Not Cancun, just can do

Harvard students spend Spring Break helping others

By Emily T. Simon

Matt Lauer, co-anchor of “Today” on NBC News, has been selected as the 2009 Senior Class Day speaker. He will address Harvard College graduates and their guests on June 3 at 2 p.m. in Tercentenary Theatre at Harvard Yard.

“Matt Lauer’s work as a journalist places him right in the middle of many pressing issues that affect our graduating class, our society, and the world,” said Lumumba Seegars ‘09, First Marshal of the Senior Class Committee. “The stories he has heard, the things he has seen, and the people he has met throughout his career all provide him with an inspiring viewpoint from which to address the graduating seniors. We are incredibly excited to welcome him to Harvard.”

Senior Class Day is a student-focused, informal celebration that takes place the day before Commencement. In addition to a featured speaker selected by the Senior Class Committee, Class Day Exercises include award presentations and undergraduate orations.

Lauer joined NBC News in 1994 and became co-anchor of the acclaimed “Today” show in 1997. The live broadcast, which airs on weekday mornings, covers

(See Lauer, page 6)
Harvard begins process for reaccreditation by NEASC

This year, Harvard University is preparing for its fall 2009 reaccreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Harvard, like all accredited universities and colleges, is reviewed for reaccreditation approximately every 10 years. The process includes the preparation of a self-study whereby the University evaluates itself on a range of academic, financial, physical, and other criteria; a visit by a committee of external faculty and senior administrators, during which they discuss issues raised in the self-study and draft a report and recommendation to NEASC; and, finally, a response by NEASC in spring 2010. Margo Seltzer, Herchel Smith Professor of Computer Science, serves as the faculty chair of the self-study process and is working with colleagues and student groups across the University. The Harvard community will be invited to offer feedback on the report later this academic year. For more information, go to www.provost.harvard.edu/institutional_research/accreditation.php. Questions can be addressed to accreditation@harvard.edu.

POLICE REPORTS

Following are some of the incidents reported to the Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) for the week ending March 30. The official log is located at 1033 Massachusetts Ave., sixth floor, and is available online at www.hupd.harvard.edu/.

March 27: At Morgan Hall, officers were dispatched to a report of a suspicious individual in the building. Officers conducted a field interview with the individual and after the individual was checked for warrants with negative results, the person was issued a no trespass warning for all Harvard University property with the exception of the libraries. An officer was dispatched to take a report of 10 light filters stolen from a multilabel reader at the Laboratory for Human Reproduction and Reproductive Biology building. Officers were dispatched to a report at Matthews Hall that two suspicious individuals had cut a lock off a bicycle. Officers searched the area with negative results. A bicycle secured with a Kryptonite cable lock was stolen from the Center for Government and International Studies. The lock was found cut in the bushes.

March 28: An Apple iMac computer was reported stolen from Harkness Commons.

March 29: Officers were informed that at Winthrop House, five individuals threw a construction cone through a window. Officers notified Facilities Maintenance Operations to clear the broken glass from the window.

March 30: Officers were dispatched to Eliot Square and Massachusetts Avenue to a report of a domestic argument in progress. The Cambridge Police Department held the remainder of the incident upon arrival. An officer was dispatched to take a report of five stolen checks at the Seeley Mudd Building.

Unleashed pets barred from Yard

Effective April 1, unleashed pets will no longer be allowed in Harvard Yard. All pets, with the exception of service animals, must be on a leash at all times. This policy is designed to ensure the safety of residents, staff, and visitors. This policy will be strictly enforced in the Yard by the Harvard University Police Department and Allied Barton security personnel.

FACULTY COUNCIL

At its ninth meeting of the year on March 18, the Faculty Council was briefed by the Dean of the College on House renewal and on the review of the Undergraduate Council. The Council also considered a proposal to change the name of the Standing Committee on Ethnic Studies.

At its 10th meeting of the year on April 1, the Faculty Council reviewed the University’s draft re-accreditation self-study and discussed the College fellows program.

The Council next meets on April 22. The preliminary deadline for the May 5 Faculty meeting is April 20 at 9:30 a.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Samuel P. Huntington service set

A memorial service for Samuel P. Huntington, who was the Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor at Harvard, will be held on April 22 at 3 p.m. in the Memorial Commons.

ART mirrors life

The arty front of the Zero Arrow Theatre mirrors a rare blue sky and some stately Cambridge edifices.

ERRATUM

In the Harvard Gazette story “Training the talent in trouble spots,” which appeared in the March 19 issue, David Bangsberg was incorrectly identified in a caption. Bangsberg is the director of the Global Health Scholars Program. The Gazette regrets the error. For more information about the program and the Harvard Initiative for Global Health, visit www.globalhealth.harvard.edu/ibd/cig.doi.

Writers:
Corydon Ireland (corydon.ireland@harvard.edu)
Alvin Powell (alvin.powell@harvard.edu)
Colleen Walsh (colleen.walsh@harvard.edu)

Special Areas: B.D. Cohen, senior communications officer for University Science (bd.cohen@harvard.edu)

Chief Photographer: Justin Ide (justin.ide@harvard.edu)
Photographers: John Chase (john.chase@harvard.edu)
Rosie Linclon (rosie.lincoln@harvard.edu)
Stefania Mitchell (stefania.mitchell@harvard.edu)
Kris Snibbe (kris.snibbe@harvard.edu)
Katharine C. Cohain (k Cohain)

Imaging Specialist: Gail Osinn photos.service@harvard.edu/ (617) 495-1692

Web: http://www.harvard.edu
Web Production: Peggy Bustamante, Max Daniels
Contact: webmaster@harvard.edu

President’s Office Hours

President Drew Faust will hold office hours for students in her Massachusetts Hall office on the following dates: Thursday, April 23, 4-5 p.m.

Sign-up begins at 2:30 p.m. Individuals are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis. A Harvard student ID is required.
In the first lines of “The Waste Land,” a touchstone of modernist poetry from 1922, T.S. Eliot offers an ambiguous view of the very month we are in:

April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.

On the contrary, April is a fine month. This Friday (April 3) brings to Harvard “The Waste Land and Other Poems,” a dramatic reading of work by one of the University’s most famous literary progeny.

The event features actors Dame Eileen Atkins and Brian Dennehy. Eliot’s words “cut into our consciousness with the sharpness of a diamond,” said British novelist Josephine Hart, quoting poetry the Nobel Prize committee that tapped Eliot for that honor in 1948.

“The mind is really changed by listening to Eliot,” she added, during a trans-Atlantic conversation this week from her London home. Hart, a self-described “Irish word child,” is the author of the bestselling “Damage” and other novels. For several years she has produced a month-long Poetry Hour at the British Library.

“At one performance, attended by Eliot’s widow, was Sir Ronald Cohen M.B.A. ’69. ‘He was so stunned,’” Hart (See Eliot, next page)

By Corydon Ireland

Harvard News Office

Despite challenging times, 29,112 students apply to Harvard this year

Harvard’s financial aid program made the critical difference in leading many of the nation’s and the world’s best students to apply to Harvard College in these challenging economic times. A record 29,112 students applied for admission this year, compared to 27,462 last year. Enhanced a number of times recently, Harvard’s undergraduate financial aid program next year will be the most generous in its history, with $147 million in scholarships, an 8 percent increase from last year and a 167 percent increase over the past decade.

“For those aspiring to a Harvard education and for those currently at Harvard who come from families coping with job losses, home foreclosures, shrinking home equity, and the depletion of savings and retirement funds, our renewed program arrived at a crucial time,” said William R. Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid. “Financial aid enables students with modest financial resources to believe Harvard is possible for them. Once they are here, the new program ensures they have the same academic and extracurricular opportunities as their more affluent classmates. The unwavering commitment of Michael Smith, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Evelyn Hammond, dean of Harvard College, and President Drew Faust to keep Harvard open to talented students from all economic backgrounds sends a clear and compelling message to students and families everywhere,” he said.

Seventy percent of Harvard students receive some form of financial aid, with close to 60 percent receiving need-based scholarships. The average total student aid package is likely to be more than $40,000, about 75 percent of the total cost of attendance.

In December 2007, Harvard announced a sweeping new low-interest financial aid calculation, and eliminating loans for all students. Nearly 25 percent of the admitted group are eligible for the original Harvard Financial Aid Initiative, which asks for no parental contribution from those with annual incomes under $60,000 and reduces contributions from families with incomes of $60,000 to $80,000.

The record applicant pool resulted in the most competitive admissions process in the history of Harvard College. Only 7 percent of the applicants were admitted on March 31. Last year, 7.9 percent were admitted.

Sarah C. Donahue, director of financial aid, and her colleagues will be available to talk with admitted students and their families who have concerns or questions about how to finance a Harvard education, including families who may not have applied for financial aid but who are interested in the wide range of available payment options. Our program offers assistance to all students and families, ranging from competitive monthly payment plan to the opportunity to prepay tuition at current rates or extend payments up to 15 years,” she said.

“Students and their families need to be aware that there are other forms of financial assistance such as the Faculty Aid Program, the Harvard College Research Program, and the Dean’s Summer Research Program that enable students to create paid partnerships with faculty members on academic projects of mutual interest,” said Meg Brooks Swift, director of student employment and the Harvard College Research Program.

By standard measures of academic talent, including test scores and academic performance in school, this year’s applicant pool reflects an unprecedented level of excellence. For example, more than 2,900 scored a perfect 800 on their SAT critical reading test; 3,500 scored 800 on the SAT math; and nearly 3,700 were ranked first in their high school class.

More than 60 percent of those admitted are men, the reverse of last year’s class, which was 50.7 percent female. A record 10.9 percent of admitted students are from Latino backgrounds, 10.8 percent are African Americans, 17.6 percent are Asian Americans, and 1.3 percent are Native Americans.

Geographic representation remained similar to last year’s. More than 24 percent of the admitted students are from the mid-Atlantic, 21 percent from the Western and Mountain States, 18 percent from the South, 16 percent from New England, 11 percent from the Midwest, and 10 percent from the U.S. territories and abroad. Foreign citizens comprise 9 percent of the admitted students. In addition, a significant number of other entering students will bring an international perspective, including exchange Americans who have lived abroad, 134 U.S. dual citizens, and 71 U.S. permanent residents.

Together, foreign citizens, U.S. duals, and U.S. permanent residents comprise more than 19 percent of the class. A total of 82 countries are represented in the Class of 2013.

Students’ academic interests remained very similar to that of last year’s Class of 2012. About 25 percent intend to concentrate in the biological sciences, 24 percent in...
Admissions

(Continued from previous page)

the social sciences, 23 percent in the humanities, 10.5 percent in engineering, 8 percent in the natural sciences, 11.5 percent in mathematics, 2.2 percent in computer science, and 0.4 were undecided.

The statement of 2010 will bring extraordinary extracurricular talents across a wide range of endeavors. Major activities cited by students as extracurricular interests are music and other expressive and performing arts (44.2 percent), debate and political activities, including student government (31.1 percent), writing and journalism (21.4 percent), and social service (20.1 percent). In addition, 56.5 percent of the class expect to participate in recreational, intramural, or intercollegiate athletics.

“The new class is excellent in so many ways — in their accomplishments, of course, and also in their personal qualities. The best applicant/ae is a tremendous advantage to us in the recruitment and admissions process,” said Marlyn E. McGrath, director of admissions. “Alumni/ae involvement was more important than ever this year as the Admissions Committee had to choose from so many highly qualified applicants. We are enormously grateful to alumni/ae, parents, and friends who worked so hard and so effectively on our behalf.”

Receńt is the foundation of Har- vard’s strength. Nearly 70 percent of all admitted students and 92 percent of minority candidates were involved with Harvard College Board Search List that helped launch Harvard’s outreach program for the Class of 2013. Staff will visit nearly 60 cities this spring, targeting the high school juniors of 2013. Staff will visit nearly 60 cities this spring, targeting the high school juniors of 2013. Staff will visit nearly 60 cities this spring, targeting the high school juniors of 2013.

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Admissions

(Continued from previous page)

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Cohen had just read the Arts Task Force report, said Stephen Greenblatt, Cogon University Professor of the Humanities, who chaired the committee that released the document late last year.

“He very generously and enthusiastically and admirably realized the event he had encountered the book that changed his life. Arthur Symons’ ‘The Symbolist Movement in Literature’ introduced him to Rimbaud, Verlaine, and other poets at the leading edge of the English modernist movement. Thanks to those influences, said Hart, we now have ‘the fiercely internal persona and the fierce personal drive that the new class is excellent in so many ways — in their accomplishments, of course, and also in their personal qualities. The best applicant/ae is a tremendous advantage to us in the recruitment and admissions process,” said Marlyn E. McGrath, director of admissions. “Alumni/ae involvement was more important than ever this year as the Admissions Committee had to choose from so many highly qualified applicants. We are enormously grateful to alumni/ae, parents, and friends who worked so hard and so effectively on our behalf.”

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creased by more than 13 percent. Because of that situation, competition for funding has become even stiffer, and the funding that has been available has tended to go to more established researchers with “safer” proposals. In fact, the average age at which researchers now receive their first R01 grant, the major grant that is seen as establishing their independent careers, is 43.

Neurobiologist Wilson echoed precisely that point. “This award makes it possible for me to pursue a new line of research directions that are more adventurous than the research I would otherwise be able to pursue. It’s a difficult funding climate right now, and so I feel especially lucky and grateful for the financial security this award provides to my lab for the next few years,” she said.

Similarly, Hochskindler noted that “support from the HHMI will allow me to go into directions which I would have otherwise not been able to do in the current funding situation. For example, I will be able to invest in new tools and technologies to study pluripotency and reprogramming and hire people to bring new expertise into my lab.”

“We saw a tremendous opportunity for HHMI to impact the research community by freeing promising scientists to pursue their best ideas during this early stage of their careers,” said HHMI President Thomas R. Cech about the institute’s $200 million investment in the young researchers. “At the same time, we hope that our investment in these 50 faculty will free the resources of other agencies to support the work of other outstanding early career scientists.”

HHMI announced the new Early Career Scientist program a year ago, and launched a nationwide competition “seeking applications from the nation’s best early career scientists.” Those working in all areas of basic biological and biomedical research and areas of chemistry, physics, computer science, and engineering that are directly related to biology or medicine were invited to apply. The competition drew more than 2,000 applicants.

HHMI’s Bernstein, who is affiliated with the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, said the HHMI six-year, nonrenewable appointment gives “our laboratory a wonderful opportunity to pursue hypotheses and potentially risky new research directions aimed at understanding how genome function is regulated in mammalian development and disease.”

“I am thrilled and honored by this opportunity to join such a distinguished group of scientists,” said Wag-

gers, whose laboratory is at the Joslin Diabetes Center. “I am particularly happy to share this honor with two colleagues in the SCRIB department, Konrad Hochskindler and Kevin Egan. The three of us established our labs at roughly the same time, and have collaborated and supported one another throughout.”

For more information, www.harvardscience.harvard.edu/culture-society/articles/five-harvard-named-hhmi-early-career-scientists

A mother’s criticism strikes nerve

Distinctive neural activity seen in formerly depressed daughters

By Amy Lavoie
PAS Communications

Formerly depressed women show patterns of brain activity when they are criticized by their mothers that are distinctly different from the patterns shown by never-depressed controls, according to a new study from Harvard University. The participants reported being completely well and fully recovered, yet their neural activity resembled that which has been observed in depressed individuals in other studies.

The study, which appears in the current issue of the journal Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging, was led by Jill M. Hooley, professor of psychology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard. Hooley’s co-authors were Holly Parker, also of Harvard, and Staci Gruber, Julien Guil-laumot, Jadwiga Rogowska, and Deborah research Yurgelun-Todd of Harvard-affiliated McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass.

“We found that even though our formerly depressed participants were fully well, had no symptoms, and felt fine, different things were happening in their brains when they were exposed to personal criticism,” says Hooley. “What’s interesting to us about these findings is that although these women were fully recovered, at the level of the brain they were not back to normal.”

The study included 23 female participants, 12 of whom had no history of depression or any other mental illness and 11 of whom had previously experienced one or more depressive episodes, but had reported no symptoms for an average of 20 months. To an observer, both the control group and the formerly depressed appeared completely healthy.

While inside an fMRI scanner, the participants listened to 30-second audio recordings of remarks from their mothers. Some comments were praising, some were critical, and others were neutral in content. The comments were previously recorded over the telephone with the permission of the mothers. The participants were also asked to rate their mood on a scale from 1 to 5 after hearing the different kinds of remarks.

Despite being healthy and reporting symptom free, formerly depressed individuals in a potentially threatening stimuli. Previous research has shown similar activity in these neural systems among individuals who are currently depressed. “When these formerly depressed participants are processing criticism, some brain areas thought to be involved in emotion regulation are less active, and the amygdala is actually more active, compared to the healthy controls,” says Hooley. “We know that this is not linked to them being symptomatic now. These findings tell us that even when people are fully recovered from an episode of depression, their ability to process criticism is still different — and probably not in a good way.”

What the researchers don’t know is whether this type of activity within these brain systems exists prior to the development of a depressive episode, or if this activity could be a kind of scar left on the brain by a past episode of depression, says Hooley.

Previous studies have shown that living in a critical family environment increases rates of relapse in depression, and so use of criticism in this study is particularly important and applicable to real life.

Care was taken to avoid placing the formerly depressed individuals in a potentially harmful situation. The researchers ensured that the criticisms were not too extreme. Mothers provided the critical remarks in a very specific format, and the remarks were in some cases new to the daughters. Examples of the criticisms included statements about tattoos or body piercing, failing to send thank-you notes, or being ungrateful and untidy.

To protect participants, the criticisms were required to concern topics that the daughters had previously heard about from their mothers, although the praising remarks were in some cases new to the daughters.

“We made sure that everybody left in a good frame of mind, and still had a good relationship with their mother,” says Hooley. “That was crucial.”

The research was funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health. amy.lavoie@harvard.edu
Finance scholar Chetty named professor of economics

By Amy Laviole
FAS Communications

Raj Chetty, a public economist whose work focuses on social insurance and tax policy, has been appointed professor of economics in Harvard University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), effective April 1.

appointment

Chetty, 29, was previously professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

“Raj Chetty is a distinguished scholar who has made significant contributions to the study of public finance, social insurance, and taxation,” says Stephen Ross, dean of social science in FAS. “These areas of immense importance right now, and he will be a great asset to the Department of Economics. Without question his work will be of continuing relevance in our current economic landscape.”

Chetty has published papers in leading journals on a range of topics related to government policy. One recent study focuses on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a $50 billion program that gives low-income individuals in the United States cash subsidies to work more. Because the program is very complex, many individuals do not know that increasing their earnings will increase the amount of money they get from the government.

Chetty ran a randomized experiment providing simple information about the incentives created by the EITC to 40,000 EITC claimants in Chicago. The experiment showed that providing simple information substantially magnified the effects of the program on subsequent work decisions and reduced poverty rates. Traditional economic theories ignore the importance of imparting information, and Chetty has developed new models of tax policy that will allow economists to take the lack of communication into account in order to design better policies.

Chetty has also studied the effects of risk on households and their implications for optimal social welfare policy. He has shown that an individual’s spending commitments, such as mortgage payments, affect his or her risk aversion, and make the optimal size of government welfare programs much larger than existing theories predict. His research has also demonstrated that unemployment benefits have beneficial effects by permitting individuals who could not otherwise afford to remain out of work to take more time to find a suitable job.

Chetty is co-director of the Public Economics Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research and editor of the Journal of Public Economics. He has been awarded three National Science Foundation grants for his research, including a CAREER award, the NSF’s most prestigious grant for young researchers. He was named one of the best young economists of the past decade by The Economist magazine. Most recently, he was awarded the 2008 American Young Economist Award and an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship.

Chetty received his A.B. in 2000 and his Ph.D. in economics in 2003, both from Harvard.

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More information and multimedia, www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2009/03/05/11-renewal.html

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SPONSORS WRAP-UP

Women’s Lightweight Crew
Holy Cross/Smith
1/3

Men’s Baseball (4-16; 2-2 league)

L at New Orleans
9-11
L, l at Columbia
3-6, 6-4
W, W at Penn
6-4, 15-11

* Does not include results of April 1 game vs. Holy Cross

Men’s Golf
UC Riverside
307/305

Men’s Lacrosse (5-2; 1-0)

W Presbyterian
17-2

Women’s Lacrosse (4-5; 1-1)

W Yale
8-5

Sailing

Owen, Mosbacher and Knaip Trophies
10/20

Dulyn Trophy Women’s Team 2009
2/10

Boston Dinghy Club Cup
1/18

Softball (15-7; 3-1)

W, W Bryant
2-1, 8-1
W, L Columbia
1-0, 0-2
W, W Penn
3-1, 5-2

Men’s Tennis (8-7)

W at UC Irvine
3-4
W at San Diego
2-5

Women’s Tennis (7-7)

W at Santa Clara
7-0
W at Cal State Northern
5-2

Men’s Volleyball (10-6; 5-1 league)

W at NVU
3-2
W at Sacred Heart
3-2

Women’s Water Polo (7-9)

W at UC Davis
3-5
W at Cal State Monterey Bay
17-10

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

The week ahead (Home games in bold)

Thursday, April 2

Softball
Rhode Island (DH)
3-5/3 p.m.

Friday, April 3

M Tennis
Columbia
2 p.m.

W Tennis
Columbia
2 p.m.

T&T
Sam Howell Invitational
TBA

Saturday, April 4

Baseball

Cornell (DH)
noon

Clemson

M WMW Crew
San Diego Crew Classic
all day

Crew

Brown
9 a.m.

MLW Crew
San Diego Crew Classic
9 a.m.

Crew

Columbia
9 a.m.

M Golf
Yale Spring Opener
TBA

W Golf
2009 Brown Invitational
TBA

T&T
Penn Invitational
9 a.m.

M Tennis
Cornell
2 p.m.

W Tennis
Cornell
2 p.m.

Lacrosse
Cornell
1 p.m.

Lacrosse
Cornell
1 p.m.

Lacrosse
Penn

Sailing
Delaware Trophy Women’s Interscholastic
TBA

Sailing
Central States Team
TBA

Sailing
Southern New England Team Race
TBA

Sailing
Tyrrell Trophy
TBA

M Tennis
Princeton (DH)
12:30 p.m.

W Tennis
Lowry Marymount
3 p.m.

Water Polo

Hartford
TBA

Water Polo

Brown
6 p.m.

Sunday, April 5

Baseball

Princeton (DH)
12:30 p.m.

Clemson

M WMW Crew
Brown
9 a.m.

Crew

Virginia
6 a.m.

Sailing
Central States Team
TBA

Sailing
Southern New England Team Race
TBA

Water Polo

Tyrrell Trophy
TBA

M Tennis
Princeton (DH)
12:30 p.m.

W Tennis
Lowry Marymount
3 p.m.

Water Polo

UCLA
6 p.m.

Water Polo

Connecticut College
4 p.m.

Visit www.gocrimson.com for complete schedule, the latest scores, and Harvard sports information or call the Crimson Sportsline (617) 496-1383.
Women's lacrosse defeat Yale for first Ivy win

**Crimson hold off the Bulldog's fight**

By Gervis A. Menzies Jr.

Harvard News Office

Yale was far from done, answering Halpern's goal with three unanswered tallies, evening the score at 5-5. But filling the offensive vacuum, Martin picked up where Halpern left off, posting three more goals in the final 11 minutes of the game. This late drive proved to be too much for the Bulldogs, who could not get past the Crimson defense to find the back of the net.

Crimson goaltender Kerry Clark, who notched five saves in the contest, was critical in the win. Challenged late in the game, the freshman came up with several huge saves for Harvard.

The Crimson, who going into Saturday's game had dropped four of their last five, have struggled in close games this year, but managed this time to pull together for their fourth win of the season.

Halpern, who scored the first goal of the match just 69 seconds into the game, freed herself from her defender with a dazzling stutter-step move, immobilizing the Yale defense long enough to fire the ball in. Minutes later, Yale capitalized on a Crimson penalty to tie the game at one goal apiece.

Harvard responded with nine consecutive goals, eventually going into the half up 4-2. The Crimson penalty to tie the game was clearly a team effort.

The Crimson, who were first and second respectively in the Ivy League in goals, points, and shots per game — provided more than enough offensive fuel for the Crimson, scoring a combined seven goals to guide the Crimson to an 8-5 victory over Yale.

Crimson goaltender Kerry Clark, who finished with at least three goals, was named the EIVA Hay Division Player of the Week on Monday (March 30). The Big Red, ranked No. 4 in the country, are 6-1 this season; their only loss came at the hands of No. 1 University of Virginia.

**Crimson volleyball survive NYU, Sacred Heart**

Despite falling behind 0-2 at New York University (NYU) on Saturday (March 28) and 1-2 at Sacred Heart on Sunday (March 29), the Harvard men's volleyball team still fought through, taking both matches in five games. Senior captain Brady Weissbourd, who finished with 31 kills, a career-high 12 blocks, and seven digs against NYU, followed his performance with another 31-kill match, six blocks, a career-high 15 digs, and two service aces, and was named the EIVA Hay Division Player of the Week on Monday (March 30). The Crimson have now won seven of their last eight and have won four straight to improve their record to 10-6.

**Lightweight crew win two weekend races**

On Sunday (March 29), the Radcliffe lightweight crew opened things off right, taking home two first-place finishes at Holy Cross. The varsity eight finished with a time of 6:35 — four seconds ahead of the Holy Cross Crusaders and eight seconds ahead of the Smith Pioneers. The Black and White also captured the novice eight, finishing just a second ahead of Smith in the event. Radcliffe was the runner-up in the second varsity eight race with a time of 7:29.1.

Radcliffe returns to action on Saturday (April 4) in D.C. for the Class of 2004 Cup race at Georgetown.
Mechanism identified that directs stem cells to destination

How stem cells find their way around

By B.D. Cohen
Harvard News Office

Harvard Stem Cell Institute (HSCI) researchers have for the first time identified in mice a cellular mechanism that directs stem cells to their ultimate destination in the body.

The finding in blood stem cells by HSCI co-director David Scadden and colleagues holds the promise of greatly increasing the efficiency of the bone marrow transplants used to treat various forms of cancer and has enormous implications for future therapies utilizing all forms of stem cells.

“Figuring out the mechanisms that tell stem cells how to get to where they need to go is a major problem when we’re thinking about stem cell therapies,” said Scadden, who is the director of the Center for Regenerative Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and is also the co-chairman of Harvard’s new Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology.

Shelly Lowe is completing her doctorate in Indian student success and services.
Medical School’s Rock played key role in creation of oral contraceptive

By Alvin Powell
Harvard News Office

The birth control pill, which revolutionized contraception and sparked a cultural reassessment of the purpose of sex and the sanctity of life, was developed by a Harvard fertility doctor who believed people should have children early in life — and as many as they could afford.

John Rock, a Harvard College and Harvard Medical School (HMS) graduate who spent his career at Harvard Medical School and the Free Hospital for Women — today Brigham and Women’s Hospital — invested as much effort into figuring out how to make infertile women fertile as he did finding out how to use hormones in an oral contraceptive.

John C. Rock (right) invested as much effort into figuring out how to make infertile women fertile as he did finding out how to use hormones in an oral contraceptive.

The symposium featured presentations from the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers’ Margaret Marsh.

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Rock, who retired in 1965 and died in 1984, worked for years to understand human reproduction. His findings, together with those of colleagues and collaborators, today provide an important foundation for reproductive medicine. His work highlighted the early development of the human embryo and the timing of a woman’s ovulation. He was the first to use hormones to treat infertility, and he conducted experiments in in vitro fertilization that would lay the groundwork for the birth of Louise Brown, the world’s first test-tube baby, in 1978.

Rock’s life and career were the subject of an afternoon symposium March 26 at Harvard Medical School’s Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine. Sponsored by Countway’s Center for the History of Medicine, the event celebrated the opening of Rock’s papers to researchers and academics. The collection includes a wide array of letters, reports, scientific documents, photographs, and even slides from some of his experiments.

The library is also hosting a display of Rock’s papers, which includes a brochure for Enovid, the first oral contraceptive approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Enovid, a combination of norethindrone and mestranol, was approved for use to treat menstrual disorders in 1957 and then as a contraceptive in 1960.

The symposium featured presentations on Rock’s life and science by Rutgers University Interim Chancellor and Distinguished Professor of History Margaret Marsh and by Wanda Ronner, clinical associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania. Together, the two wrote about Rock in their 2008 book, “The Fertility Doctor: John Rock and the Reproductive Revolution.”

Other speakers included Elizabeth Siegel Watkins, professor and director of graduate studies at the University of California at San Francisco’s History of Health Sciences Program, and George Zeidstein, visiting distinguished fellow at the Center for Population and Development Studies at the Harvard School of Public Health. Watkins spoke about the rise and fall of the contraceptive Norplant, while Zeidstein spoke about global perspectives on family planning and reproductive health.

Rock’s medical career got its start in an unlikely place: a banana plantation in Guatemala. Rock’s father sent Rock, then a somewhat aimless 19-year-old, south to make some money and gain experience. Though Rock disliked both the work and the tropics, he became friendly with the plantation doctor and began to work with him in the hospital there. Rock was eventually fired from the job, and, though he came home in disgrace, he enrolled at Harvard College and then continued his studies at Harvard Medical School.

Rock did his residency at the Free Hospital for Women beginning in 1920 and continued working there for much of his career. Marsh said that Rock, a practicing Catholic, was a strong supporter of families. He had several children of his own and numerous grandchildren. He counseled young couples to have as many children as they should afford to support, but also believed that couples should be able to stop having babies when they felt their families were complete. His research into in vitro fertilization was aimed at helping infertile women conceive, even though his later research led to the pill.

“Research on human reproduction cannot be separated neatly into one category of infertility and another of contraception,” Marsh said.

Rock did not consider himself primarily a laboratory-based researcher and said that all his work was motivated by his patients’ needs, noted Marsh. Indeed, he was dependent on key colleagues such as Arthur Herzig, with whom he studied the development of the human ovum and the early embryo, Miriam Menkin, with whom he conducted in vitro fertilization experiments, and Gregory Pincus, who had accomplished in vitro fertilization of rabbits in 1934 and with whom Rock developed the pill. As important as Rock’s colleagues were the roughly 1,000 women who agreed to participate in the experiments that made his work possible.

“For him, research was a means to an end, never an end in itself,” Marsh said. “You could say his patients’ needs and longings shaped the problems he addressed — either they were unable to conceive or had more children than they wanted.”

APPOINTMENTS

Blumenthal is national coordinator for health information technology

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced March 20 the selection of David Blumenthal as the Obama administration’s choice for national coordinator for health information technology.

A physician at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Blumenthal is also director of the MGH Institute for Health Policy, Samuel O. Thier Professor of Medicine, and professor of health care policy at Harvard Medical School. In addition, he is the director of the Harvard University Interfaculty Program for Health Systems Improvement.

As the national coordinator, Blumenthal will lead the implementation of a nationwide interoperable, privacy-protected, health information technology infrastructure as called for in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

ARRA includes a $19.5 billion investment in health information technology, which will save money, improve quality of care for patients, and make the U.S. health care system more efficient, according to the HHS release. Blumenthal will lead the effort at HHS to modernize health care information technology by 2014, thereby reducing health costs for the federal government by an estimated $12 billion over 10 years.

“I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve President Obama and the American people in the effort to harness the power of health information technology to modernize our health care system,” Blumenthal said. “As a primary care physician who has used an electronic record to care for patients every day for 10 years, I understand the enormous potential of this technology.”

Howard Koh tapped for assistant secretary for health

President Barack Obama announced March 25 his intent to nominate Howard Koh, the Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), to be assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Koh is also the School’s associate dean for health practice and director of the Division of Public Health Practice.

The U.S. assistant secretary for health is responsible for the major health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and National Institutes of Health (NIH), and is the leading health adviser to the secretary of HHS.

Koh has served as the principal investigator of multiple research grants related to community-based participatory research, cancer prevention, health disparities, tobacco control, and emergency preparedness. He is also director of the HSPH Center for Public Health Preparedness.

From 1997 to 2003, Koh served as commissioner of Public Health for the commonwealth of Massachusetts. In that post he emphasized the power of prevention for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, which included four public health hospitals and a staff of more than 3,000 professionals.
Harvard Catalyst grants encourage greater faculty collaboration

By B.D. Cohen and Thomas Ulrich
Harvard News Office and Harvard Catalyst

Scientists from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics are measuring how patients’ posture affects MRI imaging of their breathing.

Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Law School researchers are developing an open-source translational research network. Laboratories at Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute are collaboratively investigating whether polymer bacterial micelles can act as cancer vaccines.

These three highly diverse collaborative studies are among the first 62 to be selected for $50,000 in funding from Harvard Catalyst, the new pan-University organization to jointly address important scientific questions.

The 62 grants, of $50,000 each, are bringing together 218 investigators from 23 Harvard Schools and academic health care centers. The winners were selected from 607 applications — involving 1,448 researchers — submitted in September.

Lee Nadler, dean of clinical and translational research at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and director of Harvard Catalyst, said it was “astounding” that nearly 10 percent of all Harvard faculty applied. “The grants tapped a strong desire among people to collaborate across departments and institutions,” Nadler said, “and have helped us start to build a community of clinical and translational researchers that spans the University.”

Nadler said the grants will stimulate research in three ways:

■ They bring together researchers from different institutions and/or disciplines — people who, in many cases, may never have had the opportunity to collaborate — to jointly address important scientific questions.

■ They provide the means to generate the preliminary data needed to apply for long-term funding, an important consideration for junior investigators in particular as they work to establish independent research programs.

■ They help focus scientific resources and expertise on high-risk, high-impact areas.

“We needed to bring together expertise in radiology, endocrinology, and psychiatry, which would have been difficult to do within any one place,” said Elizabeth Lawson, an instructor at HMS and a pilot grant recipient from MGH. “This grant, and the underlying infrastructure created by Harvard Catalyst, provides a tremendous opportunity for us to collaborate across disciplines and institutions.”

Laura Holen, another HMS instructor and a co-investigator of Lawson’s from Brigham and Women’s Hospital, added, “Liz and I had met once before, but never had a chance to collaborate until this opportunity came along. Working together, we feel strongly that we can bring about a novel approach to thinking about the neurobiology of anorexia nervosa,” the main focus of their grant.

HMS Dean Jeffrey Flier said the response to the grant program “demonstrates the drive and creativity and excellence. Competing for the awards program acts as a significant force in restoring public trust in government by promoting public sector creativity and excellence. Competing programs demonstrate innovative solutions within a host of policy areas, and since the competition’s inception, over 400 government programs across all jurisdiction levels have been recognized and have collectively received more than $20 million in grants to support dissemination efforts.

In addition to encouraging the adaptation of innovative practices worldwide, award winners provide models of good governance taught in government school curricula. Such programs inform research and academic study around issues of democratic governance at HMS and serve as the basis for case studies for present and future public practitioners. To date, more than 450 Harvard courses and over 2,250 courses worldwide are teaching translational governance in American government case studies.

Finalists of the 2009 Innovations Awards will be announced on May 18 and will present before the National Selection Committee, chaired by David Gergen, professor of public service at HKS. This event, which will be held on May 27, is free and open to the public. The 2009 Innovations Awards winners will be announced in September, and applicants for the 2010 awards are encouraged to apply at www.innovation-saward.harvard.edu.

Study: Key to happiness is listen to others

By Amy Lavole
FAS Communications

Want to know what will make you happy? Then ask a total stranger — or so says a new study from Harvard University, which shows that another person’s experience is often more informative than your own best guess.

The study, which appears in the current issue of Science, was led by Daniel Gilbert, professor of psychology at Harvard and author of the 2007 bestseller “Stumbling on Happiness,” along with Matthew Killingsworth and Rebecca Eyer, also of Harvard, and Timothy Wilson of the University of Virginia.

“If you want to know how much you will enjoy an experience, you are better off knowing how much someone else enjoyed it than knowing anything about the experience itself,” says Gilbert. “Rather than closing our eyes and imagining the future, we should examine the experience of others.”

Previous research in psychology, neuropsychology, and the sciences of happiness has shown that people have difficulty predicting what they will like and how much they will like it, which leads them to make a wide variety of poor decisions. Interventions aimed at improving the accuracy with which people imagine future events have been generally unsuccessful.

So rather than trying to improve human imagination, Gilbert and his colleagues sought to eliminate it from the equation by asking people to predict how much they would enjoy a future event about which they knew absolutely nothing — except how much a total stranger had enjoyed it. Amazingly enough, those people made extremely accurate predictions.

In one experiment, women predicted how much they would enjoy a “speed date” with a man. Some women read the man’s personal profile and saw a photograph, and other women learned nothing whatsoever about the man, but did learn how another woman (who had never met him) had enjoyed dating him. Women who learned about a previous woman’s experience did a much better job of predicting their own enjoyment of the speed date than did women who studied the man’s profile and photograph.

Interestingly, both groups of women mistakenly expected the profile and photo to lead to greater accuracy, and after the experiment was over both groups said they would strongly prefer to have the profile and photograph of their next date.

In the second experiment, two groups of participants were asked to predict how they would feel if they received negative personality feedback from a peer. Some participants were shown a complete written copy of the feedback. Others were shown nothing, and learned only how a total stranger had felt upon receiving the feedback. The latter group more accurately predicted their own reactions to the negative feedback. Once again, participants mistakenly guessed that a written copy of the feedback would be more informative than knowledge of a total stranger’s experience.

“People do not realize what a powerful source of information another person’s experience can be,” says Gilbert, “because they mistakenly believe that everyone is remarkably different from everyone else. But the fact is that an alien who knew all the likes and dislikes of a single human being would know a great deal about the species. People believe that the best way to predict how happy they will be in the future is to know what their future holds, but what they should really want to know is how happy those who’ve been to the future actually turned out to be.”

Gilbert’s research was funded by the National Science Foundation.
Experts get down to business at 2009 Humanitarian Action Summit

By Cordyon Ireland
Harvard News Office

In December 2000, Dorothy Sewe and her family — fleeing tribal violence in Kenya — escaped across the border into Tanzania. In the first few days, all 17 b HUDSINS, RHIE T C 080703 176x589 pixels.png

..right 0.0 in 0.0 in a range of sources, has a decidedly systematic approach. While at Harvard, Rhie is working on the commissioned, three-move-...ent piece "Songs Without Words," inspired by the poems of early modernist Korean poet Kim Sowol, as well as other champion music and orchestral pieces. "At some point in my career as a composer," Rhie told a crowd at a lecture in the Radcliffe Gymnasium on March 30, "I had to learn to be very analytical about what makes a piece of music work.”

As a result, the Korean native has pulled together concepts from disparate artistic and cultural traditions as well as a variety of academic disciplines in order to explore and interpret the musical world. Employing art, architecture, literature — even math — as inspiration, Rhie seeks to find ways contemporary music, in the absence of strict form or tonal structure, "can clearly convey its musical goal.”

Employing art, architecture, literature — even math — as inspiration, Kay Rhie seeks to find ways contemporary music, in the absence of strict form or tonal structure, 'can clearly convey its musical goal.'

By Colleen Walsh
Harvard News Office

"Azaleas," by Sowol.

The notion of comparing the English and the Korean versions of the texts intrigued Rhie, who wondered what it would be like to "line up two languages that have such inherently different speech rhythms.”

That's exactly what she did.

With the help of Harvard sophomore Blake Allen, who is part of the Radcliffe Research Partnership Program that connects undergraduates with Radcliffe Fellows, the two recorded both the Korean and English versions of the texts. Using speech analysis software, Allen then studied the vowel and consonant components in each reading and developed a vowel chart with which Rhie was able to create corresponding musical pitch intervals.

Using the vowel chart, "I was able to create my own harmonic map [that allowed me] to come up with the harmonic sequences of certain sections [of the piece]."

This simultaneously analytical and inspired approach has paid off for Rhie, whose compositions convey a depth of emotional range and character. Expressive tones are often paired with moving rhythmic structures to create haunting and evocative aural sequences.

"This panels of long and loss titled "Azaleas," by Sowol. David McCann, Korea Foundation Pro- fessor of Korean Literature and Director of the Korea Institute, recently translated the poems. The works were familiar to Rhie, who recalled memorizing some of them as a young girl in junior high school in Korea, where they are cherished. Their rhythmic structure, she said, inspired by the rhythm and flow of Korean folk song, lend the works an unforgettable quality.

The 2009 Humanitarian Action Summit, sponsored by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HII), was the third of a series that began in 2006 and continued in 2007. (A fourth is planned for 2010.) Sir John Holmes, an independent observer of the United Nations, delivered the conference’s most thorough assessment of present reality. (McElroy’s research is related to the "new norm: extreme weather": an accelerating pace of floods, drought, heat waves, and catastrophic storms.

And climate change is just one of the...
Urban areas offer hidden biodiversity

Specialist highlights need for innovative urban design

By Alvin Powell

Harvard News Office

Urban areas around the world are places of hidden biodiversity that need to be protected and encouraged through smart urban design, said an authority in green city design.

Kristina Hill, associate professor and director of the Program in Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia, said considering biodiversity in urban design is particularly important as human density in coastal areas continues to increase. These areas are not just attractive for their beauty, she said; they’re also critical transition zones from marine to terrestrial and freshwater habitats, and are the sites of nurseries for a host of marine species in the form of salt marshes and eelgrass beds.

New urban plans have to take into account the additional danger of global-warming-induced sea level rise, which threatens to swamp these sensitive areas around the world.

Hill spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at the Geological Lecture Hall on March 18. Her talk, “Urban Ark: Biodiversity and the Future of Cities,” was the inaugural lecture in a new series sponsored by the Harvard Museum of Natural History (HMNH).

The annual series, called “New Directions in EcoPlanning,” presents an opportunity for an exchange of ideas among scientists, urban planners, architects, and experts in other fields, according to HMNH executive director Elisabeth Werby. Werby, who introduced the talk, called Hill “one of the foremost practitioners of ecologically sustainable planning.” Hill earned master’s and doctoral degrees in landscape architecture at Harvard before becoming a faculty member at the University of Washington and the University of Virginia.

In her presentation, Hill discussed studies that showed that urban biodiversity — the number of different species living in cities — was actually higher than that of agricultural regions. Not only was overall biodiversity higher, the biodiversity of native species was also higher, perhaps due to agricultural practices that favor turning large tracts of land over to monoculture of specific food plants and animal species.

One particular area of traditional urban design that Hill targeted for reform is the handling of storm water runoff. As an example, she showed a slide of pristine North-western coastal forest, which originally stood where major cities such as Seattle are now: Those forests not only held a great deal of timber, they also served as natural sponges, absorbing and holding water in the litter on forest floors, filtering sediments out and slowly releasing water to streams and rivers.

The city that replaced them, by contrast, is a place of asphalt and concrete, building roofs and downspouts, drainage pipes and culverts. The entire point of the urban system of handling rainfall runoff is to pump it out of the city and into streams and rivers as quickly as possible. This causes not only enormous pulses of water resulting from periodic storms, it also stirrs up and carries large amounts of sediment. The sediment clouds the formerly clear water and settles over gravel beds that are critical habitat for spawning salmon.

Hill showed examples of how smart design can manage rainwater, using man-made depressions in roadways, applying tiny plants, and building basins to slow water down, clean it up, and allow sediments to settle before the water hits the streams.

“The whole strategy... is to make cities less like an umbrella and more like a sponge,” Hill said.

Innovative thinking about water management is critical in this warming world, Hill said, since projections of climate change suggest sea levels will rise in the coming decades. She showed a variety of different ways to handle enhanced storm surges, suggesting that New York City copy a barriercade used in Amsterdam (the Netherlands) to protect its lowest-lying waterfront. She also suggested an idea to use floating man-made structures that would provide an artificial foundation for planting coastal aquatic vegetation. The structures could be raised or lowered to keep the plants at an appropriate depth, providing additional nursery space for marine creatures or replacing critical areas that are swamped as sea levels rise.

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Relief

(Continued from previous page)

“megatrends” likely to challenge us in the near future, said Holmes, who is the U.N. emergency relief coordinator.

Add to that large-scale hunger as agriculture in Asia and Africa is shaken by environmental pressures; resource conflicts over energy, arable land, and fresh water; population growth and rapid urbanization; a continuing global food crisis; and a growing intensity of regional conflicts where an increasing disrespect for international law is lowering to keep the plants at an appropriate depth, providing additional nursery space for marine creatures or replacing critical areas that are swamped as sea levels rise.

Alvin.Powell@harvard.edu

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Specialist highlights need for innovative urban design

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Alvin.Powell@harvard.edu
Mayor Nir Barkat looks to future

**HBS helps Jerusalem develop ‘competitive advantages’**

By Colleen Walsh
Harvard News Office

The mayor of Jerusalem visited Harvard March 26 and outlined a plan for his city’s economic future, one created with the help of Harvard Business School (HBS).

In a meeting in Ludicke House on the HBS campus, Nir Barkat addressed a small crowd of reporters. Joining him were Michael Porter and Yagil Weinberg, founders of the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy, an HBS initiative that works with private businesses and governments to help nations, regions, and cities develop economic competitiveness.

For the past five years Barkat has been collaborating with the center in an effort to help revitalize Jerusalem. (The center is part of HBS’s Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, which Porter directs.)

“For Jerusalem to become successful we have to learn how to develop Jerusalem’s competitive advantages,” said Barkat. Part of that learning curve, he said, involves the “business cluster” concept popularized by Porter, Bishop William Lawrence University Professor.

A business cluster is a geographic concentration of interconnected companies, suppliers, and associated institutions thought to stimulate economic growth.

Culture tourism, said Barkat, was one industry in Jerusalem that could use the cluster concept to maximize its potential.

Putting culture organizations, tourist guides, and the hotel industry together, he said, makes “one plus one equal three.”

Outsourcing professional (medical and financial) services is important too, said the mayor, as well as developing the health and life sciences. Both could improve the city’s economic status, helped by a young, educated population and strong research hospitals. In the science arena, Jerusalem would focus on particular niches, said Porter, instead of trying to attract large investments in areas like biotech manufacturing.

“Jerusalem will go after niches,” he said — areas like cardiology, cancer, stem cell research — “where Jerusalem has this very unique talent asset.”

A two-state solution that includes a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem would not help his economic plan, said Barkat. “I’ve no doubt in my mind that this model will work much better as a united city,” he said.

Barkat, elected last November, is considered by some a uniting force. He can help bridge the gap between the secular and orthodox populations of the city, they say, as well as those sharply divided by ethnic tension.

A veteran of the First Lebanon War and a successful high-tech entrepreneur, Barkat served as the opposition leader of the city council for five years prior to his election.

The economic overhaul of Jerusalem — both Israel’s largest and poorest city — is a cornerstone of his agenda.

During the event, Barkat presented Porter with a key to the city of Jerusalem. It was a gesture of thanks for the professor’s long-standing collaboration and support.

Before the briefing, Barkat met with business leaders and Harvard faculty members to further brainstorm Jerusalem’s economic future.

HBS’s Michael Porter (left) has had a longstanding interest in the economic health of Jerusalem, whose mayor, Nir Barkat (right), visited the Business School to talk about the city’s future.

Starting in the 1920s, Chinese writer Lin Yutang earned a reputation as an urban essayist and translator who moved easily between the literary cultures of the East and West.

Lin — who had briefly been a graduate student at Harvard — was a witty champion of free speech in an era when the world faced a storm of emerging totalitarian regimes. In 1936, he took up residence in the United States, where he became a sort of cultural go-between.

Lin’s 1935 bestseller, “My Country and My People,” offered Western readers an arresting portrayal of the Chinese mindset of the time. Two years later, “The Importance of Living” argued for the importance of earthly pleasures, including eating, smoking, and aimless leisure.

“Nature loafing,” he observed, “while man alone works for a living.”

But more than culture intrigued the polymathic Lin, who was an inventor too. He worked for decades designing a typewriter for Chinese, a language that depends not on a handful of alphabetic letters but on thousands of picturelike characters.

By 1946, Lin filed a patent for his Chinese-language typewriter, a desktop device 19 inches wide that took nearly all his book profits — $120,000 — to research, develop, and build.

Before his death in 1976, Lin had been nominated for a Nobel Prize. But it was not his literary legacy that attracted literary scholar and cultural historian Jing Tsu — it was the typewriter that had nearly bankrupted him.

Tsu has a Harvard Ph.D. in East Asian languages and civilizations (2001) and was a Junior Fellow at Harvard (2003-04). This year she’s on leave from Yale University to be a Radcliffe Fellow.

Tsu is using the year to write her book (See Tsu, page 28).
PBHA

(Continued from page 6)

The young, idealistic organizers who constituted the Civil Rights Movement sought to achieve, almost exclusively, a single concrete goal: securing for African Americans the right to vote.

We mean everything. It meant the promise of an equal education; it meant that in time African Americans could get public offices in the states, attend college, enter various occupations, hold public and political offices, and most assuredly achieve equal public accommodation.

These later, surrounded by poverty on the west side of Jackson, I questioned me the ball that hardly always won. For much of the week, our group volunteered with the Stewpot Community Service’s afterschool program for children age 4-9. It predates the University of Mississippi and many local areas across the country.

These children knew that. They knew about the importance of being the agents of their own change and they knew that their education was integral to their future success.

We spent a lot of time on this trip talking to African American veterans of the Civil Rights Movement who know all about Mississippi, but the experience of going to them has been perhaps more subtle but no less crucial to the process. This is a crucial right to vote.

As the former governor told me that the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation would often travel around the state to facilitate conversations between blacks and whites in small communities where anger, fear, hatred, and quickness are necessary, the Focolarino”s and their neighbors were always ready to serve or to return. This reciprocity fostered a strong sense of mutual dignity that was always present during our stay.

The people we were serving and their neighbors always realized to serve us in return. This reciprocity fostered a strong sense of mutual dignity that was always present during our stay. These relationships, built on the act of serving and giving others, inspired us to bring our service experience back to Harvard and taught us all the lessons about the potential of service to shape communities.

In Gulfport, Miss., Mary (wearing white cap, sunglasses, yellow shirt) thanks students who painted and renovated her home.

Repair

During the week, our team of focolarino returned to the other building in Gulfport. A woman named Mary, who has lived in the area for about 30 years, owns the houses to some of the houses were destroyed by Katrina. Through terrible weather and with the help of a local focolarino, Mary and her neighbors were able to put up tarps, prime, and paint the exteriors of the houses.

I had the great privilege of spending some time with Mary in her yard.

Knitted Knit 2012

“Apples’ bear fruit.

Vision of a community

“It was so gratifying to have an experience where you could take a lot of pride in what you’re doing and at the end of the day feel content and happy with your self.”

Crisis Ireland ’12

“Would always been curious about the Civil Rights Movement and how it changed American society and every one’s lives. I didn’t know anything about Mississippi, but I decided that it would be interesting not just to read about it but to actually see what was happening and what it happened.”

Reggie Phillips ’12

“I really wanted to kind of be the person to take me with me as I’m learning and to remember all of the interactions and all of the things that I had in me when I got here.”

Diane Ghogomu ’10

“PBHA staff member, keeps an eye out for them both.”

“PBHA staff member, keeps an eye out for them both.”

“A new volunteer system by white Mississippi....”

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“More than 175 Harvard students associated with the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) fanned out last week to partner with community service organizations from the front lines of the Deep South’s Katrina reha...”

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Concerts

Thu., April 2—“Midday Organ Recital.”
(Adolphus Busch Hall, 29 Kirkland St., 12:15 p.m. Free and open to the public. www.harvardartmuseum.org.

Fri., April 3—“Student Music Performance Series.”
(Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, 3:30 p.m. www.harvardmuseum.org.

Fri., April 3—“Love Story in Harvard.”
(Lowell Lecture Hall, 17 Kirkland St., 7 p.m. Tickets are $10. Harvard Box Office.

The Harvard Theatre Collection presents “Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes, 1909-1929: Twenty Years that Changed the World of Art,” an exhibit opening April 15 that highlights more than 200 original documents and art works, and a related symposium April 15-17 featuring almost two dozen speakers and scholars. See dance, page 17, exhibitions, page 18, and conferences, page 19, or for a complete list of events, visit http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/Houghton/Diaghilev_symposium.html#events.

Events for April 2-16, 2009

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George Ducharme’s photos featured at Holyoke Center
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Aster Aweke sings and talks at Learning from Performers
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Filmmakers’ lens
Chinese documentaries shown, discussed at symposium
Page 23

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Sun., April 5—"Celtic Music: Celebrating the Birth of Spring." (Art Museum) An afternoon of Celtic music by the Donegal and a world premiere by Barry [Continued on next page]
Available space

Listings for ongoing exhibitions, health and fitness classes, support and social groups, and screenings and study groups may be listed on a rotating basis. Available information is not run in a particular issue will be retained for later use.

Screenings/studies and support group listings may be reviewed by Jan. 5, 2009. Submit to the editor at DNH@gazette.harvard.edu.
April 1 – 3: Color Forms feature photographs by George Ducharme exploring movement in its fractions of moments, on view in the Holyoke Center April 3-29.

There will be an opening reception Friday, April 3, from 5 to 6 p.m. See exhibitions page, 18.

LEFT “Untitled #1,” photography, 2009

April 3

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April 3-4

**Wiyohpiyata: Lakota Images of the Contested West** opens at the Peabody Museum April 3. There will be a related lecture (see art/design, page 19) and opening reception (see exhibitions, page 18) on April 3 and related talks, tours, and conversations on April 4 (see conferences, page 19). Call (617) 496-1027 or visit www.peabody.harvard.edu for details.

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**April 3**

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April 7

The Music Department presents the Louis C. Elson Lecture—Memento mei: Polyphonic Music in some 15th-century Commemorations for the Dead—Tuesday, April 7, in Paine Hall at 5:15 p.m. The lecture by Margaret Benton of the University of Oxford will incorporate live performance of musical examples. Free and open to all. See humanities, page 20.

April 10

Financial crisis and gender in Russia after WWII—Davis Center (Center for Russian and East European Studies) Yuri Felshtinsky, postdoctoral fellow, Center for Russian and East European Studies; and deputy director, Harvard's Davis Center (Center for Russian and East European Studies) Yuri Felshtinsky, postdoctoral fellow, Center for Russian and East European Studies; and deputy director, Harvard's Davis Center (Center for Russian and East European Studies).

April 11

The Decline of the Ottoman Empire and the Rise of Europe—Davis Center (Center for Russian and East European Studies) Yuri Felshtinsky, postdoctoral fellow, Center for Russian and East European Studies; and deputy director, Harvard's Davis Center (Center for Russian and East European Studies).
April 7
Learning From Performers, Office for the Arts, and the Music Department present a musical conversation with vocalist Aste Wuke Tuesday, April 7. Aste Wuke will discuss her career and creative process and perform vocal selections accompanied by Betlehem Melaku on keyboard and cajon. The event will be moderated by Harvard’s Kay Kaufman Shelemay and take place in the New College Theatre Rehearsal Studio, 10-12 Hyloby St., at 3 p.m. Free and open to the public. (617) 495-8676, www.fas.harvard.edu/offa.

May 9—9th Annual Apple Day.
Orchard Intensive with Michael Phillips.
Arnold Arboretum. Workshop 1: “Home Orchard Basics” at 9 a.m. Workshop 2: “Organic Gardening” at 10 a.m. Cost is $70 for both sessions; 335 morning session only. The Center for Workplace Development offers a wide variety of professional development courses, career development workshops, consulting services, and access to Harvard employees. State-of-the-art training and conference facilities are available to rent at CWRD’s 124 Mt. Auburn St. location. Go to http://harvard.extension.harvard.edu/ris for more details.

May 15 and 16—Biodiversity: How the Climate Crisis is Affecting Our Natural World. Fun and informative two-day workshop presented by the Arnold Arboretum. Participants will gain a better understanding of our planet’s biodiversity and the impact of climate change on the natural world. Cost is $250 per person and includes continental breakfasts and breaks, special full-color booklets, and a marked trail used during daily continuous breakfasts and breaks, special full-color booklets, and a marked trail used during daily continuous visits. (617) 496-2150 to register.

June 22 and 23—Wetland Bird Banding and Osprey Nest Monitoring. Two-day workshop presented by the Arnold Arboretum. Participants will learn to identify and monitor wetland bird species such as ospreys, herons, egrets, and cormorants. Cost is $200 for both days. (617) 495-2930 to register.
April 1-9

**Emergent Visions: Independent Documentaries from China**

Film screenings, directors’ talks, and panel discussions Thursday, April 9-Saturday, April 11. See film, page 17, for more information.

**April 10-11**

**Handling Your Cracklin’ with Roy**

**Roy: Honoring Roy Haynes.**

**From Performers, OfA, Music**

Astra Aweke discusses her career and creative process and performs vocal selections accompanied by Betlehem Melaku on keyboard and ir. Moderated by Kay Kaufman Sheehan, Harvard University. New College Theatre Rehearsal Studio, 10:12 Holyoke St., 3 p.m. Free and open to the public. Also sponsored by the Music Department.

**April 11, 2009**

**Lecture**

**Harvard Museum of Natural History**

**Poet John Ashbery.**

Actor John Lithgow and G. William Dom Harrison, investigative reporter. First auction with the Goodmans precedes the performance groups, activities, and an annual ice skating show. Bright Hockey Center, 79 North Harvard St., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. performance times on April 2—8, 2009.

**April 1-5**

**Lecture**

**School of Arts and Science**

**Community: Trends and Issues for Brazilian Immigrants in Massachusetts.**

**Office of Work and Family (Longwood).**

This event is held in the Belfer Case Study Center.

**April 1-7**

**Lecture**

**Harvard College Library**

**Identities Promote Pop.**

HRU at the Goodridge House, 459 Broadway, 7 p.m., with a Saturday performance. Tickets are $65, Harvard affiliates; $55, Madrony residents. The fee includes the Tuesday night classes, all clay and glazes, and studio access. If interested, call (617) 495-4834.

**Office for the Arts**

**A Lecture**

**Astrid Calle.**

Still from Zoha Kar’s Two Seasons (Lung ejip)

**April 2-8, 2009**

**Harvard University Gazette / 23**
Weight Watchers at Work are available. (617) 495-9629.

Weight Watchers/Work at HDS classes are available. (617) 495-9272.

Lecture

On-site, one hour appointments with Jeffrey Choma, American Kadampa Buddhist Center. Choma teaches meditation and offers introductory meditation classes and seminars. Call (617) 495-9629 to arrange appointments.

On-site, one hour appointments with Karl Berger, Shiatsu (Acupressure) for questions. Taught by Gen Kelsang Choma, American Kadampa Buddhist Center. Choma teaches meditation and offers introductory meditation classes and seminars. Call (617) 495-9629 to arrange appointments.

One-day Fellowships are available Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and every Sunday night at 9 p.m. in Appleton Chapel. Fridays at 12:15 p.m. in the Buttrick Room, Memorial Church. E-mail jonathan.page@hds.harvard.edu for details.

Undergraduate Retreat
Travel to Dexter, Mass., for a 24-hour retreat to learn about faith. The weekend retreat will be in April, date TBA. To sign up, e-mail jonathan.page@hds.harvard.edu.

Graduate Fellowship
Weeks to serve all graduate college women of Harvard with faith journeys, theological inquiry, and spiritual exercises within our lives. Meetings take place Mondays at 9 p.m. in the Buttrick Room, Memorial Church. E-mail choma@harvard.edu for details.

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**Support/space**

Support and Social groups are listed as space permits.

[Supporter](http://www.supporters.harvard.edu/)

**Harvard Student Resources**

Office of Career Services: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Office of Work/Life Resources offers a variety of events for employees. Please contact the office for more information. (617) 349-4100, worklife@harvard.edu, www.hcsource.harvard.edu.

**Smart Recovery**

A social group where you can meet others in recovery, and share your experiences.

**LifeRaft**

A group where people can talk about their grief and bereavement. LifeRaft provides a free, confidential, and informal environment for people to share their stories and experiences with others who have also experienced loss.

**Harvard Student Spouses and Partners Association (HSSPA)**

A support group for Harvard and visiting scholars and partners. The group meets weekly all year long. Please e-mail [hsspa@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:hsspa@fas.harvard.edu) for location and time of meetings.

**Harvard Student Veterans Alumni Organization**

A group for veterans and their families. The organization meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in Andover Chapel for members and their guests. The group is open to all veterans and their families, including spouses and children. **Karen Jackson**, 617-495-3033, karen.jackson@fas.harvard.edu.

**Harvard Trademark Program**

The Harvard Trademark Program is responsible for the registration and protection of Harvard trademarks, service marks, and copyrighted works. The program is responsible for enforcing Harvard's trademark rights, providing legal consultation, financial counseling, and assistance to Harvard employees and students. The program is also responsible for monitoring the use of Harvard trademarks and service marks in the United States and other countries. For more information, please visit [www.trademark.harvard.edu](http://www.trademark.harvard.edu).

**Harvard Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Resources**

The Harvard LGBT Resources include a variety of programs and events for the LGBT community at Harvard. These programs include support groups, social events, and educational programs. The resource center is located in the William James Hall on the Harvard University campus.

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Harvard is not a single place, but a large and varied community. It is comprised of many different schools, departments and offices that are dedicated to research, teaching, and service. Harvard is also an employer of varied locations.

How to Apply:
To apply for an advertised position and/or for more information on those other positions, please visit our Web site at http://www.employment.harvard.edu to upload your resume and cover letter.

Explanation of Job Grades:
Most positions at Harvard are assigned to a job grade (listed below with each posting) based on a number of factors including the position’s duties and responsibilities as well as required skills and knowledge.

The salary ranges for each job grade are available at http://www.employment.harvard.edu. Target hiring rates will fall within the full-time assessment, excluding fringe benefits. These salary ranges are for full-time positions and are adjusted for part-time positions. Services & Traded Goods are not assigned grade levels. The relevant union contract determines salary levels for these positions.

Other Opportunities:
All non-faculty job openings currently available at the University are listed on the Web at http://www.employment.harvard.edu.

Harvard is strongly committed to its policy of equal opportunity and affirmative action. Employment and advancement are based on merit and ability without regard to race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, disability, national origin or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran.

Academic
Research Associate Req. 36268, Gr. 000
Harvard School of Public Health/Immunology and Infectious Diseases (3/5/2009)
Research Associate/Scientist Req. 36249, Gr. 000
Harvard School of Public Health/CABR (2/26/2009)
Research Fellow Req. 36269, Gr. 000
Harvard School of Public Health/Epidemiology (3/5/2009)
Research Fellow (Postdoctoral) Req. 36426, Gr. 000
Harvard School of Public Health/Health Sciences (4/2/2009)

Alumni Affairs and Development
Assistant Director of Annual Giving Req. 36262, Gr. 056
Harvard Medical School/Office of Resource Development (2/12/2009)

Arts
Assistant Technical Director (Mechanical) Req. 36318, Gr. 055

Athletics
Assistant Coach of Women’s Volleyball Req. 36418, Gr. 055
Faculty of Arts and Sciences/Athletics (4/2/2009)

Communications
Research Administrator/Science Editor Req. 36293, Gr. 056
Faculty of Arts and Sciences/Molecular & Cellular Biology (3/5/2009)
Digital Learning Editor Req. 36317, Gr. 056
Faculty of Arts and Sciences/Museum of Comparative Zoology (2/26/2009)
Associate Director of Communications Req. 36429, Gr. 058
Harvard Business School/Marketing and Communications (4/2/2009)
Editor III (Senior Editorial Associate) Req. 36388, Gr. 058
Harvard School of Public Health/Health Policy & Management (3/26/2009)

Dining & Hospitality Services
Pantry Stewart/General Service Req. 36217, Gr. 017
Dining Services/Leventhal Dining Halls (2/19/2009)
General Service - Kitchenpens/Kitchenware Req. 36283, Gr. 010
Dining Services/Quincy (2/26/2009)
General Service - Checker Req. 36264, Gr. 010
Dining Services/Quincy (2/26/2009)
Kitchen Utility Worker Req. 36315, Gr. 030
Dining Services/Greenwave (3/12/2009)

Facilities
HVAC Mechanic (Chiller Operator) Req. 36385, Gr. 029
University Operations/Engineering & Utilities (3/26/2009)

Gr. 058
Gr. 029
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Gr. 057
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Gr. 010
Gr. 060
Gr. 061
Gr. 058
Gr. 056
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Gr. 057
Gr. 029
Gr. 010
Gr. 060
Gr. 061
Gr. 058
Gr. 056
Gr.
Gr. 057

Job listings posted as of 2/4/2009

Research Assistant II - Non Lab (Research Specialist)
Harvard School of Public Health/Nutrition Union: HUCTF, FT (2/23/2009)
Research Assistant II, Non Lab Req. 36288, Gr. 053
Harvard School of Public Health/Nutrition Union: HUCTF, FT (2/23/2009)
Research Assistant II, Non Lab Req. 36289, Gr. 056
Harvard School of Public Health/Center for Biosciences in AD Research (3/12/2009)
Clinical Project Director Req. 36395, Gr. 057
Harvard Medical School/Research Development (3/12/2009)
Research Director and Analyst Req. 36223, Gr. 056
Faculty of Arts and Sciences/EdLab (4/2/2009)
Scientific Programmer Req. 36383, Gr. 057
Harvard School of Public Health/Epidemiology/Program in Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology (PMaGE) (3/26/2009)
Research Analyst Req. 36315, Gr. 058
Harvard School of Public Health/Center for Biosciences in AD Research (3/12/2009)
Scientific Programmer Req. 36334, Gr. 057
Harvard School of Public Health/Epidemiology (3/5/2009)
Research AssociateReq. 36336, Gr. 056
Harvard Business School/Distribution of Research & Faculty Development (3/26/2009)
Research Assistant Req. 36260, Gr. 055
Harvard Business School/Distribution of Research & Faculty Development (3/26/2009)
Project Associate Req. 36359, Gr. 090
Faculty of Arts and Sciences/Institute for Quantitative Social Science (3/3/2009)
Statistical Programmer/Data Analyst Req. 36370, Gr. 067
Harvard Medical School/Health Care Policy (3/3/2009)

Technical
Manager of X- Ray Crystallography Req. 36323, Gr. 059
Faculty of Arts and Sciences/Chemistry & Chemical Biology (3/26/2009)
Staff Engineer - Mechanical Req. 36358, Gr. 066
School of Engineering & Applied Sciences/Wyss Institute (3/26/2009)

Special Listings
Ppecutor in Music
The Department of Music anticipates an opening at the rank of Preceptor to begin with the academic year 2009-2010. The position is renewable on a yearly basis for up to a total of eight years, based on performance, enrollments, and curricular need. Responsibilities will include dictation teaching of four courses per year at various levels in music theory and music history. We would welcome applications reflecting the broadest ranges of interest and specializations in music. A strong doctoral record is preferred. Applicants should include a letter of application, curriculum vitae, detailed teaching dossier and a work sample (articles or compositions). Three letters of recommendation should be sent under separate cover. All materials should be sent to: Professor Alexander Rehding, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Music, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138. The deadlines for receipt of applications is April 6, 2009. Applications from women and minorities are strongly encouraged. Harvard University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

Intern Program Advisor, Grade 55 (Temp)
From March 30 to July 17, 2009
LASHED, 20 M. Adams St.
Web address (for complete job listing): http://www.las-
phu.harvard.edu/employnet.htm
Contact: Jocelyn Sierra, HR Administrator, jocelyn.sier-
a@harvard.edu
IN BRIEF

Joint Center accepting research and design prize applications

The Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) is accepting applications for the Outstanding Student Research and Design Prize through May 1. The annual prize is offered for the best graduate-level research or design projects on housing that advance the field of housing studies as an academic endeavor. To be considered for either award the projects must be nominated by a faculty member familiar with the work.

For more information about the prize, visit www.jchs.harvard.edu/education/graduate_research_opportunities2009.pdf.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center among top 100 hospitals

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, has been named one of the top 100 hospitals in the United States. The award is based in overall organizational performance, according to the annual study released Monday (March 30) by the health care business of Thomson Reuters. BIDMC was the only Massachusetts hospital named in the survey.

The study is based on the 100 Top Hospitals National Balanced Scorecard that evaluates performance in nine areas: mortality, medical complications, patient safety, average length of stay, expenses, profitability, cash-to-debt ratio, patient satisfaction, and adherence to clinical standards of care. The study has been conducted annually since 1993.

“We are pleased to again be among the 15 major teaching hospitals nationally to be recognized by this hospital rating methodology, which utilizes multiple metrics of hospital performance,” said Kenneth Sands, BIDMC’s senior vice president of health care quality and assistant professor of medicine. “It validates the commitment we have made to safe, high-quality care.”

For more information on BIDMC, visit www.bidmc.harvard.edu.

Come to PBHA’s Summer Urban Program auction

The Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) will host its sixth annual auction for the Summer Urban Program at the Cambridge Queen’s Head Pub (45 Quincy Street) on April 28 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event will support PBHA’s 12 summer camps, which serve more than 900 children and youth in Boston and Cambridge.

The silent auction will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will feature over 80 items, hors d’oeuvres, two complimentary drinks, and live jazz. The live auction of 10 items, hors d’oeuvres, two complimentary drinks, and live jazz. The live auction of 10 items will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The welcome will be given by Harvard College Dean Evelyn Hammond, and the evening’s auctioneer will be singer/songwriter Livingston Taylor. Also in attendance will be event honorees Boston City Councilor Sam Yoon and Cambridge Assistant City Manager Ellen Semonoff.

Tickets are available at the Harvard Box Office. Admission at the door is $40; advance tickets are $30. Additional information can be found at www.pbha.org/auction.

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Skin biology illuminates how stem cells operate

Adult skin stem cells have treated burn victims for decades

By Corydon Ireland

Harvard News Office

As a girl, Elaine Fuchs borrowed her mother’s old strainers and mixing bowls to collect polliwogs, an activity she credits for her present-day career as a biologist.

It also helped that her father was a geochemist who studied meteories, her aunt a radiation expert, her older sister a neuroscientist.

Fuchs, “trying to stop the world.”

Starting as a postdoc at MIT, Fuchs studied how skin cells multiply uncontrollably. That process, she said, is a way to illuminate how stem cells of all types operate.

Her laboratory team investigates how stem cells flower into other kinds of cells, and what happens when the process goes wrong.

The research Fuchs oversees has already provided insight into genetic disorders, cancer, ulcers, and advanced burn therapy. But her lab in Manhattan has one main interest: morphogenesis, the biological process by which organisms grow.

Fuchs and her investiga-

sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Fuchs “recognized very early on that [skin] was a fantastic model system for studying some of the fundamental problems of biology,” said Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) biologist Susan Lindquist, Ph.D. ’76, R ’80, who introduced Fuchs at the Radcliffe Gymnasium.

“For one thing, it’s accessible, and there’s plenty of it.”

Skin is thought to be the largest organ, covering about 18 square feet in the average adult. In every square inch of this protective covering there are a thousand nerve endings and 650 sweat glands.

There are also a multitude of hair follicles, the abundant clusters of cells that research Fuchs and her investiga-

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Fuchs built the first mouse model to study human genetic diseases affecting the skin. She studied how cells divide and how they stop dividing — work that gave her insight into cancer of the skin and other organs, when cells multiply uncontrollably.

Her work on skin cell biology and development led Fuchs to advances in treating burns and wounds. It also led to insight into stem cells in general.

She described the skin as a kind of “Saran wrap seal” for the body, an elastic covering that shields muscles, blood ves-

sels, and internal organs. It’s bristling with hair follicles, which push up shafts of dead cells that form into hair — an epidermal appendage that is protective, like feathers in birds or scales on fish.

Skin is also constantly renewing itself, said Fuchs. “Every four weeks you have a brand new surface of your body.”

This constant renewal makes the skin one of the body’s chief sources of stem cells, the starter cells that can be transformed into a multiplicity of tissues.

How and why these stem cells get activated in skin is what Fuchs and her team study.

This potential versatility, of course, is what makes stem cells an exciting prospect for future therapies that might replace damaged or missing organ or nerve tissue.

Both “adult” stem cells — those that have a specific function already — and “embryonic” stem cells (ES cells) are self-renewing. They can make and replenish tissues in the long term. But ES cells, in theory, can generate all 220 cell types present in the human body.

Fuchs, who enlivened her talk with exuberant graphics and snippets of video, showed a clip of a once-paralyzed mouse moving about after its nerve cells had been regenerated through therapy with ES cells.

There are also possible clinical uses for adult skin stem cells, said Fuchs. The cells are already used for burn therapy — a 30-year success story, she said.

Such stem cells might one day be used to treat ulcers by replacing damaged tissue, though the environment of the digestive system is challenging. And there is hope that gene therapy related to stem cells might be used for some skin disorders.

Beyond skin, stem cells might be used to prevent blindness by restoring tissue damaged by corneal degenerative diseases.

But Fuchs urged caution about stem cell therapies of any kind. “I don’t want to give people too much optimism with regards to immediate clinical applications,” she said.

More research and clinical work — “quite a few years,” said Fuchs — has to be done in strict and careful scientific cultures like that of the United States.

Prospects for more and better stem cell research have improved with the appearance of a new presidential administration, she said. But until U.S. researchers regain their global footing on the issue of stem cells, they remain “a little voice,” said Fuchs, “trying to stop the world.”
“Bend the Mother Tongue: Sinophone Literature,” and recently (March 18) shared some of her work in progress with an audience of 50 at the Radcliffe Gymnasium.

In part, the book is an exploration of how the past 100 years have seen the transformation of the sound and script of Chinese. The language of ancient ideographs flowered outward in a diaspora of literary production beyond China — in Southeast Asia, North America, and Europe. (Lin himself embodied that diaspora: China-born, Europe-educated, and America-bound.)

In the same period of time, Chinese changed from a closed system of formal writing to a standardized language based on what was once its northern vernacular.

During the 1920s, Lin was part of a wave of literary and linguistic reforms inaugurated by the May Fourth Movement. He was among linguists who by 1926 had devised Gwoyeu Romatzyh. That scheme for writing Mandarin in the Latin alphabet was officially adopted by China in 1928. (The current Romanization standard is called pinyin.)

Around the same time, Lin started tinkering with the idea of his typewriter, seeing it as a way to mesh Chinese script reform with Western technology. His ideographic writing machine, said Tsu, eventually drew engineers from England and Italy and experts in casting custom type from New York’s Chinatowns.

Telling the story of Lin’s “scribal machine” today, she said, is a way of uncovering a little-known history of how the Chinese language was systematized into a form of “national writing” that was then disseminated by technology.

The story also captures a turning point where the ideographic script was formally revised in light of alphabetic writing. That in turn led to further developments in machine-assisted translation in the United States during the Cold War.

Lin’s typewriter also adds an important twist to “a renewed fascination with the Chinese language in the West,” said Tsu.

While Lin was working on his typewriter design, Chinese still suffered from a global perception that the ideograph — a stroke-based rendering of a tonally complex language — was deficient compared with the simplicity of Western alphabet letters.

By 1930, Cambridge University linguists had developed BASIC (British American Scientific International Commercial) English, an intentional universal language based on 850 simple root words in English.

It was an attractive idea, said Tsu — in part because even though the average Englishman had a vocabulary of 10,000 words, only 1,000 were used 90 percent of the time.

But BASIC had grammatical constraints that, among other things, made metaphor unlikely. It was inadequate to convey meaning, Tsu pointed out, but “doesn’t make your heart grow wings.”

She offered an example: In BASIC, a woman’s breast — a notion of universal erotic import — becomes the merely functional “milk vessel.”

Lin was a critic of BASIC for similar reasons. The word “onion,” he wrote in one essay, becomes “white root that makes eyes full of water,” while a scrambled egg is rendered as “egg in bad shape.”

Lin and other critics were troubled by BASIC for a graver reason too, claiming that it was a linguistic remnant of imperialism. (Lin favored pidgin English as an alternate universal tongue, calling it “a glorious language” with proven popularity worldwide.)

For all its flaws, BASIC was essentially a Western argument that the alphabet was superior to the ideograph. It challenged the “translatability” of Chinese in an age when different languages were competing to be the world’s universal language.

Lin’s machine changed that balance of power, and reduced what Tsu called the “alphabetic myth” by a clever parsing system that broke ideographs into smaller top and bottom units.

Lin took the distinctive five strokes of the Chinese ideograph and indexed them as separate radicals. Of the typewriter’s 72 keys, 36 represented the upper left of the characters and 28 the lower left.

When the operator pressed two keys at the same time, eight possible stroke combinations appeared in what Lin called “a magic window.” One of them was the compete character desired — chosen by pressing one of the eight remaining keys.

This clever parsing system broke ideographs into smaller units, mechanized the ideograph, said Tsu, and made Chinese a competitor in the 20th century’s struggle for a dominant world language.

In a way, “Bend the Mother Tongue” is a continuation of Tsu’s first book, “Failure, Nationalism, and Literature: The Making of Modern Chinese Identity, 1895 to 1937” (Stanford University Press, 2005).

That book is a contrarian exploration of how China built its national identity by embracing the idea of deficiency and failure, as a clever cultural response to military humiliations and the idea of a “yellow peril.”

Establishing a standard mother tongue raised similar emotional issues for China, as regional vernaculars warred within its borders for linguistic dominance.

But the outcome was sunnier, said Tsu: Chinese emerged onto a global stage as a legitimate competitor in what is still a world struggle for a universal language.

The desire for universality doesn’t end with language, Tsu said later. Take, for instance, China’s recent proposal (March 23) that the world adopt a super-sovereign reserve currency unconnected to a single nation-state.

“That prompts us to think about how global languages circulate much like currency does,” she said.

“It’s all about the power of access,” Tsu said, “which an exclusive look at literary language doesn’t always tell us.”