to analyze individuals' financial behavior. After years of observing and experimenting, Laibson has come to know people's tendencies well. He described two main factors in play for most people handling their finances: procrastination and confusion.

Everybody knows that they should save money, and those who are saving know they should save more. Still, people tend to put that off. Laibson said there's nothing special about how people handle money — they simply procrastinate with their finances the same way they procrastinate with everything else.

"I can't tell you how many resolutions to exercise I've made and broken," Laibson said. "We know we should eat better, and yet all our promises prove to be empty."

Salvation awaits, however, and it lies in automation. Laibson said people should take advantage of automatic savings plans offered by their employers and put money in their retirement accounts. Deducting

money right from your paycheck makes savings a top priority without requiring a weekly willpower check.

But as the nest egg grows, confusion sets in, Laibson said. The financial markets have a bewildering array of choices, and if those choices involve actively buying and selling financial instruments to make money, the average investor shouldn't even consider them.

"The best advice for the small investor is that you can't time the market, and it's unlikely you'll find someone to time the market for you," Laibson said. "You can't out-trade Goldman Sachs. What you can do is reduce fees and diversify."

Two common mistakes in choosing investments are to buy according to brand and to buy according to historic returns. Instead, Laibson said, investors should find low-fee funds that minimize how much money an investment company takes. Small investors should look for funds whose fees are 20 basis points — two-tenths of a percent — or less.

"Historical returns are poor indicators of future returns, but historical fees are a good indicator of future fees," Laibson said.

In addition, investors should diversify their portfolios, holding domestic and international stocks, bonds, and money market funds. The ideal proportion of those investments depends on a person's age. Laibson recommends investing in life cycle or target date funds, which are offered by most major investment houses and which automatically adjust an asset mix to take into account an investor's age.

In addition, anyone who believes that money in itself can buy happiness may be interested in the work of Michael Norton, assistant professor at Harvard Business School. Norton's work indicates that happiness and money are linked — but only if people give some of it away.

In work spanning several studies, from street-level experiments to national surveys, Norton has shown that while money spent on ourselves gives us a temporary buzz, money spent on others provides more durable joy.

In one experiment, people were given envelopes of money and told to spend the cash however they wanted. Researchers called them later to find out how they spent it and how they felt. Those who gave money away reported higher levels of happiness than those who spent it on themselves. In other research, Norton and his colleagues surveyed people nationally about spending habits and happiness, finding that those who give to others — particularly those who give regularly — report higher levels of happiness.

"Research shows it really doesn't make people happy to spend money on themselves," Norton said. "It's not how much you give, it's that you give.... If you have an extra \$20, it's better to spend it on someone else than on yourself."

Thinking of others is not just important in enriching

(see Health next page)

Health

(continued from previous page)

everyday life through charitable giving, it may also be an important consideration — and perhaps a missing ingredient — in how to raise children well.

Richard Weissbourd, a lecturer at Harvard's Graduate School of Education and the Harvard Kennedy School, said modern parenting emphasizes children's high self-esteem and achievement in school, sports, and other activities. What's often missing, Weissbourd said, is an emphasis on thinking of others, on being kind and moral, and on contributing to families and communities.

"As a culture, we are very focused on kids' happiness and self-esteem, and many of us believe happiness and self-esteem will lead to caring and responsibility for others, that feeling good about ourselves will enable us to be good to others," Weissbourd said. "To kids we say, 'The most important thing is that you're happy.' We don't say to kids, 'The most important thing is that you're kind.'"

Teaching children to be concerned for others should be overt, Weissbourd said, and not just left to chance. Children also should learn to act morally, not because it makes them feel good or it puts them at the head of their class, but because it's the right thing to do.

"We tell kids to be nice to others because they'll be nice to us. We tell kids to pass the ball because they'll get the ball back," Weissbourd said. "I worry that many people have lost the belief in morality for its own sake. Sometimes morality has a cost to us. Caring for a sick person can be no fun."

Norton and Weissbourd may be onto something. Though people make individual decisions that affect their well-being every day, people are at their core social animals. Recent research has detected those social underpinnings in their personal behavior.

Nicholas Christakis, professor of medical sociology at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, explores the effects of social networks on health. His research indicates that everything from obesity to smoking to happiness to loneliness can spread through social networks.

Still, Christakis cautioned that someone looking to live healthier should not just avoid friends who have unhealthy habits. Social networks are important, providing companionship and support even from those who smoke or eat junk food. There's far more to gain, he said, in lending a hand to struggling friends than there is from cutting them off.

"It's not a good thing to have fewer friends," Christakis said. "We're all in this together. By taking care of people in the group, people on the edges of the network, we benefit not only those people, we benefit the whole group."

Accelerator Fund proves boon to research

The Harvard Office of Technology Development's program helps researchers advance their work to the point where it becomes more attractive to private industry.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Sometimes, promising scientific findings aren't enough, by themselves.

Life-science researchers at Harvard who've made new inventions with applied and commercial potential are often disappointed to learn that pharmaceutical, venture capital, or biotech firms aren't interested in their work — and not because a discovery lacks merit. Instead, the glitch may be that the research hasn't progressed far enough to establish proof-of-principle, which is imperative for industry to make a forward-looking decision to invest significant resources and develop it for commercial application.

Harvard's Office of Technology Development (OTD) has created a unique internal seed funding program to help researchers to fill this development gap. Called the Technology Development Accelerator Fund, it provides bridge money that allows researchers to continue advancing their work through development phases that often come too late for typical basic research funds and too early for money to be available from commercial ventures.

"I believe that Harvard has a unique opportunity, indeed, one might say a special obligation to foster and expedite the development of nascent technologies that can benefit the public," said Isaac Kohlberg, Harvard's chief technology development officer and senior associate provost. "The Accelerator Fund is an expression of our commitment to ensure that greater numbers of promising new technologies originating at Harvard won't languish in the development gap, but instead will bridge the gap and progress to the point where they become bona-fide, investment-grade opportunities and ultimately new products and therapies that benefit society."

The Accelerator Fund, which is about to begin accepting applications for the next round of financing, is in its third year and has distributed \$4.1 million to 23 investigator-initiated research projects at Harvard. One, a small-molecule inhibitor that might be useful in cancer therapy, has already been licensed to a New York biotech company.

Arlene Sharpe, the George Fabyan Professor of Comparative Pathology, received Accelerator Fund backing to conduct small-molecule screening in her investigations of a T-cell regulator called PD-1. PD-1, which shuts down T-cell response, has been usurped by microbes and tumors as a way to weaken the body's immune response. Sharpe is looking for a small molecule that will modulate PD-1 activity.

Sharpe said one aspect of Accelerator funding that

has proven particularly helpful is the technical advice and assistance provided by OTD that accompanies the grant. In her case, Sharpe said, the advice was essential because she had never conducted small-molecule screening before.

"It has been a wonderful experience," Sharpe said. "The idea of helping investigators develop something that is potentially high risk, helping them enter a new area, providing the financial as well as intellectual support, is very beneficial. Going from initial design to proof of concept, and then, once one has something of interest, to be able to identify business partners is an incredible opportunity."

The Accelerator Fund was founded in 2007, financed by donations from interested alumni. A portion of future licensing revenues from discoveries supported by the Accelerator which are licensed and developed by industry will be cycled back to replenish the fund. Awards are made through a competitive RFP process and consultation with an advisory committee comprised of opinion leaders from the biopharma and venture community and members of Harvard's faculty.

"I think it is important. Many times, there are projects that we might see that are too early," said Chris Mirabelli of Healthcare Ventures LLC, a healthcare-focused venture capital fund and an Accelerator Fund advisory board member.

The program, which is presently focused on the life sciences, has proven successful enough to be replicated, according to Curtis Keith, the Accelerator Fund's chief scientific officer.

"Once you establish proof-of-principle, you increase the probability that industry will see the emerging technology as a viable licensing and development opportunity," Keith said. "As a result, we hope to generate both more licensable technologies and, at the same time, additional collaborations with industry to support further research at Harvard."

The Office of Technology Development and the Wyss Institute for Biologically-Inspired Engineering are collaborating on a new fund that will allow projects in bioengineering to benefit from the same kind of financial support.

Harvard Provost Steven Hyman said that moving new inventions out of research laboratories and into the marketplace, where they might benefit people, is a vital part of Harvard's mission.

"I see this as fundamental to the fabric of our mission as one of the world's foremost research universities," Hyman said. "We are delighted with the Accelerator's progress, and the very professional way in which it operates and is managed. The Accelerator is Harvard's unique response to the challenges presented by the development gap, providing a novel mechanism to fund early-stage research with promising commercial potential, advancing the progress of embryonic technologies and increasing the flow of inventions made by Harvard's faculty from the laboratory into the marketplace and society as a whole."

Web wizardry

David Malan's introductory computer-programming class spawns an array of imaginative new applications, reflected in the lively annual CS 50 Fair.

By Stephanie Schorow | Harvard Correspondent

The observation became a question and finally an application.

The observation: High school students are addicted to their mobile phones. The question: What if teaching tools were added to mobile phones? The application: "iGetIt Physics: Mechanics," an iPhone tie-in for teaching high school physics, designed by Scott Crouch '13 and Sophie Chang '13 as a final project for the innovative course Computer Science 50.

Crouch and Chang introduced "iGetIt Physics" during the second CS 50 Fair held on Dec. 8, a lively con-fab of techno wizardry that showcased more than 300 projects designed by the 380 students in Computer Science 50, otherwise known as "Introduction to Computer Science I." The course, taught by David J. Malan '99, Ph.D. '07, a lecturer on computer science at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, aims not just to teach computer skills but to put students to work at solving real-life problems.

The course's final projects were displayed at the fair, which this year attracted more than 1,000 visitors, plus recruiters from companies such as Facebook, Google, and Microsoft. The displays were all the more intriguing because most of the presenters had little or no prior experience in computer programming.

"What's been really gratifying is to see these students who go from zero miles an hour to 80 over the course of just 12 weeks," said Malan, who has taught CS 50 for three years. "We've had to adapt and be sensitive to different learning styles."

The fledgling coders were able to create a variety of applications, ranging from games to research tools to Web sites that tracked worldwide news or health conditions. Some students were inspired by other class requirements. James Winter '11, an applied mathematics major with a keen interest in music, designed a beginning jazz arrangement Web site, an idea sparked by a homework assignment in a jazz harmony class. "I had to take a solo that was 64 bars long and write four-part harmony for every single note in it. Which took a long, long time. But now I can automate the process," he said.

Some students focused on applications for mobile devices, including the team of Crouch and Chang.

With gusto, the pair showed off iGetIt Physics on their phones, scrolling with a flick of a finger through diagrams (all created especially for the application),



equations, definitions, tutorials, and other material.

"If you're studying for a test and you want to review in the hallway, you open up our app," Crouch explained.

Crouch and Chang had little experience in programming or coding before taking CS 50. Yet they were able to create the application in the programming language Objective-C. "We knew nothing about Objective-C before we started," Crouch said.

They did, however, have a vision. "We love physics," said Crouch. "We love iPhones," Chang added, "Everyone is using iPhones or iTouches; it's definitely useful."

So the pair decided to create a physics review/teaching application for the iPhone, vetting the diagrams and other information with a physics professor.

"Physics is a big problem for high school students," Crouch said. "The concepts are frankly confusing to most. We thought we could help demystify them with this app. High school students are addicted to their cell phones. If they see physics is on it, they're going to use it, they're going to learn from it."

"Computer science, my own field, has become foundational. It can be found behind just about every aspect of research and discovery, from science to the humanities," said Dean Michael D. Smith of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. "It is also increasingly a part of our everyday lives, although you rarely see the electronics and the programming behind our

James Winter '11 (left) explains his key-board application, which generates musical notes from melodies, to Chris Dornin of Power Advocates.

everyday devices. Thanks to David's hard work, the CS 50 Fair allows students to experience the thrill of what is possible, and it gives them the opportunity to show off their ingenuity."

"David's dedication to teaching is apparent, as students quickly become comfortable enough to take a 'leap of faith' and dig into something brand new and challenging. This is a metaphor for the ultimate aim of a Harvard education," Smith added.

Other applications presented at the fair were aimed at the Harvard community, including Web sites and text-message services that would help students navigate campus, find a movie, review the day's dining hall menus, and even quit procrastinating.

CS 50 classmates Chioma Madubata '11, a molecular and cellular biology major, and Annie Ye '11, a history

major, first considered creating a Web site that would allow Harvard students to exchange language lessons. (I teach you French, you teach me Mandarin, for example.) But then the pair started thinking of the other services that college students would like to exchange, such as help during move in/move out, or textbooks, or even lessons. (I teach you guitar, you teach me tennis.)

The result was their CS 50 Fair project "iTradeHarvard.com," open to those with a Harvard e-mail address.

"The key difference [from other fair projects] in iTradeHarvard is you don't bid for things. You don't exchange money. It's a mutual exchange, it's an online bartering system," said Ye. "You pick what you'd like to offer and what you'd like to request, and [the Web site] will automatically match people up."

The pair's ambitions had to be scaled back a bit. "It's fun to think of the different things to exchange, but we had a deadline, and after a point we decided, 'OK, this was long enough,'" said Madubata.

Some fair projects were larks; others were intended for longtime implementation. For example, avid movie fans Luis Duarte '13 and Keoni Correa '13 created an improved design for the FDO Movie Club Web site; they have been talking with Harvard officials about adopting the design. Malan notes that Rover, an iPhone application that informs Harvard students of local events, news, and deals (<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/rover/>), was created two years ago by CS 50 students.

Crouch and Chang hope eventually to market their physics program through an iPhone apps store, with the download price of 99 cents — something any high school student could afford.

More Science & Health Online
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/
section/science-n-health/](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/science-n-health/)



Nature's fine designs:
Scientists find modern
lessons in ancient
creations

Fernanda Prata (foreground, from left), Stephanie Eaton, Geir Hytten, Careena Melia (back, from left), and Conor Doyle in "Sleep No More."

'Shakespeare Exploded'

A.R.T. leads effort to keep Shakespeare's plays relevant for modern times, with its primary mission what his likely was: to lure audiences into the theater.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Let's imagine that one day in December 1609, playwright William Shakespeare wakes up and sees a time machine next to his bed. Curious about the future and always eager for more education, he sets the dials to "400 years ahead" and "Cambridge."

There's a flash of light, a puff of smoke, and — oops, wrong Cambridge. Shakespeare emerges on the afternoon of Dec. 5, 2009, near Harvard Square, and walks into the first theater he sees. On the bill at the Loeb Main Stage is a matinee presentation of "Best of Both Worlds," a rhythm-and-blues and gospel send-up of his "The Winter's Tale." He watches the show and, zounds, he likes it.

Had the Bard of Avon arrived a few hours earlier, he

could have heard a discussion called "Shakespeare Exploded," part of a semester-long festival of plays, readings, panels, and outdoor performances by the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.). The concept, conceived by the A.R.T.'s new artistic director, Diane Paulus '88, is to show how Shakespeare's work can be performed in modern times.

What would Shakespeare think of the myriad ways that his work is staged now?

He would be fine with that, suggested Paulus. For one thing, Shakespeare, whom she called a "theater animal," embraced in his own time what is still a key mission of the theater: to bring in audiences.

Paulus likes the idea of reclaiming theater's place as it

was in Shakespeare's time, "when it was more central and vital," she said during the panel discussion. Theater then was a civic congregation that mixed the classes, celebrated language, and ritualized social life.

"We're in show business. Shakespeare was in show business," summed up panelist Oskar Eustis, who sees a similar audience-driven connection as bridging the ages. Eustis is artistic director of New York's Public Theater, which among other programs brings Shakespeare plays to New York City's parks in summer.

The bard's plays contained characters for everyone: Bottom for the groundlings, Macbeth for the university-educated, and Lear for the royals. Diverse audiences helped to transform the playwright, said Eustis, and "forced Shakespeare's talent to expand and fully flower."

At the heart of "Shakespeare Exploded" are three main renderings of his plays made modern, all on stage through early January.

"The Donkey Show," directed by Paulus, is a reimagining of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in a 1970s disco. Groundlings — most of the audience stays standing — are invited to dance as the show weaves around them. There are love potions, glittering and half-naked wood fairies, chaotic romance, and a looming Puck (on skates).

Then and now, said Paulus, whether in an enchanted wood or a magical nightclub, the experience "creates space for freedom of expression."

"Sleep No More" is "Macbeth" made modern as a kind of Alfred Hitchcock thriller. It is a multi-sensory theater experience set in an abandoned school in Brookline, Mass., and was performed first by the London-based Punchdrunk company in its North American debut. Guests in masks wander through 44 rooms, including one full of pine trees and another lined with hospital beds. Watch out for the witches in the basement. They are toil and trouble.

"Best of Both Worlds," co-written and directed by Paulus, brings "The Winter's Tale" — with its jealousy, death, and redemption — forward into an all-black world. Joining in at the end of each performance are rocking, robed choruses from Boston-area church, university, and gospel choirs.

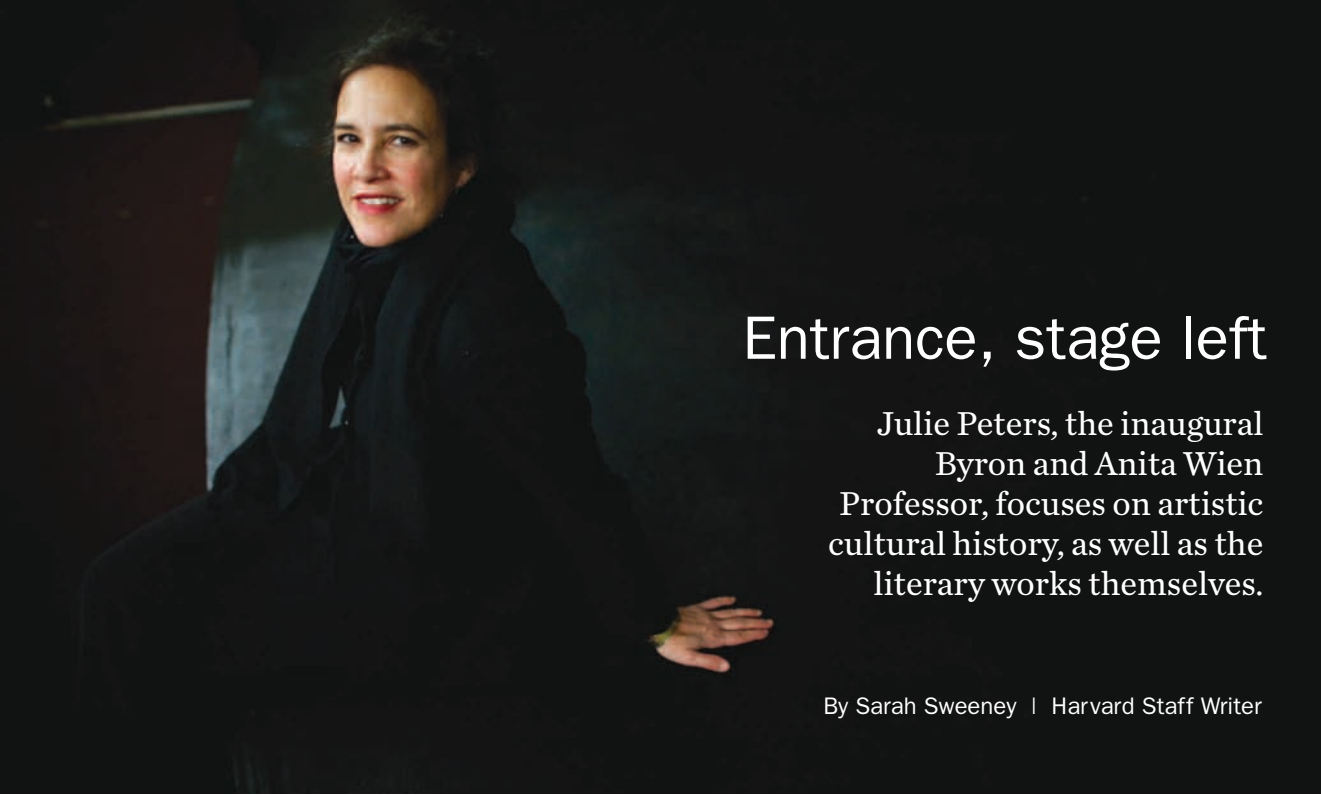
Earlier this year, the A.R.T.'s second-year students in graduate training put on a streamlined version on the Loeb Main Stage. The production also toured area schools.

"Shakespeare Exploded" owes its origins to a conversation that Paulus had more than a year ago with Harvard Shakespeare scholar Marjorie Garber, author of, among other books, "Shakespeare and Modern Culture" (2008). Garber is William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies, as well as director of the Carpenter Center.

(see A.R.T. next page)

Online ► Visit A.R.T. site to learn more: americanrepertorytheater.org

Photo by Stephen Dobbie



Entrance, stage left

Julie Peters, the inaugural Byron and Anita Wien Professor, focuses on artistic cultural history, as well as the literary works themselves.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

Playing a worm in a hill of dirt as a 3-year-old, Julie Peters fell in love with theater. Peters, the inaugural Byron and Anita Wien Professor of Drama and of English and Comparative Literature, still speaks about the stage with the charisma and wide-eyed ebullience of a kid.

Remembering a Shakespeare festival in her native Portland, Ore., Peters recalls how, as a youngster, she not only treasured the performances, but the replications of Elizabethan theater and its sweeping period accoutrements: “I loved the chess pies, the madrigals, the dancing on the green....”

Even now, that sense of time and place drives Peters in her teaching and scholarship at Harvard. In love with the theatrical texts, yes — of notables such as William Shakespeare — but enthralled also by the period’s backdrop and its implications, Peters considers herself a cultural historian, an artistic anthropologist.

“I grew out of my love for acting fairly quickly,” she said. “I was too restless. Literature was very much in my skin, part of who I was. I always wanted to talk about the text and the history behind it.”

Peters also had a longstanding interest in legal history and culture. To deepen her interdisciplinary work, she attended Columbia Law School years after receiving an A.B. from Yale University and a Ph.D. from Princeton University. She even took the New York State Bar exam.

According to Peters, law and theater share an intrinsic kinship. “Law is, of course, one of the great old performance forms through which culture expresses itself, power works itself out, conflict is negotiated,” she said. “In law, the way people choose to act out a text always has direct consequences. At the same time, while we all know that law is a performance medium, it derives its legitimacy partly from disavowing its theatricality. So it’s also a place where you can see how powerful the ambivalence about theatricality has been in culture: the seduction by theater, and the suspicion of theater.”

Taking a class with Peters involves hitting the books, but also diving into a veritable artistic aquarium. “I always do performances in my classes,” she said. “Students learn things through their bodies as well as through textual and scholarly analysis.”

This semester, she staged two mock trials inside her law and drama course, titled “Crime and Law: Drama, Film,

and Performance.” One of these, a student-devised exercise in how guilt or innocence is determined, sparked “a very profound discussion on decisionmaking,” which she plans to write up with the students for a collection of essays on pedagogic experiments. In another course, the students staged a performance of a Hans Sachs carnival play, “The Calf-Hatching,” with a student director, dramaturg, designer, and costumer, which turned out so well that she hopes to perform it for a wider audience.

These are just a few of the ways that Peters is infecting Harvard with her magically hands-on approaches and vivid plans for the future. Since arriving at Harvard in September, she already chairs the Committee on Dramatics (which runs the Dramatic Arts Program), collaborating with a coterie of likely suspects — Diane Paulus of the American Repertory Theater, for example — and unlikely suspects: David A. Edwards Gordon McKay Professor of the Practice of Biomedical Engineering and founder of Le Laboratoire, a Paris-based space where artists and scientists conduct collaborative experiments.

Peters is engrossed in the ways that drama, theater, opera, dance, film, digital culture, and other multimedia or multisensory performance forms exist in a continuum. She believes they should all be vehicles not only of knowledge but of collective experiment. She is striving for a new legion of courses at Harvard that “transcend traditional designations like acting and directing, and help us to rethink the disciplines of theater and performance.”

“Harvard has always, I think, been more open than other places to people who are involved in creative activity in conjunction with more traditional scholarly pursuits — sometimes the quirkier and more unusual the better. Its renewed commitment to the arts means that it’s a very exciting place to be right now,” she said, “and I’m eager to see what will develop here.”

For Byron and Anita Wien, whose names adorn the new professorship, their gift reflects an abiding love of theater and a longstanding desire to establish a named professorship of drama, which is the first in Harvard’s history.

“While I concentrated in science as an undergraduate, I enjoyed Harvard’s vibrant theater scene,” said Byron R. Wien ’54, M.B.A. ’56. “The theater has been very important to me throughout my life, and Anita and I believe that this professorship will greatly expand Harvard’s scholarship in the dramatic arts.”

A.R.T.

(continued from previous page)

The conversation led to the idea of a festival of modern Shakespeare, and a new course. Paulus and Garber taught “Theater, Dream, Shakespeare” this semester, the first collaboration of its kind between the A.R.T. and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. (The course was also offered online through the Harvard Extension School.)

The course reflects another Paulus mission, to make the A.R.T. — its productions, actors, directors, dancers, singers, technicians — penetrate more fully into the intellectual and pedagogical life of Harvard.

What do the three main plays have in common? asked Garber during the panel discussion. “These are all dream plays,” she said, the artful consequence of a human desire across the ages to “wish and hope and pray.”

All of the plays bring to life “the power of the theatrical,” she said. This visceral sense of the emotional and intellectual power of the arts is what she and Paulus hope will draw the next generation of theatergoers and patrons of the arts. Emphasizing the importance of the humanities, Garber said, “You cannot start too young, and you never end.”

Eustis, who will dispatch mobile theater companies next year to all of New York City’s boroughs, agreed on the need for outreach and audience expansion. To that end, he said, “The most important thing you can do is make theater people want to see.” (The three A.R.T. Shakespeare productions have come close to selling out, and repeat customers are common.)

These modern explorations of Shakespeare are more than “adaptations,” said Garber. That is a word she dislikes because it implies his plays are set in stone. But in reality, she said, his plays are different every time they are staged, and are “artistic in their own right.”

During the course, Paulus and Garber experimented with other new notions, including remixes, sampling, and mashups.

Call the modern Shakespeare what you want, said Eustis, but be sure to “reach the people, and build a bridge to the deepest art form.”

In the end, theater still does what it did in Shakespeare’s time and before, he said. “We are in the business of telling stories — lies — to strangers in the dark.”



A place where the Renaissance lives on

An Italian villa, set aside so scholars can ponder that artistic resurgence as they wish, makes for an unusual Harvard campus.

By Robert P. Mitchell | Harvard Correspondent



Photos by Robert P. Mitchell

Scholars who are passionate about the Italian Renaissance regularly flock to Villa I Tatti, the bucolic enclave carved out of a corner of Florence, Italy, where they can pursue their passions in a breathtaking setting.

At Villa I Tatti, the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, more than 30 scholars gather for three to 10 months to pursue their studies on the Italian Renaissance: its music, history, economics, science, politics, and art. If something intriguing happened in 13th to 15th century Italy, it's fair game. The chosen few come from around the world to immerse themselves in I Tatti's 150,000-volume library, its 300,000 photos of rare art, and the hundreds of priceless artworks scattered through its 14 buildings and 75 acres of vineyards, olive groves, and gardens.

Villa I Tatti was the vision of Bernard Berenson, Harvard Class of 1887, the celebrated art historian who donated his estate to the University half a century ago, along with a \$900,000 endowment.

"Mr. Berenson envisioned a place where scholars

Joseph Connors (left) is director of Villa I Tatti, Harvard's Center for Italian Renaissance Studies (above).

from English-speaking countries and Europe could travel and study the Mediterranean (Harvard changed the focus to the Italian Renaissance), gather at the villa, read, think, and converse," said Joseph Connors, director of the villa. "Knowledge through conversation is what he wanted. He was not so interested in production. He wanted scholars to read and think."

So that is what they do. Scholars work on upcoming books, monographs, catalogs, or other projects. Connors encourages them to present their work at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America. They are also asked, in addition to their normal teaching, to find ways to present the Renaissance to a general audience on their return home.

This year's class includes scholars from Budapest, London, Edinburgh, Oxford, Rome, Paris, and both Cambridges, as well as from around the United States.

The life of a scholar at I Tatti is uncomplicated, but not always challenge free. Each week, a scholar is asked to make a presentation for the others in what is called "shoptalk." The ensuing discussions often last longer than the talks, and continue through the days that follow.

"What happens here is that our colleagues provide insights that can inform our own work, opening up a va-

riety of ideas. Constantly, things are shared by visitors that make you think: What if?" said Claudia Chierichini, an Italian literature scholar who grew up in Italy, earned a Ph.D. at Yale University and taught at Mount Holyoke College. "It's a wonderful place," she added, "a community of scholars of the Italian Renaissance from several different disciplines. But this environment allows us to transcend those disciplinary boundaries."

The 10-month fellows must have a Ph.D. in some aspect of the Italian Renaissance, earned in the past decade. This year, there were 120 applications (up from 65 eight years ago) for 15 slots. Along with a resume, applicants must submit a bibliography of their published work, a detailed project proposal, and three recommendations from scholars. A 15-member committee selects the top 15, along with an alternate. Each fellow is paid the equivalent of what a junior faculty member would earn, including a housing allowance.

A research institute such as Villa I Tatti is expected to make an impact on the intellectual life of Florence and, through its publications, more broadly. Connors tries to forge relationships with the research institutes sponsored by other countries in Florence, particularly the Kunsthistorisches Institut, as well as with the art museums and the universities in Florence and Fiesole. I Tatti was instrumental in founding a consortium of Florentine research libraries with a unified digital catalogue, though the library holdings are also catalogued in HOLLIS. Symposia have been held on the Renaissance in Eastern Europe with colleagues from Hungary, and on New World manuscripts in Florence with colleagues from Mexico. As Florence presents itself as a city of knowledge and research, not just a city of tourism, I Tatti tries to enhance that sense.

After eight years, Connors is amid his final year as director. Musing over his tenure, Connors said he is proudest of expanding the program's horizons and bringing in nontraditional fellows. He also has created several special three- to six-month programs. "I have tried to open the place up a little," he said.

For instance, he describes the Craig Hugh Smyth Visiting Fellows program as an option for "the overworked." Participants, who are usually museum curators but also librarians, conservators, and academic administrators, do not usually enjoy sabbaticals or extended

summer vacations, but are producing first-rate research. Connors was also concerned about the scholar-mother who tries to juggle research and the care of children, and so created a fellowship aimed at them.

There is also the program of Readers in Renaissance Studies, which allows Harvard Ph.D. candidates to spend a semester simply reading as broadly as possible in the Latin and Italian sources of the Renaissance. They are given an opportunity to interact informally with scholars in many disciplines who are at more advanced stages in their careers, which eventually feeds back into emerging dissertations. They generally describe that experience as having a profound impact on their lives.

"This is a no-stress opportunity for me to explore deeply areas specific to my academic support as well as things that might be considered tangential," said Michael Tworek, a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard whose focus is relations between Poland and Italy during the Renaissance.

One would be hard-pressed to find people of color wandering the villa, because few black, Latin-American, or Asian scholars focus on the Italian Renaissance. But Michael Cuthbert, an I Tatti fellow, would like to change that. Of half Japanese descent, Cuthbert is a musicologist who received both his bachelor's ('98) and Ph.D. ('06) degrees from Harvard. He believes that, with early exposure, anyone interested in music can easily fall in love with that of the Renaissance.

His own focus is not only Italian Renaissance music, but also on 20th century computer-aided music. And, as an undergraduate, he played clarinet in the Bach Society. He sees no conflicts in his approach. "Music is a happy form of escapism," he said, accessible to all.

The physical plant is expanding as well. Construction continues on the Deborah Loeb Brice Loggiato, which will house study rooms, offices, and a lecture hall, and is expected to open in the spring. The next big project involves the Fototeca building, adding storage space for books and photos, plus new library reading space.

After a sabbatical, Connors plans to teach Harvard College courses in architectural history. He will be inscribed on the roster of I Tatti directors who have molded, shaped, enlarged, and refined I Tatti, with Berenson's vision in mind, but also with a sense of what is needed to keep Renaissance studies a vital field.



Nancy Selvage introduces undergrads to ceramics.

All fired up

The Harvard Ceramics Program turns 40 this year and says goodbye to its longtime director Nancy Selvage.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

A lush world of creativity, one that has been part of University life for four decades, lies just past Harvard Stadium, nestled amid a cluster of University utility buildings, in the kind of industrial-scaled space where art studios thrive.

The Harvard Ceramics Program has become a creative resource for students, faculty, staff, community members, residents, visiting scholars, and artists — in short, everyone with an interest in creating with, and deepening their understanding of, clay.

Harvard undergraduate Jim Rippe '69 founded the original ceramics program in the basement of a Radcliffe dorm in 1969. Within two years, the studio program moved to a large space in a Radcliffe College building at 245 Concord Ave. where new kilns were built and course offerings expanded. In 1973, the Ceramics Program became part of the newly established Office for the Arts at Harvard and Radcliffe. It was folded into the Faculty of Arts and Sciences when Harvard and Radcliffe merged in 1999.

For more than 20 years, the program has been located on Western Avenue in Allston. The single-story, 10,000-square-foot space could double as a Hollywood prop house. Piled on floor-to-ceiling shelves are works that resemble prehistoric creatures and undersea corals. Sculptures of the human form are in one corner of the sprawling space. Around another corner, glossy botanical designs cover an entire wall. Carefully crafted pots and delicate tiles ripe with color are part of the eclectic mix, as are several kilns that burn white-hot.

Longtime director Nancy Selvage is the driving force behind the program and its integrated curriculum that taps into art and scholarship across the University and around the world.

Selvage became involved with the program in the 1970s when she was an artist hunting for studio space. She offered to teach in exchange for space to work in, eventually taking on an expanded teaching role and becoming director in 1978. From the beginning, Selvage recognized the rich potential for connecting the making of ceramics with a study of museum collections and art history. "I realized that there was a real need for specialized seminars on specific ceramics cultures and that Harvard had fabulous resources to support this," she said.

Over the years her programming has explored ceramics traditions from places like Japan, Ghana, and the American Southwest, and included in-

(see *Ceramics* next page)

Photo by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographer



Kate Lewis (left) loads the kiln with small bowls. Pamela Gorgone (below) leads a demonstration on slab hand-building with students Hannah Cardiel '13 (from left), Andres Camacho '10, and Daniel Dimaria '12.

For many participants, the encompassing nature of the program is a large part of its appeal. So too is the diversity of its participants. Students rub elbows with professors and community residents (who are also welcome), and beginners work alongside and learn from ceramics masters. In addition, the program, which has 12 teachers and a regular stable of visiting artists, supports community service workshops conducted by Harvard students and collaborative projects with local students and residents of the Allston and Brighton neighborhoods.

"One of the most unusual aspects of the program is that it engages a very broad community," said Jack Megan, director of the Office for the Arts at Harvard, who likened the studio to a type of "sacred space where people can go to focus their mind and eye in an intense practice involving such considerations as form, texture, and surface, as well as technology."

Selvage plans to retire at the end of this month to devote more time to her own art career, which focuses on large-scale art installations and public art projects in clay and metal. Looking back, she said that the ability to change and grow the Harvard program has proven deeply satisfying.

"The best part has been interacting with so many varied and interesting people and being part of an institution that has so many educational resources," said Selvage. "It's been thrilling to have had such an amazing set of colleagues and students, to learn from and grow with for so many years."

Online ►► Photo gallery:
news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=33260



Ceramics

(continued from previous page)

terdisciplinary workshops on such topics as Athenian vase painting, the pottery of western Kenya, and Spanish colonial ceramics. Working in tandem with Harvard museums, faculty, visiting scholars, and artists, the program combines academics and aesthetics.

"Ceramics is at the crossroads of so many fields," said Cathleen McCormick, director of programs at the Office for the Arts. "Harvard's comprehensive ceramics program has really developed into an international study center, one that harnesses the educational power of art making, as well as the academic study of art and artifacts."

"I think of it as an art studio, but also as a research lab."

During her tenure, Selvage has worked to strengthen the undergraduate community's connection to ceramics. She has helped to create shorter programs and workshops for students unable to add another full course to their packed schedules, and several years ago she introduced Clay All Night, a studio party for Harvard students with a free shuttle service from campus to studio that runs until 1 a.m. Expecting about 30 participants, Selvage and her staff were overwhelmed at their first event when more than 400 students showed up.

Most recently, Selvage, Harvard faculty members, and Ceramics Program instructors helped to create a set of workshops for the College's new General Education curriculum and its anthropology 1010 course. In keeping with the course's focus on empirical reasoning, the interactive program provided students with experiences for considering every-

thing from clay's chemical composition to the diverse historic techniques used to create various vessels.

"Ceramics is an empirical science and an art form developed from experience and observation, evolving in response to cultural values, social needs, and raw materials," said Selvage. "With this studio experience we wanted to focus on some of the questions that archaeologists ask or should learn to ask as they analyze artifacts."

One recent afternoon, 30 Harvard College students got their hands into clay at nine stations, practicing techniques passed down over thousands of years. At one table, they learned the art of shaping smooth bowls from a lump of clay using a round stone and a wooden paddle. At another, they examined some pots, searching for clues about how they were made. At the next station, they marked flat slabs of clay with a simple porcelain stamp, replicating the ancient method used in Mesopotamian societies to convey important information on clay tablets.

For sophomore and Mather House resident Danielle Parga, the hands-on, interactive learning was a plus.

"I definitely saw a real connection to archaeology," said the history of art and architecture concentrator, who chatted with an instructor from Peru in Spanish as he paddled a lump of clay into bowl form.

Selvage was also the force behind the recent creation of a wood-burning kiln for the ceramics program. Developed through a partnership with Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, Mass., where it is housed, the pioneering smokeless kiln is efficiently fired with local wood, and the work is glazed with ash from the sustainable fuel.

More Arts & Culture Online
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Revelations on Revelation:
 Elaine Pagels parses the
 New Testament's last,
 apocalyptic book.

A tale of two continents

English professor Elisa New found her great-grandfather's cane, and that spawned a twisting journey to find her family history, now relayed in a book.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

HARVARD BOUND



ON RUMORS

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, September 2009)
By Cass R. Sunstein

Rumors affect political outcomes, tarnish reputations, even ruin lives. Sunstein delivers this treatise on how misinformation is easily accepted and rapidly spread, and how, in the Internet age, some stories can't be undone.



THE LONELY AMERICAN: DRIFTING APART IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

(Beacon Press, February 2009)
By Jacqueline Olds and Richard S. Schwartz

Olds and Schwartz hold a microscope to loneliness, in part a symptom of our chaotic contemporary lifestyles, revealing the widespread effects of our disconnection and a culture that romanticizes autonomy.



THE SACCO-VANZETTI AFFAIR: AMERICA ON TRIAL

(Yale University Press, May 2009)
By Moshik Temkin

The infamous Massachusetts controversy on the conviction and execution of Italian anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti gets fresh eyes as Temkin examines how the polarizing murder case led to contemporary repercussions.



When Elisa New first picked up her great-grandfather Jacob Levy's entrancing and ornate carved cane, she immediately sensed the unfolding journey on which she would embark.

New, an English professor at Harvard, had long been curious about her Jewish family's origins in coming to America. But it was Levy's cane — with its mysterious initials, names of foreign towns, and provocative question-mark shape — that compelled New to travel as far as Lithuania and as close as Baltimore in her home state of Maryland to research the past and narrate her discoveries in her book "Jacob's Cane" (2009).

Over the course of a decade, New said, she made "multiple trips ... to London, the Baltics, and to other places that became part of the book's story, from World War II battlefields in Belgium and France to the tobacco fields of North Carolina, and to Israel."

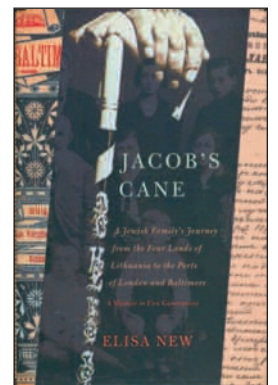
Among her familial revelations was that Levy hailed not from Austria, but from Lithuania, coming to Baltimore in 1884 as a businessman selling preshrunk fabric for clothing; and that her great-great-uncle Bernhard Baron was a cigarette magnate at the turn of the 20th century. A richly woven saga of American and Jewish histories, "Jacob's Cane" also traverses the storied past of big tobacco, the Industrial Revolution, and New's relatives killed in the Holocaust.

New was awed by her many discoveries, which, she said, "connected my own individual family to currents of history in a way I hadn't imagined possible."

"The international tobacco trade; the American struggles for the dignity of working people that gave us socialism and the labor movement, which inspired some to invent labor-saving devices and others to run for public office; the European Enlightenment with its manifold implications for ordinary persons in Europe; the terrible wars of the 20th century; America's rituals of democracy: these large ideas and movements were all reflected in the lives of my own individual family," said New.

Though claiming she was "never very good at telling stories," the new-found author is thrilled to pass these tales along, to her own family and beyond.

"Learning to tell a historical story in a way that readers could appreciate is in some way what I'm proudest of," said New. "Researching this book made clear to me that my family — that all families — belong to history and that history is all around us."



When the economy collapses

Harvard Business School exhibit examines ‘Bubbles, Panics, and Crashes: A Century of Financial Crises, 1830s-1930s.’

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Many historians and other scholars argue that the clear hindsight of history allows people to learn from their mistakes. But others insist that historical catastrophes, particularly economic ones, are going to recur, despite our knowledge of the past.

That provocative debate is renewed in an unusual Harvard exhibit.

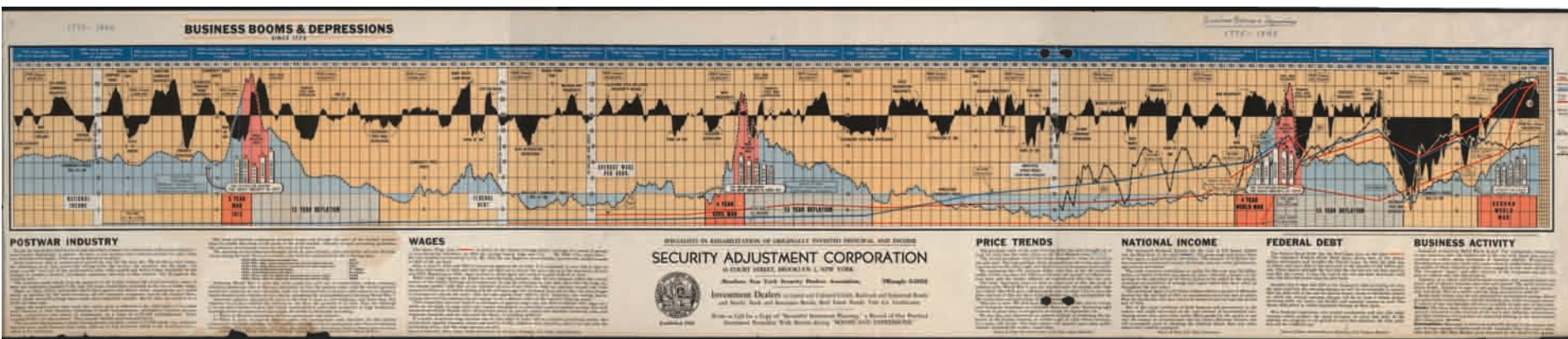
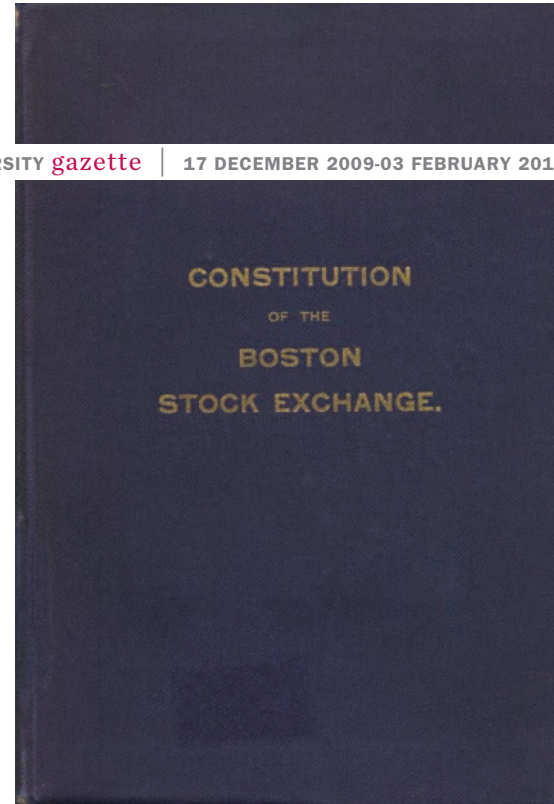
In the wake of the country’s recent financial meltdown, the Harvard Business School’s Baker Library has mounted a show called “Bubbles, Panics and Crashes: A Century of Financial Crises, 1830s–1930s.”

“This seemed like an excellent moment to be looking at the history of financial crises, because we need to get a little perspective on the subprime mortgage crisis,” even as it continues to play out, said the show’s curator, Caitlin Anderson, a visiting scholar

creasingly open to settlement. Bank notes dating back to the 1830s, from institutions like Philadelphia’s Bank of the United States and Boston’s Bank of the Orient, illustrate how the problem was compounded by the ability of each of the country’s then-850 banks to print their own currency. The paper money lost much of its value when President Andrew Jackson required that payment for government land be made in gold or silver. The currency depreciation factored into the economic decline.

An unregulated insurance industry played a leading part in the financial downturn of 1907. A lavish photo in one of the show’s four glass cases gives viewers a clue to part of the underlying trouble — corruption in the industry — and elicits fresh memories of contemporary corporate scandals. It shows an extravagant costume ball thrown by a prominent life insurance executive. The image fueled the pub-

Comparing the nation’s economic situation in 1907 with that of 2007, Anderson noted that “the generation after the Civil War saw the same sort of financial innovation that we saw in the 1990s and early 2000s, and had the exact same problems with regulations and [the dangerous practice of] evading definitions,” including “trust companies” that, by virtue of their name, avoided regulations demanded of banks.



at Harvard’s Center for History and Economics.

Drawing largely from Baker’s historic collection, the show includes letters, pictures, old money, cartoons, and legislative documents that chart the economic implosions of 1837, 1863, 1907, and 1929.

The varied causes of these crises help to illustrate the difficulty of predicting the future by looking to the past. The present recession, surpassed only by the Great Depression that began in 1929, differs in many ways from the economic disasters highlighted in this exhibit.

But the historical perspective is enlightening. While explaining the financial underpinnings of each economic dip, the exhibit helps to illustrate the history of the country’s development: from Western expansion, to the creation of the nation’s transcontinental rail lines, to the recovery from the Civil War, to the creation of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal.

In 1837, a panic occurred involving land speculation, mostly in the Western territories, which were in-

lic’s anxiety that executives were using policyholders’ investments for their own benefit.

“Contemporaries felt that the investigation and reform of the life insurance industry in 1905-1906,” say the exhibit’s accompanying notes, “had chilling effects on the stock market, eventually contributing to the Panic of 1907.”

Borrowing copies of texts from the Historical and Special Collections at Harvard Law School (HLS) Library, the exhibit also details the creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which was a reaction to the devastating stock market crash of 1929. Many of these documents were culled from the papers of James Landis, former HLS dean and the second chairman of the SEC. Typed pages, yellowed by age and covered with handwritten notes, deletions, and edits, offer visitors a look at how the financial regulatory body came into being.

The exhibit’s detailed historic perspective shows striking similarities between financial meltdowns past and present, as well as key differences.

“Thus, these institutions were able to over-leverage themselves and became an extraordinary destabilizing factor in the economy, the exact same way hedge funds did. It’s such déjà vu.”

“Can we learn the lessons of the past, or is that a naive hope?” wondered Anderson. “What really stood out for me working on this exhibit was how different each of these crises looked on the ground. They all share defining features of a speculative bubble followed by a crash, but ... they really emerged in idiosyncratic ways. ... I am not sure you can ever figure out a pattern.”

Despite all that has been learned from previous crashes, Anderson continued, “In the end, someone is going to come up with a new financial innovation that will not fall under existing regulation, and they will be able to over-leverage themselves and create

“Constitution of the Boston Stock Exchange” (top) with rules and resolutions, 1915. “Business Booms and Depressions since 1775,” papers relating to the Ames Family and Union Pacific Railroad.

the same instability all over again.”

But others are more hopeful. David Moss, John G. McLean Professor of Business Administration, who consulted on the show and teaches an HBS course on financial history, said the country has relied on a host of smart decisions to get it through challenging economic times in the past. In part as a result of effective financial regulation enacted between 1933 and 1940, he noted, the United States enjoyed nearly 50 years without a major financial crisis, by far the longest stretch in the nation’s history.

Highlighting the long series of crises that punctuated American history up through 1933, Moss said, the exhibition helps both to bring the earlier turmoil to life and to remind people how volatile the financial system was before modern financial regulation.

Discussing the current downturn, he said, “I am afraid that we took the stability that we achieved for granted, and we started to look at the regulation purely as a cost, as an obstacle, or a problem, and not realize the benefits it was delivering. That ended up taking us down a rather dangerous path.”

While it is impossible to eliminate every potential crisis, Moss said, “We need to think about what we did in the past and try to make sure that we are effective now in trying to return to a strategy of prevention.

“Are we going to be as successful as we have been in the past at fixing these mistakes and trying to innovate in the ways that Americans have been able to? Based on the history, I am more optimistic than some.”

Visitors to the exhibit will be able to draw their own conclusions — and muse on their future investments accordingly. The show will be on display through May 3.



“This seemed like an excellent moment to be looking at the history of financial crises,” said the show’s curator, Caitlin Anderson.

Online ►► To learn more:
www.library.hbs.edu/hc/crises

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer



The personal side of economics

Harvard’s newest tenured economics professor tries to craft policy solutions that match the ways that we behave.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Raj Chetty is Harvard’s newest and youngest tenured professor of economics. But that doesn’t mean he only pursues weighty academic interests.

As a Harvard undergraduate at Pforzheimer House, he played a lot of Mario Kart, a video racing game, and held his own at intramural basketball.

“I was a reasonably good shooter,” but not a physical player, said Chetty ’00, Ph.D. ’03, of his court time a decade ago. “People would always make fun of me for trying to ‘protect the brain.’”

It’s easy to see why. Chetty finished his bachelor’s degree, wrote a prize-winning thesis, and completed the course work for a doctorate in economics — all in three years. “If you’re passionate about what you’re doing,” Chetty explained modestly, “it’s very easy to spend time on it.”

Chetty, born in New Delhi and raised after age 9 in the United States, has had one cup of coffee in his life, but you don’t need caffeine if genetics has already sped up your performance. Chetty’s father is a Ph.D. economist at Boston University, his physician mother conducts research on lung injuries, and his two sisters (in Chicago and Atlanta) are biomedical researchers.

He considered entering biomedicine too, but then balked at the prospect of so much repetitive hand work in a laboratory — but not before publishing a medical paper while a senior in high school.

Chetty finished his Harvard doctorate, then started his career as an assistant professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Last spring he returned to Cambridge as one of the most cited young economists and an acknowledged leader in the field of public economics.

There were other professorship offers for Chetty, who last year received the American Young Economist Award:

FACULTY PROFILE

from Berkeley, as well as from Stanford, the University of Chicago, and Yale. What drew him back to Harvard, in part, was being able to solve what Chetty called the “co-location problem” when his wife Sundari landed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

It was important too that Harvard is just down the street from the prestigious National Bureau of Economic Research, “which draws people continuously” to conferences, he said.

Add LEAP to the lure of Harvard. That’s the Economics Department’s Laboratory for Economic Applications and Policy, which began during the summer. It provides an interactive space for collaborative research.

Chetty, who just turned 30, is looking for ways to make the serenity of mathematical economic theory more descriptive of the tangle of economics in the real world. “People are not human calculators,” he said, and so sometimes make decisions that defy traditional models of economic theory.

Chetty wants to refine the economic models behind public policy. There are ways to do it, he said, that save money and align government programs more closely with everyday life.

In that vein, he and a colleague are studying earned income tax credits, a federal program that spends \$50 billion a year to subsidize low-income wage earners. For every \$10 of income, \$4 more come back as an earned income tax credit.

Yet a lot of people don’t understand the basic premise, and by tax time miss out on significant boosts in income. So the researchers devised an experiment involving 43,000 low-income earners in the Chicago area that would test the effect of a simple real-world factor: information.

The more people understood about the basic incentive structure, said Chetty, the more they worked. Preliminary data showed that spending \$5 per person to get that information across has the same effect as expanding the program by 33 percent. That means spending millions instead of billions.

Chetty’s 2003 Ph.D. dissertation at Harvard, called “Consumption, Commitments, and Risk Preferences,” took a similar turn toward a personal scale by studying the optimal level of unemployment benefits.

When someone is laid off, should the government provide high benefits? Traditional theory says no, since big benefits seemingly reduce the incentive to find a job. “Standard models predict that we should have no safety net,” said Chetty.

But in reality, higher benefits are more in line with actual needs, because most Americans have so much income tied up in fixed commitments, such as payments for houses, cars, and furniture. “There are a lot of things you can’t adjust in the short term,” he said.

So the traditional economic models that are used to determine unemployment benefits miss a simple fact: People have bills to pay. “You miss certain features of reality,” said Chetty, “when you’re trying to write down simple models of the world.”

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer



Chef Brian Corcoran (left) and Harvard Dining Services buyer John Aiken staff the local foods table during a green fair at Dudley House in December.

our operations,” said Katherine Lapp, Harvard’s new executive vice president. She will oversee the implementation of the University’s greenhouse gas reduction plan.

The bulk of future emissions reductions will have to come from greater energy efficiency in Harvard’s buildings, said Heather Henriksen, director of Harvard’s Office for Sustainability (OFS).

Mostly, that means optimizing building operations, especially when occupants are not present, as well as deploying conservation measures. But it also means behavioral changes, like shutting fume hoods, turning off computers, switching off lights, and setting what Henriksen called “other pragmatic defaults.”

In November, each Harvard School and unit completed comprehensive draft plans for greenhouse gas reductions — blueprints for how they can meet the 30 percent goal, and for how much money. Once finalized, those plans will be incorporated into a master policy for University-wide reductions.

OFS spearheaded an implementation planning process that included a Harvard University Greenhouse Gas Executive Committee and targeted working groups. The idea was to streamline the assessment process and to convene the Schools and units so they could share best practices.

The executive committee co-chairs are Jeremy Bloxham, dean of science at Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Robert S. Kaplan, professor of management practice at the Harvard Business School; and Lapp.

The task force — about 200 staff members, faculty, administrators, and students — met regularly this year in five working groups: finance, building efficiency and demand management, energy supply, greenhouse gas inventory, and communications and engagement.

The initial infrastructure is now in place, said Kaplan, including an updated methodology to inventory greenhouse gas emissions and a common framework for cost-benefit analysis. “OFS ran a collaborative process, and the working groups, comprised of School and unit leaders, created alignment across the University,” Kaplan said. “We now have a much more integrated assessment of the University, and we are moving forward to create and implement an effective University-wide plan.”

In a mid-year meeting with working group members,

Taming the energy beast

Greenhouse gas emissions drop 10 percent as Harvard eyes 2016 goal.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

While officials from many nations gather in Copenhagen to debate further action against climate change, Harvard University is taking action on its own.

Last year the University pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2016, inclusive of growth, with 2006 as a baseline year.

Meeting the ambitious goal “is both urgent and difficult,” said Harvard University President Drew Faust, who appointed a task force on greenhouse gas reduction in 2007. Such reductions “are not just Harvard issues,” she said earlier this year. “They are part of the national agenda.”

Greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide and methane, contribute to global warming by trapping heat in earth’s atmosphere. Perhaps 40 percent of the emissions are tied to making the energy required for lighting, heating, and cooling buildings.

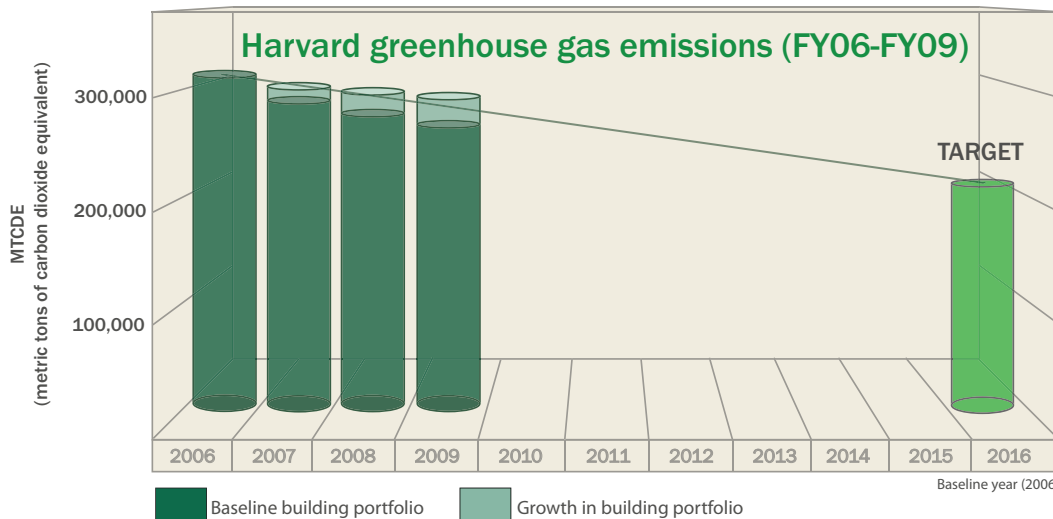
On Monday (Dec. 14), Harvard released its first data on the University’s progress toward meeting the pledge. In fiscal 2006-09, greenhouse gas emissions dropped 10 percent University-wide. With growth

factored in, that reduction is about 5 percent.

The cuts came from energy-efficiency projects in buildings, more than half from efficiency improvements at Harvard’s Blackstone energy plant and its new chilled-water plants.

According to Thomas E. Vautin, Harvard’s acting vice president for administration, greenhouse gas emissions at the Blackstone plant have already dropped by 28 percent as a result of improvements. These include changing the primary fuel source to natural gas, and installing a new steam boiler, as well as a high-efficiency combined heat and power generating system.

“These are smart choices that will have a long-term positive impact on the environment and the cost of



Graphic by Gervis A. Menzies Jr. | Harvard Staff

Faust listened to updates. Afterward, she said the collaboration should be a model for future action at Harvard and other universities.

“This is not just a set of solutions to one of the most important problems we face on the planet,” she said, but a way to “attack” other big issues that require large-scale cooperation.

A sixth working group, with heavy participation from the faculty, will start meeting early in the new year. It will analyze options for closing gaps in the goals over time. Not every school may be able to meet the 30 percent goal by 2016, said Henriksen, so backup solutions are needed to help make up the difference.

Among other strategies, the “gaps” working group will look at creative options, including Renewable Energy Credits, energy from renewable sources, and investing in local carbon offset projects.

A Student Advisory Group, made up of 50 students from each of Harvard’s 10 Schools, will approach greenhouse gas emissions from a student perspective. The group will report its recommendations by the end of the spring semester.

In addition, Harvard adopted a University-wide temperature policy designed to reduce energy use. It was designed with attention to human health and comfort and to legal codes. Helping in its creation was John “Jack” Spengler, Akira Yamaguchi Professor of Environmental Health and Human Habitation at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH).

Harvard’s Schools and units have completed basic energy audits for most buildings and are midway through comprehensive audits to be completed by 2011. (The University manages 26 million square feet of space in 700 buildings.) At the same time, the University has also completed audits of its central steam and chilled-water plants for energy conservation.

As University buildings are more efficiently heated, cooled, and lighted, more of Harvard’s reduction in greenhouse gases will depend on individual action and on reducing energy demand, said Henriksen. Her office oversees programs on changing behavior in offices, classrooms, dormitories, and laboratories.

These are values already “held very deeply” at Harvard, Faust said, and there are signs she is right. Since 2007, more than 15,000 Harvard staffers, students, and faculty have signed a sustainability pledge, which is renewed each year.

Harvard also has the highest recycling rate in the Ivy League at 55 percent, gets about 16 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, and has 66 LEED-certified or registered projects, the most of any institution of higher education. (LEED, a U.S. system of green-building standards, stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.)

“Energy use varies widely across the University, from energy-dense laboratories to offices to student houses, each posing very different challenges in reducing our emissions,” said Bloxham, who is also Mallinckrodt Professor of Geophysics and a professor of computational science. He praised the collaborative ethic of the working groups, as well as the OFS planning.

When it comes to greenhouse gas emissions, said Bloxham, “the problem belongs to all of us.”

ON THE JOB (AND OFF)

Tracking insects for work and play

Gary Alpert, entomology officer for Environmental Health and Safety, helps to manage pests and environmental standards at Harvard, but in his free time he’s an ant biologist.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Gary Alpert spends a lot of time bringing ants to Harvard. He travels the world to exotic locations, collecting specimens in efforts that draw praise from eminent ant biologist Edward O. Wilson.

On the other hand, Alpert also was the guy who got rid of ants at the University in the early 1980s, eliminating pest ants through the use of a new hormone strategy.

In the years since, Alpert has lived two lives. By day, he is an environmental biologist, specializing in both pest control and compliance with government wastewater standards for Harvard’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety. He handles pest outbreaks, tackling everything from ants to bedbugs to rabid animals, and ensures that Harvard’s wastewater is within allowable limits for certain compounds.

Alpert notes that he has minimized the use of chemical spraying at Harvard to just those cases where health and safety are threatened. He is a proponent of integrated pest management, which entails understanding pests and eliminating the things that attract them.

“We bait for ants, we bait for cockroaches, we eliminate food sources. We’re not in the killing business. We’re in the excluding business,” Alpert said.

When he’s not working his day job, Alpert is working on ants. Wilson called him “an extraordinary scientist” and an “authentic explorer-naturalist” who has journeyed far in search of specimens to enrich Harvard’s already notable ant collection. Wilson and Alpert traveled together a couple of years ago to the mountains of the Dominican Republic to collect ants, getting their car stuck in the mud and having to get it pushed out by a nearby garrison of soldiers.

Alpert has traveled to Nepal, Madagascar, the Philippines, and Cambodia, among other countries, and he plans a floating trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in the spring with the National Park Service and area Indian tribes to collect ants. A Navajo medicine man has blessed him in advance of the trip.



“We bait for ants, we bait for cockroaches, we eliminate food sources. We’re not in the killing business. We’re in the excluding business,” says Gary Alpert.

He has cataloged ants as well, and has developed an imaging system that is being used to show clearly the University’s collection of key ant specimens. He also occasionally is a private entomology consultant, and has worked at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and at U.S. Army’s Aberdeen Proving Ground.

“I love travel,” Alpert said.

Alpert received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Washington State University in 1969 but had a change of heart during graduate study and laboratory work afterward. He received a master’s degree in entomology from Washington State in 1972 and a doctorate in biology from Harvard in 1981.

“I discovered this whole new world of the outdoors where I could stop worrying about theories of personalities and deal with hard facts instead,” Alpert said. “Once I switched, I never looked back.”

Curatorial Assistant Stefan Cover, who works in the Museum of Comparative Zoology’s Entomology Department and who has known Alpert for years, jokingly compared Alpert’s two lives to those of the famous literary character Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

“There’s Dr. Alpert and Mr. Gary,” Cover said, describing “Mr. Gary” as “this [wild] field biologist who would like nothing better than to be plunked down in the middle of nowhere and collect ants.”

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer



Kindergartener Denise Brito (left) and her mother Dina Goncalves (right) get help from HASI's Brandon Due.

Marshall School and Harvard hold SmartTALK Family Night

By Joshua Poupore | Harvard Staff Writer

In a demonstration of community strength that came just weeks after a shooting at the John Marshall School in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood, nearly 50 families packed the school cafeteria on Dec. 3 to participate in the year's first *SmartTALK* Family Night.

The evening was one in a series of family sessions offered to all nine of the Step UP schools implementing the *SmartTALK*: Homework Support for Kids Program. The program was developed by the Harvard Achievement Support Initiative (HASI), the University's professional development and grant-making effort to increase learning opportunities for Boston's young people, particularly during out-of-school time.

Supported by HASI and undergraduate volunteers from Harvard's Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) Harvard Enrichment Program, the event brought Marshall students and their families together for a night of pizza, problem solving, prizes, and fun.

After dinner, adults and children sat together at grade-level tables and worked on homework activities using hands-on math materials. Facilitators instructed students to become the "teachers" and to explain to the adults in their families how to do the math problems. Many families were surprised to learn that students are expected to find solutions to math problems in several different ways and to clearly explain their thinking.

At the kindergarten table, students filled outline shapes with colorful pattern blocks and showed their families different ways to cover designs. Families listened as children talked about shapes and patterns. Older students showed their families how mental math skills help them to estimate,

— COMMUNITY AFFAIRS —

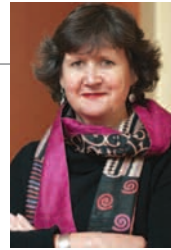
add, and multiply faster.

Families took home *SmartTALK* packets with folders, pencils, rulers, write-on/wipe-off boards, and math manipulatives aligned with the Boston Public Schools Investigations math curriculum.

Lisa Moellman, assistant director at HASI, said the family event is an important part of supporting the work of *SmartTALK* at Marshall. "*SmartTALK* is about helping students become more effective learners during after-school time. A big part of it is being able to talk about what you know and how you know it. *SmartTALK* Family Nights are a natural extension of our work in after-school — bringing materials and ideas to families to help them support their children's success at home," said Moellman.

As the evening wrapped up, Sophia Bishop-Rice, Marshall's manager of extended learning services, raffled 15 bags of *SmartTALK* learning games donated by Harvard and 20 gift cards donated by teachers and other Marshall partners. Based on the smiling faces and excited chatter at the end of the evening, Bishop-Rice called the night a success, saying "Families struggle helping their children with homework. Nights like tonight are great because the students really enjoy showing their parents how they do their homework."

SmartTALK is a key program of Step UP, a collaboration among Harvard, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, the city of Boston and the Boston Public Schools working to address the achievement gap. For more information, visit: www.stepupboston.com.



BRITISH LIBRARY'S HELEN SHENTON IS HUL'S NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer

University Professor and director of the University Library, has appointed **Helen Shenton** as the deputy director of the Harvard University Library. Shenton, who is the head of collection care for the British Library, will arrive at Harvard early in 2010.

"This is a vital appointment made at a crucial time in the history of the Harvard libraries," Darnton says. "As the chief steward charged with the care of the vast historical collections in the British Library, Helen Shenton is at the forefront of renewed thinking about libraries, their holdings, and their services. She is a skilled practitioner and an innovative manager. I am counting on her wise counsel and her decisive nature as we act collectively to make our great library even greater."

"I do not underestimate the enormity of the challenges ahead," Shenton says, "but I am very excited at the prospect of joining Harvard University Library at such a key moment to help make the library and information provision even better for students and faculty now and in the future."

To read the full story, visit http://hul.harvard.edu/news/2009_1211.html.

CCSR ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The 2009 annual report of the Corporation Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (CCSR), a subcommittee of the President and Fellows, is now available upon request from the Office for the Committees on Shareholder Responsibility. To obtain a copy, please e-mail cheryl_thurman@harvard.edu or call the office at 617.495.0985.

The report provides a detailed description of the CCSR's actions on shareholder proposals raising issues of social responsibility that came to vote during the 2009 spring proxy voting season (the period between March and June when most publicly traded corporations hold annual meetings). The CCSR receives advice from the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility, a 12-member committee made up of Harvard faculty, students, and alumni.

Newsmakers

HSPH HONORS NYT FOR 'DISTINGUISHED JOURNALISM IN PUBLIC HEALTH'

The Harvard School of Public Health's (HSPH) Center for Health Communication honored The New York Times at a luncheon event at the Harvard Club of New York City on Dec. 4 for "distinguished journalism in public health."

The newly established journalism award cites the Times for its pathbreaking series "Driven to Distraction," which drew widespread public attention to the dangers associated with driving while texting or phoning.

HSPH Dean Julio Frenk presented the award to Arthur Sulzberger Jr., chairman of The New York Times Co. and publisher of The New York Times.

The luncheon also celebrated the "21st birthday" (i.e., the national legal drinking age) of the National Designated Driver Campaign to prevent drinking and driving, which was launched by HSPH's Center for Health Communication in late 1988.

For full story, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=32480.

GATES HONORED WITH MORRY AWARD

Project Morry, a nonprofit, year-round youth development organization dedicated to giving inner-city children from New York and Connecticut life-enhancing learning opportunities, presented **Henry Louis Gates Jr.**, the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard, with its annual award on Nov. 19.

BURGIN NAMED AAAS VISITING SCHOLAR

Angus Burgin, who received A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard, is among eight individuals who have been awarded fellowships as part of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Visiting Scholars Program for 2009-10. The program supports scholars and practitioners in the early stages of their careers — both postdoctoral fellows and untenured junior faculty — who show potential of becoming leaders in the humanities, policy studies, and social sciences.

During his yearlong residency in Cambridge at the academy, Burgin will work on a project titled "The Return of Laissez-Faire," a trans-Atlantic history of

free-market ideas and the institutions that supported them. He will focus on the economists in the decades following the onset of the Great Depression who helped to create a theoretical framework for the revival of conservatism in American politics.

Academy fellowships are intended to combine the scholars' individual research with participation in the many ongoing programs and activities at the academy, including the opportunity to interact with Academy Fellows, who bring an unparalleled wealth of knowledge from diverse scholarly and professional backgrounds.

Launched in 2002, the Visiting Scholars Program has welcomed 53 emerging academic leaders.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM AWARDS 21 WITH GRANTS

Twenty-one foreign scholars and professionals from Harvard have been named Fulbright Scholar Program grant recipients for 2009-10. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, participating governments, and host institutions in the United States and abroad, these grants allow scholars from across the globe to lecture or conduct research at the University.

This year's class of Fulbright Scholars follows:

Hang Cao, language and literature (non-U.S.), China; **Meriem El Karoui**, biological sciences, France; **Tal Ellenbogen**, physics and astronomy, Israel; **Hikmet Geckil**, medical sciences, Turkey; **M. Azzim Gulamhussen**, history (non-U.S.), Portugal; **Milan Janda**, biological sciences, Czech Republic; **Nicolas Kwiatkowski**, history (non-U.S.), Argentina; **Yu-Ping Lee**, history (non-U.S.), Taiwan; **Jo-Wang Lin**, linguistics, Taiwan; **Xin Liu**, public administration, China; **Nicole Maruo-Schroeder**, American studies, Germany; **Osamu Murao**, urban planning, Japan; **Tsuyako Nakamura**, sociology, Japan; **Oanh Ngo**, law, Vietnam; **Hagay Perets**, physics and astronomy, Israel; **Tatiana Postnikova**, philosophy, Russia; **Mala Rajo**, history (non-U.S.), Malaysia; **Junfeng Ren**, political science, China; **Maarten Roeffaers**, chemistry, Belgium; **Siobhan Wills**, law, Ireland; **Maria Yannakoulia**, medical history, Greece.

DOWLING AWARDED THE GLENN A. FRY MEDAL

John E. Dowling, the Gordon and Llura Gund Professor of Neurosciences at Harvard, was awarded the Glenn A. Fry Medal in Physiological Optics during a ceremony at the Great Lakes Vision Research Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on Nov. 21.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Dowling, who is now president of the Corporation of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., was at the forefront of research into the identification of the excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters that mediated retinal synaptic

communication. He also helped establish the concept of neuromodulation in the retina and was involved in seminal studies that investigated the role of dopamine as a neuromodulator in the retina. In the 1990s, he began working with zebrafish in order to identify the genes important in regulating both visual sensitivity and retinal development.

INAUGURAL BURKE FELLOWS NAMED

The Provost and Deans Committee of the Harvard Initiative for Global Health (HIGH) announced the selection of the 2009 Burke Global Health Fellows. In its inaugural year, the Katherine States Burke and T.R. Burke Fund for Global Health at Harvard University awarded fellowships to five junior faculty members at Harvard to support original field research and one faculty member was awarded a fellowship to develop an undergraduate course at the College.

To read the full announcement, visit http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic653449.files/Burke_Global_Health_Fellows_Announcement_FINAL.pdf.

HSPH 'INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIODEFENSE' TRAINING GRANT AVAILABLE

Predocutorial training slots are available for the spring 2010 term on the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) training grant "Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Biodefense." HSPH students from all departments are encouraged to apply.

Applicants are encouraged to apply immediately for spring 2010 openings. After spring slots are filled, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until April 2010 for the coming academic year. To apply or for more information, visit <http://idepi.hsph.harvard.edu>.

BRUNO AND HIERL RECEIVE ISHIMOTO AWARD

Thomas Bruno, head of resource sharing at Widener Library, and **Sebastian Hierl**, Harvard College Library (HCL) librarian for Western Europe, have been named the winners of the 2009 Carol Ishimoto Award for Distinguished Service in the Harvard College Library.

Created through a 1991 endowment established by Carol Ishimoto, former associate librarian of Harvard College for cataloging and processing, the award annually recognizes a member or group of the professional staff who has advanced the mission of HCL through exceptional contributions and leadership, and includes a cash award and citation for creative professional achievement of the highest order.

To read the full story, visit hcl.harvard.edu/news/articles/2009/ishimoto_award_2009.cfm.

—Compiled by Gervis A. Menzies Jr.



MEMORIAL MINUTES

Alastair Graham Walter Cameron Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on May 19, 2009, the Minute honoring the life and service of the late Alastair Graham Walter Cameron, Donald H. Menzel Professor of Astrophysics, *Emeritus*, was placed upon the records. Cameron's theory is now the accepted one for the origin of the moon.

OBITUARIES

Renowned linguistic anthropologist Hymes dies at 82

Dell H. Hymes, 82, an influential linguistic anthropologist and folklorist who taught at Harvard from 1955 to 1960, died in Charlottesville, Va., on Nov. 13. Retiring from teaching in 2000 as the Commonwealth Professor of Anthropology and English *Emeritus* at the University of Virginia, Hymes will be remembered for his widespread advancement of the field of sociolinguistics. A memorial gathering was held at the American Anthropological Association's national meeting Dec. 5 in Philadelphia.

HOT JOBS

CTSC - SENIOR GRANTS MANAGER/ FINANCIAL ASSOCIATE, REQ. 38414, GR. 056

Harvard Medical School, FT (12/8/2009)

RESEARCH AND REGULATORY MANAGER, REQ. 38363, GR. 056

Harvard School of Public Health, FT (12/1/2009)

PROGRAM MANAGER, REQ. 38317, GR. 056

Harvard Law School, FT (11/20/2009)

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR, REQ. 38381, GR. 057

University Administration, FT (12/3/2009)

CATALOGER, BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE LIBRARY, REQ. 38390, GR. 056

Faculty of Arts and Sciences, FT (12/4/2009)

PART-TIME LECTURERS ON HISTORY AND LITERATURE

Information and applications at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~histlit/HL-program.html>. Deadline Jan. 15, 2010.

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

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for an advertised position and/or for more information on these and other listings, please visit our Web site at www.employment.harvard.edu to upload your resume and cover letter. Harvard is strongly committed to its policy of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

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, targeting the right opportunities, and successful interviewing techniques. Sessions are typically 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 <http://employment.harvard.edu/careers/findingajob/>.

Houghton to conclude service as member of Harvard Corporation

James R. Houghton, the longest-serving member of the Harvard Corporation and chair of the University's 2006-07 presidential search, Monday (Dec. 14) announced his plans to step down at the end of the 2009-10 academic year, after 15 years on the Corporation.

Houghton confirmed his plans to his Corporation colleagues at their meeting on Dec. 7 and said he wished to announce his intentions before year end so a search can begin promptly in the new year.



"It's been a true honor to have been able to serve Harvard over the years," said Houghton, chairman emeritus of Corning Inc. "I believe that today, under the leadership of our distinguished president and with support from our other constituencies, the future of our 'fair Harvard' is bright indeed. I've been around Harvard for more than 50 years, through challenge and change, and the wealth of talent in our community never ceases to amaze me. I have every confidence that Harvard will continue to demonstrate the unique capacity of great universities to educate students and generate new ideas in ways that change the world."

"Jamie Houghton has served Harvard with extraordinary devotion and a profound concern for the well-being of the University and its people," said President Drew Faust. "He has seen Harvard through times of change with a steady hand and a constant commitment to the best interests of the University — above all, the quality of our students' educational experience and the capacity of our faculty to shape the course of knowledge. Throughout his tenure on the Corporation, he has dedicated his time and care to helping knit the parts of Harvard more closely together and to helping realize the promise of collaborative ventures from the sciences to the arts and across the

professions. I'm one of many people at Harvard who have benefited from his thoughtful counsel and common sense, and who have come to value his friendship and generosity of spirit. We owe him our deep gratitude for his years of selfless service to Harvard, and for what I'm sure will be continuing active engagement in the life of the University."

A 1958 graduate of Harvard College and 1962 graduate of Harvard Business School, Houghton joined the Harvard Corporation in 1995 and became its senior fellow in 2002. He is the past chair of the University's joint committee on inspection, and serves on the Corporation's committee on shareholder responsibility, as well as the joint committee on appointments and the committee on University resources.

Houghton has devoted his professional career to Corning Inc., one of the world's leading makers of specialty glass and ceramics. He started at Corning in 1962, after graduating from business school. He rose to become the company's chairman of the board and chief executive officer from 1983 to 1996 and later served again as both chairman (2002-08) and CEO (2002-05).

Houghton served on the boards of directors of several companies and remains chairman of the board of trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is also a longtime trustee of both the Pierpont Morgan Library and the Corning Museum of Glass. He is past chairman of the Business Council of New York State and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission.

A search to identify a new member of the Corporation will begin soon. Under the University's charter, a new member is elected by the President and Fellows, with the counsel and consent of the Board of Overseers. The search will be conducted by a joint committee of the governing boards. Robert D. Reischauer, who joined the Corporation in 2002 and served as a member of the Board of Overseers for the six preceding years, will succeed Houghton as senior fellow.

Confidential letters of nomination or advice may be directed to the Corporation Search Committee, Harvard University, Loeb House, 17 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138, or to corporationsearch@harvard.edu



Il SaKong and President Drew Faust

KITA/KSF AND HARVARD ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT TO ADVANCE MODERN KOREAN SCHOLARSHIP

Harvard University and the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) announced an agreement to advance modern Korean scholarship at the University. KITA, through its philanthropic arm, the Korea Sanhak Foundation (KSF), has broadened the gift terms of the \$13 million Modern Korea Economy and Society Professorship to promote expanded academic opportunities at Harvard. In addition to supporting tenured or nontenured professors in modern Korean studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the funds may now be used for related visiting faculty appointments, dissertation research and writing, graduate fellowship support, and research programs in modern Korean economy and society.

"This is a significant gift, with important implications for Korean scholarship, and we are grateful to KITA and KSF for strengthening a partnership that the University holds in high regard," said Jorge I. Domínguez, Harvard's vice provost for international affairs and Antonio Madero Professor of Mexican and Latin American Politics and Economics. He praised Il SaKong, KITA and KSF chairman and CEO, for his leadership in reaching a new accord. "Dr. SaKong was instrumental in facilitating the open dialogue that ultimately led to this announcement."

Harvard President Drew Faust, Lincoln Professor of History, described the agreement as a reaffirmation of the University's commitment to advancing the field of modern Korean studies in the United States. "KITA and the Sanhak Foundation are enabling Harvard to attract talented faculty and to support young scholars," she said. "I am grateful to Dr. SaKong for his passionate support of Korean scholarship, and for his efforts to broaden the scope of Harvard's teaching and research in this important area of study."

To read full release, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=32395.

DEDICATION OF NEW KNOWLES UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING LAB

Faculty, students, and staff convened in the Northwest Science Building in Cambridge on Dec. 1 to dedicate the Jeremy R. Knowles Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory, a gift from C. Kevin Landry '66 and his wife, Barrie. The newly named lab honors the late Jeremy R. Knowles, longtime dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Knowles and the Landrys shared a commitment to advancing undergraduate education, and the new laboratory will provide students with vital, hands-on learning across multiple disciplines and help them experience the daily work of a scientific researcher. Jane S. Knowles, Knowles' widow, also attended the dedication, which featured a tour of the new facility and discussions with undergraduates about their cutting-edge work.

ASHFORD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM THRIVES

For the past five years, some of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences' (GSAS) brightest Ph.D. students have joined Theodore H. Ashford '58 and his sons Theodore III '86 and Timothy '88 in celebration. The Theodore H. Ashford Graduate Fellowships in the Sciences and the Theodore H. Ashford Dissertation Fellowships in the Humanities and Social Sciences have supported 26 students in fields ranging from biophysics to film and visual studies. On Dec. 7, the fellows, past and present, gathered with GSAS Dean Allan M. Brandt and Administrative Dean Margot Gill at the Harvard Faculty Club to discuss their work — in the company of the family who is making it possible.

JORDAN SCHOLARS HONORED AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Gerald R. (Jerry) Jordan Jr. '61, M.B.A. '67, his wife, Darlene, and sons Gerald '89, M.B.A. '94, and Reid '96, gathered with students on Nov. 17 at the Harvard Faculty Club for the Jordan Scholars Luncheon. Longtime supporters of Harvard College financial aid, the Jordan family established the Gerald Jordan Family Scholarship to ensure that undergraduate students in need of financial support are able to attend the College. The scholarships, first awarded during the 1995-96 academic year, provide much-needed aid, with a preference given to students from the Boston metropolitan area with an interest in athletics or public service. The fund now supports 39 undergraduates each year.

Online ►► news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/campus-n-community/news-by-school

Around the Schools



School of Engineering & Applied Sciences

For the January Experience, Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) is offering students two opportunities to "dig in."

In collaboration with the Escola Politécnica of the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin America Studies' (DRCLAS) Brazil Studies Program, 11 Harvard and 11 Brazilian students will participate in a field study course in Brazil. Scot Martin, Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Chemistry at SEAS, will lead the course on "Energy, Water and the Environment" from Jan. 6 to 21. Highlights include a visit to a water treatment facility in São Paulo; an exploration of Itaipú, the world's largest hydroelectric plant; and stops at oil refineries and ethanol and biofuel manufacturers.

Engineers Without Borders, a student group dedicated to sustainable engineering, will use the extended winter break to continue its work in the Dominican Republic. With the guidance of Jim Rice, Mallinckrodt Professor of Engineering Sciences and Geophysics at SEAS, the team is devising a solution to clean up a contaminated water supply outside of the village of Constanza.

For a full list of January Experience activities at SEAS, ranging from short courses on MATLAB to seminars on communicating science to hands-on training for computer-aided design, visit <http://bit.ly/7Qw1Yh>.

— Michael Rutter



Harvard Graduate School of Education

A group of students at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) will give the gift of literacy this holiday season while on a service-learning trip to Caluco, El Salvador.

The students recently created the Learning Through Libraries project to battle illiteracy in the developing world. They will travel with a Harvard administrator to El Salvador next month to create libraries for three rural communities, providing them with books, painting murals on walls, and training local educators how to best use their newly acquired materials and resources.

Through partnerships with several Cambridge organizations and businesses, as well as the Amigos School in Cambridge, the HGSE students collected more than \$5,000 and plan to distribute close to 1,500 books.

Additionally, the students have collaborated with a number of nongovernmental organizations in El Salvador that will assist in the training and teaching efforts, and help to develop oral history and photography projects.

"We all wanted to get involved in service and literacy, and then it all came together and just kept building," said Debra Gittler, HGSE '10, a founder of the project. "Every time we think we are done, something else ends up happening. It's so exciting."

— Colleen Walsh



Harvard Kennedy School

As part of a student-initiated community development project to promote civic engagement and rural development in the Mississippi Delta, nine Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) students, led by master in public policy candidates Babak Mostaghimi and Ololade Olakanmi, will spend 10 days in January in Greenwood, Miss., working on service projects for the community. Last spring, a group of HKS students helped the residents of Baptist Town — a largely black, historically important neighborhood of Greenwood — establish a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and helped facilitate a community-driven planning exercise to guide the nonprofit's activities. This January, the HKS volunteers will conduct focus groups to gauge community perceptions of the nonprofit, provide leadership training, work to set up a community technology center, and build relationships with local political and business leaders to foster cross-sectoral initiatives in support of the community's development vision. Travel grants for the students were provided by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation and the Taubman Center for State and Local Government at HKS.

— Molly Lanzarotta

If you have an item for Around the Schools, please e-mail your write-up (150-200 words) to georgia_bellas@harvard.edu.

STUDENT VOICE

Poetry in motion

A novice poet learns her craft by presenting her work in front of open-mic audiences at Adams House.

By Lisa Jing '10 | History and Literature

The Friday before Halloween, I found myself squatting in a pile of leaves. Above me hung Christmas lights. In front of me was a slideshow of an abandoned German theme park. To my right was an imitation of “A Bar at the Folies Bergère.”

I was in the Adams House ArtSpace, which had been temporarily transformed into “Forsaken Places,” the title of the Spoken Word Society’s fall open-mic event, the brainchild of Anna Polonyi '10.

Since sophomore year, I have been a regular attendee of Spoken Word events: from poetry and music over samosas in Kirkland Junior Common Room to quieter nights at Gato Rojo. I remember the first time Polonyi urged me to come. She had heard from a mutual friend about how much, though how privately, I liked to write.

When I declined her invitation to read, Polonyi was resolute. I thought my reasons were natural: I disliked attaching a face to my writing. I wanted to distance authorship. I felt awkward rising from an audience of aspiring writers and claiming that I, too, was an author. I, too, deserved their attention. While I might paint myself as humble and awkward, I was genuinely scared then.

Polonyi pointed out, “You can only get better if you share with other people.” I agreed, but I wanted to be the ghost at my own funeral, reaping the comments, praise, and criticism elicited by my writing, anonymously.

The Spoken Word open mic is a rare democratic space for Harvard student artists. Presenters span poets, prose writers, diary keepers, rappers, and musicians. As editors of *The Gamut*, Harvard’s poetry magazine, Liza Flum '10 and Sharon Wang '10 agreed with me that there are two conflicting impulses in the Harvard writing community. One is a blameless appreciation of literature, a great love of and need for writing. The second is the problematic tendency to build hierarchies.

Often, this second tendency flares up not out of cruelty but necessity. For example, both Flum and Wang are writing two of the coveted poetry theses in the English Department. The spots are limited. Flum and Wang happen to be two of the most talented and humble people I know. However, the competitive process to secure a creative thesis often stirs bad blood. They recall uncomfortable moments in their poetry workshops when students were unnecessarily judgmental, rather than supportive of, their peers’ work. Likewise, the process for getting published can leave unsuccessful students feeling marginalized.

The problem that we noticed is psychosocial. Not



only are struggles for superiority, recognition, and validation annoying, but they are damaging. They distort a student’s ability to produce good writing.

Though Flum and Wang champion good sportsmanship, they are not without critical standards. The *Gamut* puts out only one issue per year because, according to Wang, it is “extremely difficult” to compile a magazine of poems of a high caliber. The *Gamut* also hosts an annual poetry competition. Last year, former U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky judged.

The point is that quality need not be sacrificed for accessibility. The *Gamut*’s weekly meetings are open: All students are invited to sit in the Lowell private dining hall and discuss submissions. Likewise, Spoken Word hosts weekly workshops. The two organizations fulfill the basic need for open, inclusive, and critical spaces in which students can improve their craft.

The second week of November, I heard Michael Ondaatje, poet and novelist, speak at the Sackler Museum. Being a fanatic, I arrived an hour early and situated myself in the front row. Ondaatje sat barely three seats away. I was suddenly struck: What if I didn’t like him as a person? Generally, I have always separated a writer from his text. But when I was in such close breathing, laughing, and touching space to Ondaatje, I suddenly could not ignore that he was human. That his ethics, the beauty of his prose, the characters whom I intimately recalled still originated from him. If I disliked him, I would feel inevitably betrayed by the hypocrisy between text and author.

Luckily, I liked Ondaatje. Even luckier, I like Flum, Wang, and Polonyi. As Flum observes, writing is still a community service. It is the responsibility of the author to be mindful of what he provides his audience. Fortunately for me, it was a bed of leaves.

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

ATHLETICS

JEREMY LIN TAKES HOME IVY PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Crimson guard Jeremy Lin '10 made national name for himself last season, helping the Harvard men’s basketball in their 82-70 upset over Boston College (B.C.). The senior co-captain has the college basketball world buzzing again this season, after guiding Harvard to another victory over B.C. in Chestnut Hill, Mass., by a score of 74-67.

Lin, who had a game-high 25 points, went 7 of 10 from the floor, knocked down 10 of 12 from the free throw line, and added four rebounds and four assists, earning him Ivy League Player of the Week honors for the second straight week, and the third time this season.

Only one other player in the league has won the award three times.

LIPPERT LAUDED WITH ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HONORS

Victoria Lippert '13 of the Harvard women’s basketball team (6-3) was named Ivy League Rookie of the Week on Dec. 12 after tallying 21 points and 10 rebounds in the Crimson’s 90-85 double-overtime win against Northeastern (Dec. 9).

Third on the team in scoring, Lippert has started all nine of the Crimson’s contests and is averaging 13.6 points, 4.1 rebounds, and 1.1 steals thus far.

After a break in action, Harvard will travel to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Dec. 29 to take on Marist College, and return to Lavietes Pavilion on Jan. 2 to face Navy before a four-game road trip.

AKPAN A FINALIST FOR HERMANN TROPHY

Andre Akpan '10, who led the No. 10-ranked Harvard men’s soccer team to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament, has been named one of three finalists for the Missouri Athletic Club’s Hermann Trophy, which honors the top Division I college soccer player in the country. This year’s winner will be announced on Jan. 8, 2010, at the Missouri Athletic Club in downtown St. Louis.

The senior co-captain, who is first in points, assists, and tied for first in goals scored all-time at Harvard, was crowned Ivy Player of the Year on Nov. 17 and is the first Crimson player to be named a finalist for the award.

In addition to being named a Hermann Trophy finalist, Akpan was also named to the College Soccer News All-America first team on Dec. 14 and was invited to attend the 2010 adidas Major League Soccer Player Combine (Jan. 8-12), joining teammate Kwaku Nyamekye '10.

— Compiled by Gervis A. Menzies Jr.

Online ►► See complete coverage, athletic schedules at: www.gocrimson.com

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Eugeniusz Kazimirowski, "Jesus Christ as the Divine Mercy," 1934, oil on canvas, Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy, Vilnius, Lithuania. See Jan. 13.

Calendar

HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010

The deadline for Calendar submissions is Wednesday by 5 p.m., unless otherwise noted. The Gazette resumes print publication Feb. 4. Calendar events are listed in full online. All events should be submitted via the online form at news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar-submission. E-mail calendar@harvard.edu with questions.

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



See "Gatz," Jan. 7 (above) and "Joyful Noise," Jan. 16 (left).

DEC. 19

The Winter Solstice in Legend and Song.

Hunnewell Building, Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Storyteller Diane Edgecomb, and musicians Margot Chamberlain and Tom Megan. Cost is \$20. arboretum.harvard.edu/adult_ed/reg_courses.php. Register early; space fills up fast.

DEC. 24

Christmas Eve Service.

The Memorial Church, 11 p.m. A festal Eucharist will celebrate the Nativity with music, a blessing of the creche, and Holy Communion. The Rev. Prof. Peter J. Gomes will preach his sermon, "The Spiritual and the Material."

DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Celebration at "The Donkey Show."

Oberon, 2 Arrow St., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Tickets are \$75 VIP table seats & \$45 dance floor tickets. Doors open at 9 p.m.; performance begins at 10 p.m.; post-show party 'til 2 a.m. 617.547.8300, www.amrep.com.

JAN. 7

Opening of "Gatz."

Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., through Feb. 7. One morning an employee finds a copy of "The Great Gatsby" in the clutter of his desk, starts to read it out loud, and doesn't stop. An audacious theatrical tour de force performed in two parts, "Gatz" is not a stage adaptation of Fitzgerald's novel, but a reading of the entire book — brought to life by one of New York's most exciting and acclaimed theater companies, Elevator Repair Service. Gatz is six hours long, but tickets to parts 1 and 2 must be purchased separately. It is recommended to see both parts consecutively on the same day for the true immersion experience, which means that you will see the show straight through, with one hour-long dinner break in between the parts, and additional fifteen-minute breaks

during each part. Times vary; visit the Web site: www.amrep.com or call 617.547.8300. Cost is \$69/\$39/\$25 general; student rush \$20; \$10 off for senior citizens. www.americanrepertorytheater.org/events/show/gatz.

JAN. 13

Jesus Christ as the Divine Mercy.

Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Ivan Gaskell, Harvard University, will discuss Eugeniusz Kazimirowski's "Jesus Christ as the Divine Mercy." Part of a new series of lectures exploring individual objects from the Harvard Art Museum collection and beyond. Each lecture will look deeply at a single work of art, inviting interpretations that probe beneath the surface. Series tickets are \$90 (members \$60). Individual lectures are \$18 (members \$12). 617.495.0534, artmuseum_membership@harvard.edu. Space is limited and registration is strongly encouraged: harvardartmuseum.org/calendar/detail.dot?id=25200.

JAN. 16

Joyful Noise Gospel Concert with Harlem Gospel Choir.

Sanders Theatre, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Concert celebrating the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tickets are general: \$22; students: \$16 with valid ID; senior citizens: \$16; Multicultural Arts Center members: \$18; Outings & Innings: \$18; children 12 years and younger: \$12. 617.577.1400, 617.496.2222, ofa.fas.harvard.edu/cal/details.php?ID=40499.

JAN. 22

Artist's Exhibition Opening Talk.

Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 4 p.m. Visual artist Amy Stein will talk about her unique process of creating and photographing modern dioramas based upon actual news accounts of encounters between humans and wildlife in rural Pennsylvania. Free with museum admission. hmn.harvard.edu.

JAN. 24

Free Winter Wellness Walk.

Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, 1 p.m. Meet at the Hunnewell Visitor Center. After the tour, warm up with a cup of tea or hot chocolate. Led by the Arboretum's knowledgeable docents, the emphasis will be on fitness, with information on seasonal plants and points of interest. Free and open to the public. There will also be walks Feb. 21 and March 21. 617.384.5209, www.arboretum.harvard.edu.

File photo Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer





Harvard Rituals: A joyful noise



The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College celebrate the African-American aural tradition, and have done so for almost 40 years. The singers held their annual winter concerts, a holiday tradition of songs and dances, in Memorial Hall in early December.

The group's Web site says its name was chosen because it "allowed for all modes of diasporic expression. In Swahili, 'kuumba' roughly means creativity, though the literal meaning is more subtle: It is the creativity of leav-

ing a space better than you found it."

Kuumba singer Amber James '11 added, "The songs we sing and the dances we do and the poems we read, they are all designed to bring people together in celebration of black creativity and spirituality. The concert is so moving because of the range of emotions that are represented in music from the black diaspora. Pain, sorrow, strength, resilience, peace, joy, love, and countless others are all intensely felt through the music and movements."



Photos and text by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer