Antarctica

Blog entry posted Dec. 12: To set the scene — this place looks like a combination of Canyonlands National Park and Mars due to the combination of stunning sandstone buttres and the black, brown, red oxidized dolerites littering the ground.

Blog entry from Dec. 9: We’ve started to develop a nice routine down here. Wake up at 7:00 am (or as close to that as we can), eat a hearty breakfast of instant oatmeal, check in with Mac Oya over the radio, pack for the day, and then head out into the field. When it’s time for lunch we try to find a spot out of the wind and whip out our hot thermoses and such cold friendly foods as beef jerky, frozen Swiss cheese, Froodles (a noodley fruit snack we’d never heard of until we got here), cabin bread, peanut butter, and chocolate bars. At the end of the day (defined as 5:00 pm as we cannot go by the setting sun) we head back to camp, unload the samples from our packs, and start heating bread, peanut butter, and chocolate bars. At the end of the day (defined as 5:00 pm as we cannot go for the New England on Earth’s coldest desert. Researchers study glaciers

Lawrence Lessig receives two Harvard appointments

Lawrence Lessig — ‘one of the most brilliant and important legal scholars of our time’ — has joint appointments.

Named HLS professor of law, director of Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics

Revered legal scholar Lawrence Lessig has been appointed to the faculty of Harvard Law School, and as the faculty director of Harvard University’s Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics.

The announcement was made jointly Dec. 12 by Harvard University Provost Lawrence H. Bacow and Harvard Law School Dean Elena Kagan.

Lessig — a widely acclaimed expert in constitutional law, cybersecurity, and intellectual property — comes to Harvard from the faculty of Stanford Law School. Prior to joining the Stanford faculty in 2000, he taught on the faculty of the University of Chicago Law School and Harvard Law School.

"Lawrence is fortunate to have such an outstanding scholar as the helm of one of the finest organizations," said Hyman of the center appointment. "Lawrence brings with him tremendous vision and administrative experience, which will serve the center well as he continues to build upon its remarkable success."

Larry Lessig is one of the most brilliant and important legal scholars of our time," Kagan said. "His work has recast the very terms of discussion and debate in multiple areas of law, ranging from intellectual property to constitutional theory. His new focus on questions of governance and corruption will be similarly transformative, and I am thrilled that he is returning to Harvard Law School and assuming the directorship of the center to advance those efforts."

Gleam of light

Gleam of light

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Harvard Magazine site revamped

The site now features entire issues online, featuring dynamic graphics, and audio and video clips that enhance articles. Alumni who browse the Web site are greeted with the latest-breaking news at Harvard, including updates on the University’s finances.

Our revamped Web site aims to provide users even more access to breaking news about the University at an especially critical time,” said Harvard Magazine Editor John S. Rosenberg. “Along with enhanced online coverage of alumni ... [the Web site] makes it easier to access our complete current contents and online archives.

Other new features include a comments section following articles, where visitors can respond to stories and interact with each other. Alumni can still access familiar functions like submitting class notes, classified ads, or change-of-address forms — all easily located under a user-friendly navigation bar.

“We look forward to introducing further improvements in the months ahead,” said Rosenberg, who already pinpoints interactive Class Notes as a future target. But for now, he said, “We welcome users’ comments and suggestions.”


POLICE REPORTS

Following are some of the incidents reported to the Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) for the week ending Dec. 15. The official log is located at 1033 Massachusetts Ave., sixth floor, and is available online at www.hupd.harvard.edu.

Dec. 11: An officer took a report of two stolen $25 gift cards at the New Research Building. At Austin Hall, an individual’s driver side window was smashed and a Garmin Nuvi GPS navigation device was stolen from the vehicle. Officers were dispatched to Boylston Hall to report of a suspicious individual hanging around the bathroom. Officers arrived, conducted a field interview, and the individual was checked for warrants with negative results. The individual was placed under arrest and charged with trespassing after the officers found that the individual had a trespass warning for all Harvard University property. At Terry Temple, officers were dispatched to a report of a threatening e-mail. Officers contacted the individual who sent the e-mail and issued the person a trespass warning for all Harvard University property.

Dec. 12: An officer assisted the Boston Police Department in making an arrest at the François-Xavier Bagourd building. At the Faculty Club, an officer was dispatched to take a report of a stolen bicycle and cable lock. An Apple laptop was stolen at Gund Hall. At Mather Hall, a red folder containing $300 in cash was stolen. Officers were dispatched to the Northwest Science Building to take a report of a threat.

Dec. 13: The following unattended and unsecured items were stolen from Hemenway Gymnasium: a Jeanne Lotie pocketbook, Burberry wallet, $20 in cash, credit cards, ID cards, iPod, and a cell phone.

Dec. 14: At the Eliot House dining hall, an officer was dispatched to a report of a found wallet. The wallet was returned to the owner who stated that $20 in cash was missing.

Dec. 15: Officers sent an unwanted guest on their way at Holyoke Center. At the Bureau of Study Counsel, an officer was dispatched to take a report from an individual about a smashed glass display case and a broken window shutter.
Moorcroft models provide detailed view of forest responses to climate variation

By Alvin Powell
Harvard News Office

When building computer models of the ecosystems that cover the earth’s surface, it is tempting to incorporate sweeping generalizations in your calculations. The difficulty, of course, is that there is no guarantee that nature generalizes in the same way. All the interactions of individual plants and animals have their own sets of causes and effects. Accurately capturing the aggregate response of an ecosystem or an animal population that arises from all those causes and effects is critical if computer models are to be effective crystal balls for predicting how ecosystems respond to climate change, or how an animal population will respond to changes in its landscape. Paul Moorcroft, professor of organismic and evolutionary biology, is using tools borrowed from statistical physics to create models that will increase our ability to evaluate different courses of action in environmental management and global warming.

“Until now, we view these systems as if they were like a single giant plant. That’s problematic, because we know that ecosystems are much more complex and that the true ensemble of plants is likely to behave quite differently,” Moorcroft said.

The problem with this so-called “ecosystem as big leaf” modeling approach is, of course, that 4,000-plus square miles of forest doesn’t just hold one kind of plant. Rainforests in particular hold a dazzling array of tree and plant species, each of which will respond differently to changing conditions. Those differences are particularly important when a forest is stressed, Moorcroft said, because it can affect a tree’s ability to survive following the change in environmental conditions.

That could mean that, even if all individual trees of a particular species do in fact die off from hotter days and lower rainfall, other species of tree are likely to survive, or even thrive. When building a computer model of how global warming might impact the Amazon forest basin, capturing this reality can mean the difference between predicting a changing but persisting forest and one that will die out entirely, to be replaced by grasslands.

“In real ecosystems, there are different types of plants in different places that behave differently. This heterogeneity can be important when an ecosystem is stressed in response to climate change,” Moorcroft said. “We have been able to show that capturing this heterogeneity leads to more accurate predictions of the ecosystem’s behavior.”

Moorcroft remembers always being interested in both biology and mathematics. As an undergraduate at Cambridge University, he studied natural sciences, especially ecology, and math. Moorcroft’s interest in predicting how the terrestrial biosphere will respond to climate change grew into his doctoral thesis research at Princeton on predicting how the spatial pattern of animals on landscapes is governed by the movements of individuals.

While he was at school in the 1990s, Moorcroft said there was a movement in environmental science to understand how individual dynamics collectively determine the behavior of populations, communities, and ecosystems. Coupled with that was the emphasis at Princeton of employing mathematical models to address ecological questions.

Moorcroft joined field biologists collecting radio tracking data on coyotes in Yellowstone National Park in advance of the wolf reintroduction. He searched the literature to see how the populations had been analyzed in the past and was surprised to see that the work to date was inaccurate and patchy. He thought it would be interesting to try to model the data over the entire range of coyote populations.

Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Paul Moorcroft: ‘The big question facing us is how are terrestrial ecosystems responding to climate change and how will these responses feed back onto climate.”

Jon Chase/Harvard News Office

Moorcroft models provide detailed view of forest responses to climate variation

NEWSMAKERS

Rockefeller Fellows chosen

The Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Fellowships administrative board has awarded fellowships to six graduating seniors for 2009-10. Rockefeller Fellowships contribute $18,000 toward a year of purposeful post-graduate immersion in a foreign culture for individuals at critical stages in their development who feel a compelling need for new and broadening experiences.

The six recipients are Lauren Brantz ’09 of Kirkland House, for travel to Mexico; Wilmarie Cidre ’09 of Kirkland House, for travel to Chile; Nicholas Rizzo ’09 of Lowell House, for travel to India; Sara Skender ’09 of Eliot House, for travel to China; Brittan Smith ’09 of Pforzheimer House, for travel to South Africa; and Cristina Strava ’09 of Eliot House, for travel to Morocco.

Goldman invited to speak to Homeland Security Council

Julian M. Goldman, a Harvard Medical School instructor in anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), has recently given an invited presentation to the White House Homeland Security Council on medical device interoperability requirements and technologies that improve patient treatment and safety. Before coming to MGH, Goldman was the vice president of medical affairs for a medical monitoring company and a chair of the U.S. national standards committee for anesthetic and respiratory equipment.

Steinkeller receives Humboldt Award

Piotr Steinkeller, professor of Assyriology at Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, has received the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s research prize. The award provides funding for internationally renowned scholars and researchers to pursue research in Germany. Steinkeller received the award in January 2010. Steinkeller will research the political and economic organization of Babylonia at the end of the third millennium BCE, at the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität Munich. He will work in collaboration with Walther Salzburger, a professor of Assyriology at the university’s Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie.

Steinkeller, who has taught at Harvard since 1981, has published three books and written more than 100 scholarly articles and book reviews. His work has focused primarily on Neo-Assyria, Mesopotamia, and Mesopotamian culture and religion, as well as the Sumerian and Akkadian languages.

Counter at Nobel Prize ceremony

5. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, attended the 2008 Nobel Prize Ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on Dec. 10. Counter was invited to the ceremony by the Nobel Foundation and the Karolinska Nobel Institute, where he received his doctor of medical science degree in 1989. At the event, Counter was able to meet with Luc Montagnier, the winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology for his discovery of the HIV/AIDS virus.

Compiled by Gervis A. Menzies Jr.
Marine squad in Iraq wears crimson, thanks to HKS, Coop

By Alvin Powell
Harvard News Office

A contact drawn by a Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) faculty member’s research has led to the filling of an unmet need for U.S. Marines in Iraq: Harvard-insignia gear.

Linda Bilmes, an expert on government budgeting and public finance and co-author of the 2008 book “The Trillion Dollar War,” was contacted in September by Cpl. Blake Lynch, posted near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Lynch e-mailed Bilmes, a lecturer in public policy, to ask her about her research into the costs and economic ramifications of the war.

In response, Bilmes asked Lynch about the availability of basic necessities for the troops and what they might need. Lynch responded that, though they have learned to do without — they’re faithful to the slogan “Marines do more with less,” Lynch told Bilmes — they’d love some Harvard-insignia clothes to augment their government-issued wardrobe.

During his research on the costs of the Iraq War, I discovered that despite spending $12 billion every month on contractors and combat, the military does not provide most troops in the field with basic items like soap and toothpaste,” Bilmes said. “Many service members rely on their families and friends to send them these items.”

Lynch sent Bilmes a short list of 10 items, and Bilmes and her assistant, Tammy Sopp, contacted the Harvard Coop, which agreed to donate the hooded sweatshirts, T-shirts, and shorts Lynch requested for himself and members of his squad.

“I applaud the Harvard Coop for its generous donation of clothing to our Marines,” Bilmes said. “This is a small way in which we in the Harvard community can show how much we appreciate the sacrifice of our troops stationed in Iraq.”

Lynch, of Oceanside, Calif., said the squad was excited to receive the gear last month and joked they wouldn’t have time to wash it because they were going to wear it to bed, train, and go to work.

“I guess it’s true because when we received enemy fire the other night they mustered up just wearing their Harvard gear and weapons, even though that’s not the required response,” Lynch said.


Bilmes said the experience of Lynch and other soldiers in his squad reflects what she’s found more broadly in her research, which has highlighted the often-unseen costs of the war.

“The academic root of this effort is to understand the social costs of the war, which are borne by the troops and families, but not paid by government,” Bilmes said. “For example, the families of veterans who are wounded must often give up their jobs in order to care for a returning loved one. It turns out that personal items are also a social cost: we send young people overseas for 12 months to fight for their country, but they still have to buy their own sheets and towels.”

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Algebra, topology expert Lurie named professor of mathematics

By Steve Bradt
FAS Communications

Mathematician Jacob Lurie, whose expertise ranges across algebraic geometry, topology, and algebra, was newly named professor of mathematics in Harvard University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1, 2009.

Lurie, 31, was previously associate professor of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a position he has held since 2007.

“Professor Lurie is a mathematician of impressive breadth and depth,” says Jeremy빙ham, dean of science in FAS. “He is also an enthusiastic and committed teacher of mathematics, known for the clarity of his lectures. Given his dynamism and his broad expertise, I expect that his impact on our undergraduate mathematics courses will be substantial.”

Although Lurie has published papers on logic, combinational game theory, and lie groups, his most significant work has come in algebraic geometry, topology, algebra, and most recently, representation theory. His recent work has been described by fellow mathematician James G. Arthur of the University of Toronto as “revolutionary” in its intertwining of these fields, and his notion of topological modular forms has profoundly impacted algebraic topology and homotopy theory.

Lurie’s work in homotopy theory has broken new ground with its deep and invigorating connections with algebraic geometry, topological quantum field theory, geometric representation theory, quantum groups, and algebraic geometry. His work in this area, regarded by his peers as both fundamental and problem solving in nature, lays a foundation for the “right way” to view certain constructions, opening up new vistas in many of the aforementioned fields.

Lurie is author of the forthcoming book “Higher Topos Theory” (Princeton University Press, 2009), whose powerful theory presents applications in many areas of mathematics.

Lurie received his A.B. in mathematics from Harvard College in 2000 and his Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT in 2004. He has been supported by a five-year American Institute of Mathematics fellowship. Prior to joining the MIT faculty in 2007 he had been a visiting professor at both Harvard and MIT.

As a teen, Lurie received a gold medal in the 1994 International Math Olympiad and took first place in the 1996 Westinghouse Science Talent Search. As a Harvard undergraduate, he was the 2000 recipient of the Frank and Breunnie Morgan Prize for Outstanding Research in Mathematics, awarded by the American Mathematical Society, Mathematical Association of America, and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.
‘Bicycle Environments’ takes HSPH and GSD students for a ride

By Gervis A. Menzies Jr.
Harvard News Office

At a time when the United States scrambles to reverse the country’s obesity epidemic, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and lessen dependency on foreign fossil fuels, this semester the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and the Graduate School of Design (GSD) have launched an interdisciplinary course that tackles all three problems (and more). Titled “Bicycle Environments in the U.S. and the Netherlands/Denmark: Case Studies in the Promotion of Physical Activity,” the class uses case studies to examine how the bicycle communities in the Netherlands and Denmark help individuals stay healthy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One clear objective is to find strategic ways to make the United States more bicycle friendly in an attempt to address these central social issues.

The course first got wheels after Anne Lusk, a research fellow at HSPH, armed with a grant from the National Institutes of Health, spent the past two summers examining the environmental characteristics of 20 U.S. bicycle paths and their destinations. Inspired by her research, Lusk designed—the help of Walter Willett, the Fredrick John Stare Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition and chair of the Department of Nutrition at HSPH—a class meant to educate students about the health advantages of flourishing bicycle environments as well as the structural changes necessary to create such environments. The double goal of the class made a pairing of the HSPH and GSD a natural.

Lusk, who said that the U.S. Department of Transportation should do more to encourage separated bicycle tracks, saw the class as an opportunity to better educate future health experts and future architects about successful ways to increase bicycle riding. “We didn’t want it to be a typical class taught by the Federal Highway Administration,” said Lusk, “so we proposed it to be ‘Bicycle Environments.’”

Q&A with Heather Henriksen

What’s the mission of the Harvard Office for Sustainability?

Our mission is to lead the Harvard University community in achieving its sustainability goals. We are organized centrally as part of the Office of the President in order to provide (and receive) advice and support across each of the University’s Schools and departments. We create forums in order to facilitate the sharing of best practices and new technologies from internal and external sources. We also develop University-wide outreach and education campaigns, as well as programs and incentives for faculty, students, and staff.

Chiefly, we want to work with each of the Schools and departments in order to achieve the goals of reducing this community’s environmental impact. We believe that saving energy, water, and other resources is not only smart but is good for the economy, the environment, and is consistent with the Harvard tradition of demonstrating leadership on key societal issues. We will be working closely with the Schools and departments to help them meet their sustainability goals and promote their achievements.

The office is only a few months old. What’s your focus right now?

We’re focused on establishing the implementation framework for the greenhouse gas reduction commitment announced this summer. This is an opportunity to reduce our energy usage and have our buildings and their inhabitants perform more efficiently.

We have convened six working groups made up of representatives from each of the Schools and key administrative areas to help us tackle implementation issues. An executive committee made up of several deans, faculty, and senior administrators will be reviewing the recommendations of each working group over the next six months. Our overall goal is that, by the end of this academic year, all Schools and units have a clear understanding of the steps required to plan their energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies. Additionally, we are striving to create a coordinated plan to achieve that goal and develop processes to track and report our progress.

We would like to integrate energy conservation and efficiency into all University operations, and into people’s lives. This saves resources and money. Our office will play an advisory role, helping define operational and building guidelines and identifying best practices through the GHG working groups. We will also work to ensure frequent and consistent communication regarding the University’s accomplishments in this area and help foster behavior changes that lead to reduced energy consumption and minimized impact on the environment.

The Harvard Green Campus Initiative (HGCI) has been absorbed into the new Office for Sustainability. Does it still exist?

When the Harvard Green Campus Initiative was created eight years ago, it was funded in part by a grant from the President and Provost, and also offered a fee-for-service entrepreneurial model for serving schools at Harvard on a project-by-project basis. Under the guidance of co-chairs Jack Spengler [Akira Yamaguchi Professor of Environmental Health and Habitation at the Harvard School of Public Health] and Thomas Vautin [Harvard’s associate vice president for facilities and environmental services] the HGCI helped Harvard become a living laboratory for sustainability practices and an environmental leader.

Through the efforts of the HGCI and the schools, Harvard has instituted a number of programs and initiatives in partnership with the Schools and units, such as the Resource Efficiency (REP) program, The Faculty of Arts and Sciences’ (FAS) student peer-to-peer education program, renewable energy projects, University Operations Services’ shuttle bus conversion to biodiesel, the campus-wide green building guidelines, and continued implementation of environmental education programs. The Harvard Greenhouse Gas Task Force recommended changing the HGCI into a more formal Harvard Office for Sustainability to broaden and enhance the University’s engagement in sustainable campus operations.

What has changed?

The Office for Sustainability oversees sustainability efforts across the University, including the implementation of the greenhouse gas reduction goals. We’ll keep our flexible service-based programs on the fee-for-service front, but the core of what we are doing is to focus on University-wide sustainability efforts. We will accomplish this by promoting Harvard-wide occupant engagement, offering operational recommendations beyond our green building guidelines, facilitating best-practice exchange between the University’s Schools and units, and encouraging relevant behavior changes.

(See Henriksen, next page)
Henriksen

(Continued from previous page)

Will HGCI programs remain in place?

Our office will continue numerous programs and projects the HGCI has been working on for the past several years. These cover five main areas: green building services; community education and engagement; management of the Harvard Green Loan Fund; development and delivery of trainings; and best practices sharing.

What role will individuals have in your sustainability plans?

We want to take the resources and educational services we have and transfer them to people so they own these goals. Each person on campus can be a change agent — and it will take all of us doing our part to reach our goals. So just by consuming less, reducing our energy usage and waste, is something that galvanizes and unifies the Harvard community. We all want to reduce costs and waste. This makes economic sense and shows environmental leadership. Not only can our behavior changes help meet our campus-wide goals, everything we share about reducing energy consumption at Harvard can be used by people to reduce their own energy bills at home.

The HGCI published case studies of Harvard’s green buildings — the new and the refurbished. Will your office continue that?

There are four big energy conservation areas — energy supply, building design, building operations, and building occupant practices. There will be case studies on all four areas. Traditionally, we’ve done case studies on building design and how buildings are efficiently operated. If you can commission an existing building to operate as they were intended to operate, you can have incredible energy efficiency — often up to 15 percent or more. For example the undergraduate Resource Efficiency Program (REP) has achieved a 13.8 percent reduction in electricity use in dorms between 2002 and 2007. Publishing case studies and capturing the lessons learned from projects at Harvard are some of the best ways to make sure we see continuous improvement over time and this will continue to be a focus of our organization.

What about occupant behavior?

We have research on energy consumption at Harvard Houses when they do their Green Cup competitions. We know the energy reductions they are getting and we’re working with Harvard University Dining Services, which has a Green Skillet program. We know exactly what their reductions are in energy and natural gas — Leverett House achieved 20.63 percent reduction in electricity and 11.81 percent reduction in gas usage over a three-year baseline. We also know the impact of closing fume hoods in labs through the energy savings of the FAS Shut the Sash program and technology upgrades employed in the School of Public Health’s labs. For example, the Shut the Sash program saved the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in Action $60,000 and 283 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent of emissions over the course of a single year. We know that if everyone plugged everything into a power strip and turned it off every night it would make a huge difference. We can put the lights on sensors, we can put computers on power-saving defaults, and we can default our printers to double-sided copies. So sustainability is also about how people use the buildings they occupy. Case studies can help translate such best practices and their true impact.

Universities are taking a big hit economically, along with the world at large. How will that affect what your office does?

The current economic climate makes energy conservation even more important. Energy reductions will save money. One of our most inspiring messages is that there are things we can do in relation to the purchasing of goods. So sustainably, we can mitigate the effects of these public health hazards. Despite his hope for more widespread use of bicy- cles as a mode of transportation, Spengler, too, pointed out that perception of [lack of] safety was the biggest deterrent to people riding bicycles in Cambridge.

The key, Willett explains, is to connect the lanes so people don’t have to deviate from them to reach their destinations. There have been a lot of developments in the last 50 years in Cambridge. "But one of the biggest factors now is that they are not connected. There may be a lane in one direction but not in the other. Any road is only as strong as its weakest link. If there’s a good route in one direction, but not in the other, people won’t ride. We need to get a network that is really connected so most people can get to those places and feel comfortable doing it."

Jack Spengler, the Akira Yamaguchi Professor of Environmental Health and Human Habitation in the Department of Environmental Health, talked to the class about how an increase in bicycle riding would significantly reduce air pollution and the rate of global warming. He also suggested ways that urban designers can mitigate the effects of these public health hazards.

Despite his hope for more widespread use of bicycles as a mode of transportation, Spengler, too, pointed out that the United States will not see a spike in the number of people on bicycles until riders are protected from aggressive drivers, open doors in bicycle lanes, and parked cars blocking bicycle paths. "Until we make it safe, there’s no hope they are going to get me and a lot of other people to do it on a regular basis. There’s no hope."

Despite his frustration with the current state of bicycle-friendly infrastructure, Spengler applauded the course’s creation as a first step. "This doesn’t often happen on the Harvard campus, particularly at the graduate level, [having] students from multiple departments in multiple Schools taking this [course] around a social issue ... It’s transportation, it’s energy, it’s greenhouse gases, it’s physical fitness, it’s obesity; all of those are at a confluence when we start talking about how do we promote safe bicycling and expanding the population engaging in [cycling]."

Other invited guest speakers included Jack Dennerlein, associate professor of ergonomics, who spoke about ways that urban design can become more accommodating for bicyclists; Peter Furth from Northeastern University, who lectured on transportation policies; and Mike McBride and John Ciccarelli from the Allston Development Group, who came in to give an overview of the bicycle plans for the new Harvard/Allston/Brighton campus.

A particularly well-received guest lecture was given by Hans Voerknecht, international coordinator of the Dutch Bicycle Council, who talked to the class about the bicycle paths and facilities in the Netherlands and the future of bicycling in the Netherlands, and provided recommendations for the United States.

Although bicycle riding in Cambridge is far from perfect, in recent months Harvard has made strides to demonstrate its commitment to creating a more welcoming bicycle environment. University Operations Services, for example, recently erected a covered bike shelter near the Divinity School that will be illuminated by solarpower at night. And as Harvard continues to develop its 50-year master planning framework for the new Allston campus, the plans include both on street and off street bicycle lanes and paths that make key connections and storage facilities that together will promote increased bicycle use and less dependence on the private automobile.

But even as the wheels are in motion for progress, it is clear that more collaboration is key. "One of things that really has to happen is public health people really need to work with design people to make environments that are healthy," Willett stresses.

"What’s very clear as we take on these big health issues like disease or diabetes is that our health departments ... can’t deal with the whole problem. It has to be a whole societal solution that includes design. That is why we have this class ... bring the Schools together that way."

The class, Lusk and her colleagues hope, will create a snowball effect. "We are extremely pleased that the Harvard School of Public Health has allowed this [course] to be taught," said Lusk. "This [class] has greatly expanded the awareness of bicycle facilities and allowed far more collaboration with students, faculty, and departments, the Harvard/Allston design team, and the cities of Cambridge and Boston. We are hopeful that this is a start to much greater things."

(Continued from previous page)

Bicycle

Anne Lusk rides along a bike path in Brookline. Lusk is a lecturer at HSPH who teaches a joint HSPH/GSD class. The class uses case studies to examine how the bicycle communities in the Netherlands and Denmark help individuals stay healthy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(Continued from previous page)
Women’s hoops recover on homestand

Crimson records wins over Vermont and Maine as non-conference play draws to an end

By Gervis A. Menzies Jr.  
Harvard News Office

After a tough loss to Providence by 12 points and another to Boston University by 19, there was one thing the defending Ivy League co-champion Crimson needed: a home game. Nothing proved that more than the way the 4-4 Harvard women’s basketball team bounced back from consecutive losses with consecutive wins to advance to 6-4. As the Crimson edged the Vermont Catamounts 69-67 and trounced the Maine Black Bears 73-50 — pardon the cliché — the team proved that there’s no place like home.

In the Dec. 11 win against Vermont, the Crimson and the Catamounts went down to the wire, with Vermont missing the game winner with just three seconds left on the clock. As both teams battled to pull ahead, the game saw 10 lead changes throughout the evening.

The Crimson, who led by as many as eight points with less than five minutes to go in the first half, saw their lead evaporate due to lack of rebounding, ugly turnovers, and cold shooting, forcing Harvard into the locker room trailing 34-35.

In the first half, Harvard missed all five shots taken from behind the three-point line. But a flexible Crimson team overcame their outside shooting woes in the second half, outscoring Vermont 35-32.

Sophomore guard Brogan Berry ’12, a three-time Ivy Rookie of the Week selection, squeezes the ball through swatting hands of the Maine defense.

Crimson guard Brogan Berry ’12, a three-time Ivy Rookie of the Week selection, squeezes the ball through swatting hands of the Maine defense.
Basketball
(Continued from previous page)

The second half, playing with fiery aggression around the basket (seeming to draw a foul every possession), the Crimson, which took 25 free throws in the second half — scored 20 of their 36 second-half points from the free-throw line. Katie Roillins ’09 was also impressive, adding 17 points and shooting six for seven from the floor.

In the Dec. 14 contest against Maine, Harvard came out firing. After shooting one-for-six from the three-point line against Vermont, the Crimson shot the ball with confidence against Maine, knocking down eight 3-pointers on 47 percent shooting. Harvard also shot 50 percent from the floor in the game.
The first 10 minutes of the game was like a battle of the elements, fire against ice. Maine shot just 26 percent compared with the Crimson’s 71 percent.

Falling behind by as much as 18 in the first half, a frustrated Maine team appeared overwhelmed and overmatched by the Crimson. Yet when a 10-2 run by the Bears cut Harvard’s lead to 10, the Crimson increased their level of intensity, ending the half with a 41-26 lead.

After halftime the Crimson didn’t look back, as they outscored Maine 32-24. Emma Markley ’11, who went nine-for-16 from the floor on the afternoon, finished the game with 19 points, 14 rebounds, and three blocks. On Dec. 15, Markley was named Ivy Player of the Week for the second time this season. Also honored by the Ivy League was Berry, who was named Ivy Rookie of the Week for the second consecutive week and the third time this season.

Senior guard Emily Tay — who in the second half began to score at will — finished the day six-for-nine with 14 points, a season-high nine assists, and just one turnover in the game. She also became the 13th Crimson player to score 1,000 career points. Tay is now 13 points away from Beth Wambach ’91, who is 12th place on the all-time scoring list.

New ID card distribution through Feb.

Continuing through the early winter of 2009, Harvard is distributing new, high-technology-enabled ID cards to the Harvard community. The Harvard ID card is used in more than 400 systems across campus, and the new card will make those systems more secure by segregating key information and encrypting it in card-based technologies that are unique to Harvard.

The new ID card looks virtually identical to the old card, but it contains new technology, including an embedded microchip, an antenna, and a second (thinner) magnetic stripe. All these technologies were selected to enhance the security of the card and its associated information, now and in the future. A University task force of experts in administration, security, and technology selected available ID card technologies and settled on the “HID iClass” card because it can hold multiple credentials, process more transactions than other card technologies — because of encryption — is very difficult to replicate. In fact, the embedded cryptographic chip is unique to the University, adding an additional level of protection against fraudulent copying.

At the distribution points, the ID Card Exchange Team will trade affiliates’ old Harvard ID card for a new one in a matter of minutes, with all the personal data activated on the new card.

While ID exchange sites and dates were coordinated to reach the many different areas across campus, members of the Harvard community can go to any exchange site and receive their new card.

For additional information about the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center, www.ethics.harvard.edu/
Idle computing power may ID candidate molecules for efficient solar panels

By Holly Metter
FAS Communications

The world today uses enough power to illuminate 150 billion light bulbs for a year. According to some estimates, by 2050, demand will double, creating irreversible climate change without reductions in humanity’s carbon output.

Improbably enough, your idle personal computer could play a big part in altering this outcome: Harvard chemist Alán Aspuru-Guzik has received a multyear renewable grant from IBM to harness the power of idle desktop computers — a process known as distributed computing — to develop next-generation solar cells that might help satisfy the world’s future energy needs.

“The solution to the energy problem requires a combination of many different factors, including increasing the energy efficiency of all activities in our society, dramatically ramping up the use of all renewable energy sources, implementing carbon sequestration schemes in our coal plants, and enacting progressive carbon trading policies,” says Aspuru-Guzik, assistant professor of chemistry and chemical biology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, whose research group focuses on the development of novel materials for solar cells as a source of renewable local power generation.

Aspuru-Guzik is among scientists worldwide who are exploring more efficient ways to convert sunlight into electricity — “a process,” he says, “which would likely require less than 1 percent of the planet’s surface to meet that need.”

Commercially available solar cells are based on silicon semiconductor technology. But the specialized manufacturing process is expensive, meaning these cells have not yet been widely adopted. “What people don’t understand is that we have atmospheric carbon dioxide leveling off at around 500 or 550 parts per million — levels roughly double the 280 parts per million that ice cores show existed in preindustrial air.

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Climate options must include ‘all of the above’

By Alvin Powell
Harvard News Office

Climate change has so much momentum behind it that “either/or” discussions about options are meaningless because it’ll take all we can do just to arrest carbon dioxide at levels double those in preindustrial times, a top climate scientist said Dec. 11.

Daniel Schrag, director of the Harvard University Center for the Environment and professor of earth and planetary sciences, said that most optimistic scenarios of climate change have atmospheric carbon dioxide leveling off at around 500 or 550 parts per million — levels roughly double the 280 parts per million that ice cores show existed in preindustrial air.

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Robotic radical hysterectomy has advantages

New technologies now allow surgery to be performed with less impact on patient quality of life. As the trend toward minimally invasive surgery grows, robotic-assisted surgery has become an appealing tool for gynecologic oncology surgeons. However, to date, there is little data to confirm the benefits of this technology. New Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) compares robotic radical hysterectomy (RRH) using the DaVinci robot to classically performed open radical hysterectomies (ORH) in patients with stage I and II cervical cancer. Researchers found that RRH results in lower blood loss and shorter length of stay compared with ORH. The findings are available online and published in the December print issue of Gynecologic Oncology.

“Robotic radical hysterectomy is a new and important method for both surgeons and patients as the entire field of surgery trends toward minimally invasive procedures. In our study, we show that this approach can reduce both blood loss and the length of hospital stay for the patient,” said Colleen Feltmate, a gynecologic oncology surgeon at BWH and senior author on the study.

Researchers reviewed and compared intraoperative and post-surgical factors for 16 RRHs and 32 ORHs, procedures performed between August 2004 and June 2007. Researchers found that although the surgeries took longer, patients who underwent RRH had less blood loss compared with those who had ORH procedures. Patients who had an RRH also had shorter hospital stays after the surgery compared with patients who had ORH. The complications both during and after surgery for both RRH and ORH were comparable.

“Although the time spent performing the operation in RRH cases was longer, this was reduced over time as surgeons and staff became more familiar with the procedure and the technology,” said Feltmate. “This robotic-assisted approach deserves further exploration to evaluate the full potential and application of RRH.”

Climate

(Continued from previous page)

shortages for those who rely on these sources. “This is a really big problem,” Schrag said. “Adaptation [to the reduced flows] is important, but it won’t be sufficient.”

Schrag spent some time going through available energy options, including renewable sources such as wind and solar, nuclear, and coal. He said that carbon sequestration, where the carbon emitted from burning fossil fuels is harvested before reaching the atmosphere and injected underground, will be needed. Though some are looking for particular technologies to save the day, Schrag said, the global demand for energy is expected to rise rapidly from today’s levels as developing nations most likely need it. The question, he said, isn’t whether China will build coal plants — they’re already building them at a rapid rate — it is whether the plants will have clean technology so their emissions don’t add to the climate change problem.

“The good news, Schrag said, is that much of the technology to make energy cleaner already exists — carbon sequestration technology is already in use, albeit for another purpose. The oil industry injects carbon dioxide into wells to push oil out, leaving the gas trapped underground. The difficult part is not the technology itself, it is deploying it on a scale large enough to make a difference. Another option, Schrag said, is to do a direct intervention in the climate — by releasing sunlight-reflecting aerosols into the atmosphere, for example, to help cool the planet while other fixes are done.

Gallagher’s comments focused on the political and policy changes that are needed. Most importantly, she said, it is critical that two nations who have so far been on the sidelines of climate action — the United States and China — get serious about finding solutions and putting them into effect. This is because the two nations account for 46 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions, with China emitting slightly more overall and the United States far more per capita. Though without those two countries taking action, she said, it is unlikely that the problem of climate change will be solved.

Gallagher said it is important that the government set a price for carbon emissions soon. A cap-and-trade system — where businesses pay for tradeable permits to emit a set amount of carbon dioxide — or a flat carbon tax are the two most-often-discussed systems. Gallagher said that once a system sets a carbon price, businesses will begin to figure the cost of carbon emissions into their energy plans, which may make technologies not now considered suddenly financially attractive.

Schrag described himself as both an optimist and a realist on climate change. He recognizes the difficulty of what has to be done to limit the coming changes, but said that a lot of progress has been made just over the past few years. Still, he said, though people are paying attention to climate change, there’s a danger that their behavior may not change fast enough to make a difference.

“There’s a lot of momentum in the climate system. By the time people become scared enough about climate change to do something, it may be too late,” Schrag said.

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IBM

Harvard chemist Alán Aspuru-Guzik has received a multiyear renewable grant from IBM to harness the power of idle desktop computers—a process known as distributed computing.

(Continued from previous page)

been widely adopted. Currently, in most scenarios, burning coal is cheaper than using solar power.

Developing affordable solar cells based on organic molecules to harness the abundant power of the sun is the ultimate goal for Aspuru-Guzik and his team, which has partnered with the World Community Grid, a nonprofit initiative funded by IBM. For many hours a day, the central processing unit of your personal computer sits unused. The goal of the World Community Grid is to utilize the processing power of individual computers during these idle times to find answers to global challenges such as cancer, famine, and human protein structure. Aspuru-Guzik’s Clean Energy Project will be one of only six currently working with the World Community Grid. Aspuru-Guzik’s team is researching organic compounds for use in a new generation of solar cells. Atoms such as carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen molecules are the building blocks for these compounds, but they can be combined in countless ways. The difficulty lies in identifying which compound to use.

“The number of potential molecules that can be used in an organic solar cell is limited only by the imagination of the chemist,” Aspuru-Guzik explains.

Tens of thousands of different possible synthetic compounds must be tested. Rather than create them all in a laboratory, Aspuru-Guzik’s team is using cutting-edge computer programs to create a virtual laboratory to test and pinpoint the best candidates for future solar cell research. These massive calculations are greatly accelerated using the power of the World Community Grid.

After computer analysis identifies promising candidate molecules, they will be passed to experimental researchers for testing in real labs. Ultimately, with support from the World Community Grid, scientists hope to create efficient and inexpensive solar cells that will be part of the solution for the world’s growing energy needs.

Members of the Aspuru-Guzik research group who are spearheading this distributed computing effort are postdoctoral researcher Roel Sánchez-Carrera and graduate students Roberto Olivares-Amaya and Leslie Vogt.
Campaign gurus swap strategies, war stories

Obama and McCain’s key campaign people talk candidly about Palin, Rev. Wright, more

By Ruth Walker
Special to the Harvard News Office

No one will ever confuse the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum at the Harvard Kennedy School with Gillette Stadium. But the forum was host Dec. 11 to two of the undisputed rock stars of American political campaigns: David Axelrod and David Plouffe, chief strategist and manager, respectively, for Barack Obama’s successful campaign for the presidency.

They were joined by Sen. John McCain’s campaign manager Rick Davis and chief pollster Bill McInturff for a program titled “War Stories: Inside Campaign 2008.”

The idea, as moderator Gwen Ifill, managing editor of Washington Week and a member of the senior advisory committee of the Institute of Politics, explained, was to give the two sides an opportunity to engage “in a way that you never saw them engage on Fox News” during the campaign itself.

The two camps showed good sportsmanship in discussing what went right, what went wrong, and what almost went wrong. The Obama team was gracious in discussing what went right, and McCain’s campaign ran out of time, Ifill asked. “No, we lost,” was the frank rejoinder.

Part of the issue was whether the Obama campaign and McCain campaign had signed up so many new voters that the pollsters had trouble making predictions. “We had no models for that kind of turnout,” McInturff added, noting that all this was to the Obama campaign’s enormous credit.

The Jeremiah Wright episode — when video clips of Obama’s controversial pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ burst into the blogosphere in March — was critical to both campaigns, albeit in different ways. Obama smoothed the waters by giving a well-received speech in Philadelphia that weekend. Plouffe deferred blame for the incident from candidate Obama (“The campaign failed to do its homework”) and called it “a moment of great peril.”

Axelrod observed that “the one person who wasn’t nervous” was Obama — despite the tight timeline for writing and making the speech, which the strategist called “maybe the most important speech of the campaign.”

The night before Obama was to give the speech, Axelrod said, there came a point when he realized he (Axelrod) could do three things: “Save us from a mosquito versus the same shock thinking it was an accident. Participants seemed to get used to shocks that were delivered unintentionally, but those given on purpose had a fresh sting every time.”

The research, published in the current issue of Psychological Science, was led by Kurt Gray, a graduate student in psychology, along with Daniel Wegner, professor of psychology.

It has long been known that our own mental states can alter the experience of pain, but these findings suggest that our perceptions of the mental states of others can also influence how we feel pain.

“This study shows that even if two harmful events are physically identical, the one delivered with the intention to hurt actually hurts more,” says Gray. “Compare a slap from a friend as she tries to save us from a mosquito versus the same slap from a jilted lover. The first we shrug off instantly, while the second stings our cheek for the rest of the night.”

The study’s authors suggest that intended and unintended harm cause different amounts of pain because they differ in meaning.

“From decoding language to understanding gestures, the mind distills meaning from our social environment,” says Gray. “An intended harm has a very different meaning from an accidental harm.”

The study included 48 participants who were paired up with a partner who could administer to them either an audible tone or an electric shock. In the intentional condition, participants received a shock when their partner chose the shock option. In the unintentional condition, participants received a shock when their partner chose the tone option. Thus, in this condition, they only received a shock when their partner did not intend for them to receive one. The computer display ensured that participants both knew their partner’s choice and that a shock would be coming, to ensure the shock was not more surprising in the unintentional condition.

Despite identical shock voltage between conditions, those in the intentional condition rated the shocks as significantly more painful. Furthermore, those in the unintentional condition habituated to the pain, rating them as decreasingly painful, while those in the intentional condition continued to feel the full sting of pain.

Gray suggests that it may be evolutionarily adaptive for this difference in meaning to be represented as different amounts of pain.

“The more something hurts, the more likely we are to take notice and stop what—
New obesity-related genes identified

A large international consortium has made significant inroads into uncovering the genetic basis of obesity, adding six new genetic variants to the two already linked to higher body mass index (BMI) in previous studies. Most of the newly discovered genes had never before been suspected of having a role in body weight and, curiously, many of the genes are active in the central nervous system, suggesting they may exert their effects via the brain.

The study, from the Genetic Investigation of Anthropometric Traits (GIANT) consortium, appeared online in Nature Genetics on Dec. 14.

“One of the major insights to come out of this is a new window into the biology of obesity,” says Joel Hirschhorn of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center’s Boston Hospital and the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, who led the study together with researchers from the University of Michigan and research institutes in Oxford and Cambridge, U.K. “One of the interesting things is that the genes near these variants are all active in the central nervous system, suggesting that inherited variation in appetite regulation may have something to do with people’s predisposition to obesity.

The study used genetic information from more than 32,000 people of European ancestry, drawn from 15 genome-wide association studies of BMI involving a total of 76 international research institutes. A large-scale statistical analysis comparing BMI data with about 2.4 million genetic variations, followed by validation of the most promising results in an additional 59,000 individuals, identified six new genetic variants associated with higher BMI. It also strongly confirmed a role for two genetic variants identified last year “near the FTO and MC4R genes” says Hirschhorn.

The effect of each individual variant was modest, ranging from 0.06 to 0.53 BMI units, and the paper estimates that the 1 percent of people with the most obesity-causing variants will be on average 10 pounds heavier than the 1 percent of people with the fewest variants and 4 pounds heavier than the typical person. Hirschhorn also points out that the GIANT consortium team is likely to have uncovered just a fraction of probably hundreds of genetic regions that each make small contributions to obesity — and that identifying new regions will require both larger studies and additional approaches.

The team also compared their results with those from another large genomewide association study of BMI, led by deCODE Genetics in Iceland. Where comparisons were possible, all of the variants identified by Hirschhorn and colleagues were strongly confirmed by data obtained by the deCODE group. (The deCODE results are described in an accompanying study published in the same issue of Nature Genetics.)

According to Elizabeth Speliotes of Massachusetts General Hospital, joint first author on the paper, it can be a major challenge to find genetic associations with strong enough statistical evidence to be certain of their validity. However, she says, “Thanks in part to the large group effort the regions we report are clearly and reproducibly associated with body mass index.”

The GIANT consortium is now performing large-scale studies to identify more genetic variants contributing to the risk of obesity in both adults and children. “The next round of studies will involve new collaborators and DNA from more than 100,000 people,” says Hirschhorn. “We also hope to do analyses to determine whether genetic variants have the same effects in different ethnic populations, in both genders, and in individuals with extreme obesity compared to overweight or normal-weight individuals.”

Family or twin studies have shown that genetic factors account for 40 to 70 percent of population variation in BMI. But while previous studies have identified “obesity genes” such as the LEP gene, which is mutated in people with leptin deficiency and causes severe obesity, little is known about the genetics underlying more common forms of weight dysregulation.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are more than 1 billion overweight adults worldwide, and at least 300 million of them are obese (as defined by a BMI of 30 or above). But there are still no good treatments, and the need to uncover the biology underlying weight control is becoming increasingly urgent.

“At present, we’ve only identified regions that show natural genetic variations that influence body mass index,” says Speliotes, who is also a fellow at the Broad Institute and an instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School. “As we learn more about what some of the genes in these regions do, we hope that these discoveries might suggest routes to new therapies for obesity.”

Findings add to knowledge about obesity and appetite regulation in the general population

Pain

Ever is hurting us,” he says. “If it’s an accidental harm, chances are it’s a one-time thing, and there’s no need to do anything about it. If it’s an intentional harm, however, it may be the first of many, so it’s good to take the time to reflect on what it means. It makes sense that our bodies and brains might amplify our experience of pain when we know that the pain could signal threats to our survival.”

These findings speak to how people experience pain and negative life events. If negative events are seen as intended, they may hurt more. This helps to explain why torture is so excruciating — not only are torture techniques themselves excruciatingly painful, but it’s the thought that could make torture hurt more than mere pain.

On the other hand, if negative events are seen as unintended, they may hurt less. This may explain, in part, why people in abusive relationships sometimes continue to stay in them. By rationalizing that an abusive partner did not intend harm, some victims may reduce their experience of pain, which could make them less likely to leave the relationship and escape the abuse.

Causes severe obesity was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the Institute for Humane Studies.

Campaign

(Continued from previous page)

nothing and so he just “went to sleep.” At 2 a.m. he woke up and found the completed speech on his BlackBerry. He read it and responded to his boss, “This is why you should be president.”

For the McCain campaign, the question was whether to make an issue of the Wright controversy, and his aids gave their candidate full credit for doing the right thing for the right reasons: “It was John McCain’s decision,” McInturff said. The pollster also gave Davis credit to standing up, as the campaign wore on, to Republican Party pressure to reverse course and exploit Obama’s connection to the fiery preacher.

To view archive video of the event, www.hks.harvard.edu/news-events
Fair shows progress of humanities in digital world

By Corydon Ireland
Harvard News Office

Bill and Carrie meet in a Harvard College library you might know. The walls are reddish stone and in one corner a working fireplace blazes brightly. They decide to go to another room to see an exhibit of ornate folios from medieval Islamic science.

To get there, Bill and Carrie walk through a wall. Welcome to Second Life, a virtual world accessible through the Internet, and a place where Harvard owns an “island.”

Second Life is peopled with “avatars” — embodied personalities — like Bill and Carrie. “They jump, they fly, they go through walls,” said science historian, mathematician, and educator Elaheh Kheirandish, a fellow at Harvard’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies. She was curator of the exhibit to which Bill and Carrie paid a virtual visit.

Kheirandish was among more than 100 real live visitors to a Digital Humanities Fair this week (Dec. 16) in the Barker Center’s Thompson Room — a first-ever comprehensive display of Harvard’s digital resources for scholars and students of the humanities.

Those who stopped by included about 60 Harvard faculty members, said fair organizer Alexander F. Parker, director of research computing in the humanities. On hand were experts from 10 Harvard organizations, ready to demonstrate and discuss their digital projects and services.

“There are a surprising number of resources available” at Harvard in the digital realm, said Parker. “But there are so many, it can be overwhelming.”

He has been working with Harvard Dean of Arts and Humanities Diana Sorenson, sorting out what he called the “landscape” of digital resources in the humanities. It is already clear, said Parker, that “there is a small universe of opportunities.”

HGSE group brings civics back into curriculum

By Colleen Walsh
Harvard News Office

As schools around the country work to meet academic requirements in reading and math set by the No Child Left Behind Act, some educators worry the trend ignores a critical part of a child’s learning: civic and moral education.

What are our responsibilities to our family and friends, our peers, our fellow citizens, our fellow human beings across the globe? How do we decide what is just, and what can and should we do when we encounter injustice? How can ordinary people effect change in society via government institutions, the media, community organizations, new technologies, or collective action?

These are the kinds of civic and moral questions that young people should be learning to ask and answer, but that are sadly neglected in many schools today, according to Meira Levinson, assistant professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). Levinson leads the group along exploring the question “How can we effectively educate for civic and moral responsibility in and for the 21st century?”

What developed was the Civic & Moral Education Initiative (CMEI), which with support from HGSE Dean Kathleen McCartney has begun sponsoring a series of seven colloquia exploring the question “How can we effectively educate for civic and moral responsibility in and for the 21st century?” Levinson leads the group along with Robert Selman, Roy Edward Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development and professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School.

The discussions are a good fit for Levinson, whose work examines the civic achievement gap, the disparity in individuals’ civic and political knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that are tied to race, ethnicity, and class. Levinson argues that the U.S. civic achievement gap is as serious as the one associated with reading and math.

While in the 1960s students received roughly three civics courses by graduation from high school, she offered, today typically only one semester of 12th-grade government is taught.

The group began last spring, as a handful of academics got together to start assessing the amount and types of courses offered in civic and moral education at HGSE. While they discovered that many professors offer courses that address these topics, and many students — to judge by course enrollments and dissertation topics — are interested, what seemed to be missing was a sense of a wider, common conversation. As a result, the meeting soon blossomed into a wide-ranging initiative.

“When we met, it quickly turned into something bigger. We wanted to create something that allows students to explore these issues more deeply, but also we thought it was really important to help ourselves and our colleagues, both at the Education School and beyond, think about the goals and importance of civic and moral education in the overall educational landscape,” said Levinson.

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“In many urban districts there is little better than a 50 percent graduation rate, meaning close to a majority of those students who have dropped out by the 12th grade are getting no civic education.”

(See Civic, next page)
Government of India gives $4.5M to support grad students

Gift honors 75th birthday of economist Amartya Sen

The government of India has given Harvard University $4.5 million to support graduate students from India. The gift recognizes the accomplishments of Harvard Professor of Economics and Philosophy and Thomas W. Lamont University Professor Amartya Sen and his work for social and economic justice across the globe. It also recognizes the work of Harvard’s South Asia Initiative toward building Harvard as a locus for the study of South Asia.

The gift will establish India Fellowships, which will provide fellowships to highly accomplished and deserving students from India for studies at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

“Harvard is grateful to the government of India for this generous gift to support graduate students and to honor the important work of Professor Amartya Sen,” said Harvard University President and Lincoln Professor of History Drew Faust. “We are fortunate to have Professor Sen on our faculty and share India’s pride in calling him a member of our community. I can think of no more fitting way to celebrate Professor Sen and to strengthen the important ties between Harvard and India.”

“I am glad that Harvard has accepted this gift on the occasion of the 75th birth anniversary of Professor Amartya Sen, who is a great son of India and one of the world’s foremost contemporary thinkers,” said Ronen Sen, ambassador of India to the United States. “I am confident that these fellowships, by providing new opportunities for gift-ed students from India to study at Harvard, will further expand the University’s impressive scholarship with South Asia, especially its South Asia Initiative.”

Sen’s work in economics is celebrated for its interdisciplinary nature, with research in diverse areas such as development economics, philosophy, public health, and gender inequality. Although he has spent his entire career in academia, Sen has translated his expertise in economics into practical, on-the-ground approaches to predict and fight famine, as well as ways to measure poverty. In 1998, he won the Nobel Prize in economics for his contributions to the field of welfare economics. He has written extensively on economic justice, and his books have been translated into more than 30 languages.

“I am delighted that the gift will help bright Indian students to come to Harvard,” said Sen. “The students receiving the India Fellowships will have the opportunity of studying at what is perhaps the best university in the world, and Harvard too will benefit from having wonderful students who could not otherwise afford to come here.”

The South Asia Initiative at Harvard University, directed by Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs Sugata Bose, is a center for scholarly research and academic inquiry, with a particular focus on modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Sen is one of nine senior faculty members who compose the South Asia Initiative Faculty Steering Committee, a cross-disciplinary body that sets the academic agenda for the South Asia Initiative. Since its founding, the initiative has convened renowned South Asia specialists from around the globe, inviting scholars and public leaders to Harvard as visiting academics and lecturers. Supporting international study programs for both American and South Asian students, the initiative is highly regarded as a center of excellence that reflects Harvard’s commitment to international studies and expansion. In 2008, the initiative supported 67 students — 35 graduate and 32 undergraduate — with grants to study and conduct research in South Asia.

“Professor Amartya Sen has been an inspiration to generations of scholars and students. I can think of no better way of honoring him on the occasion of his 75th birthday. The South Asia Initiative is immensely grateful to the government and people of India for this farsighted gesture that will enhance the flow of knowledge between Harvard and India,” said Bose.

Civic

(Continued from previous page)

Our lack of attention in general to covering civic and moral education issues certainly contributes to the civic achievement gap, but it is much broader as well. Civic engagement, civic competencies, the skills and values that one needs to be an effective and empowered democratic citizen, really just aren’t on the table.

Both organizers cited as a positive step the recent election and influence and symbiosis of the campaign of President-elect Haste, who explored a number of issues related to the field, including how civic and moral education issues are being taught in schools, as part of civic instruction.

In the most recent talk on Dec. 12, Selman led a panel that questioned whether students could learn about civic engagement by examining historical cases of attempts to destroy it. In evaluating the program Facing History and Ourselves (FHAO), a professional development organization for educators, he told the crowd that he and his colleagues reviewed its case-method approach to learning. The program uses historical epochs and events, like the steps leading up to the Holocaust, as a means of guiding teachers in their conversations with their students about the kinds of messages they receive from society, or the times when people find themselves in “we versus they” situations, and what, if anything, to do about them.

Examining the curriculum and even conducting some of their own interviews with students, said Selman, helped him understand some basic developmental questions.

“We decided to use our research partnership with FHAO as a way to understand how kids thought about issues like inclusion and exclusion,” said Selman, who noted that the research suggested that “by high school, most students can understand that when faced with a we/they situation in school — like ostracism — they can take steps to improve the school climate.”

Yet, he also stressed, “it is important for students to be neither too idealistic nor too cynical in the strategies they can imagine choosing. ... Seeing connections and differences to choices made by ordinary people in periods when civic societies is threatened is what a program like Facing History can help teachers teach.”

Levinson and Selman both note that the definition of civic education involves teaching students to appreciate how historical consciousness, ethical reflection, and civic participation can connect to one another. The basic tenets of participatory democracy, they agreed, are also essential.

Also on the recent panel was HSGE graduate and current history teacher at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School Joshua Landwher, who explained some of the strategies he uses in teaching his students civic lessons from the past. Studying things like the texts from the founding fathers, World War I propaganda, or the Treaty of Versailles, he said, helps his students forge connections between history and civics.

“I have [my class] try to work on formulating a Versailles Treaty...an end to the war, a just peace or a victors’ peace,” Landwher said, adding that the students are exposed to the moral and ethical lessons of history in part by putting themselves “back into these places and [moments in time].”

The CMEI colloquia series has been heavily attended by students and faculty from HGSE and other Harvard Schools, as well as by members of universities and organizations in the Greater Boston area. In addition, students at HGSE have begun to organize their own CMEI-affiliated group.

As the series continues next year, organizers hope to invite a representative from the Obama administration to talk about re-shaping and reinvigorating civic engagement in a new political landscape. The group also hopes to create a cross-program concentration in civic and moral education at HGSE.

Perhaps the best indication of how important the topic has become arrived at last week’s discussion in the form of approximately 20 young students from Landwher’s history class. They scattered themselves on the floor to listen to the presentation, choosing to, as their teacher put it, “participate and engage civically.”
Scholar asks: ‘How can we know the spectator from the dance?’

When Yvonne Rainer and her fellow dancers took to the stage in the early 1960s, their performances were like nothing American audiences had ever seen. First, there were no costumes. Performers wore T-shirts, casual pants, and sneakers. In place of elaborate leaps and twirls, the dancers engaged in everyday movements like running, climbing, and even falling. And there was little to no emotional drama. The focus was on the body: undressed, physical, and pure. Rainer — choreographer, dancer, and visionary — had sparked a revolution.

To date, much of the scholarship on Rainer has addressed the ways in which she transformed the performing body and democratized dance. Along with her fellow choreographers at New York’s Judson Dance Theatre, she has been celebrated for placing the body’s “star status” with the delights of the quotidian.

Carrie Lambert-Beatty, assistant professor of environmental studies, offers a new theory on Rain-er and the 1960s” (MIT Press). Central to Lambert-Beatty’s argument is the notion of what she calls “seeing difficulties,” or the challenges of watching. In dance, the primary challenge is produced by the simple fact of performance’s ephemeral nature. Lambert-Beatty borrowed the term from Rainer herself, who famously proclaimed, “Dance is hard to see.” According to Lambert-Beatty, choreographers can play with the “seeing difficulty” to make it either harder, or easier, to see the dance. Rainer actively worked through and around the practices of spectatorship, Lambert-Beatty says.

In Rainer’s early works, says Lambert-Beatty, “Dance is hard to see.”

Religion in the vernacular

Nicholas Watson traces the decline of the clergy and the rise of the laity

In 1215, Pope Innocent III convened the Fourth Council of the Lateran, a religious convocation that laid out to hundreds of bishops, abbots, priors, and Christian patriarchs 70 new decrees. One enjoined the clergy to stop frequenting taverns, engaging in trials by combat, hunting, and practicing what might be called noncellebate habits.

But to Harvard English professor Nicholas Watson, this medieval religious council was also the occasion for the church’s first debate over teaching theology.

Should the church embrace its longstanding monastic ideal, and keep the learning of theology the province of a few men versed in Latin? Or should it teach every Christian at least a little, and in English or other vernacular tongues?

To Watson, a Radcliffe Fellow this year, the 1215 church council marks the start of a captivating period of English literary history. At the other end of the temporal frame is the English Reformation, which followed a final break with the Roman church.

He sees it as an age in which English emerged as a major language and universities began and flourished, and an age in which vernacular religious texts abounded. Today, he added, those texts are a scholarly key to understanding secularized England.

In a nation where early medieval Christianity was an elite, small-group religion with an emphasis on contemplation and theory, said Watson, came the ascendance of what he called “spiritual mediocrity,” where religious instruction took place in the vernacular. In turn, said Watson, “the Christianity of western Europe reinvented itself” into a place where monasticism had been “swept away” in favor of instructing the laity.

Watson’s talk was drawn from thoughts on a book he has under way and will continue at Radcliffe, “Bal-aam’s ass: Vernacular Theology and the Secularization of England, 1050 to 1550.”

For much of the Middle Ages, salvation was presented, says Nicholas Watson, as the sole right of the elite. Vernacular theology tried to “squeeze through” into paradise those without learning.

Watson told the story of a ploughman (farmer) and a priest. The ploughman knows a lot about practical life in a sort of waiting room to heaven. The ignorant could simply bide time in the afterlife — could only in Latin? Well, “rhythmic English semi-prose,” for one, which underlay the pedagogical trick of rote learning, said Watson. He read from one example, the “six thinges” from “The Lay Folks’ Catechism,” based on a 1281 syllabus. The 12 articles of faith, the Ten Commandments, and other prescriptive lists were all summarized in catchy verse. Priests read the “sixthinges” to their congregations four times a year, an exercise that took 25 minutes. Lay people were also required to memorize them, or be punished for sinning.

“Repetition and counting” were the keys here, said Watson. He read in musical Middle English the section on the Third Commandment, which requires both the “lered and lewed” (“learned and unlearned”) to keep the Sabbath.

“Six thinges” had a theological underpinning too, he said, showing that eternal salvation is based on knowledge and reason, and not behavior.

To gain that “bless that nevermore ends,” said Watson, quoting from “six thinges” in translation, “knowledge and reason” — qualities lost in the Garden of Eden — could only be regained by study.

For much of the Middle Ages, salvation had been presented in “small-group terms,” he said, as the sole right of the educated elite. Vernacular theology was an attempt to “squeeze through” into paradise those without learning.

The concept of purgatory was another way for the unlearned to squeeze into paradise, Watson pointed out later. The ignorant could simply bide time in the afterlife in a sort of waiting room to heaven.

“Six thinges” was “practical and comprehensive” in 1281, said Watson, but by 1510 was the stuff of parody. That was the year of the anonymously authored “How the Ploughman Learned His Pater Noster,” a satire on learning by rote.

Watson told the story of a ploughman (farmer) and a priest. The ploughman knows a lot about practical matters, but cannot recite the Lord’s Prayer, and refuses to memorize it. But he agrees to memorize the names of the Christian church decided, in effect, to admit a donkey into the stable of its theological horses. What emerged was “vernacular theology,” a transformative blend of Christian teachings and the common tongue. Watson revived the phrase (first used in the 16th century) in a landmark 1995 study on cultural change in late-Medieval England.

When combined, the two words “vernacular” and “theology” contain liberating connotations of accessibility, free expression, and even democracy.

But in the 13th century, translating theology into the vernacular presented a pedagogical problem. How do you teach an English-speaking, largely illiterate population even the rudiments of Christian teachings, which had been for centuries couched only in Latin?

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of a succession of poor men who visit him for gifts of corn, in return for the priest's promise of a higher price for his grain. So the first poet, man, named "Our," arrives. Then the second, named "Father," and so on, until after one exhausting night the ploughman has memorized what — when strong together — is the Lord's Prayer.

"Six things" and the story of the ploughman are far apart in time and intent, but both illustrate that literacy was a "moral skill before it was a practical skill," said Watson. By the 18th century, he said, literacy would become what it is today, "a secular, and economic, ideal."

The vernacular theology of Medieval Europe was a battleground of two broad religious views of salvation. The "perfectionist" viewpoint held that only the few, and the intensely educated — like the monks of old — could be saved. The "universalist" view — more tolerant, open, and flexible — held that even "mediocre" (uneducated) Christians could be saved.

Occasionally, expressions of the universalist view seemed not just tolerant, but radically inclusive, said Watson. To illustrate, he read a passage from William Langland's visionary narrative poem "Piers Plowman," written around 1380, in which a feminized Christ bade all — Muslims, Jews, and fallen Christians alike — to "souke for sinne salve [remedy] at his breste."

But how revolutionary was medieval vernacular theology — that is, how much did it influence the modern era? Watson is not prepared to say, but in the end did assert that it was a "potent and under-recognized phenomenon" that deserves more investigation.

Watson

(Continued from previous page)

Digital

Amir Karger (from left), Therese Celine Condit, and Elaheh Kheirandish participate in the Digital Humanities Fair in the Barker Center’s Thompson Room.

Bill and Carrie were part of a display by the Academic Technology Group (ATG) at Harvard, a resource for technology-enhanced teaching and learning tools. Those include virtual worlds and video, along with the clickers, wikis, and discussion boards used in collaborative learning environments.

The ATG, an arm of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) Information Technology group, creates course-specific multimedia Web sites, including a recent virtual world of 17th-century Harvard for archaeology students.

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning had a display, pointing to, among other things, its courses and seminars on Web pedagogy.

Visitors took in a lesson on the Harvard University Library’s Visual Information Access, with its contributing collections of images on horticulture, Hellenic studies, medicine, business, law, zoology, and more.

The Harvard Division of Continuing Education had a table set up, with experts ready to talk about the faculty about the experimental reach of its 120 online courses, and its long time investment in distance education.

In some cases, digital resources at Harvard have been accelerated or expanded because of an FAS vote in February on open access to scholarly literature. It requires Harvard faculty members to submit an electronic version of scholarly articles to the Provost’s office for an online repository, where they will be available free.

In June, Harvard plans to "open the repository to the world," said Amy Brand, program manager in the Harvard University Library’s new Office for Scholarly Communication. "The nice thing about a digital archive, as opposed to a physical archive, is that we can make it visible and accessible to the wider world."

Her office’s DASH repository — as in, Digital Access to Scholarship at Harvard — is now only available to members of the Harvard community as a beta test, she said. But by this summer, DASH will be accessible to anyone worldwide through Google Scholar and other online indexing services.

In May, Harvard Law School (HLS) instituted a parallel open-access requirement for its faculty scholarship.

Harvard University Press (HUP) is also exploring open access, said Daniel Lee, director of digital content development. Early next year it will publish the first online issue of the "Journal of Legal Analysis," a peer-reviewed, open-access journal sponsored by HLS.

At the end of next year, the 2009 journal articles will be printed in a print-on-demand volume, said Lee. Bringing digital tools to the humanities, he said, "is about changing modes of access to scholarly research."

Neary, Ben Lewis, a senior GIS specialist with Harvard’s Center for Geographic Analysis, tapped a few computer keys to call up a detailed map of Africa. To the north, it was dotted in red with the locations of 30,000 water wells.

Geographical information systems, or GIS, can provide a robust platform for humanities research, said Lewis. "This exact spot on the Earth," he said, pointing down, is not just a coordinate — but the locus of all "kinds of human things."

For example, his office’s AfricaMap project — launched just two weeks ago — can deepen a scholar’s understanding of an exact place by layering it with historical, environmental, and economic data, as well as links to recent research and even rich databases.

The content of AfricaMap is African, but the same layered, rich mapping framework — "geographic switchboards," Lewis called them — "can be applied anywhere in the world."

These kinds of maps, stacked with research and data from many different disciplines, allow researchers to see each other’s work, and invite intellectual interplay among fields as diverse as policy, health, the arts, history, and linguistics.

"It’s all about layers," said Lewis of GIS tools for the humanities, "and it’s all about concurrence in actual space."

The center, he added, plans a one-day training session for Harvard faculty members in March.

Many of the fair’s visitors took time to make Bill walk around with the up and down arrow keys on an Apple computer. (Carrie — in reality Caroline M. "Carrie" Kent, head of research services at Widener Library — was moving herself around from a remote location, and busy typing answers to interactive queries.)

The Civic Erickson on display numbered only 12, but there is "no limit to the number of pages you can add," typed Carrie, whose redheaded avatar moved around in a stylish black body stocking. It’s all about new opportunities for "contextualization," she added. "You could put on display together manuscripts from around the world that you could never, in real life, see together."

Carrie, the avatar, offered one guest a trip to a virtual Harvard College library. It was set whimsically in an open-air portico, where a waiting lounge chair pointed to a nearby faux sea.

"Hold on," said Carrie, "and I will transport you."

Rainer

(Continued from previous page)

she tried to make it "easier for the spectator to see in a range of ways: for example, by repurposing traditional audience involvement in several ways so the viewer had many opportunities to see a particular dance phrase. Later in her career, however, Rainer made it more "difficult" for the audience to see by creating dances with little to no repetition. In "Trio A," one of her most famous works, the dancers do not repeat a single move. "It's very difficult to get your bearings as you watch this dance," Lambert-Beatty says. "There is just movement after movement.... You never feel like you've seen it all."

Rainer’s efforts to make her fascinating experience reflected contemporary cultural developments, says Lambert-Beatty.

"In the 1960s, artists were reckoning with the transformation that had occurred with the rise of the TV," she says. "As media coverage of the Vietnam War intensified, this reckoning got a kind of urgency. I think that consciously, the artists who worked with displaying a body to a viewer were heavily impacted by the televisual experience of the war."

As an example, Lambert-Beatty cites a strategy that Rainer developed in 1968 called "performance concurrence." Rainer would choreograph multiple dances to take place in different locations at the same time. Performance attendees would receive a map of room locations and a schedule, not unlike a TV guide. Because the dances were concurrent, attendees had to make a conscious decision about what to watch.

"Rainer set up the condition where the viewer would be aware that something is going on that he or she is not actually seeing," says Lambert-Beatty. "This was an artistic working through of life in a media culture.

Rainer also incorporated media culture in a more direct sense. She often projected films during her dances, or had performers imitate positions from photographs or actions from movies.

"Being Watched" traces Rainer’s treatment of the spectator from her earliest, minimalist works to the politically charged productions she created in the 1970s. Writing about specific works, Lambert-Beatty acknowledges, but she was able to draw on a rich body of source material to inform her scholarship.

"With each, the performance itself is gone," she says. "I was considering art that by its very nature no longer exists. So, I had to rely on traces like any performance historian.

Lambert-Beatty drew on photographs, performance films, and interviews with individuals who had seen Rainer’s works performed live. She was also able to watch re-constructions of certain performances.

The most helpful information, however, came straight from Rainer herself. In 1997, Lambert-Beatty told the Whitney Museum of American Art’s Independent Study Program in New York. She was interested in performance art of the 1960s, and had planned to write about several artists from that era — including Yvonne Rainer, who teaches regularly at the program. The pair met frequently during Lambert-Beatty’s fellowship.

"It was wonderful," says Lambert-Beatty. "I was able to make appointments to sit down with Rainer and discuss her work at length. I came away feeling that there was so much to say."

Those long conversations altered Lambert-Beatty’s plans a bit. The other artists would have to wait. "It was an eye-opening approach to spectatorship begotten its own book. The result? "Being Watched."
Rights celebration capped with talk, song, dance

By Corydon Ireland
Harvard News Office

Sixty years ago this month, the United Nations released to a war-shocked world the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a catalog of norms understood to apply to all human beings.

The document’s 30 articles seem self-evident today — the right to freedom of speech, belief, and property, for instance. Yet all these years later, experts say, there is still a gap between theory and practice — between the inspiration of landmark words and the way those words are implemented.

It was into that gap that experts stepped in a daylong series of panels last week (Dec. 11) at the Harvard Faculty Club. It was the last event in a semester-long interdisciplinary retrospective on the UDHR at Harvard.

In opening remarks, Wilhelm Krull predicted “an intensive cultural and academic exchange” — and perhaps a recognition that the humanities have a heightened role in the human rights debate. (Krull is secretary-general of the Volkswagen Foundation, a co-sponsoring organization that recently funded two humanities fellowships at Harvard.)

Krull got his wish for a flashbang event, in part because panel participants came from diverse disciplines. The law, medicine, literature, advocacy, education, and public policy are only recently beginning to view human rights implementation cooperatively.

“These debates actually unite,” and that’s rare, said organizer Jacqueline Bhabha, director of the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies (an event co-sponsor) and Jeremiah Smith Jr. Lecturer in Law at Harvard Law School.

The humanities and human rights can “dovetail,” said Harvard’s Dean for the Humanities Diana Sorensen, the James F. Rothenberg Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and professor of comparative literature, employing a carpentry metaphor. “If we put those things together, we’ll fly.”

Anja Mihr said human rights studies recently made a leap from law schools, their traditional nexus, into the social sciences and other disciplines. European universities alone now offer more than 100 master’s degrees with “human rights” in the title, she said, and in the United States Harvard offers degrees with “human rights” in the title, she said, and in the United States Harvard offers

Semester’s series ends with daylong panels

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Across campus, Harvard community reaches out

Under the former guise of a support group, volunteers at the Phillips Brooks House Association sort through toys donated by the PBHA holiday gift drive.

By Colleen Walsh

Santas came to Harvard's littlest last week (Dec. 13). He sat comfortably in a chair on the second floor of Phillips Brooks House, clad in a familiar bright red outfit with white trim, plus the least familiar, yet practical, Mariell baking shoes. He was taking literal break bu- tton meeting groups of young children anxious for an early Christmas present.

The young excited crew was part of the annual holiday party hosted by the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) that brings participants from their various mentoring programs around Boston and Cambridge to campus for a day of fun, food, presents, and the chance to meet the Santa himself, David Griffin, PBHA volunteer manager.

“Tis really important to have these gift masts and make them feel special,” said Valanda Harris ’99, the monitoring program group officer at PBHA who helped organize the event. “It’s really about them, it’s definitively their day.”

All of the gifts for the party as well as the snacks and treats for the day were provided by Harvard University Health Services. A group of children with their student mon-itors from Harvard came on a study break and played a variety of video games in Chappy and Ladds. On the first floor, several children took a break from decompressing holiday cookies, while a collection of new hobby boards, scarves and other objects were provided by PBHA volunteers across the University to distribute to the far-flung places, both dear and familiar. The Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, located in the basement of the Un-iversity Church of Christ, provides a haven for the homeless. When it snows, people come to the shelter, including food, in-kind donations, administration, and the Work Contract program. Those accepted can stay at the shelter for up to three months continuously, during which time they can earn money toward the deposit on an apartment or house, says Eleanor Wilking ’99, director of the program. HSHS is the largest program of the Phillips Brooks House Association, with more than 200 volunteers. This number in- cludes four managers, who manage every aspect of running the shelter, including food, in-kind donations, administration, and the Work Contract program, and 14 supervisors, who manage overnight shifts. All of the directors and superintendents are Harvard undergraduates. Volunteers at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter answer the telephone for the building, and make a donation. To volunteer, please con- tact hshs.volunteer@gmail.com.

Across campus, Harvard community reaches out

The song tells us that there is “no place like home for the hol- iday,” and so many at Harvard campus will be destined for far-flung places, both dear and familiar. The Harvard Square Homeless Shelter (HSHS) helps those who are not fortunate enough to have a home at all.

HSHS is the only shelter in the country led entirely by col- leges undergraduate, it is a program of the Phillips Brooks House Association, Harvard College’s student-run public service organization.

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Retrospective

(Continued from page 17)

the best example of this new interdisciplinary pathway.

The law has been the traditional “meeting place” in human rights studies, agreed Homi Bhabha, director of the Humanities Center at Harvard. “What we do in the realm of language,” he remarked, but literature and the arts have a special role in the “aspirational realm.” Any aspiration, said Bhabha, begins first by humans imagining it. But human rights instruments like the UDHR have not gone far enough to champion “linguistic rights,” claimed Neville Alexander, a South African advocate for multilingualism. Linguistic rights, he said, are those that guarantee groups within a nation the right to speak and learn and teach in a language other than the dominant tongue. Alexander, a co-founder of the National Liberation Front in apartheid-era South Africa who was imprisoned with Nelson Mandela, said the hegemony of English threatens to marginalize indigenous languages.

Krull’s wish for intensity came from more than creative friction between disciplines. By late afternoon, a fundamental paradox in the 1948 document had emerged, and is guaranteed to keep sparks flying both within the academy and in the field. The UDHR champions individual rights, but within the context of respecting cultural norms. And panelists agreed that sometimes the universal ideal clashes with the local reality.

Take the case of female genital cutting, a practice considered not only ordinary but desirable in some majority-Muslim countries. The practice is “an unquestionable violation of human rights” as defined in the UDHR and numerous conventions since, said Harvard Medical School assistant professor Nawal Nour, a Sudan-born surgeon and founder and director of the African Women’s Health Center at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Yet many Muslim women in Africa, without access to basic health information, believe the practice is both a requirement of faith and a guarantee of marriageability. “In this particular population,” said Nour of her patients, who face reconstructive surgery, “the human rights field has failed.” In many countries, added Austrian human rights researcher Katrin Kinzelbach, “centuries-old traditions make it difficult to bring human rights to individuals.” Human rights violations forbidden by public law are often executed in the private sphere, she said, “within the shelter of families or clans.”

Old and new cultures also clash over issues not thought of in 1948, said the panelists, including the death penalty, homophobia, and any manner of marriage, and even in the propriety of allowing head scarves in public schools. Human rights — broadened by UN covenants in 1966 and reaffirmed in 1993 — are “universalizable” and any practice that discriminates is a matter of concern. “The question is no longer open,” said Nour.

Human rights covenants are little needed in countries with high legal standards, he said. But in countries without such standards, there’s little way to enforce the will of humanity. “Here,” said Grimm, “is the dilemma.”

(Continued from page 17)

moderated by Harvard President Drew Faust, highlighted the Universal Declaration’s groundbreaking enumeration of economic and social rights — the right to work, to education, to medical care, and to food, clothing, and housing.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted 60 years ago, on Dec. 10, 1948, in the wake of the human rights horrors of World War II and the Holocaust. Its drafting was led by former U.S. first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who served as a delegate to the United Nations from 1945 to 1952.

Faust introduced the panel, saying that the declaration’s 26th article — on education — is particularly meaningful to her. The article says everyone has a right to free elementary education and that higher education should be accessible to all according to merit, something that Harvard has been working to make happen. Though there has been progress in making the declaration’s rights real to people around the globe, violations are still a regular and unremarkable occurrence, Faust said.

“Every day, every single one of these articles is violated somewhere,” she said. “[They] ask us to uplift ourselves and keep, as the declaration says, ‘this declaration constantly in mind.’”

Sen provided historical context for the Universal Declaration, saying that its passage provided a hopeful ending to a dark year that had seen the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and the beginnings of the Cold War with the Berlin airlift. Sen said the declaration made important contributions to the world of ideas by asserting that human rights are fundamental and apply to people around the world independent of laws protecting those rights. This assertion drew ridicule at the time, he said, because some claimed that rights without protecting laws are meaningless. In its incorporation of social and economic rights, the declaration went far beyond earlier pioneering documents such as the American Declaration of Independence, Sen said, but that again made it the target of criticism, this time for being unrealistic.

Groundbreaking as the declaration was, the decades since its passage have seen repeated violations of those rights. “It’s work is not yet done,” Sen said.

In his talk, Farmer highlighted an earlier statement of economic rights, those enumerated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in his 1944 State of the Union speech. Farmer said an important question today is what is the government’s vision to create jobs to alleviate suffering from the economic downturn. He drew on his experience as a physician through Partners In Health to highlight successes and continued challenges facing the implementation of economic rights.

Children around the world are starving, underscoring a large gap between today’s reality and any declaration of a right to food. Farmers in Haiti and other poor nations are hurt by agricultural trade agreements among wealthy nations that some say are so exclusive they make it difficult for those farmers to feed their families.

Farther, he said, we have “failed miserably” at providing the right to a decent home, and, in a world where injuries such as a simple broken leg can be lethal, have a long way to go before medical rights are assured.

Farmer said there is so much work to be done that the popular phrase “Think globally and act locally” doesn’t go far enough.

“We have to be thinking and acting globally and locally at the same time,” Farmer said.

Earlier in December, all 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were projected against buildings in Harvard Yard, at Harvard Law School, and at the Harvard Kennedy School. The light installation — “60 years, 30 articles, 1 document” — featured graffiti-like representations of text from the United Nations declaration.


Following her backup vocalist Dandie Sidibe off the stage is Malian singer and activist Oumou Sangare, The Songbird of Wassoulou.”
College’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter welcomes 48 new members

Forty-eight seniors were recently elected to the Harvard College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (PBK), Alpha Iota of Massachusetts.

The Alpha Iota of Massachusetts chapter of Phi Beta Kappa was first established under a charter in 1779. Shifting from a social and debating club in its early years to an undergraduate honor society in the 19th century, PBK is known as the oldest academic honor society in the country.

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Antacid use during pregnancy may increase childhood asthma

Population-based study links maternal prescriptions with child health data

Children of mothers who took acid-suppressive drugs during pregnancy had a 1.5 times higher incidence of asthma when compared with children who were not exposed to the drugs in utero, finds a large population-based study by researchers at Children’s Hospital Boston. The findings, accompanied by an editorial, appear online this week in “Early View” in the journal Clinical & Experimental Allergy. (They will be formally published online on Jan. 19 and will appear in the journal’s February print edition.)

Lead researcher Elizabeth Hait and Edda Fiebig, and first author Eleonora Dehlink of the Division of Gastroenterology/Nutrition at Children’s examined mother-child allergy relationships using national health registers in Sweden. They noted that antacids are commonly used for acid reflux, or heartburn. Researchers, including the team at Women’s Hospital, the Children’s Hospital, the Children’s Hospital Boston Office of the Division of Gastroenterology/Nutrition, the Medical Birth Register, the Prescribed Drug Register, and the Hospital Discharge Register and the Prescribed Drug Register, were able to identify mothers who took acid-blocking medications during pregnancy. By linking data from the Swedish Medical Birth Register with the Hospital Discharge Register and the Prescribed Drug Register, the team was able to identify mothers who took acid-blocking medications during pregnancy have higher levels of the immune cells that are predominant in allergic conditions.

The team then repeated their analyses to factor in maternal history of allergy; a known strong risk factor for allergy in children. “We found that if a mother is allergic, antacids don’t seem to increase the risk of allergies significantly, because the risk of her child having allergies is already very high,” says Fiebig. “But if a mother is non-allergic, it does increase the risk.” The increase in childhood allergic disease associated with acid-suppressive drugs was 43 percent when the mother was nonallergic, versus 25 percent for children of allergic mothers (the latter was not statistically different from chance). Acid-suppressing medication is commonly used for acid reflux, or heartburn. Re-flux occurs in up to 85 percent of pregnant women, but dietary and lifestyle modifications should be attempted first.

To access the article online, follow this link and click on ‘Early View’ under ‘Issue Navigation’ (appears just before the Table of Contents), www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/117999818/home

The researchers aren’t suggesting that all pregnant women stop taking acid-suppressive medication. “Some pregnant women have such severe acid reflux they can’t eat because they are in so much pain,” says Hait. “That is obviously not good for the baby either. So each pregnant woman suffering from acid reflux, with the guidance of her physician, should weigh the potential risks and benefits of taking acid-suppressive medication,” says Hait. “If it is deemed necessary, they should certainly proceed with the medication, but dietary and lifestyle modifications should be attempted first.”

An accompanying editorial, by Andrew S. Kemp of the department of allergy and immunology at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead (Sydney, Australia), reviews proposed explanations for a relationship between gastric acid suppression and childhood allergic disease. He concludes that acid suppression isn’t ready to be added to the list of potential influences on the development of allergic disease in children. “However,” he writes, “it is an issue that requires further research in view of the widespread use in infancy of drugs that suppress gastric acidity and the continuing increase in food allergy in early childhood.”

This study was supported by grants from the Children’s Hospital Boston Office of Faculty Development, the Gerber Foundation, and the APART Program of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

CSCR annual report now available

The 2008 annual report of the Corporation Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (CSCR), a subcommittee of the President and Fellows, is now available upon request from the Office for the Committee on Shareholder Responsibility. To obtain a copy, e-mail Cheryl Thurman at cheryl.thurman@harvard.edu or call the office at (617) 495-0985.

The report provides a detailed description of the CCSR’s actions on shareholder proposals, raising issues of social responsibility that came to vote during the 2008 spring proxy voting season (the period between March and June when most publicly traded corporations hold annual meetings). The CCSR receives advice from the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (ACSR), a 12-member committee made up of Harvard faculty, students, and alumni.

‘What d’ya want?’ ‘What d’ya got?’

The first Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) Supply Swap on Dec. 17 was, by all reports, a success, with more than five cubic yards of office materials recirculated. FAS and other University entities donated and shopped for supplies, simultaneously promoted sustainability and reducing spending. The biggest success of the day might have been when Food and酝酿 for acid reflux. Food and

To access the article online, follow this link and click on ‘Early View’ under ‘Issue Navigation’ (appears just before the Table of Contents)
Faculty of Arts and Sciences Standing Committees 2008-09

Upon the recommendation of the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), Harvard President Drew Faust has approved and announced the following Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the faculty are constituted to perform various functions. Each committee has been established by a vote of the faculty, and can be dissolved only by a vote of the faculty or, with the agreement of a particular Committee, by the dean and Faculty Council. The dean recommends the membership of each committee annually.

Curricular Committees — Undergraduate Degree Programs

Organizational Behavior, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Julie A. Buckler (chair), Deborah Foster, Joseph C. Harris (on leave spring term), Mark Elliott (chair) (on leave spring term), Peter Bol, Brian Carver, Charles S. Maier, Jens Meierhenrich, Michael Rosen, Nancy L. Penenberg (on leave 2008-09), Michael Kremer, Steven Levitsky, Andrew Jewett, James T. Kloppenberg, David Stevenson, B. Katherine Swartz, and Suzanne Walker.


Folklore and Mythology, Degrees in — Maria M. Tatar (chair), Lisa T. Brooks, Julie A. Buckler, Deborah Foster, Joseph C. Harris (on leave spring term), Michael Herzfeld, Barbara L. Hilliers, Peter B. Machristi (on leave 2008-09), David Gordon Mitten, Gregory Nagy, Kimberly C. Patton, Michael J. Puett (on leave 2008-09), Panagiotis Rilli (on leave 2008-09), John Stauffer, and Jan M. Ziolkowski.

History and Literature, Degrees in — Jill Leppone (chair), David Armitage, Robin Bernstein (on leave 2008-09), Steven Bie!, Ann M. Blair, Sagasta Bosa, Lisa T. Brooks, Janet Browne, Lawrence Buell (on leave 2008-09), Daniel G. Donoghue, James T. Engell, Jeanne Follansbee Quinn, Virginia Greene, Maya Jasanoff, Walter John- son, James T. Kippenberg (on leave 2008-09), Barbara K. Lewski (on leave spring term), Malinda Maynor Lowery (on leave 2008-09), Louis Menand, Leach Price, Doris Sommer, Judith Surkis, and Maria Tatar.

Neurobiology, Degrees in — John E. Dowling (chair) (on leave spring term), Randy Buchner (on leave 2008-09), Florian Englert, Takao Hensch (on leave fall term), Samuel Martin Kunis, Carole Landsman, Jeff Lichtman, Eric Lo, Markus Meister (on leave spring term), Venkatesh N. Murthy (on leave fall term), Bence Ozorak, NaomI E. Pierce, Avramithan Samuel, Jonas Sanae (on leave spring term), Daniel L. Schafer, Naosige Uchida, and Yun Zhang.


Business Economics, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Jerry R. Green (chair), George F. Baker III, John Y. Campbell (on leave 2008-09), Mihir Desai (ex officio), Josh Lerner, Ariel Pakes, Alvin J. Roth, David Scharfstein, Luis Ureta, and Den nsel Yu-

Organizational Behavior, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Peter V. Marsden (chair) (on leave fall term), Mihir Desai (ex officio), Amy Edmonson, J. Richard Hackman, Jeffrey Polzer, Toby Stuart, Michael Tushman, and Christopher Winship (on leave spring term).

Science, Technology, and Management, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Stefan H. Thomke (co-chair), Woodward Yang (co-chair), Carliss Baldwin, Mihir Desai (ex ofﬁcio), Lee D. Fleming, Michael B. McElroy, Venkatesh Narayanamurti, David C. Parkes (on leave 2008-09), and Vicki Sato.

Chemical Biology, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Jon Clardy (co-chair), David R. Liu (co-chair), Ulrike Eggert, Daniel Kahn, Alan Saghatelian, Gregory L. Verdine, and Suzanne Walker.

Chemical Physics, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Eric J. Heller (chair), Alan Aspuru-Guzik, Adam Cohen, John M. Doyle, Roy G. Gordon (on leave 2008-09), Mikhail Lukan (on leave spring term), Eugene I. Shakhnovich, Xiaoliang Sunney Xie, and Xiaowei Zhuang.

Dental Medicine, Higher Degrees in — Bjorn R. Olsen, John D. Bartlett, Joyce Bischoff, Patricia D’Amore, Floyd Dowthirt, Daniel Finley, Laurie Gimlicher, James Gross, Robert Grossman, Martin Hamer, Randall King, Michael Klagsbrun, Beate Lanske, Andrew Lessar, Yefu Li, Yi-Ping Li, Henry Margolis, Bruce Pastier, Vicki Rosen, Charles Nielsen Sorhagen, Philip Stashenko, Kevin Struh, Martin Taubman, and Malcolm Whitman.


Health Policy, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Joseph P. Newhouse (chair), Ayle Adams, John Ayanian, Katherine Baicker, Robert Blendon, David Brook, Allan M. Brandt, Daniel Carpenter, Amitabh Chandra, Michael Cherno, Nicholas Christakis, Paul D. Cleary, David M. Cutler, Norman Daniels, Amy Edmonson, Amy Eskenazi, Howard C. Berg, Stephen Blacklow, George Church, Stephen C. Harrison, David R. Liu, Markus Meister (on leave spring term), Bence Ozorak, NaomI E. Pierce, Jordan Segall, and Reza Sanei.

History and East Asian Language, Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in — Mark Eltis (chair), Joel James, Carter J. Eckert (on leave spring term), Andrew D. Gordon, Hervietta Harrington (on leave fall term), William C. Kirby, Shigehisa Kuroya, Michael J. Pue (on leave 2008-09), and Huer Tan Ho Tai.

Inner Asian and African Studies, Higher Degrees in — Celso J. Kujla (chair), Mark Elliott (on leave spring term), Janet Gaytso, Cemal Kafadar (on leave 2008-09), C. C. Lambert-Karlovy, Terry Martin, Michael J. Pue (on leave 2008-09), David J. Rosbhug, Robert Rosenberg, Teh Wei Tu (on leave fall term), and Michael Witzel (on leave fall term).

Medical Sciences, Higher Degrees in — (2008-09 membership information is not yet available. The following are the 2007-08 membership: Thomas O. Frieden (ex officio), Nancy C. Ando, Michael C. Carroll, Susan M. Dymek, Raymond L. Erikson, Dana Gaboura, Edward E. Harlow, Stephen C. Harrison, Peter Howley, David Knipe, Rosalind Anne Segal, Michael Stambach, Clifford Tabin, Shannah Turvey, David Van Vactor, Christopher T. Walsh, and Gary Yellen.

Middle Eastern Studies — Steven C. Caton (chair), Leila Ahmed, Sagasta Bosa, Jorge Dominguez, Duana L. Eck, Mark Elliott (on leave spring term), Khaled El-Rouayheb (on leave 2008-09), Marwa Elshalaby, Bradley S. Epps (on leave 2008-09), Luis Manuel Giron-Negro, Mary-Jo Delvecchio Good, Andrew D. Gordon, Michael Herzfeld, Salmaan Keshavjee, Arthur M. Kleinman, Mohamed Mostafawi, Gulnur Nesipoglu Kafadar (on leave 2008-09), Michael J. Pue (on leave 2008-09), Dani Rodrik, Stephen Peter Rosen (on leave 2008-09), Monica Toft, and Richard K. Wolf (on leave fall term).


[See Committees next page]
Interdisciplinary Coordinating Committees


Oceanography — Eli Tziperman (chair), Peter Huybers, James J. McCarthy, and Daniel P. Schrag.

South Asian Studies — Sugata Bose (chair), Asad Ahmad, Ali S.A. Asani, Homi K. Bhabha (on leave fall term), Sarah Clark Donahue (ex officio), John R. E. Dunn (on leave spring term), and Richard L. Wilson (on leave fall term).

Undergraduate Committees (noncurricular)


Arts, Council on the — To be announced.


Education Abroad — Robert Lue (chair), Sugata Bose, Jorge Domínguez, Grozegor Grizzle, Luis Fernández-Cifuentes, William E. Granara, Virginia Greene, Jay M. Harris, James J. McCarthy, Ingmarson Donald H. Pfister, and Catherine Hutchison Winnie.


Administrative Committees Benefits — Gary King (chair)


Committees

(Continued from previous page)


Regional Studies — East Asia, A.M. Degree in — David Wang (chair), David R. McCann (acting chair), Henrietta Harris (on leave spring term), Richard J. King, David R. McCann, Shigehisa Kuriyama, Wai-yee Li, Roderick Macfarquhar, Suzanne Blier, and Xiaowei Zhuang.

A window in the Mallinkrodt Building works as a funhouse mirror for some Ionic columns across the way.


systems Biology, Department of Doctor of Philoso- phy in — Pamela Silver (chair), Debra Augusta, Michael P. Brenner, Marita Bulyk, Lewis Cantley, George Church, Philippe Cluzel, Eric Landes, Robert M. Liskoski, Gavvin McAdams, Latham Mahoney, and Peter Sacks (on leave fall term), Jaime Sanchez, Shih-Chin Shih, Shelia Lofgren, and Xiaowei Zhuang.

Instructional Program Committees

Dramatics — Robert Scanlan (chair), Eliza- beth Bregman, Deborah Foster, Marjorie Garber, Jorie Graham (on leave 2008-09), Bodun Jeyod, Elizabeth Dyrud Lynne, Christine McDonald, John C. Megan (ex officio), Robert Orchard (ex officio), Diane Paulus (ex officio), Peter Sacks (on leave fall term), Elaine Scary (on leave spring term), Oliver Simons (on leave spring term), Diana Sorensen (ex officio), Marcus Stern (ex officio), Susan R. Suleiman, and Scott Perrin Ziegler.

freshman Seminars — Jay M. Harris (chair), Lawrence Buel (on leave 2008-09), Joyce Elizabeth Kittle, Peter T. Ellisson, Jerry R. Green (on leave fall term), J. Woodland Hastings (on leave fall term), J.W. Hutchinson (on leave fall term), Stephanie Kenne (ex officio), Sandra Naddaff (ex officio), David Rodwick, and Stephanie Sandell.

General Education — Jay M. Harris (chair), Ali S.A. Asani, Julie A. Buckler, Scott Edwards, Jerry R. Green, Edward S. Epstein, Jerry J. Hall, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Jennifer Hochschild (on leave spring term), John Huth, Stephanie Kenne (ex officio), and Andrew Murray. W.


Social Policy, Higher Degrees in — Bruce Westerm (chair), Kathryn Edin, Jennifer Hendrickschild (on leave spring term), Christopher Jencks, Beth L. Klein, and Diane Anderson Wilson.

Systems Biology, Department of Doctor of Philoso- phy in — Pamela Silver (chair), Debra Augusta, Michael P. Brenner, Marita Bulyk, Lewis Cantley, George Church, Philippe Cluzel, Eric Landes, Robert M. Liskoski, Gavvin McAdams, Latham Mahoney, and Peter Sacks (on leave fall term), Jaime Sanchez, Shih-Chin Shih, Shelia Lofgren, and Xiaowei Zhuang.

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Freshman Seminars — Jay M. Harris (chair), Lawrence Buel (on leave 2008-09), Joyce Elizabeth Kittle, Peter T. Ellisson, Jerry R. Green (on leave fall term), J. Woodland Hastings (on leave fall term), J.W. Hutchinson (on leave fall term), Stephanie Kenne (ex officio), Sandra Naddaff (ex officio), David Rodwick, and Stephanie Sandell.

Interdisciplinary Coordinating Committees

Committees  

(Continued from previous page)  

(chair) on leave fall term), David Carrasco (on leave 2008-09), Patricia Rowe Chaput, Warren Goldfarb, Robert Lue, Nancy L. Maull, B.C. Maur, Christie McDonald, Gregory Nagy, and Mark J. Schiefsky.  

General Scholarships and the Sheldon Fund  — The dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (chair), the deans of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the deans of the Faculties of Business Administration, Dental Medicine, Design, Divinity, Education, Government, Law, Medicine, and Public Health.  

Information Technology  — Howard M. Georgi III (chair), Peter Bol, Nancy Clune, J. Richard Hackman, Georgene Herschbach, Craig R. Hunter, Barry Kane, Thomas F. Kelly (on leave 2008-09), Gary King, H.T. Kung, Henry H. Leitner, Lawrence M. Levine, Harry R. Lewis (on leave fall term), Robert Lue, and Daniel Monarity.  

Library  — Robert Damton (chair), Kathleen M. Coleman (vice chair), Modaj Shahab Ahmed, Janet Beizer, Joyce Elizabeth Chaplin, Nancy Clune (ex officio), James T. Engell, Mary M. Gaylord (on leave spring term), Jennifer Horschchild (on leave spring term), Farah A. Jenkins Jr., Lawrence M. Levine, Ingrid Monson, Stephanie Sandler, Stuart M. Sheiber, Xiaofei Tian, and Richard W. Wrangham.  

Pedagogical Improvement  — Margo I. Seltzer (chair), Noël Blisson (ex officio), Allan M. Brandt (ex officio), Benjamin M. Friedman (on leave fall term), Virginia Greene, Jay M. Harris (ex officio), Eric N. Jacobson, Henry H. Leitner (ex officio), Robert Lue, Logan McCarthy (ex officio), Xiao-Li Meng, Katie Vale (ex officio), James D. Wilkinson (ex officio), and Christopher Winship (on leave spring term).  

Privacy, Accessibility, and Security of Records  — To be announced.  


Science Center, Executive Committee of the  — To be announced.  

Women  — Elena M. Kramer (co-chair) (on leave fall term), Susan J. Pharr (co-chair), Elizabeth Cohen, Caroline M. Elkins, Rachelle Gaudet, Michèle Lamont, Lisa M. McGlinn (2008-09), Katharine Park (on leave fall term), Mylène Priam (on leave 2008-09), Leah Price, Lisa Randall (on leave spring term), Stephanie Sandler, Margo I. Seltzer, Susanna Siegel (on leave spring term), Mary M. Steedly (on leave 2008-09), and Rebecca Wasserman.  

Faculty Research Committees  

Faculty Research Support  — Michael D. Smith (chair ex officio), Peter V. Marsden (on leave fall term), Joyce Elizabeth Chaplin, Deena Giancotti, Mark J. Schiefsky, James Sidanisus, Steve C. Wehby, and Xiaowei Zhuang.  

Research Policy  — Steven C. Werfsy (chair), Roger W. Brockett (on leave spring term), Alfonso Caramazza (ex officio), Gary J. Feldman (on leave spring term), Patrick Fitzgerald (ex officio), Jeffrey Frieden (ex officio), Dean Gallant (ex officio), Farah A. Jenkins Jr., Daniel E. Lieberman (ex officio), Peter V. Marsden (on leave fall term), HongKun Park, Mara Prentiss, Alexander Schier, and Brett Sweet (ex officio).  

Use of Human Subjects in Research  — Alfonso Caramazza (chair), Matthew Alper, James C. Beck, Evelyn Bonander (community representative), Earl Bracker, Jane B. Calhoun (research officer), Kenneth L. Carson (research officer), John Ellison, Dean Gallant (ex officio), Nancy Katz, Matthew K. Nock (on leave 2008-09), Barbara A. Pan, Diego Pozzagalli, Emilio Saio (research officer), James Sidanisus, Joel L. Siner, Mary C. Waters, and Toni Wegner.  

* Executive Committee  + Study of Religion supervises both graduate and undergraduate degree programs, but to avoid double counting, it is listed only under Curricular Committees  — Undergraduate Degree Programs.  

Gifts  

(Continued from page 19)  

This year’s event collected close to 1,500 gifts — including toys, books, and clothes from 24 different Harvard departments — to distribute to 14 local organizations. In addition to the PBHA drive, PBHA students staff and run the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. This year they will continue the holiday tradition of collecting clothing, food and gifts for those in need.  

All across the University, departments are organizing their own gift drives and helping local organizations in a variety of other ways.  

The President’s Office has caught the spirit. Massachusetts Hall has created a gift drive that will benefit several community centers in Harvard’s host communities.  

At the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), the idea is a similar one, but instead of gifts, guests are encouraged to buy $1 raffle tickets with all the proceeds benefiting Our Place, a local day care center for homeless children. Last year the event raised $82,500 for the organization.  

Our Place helps provide educational services, day care, and emotional support to families in the grip of homelessness, and this year more than ever, it is imperative that we support their vital mission — one that is in keeping with our values as a School and a community of educators,” said Michael Rodman, HGSE director of communications.  

Music from the Harvard Band was also part of the holiday festivities. Last weekend the group performed many of the traditional holiday favorites at locations around Boston as well as at Boston’s Shriners Hospital for Children.  

A former employee’s connection to a worthy cause helped establish a tradition of holiday giving at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. For more than 10 years, employees and fellows at Radcliffe have participated in a holiday gift drive to benefit the women and children of Casa Myrna Vasquez, a Boston-based shelter. “We get a list of wishes from the children and the parents — things that they would like to have for Christmas. Then we put the list up at Radcliffe, and over a three-week period, people will come by, pick up a tag for a gift, and then bring the gift back,” said Mary Provo, Radcliffe’s director of human resources.  

This year requests included everything from a flashlight to a stroller. “It is a great program. I think it keeps people mindful of what this time of year is really about,” said Colleen Walsh. 

Decem ber 18, 2008-February 4, 2009 Harvard University Gazette/25  

December 18, 2008-February 4, 2009 Harvard University Gazette/25
George Whitelaw Mackey was born February 1, 1916, in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1938 he received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the Rice Institute (now Rice University). His mathematical talent was recognized nationally when he became one of the top five William Lowell Putnam winners during his senior year at Rice. As a result, he received a full scholarship to Harvard for graduate work.

He earned a master’s degree in mathematics at Harvard in 1939 and a Ph.D. in 1942 under the direction of Marshall Stone. Marshall Stone was, in the 1930s and early 1940s, the leading American figure in the then new field of functional analysis. The Stone-von Neumann theorem (originally conjectured by Hermann Weyl) lies, to this day, as one of the key foundations of the mathematical basis of quantum mechanics. George Mackey’s lifelong research continued the Stone tradition, amplifying and extending it to include and unify seeming disparate mathematical disciplines such as number theory, ergodic theory, group representations, and mathematical physics.

He spent a year in 1941 at the Institute of Advanced Studies before completing his Ph.D. and a year on the faculty of the Illinois Institute of Technology, and then returned to Harvard in 1943 as an instructor in the mathematics department, where he remained until his retirement as Landon T. Clay Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Science in 1985. For many years, George Mackey served as a tutor in Kirkland House.

The following is an excerpt from the eulogy delivered by Professor David Mumford on the occasion of the memorial service for George:

When I graduated, my mother came to Cambridge and wanted to meet one of my professors. We had lunch with George. After that, she said, “This is what I always thought a Harvard professor would be like, the real thing.”

George’s outspokenness and his brutal honesty probably got under everyone’s skin at some point. He never adjusted his message to his listener....

Back in the 1960s, government funding of mathematical research was just starting, so of course everyone was applying. Not George. He rocked the Boston mathematical community—not for the last time—by saying what no one else dared: the government was wasting its money, because all of us would do math all year without the two-ninths raise they were offering. He would not take it. Besides, on a darker note, he predicted all too accurately that when we were bought, the government would try to influence our research.

In the summer of 1955, George Mackey gave a course on group representations at the University of Chicago. The lecture notes for that course spread far and wide and instructed a whole generation of mathematicians. These notes went through several incarnations: Berkeley notes of 1965, Oxford notes of 1966–67 eventually ending up as the book Unitary Group Representations in Physics, Probability, and Number Theory, published in 1978. Another book with a profound influence on the next generation of mathematicians and mathematical physicists was his Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, first published in 1963.

George Mackey married Alice Willard in December 1960 and their daughter Ann was born in February 1963.

George Mackey died on March 15, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Gleason†
Calvin Moore
David Mumford
Clifford Taubes
Shlomo Sternberg, Chair
concerts


Wed., Dec. 31—“New Year’s Eve Gala Concert.” (Harvard Box Office) A festive celebratory night with Bach, Handel, and Boston Baroque. Conductor Martin Pearlman and orchestra join with singers Kristen Watson and Christina Day Martinson, Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $59/$57/$44/$29 general; 061: 15 percent off, limit two. Coats includes a champagne intermission. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

Thu., Jan. 1—“First Day Concert.” (Harvard Box Office) A celebratory afternoon event with Bach, Handel, and Boston Baroque. Conductor Martin Pearlman and orchestra join with singers Kristen Watson and Christina Day Martinson, Sanders Theatre, 3 p.m. Tickets are $59/$57/$44/$29 general; no discounts. Cost includes a champagne intermission. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

Wed., Jan. 7—Thu., Jan. 8—“Recital by the Students of Music 93r.” (Music Chamber music performances by students. Paine Hall, 7 p.m. Free and open to all.

Fri., Jan. 9—“Aitán.” (Harvard Box Office) Traditional Irish band Aitán featuring Mairead Ní Mhaonaigh, vocals and fiddle; Ciarán Tourish, fiddle; Dáithí Sproule, guitar; Dermot Byrne, accordion; and Ciarán Curran, bouzouki. Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $28 and $22. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

Fri., Jan. 9—Sat., Jan. 10—“Recital by the Students of 180.” (Music) Featuring music of Beethoven, Brahms, Schoenberg, Schubert, and more. Paine Hall, 7 p.m. Free and open to all.

Sat., Jan. 17—“Joyful Noise.” (Harvard Box Office) A gospel concert with the Harlem Gospel Choir honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sanders Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $22 general; $17 Multicultural Arts members (with ID), 061, and WGBH members; $12 children 12 and under. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

Sun., Jan. 18—“Mozart: Le nozze di Figaro.” (Harvard Box Office) Music of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, led by Federico Contencio. Sanders Theatre, 3 p.m. Tickets are $30/$25 general; students and senior citizens $5 off. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.


Sat., Feb. 7—“Ladysmith Black Mambazo.” (Harvard Box Office) With the power of gospel and the precision of Broadway, Ladysmith Black Mambazo is the undisputed king of rubabe, South African a cappella singing. Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $40/$32/$28 general. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

dance

Fri., Jan. 9—Sat., Jan. 10—“You Can’t Stop the Beat.” (TAPS, Mainly Jazz Dance Company) An evening of dance performances set to classic and contemporary beats, featuring music from Rihanna, The Weather Girls, Britney Spears, The Matrix, Cirque du Soleil, Hairspray, and many more. Lowell Lecture Hall, 17 Kirkland St., 8 p.m. Tickets are $10 general; $5 students/senior citizens. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

deadlines

Inside

Calendar Events for December 18, 2008–February 12, 2009

The Harvard Film Archive (HFA) presents ‘Alexander Mackendrick and the Anarchy of Innocence’ Jan. 9-12 and will include Mackendrick’s most celebrated film, ‘Sweet Smell of Success,’ as well as a number of his beloved comedies. See film, page 28.

The Harvard Film Archive (HFA) presents ‘The Man in the White Suit’ (UK, 1951) screens Friday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., followed by ‘The Ladykillers’ (UK, 1955). ‘Stop the Beat.”

Temperamental Chekhov’s ‘The Seagull’ at A.R.T.


Wed., Dec. 31—“New Year’s Eve Gala Concert.” (Harvard Box Office) A festive celebratory night with Bach, Handel, and Boston Baroque. Conductor Martin Pearlman and orchestra join with singers Kristen Watson and Christina Day Martinson, Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $59/$57/$44/$29 general; 061: 15 percent off, limit two. Coats includes a champagne intermission. Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

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theater

Agassiz Theatre

Thu., Jan. 8–Sun., Jan. 11—“The Laramie Project” is a powerful docudrama centered on the community of Laramie, Wyoming, and their reaction to the murder of Matthew Shepard, the victim of a gay hate crime. Derived from a compilation of interviews conducted by Moises Kaufman and members of the (Continued on next page)
Guidelines for listing events in Calendar

Events on campus sponsored by the University, its schools, departments, centers, organizations, and its recognized student groups appear every Thursday. Events sponsored by outside groups are included if certain criteria are met. 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
vant information includes: title of event, sponsoring organization, date, time, and location; and, if applicable, name of speaker(s), fee, refreshments, and registration information. A submission form is available at the front desk of the News Office, 1060 Holyoke Center. Promotional pho
tographs with descriptions are welcome.

Addresses

Mail:
Calendar editor
Harvard University
1350 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Telephone: (617) 496-2651
Fax: (617) 495-0935
Email: calendar@harvard.edu

Deadlines

Calendar listings must be received at least one week before their publica
tion. The deadline must be provided by 5 p.m. on Thursday. If you are uncertain about a deadline, hold off until you receive the informa tion, please call the Calendar editor at (617) 496-2651.

Online

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

Available space

Listings for ongoing exhibitions, health and fitness classes, support and social groups, and screenings and readings should be submitted as soon as possible. Information not available in a particular issue will be retained for another forthcoming issue.

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

Events

Performances take place at Agassiz Theater, 34 Oxford St., Radcliffe Yard, 7:30 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees Jan. 10 and 11. Tickets $10 general; $7 students. Tickets are available through the Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2222.

American Repertory Theatre
Through Sat., Jan. 3.—“Aurora’s Orchestra” (2008). Featuring a dazzling display of stage illusion, inspired by the magic of music hall and circus. Starring daughter Aurélia Thiénts, granddaughter of Charlie Chaplin. Also featuring Jamie Maus (through Dec. 28) and Julie Monge (through Jan. 3). An ideal holiday treat suitable for the whole family, children included. Performances take place at Loeb Drama Center Main Stage, 64 Brattle St., various times. Some dates have pre-play discussions and matinees, see Web site for full schedule. Tickets are $25-79 general; $8 students/elder citi zens. This is an American Repertory Theatre production, see Web site for full schedule. Tickets are available through the A.R.T. Box Office (617) 547-8300, in person at Loeb Drama Center Box Office, or www.amrep.org.

New College Theatre
Wed., Jan. 7-Sun., Jan. 11.—“NINE” Introduces Paul Costello as the playwright, staffed by the splendid of middle age. He embarks on a retrospective journey through his life and the women central to it as he struggles to find the plot for his next mortal film. Based on the Fellini film “8 1/2” and 1979 winner of many awards, including a Tony. Performances take place at New College Theatre, 12 Holyoke St., 8 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees on Jan. 11. Tickets are $22 in advance; $24 for seniors, $18 students. Tickets are available through the Harvard Box Office (617) 496-2262.

radio

Harvard Radio WHRB (95.3 FM)

Courtway Library of Medicine

“Grand Delusion?”, bringing to light some of the treasures of the collection and including300 years of medicine and acupuncture. (Through December 2008) —Center for the History of Medicine, Courtyard Library. (617) 432-6207, jack_ekcr@hms.harvard.edu.

“Grand Delusion? The History of Homeopathy in the United States” traces the developments of the history of homeopa thy in Boston and Massachusetts and the construction of an identity as a professional practice, in both conflict and concert with its regular medical col leagues. On exhibit are books and pamphlets, both supporting and attacking the homeopathic movement; a speci men of documents from an 1871 trial to expel homeopaths from the Massachusetts Medical Society; an early 20th century homeopathic medi cine chest; and more. (Through December 2008) —Center for the History of Medicine, Courtyard Library. (617) 432-6207, jack_ekcr@hms.harvard.edu.

“The Warren Anatomical Museum” presents over 13,000 rare and unusual objects, including anatomical and pathological specimens, medical instruments, anatomical models, and medical memo rabilia of famous physicians. (Ongoing) —Warren Anatomical Museum, 5th floor, Courtyard Library. (617) 432-6196.

Davis Center

“Art of the Subversion: Nonconformist Imagery” traces the work from the Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection, the most comprehensive col lection of dissident and political art from the world. The art spans a period of 30 years — from images of the 1950s, before Stalin’s death and Hrushevsky’s rise to power, through the period of stagnation under Brezhnev, and continuing through the post-Gorbachev’s glasnost and perestroika in the 1980s. Works include photographs, oils, and collages by a diverse range of artists and styles. (Through Jan. 22) —Concourse level, GSU South Building, 532 Cambridge St.

The Du Bois Institute

“Stokes from the Shore” features new work by Lyle Ashton Harris inspired by his life in Ghana the past few years, as well as other recent works, and exhibit explores shifting concepts of African modernity and works range from expressions of the shore, pieces comprised of video and collage, poetic images of natural landscapes, silk organs, and Ghanaian funerary textiles. The show expresses the hybrid rhythms and voices of the modern world of daily life. (Through Jan. 15) —Neil L. and Angelica Zander Reading Room, Du Bois Institute, 104 Mt. Auburn St., 617) 495-8508, www.dubois.fas.harvard.edu.

Fine Arts Library


Calendar abbreviations

Where abbreviations appear in Calendar list ings, the following list may be used to find the corresponding program or organization:

Beller Center for Science and International Affairs BCSIA
Boston Review BR
Center for American Political Studies CAPS
Center for Government Analysis CGA
Center for International and Global Studies CIGS
Center for Jewish Studies CJS
Center for Eastern and Northern Europe CEONE
Center for Population Development and Policy CPDP
Center for Public Culture CPCR
Center for Quality of Care and Equity Research CQCAR
Center for the Study of Values in Public Health CSVP
Committee on the Concerns of Undergraduates COU
Committee on African Studies CAS
Conservatory Study in Women’s EDWS
Committee on Afro-American and African Studies CAAS
Committee on Human Rights CHR
David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies DRLCAS
Division of Biological Sciences DBS
Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences DEAS
Division of Health Sciences DHSC
East Asian Legal Studies Program EALS
Graduate School of Education GSE
Graduate School of Education Harvard GSE
Harvard Art Museum HAM
Harvard Art Museums Press HAMP
Harvard College Library HCL
Harvard University Education Forum HEF
Harvard Department of Computer Science HDCS
Harvard Film Archive HFA
Harvard Institute for International and Area Relations HIAR
Harvard Law School and Lexicon Cusco HLS
Harvard Institute for International and Area Relations HIAR
Harvard University International Office IOI
Harvard Medical School HMS
Harvard School of Dental Medicine HSDM
Harvard School of Dental Medicine HSDM
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics CfA
Harvard School of Dental Medicine HSDM
Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences SEAS
Harvard Kennedy School of Government HGSE
Harvard Law School HLS
Harvard Medical School HMS
Harvard National Security Program HNSP
Harvard School of Dental Medicine HSDM
Harvard School of Dental Medicine HSDM
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics CfA
Harvard University Institute of Politics HIZ
Institute of Politics IOP
Institute of Politics IOP
Law School Human Rights Program LSHRP
Law School Human Rights Program LSHRP
Law School Human Rights Program LSHRP
Law School Human Rights Program LSHRP
Law School Human Rights Program LSHRP
Library and Information Technology LIT
Office of International Education Office of International Education OECD
Office of Philosophy of Education OPE
Program on Information Resources PCI
Program on Information Resources Right PCI
Program on Science, Conflict and Security PSAC
Program on Science, Conflict and Security PSAC
Program on Science, Conflict and Security PSAC
Psychology Department of Psychology PSYCH
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences SEAS
Social and Cultural Survival SCSS
Social and Cultural Survival SCSS
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences SEAS
Technology & Entrepreneurship T&ET
Trade Union Program TUP
Training and Development T&D
United Ministry UM
Warwick Business School of International Affairs WBS
**Graduate School of Design**

“The Architect and the Politician’s Economist Building at Fifty” includes original drawings as well as materials selected by Peter Christensen that range from film to reviews and press clippings, illustrating the structure’s significance in the British cultural imagination. (Through Jan. 11, 2009)

—Gund Hall Gallery, GSD. 48 Quincy St. Hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sun., noon-5 p.m. Free and open to the public.

—Special Collections Department, Frances Loeb Library (lower level); Gund Hall, 48 Quincy St. Hours are Mon.-Fri., 1-4:45 p.m. Free and open to the pub. (617) 496-1300.

**“GSD ’08 Platform: A Year of Research through Studio Work, Theses, Exhibitions, and Conferences at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design”** attempts to formulate prevalent tendencies and coherences among the many that currently operate within GSD, revealing an archaeology of the present state of the School. (Through Jan. 11)

—Gund Hall Gallery, GSD. 48 Quincy St. Hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sun., noon-5 p.m. Free and open to the public. (617) 495-4784. www.gsd.harvard.edu/events/note- bitions/current.htm.

**Graduate School of Education**

“Step Into Art” features the paintings and writings of sixth-grade students at the Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center in Dorchester. The works are inspired by portraits from the Harvard Art Museum. (Through Jan. 2)

**“Endangered Canyons of Utah” features Harvard Harp’s dramatic photos of canyons and wilderness landscapes in southern Utah. (Jan. 26-Feb. 13)**


**Harvard Art Museum**

**Sackler Museum**

“Re-views” presents extensive selections from the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Sackler museums together for the first time. The survey features Western art from antiquity to the turn of the last century, Islamic and Asian art, and European and American art since 1900. (Ongoing)

—The Sackler Museum is located at 485 Broadway. The Harvard Art Museum is open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 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. Hours are given Mon.-Fri. at 12:15 and 2 p.m. (617) 495-0400. www.harvardmuseum.org. **NOTE:** The Fogg and Busch-Reisinger closed to the public on June 30 for a renovation project and are anticipated to remain closed for five years. The Sackler will remain open during the renovation.

**Harvard Museum of Natural History**

“Arthropods: Creatures that Rule” brings together unique fossils and prehistoric specimens, a recreation of the Blaschkia’s studio, and a rich assortment of memorabilia; these models of marine invertebrates offer intriguing insights into the history, personality, and artistry of the extraordinary men who created them. (Through Jan. 4, 2009)

“The Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants” features the world famous “Glass Flowers” created over five decades by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka during the 19th century. Many of these glass models are on display for the first time since Harvard’s acquisition of them in 1878. Combined with video, real scientific specimens, a recreation of the Blaschkia’s studio, and a rich assortment of memorabilia, these models of marine invertebrates offer intriguing insights into the history, personality, and artistry of the extraordinary men who created them. (Through Jan. 4, 2009)

“Sea Creatures in Glass” features dozens of spectacular glass animals meticulously shaped and wired by artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka during the 19th century. Many of these glass models are on display for the first time since Harvard’s acquisition of them in 1878. Combined with video, real scientific specimens, a recreation of the Blaschkia’s studio, and a rich assortment of memorabilia, these models of marine invertebrates offer intriguing insights into the history, personality, and artistry of the extraordinary men who created them. (Through Jan. 4, 2009)

“Immersed in a ‘Different Atmosphere’: The Blaschkas’ Studio” features hundreds of specimens, large screen video, and immersive environments illustrating the structure’s significance in the British cultural imagination. (Through Jan. 4, 2009)

—Harvard Museum of Natural History is located at 26 Oxford St. Public entrances to the museum are located between 24 and 26 Oxford St. and at 11 Divinity Ave. Open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 24, and Dec. 25. Admission is $9 for adults; $7 for senior citizens and students; $6 for children 3 to 18 years old; free for children under 3 years old. Group rates available with advance reservations; call (617) 495-2341. Free admission (for Massachusetts residents only) on Sun. mornings 9 a.m.-noon, except for groups, and free admission on Wed. afternoons, Sept-May, 3-5 p.m. Free admission with a Bank of America credit card on the first full weekend of every month. (617) 495-3045, www.hmnh.harvard.edu.

**Holyoke Center**

“The Ninth Annual Group Art Exhibition by Holyoke Center Staff!” showcases the talent of Holyoke Center artists. Georgia Bellas, George Dudamel, Tom Gatton, Mike Guarino, Maureen Hickey, Laura Kandziolka, Ricardo Maldonado, Michael Sedelmeier, Alex Solomita, Nela Suka, Michael Van Deere, and Vic Yorbea. (Through Jan. 7)

—Holyoke Center Exhibition Space, Holyoke Center Arcade, 1,380 Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Sat., Sun., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Free and open to the public. (617) 495-5214.

“A Walk in the Park — A Pictorial of Fenway Park” is a collection of photographs of the park as seen through the lens of artist MC Lamare. Through intimate views of the park, Lamare captures its essence in the details. Lamare imparts a passion for her work that can only come from being a true Red Sox fan. Opening reception is Fri., Jan. 9, 5:7 p.m. Jan. 9-Feb. 4)

—Holyoke Center Exhibition Space, Holyoke Center Arcade, 1,380 Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Sat., Sun., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Free and open to the public. (617) 495-5214.

**Houghton Library**

“Harvard’s Lincoln” celebrates the Lincoln bicentennial with an exhibition of books, manuscripts, broadsides, prints, ephemera, and artifacts from Harvard’s Lincoln collection. Opening reception Thu., Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m. (Jan. 20-April 25)

—Edison and Newman Room, Houghton Library. (617) 496-4027.

“Immersed in a ‘Different Atmosphere’: Reflections on Yaddo” focuses on the experiences of creative visitors to Yaddo, a writer/artist retreat created in 1900 by Spencer and Katrina Trask of (Continued on next page)
Harvard Ballroom dance classes are offered by the Harvard Ballroom Dance Team throughout the year. Salia, Swing, Waltz, Tango, Jive, Salsa, and Cha Cha are just some of the dances you can learn. No partner or experience is necessary. For information, including class descriptions and pricing, visit http://www.harvardballroom.org.

Harvard Contemporary Gamelan is open to faculty, staff, and other community members. Join us Thursdays for a new music adventure by some of the best gamelan music Department’s new orca. Lower main floor, Gamelan Music Room, 57 Green St. Call (617) 495-3931 to sign up, e-mail diamond2@fas.harvard.edu.

Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies offered by the Bureau of Study Counsel. Through readings, films, and classroom exercises, students learn to read more purposefully, selectively, and with greater speed and comprehension. A 14-day course for one hour/day over a period of a few weeks. Cost is $325.00. To be held Feb. 9-27, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. and Feb. 9-27, Mon.-Fri., 4 p.m. Call (617) 495-2851 or come to the Bureau of Study Counsel, Linden St., to register for or for more information. http://tuc.harvard.edu/.

Harvard Extension School Career and Academic Advising Phone (617) 495-9413, ouched@hxe.harvard.edu.

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

Harvard Medical School’s Research Imaging Solutions at Countway, (617) 423-7472, rris@hms.harvard.edu, http://tm.med.harvard.edu/training.

Harvard Museum of Natural History offers a variety of classes based on the Museum’s diverse exhibits. The entire program for all classes is 26 Oxford St. Enrollment is limited, and advanced registration is required. Sign up for one or more classes and get an extra 10 percent off. Wheelchair accessible. http://pmcare.hms.harvard.edu/.

Office of Work and Family (Longwood Area) offers courses in the Longwood Area, 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Various places. Fee free to employees. Call (617) 495-2241, hshs@hms.harvard.edu.

Records Management Office, part of the Harvard University Archives, offers a class to learn how to keep records in charge of keeping the University’s files in order. http://203.184.213.199, modulrehm@fas.harvard.edu, http://hul.harvard.edu/romo.

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In addition, several classes are offered by the Bureau of Study Counsel.

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Community Dinner, Thursdays at 6

Worship Service: Sun., 1 p.m.
Communion service: 9 a.m.
HDS Thursday Morning Eucharist: 
Fridays: “Uttaratantra,” 6-7 p.m.
Sunday Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.
Orthodox Minyan: daily, 7:30 a.m.
Sunday Orthros: 8:45 a.m.
Reform Minyan: Fri., 5:30 p.m.
Monday: Prayer group at 7 p.m.
Sundays: “In-Depth Teachings on
are and are invited to remain for food
and events. A ministry of the Episcopal
Weekend Events:

Community Dinner, Thursdays at 6

Worship Service: Sun., 1 p.m.
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**Harvard's EAP (Employee Assistance Program) provides free, confidential assessment and referral services and short-term counseling to help you work through life's challenges. Harvard faculty, staff, retirees, and their household members can access the following services throughout the U.S. and Canada:

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: confidential assessment and referral services, information, referral; consultation to supervisors around employee wellness, behavior, or performance; individual and group support around a workplace crisis, serious illness, depression, and suicide prevention. In addition, Harvard's EAP can help with workplace conflicts, personal and family relationships, eldercare planning, legal consultations, financial counseling, and planning, and assistance for personal storms or home and domestic violence, alcohol and drug use, and more. To schedule an appointment in your office or home, call the EAP's toll-free number at 1-877-327-4278. Counselors are available to answer your calls from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. Urgent calls will be answered by crisis clinicians round the clock. You may also visit www.wellnessworklife.com for further information and access to other resources available to you as a Harvard employee. There is no charge for the call. You will not be asked for identifying information or your confidential registration process; please visit www.harvies.org for high instructions.

Harvard Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer Women’s Lunch is a chance for lesbian/bisexual/queer women staff and faculty at Harvard to meet informally for lunch and conversa-
tion. Meetings take place 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the graduate student lounge on the 2nd floor of Dudley House. You can bring lunch or buy at Dudley House. E-mail lunchonfriday@fas.harvard.edu, dudy-
leylfs@fas.harvard.edu, or linda.schnei-
der@fas.harvard.edu for more information.

Harvard Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Network at Harvard. E-mail: (617) 495-8476, cgh@fas.harvard.edu, www.hlgc.org/resources/faculty-
staff.html.

Harvard Student Resources, a division of Harvard Student Agencies, employs a work force of more than 350 students to provide temporary clerical work, housecleaning, tutoring, research, moving, and other help at reasonable rates. HSA Cleaners, the student-run dry cleaning division of Harvard Student Agencies, offers 15 percent off cleaning and alterations for Harvard employees. Visit http://hsa.harvard.edu for more information.

Harvard Student Spouses and Partners Association (HSSPA) Spouses Support Group is a social group where you can meet other spouses who might help you to get used to your new situation as a spouse or partner at Harvard University. Our support group meets weekly all year long. Please e-mail spousessupport@gmail.com for location and time of meet-
ings and check www.hsspa.harvard.edu for events.

Harvard Toastmasters Club helps you improve your public speaking skills in a relaxed environment. For Harvard stu-
dents from all Schools and programs. Meetings are Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45 p.m., in room 3322, Ullattier Building, KS. jhankshome@gmail.com.

The Harvard Trademark Program has redesigned its Web site to better meet the needs of the public and members of the Harvard community who are seeking information about the Harvard Trademark Program’s licensing activities and trademark protection efforts as well as information regarding the various poli-
cies governing the proper use of Harvard’s name and insignias. trade-
mark@harvard.edu.

Harvard Veterans Alumni Organization is open to all members of the Harvard University community who are, or have served, in the U.S. military. Visit www.harvardvets.org for information and to participate.

LifeRaft is an ongoing drop-in support group where people can talk about their own or others’ life-threatening illness, or about their grief and bereavement. LifeRaft is open to anyone connected with the Harvard Community: students, facul-
ty, staff, retirees, and families. LifeRaft is free and confidential and meets on Wednesdays, noon–2 p.m. in the Board of Overseers Room on the ground floor of the Memorial Church. Come for 10 minutes or 2 hours. (617) 495-2042,生活垃圾s@harvard.edu.

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

Parent-to-Parent Adoption Network at Harvard. If you would like to volunteer as a resource, or if you would like to speak to an adoptive parent to gather information, call (617) 495-4100. All inquiries are confidential.

On Harvard Time is Harvard’s new, weekly 7-minute news show that will cover current news from a Harvard per-
spective. Online at www.hrtv.org, 7 p.m. onharvardtime@gmail.com.

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

Smart Recovery is a discussion group for people with problems with addiction. 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 may vary. Fee: $10 per class, and nicotine patches are available at a discounted rate. (617) 632-2099.

The University Ombudsman Office is an independent resource for problem resolution. An ombudsman is an independent, confidential, and neutral. The ombudsman can provide confidential and informal assistance to faculty, fel-

low students, staff, and students, and to resolve concerns related to their work-
place and learning environments. A visi-
tor can discuss issues and concerns with the ombudsman without commit-
ting to further disclosure or any formal resolution. Typical issues include disre-
tectful or inappropriate behavior; facul-
ty/student relations, misuse of power or unfair treatment, authorship or credit dispute, sexual harassment or discrimi-
nation, stressful work conditions, career advancement, overwork, disabili-
ty, or illness. The office is located in Holyoke Center, Suite 748. (617) 495-
7748, www.universityombudsman.har-
vard.edu.

Women’s Lives Reading Group meets once a month to discuss a novel or a biography. Women in the group use their lives to better understand the women they read about, and use the book’s characters to spark discussions about their own lives as women. anne@wjh.harv-
vard.edu.

**Studies**

Studies are listed as space permits.

**Acne Study:** Researchers seek people 12 years of age and older with facial acne to determine the safety and effec-
tiveness of an investigational drug for acne. The study consists of five visits over 12 weeks and subjects will receive up to $200 in compensation for time and travel. Study visits are required approximately every two to four weeks. Participants will have to stop all other treatments for acne except emollients approved by the study doctor. (617) 726-5066, harvardstudies@partners.

**Cocaine Usage Study:** Researchers seek healthy men ages 21-35 who have used cocaine occasionally for a two-visit research study. Subjects will be adminis-
tered cocaine and either flutamide or mesterolone and undergo an MRI and blood sampling. $425 compensation upon completion. Call (617) 855-2883, (617) 855-3293. Responses are confi-
dential.

**Brain Imaging Study:** Researchers seek healthy volunteers ages 21-50 for a 12-
week study that involves taking two FDA-approved antidepressant medica-
tions (Citalopram and Lexapro) as a placebo. Each of the three medica-
tions is taken individually for two weeks. There are a total of eight visits during the course of the study, includ-
ing three MRI brain scans. Compensation up to $800. All personal information is confidential. Call (617) 789-2404 or e-mail depression@car-
taschrist.id.org and refer to “Citalopram”.

**Depression Study:** Researchers seek women ages 18-55 with depression and insom-
opia but who are not taking any antidepressant medications. Participation involves taking two FDA-
approved medications to treat depres-
sion and insomnia. Study procedures include twice weekly visits, four MRI scans of the brain, and three monitoring visits. Study medication provided free of charge, and compensation up to $600. Call (617) 789-2165 or e-mail depression@car-
taschrist.id.org and refer to “Lunesta study.” All inquiries confidential.

**Brain Imaging Study:** Researchers seek healthy women ages 21-35 who have used cocaine occasionally for a two-visit research study. Subjects will be adminis-
tered cocaine and either flutamide or mesterolone and undergo an MRI and blood sampling. $425 compensation upon completion. Call (617) 855-2883, (617) 855-3293. Responses are confidential.
Harvard University offers a series of information sessions on various job search topics such as interviewing, how to target the right positions, and navigating the Harvard hiring process. All are welcome to attend. The sessions are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:00 at the Harvard Events and Information Center in Holyoke Center at 1350 Massachusetts Avenue in Harvard Square. More information is available online at [http://employment.harvard.edu/careers/findjobjoik/](http://employment.harvard.edu/careers/findjobjoik/).

Please Note: The label “SIC” at the end of a job listing indicates that there is a strong internal candidate (a current Harvard staff member) in consideration for this position.

### Academic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Posting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Associate/Scientist Req.</td>
<td>35823, Gr. 000</td>
<td>Harvard School of Public Health/OBIR</td>
<td>FT (11/13/2008)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Associate/Scientist Req.</td>
<td>35824, Gr. 000</td>
<td>Harvard School of Public Health/OBIR</td>
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<td></td>
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### Alumni Affairs and Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director of Development</th>
<th>Principal &amp; Major Gifts Req.</th>
<th>FT (11/20/2008)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvard Medical School/OOIR</td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Gr. 058</td>
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### Dining & Hospitality Services

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<tr>
<th>Lead Req.</th>
<th>35922, Gr. 015</th>
<th>Dining Services/Amherst</th>
<th>Union: HEREIU Local 26, FT (11/27/2008)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Services Req.</td>
<td>35763, Gr. 010</td>
<td>Dining Services/Amherst</td>
<td>Union: HEREIU Local 26, FT (11/6/2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Services Req.</td>
<td>35752, Gr. 010</td>
<td>Dining Services/Amherst</td>
<td>Union: HEREIU Local 26, FT (11/13/2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salus Attendant Req.</td>
<td>35765, Gr. 011</td>
<td>Dining Services/Lowell/Winthrop</td>
<td>Union: HEREIU Local 26, FT (11/6/2008)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Faculty & Student Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistant Director</th>
<th>Req. 35850, Gr. 058</th>
<th>Harvard Business School/department/OBIR</th>
<th>FT (11/10/2008)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Admissions Req.</td>
<td>35851, Gr. 058</td>
<td>Harvard Business School/department/OBIR</td>
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### Finance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manager of Accounts Payable</th>
<th>Cash Management, and Travel and EntertainmentReq.</th>
<th>35697, Gr. 059</th>
<th>Harvard School of Public Health/OOIR</th>
<th>FT (11/7/2008)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Dean of Finance/Chief Financial Officer Financial</td>
<td>Req. 35852, Gr. 062</td>
<td>Harvard Law School</td>
<td>FT (11/10/2008)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Human Resources

| Senior Human Resource Consultant Req. | 36028, Gr. 058 | Harvard College Library/Harvard College Library Human Resources | FT (12/18/2008) |

### Information Technology

| Program Manager, Educational Technology Group Req. | 35852, Gr. 058 | Harvard College Library/Harvard College Library Human Resources | FT (12/18/2008) |

### Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Associate Req.</th>
<th>36026, Gr. 058</th>
<th>Harvard Business School/department/OBIR</th>
<th>FT (11/20/2008)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Associate Req.</td>
<td>35908, Gr. 058</td>
<td>Harvard Business School/department/OBIR</td>
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<td>Research Associate Req.</td>
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<td>Research Associate Req.</td>
<td>35909, Gr. 058</td>
<td>Harvard Business School/department/OBIR</td>
<td>FT (11/27/2008)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Library

| Assistant Director | Library Development | Req. 35882, Gr. 058 | Harvard School of Public Health/OBIR | FT (11/13/2008) |

### Museum

| Curatorial Fellow Req. | 35832, Gr. 009 | Harvard University/Arnold Arboretum/curatorship | FT (11/27/2008) |

### Jobs listed as of December 18, 2008

[http://employment.harvard.edu](http://employment.harvard.edu)
Sujoy Mukhopadhyay’s Noble Gas Laboratory in order to study the history of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet (EAIS) and its correlation to climate change. (Noble gases are odorless, colorless chemical elements with very low reactivity that act as unique geochemical tracers for studying a variety of processes in planetary science.) Allen Pope, a 2008 graduate of Harvard, who studied and wrote his thesis under Mukhopadhyay, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, is taking a few months from his graduate Polar Research Studies at Cambridge University to join the expedition. Robert Ackert, a glacial geologist and research associate in Mukhopadhyay’s lab, will be supervising the field operations. When it comes to monitoring the health of the Earth vis-à-vis climate change, ice sheets are like the planet’s pulse. But, since glaciers effect both ocean circulation and the amount of radiation reflected from Earth back to space, the glaciers influence — as well as monitor — climate change. The dynamic feedback system is not yet completely understood. “Knowing whether or not the EAIS has been stable or has fluctuated in extent over the past 10 million years is a critical question for climate modeling,” Mukhopadhyay explains in his National Science Foundation (NSF) proposal. So, it is the Antarctic glaciers that bring Middleton, Pope, and Ackert to the bleak 10-million-year-old landscape of the McMurdo Dry Valleys, a journey that took almost two million-year-old landscape of the McMurdo Dry Valleys, a journey that took almost two weeks — slowed as it was by the requisite stopovers and inevitable flight delays. The extent of glaciation in Antarctica during the past 10 million years is still hotly debated. Did a several-kilometer thick sheet of ice completely cover the Transantarctic Mountains 10 to 14 million years ago? How did the Antarctic Ice Sheet behave between 3 and 5 million years ago, when global temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations were higher than they are today? It’s not the ice itself the research team will be studying, but rather the otherworldly tracks left by now-melted ice-sheets. The intriguing beauty and barren, desolate tranquility of the area have captured and enchanted Robert Ackert for years. It is a topography, he explains, that is “eerie” or “oddly similar” to that of Mars. The mystery of this ancient terrain has drawn Ackert back to the icy continent for his 14th expedition. “It’s kind of a detective story,” he says, “Why does this landscape look like it does? And what’s happened? What’s the landscape trying to tell you?”

In trying to uncover the secrets of the Dry Valleys, the research team is examining one of the region’s more intriguing landforms: massive “potholes,” some more than 10 meters wide and twice as deep. The potholes are believed to have been carved by running water under a giant ice sheet 10 to 14 million years ago, and have been exposed to air since the ice sheet retreated around 10 million years ago. However, based on preliminary data obtained from samples collected during a previous field expedition, Mukhopadhyay thinks the story might be more complicated. Perhaps glacial floods associated with smaller valley glaciers or even erosion caused by wind and the freezing and thawing of ice formed the potholes. If either — or both — of these scenarios is accurate, it would have drastic implications for climate modeling.

To investigate the potholes and other topographical features, the team will be camping for one to two weeks each at three separate sites, which were chosen to provide the researchers with a variety of landscapes from which to collect samples. Members of the team will have to scale the massive holes, but the associated risks do not seem to worry them. Ackert jokes, “The most dangerous thing about going to Antarctica is crossing the street in Christchurch [New Zealand] because they drive on the wrong side of the road.” Just in case, Mukhopadhyay and Ackert enlisted a Kiwi mountaineer to help the fieldworkers complete their “extreme geology.” It is back in Mukhopadhyay’s Noble Gas Laboratory that the mystery of the Antarctic Ice Sheets will be unraveled. In order to determine if these bizarre potholes are formed from ancient (10-million-year-old) subglacial floods or have been constantly eroding through other processes since the last deglaciation of the area, the age and erosion rate of the exposed sandstone must be figured. Mukhopadhyay’s laboratory will measure concentrations of cosmogenic nuclides collected on this trip, which correlate to when the sandstone was exposed to air. Published results are expected in 2010 or 2011.

For Middleton, the opportunity to travel to this extreme locale is like a dream come true. She was not originally slated to join the expedition, but as an undergraduate research assistant in the Mukhopadhyay laboratory, word of the upcoming trip entranced her, and she begged with the directors to get a chance to “I did spend a lot of time daydreaming,” she says. “What if, at the last minute, they were like, ‘You should go to Antarctica’?”

That is, in fact, precisely what transpired. After giving up his spot because of family commitments, Allen Pope measures the GPS coordinates of a sample. This sensitive ecosystem is an Antarctica Specially Managed Area, and the researchers will have to report the coordinates of all samples taken.