Hansjörg Wyss gives $125M to create institute

Engineer, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss MBA ’65 has given Harvard University $125 million to create the Hansjörg Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering.

“I am deeply grateful to Hansjörg Wyss for this gift, which will allow Harvard to make a transformational investment in powerful, collaborative science,” said Harvard President and Lincoln Professor of History Drew Faust. “The Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering will form the bedrock for Harvard’s emerging efforts in this critical area and will affect research, teaching, and the training of future leaders in this field.

“We regard this gift as an enormous vote of confidence by a donor who is both extraordinarily generous and extraordinarily knowledgeable in this field,” Faust continued. “This gift underscores Harvard’s ability to lead and to make very significant contributions in a field that is of increasing importance to scientists in a number of areas and to science more generally.”

The Wyss Institute will be a collaborative enterprise bringing together experimentalists, theoreticians, and clinicians with expertise in engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, (See Wyss, page 8)

Wilson perceives social structure and culture as key causes of poverty

In speaking frankly about the seemingly implacable problems in the inner cities, Harvard University Professor William Julius Wilson traveled a road that liberals fear to tread and that conservatives tend to take.

Wilson, the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor and an award-winning author and researcher, dissected the twin influences of culture and social structure in the persistence of youth violence, unemployment, and fragmentation of families within poor African-American communities and concluded that both factors must be considered in determining how to end the cycle of poverty.

“For many years, social scientists and other observers have debated the role of social structure versus culture in determining the social outcomes of African Americans,” Wilson said during a talk on “More Than Just Race: Social Structure and Culture in the Study of Inner City Poverty,” the first colloquium of the year of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research on Oct. 1.

“Conservatives tend to emphasize cultural factors, such as attitude, worldview, [and] styles of behavior, whereas liberals pay more attention to structural conditions, with attention devoted to racialist structural factors, such as discrimination and segregation.”

Indeed, “many liberals are reluctant to discuss or research the role that culture plays in the negative outcomes found in inner cities,” possibly fearing criticism that they are “blaming the victim,” Wilson said.

However, Wilson — described by Du Bois Institute Executive Director Vera I. Grant as “without question our foremost authority on urban poverty” — said he has created a framework that combines cultural and structural factors to analyze the perpetuation of the inner-city ghettos.

Drawing on research from his upcoming book, “More Than Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City” (W.W. Norton, 2009), Wil-
MEMORIAL SERVICES

Richmond memorial program scheduled for Oct. 27

A memorial service honoring the life of Julius B. Richmond will be held Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Harvard Club of Boston, 347 Commonwealth Ave. A reception will follow. A former U.S. surgeon general, Richmond held appointments at the Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School, and the Harvard Kennedy School. He died on July 27.

FACULTY COUNCIL

At its third meeting of the year on Oct. 8, the Faculty Council discussed Dean Michael D. Smith’s upcoming letter to the Faculty and considered changes to the procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct in research. The council next meets on Oct. 29. The preliminary deadline for the Nov. 18 Faculty meeting is Nov. 3 at 9:30 a.m.

CLARIFICATION

Three photos of the St. Petersburg program in last week’s article, “Study abroad students have lots to say, in lots of languages,” should have been credited to Vladimir Gitin, senior preceptor in Slavic languages and literatures. The Gazette regrets the omission.

PRESIDENT’S OFFICE HOURS 2008-09

President Drew Faust will hold office hours for students in her Massachusetts Hall office on the following dates: Thursday, Oct. 16, 4-5 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 13, 4-5 p.m.; Monday, March 16, 2009, 4-5 p.m.; Thursday, April 23, 2009, 4-5 p.m.

Sky times two

POLICE REPORTS

Following are some of the incidents reported to the Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) for the week ending Oct. 6. The official log is located at 153 Massasoit Ave., sixth floor, and is available online at www.hupd.harvard.edu.

Oct. 2: An officer was dispatched to Cabot House to take a report of the following stolen items: three laptop computers, a laptop charger, keys, and a backpack. A blue Range Rover was also stolen from a nearby parking lot. It contained two sets of golf bags with clubs, two backpacks, a pair of flip-flops, textbooks, and cash. The vehicle was found in an area where officers arrived; however, only the flip-flops and two backpacks were recovered. At Boylston Hall, an individual’s identification card was stolen. Officers were dispatched to Massachusettts Hall to report an unwanted guest. When officers arrived, the individual was in the process of leaving the area.

Oct. 3: At the Science Center, an individual received a suspicious letter. An individual in the Holden Green Complex set off a fire alarm after putting a hanger on a sprinkler head. When the individual tried to remove the hanger, the head broke off, activating all of the sprinklers and flooding the residence.

Oct. 4: A theft was reported at Terry Terrace, where items were stolen from an individual’s bicycle. There were no suspicious individuals in the area at the time of the theft.

Oct. 5: An unwanted guest was removed from Shattuck House. At Eliot House, officers were dispatched to report a two suspicious individuals. The individuals were issued a trespass warning and sent on their way. Officers were dispatched to the Blackstone Steam Plant Complex to assist with locating an individual involved in a robbery.

Oct. 6: Officers sent an unwanted guest on their way at the Hockyoke Center. A trespass warning was issued to an unwanted guest at the Baker Center. At 1:306 Massachusettts Ave., an individual was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and threat to commit a crime, after harassing individuals passing by and threatening dispatched officers.
The Harvard Stem Cell Institute’s science editor Lisa Girard (right) says the “StemBook” project, “It’s really something that’s going to grow and evolve. We could have 800 chapters with the amount of information out there. We’re only limited by our ability to control the quality.”

To view “StemBook,”
www.stembook.org/

**NEWSMAKERS**

**Dowling recipient of Paul Kayser Award**

John E. Dowling, Gordon and Llura Gund Professor of Neuroscience as well as professor of Ophthalmology in Neuroscience, recently received the Paul Kayser International Award in Retinal Research from the International Society for Eye Research (ISER). He received the award at the 2008 Biennial Congress held in Beijing, in addition to presenting a plenary lecture and participating in a symposium on retinal mechanisms. While in China, Dowling and his wife Judith — former masters of Lev- erett House — were also guests of Lanzhou University, which is celebrating its centennial this year. At Lanzou, the Dowlings presented a centennial lecture titled “The Art of Seeing.”

**HUHS Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Services named prevention leader**

The Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Services (AODS) was named this year’s “Outstanding Leader in Prevention” by the city of Cambridge. The award recognizes the Cambridge organization/agency that has provided Cambridge with superior service in the prevention of substance abuse.

Since its inception (August 2005), the AODS has maintained a collaborative partnership with the Cambridge Prevention Coalition (CPC) and several city agencies. As AODS Director Ryan Travia explained, “The AODS routinely meets with colleagues from the CPC, Cambridge License Commis- sion; Cambridge Police Department; local bar, restaurant, and package store owners; and my counterpart at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] in an effort to address common challenges and to collaborate toward solutions. All of these partners share the common goal of preventing under-age and high-risk drinking and are extremely dedicated to the students they serve, from the elementary level through graduate and professional school.”

“I am also extremely proud of my staff, including our 27 drug and alcohol peer advisers,” noted Travia. “AODS staff, associates, and our student-leaders are all incredibly in- vested in making the Harvard campus a healthier commu- nity.”

— Compiled by Gervis A. Menzies Jr.
Miles named HGSE senior associate dean for Development

Lynn Miles will become the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) senior associate dean for Development and Alumni Relations, effective Oct. 1.

**APPOINTMENT**

As former assistant vice president for resources, director of the Leadership Gift Program, and most recently, acting vice president for resources at Wellesley College, Miles’ distinguished career in development includes playing a key role in designing and executing a highly successful campus campaign that raised $472.3 million—a record for liberal arts colleges.

“We are fortunate to have recruited someone—one of Lynn’s caliber to lead our strong team in Development and Alumni Relations, which will play an integral role in our exciting plans for the School’s future,” said HGSE dean and Gerald S. Lesser Professor in Middle Childhood Development Kathleen McCarty.

“Lynn’s colleagues have praised her management and leadership style as well as her fundraising expertise, particularly in the area of campaign planning and execution. I have been struck by her intellect, her warmth, and her quick ability to understand the mission, goals, and dreams of HGSE. I am looking forward to working with her to turn our vision into reality.”

At the School, Miles will oversee major gifts, alumni relations, development, information services, the annual fund, and all development communications. Previously, Miles has also worked as director of major gifts for New England Medical Center and as director of development for the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. She earned her B.A. in psychology from the University of Michigan and a professional designation in public relations from UCLA.

Spend an ‘Evening with Champions’ Oct. 10-11

Top world skaters will skate for a cause this weekend (Oct. 10-11) when they gather at Bright Hockey Center for the Jimmy Fund’s annual “An Evening with Champions.” Hosted by 1992 Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie ’90, the event has raised more than $2.4 million for the Jimmy Fund, which supports adult and pediatric cancer research and care at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Participating skaters include 2007 World Champion Miki Ando, 1964 Olympic gold medalists Ludmilla and Oleg Grudin, and five-time synchronized skating champions the Haydenettes, among others.

“An Evening with Champions” was started in 1970 by former U.S. champion John Misha Petkevich, and since then has been run entirely by Harvard University students.

The performances will start on Friday (Oct. 10) at 8 p.m. and on Saturday (Oct. 11) at 7 p.m. On Saturday afternoon pediatric cancer patients from the Jimmy Fund Clinic will have an opportunity to skate with performers, and a silent auction held before the show that evening will include Patriots tickets, hotel stays in New York City, and a prize drawing.

Tickets are $22 (adults), $12 (children and senior citizens), and $8 (college undergraduates). Group rates are also available for groups of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased through the Harvard Box Office: (617) 495-3000. For more information, visit www.jimmyfund.org/skating.

Weatherhead Center introduces 26 doctoral candidates for 2008-09

Twenty-six doctoral candidates will be supported by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs for the 2008-09 year. The associates come from a multidisciplinary group of advanced-degree candidates in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences’ departments of Anthropology, Economics, Government, History, Health Policy, Middle East Studies, Social Policy, and Sociology. All of the students are working on dissertations related to international affairs.

The center provides the associates with office space, computer resources, and research grants, and they participate in a variety of seminars, including their own graduate student seminar during which they present their work and receive feedback.

The center has also granted dissertation completion fellowships to investigators for 2008-09, Yevgeniy Kirpichevsky and Giacomo Ponzetto, as well as Nico Slate, a Ph.D. candidate in History.

The 2008-09 Graduate Student Associates and their research projects, are as follows:

- Marcus Alexander, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Government: Explaining variance in the terms of sovereign debt restructurings with private creditors in the post-World War II era.
- Vernie Oliveira, Ph.D. candidate, Department of History: The United States’ efforts against the bribery of foreign public officials by multinational corporations wishing to do business abroad (1975-1997).
- Sanjay Pinto, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Sociology: Explaining variance in the terms of sovereign debt restructurings with private creditors in the post-World War II era.

**HONORING A COLLEAGUE**

David L. Hempton (right), Alonzo L. McDonald Family Professor of Evangelical Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School, delivered the keynote address Oct. 3 at the School’s two-day “Conference on American Religious History,” which honored the career of David D. Hall (left), Bartlett Research Professor of New England Church History.

*Nick Weiss/Harvard News Office*
The pine beetle’s tale: Destructive insect has pharmaceutical potential

By David Cameron
HMS Communications

Researchers at Harvard Medical School and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, have discovered how beetles and bacteria form a symbiotic and mutualistic relationship — one that ultimately results in the destruction of pine forests. In addition, they’ve identified the specific molecule that drives this whole phenomenon.

The findings, published in the Oct. 3 issue of Science, indicate that the tiny creatures — responsible for rampant and widespread forest destruction — carry on their backs battling species of fungi, plus a powerful antibiotic molecule that can destroy pathogenic fungi — something that no current medicinal fungi — an essential for the diversification of life and evolution of organisms.

The context of this discovery can easily be imagined as a story arc that includes some of the most unlikely characters and props.

Setting: The interior of a pine tree.

Enter the protagonist: The pine beetle, boring its way through the bark, a 5 millimeter arthropod ready to go into labor and lay a few hundred eggs. Tucked in a specialized storage compartment in its shell, the beetle has a ready supply of spores for En-tomocorticium, a nourishing fungal baby food for the beetle’s gestating larvae.

Enter the antagonist: The mite, a microscopic interloper that secretly hitched a ride on the beetle.

Conflict: Unbeknownst to mother pine beetle, the mite has secreted a supply of Ophiostoma minus, a pathogenic fungi that can wipe out the entire supply of fungal larval food. The mite releases this toxin.

Climax: Will the baby beetles die of starvation? The mite, a pathogenic fungi that can disrupt the beetle’s gestating larvae. The mite releases this toxin.

Resolution: Catching the mite off guard — as well as the scientists conducting the study! — the mother beetle is ready with actinomycetes, a bacteria that feeds on the mite., next page)

Giving faculty a leg up the ladder

New initiative designed to help professors meet family needs without sacrificing advancement

Harvard University is launching a new initiative for ladder faculty designed to help professors meet their family caregiving needs while succeeding throughout their academic careers. Assistant and associate professors must achieve milestones within a limited time frame, one that can overlap significantly with childbearing years. And once they’re awarded tenure, the demands on full professors’ time only increase. Balancing this with the extremely high cost of quality child care in the Boston area can lead to hard choices, including whether to stay on an academic path, to leave the region in search of a less expensive environment, or to delay or forego childbearing.

“Harvard’s mission of learning, teaching, and research relies on our ability to attract the best scholars to our campus,” said President Drew Faust. “Investing in this initiative means keeping the academy open to parents, which is one of many routes to increased diversity in academia.”

The program, nicknamed Ladder ACCESS (Access to Child Care Excellence, Services, and Support), will make significant financial assistance to income-eligible ladder faculty with very young children. “We know that young scholars weigh quality of life issues along with professional opportunity when considering an appointment,” said Joshua Lang, senior vice provost for Faculty Development and Diversity and James Bryant Conant Professor of Education. “Among faculty, those who are parents can be disproportionately burdened by the cost of child care in this region. We need to make sure this is not a deciding factor when faculty are offered appointments at Harvard or an impediment to a faculty member’s success in meeting the demands inherent in a challenging academic career.”

(Sources: Harvard University, next page)

Smoking, burning solid fuels in homes in China projected to cause millions of deaths

By Todd Datz
HSFH Communications

If current levels of smoking and of burning biomass and coal fuel in homes continues in China, researchers estimate that between 2003 and 2003, 65 million deaths will be attributed to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer, accounting for 19 percent and 5 percent of all deaths in that country during this period, respectively.

Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) predict that the combined effects of these two major factors alone will be responsible for more than 80 percent of COPD deaths and 75 percent of lung cancer deaths in China over a 30-year period. But interventions to reduce smoking and household use of biomass fuels and coal for cooking and heating could significantly reduce the number of deaths.

The findings are from a study that will appear in the Oct. 25 print issue of the British medical journal The Lancet. It is the first quantitative analysis to look at the combined effects of smoking and household fuel use on COPD, lung cancer, and tuberculosis (TB).

Respiratory diseases are among the 10 leading causes of deaths in China. About half of Chinese men smoke, and in more than 70 percent of homes in China residents cook and heat with wood, coal, and crop residues. Smoking and pollution from indoor burning of these fuels are major risk factors for COPD and lung cancer and have been linked with tuberculosis. Globally, more than 900 million of the world’s 1.1 billion smokers currently live in low- and middle-income countries, and about one-half of the world’s population uses biomass fuels and coal for household energy.

Drawing from data on smoking, fuel use, and current as well as projected levels of COPD, lung cancer, and TB, the authors set out to estimate the effects of modifying smoking and fuel use on future COPD and lung cancer deaths and TB incidence. They grouped the results into scenarios based on whether interven-
neutralizes the toxic fungi by means of a tiny fatty acid.

**Conclusion:** While actinomyces rescues the baby beetles from certain death, the louse-friendly Entomocorticium softens up the trees, allowing the fledging beetles to eat not only the fungi but the tree itself. Soon, the young beetles leave to begin their new lives. Mother beetle gathers up the remaining supply of Entomocorticium and heads for another tree. The beetles live, and the infernal chain of events continues as described. "So you have a beetle, a tree, two kinds of fungi, and a bacterium," says Jon Clardy, Harvard Medical School professor of biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology. "I believe that we have an example of an antibiotic successfully disabling a pathogenic fungus often present in the tree. But the precise means by which they interact with fungal microbes has never been demonstrated.

Currie and research assistant Jarrod Scott discovered that the beetle carries a bacteria in a specialized compartment of its mouthparts. The molecule turns out to be a kind of fatty acid. This molecule is nature’s anti-fungal, says Clardy, “and it looks like there are a lot of them.”

The finding is particularly significant because pathogenic fungal infections in people are a major health concern. These infections are often fatal, and at the moment, no reliable medicines for them exist. Here, however, we have an example of an antibiotic successfully disabling a powerful fungus.

“Such an antibiotic is particularly significant because pathogenic fungal infections in people are a major health concern. These infections are often fatal, and at the moment, no reliable medications for them exist. Here, however, we have an example of an antibiotic successfully disabling a powerful fungus. This antibiotic is not only effective against fungal infections, it also has potential applications against bacterial infections.”

“The new initiative is aimed at larval boys — assistant, associate, and full professors — who have children under age 6, when child care responsibilities face more hurdles. This scholarly program will help people afford the types of care they need in order to meet academic demands.”

“This initiative goes some of the way toward leveling the playing field,” said Evelyn Hammonds, former vice president for Faculty Development and Diversity, now dean of Harvard College, under whose leadership the program was conceived. “In the extremely demanding realm of tenure-track academia, faculty with child care responsibilities face more hurdles. This scholarly program will help people afford the types of care they need in order to meet academic demands.”

“The new initiative is aimed at ladder faculty — assistant, associate, and full professors — who have children under age 6, when child care responsibilities face more hurdles. This scholarly program will help people afford the types of care they need in order to meet academic demands.”

This program is being launched as a next step in Harvard’s comprehensive child care strategy, which has included efforts to increase affordability and availability of child care. “Child care support is a key component of Harvard’s work/life package for all Harvard employees,” said Marilyn Hausammann, vice president for Harvard’s work/life package. “This approach is to offer a menu of supports because we know that one size does not fit all. Help finding and paying for child care is available to all employees through a range of programs, which we are continuously evaluating to be sure they meet the community’s needs.”

“In June 2006, Harvard announced a round of work/life program enhancements designed to holistically support scholars and faculty as they balance the demands of work and family lives. See http://www.hnha.harvard.edu/gazette/2006/06.15/01-worklife.html). These include pilot programs to provide a range of backup care options, a more than 50 percent increase in staff child care scholarships, and the expansion of a campus child care center. The University is continuing to study several schemes to expand child care capacity on campus.

The in-student also included a small fund to support Ph.D. and doctoral candidates with children enrolled in one of six Harvard child care centers. “We see a need for child care supports at the beginning of the academic year, during the graduate school year,” said Allan Brandt, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, which enrolls 80 percent of the University’s doctoral-level students. “We are currently studying programs to provide such support.”

“Programs and services that support faculty with young children help Harvard recruit the very best scholars,” said Singer. “And those programs help scholars have the support they need to do their very best work here.”
SPORTS WRAP-UP

Men’s Heavyweight Crew
Head of the Oklahoma 1-6
Field Hockey (4-5; 2-1 league) *
W at Brown 2-0
*Does not include results of Oct. 6 game vs. Northeastern.
Football (2-1; 0-1 league)
W at Lafayette 27-13
Men’s Golf
MacDonald Cup at Yale 6/15
Coed Sailing
Central Series Four at Tufts 7/24
Danmark Tropy at US Coast Guard Acad. 9/20
Haverford Invite 12/18
Smith Trophy at MIT 3/27
Women’s Regis Bowl at BU 11/16
Men’s Soccer (4-3-0; 1-0-0 league)
W vs Yale 1-0
Women’s Soccer (4-3-3; 1-1-0 league)
W vs Yale 3-1
Women’s Volleyball (7-7; 2-0 league)
W vs Dartmouth 3-0
Men’s Water Polo (2-7)
At Claremont Convergence:
I vs Pepperdine 2-11
L vs Loyola Marymount 4-19

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

The week ahead
(Home games in bold)

Friday, Oct. 10
M Golf Big 5 Invitational TBA
M Tennis Notre Dame Fall Classic TBA
W Volleyball Brown 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 11
Cross Country N.E. Championships TBA
Football Cornell noon
M Golf Big 5 Invitational TBA
M Tennis Notre Dame Fall Classic TBA
W Tennis U.S. Open Invitational TBA
Sailing Central Series Five 9:30 a.m.
Sailing Hap Moore Trophy Team Race 9:30 a.m.
Sailing Navy Women’s Intercollegiate 9:30 a.m.
Sailing N.E. Men’s Singlehanded Championship 9:30 a.m.
M Soccer Cornell 2:00 p.m.
W Soccer Cornell 11:30 a.m.
W Volleyball Yale 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 12
M Golf MacDonald Cup TBA
Sailing Central Series Five 9:30 a.m.
Sailing Hap Moore Trophy Team Race 9:30 a.m.
Sailing Navy Women’s Intercollegiate 9:30 a.m.
Sailing N.E. Men’s Singlehanded Championship TBA
M Tennis Notre Dame Fall Classic TBA
W Tennis U.S. Open Invitational TBA
W Water Polo Iona 3:11 a.m.
M Water Polo Fordham 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 13
W Field Hockey Saint Louis 5 p.m.
W Tennis U.S. Open Invitational TBA

Wednesday, Oct. 15
W Soccer Mains 3 p.m.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Women’s soccer grabs first Ivy win behind freshman’s play
The Crimson held nothing back on Saturday (Oct. 4), as Harvard defeated Yale 3-1 at Ohiri Field.

Only nine games into her career at Harvard, freshman forward Melanie Baskind continued her dominant play, tallying four points, with a goal and two assists. Baskind leads the Crimson in goals, assists, points, and game-winning goals. She is also fifth in the Ivy League in goals scored.

Yale (5-5-1, 0-2-0) attempted to orchestrate a late comeback, scoring off of a deflected penalty kick in the 85th minute, but the Bulldogs shifted gears too late as the Crimson (4-3-3, 1-0-0) rolled to their first Ivy League win of the season.

The Crimson are now 3-0-1 at home and have only lost once since starting the season.

Harvard soccer silences Bulldogs
The Harvard faithful came out in force Wednesday (Oct. 4), as Harvard defeated Yale 3-1 in the first of three Ivy League games this season.

Crimson dominates Dartmouth
Big hits and timely blocking were all the Crimson (7-7, 2-0-0) needed to overmatch Dartmouth (4-8, 0-2) on Friday (Oct. 3) in three games, 25-15, 25-12, 25-21. The win was the Crimson’s second this year against the Big Green, and extended Harvard’s winning streak to five.

Freshman Anne Carroll Ingersoll dominated the middle and led the Crimson to victory with 12 kills (.571 hitting percentage), six blocks, two service aces, and two digs. Senior Kathryn McKinley also finished with 12 kills and five digs in the match.

The second game saw Harvard suffocate the Dartmouth attack, holding the Big Green to 12 points. Dartmouth put more pressure on Harvard in the third game, but the Crimson were able to hold off a comeback and win, 25-21.

Ingersoll, who is second in the Ivy League in hitting percentage (.385), was selected as the Ivy Rookie of the Week (Oct. 7) for the third time in the first four weeks of the season.

— Gervis A. Menzies Jr.
computer science, robotics, medicine, and surgery from Harvard’s Schools and affiliated hospitals, as well as from neighboring universities. The multidisciplinary effort will function as the cornerstone of Harvard’s broader efforts in bioengineering, and will build on many of the elements of the Harvard Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering (www.hibie.harvard.edu), which was created with seed support from the Harvard University Science and Engineering Committee in response to a faculty-developed plan for this burgeoning discipline.

Wyss’ gift will provide funds for seven endowed faculty positions, as well as major operating funds for the institute. The locus of the Wyss Institute will be in the first science complex currently under construction on Harvard’s campus in the Allston neighborhood of Boston.

“I am humbled to have the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to efforts that I firmly believe will change the future course of science and medicine,” Wyss said. “Little did I dream when I began my career in engineering that we would reach a point where engineers and applied scientists would be using nature’s templates to create solutions to our medical and environmental challenges.”

President Faust and Provost Steven E. Hyman, together with Dean Jeffrey Flier, Dean Michael Smith, and former Dean Venkatesh Narayanamurti – of the Harvard Medical School, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), respectively – announced that Donald Ingber, Judah Folkman Professor of Vascular Biology at Harvard Medical School and Children’s Hospital Boston, and professor of bioengineering at SEAS, will serve as the Wyss Institute’s founding director.

“Hansjörg Wyss’ vision for the potential inherent in newly emerging areas of bioengineering will allow Harvard to integrate the worlds of biology and engineering to develop nontraditional solutions to seemingly insurmountable challenges,” said Hyman.

“Don Ingber’s leadership and commitment to exploring these possibilities will make this vision a reality.”

Hyman noted that the establishment of the Wyss Institute follows Harvard’s “commitment to the overall growth of engineering at Harvard — exemplified by changing the status of the former Division of Engineering to a School of Engineering — but in the context of a liberal arts-focused research institution. With respect to bioengineering in particular, we are at a wonderful intellectual inflection point where we’re beginning to see a new generation of bioengineers in which I see several advantages, and where we will provide very substantial intellectual partnerships for such activities as our Stem Cell Institute and for the Systems Biology activities. Those partnerships might, for example,” he said, “enable us to convert new basic discoveries into a host of treatments for human beings suffering with illnesses.”

In expressing his gratitude to Wyss, Ingber said that “Hansjörg Wyss is a visionary engineer and entrepreneur who understands that transformative change requires risk-taking, breaking down boundaries among existing disciplines. We are indebted to him for his generosity, which will enable engineers, scientists, physicians, and industrial collaborators to work across institutions and disciplines at a level never before possible in an academic setting.”

David Mooney, Gordon McKay Professor of Bioengineering at SEAS and co-chair of Harvard’s bioengineering working group, said, “I am particularly excited that this gift will allow us to create an interdisciplinary community of scholars who will work together to both develop novel technologies and create a foundation for bioengineering based on a fundamental knowledge of how living systems function.”

Purpose and mission

The mission of the Hansjörg Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering is to discover the engineering principles that nature uses to build living things, and to harness these insights to create biologically inspired materials, devices, and technologies to address unmet medical needs worldwide and bring about a more sustainable world.

Over the past decade in particular, engineering, biology, medicine, and the physical sciences have increasingly converged. Through revolutionary advances in nanotechnology, genetics, and cell engineering, it is now possible to manipulate individual atoms, genes, molecules, and cells at a time, and to create artificial biological systems. Simultaneous progress in materials science, molecular biology, and tissue engineering has enabled scientists to develop synthetic materials, microdevices, and computational strategies to manipulate cell function, guide tissue formation, and control complex organism physiology. As a result of these developments, the boundary between living and nonliving systems is beginning to break down.

The Wyss Institute will leverage these advances and facilitate new breakthroughs by advancing technologies and biological application necessary to develop biomimetic materials, microdevices, microrobots, and innovative disease-reprogramming technologies that emulate how living cells and tissues self-organize and naturally regulate themselves. A deeper understanding of how living systems build, recycle, and control also will ultimately lead to more efficient, bioinspired ways of converting energy, controlling manufacturing, improving the environment, and creating a more sustainable world.

Faculty and programs

The Wyss Institute will form a community of engineers, scientists, and clinicians, and provide them with the resources necessary to pursue innovative, multidisciplinary, forward-looking research that will spur the development of transformative new technologies and therapies.

The institute will focus on fundamental, science-driven technology development in the newly emerging fields of synthetic biology, biologically inspired materials, and engineering.

The Synthetic Biology Program will develop genetically engineered component parts and circuits necessary to build programmable self-assembling nanomaterials and integrated multifunctional living microdevices.

The Biological Control Group will devise control strategies that can “reboot” diseased tissues and organs, as well as biologically inspired algorithms for robotic control.

The Living Materials Program will harness the design principles that govern how living cells, tissues, and organs exhibit their novel material properties and coupled bio-catalytic functions, with the goal of fabricating self-organizing/biomimetic materials and devices for both medical and nonmedical applications.

The Wyss Institute will also incorporate an Advanced Technology Core, composed of technical experts with extensive expertise in genetic engineering, nanotechnology, microfabrication, materials science, and other critical technologies, who move among different faculty laboratories pursuing problems until they are solved and useful technologies are created. The institute’s faculty will translate these new technologies into commercial products and therapies through partnerships with industrial and clinical collaborators.

The Wyss Institute will also support a critical faculty of researchers who will identify critical clinical challenges, conduct research and development activities necessary to solve these problems, and help to bring these technologies back into the clinic. Such an environment, free of disciplinary boundaries, will foster the training of a new generation of students and fellows who fully understand how to work across disciplines, and how to learn from the power of nature’s innovations to advance bioengineering and medicine.
Exelon executive offers regulations, incentives to ‘green’ energy supply

By Alvin Powell
Harvard News Office

The head of the nation’s largest nuclear power plant owner decried America’s lack of energy an energy policy Monday night (Oct. 6) and laid out a five-point plan featuring a mix of new regulations and financial incentives for coal, nuclear, and renewable power sources as a way to ‘green’ America’s energy supply.

John Rowe, chairman and chief executive officer of Chicago-based Exelon Corp., which runs the nation’s largest fleet of nuclear reactors, told a packed Science Center lecture hall that Exelon views climate change as a serious problem that needs immediate attention.

Resolutioning the problem, however, will be a challenge, Rowe said, as will keeping costs low for consumers. The cost of energy, Rowe said, is something that Exelon is very sensitive to, since as a power company, it is responsible for collecting money from consumers and yet is also answerable to legislators working to reform the nation’s energy system.

Despite the popularity of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, Rowe said the cost of those alternatives is higher than many people think. Wind is the cheapest renewable and most ready for market, he said, while solar, though most expensive right now, has the greatest potential for a technological breakthrough.

Absent a transforming breakthrough, however, Rowe said the nation will have to make do with reforms to its current power mix, including coal and nuclear. His five-point plan includes financial support for low-carbon electricity generation, such as clean coal and next-generation nuclear power. It also includes support for energy efficiency and conservation programs, extensions of tax credits for renewable energy sources, competitive electric markets to spur innovation, and federally mandated carbon legislation, such as a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system.

“We at Exelon take the need for action as a given, and feel the sooner the better,” Rowe said. “Without a proper public policy framework, there is no way to deal with a challenge as large as climate change.”

Rowe spoke at the Science Center as part of the Harvard University Center for the Environment’s Future of Energy lecture series. Center Director Daniel Schrag, professor of Earth and planetary sciences, said Rowe has been active on the national energy policy discourse for some time, co-chairing the National Commission on Energy Policy, a bipartisan group of energy experts.

“John gives us a sobering view of the challenge ahead as we try to decarbonize our energy system,” Rowe said. “It is not only a challenge we need to face, but alsobp a commitment the nation must make to its future.”

(See Energy, next page)

Arctic ice is thinning steadily

Rate of decline has jumped in recent years, says global warming expert

By Corydon Ireland
Harvard News Office

There was a polar bear sighting at Harvard last week.

At Pforzheimer House on Thursday (Oct. 2), global warming expert James J. McCarthy delivered a crisp summary of how fast ice is melting in the Arctic — and why we should care. The audience of 80 took in his companion slide show, including images of ice-stranded polar bears. Ursus maritimus, the largest land predator in the world, is “the signature animal in this whole discussion,” said McCarthy, who is master of Pforzheimer House and Harvard’s Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography. Vanishing ice shortens the hunting season for these cold-weather bears, he said, and reduces access to the ringed seals they require for lipid reserves.

McCarthy, an expert on plankton productivity, is a former co-chair of the working group on impacts for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He was also one of the lead authors of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, a 2005 document that outlined the likely consequences of sustained warming in the Arctic for animals, people, and ecosystems.

To dramatize the change in ice cover, McCarthy showed a picture of a Russian icebreaker during the mid-1990s, when Arctic ice was still relatively thick (up to 13 feet). The 7500-horsepower nuclear-powered ship “was just crawling through,” he said, “with some hesitation and a lot of noise.”

By 2000, McCarthy said that vast stretches of white ice had been replaced by blue water. Ice cover in many places had thinned to as little as 3 feet.

On a trip to the Canadian Arctic this summer, McCarthy was aboard an icebreaker, peering over the side to watch thinning ice crack open. Revealed were algae-rich brine channels shot through with sunlight — radiant columns of frigid water where one-celled plants thrive. (How rapid warming affects Arctic algae, the bedrock of the marine ecosystem, is being studied.)

The decline in Arctic ice cover is steady, said McCarthy, and sometimes dramatic. On average, ice has been vanishing at the rate of about one percent per year. But the decline jumped to 20 percent last year, he said, “and no one predicted that.”

On Greenland, said McCarthy, exit glaciers that empty into the ocean are “retreating, speeding up, and thinning” — a rapid melting replicated since 1960 on “tens of thousands” of Alpine glaciers worldwide. The implications of melting sea ice are troubling for the polar bears, sea birds, baleen whales, seals, and arctic foxes that make up the Arctic ecosystem.

(See Arctic, next page)

Al Gore to celebrate sustainability at Harvard

Former Vice President Al Gore will be coming to campus on Oct. 22 for the first-ever University-wide celebration of sustainability. The event, hosted by President Drew Faust, will mark the official launch of the University’s new greenhouse gas reduction effort and will also celebrate Harvard’s broader environmental initiatives, including the critical role the University plays in teaching and research in this area.

Faculty, staff, and students are invited to Tercentenary Theatre beginning at 3 p.m. for food and refreshments. Gore will deliver the Robert Coles Call of Service Lecture, which is sponsored each year by the Phillips Brooks House Association. His talk begins at 4 p.m.

Full details of the day’s program and related events can be found at www.green.harvard.edu.


(See Sustainability at Work, next page)

Students Nicholas Smith ’09 (from left), Geneva Trotter ’09, and Rafael Miranda ’09 have a few questions for James J. McCarthy before his talk.

Kris Snibbe/Harvard News Office


October 9-15, 2008 Harvard University Gazette 9
Troubling for people, too. In villages McCarthy visited last summer in Greenland, temperatures were 16.8 degrees Fahrenheit above the average highs of 53 degrees. The climbing mercury was speed- ing coastal erosion, altering the migra- tion patterns of game, and making ice — the platform for most hunting — unpredictable. The villagers also faced electrical storm surges, far from the usual weather anomalies, said McCarthy, “with no words for ‘thunder’ or ‘lightning’ in their vocabulary.”

If the ice in the Arctic and in Greenland were to melt, said McCarthy, oceans worldwide could rise by 7 meters (about 22 feet). By 2100, one study pre- dicted, the global sea-level rise could range from 0.8 to 2 meters (31 to 78 inches).

At the lower figure every coastal city will be vulnerable to tidal surges and island nations will disappear. The higher figure, McCarthy said, would spell “coastal catastrophe.”

McCarthy’s slides included project- ed views of what the Arctic might look like in 2100. They showed a truncated Florida, Venice-like ocean-side cities, and a shortened, saturated Gulf Coast. “Here’s what the map’s shown,” said McCarthy near a map showing a 39-inch sea-level rise. “Forget New Orleans. It’s just gone.”

Polar ice is not melting in Antarctica, the world’s largest and most remote continent, where about 85 percent of the Earth’s fresh surface water is immobilized in ice. Frigid temperatures there, Mc- Carthy said, are maintained by the high- est average continental altitudes in the world.

But by contrast, said McCarthy, the Arctic is at least 10 degrees warmer, making it more survivable to warming and “an early indicator of change in global climate.” As more ice melts, more dark open water appears. It’s more efficient than snow and ice at absorbing heat. That decreases the albedo (light-reflecting) effect that has kept the Arctic ice-bound and cold for millennia.

It’s possible to avoid catastrophic sea-level rises, said McCarthy, by adopting the “stabilization scenario” — focusing on intermediary projections: an 80 percent reduction of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In the meantime, admirable local- ized efforts are under way, he said, in- cluding emissions-reductions goals es- poused by 500 or more U.S. mayors, a dozen governors, and by universities, including Harvard, which this year pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2015 — a “very aggressive target,” said McCarthy.

McCarthy said that “an entire wedge” of other steps could reduce the world’s carbon footprint, he said. That includes renew- able energy sources; energy efficiency and conservation; policy changes like carbon taxation and cap-and-trade sys- tems; emerging technologies for carbon capture and storage; and nuclear power — “after a period of R&D we have not had,” said McCarthy.

Pforzheimer resident Karen McKin- non ’10, an Earth and plan- etary sciences concentrator and resident advisor, who co-chairs the Harvard College Environ- mental Action Committee, took in the McCarthy lecture.

“There always more to know,” she said.

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Belfer Center announces research fellows 2008-09

The Belfer Center for Science and Inter- national Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School announced the following new 2008-09 re- search fellows. These fellows conduct re- search within the Belfer Center’s Interna- tional Security Program (ISP).

Ali A. Al-Hadad is a Ph.D. candidate in public policy at Harvard, a research fellow with the International Security Program, and a research assistant with the Belfer Center’s Preventive Defense Project. His research in- terests include Chinese foreign policy and security strategy, and the global nonprolif- eration regime.

Thomas Hegghammer is an Oxford and Paris-educated Middle East specialist, who has published and consulted widely on ji- hadism and Al Qaeda. A senior research fel- low at the Norwegian Defense Research Es- tablishment (FFI) in Oslo, he is preparing a book about the jihadi ideology Abdallah Azarni, and the first female Afghan Mili- tary. Hegghammer is appointed through the Belfer Center’s Initiative on Religion in International Affairs.

Azeem Ibrahim is currently completing his Ph.D. at the Centre of International Stud- ies at the University of Cambridge. His the- sis examines the different phases of U.S. policy in the Caspian region since the col- lapse of the Soviet Union and seeks to iden- tify the motivational drivers that were sig- nificant in each phase to explain policy out- comes.

Eric Kaufmann directs the master’s pro- gram in Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict at Birbeck, University of London. A recipient of the Political Studies Association’s 2008 Richard Rose Prize, he is writing a book on the demography of religion. Kaufmann is ap- pointed through the Initiative on Religion in International Affairs.

Nelly Lahoud is an assistant professor of po- litical theory, including Islamic political thought, at Goucher College. She completed her Ph.D. in 2002 at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National Uni- versity. She is currently completing a man- uscript about past and present jihadi. Lah- oud is conducting research under the Ini- tiative on Religion in International Affairs.

Megan MacKenzie received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Al- berta and has published in areas related to wartime sexual violence and female sol- diers, including a chapter in R. Charli Car- penter’s “Born of War.” Her research experi- ences includes extensive work in Sierra Leone, where she interviewed more than 50 for- mer female soldiers.

Ragnhild Nordás is a Ph.D candidate in political science at the Norwegian Universi- ty at Oslo, and the first Norwegian intern at theälliot. Nordás is conducting research under the Initiative on Religion in International Affairs.

Andrea Strimling is a scholar and prac- titioner whose work focuses on inter-agency, civil-military, public-private coordination in postconflict peace building, and stabilization and reconstruction operations. She holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College and an M.R.P. from the Harvard Kennedy School. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at The Fletcher School Tufts University.

Dominic Tierney is assistant professor of political science at Swarthmore College with a Ph.D. from Oxford University. He will re- search the impact of U.S. military defeat, multilateralism, and American perceptions of war.

Karine Walther holds a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University, a maîtrise and je- cience in sociology from the University of Paris VIII, and a B.A. in American studies from the University of Texas, Austin. Her re- search focuses on how American cultural def- lies about Islam influenced U.S. foreign pol- icy in the 19th and 20th centuries. Walther is conducting research under the Belfer Cen- ter’s Initiative on Religion in International Af- fairs and Dubai Initiative.

Melissa Willard-Foster is a UCLA political science Ph.D. candidate specializing in inter- national relations, security studies, and quan- titative methods. Her dissertation deals with the causes and consequences of foreign-im- posed regime change. She holds an M.A. in International relations from the University of Chicago and a B.S. from the Georgetown Uni- versity School of Foreign Service.

Keren Yahi-Mile is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Penn- sylvania. Her dissertation tests the extent to which changes in an adversary’s military ca- pabilities, doctrine, and behavioral signals shape and transform perceptions of inten- tions for both senior civilian decision mak- ers and intelligence analysts.
CFA research advance creates tool for lung imaging

In a basement laboratory at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA), surrounded by instruments built to detect the universe’s distant secrets, sits a machine that will help us look not outward to the stars, but inward at our own bodies. Using know-how gained building instruments to peer into space and test the fundamental laws of physics, Ronald Walsworth, senior lecturer on physics at Harvard and senior physicist at the Smithsonian Institution, and his research team have created a device, known as an “astro-comb,” to greatly increase the ability of scientists to take an inert gas and manipulate it, creating what is known as hyperpolarization.

The new low-field MRI grew out of research advanced at the CfA, which is being tried out now on a mountaintop in Arizona. The machine’s lower magnetic field allows the use of a smaller, walk-in magnet and flexibility on patient positioning that allows the use of a much lower magnetic field outside the body to create the same detailed images that are obtained with traditional, high-magnetic-field MRI.

To get the images, subjects breathe the hyperpolarized gas into the body. It creates detailed images of both hard and soft tissue and is used to detect everything from cancerous tumors to physical injuries, such as ligament damage in athletes.

The body’s natural magnetism is so tiny that traditional MRIs need enormous magnets to get an image. Patients typically lie on a bed that is fed into the MRI’s doughnut-shaped magnet. The MRI’s magnetic field is then manipulated and radio-wave signals applied to get an image.

The machine’s lower magnetic field allows the use of a smaller, walk-in magnet and flexibility on patient positioning that Walsworth said can be important in studies of lung function.

“We spend most of the day upright and moving around, but MRI systems work with the patient lying down in the tube,” Walsworth said. “Blood flow as well as air flow are dependent on posture and are very different when lying down or sitting up.”

MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging, is a medical imaging technology that has been in use since the 1970s. The technique uses powerful magnets to manipulate tiny amounts of magnetism that exists naturally within the body. This magnetism is contained in the nucleus of hydrogen atoms in the water that makes up a large part of all of us.

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MRI

(Continued from previous page)

lung of people when upright and lying down.

Walsworth said the current low-field MRI is the third generation of such instruments. In the late 1990s, his lab first built a small version that worked on animals and followed that up in 2003 with a prototype for use on humans, developed together with colleagues at the Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Harvard School of Public Health, and the University of New Hampshire. The current low-field MRI incorporates changes based on lessons from the earlier machines.

“We cobbled together the first two systems mostly from parts already found in our labs,” Walsworth said. “The current version is the first to be optimally designed and employ custom hardware.”

In talking about the new technology, Walsworth said MRI has always been useful for “looking inside the body.” It is “the only commonly used imaging modality,” he said, to see the “true color” of an object, adding that “for those who understand its potential, it’s a tool of great value.”

In his neat white-walled office on Cambridge Street, the Greece-born political scientist displayed two vivid signs of privilege: time for culture and time to write. There was a wall of calendar listings — “I integrate wherever I am,” he said — and a computer screen lined with text. (Mylonas is turning his dissertation into a book.)

Academy scholars take from Harvard — a stipend, money for travel and research — and also give back, said Mylonas. They are resources for Harvard students still immersed in degree work. And their scholarship is so new and their time abroad so recent, that they “bring a fresh understanding of what’s going on in the world.”

Osseo-Asare ‘98, Ph.D. 2005 — a historian of science on leave from the University of California, Berkeley — is using part of her second year as an academy scholar to finish a book. It’s on plant-based traditional African remedies, the African scientists investigating them, and the potential the remedies have for awakening pharmaceutical markets on the continent.

The program “is a real gift,” she said — no teaching obligations, “absolute freedom, and all the support we need to write and create what we’ve come to do.”

Osseo-Asare’s book will explore five traditional medicines — from Ghana, South Africa, and Madagascar — that address leukaemia, malaria, cardiac health, impotence, and appetite disorders. She’s also a champion of scholars using digital audio and video in their research — a fieldwork approach she is now employing in a parallel study of science policy in Ghana.

The Harvard Academy supports young scholars whose work may only later bear practical fruit, said Osseo-Asare. Its mission also acknowledges that the academic world sometimes sidesteps the scientific achievements of non-Western cultures.

That’s a blindness that never affected her, said Osseo-Asare, whose father — born in Ghana — is a professor of metals science at PennState. Two of his close academic friends are mathematicians from Rwanda and a chemist from Nigeria.

It’s a cultural blindness that the Harvard Academy is addressing too. Without such fixes, said Osseo-Asare, “there’s a whole class of people missing from the literature.”

Jon Chase/Harvard News Office

Coral Rose Martin ‘10 holds up some Hoodia teas. Walsworth reels off a list of people for whom it would be useful, including those with magnet-sensitive pacemakers, premature babies with problems of lung function, and obese patients for whom getting inside a traditional MRI might be difficult. He also spoke of future possibilities, where a hyper-polarized liquid or nanoparticles could be developed for injection, then letting the MRI image the circulatory system or find precancerous lesions.

Though there may eventually be other applications, the promise of a new kind of lung imaging has researchers taking notice. Jose Venegas, associate professor of anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and MGH, conducts research into asthma’s effects on the lung and is interested in the low-field MRI’s capabilities. Venegas said they often use PET, or positron emission tomography, to image lungs, but because it is a radiation-based technology, there is a limit to how often the patient can be exposed.

“Being able to study a subject multiple times would be very useful in seeing how asthma develops, seeing the bronchial re-strictions,” Venegas said.

Venegas said the new low-field MRI could also be useful in watching how lung function changes as a patient shifts position, going from a sitting to lying position.

“l’ve taken a look at some of the data; it’s very impressive,” Venegas said. “I’m intrigued by the possibilities.”

Rosen said he’d like to move the new machine from the CTA to MGH’s Martinos Center. They have the lab space, he said, but they are still searching for funding to make changes to the space the new equipment will require. Once it moves in, Rosen said, they will begin to explore the possibilities of the new technology.

“One of the areas of research will be to really understand the role it may play,” Rosen said. “I think it will have lots of applications.”

Rosen called the work “a combination of clever physics and physiology,” and said it isn’t the first time an imaging collaboration occurred between Harvard medical imagers and astrophysicists. The Astronomical Medicine project at the IIC uses the expertise of medical imaging on sky surveys and other astronomical projects.

Walsworth cited a collaboration with the Harvard Center for Brain Science on nanoscale magnetic sensing as another case where new imaging tools are being developed by physical and life scientists working together.

“We plan to keep pushing the boundaries of what can be measured and imaged and then applying these new tools in both the physical and life sciences,” Walsworth said. Collaborations such as these, Rosen said, illustrate the benefit of working at a large research institution such as Harvard, where advances in one field can benefit other fields. But even though they are seemingly unrelated.

“The interesting thing is all of these connections between basic physics, way-out cosmology, patient care, computers, and technology,” Rosen said. “The same physics used to solve mysteries of the universe can be applied to these here-on-Earth problems.”

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Power of the pen in early America

Brooks explores the uses and significance of Native American writing in Colonies

By Emily T. Simon

In 1747, three members of the Abenaki Native American tribe and their Mohawk ally posted a petition on a wall of an English fort in the Connecticut River Valley. The paper was small, but it spoke volumes. Addressed to the General Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the document — written entirely in English — gave notice that Abenakis and their allies were willing to help destroy the forts of English settlers that were cropping up throughout the Native region, thereby helping the English by lowering their cost of maintaining and supplying so many forts.

According to Lisa Cooper, assistant professor of Native American studies, the Abenaki petition signifies more than skillful use of sarcasm and irony. It is one example among many, she says, where Native Americans used their English writing skills to resist colonization and reclaim land.

"As colonization progressed, many Native leaders adopted writing as a tool to deal with issues that were important to their communities," she said. "They wrote petitions, gave speeches, and recorded local histories. Writing was an imaginative route to survival for these people."

Stricken with scarlet fever as a young boy, David Wright grew up in a silent world. In his moving autobiography, "Deafness: A Personal Account," the South African-born author tells that story.

The compelling work was one of the first things a group of three Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) students turned to when tasked with the challenge of creating a new space for a local school for deaf children.

Since 1876, the picturesque home overlooking the Bass River in Beverly, Mass., has been a haven of learning for deaf students. Established by William B. Swett, a deaf man who served as president of the New England Gallaudet Association for the Deaf in the early 1870s, the school originally served 10 adults. In the succeeding 132 years, the facility, situated on the scenic hillside and known today as The Children's Center for Communication & Beverly School for the Deaf, has grown to include a number of buildings and now educates a diverse student body.

But as it has grown, so has its need for more space. In addition to serving deaf students, the school currently works with children with physical and developmental disabilities. To accommodate the needs of its changing student population and increasing staff, one of the school's trustees contacted Harvard for help in the hopes the GSD might create a contest for the design of the site. A student forum group at the Design School chose instead to let a group of students devote their summer to the project. Three friends from the same class, Andy Lantz '10, Brett Albert '10, and Jonathan Evans '10, jumped at the chance.

Their first step was to try to comprehend what it means to be deaf in a hearing world. Enter Wright's poignant, first-hand account, along with narratives by other deaf authors.

"It was more or less taking experiences that people were writing about and trying to translate that into some system of understanding how to develop the architect-

(See Brooks, next page)
Brooks

(Continued from previous page)

through which many Native Americans learned to read and write. “It’s protest literature—designed to pull back the frontiers—that makes nonsense of so-called social conventions.”

Brooks drew the name of her book from a phrase that is mentioned repeatedly in Native American writings from the 18th and 19th centuries. “The Common Pot” was a metaphor that stood for community and shared sustenance, but also described the shape of the landscape.

“The Connecticut River Valley, or ‘Terrestrial Home’ in Abenaki, was a central trade route for Native peoples,” Brooks said. “It was a deep, fertile valley that sustained people and played a critical role in the network of relationships that were formed to forge the peace—Joseph Brant of the Mohawk Nation, for example, traced the petitioning efforts of the Mohegan tribe as they sought to reclaim substantive grounds in the Connecticut. One of the leaders in the land, a woman named Occom, recognized that divisive Colonial influences were causing the Native peoples to turn against one another. She acquired the women’s movement of winning back the land. Occom wrote several petitions and letters to address this concern and also recorded conversations that were going on at the time about social and political upheavals.”

In addition to the Abenaki petition, Brooks discussed several other cases where Native writing played a key role in Native resistance. For example, she traces the narratives of the Mohican tribe as they sought to reclaim substantive grounds in the Connecticut. One of the leaders in the land, a woman named Occom, recognized that divisive Colonial influences were causing the Native peoples to turn against one another. She acquired the women’s movement of winning back the land. Occom wrote several petitions and letters to address this concern and also recorded conversations that were going on at the time about social and political upheavals.

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In addition to the Abenaki petition, Brooks discusses several other cases where Native writing played a key role in Native resistance. For example, she traces the narratives of the Mohican tribe as they sought to reclaim substantive grounds in the Connecticut. One of the leaders in the land, a woman named Occom, recognized that divisive Colonial influences were causing the Native peoples to turn against one another. She acquired the women’s movement of winning back the land. Occom wrote several petitions and letters to address this concern and also recorded conversations that were going on at the time about social and political upheavals.

“People are often surprised at how much writing there is out there,” she said. “These accounts enable us to get closer to the conversations that were going on at the time about American political upheavals.”
In addition to their reading, the men traveled frequently to the school's campus on the North Shore to meet with school officials and observe classes at the facility, getting to know students, teachers, and the surrounding community.

The result is a design of a 55,000-square-foot, four-story structure that incorporates disparate elements addressing the school's particular needs.

A critical factor for the school, which relies heavily on the use of American Sign Language, is the control of natural light. Students need to be able to clearly see an instructor who is using sign language, and solar glare from uncovered windows can inhibit their view.

On an early walk through the building, Albert, Evans, and Lantz noticed that the school's current system of blinds—which can only be fully open or closed—left many of the classrooms in total darkness to eliminate the glare. To remedy the problem, they created a system of tall shelves with storage bins that could be removed, allowing teachers and students to control the amount of light.

To create more flexible classroom space, the design team introduced a series of moveable panels and dividers that let teachers work with students individually or in group settings. Their design also replaced stairs in certain areas with a system of ramps that allow a teacher to easily walk backward while continuing to sign. They also limited the vibrations from mechanical equipment and fluorescent bulbs that are often highly distracting to deaf students.

Additional open space was incorporated into the new building, allowing the school to lease the space to other nonprofits as a means of generating income. Also included in the design were other open areas that could be made available for local community events. The landscape of the center, too, was reconfigured. The students replaced a parking area with green space as part of an effort to shift some of the campus’s activities to the foreground of the site, a sloping green hill that looks over the Bass River.

“We wanted to demystify the entire idea of what a school for special needs is,” said Evans, who noted that too often such schools are distanced from the public’s view, enforcing the notion of separateness.

During their research the team also realized the lack of design information available for the particular challenges faced by the deaf community. As a result, they created a Web site and catalog to accompany their project that could be used in the future as a reference tool for others looking to design similar projects.

“The focus became how do you use research to start to develop an architecture that is not simply addressing one situation of designing for the deaf, but becomes ... a new approach or system for designing for the deaf,” said Lantz, who recently presented his findings to architecture students at two universities in Ecuador.

The plan met with enthusiasm at a discussion last month with the Beverly school’s board.

“I’m overwhelmed,” said Anthony Fusco, a member of the school’s board for the past five years, “in a very positive sense. It’s remarkable how much thought has gone into this facility and this campus specific to the needs of the school. [It] fits right in with what [we] clearly see as a vision for the school; it’s very impressive.”

The school’s Executive Director Mark Carlson praised the three students for their committed effort.

“They have put incredible creativity and programmatic thought into the end results of the building,” he said, “which allows [it] to grow, develop, and be flexible to the changing needs of our programs.”

Carlson said he plans to use the new design to solicit backing and support for the new project.

collen_walsh@harvard.edu
calender
Guidelines for listing events in Calendar

Events on campus sponsored by the University, its schools, departments, centers, organizations, and its recognized student groups may be published every Thursday. Events sponsored by outside groups will not be included. Admissions charges may apply for some events. Call the event sponsor for details.

To place a listing

Notices should be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed to the Calendar editor. Perti- nent data should include: name of event, sponsoring organization, date, time, and location; and, if applicable, name of speaker(s), fee, refresh- ments, registration and information, A submission form is available at the front desk of the News Office, 1060 Holyoke Center. Promotional pho- tographs with descriptions are wel- come.

Addresses

Mail: Calendar editor Harvard Gazette 1350 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02138 Telephone: (617) 496-2651 Fax: (617) 496-9351 E-mail: calendar@harvard.edu

Deadlines

Calendar listings must be received at least one week before their publica- tion date, or by 5 p.m. on Thursday. If you are uncertain about a deadline, hol- iday schedule, or any other informa- tion, please call the calendar editor (617) 496-2651.

Online

The Calendar is available on the Web at www.harvard.edu/~harvard/ gazette. Click on Calendar.

Available space

Listings for ongoing exhibitions, health and fitness classes, support and study groups will be listed on a space-available basis. Information not run in a particular issue will be reserved for later publication.

Screenings/studies and support group listings must be renewed by Jan. 5 or Aug. 30 to continue run- ning for an additional term.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Bartok, Saens-Saures.” [Harvard College Office] Boston Philharmonic Orchestra performs, featur- ing John Nelson. Schoenauer Hall, 8 p.m. Tickets are $25, $10 for students.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Durufle, Faure, and Debussy.” [Boston College] Boston College Chamber Music Society performs, featuring Joseph Kaiser, piano. Ryan Hall, 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $17, $13 for students,
seniors, and Ceters.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Dryden’s Middle Kingdom.” [Harvard Catholic Center] Season of Dryden’s Middle Kingdom continues with “The Visitation of the Magi.” St. John’s House, 7 p.m. Free guest lecture.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Dvorak.” [Harvard College] Boston Philharmonic Orchestra performs, featuring Neeme Järvi and Daniel Hope. Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $27, $17 for students.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Dvorak.” [Harvard College] Harvard University Symphony Orchestra performs, featuring Christopher Wilkins. Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $27, $17 for students.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Don Quixote.” [Harvard University] Boston Ballet performs, featuring William Forsythe. Boston University Questrom School of Business, 7 p.m. Tickets are $25, $15 for students.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Dvořák’s New World.” [The Loeb Drama Center] Harvard University Opera Theatre performs, featuring Adam Fisher. The Loeb Drama Center, 8 p.m. Tickets are $15, $12 for students.


Sun., Oct. 19—“Durufle, Faure, and Debussy.” [Boston College] Boston College Chamber Music Society performs, featuring Benjamin Raberta. Ryan Hall, 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $17, $13 for students.

Sun., Oct. 19—“Dvorak.” [Harvard College] Harvard University Symphony Orchestra performs, featuring Frank Almond. Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $27, $17 for students.

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**Harvard Neighborhoods**

**“New work”** at Harvard Neighborhoods features photography by Justin Ide and bronze sculptures by Silvana Magni. (Oct. 15/Nov. 5)

—Harvard Neighborhoods, 17 Quincy St. Gallery open weekdays only; call (617) 495-5214 evenings. www.neigh-bors.harvard.edu

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**Holyoke Center**

**“Just One Thing”** features photographs by Brasil 2007, a medium format film camera through a slow, deliberate process. The images focus one’s gaze on an isolated subject matter. (Oct. 10-No. 5)

—Holyoke Center, 1st Floor, Prospect Street. (Through Oct. 18)

—Amy Lowell Room, Holyoke Center, (617) 495-2441.

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**Inmersed in a Different Remoteness:** Russian Art of the 19th and 20th Century presents the experiences of creative visitors to Yaddo, a writer/artist retreat created in 1905 by Isabella and Katherine Trask of Saratoga Springs, New York. Some of the greatest Russian artists and writers who visited the retreat were Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, Thomas Wolfe, and Sylvia Plath. (Oct. 1-31)

—Amy Lowell Room, Holyoke Center, (617) 495-2444.

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**To Promote, To Learn, To Please:** The 2007-08 Winners of the Visiting Artist/Writer Program features illustrations in early modern books. It illustrates how images in early modern books of science (1500-1750) were shaped not only by the needs of scientific communication but also by economic, social, and cultural considerations. Representative examples are also compared with images both in the images themselves and in the books they illustrated. (Through Dec. 20)

—Edison and Newman Room, Holyoke Center, (617) 495-2444

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**Lambert Museum**

**2008-2009 Members of the Visiting Committee Prize for Undergraduate Book Collecting and the Martin Kropper Prize for Art and Book Collecting** features samplings of the prize-winning collections, along with personal commentary. (Through May 2009)

—Lambert Library. second and third floors. (617) 495-2455

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**Landscape Institute**

**APLD New England Designer Showcase** exhibits the work of New England landscape designers. Reception with designers Fri., Oct. 10, 5-7:30 p.m. RSVP to main@manorvictorinc.com. (Through Oct. 17)

—Landscape Institute, 30 Chauncy St. (617) 495-8632, www.landscape.arboretum.harvard.edu

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**Peabody Museum**

**Change and Continuity:** Hall of the Peabody Museum, 1251 Cambridge St. (Through Oct. 18)

—The Sackler Museum is located at 455 Broadway. The Harvard Art Museum is open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is $9; $7 for senior citizens; $6 for college students with ID; free to Harvard ID holders. Cambridge Public Library card holders, members, and to people under 18 years old; free to the public on Saturday mornings 10 a.m.-noon and every day after 4:30 p.m. Tours are given Mon.-Fri. at 12:15 and 2 p.m. (617) 495-9400, www.harvardartmuseum.org.

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**Holyoke Center**

**“His Name Stuck to Every greatness:** Haroldact’s century back in what it means” is a small centennial exhibition celebrating Norton’s library, which came to Harvard at his death, and the sub- scription fund raised by 581 graduates, the income from which is used to add to this famous collection of books and manuscripts. (Oct. 13)

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**Houghton Library**

**“Picture This”** features photography by the late John Gruen, utilizing materials such as silver foil, silk and metallic paper, that demonstrates his masterful ability to create intimate portraits, capturing subjects with ID; free to Harvard ID holders and students; $6 for children 3 to 18 years old. Group rates available with advance reservations. (617) 495-2481. Free admission for Massachusetts residents on Sun., Monday, and Tuesday, except for groups, and free admission on Wed. afternoons, Sept.-May. 3:55 p.m. Free admission for active military and veterans with ID. (617) 495-3045, www.hollis.harvard.edu

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**Peabody Museum**

**Change and Continuity:** Hall of the Peabody Museum, 1251 Cambridge St. (Through Oct. 18)
**Schlesinger Library**

*Film screening and conversation with filmmaker “Buddy” Monroe and Rick Chomoski.* Auditorium, Gund Hall, GSD, 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Fri., Oct. 22—“Ajaq in Iraq.” (A.R.T.) Postdoc presentation with discussion by Ellen McLaughlin, playwright. Zero Arrow Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 general; $5 students/senior citizens; free for A.R.T. subscribers. Tickets are available through the A.R.T. Box Office (617) 547-8300, in person at the Loeb Drama Center Box Office, or at amrep.org. See theater.

Sat., Oct. 23—“Traveling Art at Harvard.” (HAMIL) Malaena Rennie, Harvard Law School, and Worthington, president and CEO, BERRIB.显示器, University of Pennsylvania. Thompson Room 419, Pound Hall, HLS, 3 p.m. (registration required at 617-495-4544). If available, tickets will be sold at the door. Participants may dine at the Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy St., for a meal inspired by the cuisine of the city being presented. Reservations are required by Oct. 15. www.hks.harvard.edu/translating-africa.

**Tozzer Library**

*Film screening with filmmaker to follow. Lecture hall, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., 6 p.m.*

**Paley Library**

*Film screening of “Daratt (Dry Season); discussion with filmmaker to follow. Lecture hall, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., 6 p.m.”* www.hks.harvard.edu/hauser/paley.
Thu., Oct. 9—“School Violence in Spain: Why It Happens and How to Stop It.” (Real College Computer) Rosa M. Pulido Valero, University Complutense de Madrid. RCC, 267. 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. www.realcollegecom


Fri., Oct. 10—“The U.S. and Europe: Managing the Financial Crisis.” (WCRA) Norbert Walter, Deutsche Bank Research, Frankfurt, Room SD00, CGIS South, 1730 Cambridge St., noon. Free and open to the public.

Sat., Oct. 11—“Demography and the Crisis of the Welfare State.” (CES, USIPR) Katerina Linnos, Society of Fellows, Harvard University; Ul Coleman, USIWC; with discussants Peter A. Hall, Harvard University, Bowe-Vernon Conference Room K262, CGIS Knafel Building, 1737 Cambridge St., 12:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Sun., Oct. 12—“The Return of the Taliban and the Future of Afghanistan.” (Initiative on State and Society in the Islamic World, CMES, Carr Center) Ahmed Rashid, with moderator Richard Parker, Nye Room AB, Taubman Building, HKS, 11:30 a.m.

Sun., Oct. 12—“The Emotional Experiences of War.” (HBS) Yoram Bauman, Harvard Business School. CGIS South, 1730 Cambridge St., 4 p.m. Free and open to the public.


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Life in the Age of the Photo.” Kiku Adachi, author and photographer. At the Buttman Center Conference, GSE, 12:30 p.m.; buffet lunch and networking at 12:15 p.m. RSVP at www.countway.harvard.edu to attend. mailing@countway.harvard.edu by Fri., Oct. 31, with the word “registration” in the subject line.

CPR and First Aid Programs. Call (617) 495-1771 to register.

Environmental Health and Safety (Harvard Longwood Campus) safety determinant for should be a part of a

Climate lab researchers are offered on the third each month, noon:2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazardous Waste safer environments. Register at harvard.arboretum.edu/ehs. Beverages provided.

The Harvard Art Museum presents a series of public seminars and special programs this fall. For more and must arrive in advance to register. See each program for details. Discount is available for Friend members of the Art Museums. For more information, please register your interest in how to become a friend, call (617) 495-4044. Also, see lectures, art/design.

Ballroom dance classes are offered by the Harvard Ballroom Dance Team throughout the year. Salsa, Swing, Country, and Rhumba. Join in on 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost: $15. Fall sessions will be held: Oct. 14, 26, Nov. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 4 p.m.; and Oct. 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, Sat., Sun. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Call (617) 495-2581 or come to the Bureau of Student Life Office, 5 Linden St. to register or for more information.

Harvard Extension School Career and Professional Resource Center (617) 495-9413, ourchide@huc.harvard.edu.

Harvard Green Campus Initiative offers classes, lectures, and more. Visit www.greenharvard.harvard.edu for details.


Wed., Oct. 22 — "Describing Relevant Solutions." Course offers hands-on instruction in using the HOLLIS database. The course will begin Nov. 6; winter session begins Dec. 3. Fee is $37/half-hr; $25/half-hr for Harvard affliates; $55 Mather residents.

Mather House Chamber Music offers a half-day workshop for students and professionals who come to read more purposively, selectively, and with greater understanding. (617) 495-4044. Register at www.studentlife.harvard.edu/curriculum or at the Office of the Arts, www.studentlife.harvard.edu.

The Center for Astrophysics will offer a class focused on psychology for students who participate in the universe. Join experts for an hour and half discussion on astro-Do not hallucinate.

Name the chapters and most require advance registration. (Continued on next page)
On-Site Massage Therapy or Shiatsu
10-minute appointments with Licensed Massage Therapists
Call (617) 495-9629 to arrange
Fee is $10 per person for 10 minutes; minimum of six people

Religious Services

Harvard University Chapel

- Wednesday, Oct. 1-3 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 2-10 a.m.
- Friday, Oct. 3-11 a.m.

Office of Religious Education and Mitchell, the memorial church, cura- of the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
1418 Cambridge St.
Inman Square, Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 354-3151
www.firstunitedcambridge.org

- Sunday School: Sun., 12:15 p.m.
- Worship Service: Sun., 11 a.m.

Cambridge, an intimate community for women, meets the first Thursday of each month (the fall and spring terms only) at 7 p.m. in Andover Chapel at the Holyoke Center. Call (617) 868-3743 to RSVP. Please write to mfs@hcs.harvard.edu for information.

Union Ministry
Churches and organizations are affiliated with the Union Ministry and offer worship and social services. Call for details.

Anglican/Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard
20 Hancock St., suite 3B
(617) 495-3430
episcopalchaplain@harvard.edu

- Weekdays, 9 a.m.-noon. $40/hr for HUGHP members

First United Presbyterian Church
1418 Cambridge St.
Inman Square, Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 354-3151
www.firstunitedcambridge.org

- Sunday School: Sun., 12:15 p.m.
- Worship Service: Sun., 11 a.m.

Harvard Buddhist Community Chaplain Lam Miaon Hsu teaches offers teachings and meditation sessions at the Sawaya Institute for Buddhist Studies, 59 Church St., Unit 3, Harvard Square.

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints
75 Mt. Auburn St., 2E, HUHS
(617) 256-3904, misgrew@earthlink.net, www.slds.net.

- Sundays: “In-Depth Teachings on the Four Noble Truths.” 10 a.m. noon.

- Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. “Seven Steps of Mind Training,” 6:30 p.m. (practice), 7:30 p.m. (class).

- Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Harvard University chaplaincy, Cambridge, Mass.
Sundays: Services in English at 10:30 a.m. and in Brazilian Portuguese at 6:30 p.m.
www.unitycambridge.org

- Sunday morning service; 11 a.m. sanctuary service with organ and choir.

Old South Church, United Church of Christ, Congregational
Copy of the Sunday afternoon service, 5:15-5:45, helen@oldsouth.org
Sundays: Early service; 11 a.m. sanctuary service with organ and choir.
- Hope Fellowship Church holds worship services Saturday at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (617) 663-3261, hopefellowshipchurch.org

- St. Mary Orthodox Church 8 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 547-2334
http://www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.org/

- Sunday Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.
- Adult classes are available Fridays, 10-10:45 a.m., at 636 Mt. Auburn St., 16 Beech St., (617) 495-9629.

Weight Watchers at Work classes are available. (617) 495-9629.

Weight Watchers at Work HDS classes are available Fridays, 10:30-11 a.m. at the Harvard University Church at 34 Mt. Auburn St., 2E.
(617) 354-3151
www.firstunitedcambridge.org

- Thursday, Oct. 3 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Thursday, Oct. 10 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Thursday, Oct. 24 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Thursday, Oct. 31 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Nov. 11 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Nov. 18 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Nov. 25 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Dec. 2 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Dec. 9 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Dec. 16 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Dec. 23 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Dec. 30 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Jan. 6 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Jan. 13 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Jan. 20 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.

- Sunday, Jan. 27 —9 a.m. Announcements of concerts in the area and in the church, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to jonathan_page@harvard.edu for details.
LifeRaft is an ongoing drop-in support group where people can talk about their struggles: learning to live without someone they loved, about their grief and bereavement. LifeRaft is open to anyone connected with the Harvard Community: students, faculty, staff, retirees, and families. Life Raft meets twice weekly on Wednesdays, noon-2 p.m. in the Board of Ministry Conference Room on the ground floor of the Memorial Church. Come for 10 minutes or 2 hours. (617) 495-2042, bgilmore@uhs.harvard.edu.

Office of Work/Life Resources offers a variety of programs and classes. (617) 495-4100, worklife@harvard.edu, www.worklife@harvard.edu. See classes for related programs.

Parenting Through Adoption Network at Harvard. If you would like to volunteer as a resource, or if you would like to speak to someone who has previously gathered information, call (617) 495-4100. All inquiries are confidential.


Recycling Information Hotline: The Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD) has activated a phone line to provide recycling information to University members. (617) 495-3042.

Smart Recovery is a discussion group for people who are recovering from addiction. Additional Programs are offered at Mt. Auburn Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, McLean Hospital, and other locations. (781) 891-7574.

Tobacco Cessation Classes are offered weekly at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dates and times vary. Fee: $10 per class, and nicotine patches are available at a discounted rate. (617) 632-2099.

Harvard University Ombudsman Office is an independent resource for problem resolution. An Ombudsman is independent, non-neutral, and confidential. The ombudsman can provide confidential and informed assistance to faculty, staff, students, and retirees to resolve concerns related to their workplace and learning environments. A visitor can discuss issues and concerns with the ombudsman without committing to further disclosure or any formal resolution. Typical issues include disrespectful or inappropriate behavior; faculty/student, resident/student or patient/mentor relationships; unfair treatment of students; harassment of faculty, staff, residents, or patients; discrimination; and other concerns.

LifeLine program is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The service can be reached by dialing (1-877-327-4278). Counselors are available to answer your calls from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. Urgent calls will be answered by crisis clinicians round the clock. The LifeLine offers confidential, free, and confidential resources and support to anyone in crisis.

Researchers seek healthy men ages 21-50 for a 12-week study to evaluate the effects of a combination of a non-opioid analgesic and the rennin inhibitor aliskiren. Compensation up to $800. All personal information is confidential. Call (617) 789-2404 or e-mail biostatistics@fas.harvard.edu and refer to “Celestina and Lepaxo study.”

Depression Study: Researchers seek women ages 18-55 with depression and insomnia for a 12-week study. Receive up to $600. Call (617) 789-2165 or e-mail biostatistics@fas.harvard.edu and refer to “Lunesta study.”

Diabetes and Hypertension Study: Researchers seek participants ages 18-75 who have diabetes or hypertension. Participants receive $150 for their time and travel. All participants will be monitored by a research nurse at two separate appointments. Receipts will include intravenous infusions on three different mornings to study the kidney’s response to the rennin inhibitor atenolol. Compensation of $1,000 upon completion study. Call (617) 732-6901, hhsatalliances@partners.org, eseamong@partners.org.
Opportunities
Job listings posted as of October 9, 2008

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

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Opera

(Continued from page 15)

Davis’ true introduction to opera came in a classical music course in college, where he was “force-fed” the work of Richard Wagner. As a joke, he let his subversive tendencies take hold, and wrote an operatic jazz suite based on the feminist science fiction work, “The Left Hand of Darkness,” complete with his own leitmotifs, a type of recurring musical theme Wagner is well-known for employing throughout his operas.

“Turning Wagner upside down,” said Davis, set the stage for how he would redefine opera.

“I liked the idea of a subversive reworking of a lot of the stuff, a lot of the ideas, to suit my own purpose... I began to work in this idea of rhythm as structure and, in my operas particularly... on the interaction of rhythmic material as a basic building block of an opera.”

The subjects of his works are often emotionally charged — and that’s how it should be — noted the composer, whose first opera, “X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X,” premiered with the New York City Opera in 1996.

“Why wouldn’t someone do an opera about Malcolm X?” he asked, answering his own question: “It’s operatic; it’s an operatic story; it’s about transformation, ... about someone who went into the fire.”

Another technique in Davis’ operas is his use of the trickster, a troublemaking character in folk tales around the world, one who is usually central to the plot of a story and instrumental to how the story unfolds. In his opera “Amistad,” the tale of the 1839 mutiny aboard a ship of slaves bound for America, a god who narrates much of the action and has a hand in the fate of the characters on stage embodies the trickster.

Using this trickster god, said Davis, who can transcend time and place, allows the story to cast a light on both history and the present day.

“It's always about this idea of retelling, how history can be used to address where we are now, who we are ... Also, the trickster can draw upon this whole jazz world that I inhabit. ... So I can introduce this kind of rhythm, this kind of beat, because basically the trickster is able to tell and recast this story and think of history as a creative act.”

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Previn

(Continued from page 15)

With humorous anecdotes, Previn recounted much of his own career and the varied musical lessons that shaped him as an artist. Any opportunity to play or conduct or compose, he said, no matter how small, was important.

One memorable moment came while he was improvising the background piano music at a Dorsia theater. During one film, he played a “maniacal ‘Tiger Rag’” to accompany a Roaring ’20s scene on the screen. Later he saw the manager charging down the aisle in a state “beyond fury.” Not bothering to look back at the screen, Previn hadn’t noticed that the action had switched to biblical times.

“I was playing ‘Tiger Rag’ during the crucification. Even that taught me something... [any musical experience] helps, anything,” he said.

His experience in Hollywood composing music for films also taught him much. While the music wasn’t always of the highest quality, the musicians he worked with were, noted the composer, and his music was played almost immediately after it was written.

“We didn’t know if the music was going to be second-rate, third-rate, or tenth-rate, but it was going to be played, and if you sit there as a retailer... [you say], ‘Well, I like that. I’m going to do that again,’... or, ‘That didn’t work at all; I’m never going to do that again’... If you hear it, it stays in your head and you register it.”

One of Previn’s greatest lessons as a conductor concerned trusting the orchestra, and came from an early instructor. The man attended a performance Previn conducted and afterwards asked him if he thought the orchestra had played well. When Previn answered, ‘Yes,’ his teacher responded, “So did I. Next time, don’t interfere.”

“The teacher’s other great advice, said Previn, was the notion that it’s easy to make an orchestra play, but “difficult to make them want to.”

Previn, almost 80, has amassed a trail of honors and accomplishments during his long career including four Academy Awards, five Grammys, a Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Award, and a knighthood, to name a few. He is honest and up front and ready to admit that he has written many things he’d just as soon forget. But there are many pieces that he likes, too. And a life surrounded by music, he can’t think of anything I’d rather do than be a musician.”

Nico Olarte-Hayes ’11, the cellist who performed with the Brahms trio, was honored to play for the music legend.

“He’s done everything,” Olarte-Hayes said. “It’s great to learn from the best.”

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Kirkland House music tutor Chia-Jung Tsay (above from left), Alex Shiozaki ’09, and Katie Austin ’09 listen with pleasure as Previn (above right) reminisces.

Colleen Walsh
son outlined how cultural norms of life in an unsafe neighborhood — avoiding eye contact, mistrusting neighbors, and demanding respect — could be construed as anti-social behavior in another setting, such as a job interview.

“Note that the same culture frames in the inner city have not only been shaped by race and poverty but have, in turn, shaped the responses to poverty,” he said.

But although Wilson argues that cultural patterns should be considered, he maintains that more weight should be given to the structures created by racism, which, while clearly diminished in the United States, still linger in the form of “laissez-faire” racism, “a perception that blacks are responsible for their own economic predicament.”

The long-term impact of poverty is pernicious. Wilson cited a seven-year study of 750 Chicago-area children, age 6 to 12, that found that the verbal skills of children of poor families still remain low compared with children of the more well-to-do, even when poor families moved to safer, more affluent neighborhoods.

“Culture matters, but I would say it doesn’t matter as much as social structure,” he said. “Structure trumps culture.”

Wilson also quoted at length from the March speech on race given by Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, saying his frank discussion “provides a model of what I had in mind.”

During the lively and frequently passionate question-and-answer period that followed Wilson’s talk, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, spoke of the influence of culture in his life.

“Our mothers believe in culture,” Gates said, explaining how his mother told him and his brother that they could do anything that they set their minds to do. “My brother and I were hypnotized by that.”

Gates asked Wilson what he would suggest if a President Obama were to ask him, “What do I do first?”

“The first thing you do is put [racial issues] on the table as an important policy agenda,” Wilson responded. Pressed for specifics, he said, “Public education is where I would start.”

Bennett Boskey Professor of Law Lani Guinier insisted that poor black communities should not be viewed as isolated from general pop culture and indeed, maybe suffer from “some of the worst elements of American culture.”

The far-reaching discussion also touched on concerns about the decreasing economic status of middle-class blacks and the need for social agency like the Civil Rights Movement of the early 1960s, which energized black churches. Orlando Patterson, the John Cowles Professor of Sociology, spoke about the need for engagement, saying, “At some point we have to show how we are going to get the horse to drink.”

(Continued from page 1)