The greater good

Whether donating food, giving legal aid, or tending the homeless, the Harvard community rallies to make a difference.
HARVARD ARTS MEDALIST NAMED
Composer, baritone saxophonist, and activist Fred Ho ’79 will be honored by Harvard University as the fall 2009 recipient of the Harvard Arts Medal on Nov. 13. He will perform in a tribute concert with the Harvard Jazz Bands on Nov. 14.
» news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/arts_medalist/

MUSIC DEPT. CHAIR THOMAS KELLY HONORED WITH CONFERENCE
The Music Department honored Thomas Forrest Kelly’s longtime contributions to the study of chant and performance practice with a conference called “City, Chant, and the Topography of Early Music.”
» news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/thomas-kelly-tribute/

RARE OPPORTUNITY: HARVARD, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CHINA EMBARK ON DIGITIZATION PROJECT
One of the most extensive collections of rare Chinese books outside China will be digitized and made freely available to scholars worldwide as part of a six-year cooperative project between the Harvard College Library (HCL) and the National Library of China.
» news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/rare-opportunity/

WASTELAND AND WILDERNESS
Ten thousand years from now, most of the radioactive waste from making nuclear weapons will still be dangerous. The half-life of plutonium, a key to fission bombs, is 24,000 years. Ten thousand years is equivalent to 400 generations of human life, a stretch of time as far ahead of us as the last Ice Age is behind us.
» news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/wasteland-and-wilderness/

UPDIKE PAPERS ACQUIRED BY HOUGHTON LIBRARY
Harvard University has acquired a massive treasure trove of papers from one of its most famous literary graduates, John Updike ’54, the multifaceted novelist, short-story writer, poet, and critic who died last January.
» news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/updike-papers-donated/

Police Log Online ➪ www.hupd.harvard.edu/public_log.php
30 NEW PLANT SPECIES UNCOVERED
A dramatic, high-altitude region of breathtaking views, steep valleys, and incredible biodiversity, China’s Hengduan Mountains are part of a larger area considered a global biodiversity hotspot.

JACK SZOSTAK WINS NOBEL
‘It started off as work on a very basic question that has turned out ... to have broader implications.’

ACT UP ENCORE
A new exhibition at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, as well as a series of accompanying programs, examine the history of the AIDS awareness movement ACT UP.

NEW MUSLIM COOL
‘New Muslim Cool’ documents an American Muslim’s rise from the tough streets and hip-hop beats to a creed of mercy and forgiveness.

FILLING THE GLASS CEILING
Artist Ellen Kennelly ’85 tackles historic Weld Boathouse and installs a dramatic modern sculpture that connects past with present.

SUFI TRADITION
Mystical dimensions of Islam come to life in ‘Sacred Spaces: Reflections on a Sufi Path,’ a new exhibit at the Peabody Museum.

IN ‘PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE’
Two HBS professors study ... and share how a struggling Maryland school system turned itself around.

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY?
New research argues that the health of the population and the success or failure of many public health initiatives hinge as much on cultural and social factors as they do on doctors, facilities, or drugs.

‘CALL OF SERVICE’
‘Universities have always played an important role in developing solutions to the world’s pressing challenges,’ said President Drew Faust.
30 new plant species uncovered

A dramatic, high-altitude region of breathtaking views, steep valleys, and incredible biodiversity, the Hengduan Mountains are part of a larger area considered a global biodiversity hotspot.

By Alvin Powell  |  Harvard Staff Writer

Harvard researcher Dave Boufford offered a strange description of a plant, even one whose bulky, knobby flower proved partly resistant to the pressing and drying process through which botanical samples routinely go.

“They look like little animals sitting on rocks,” he said.

Boufford, a senior research scientist, was standing on the fourth floor of the Harvard Herbaria, between the rows of tall green metal cabinets that hold the Herbaria’s collections, famed for their extensive representation of Asian plants.

Moments earlier, he had opened a cabinet midway down the aisle in the nearly deserted stacks and had begun pulling out folders filled with specimens from a remote region of China, hard by the Tibetan border.

In the folders were a greenhouse plant with nearly translucent leaves that cover its flowers, creating a warm oasis in the high-altitude chill for pollinating insects; the starfish-like Saussurea stella, whose purple-tinged leaves lay close to the ground; and its relative, Saussurea medusa, much larger and coated with furry-looking fine hairs, which prompted Boufford’s double take when he encountered it in the field.

“Why is it so hairy? Some thought it was to keep the plant warm, but right next door are plants without hairs,” Boufford said.

This minor mystery is just one of many that remain unanswered in the place these plants call home: the remote Hengduan Mountains of China.

A dramatic, high-altitude region of breathtaking views, steep valleys, and incredible biodiversity, the Hengduan Mountains are part of a larger area considered a global biodiversity hotspot. The nonprofit group Conservation International calls the mountains of southwest China the most biodiverse temperate region in the world, home of the giant panda, the golden monkey, and 3,500 endemic plant species.

It is the plants that draw Harvard’s Boufford, who began collecting in the region in the mid-1990s. In 1998, Boufford, the Arnold Arboretum, and the Harvard University Herbaria struck up a research collaboration with several Chinese institutions, including the Kunming Institute of Botany and the Institute of Botany in Beijing. The partnership has proven beneficial to both sides. The National Science Foundation and Harvard provide funding, which is often scarce for such purposes in China, while Chinese scholars provide access to parts of the country to which Westerners may have difficulty obtaining travel permission. The financial investment has helped bring in additional dollars, prompting matching funds from the Chinese National Natural Science Foundation.

“It’s worked out very well,” Boufford said. “It’s just a fantastic area. There’s always the chance of discovering new things.”

Together, the project’s Chinese and American scientists have collected between 120,000 and 150,000 specimens representing 6,000 species. Over the project’s course, they’ve identified 30 new species of plants and fungi and created an online database of images and descriptions useful for scholars around the world. One of their goals is to define the hotspot’s boundaries, by finding places where biodiversity drops fairly quickly. Boufford said some of the diversity may be tied to rainfall, since they have observed what he described as “fingers of diversity” running with the rain patterns up mountain valleys.

Zhu L. Yang, a mycologist at the Kunming Institute and collaborator of Boufford’s since the late 1990s, said the expeditions bolster collections gathered from the region in the 1970s and ’80s, which in 1998, Dave Boufford, the Arnold Arboretum, and the Harvard University Herbaria struck up a research collaboration with several Chinese institutions. “It’s worked out very well,” Boufford said.
some cases were poorly preserved and are unsuitable for modern scientific study.

Boufford and colleagues are following up on the Chinese travels of Joseph Rock, a botanist who collected in the region for decades in the early 20th century. Rock worked for several scientific institutions, including Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum, for which he collected 20,000 specimens in 1924.

The project has recently shifted its Harvard home. After being based at the Arnold Arboretum for more than a decade, in July the project, along with Boufford, moved over to the Harvard University Herbaria.

Boufford has focused his efforts on the interior of the Hengduan Mountains because Rock collected from their periphery. The area’s biodiversity is even more remarkable, Boufford said, because its elevation is so high. The region they collect from averages 14,000 feet, with a growing season of just three months.

The mountains are the birthplace of several of Asia’s principal rivers, including the Yangtze, which flows through China; the Melong and the Salween, which flow through several countries that have varied widely over time. Initially, the roads were in such poor shape — with 1,000-foot drop-offs — that Boufford was certain someone would eventually die on them. They’ve improved considerably since, however, as the Chinese government seeks to open Tibet to tourism and settlement by Han Chinese. A trip that used to take seven or eight hours can now be done in just an hour and a half, they said.

Along with the travel improvements, however, have come more people, with the accompanying need to lodge and feed them, meaning more yaks and goats grazing, and more collectors collecting plants for medicinal purposes.

“It’s quite remote,” Kelly said. “Yet, at the same time, just when you think you’ve stepped on ground nobody ever stepped on before, there’s a Tibetan.”

Sleeping conditions have also varied widely on the collecting trips, from tents and sleeping bags in the field to more comfortable accommodations at new hotels.

The group of American and Chinese colleagues generally gets moving early in the day. Researchers pile into several cars that head in different directions. Once they reach their destinations, the collectors hike in various directions, gathering several specimens of each type of plant they find before rejoining colleagues at the car at day’s end. In their travels, researchers have to be prepared for mountain weather, which can be warm enough for short-sleeves, and cool enough for pounding hail a short time later.

The trips have fostered friendships and professional respect among researchers in the two nations. Yang has visited Harvard three times to examine the fungal collections, books, journals, and papers at the Farlow Herbarium. He also has sent his doctoral students here twice and has fielded requests from American mycologists for materials from the Hengduan Mountains.

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The main collaborator for vascular plants, Professor Hang Sun, and six of his students have also visited Harvard to study the Herbaria’s rich collections of Asian specimens and literature. Nine students from China have earned doctoral degrees through their direct involvement in the project.

For the researchers, the payback is not just the incremental advance of scientific knowledge and the relationship building among scientists of two nations, it is also the personal experience of working in one of the world’s most beautiful places. Kelly described the terrain as “dream geography” and Ree and Boufford said the mere act of lifting one’s eyes is rewarded with awe-inspiring views of snow-capped peaks and glaciers.

“It really is a dramatic, breathtaking landscape,” Ree said. “You don’t even get used to it.”

Photos: above by Jill Foley, top right by Justin Ide | Harvard Staff Photographers
The mysterious image was hauntingly simple. And subversive. A pink triangle, the symbol used by Nazis to identify homosexuals during the Holocaust, was flipped over, pasted against a black background, and emblazoned with two words in white: “Silence = Death.”

The iconic work was plastered on New York City’s streetlamps, painted on its sidewalks, and sprayed on its walls. It was a clarion call during the early years of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s for people to speak out, fight to be heard, and help the thousands battling a deadly new disease.

Created in 1987 by six gay activists, the Silence = Death Project soon came to symbolize a potent rising protest movement: The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP). Through targeted campaigns and demonstrations, the activist organization was determined to spread warnings about HIV/AIDS, to make the government take notice, and to fund research and support for a cure.

But to the dismay of Helen Molesworth, Harvard University Art Museum’s (HUAM) Maisie K. and James R. Houghton Curator of Contemporary Art, many of today’s generation have forgotten the imagery, the movement, and its importance.

“It is so disturbing that there seems to be this real sense of cultural amnesia around this pivotal time,” said Molesworth, who lived in New York during the height of the movement.

She aims to change that with a new exhibition at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts titled “ACT UP New York: Activism, Art, and the AIDS Crisis, 1987–1993,” opening today (Oct. 15). The show examines the history of the movement through a series of powerful graphics created by various artist collectives that were part of the influential group.

Molesworth co-curated the show with Claire Grace, Agnes Mongan Curatorial Intern in the HUAM’s Department of Modern and Contemporary Art and a graduate student in Harvard University’s History of Art and Architecture program.

On the center’s first floor, a 4-by-6-and-one-half-foot neon version of the Silence = Death image greets visitors in the main gallery. The work is accompanied by the premiere of the ACT UP Oral History Project: more than 100 separate interviews with surviving members of the organization that will run continuously on 14 different monitors.

Organizers understood, said Molesworth, that the fight against AIDS had to be taken to the streets through disruptive demonstrations and traffic-stopping protests that could end in arrests. But they also understood the need to capture the attention of another important sphere of influence: “That was the media, visual culture, billboards, television. ... It was a very canny understanding that in order to get this very complicated, multilayered message across to a lot of people, they needed to operate in that realm as well.”

Populated by many artists, filmmakers, graphic designers, and artists, ACT UP was characterized by its media-savvy campaigns and its sharp, often disturbing, in-your-face visuals. In the Sert Gallery on the
second floor, more than 70 items created during the movement — posters, stickers, buttons, T-shirts — adorn the walls.

The exhibit includes posters critical of the politicians whom ACT UP deemed ineffective and slow to acknowledge the crisis. On one wall, a bright green image of the face of President Ronald Reagan stares out at the viewer, covered by the word “AIDSGATE.” On another wall, a giant horizontal image — identical to those spread across New York City buses in the ’80s and aimed at galvanizing the public — depicts a series of couples embracing, with the words “Kissing Doesn’t Kill, Greed and Indifference Do” written above them.

One of the exhibit’s most moving elements is a timeline along the wall in the Sert Gallery charting the history of the epidemic and ACT UP’s response. It details the U.S. government’s slow reaction, the homophobia and discrimination associated with the crisis, the growing number of deaths, and the work of ACT UP and its increasingly bold and effective efforts to bring the disease to national attention. The organization’s activism is traced alongside the shocking number of deaths annually, and the dramatic decline in mortality rates once an early AIDS drug regimen was finally made widely available in the mid-’90s.

The art installations are part of a series of programs developed around the ACT UP/HIV/AIDS themes in collaboration with the exhibition.

Realizing they had a wealth of knowledge about the epidemic at their doorstep, the show’s organizers reached out to departments around the University, crafting a broad approach to the topic. The result is a month of lectures, conferences, symposiums, film screenings, and poetry readings with Harvard scholars involved in various aspects of HIV/AIDS scholarship and research.

“We realized that Harvard is a university filled with people working on issues of HIV/AIDS,” said Molesworth, “and one of the things we wanted to do was highlight the extraordinary interdisciplinary work going on across fields in our midst.”

Molesworth said she hopes the exhibit and its companion events will help inspire a younger generation to explore a period in recent history when a social movement had a profound impact and inspired critical change.

“I would love for young people to feel that sense of possibility, that if they wanted to they could stop the war or insist upon a public option in the health care plan, whatever it is that they want … that they can effect dramatic social change.”

New Muslim Cool

‘New Muslim Cool’ documents an American Muslim’s rise from the tough streets and hip-hop beats to a creed of mercy and forgiveness.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Growing up in Worcester, Mass., Jason Perez started dealing drugs at age 9. He had two recurring dreams: that he would go to jail, and that he would die at 21.

Then came Islam, a religion that Perez embraced one day in a sudden street-corner conversion. “At 21,” he said of his old life, “I experienced the death of all my paths.”

Perez — who still favors stiff-brim gangster hats and baggy pants — changed his first name to Hamza and brought to Islam what he had: Puerto Rican culture, street savvy, and a knack for hip-hop. His duo M-Team delivers a deep-beat message of faith, mercy, and forgiveness.

Call it “New Muslim Cool.” That’s the name of a documentary film about Perez released earlier this year by producer-director Jennifer Maytorena Taylor. A screening last weekend (Oct. 10) drew a packed crowd of 220 to the auditorium at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum.

It was the first such screening at Harvard, but will be “the first of many” because of the film’s educational value, said Diana L. Eck, director of the Pluralism Project, a screening sponsor.

Ray Williams, director of education at the Harvard Art Museum, another sponsor, said museums have a role in spiritual education, and “New Muslim Cool” fits right into it.

Before the film, viewers took in a special exhibit on the south wall of the Sackler’s gallery of Islamic art. In “Sacred Spaces: The World of Dervishes, Fakirs, and Sufis,” centuries-old drawings and paintings depict Islam’s mystical path. Williams said Perez’s own path resonates with this ancient search for the divine.

“New Muslim Cool” acknowledges America’s post-9/11 suspicions of Islam, and layers in suspicions of what Perez himself represents: Islam, Puerto Rico, the ‘hood, and hip-hop.

The film, narrated in Perez’s shameless street idiom, is funny. In one flip-chart seminar, a plea for money to rehabilitate drug dealers, Perez charts the hierarchy of American capitalism. At the top, he said, are pimps and prostitutes.

“New Muslim Cool” includes a nightmare or two. Perez moves to Pittsburgh, where the FBI raids his mosque. He loses his job as a chaplain at a local jail. (He is re-hired.) But one hope keeps breaking through — that Islam is a path to social redemption. “We made a decision,” said Perez, “to save ourselves and our families.”

After the screening, he took questions. How, he was asked, has he coped with the FBI raid and continued surveillance in Pittsburgh? “We don’t mind they watch us,” said Perez, “because God is watching us.”

Online ➤ For information about related lectures, conferences, film screenings, and readings: www.ves.fas.harvard.edu/ACTUP.html

Photo by Jennifer Maytorena Taylor
Filling the glass ceiling

Artist Ellen Kennelly ’85 tackles historic Weld Boathouse and installs dramatic modern sculpture that connects past with present.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

It looks like the outline of a prehistoric creature long vanished.

But the intricate glass skeleton isn’t in a natural history museum. It’s in a boathouse.

The permanent new art installation is part of the Weld Boathouse on Memorial Drive, created in honor of the building’s 2006 centennial. Harvard graduate George Walker Weld financed construction of the historic structure in 1906.

Suspended from stainless steel cables firmly anchored to the Weld’s arched ceiling, the glass artwork pays tribute to the countless rowers who have hoisted the narrow shells out of the Harvard landmark and carved the dark waters of the Charles River with their oars.

“We had a party for the 100th anniversary, but we also realized it would be nice if there were something more enduring,” said Karen Weltchek, vice chairman of the alumni organization Friends of Harvard & Radcliffe Rowing, which commissioned the work.

Made of 7-millimeter-thick fused rods of borosilicate glass, the sculpture includes a spiky, 40-foot-long spine that represents the slender wake of a rowing shell. On either side hang three pairs of circular forms, echoing the expanding ring patterns left on the water’s surface by a rower’s oars.

“This is a commission about history, and continued existence, and the effect of the past, the ripple effect,” said Ellen Kennelly, the sculpture’s creator. “It represents the sense that what has gone before continues, and widens, and still connects, literally, to our present.”

The group considered several ideas before moving forward with the glass sculpture. A bronze design was in the running until planners realized a bronze bust of Weld already surveyed the second-floor foyer from a prominent pedestal. A plaque was also considered. But the space, they decided, called for something grander in scale.

“When they said ‘art,’ I realized it had to be something that didn’t get in the way of this handsome, graceful space, that it had to be really harmonious with the building’s existing structure and form,” said Kennelly.

On a soft October afternoon, the sculpture glowed in the light of the fading sun. A crowd gathered at an opening reception for the work, gazed at the installation 18 feet overhead, and listened as the artist explained how she created it.

The process was an “extreme lesson in physics,” said Kennelly, a 1985 Harvard graduate and former Radcliffe rower, who was originally tapped to develop a bronze work of art for the site after Weltchek had seen one of her sculptures.

For years, Kennelly’s main creative outlet was as a part-time wedding cake designer, while she taught English during the day. After taking a class in 1992 at the Museum of Fine Arts, she was hooked on sculpture and eventually became a full-time artist working exclusively with bronze.

Still an avid rower, Kennelly had long envisioned the iconic rowing design in her mind. She knew that it would fit perfectly just beneath the extended skylight that runs the length of the boathouse’s vaulted ceiling, and that it had to be in glass. The committee agreed.

Kennelly briefly explored hiring a professional glass artist, but it proved far too expensive, so the Harvard alumna — who had no prior experience working with glass — created it herself. After a crash course in flameworking, including safety lessons on how to handle a propane/oxygen torch and how best to ventilate her studio of vaporized glass, she plunged into the project.

Simple draft paper took the place of computer-generated designs, and Kennelly used household garden wire covered in plastic wrap to create a mock-up of the piece, which she assembled in the boathouse to confirm the desired size. Over the course of six months she slowly fused the pieces together with her blowtorch, and had each section fired in a kiln to solidify its shape.

The work took three years from conception to completion, since the decision to go with a glass work consumed the first year, and another year was given over to Kennelly mastering the glass techniques required. She erected scaffolding and hung the piece in August, working carefully in the indoor summer heat to attach each fragile section securely.

“It’s far beyond anything I imagined it could be,” Liz O’Leary, head coach of the Radcliffe heavyweight crew program, said of the new art. “I love it. I just love it.”

Ellen Kennelly ’85 (top) created a sculpture made of 7-millimeter-thick fused rods of borosilicate glass. It includes a spiky, 40-foot-long spine that represents the slender wake of a rowing shell.
Sufi tradition

Mystical dimensions of Islam come to life in ‘Sacred Spaces: Reflections on a Sufi Path,’ a new exhibit at the Peabody Museum.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

In a new exhibition at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Samina Quraeshi draws upon her experience as a Muslim woman to examine Islam’s complexity through the lens of South Asia’s Sufi tradition.

As a young girl born in India, raised in a Muslim household in Pakistan, and educated by Catholic nuns, Samina Quraeshi lived at the intersection of multiple faiths, cultures, and customs. It was an intersection that Quraeshi was taught to believe was never mutually exclusive.

Quraeshi’s family, who descended from a long line of custodians of a Sufi shrine in northern India, explained that in the Sufi tradition of Islam messages of love and tolerance were paramount, and all paths lead to the Divine.

“As a child I was never told, ‘This is Christian and this is Muslim.’ I was taught that, according to the Sufi tradition, all paths lead to God.”

Quraeshi, who has made her home in the United States for more than 30 years, became troubled by monolithic and violent characterizations of Islam in the post 9/11 era, and decided to explore the religious traditions she grew up with in her work as an artist and scholar. In a new exhibition at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, she draws upon her experience as a Muslim woman to examine Islam’s complexity through the lens of South Asia’s Sufi tradition.

“This project is an investigation, from an artistic point of view, of the Sufi tradition in South Asian Islam,” said Quraeshi. “I believe that Islam is an inspiration and a way of life, not a set of laws. Instead of a rigid wall, it is a living tradition.”

In the exhibition “Sacred Spaces: Reflections on a Sufi Path,” which opens Oct. 22, Quraeshi documents Sufi shrines in Pakistan and India to explore the mystical dimension of Islam through the use of photographs and multilayered, mixed-media compositions.

Inspired by Sufi teachings and places of devotion in the subcontinent, Quraeshi said her compositions explore “the complex relationship between place, symbol, poetry, music, oral tradition, and visual art in Islamic mysticism. My aim is to look beyond the boundaries of ideology, race, culture, and language to evoke a visual dialogue between cultures.”


Quraeshi also collaborated with the Arthur M. Sackler Museum on a companion exhibition currently at the museum’s Islamic and Later Indian gallery. That show, titled “Sacred Spaces: The World of Dervishes, Fakirs, and Sufis,” is on view through Jan. 3, 2010. Several of the collages in Quraeshi’s Peabody exhibition relate directly to those on the walls at the Sackler.

In the Peabody show, a display of multimedia images, developed around Sufi manuscripts and incorporating photos, paintings, and drawings, makes up what Quraeshi calls her answer to the original, intricate, calligraphic Sufi texts on view at the Sackler. “In the Sackler they are their pure form. Here they are my interpretations.”

Quraeshi’s background is as diverse as her work. An author, educator, and artist, she received her bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the Kansas City Art Institute and her master’s degree of fine arts from the Yale University School of Art. She has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design and at the Boston School of Visual Arts, and served as director of design at the National Endowment for the Arts from 1994 to 1997.

She also has strong ties to Harvard. It was while she was a research scholar at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts (where she later served as assistant director in 1993) that she was encouraged by the late Annemarie Schimmel, then Harvard professor of Indo-Muslim culture, to explore Sufism further. In a frank conversation, Schimmel told Quraeshi that she should build a bridge between the academy and the world outside on the spiritual aspects of Islam.

“She told me, ‘You need to tell it from the eyes and the soul of a Muslim woman. You were born into it. This is your job.’”

With her current book and exhibition acting as that cultural connection, Quraeshi aims to engage people in the mystical dimensions of Islam and encourage a broader understanding of the universality of spiritual quests.

“No matter what the religion, the language, or the culture, to seek a physical space for contemplation is a universal impulse. We are all intrigued by these big questions, but you can only grapple with them in small ways through the means at your disposal. The means at my disposal is visual art, and I feel tremendously lucky to have had the opportunity to explore these questions in my work.”

Quraeshi is also the museum’s first fellow under the Robert Gardner Visiting Artist Fellowship. Created by Gardner, renowned documentary filmmaker and former director of the Film Study Center at Harvard, the fellowship allows an established artist the opportunity to create and display original work at the museum. For Quraeshi, the program has allowed her to collaborate with scholars from across the University. She likened the experience to that of a kid in a candy shop.

“There are not enough hours in the day to interact with everyone. I just wish I could hang around here for the rest of my life.”
In ‘Pursuit of Excellence’

Two HBS professors study ... and share how a struggling Maryland school system turned itself around.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

What are two Harvard Business School professors doing writing a book on education?

Stacey M. Childress and David A. Thomas helped create the Public Education Leadership Project (PELP) with the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2003 — an initiative that creates and disseminates knowledge about how to manage urban school districts — which eventually led them, of all places, to Montgomery County, Maryland.

“The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) was one of our founding districts, so we’ve been following their work for a number of years,” said Childress, one of the Business School authors of “Leading for Equity: The Pursuit of Excellence in Montgomery County Public Schools.” Thomas is the other, and Denis P. Doyle, the third co-author, is a recognized authority on education policy.

The MCPS — located in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and the 16th-largest school system in the United States — needed help. The disparities between white students and African-American and Hispanic students were stunning, and the statistics illustrated a wide achievement gap between “rich and poor, immigrant and nonimmigrant, native English speaker and nonnative English speaker,” according to the book.

Something had to be done.

The authors dub the MCPS’s Jerry Weast a “visionary superintendent.” Drafted from Greensboro, N.C., in 1999, Weast helped engage the Montgomery County community in analyzing the educational discrepancies and vying for a solution.

In writing the book, recalled Thomas, “Weast made us an offer that was hard to refuse”: providing the authors “full access to the schools’ data and materials.”

“We knew the MCP S story was an important story to share,” said Thomas.

Detailing the story of MCPS’s strategy for change and how, as years passed, the school system was able to turn itself around, “Leading for Equity” also offers an invaluable framework for other struggling districts.

Both Childress and Thomas agree that education reform is at a critical mass, but find a glimmer of hope with the appointment of new Secretary of Education Arne Duncan ’87, a former Chicago Public Schools CEO whom Childress and Thomas advised in PELP.

“As did the MCPS leadership team, we must create a common set of very high standards for students, ensure that teachers have the skills and motivation they need to help students meet those standards, and create the kinds of organizations that effectively support the work of students and teachers every day,” said Childress.

“We have a long way to go, but momentum is building.”
What makes a successful society?

New research argues that the health of the population and the success or failure of many public health initiatives hinge as much on cultural and social factors as they do on doctors, facilities, or drugs.

By Amy Lavoie | Harvard Staff Writer

As health care moves to the forefront of the national discourse, new research in the social sciences argues that the health of the population and the success or failure of many public health initiatives hinges as much on cultural and social factors as it does on doctors, facilities, or drugs.

Michele Lamont and Peter A. Hall of Harvard University are co-editors of a new collection of essays that analyze how the cultural frameworks and institutional practices that structure day-to-day life influence societal health. The work is titled “Successful Societies: How Institutions and Culture Affect Health” (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

“While access to health care is important to people's health in broad terms,” says Hall, “we think that the health of the population turns less on the quality of the health care, or on the amount of spending that goes into health care, and more heavily on the quality of everyday life.”

Hall, Krupp Foundation Professor of European Studies, and Lamont, Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies, professor of sociology and of African-American studies, are both in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. They led an interdisciplinary group of social scientists — from fields such as epidemiology, psychology, and political science — who contributed to this volume posing the scholarly question: What makes a successful society?

Societal success has many potential definitions; the researchers focused their research agenda on issues of public health. Better health outcomes such as lower infant mortality or longer life expectancy can be perceived as universally desirable and benchmarks for assessing societal success.

While the book examines many themes relevant to contemporary debates about health care, it also moves beyond issues of economic resources to consider the social and cultural factors that affect health.

Previous research has demonstrated the effects of social networks on health. Building on work in social epidemiology about the adverse health effects of inequality, the book's essays examine the factors feeding into the wear-and-tear of everyday life, as well as the social resources people can rely on to reduce the daily stressors that take a toll on their health.

“These questions of culture, collective faith that empowers people, and collective identity simply haven’t factored very much so far into the ways that epidemiologists think about questions of public health,” says Lamont. “The chapters of this book are meant to put these questions onto the table, to begin a conversation around them.”

In her chapter, Lamont examines how African Americans react to discrimination. She considers whether they internalize this message or develop their own empowering message, and in turn, how that sense of identity affects physical health.

In another chapter, Ann Swidler, a sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley, compares the response to the AIDS epidemic in Uganda and Botswana. While Botswana is typically perceived as the better-governed country, Uganda has been more successful in combating the disease. Swidler finds that networks of social solidarity in Uganda’s local communities support more effective programs than in Botswana.

Funded by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), the researchers in CIFAR’s Successful Societies Program intend to continue their inquiry through further statistical analyses of inequalities, by examining how individuals deal with negative stereotypes, and by investigating the conditions under which effective institutional practices can be transferred across nations and societies.

“This country is locked in an intense debate about whether it should expand access to health care, and whether it can afford to do so,” says Hall. “What we suggest is that access to health care is not ultimately the solution to better health. That solution has to lie in measures that improve the quality of social relations across the entire population. The health care debate is only the tip of an iceberg.”

Based on their book “Successful Societies,” a collection of essays, co-editors Peter A. Hall (far left) and Michele Lamont believe that the health of the population turns less on the quality of the health care, or on the amount of spending that goes into health care, and more heavily on the quality of everyday life.

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer

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Educational merits of TV: ‘Law & Order: SVU’ exec returns to Harvard with story to tell

Focused on the future: Democratic operative Terry McAuliffe looks beyond 2010
‘Call of Service’

‘Universities have always played an important role in developing solutions to the world’s pressing challenges.’

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

At 13, Geoffrey Canada knew that he had to help save himself and that, if he could, his life would be about saving others.

A product of the rough and tumble South Bronx in the 1950s, the Harvard alumnus grew up in “one of the most troubled communities in America.” From an early age, Canada knew that if he and his friends, “good and intelligent kids,” were going to have a chance to thrive, they needed adults to intervene and help to rescue them. But eventually, he realized, “No one was coming.”

Fortunately Canada did make it and, because of him, so have many others.

The 1975 graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education is now head of the successful Harlem Children’s Zone, a nonprofit with a revolutionary approach to community development. The organization created the Harlem Children’s Zone Project in the late 1990s, a pilot program that targeted a single block in Harlem with comprehensive medical, social, and educational services. Today it encompasses close to 100 blocks in the Manhattan borough and serves thousands.

At Harvard next Friday (Oct. 23), as part of the University’s Public Service Week, Canada will be the award recipient and speaker at the Phillips Brooks House Association’s (PBHA) 2009 Robert Coles “Call of Service” Lecture and Award. The association awards the honor annually to those who have made significant contributions in public service.

“The ability to try and inspire the next generation of leaders to think creatively, to be fearless in the persistence of excellence, is really a huge personal reward,” said Canada of the PBHA honor and the opportunity to address the Harvard community.

But perhaps the biggest reward for Canada has been watching his efforts translate his dream into reality.

“Seeing young people growing up in Harlem,” he said, “with the sense that the adults surrounding them care, that they are with them, they are there to protect them, is really something that I thank God about every day.”

Harvard’s mission to educate has long marched in step with its mission to serve the public good.

In his inaugural address on Oct. 19, 1869, Harvard President Charles William Eliot said the University’s contribution to the community included a “rich return of learning, poetry, and piety.” But Eliot said the mission also had to “foster the sense of public duty — that great virtue which makes republics possible.”

One hundred and forty years later, on Oct. 19, Harvard will begin a week of events and activities (for list of events, visit http://service.harvard.edu) relating to service and outreach and involving Schools across the University community. Officials said the week’s program will help to highlight the richness of the public service landscape at Harvard and will introduce students, who in annual surveys consistently report high interest in service and a desire to know more about it, to the many вариeties and pathways into service around the University.

“Universities have always played an important role in developing solutions to the world’s pressing challenges,” said President Drew Faust. “By shining a spotlight on public service over the next week, we hope to reinforce Harvard’s commitment to the common good and to recognize the many contributions made by our students, faculty, and staff every day — through teaching, research, hands-on service, and the development of policy solutions.”

Emphasizing Harvard’s commitment to service, last fall Faust and Harvard College Dean Evelynn Hammonds charged a group of senior administrators from across the University with exploring ways in which the University can enhance the support it gives to undergraduates interested in public service, both while in school and after graduation. The committee plans to release its recommendations later this year.

Online » For a list of events during Public Service Week: http://service.harvard.edu
The service commitment is paramount for University officials from every sector. The new president of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA), Teresa Alvaraz-Bjelland '76, M.B.A. '79, said recently that she intends to make service her focus during her tenure.

Service, she told Harvard Magazine in September, “cuts across all schools and classes, and it brings out the best in everyone and can unite us as a university.”

The concept of public service reaches across the University, from its numerous graduate Schools, to the college, to the organizations supported by Harvard. Each year the University’s vast network of alumni participate in critical service work. So do faculty who incorporate service into their research and teaching, and the students and staff who donate thousands of hours.

Following are just a few of hundreds of real-life examples of the invaluable work that touches on aspects of life both at Harvard and well beyond its walls.

The bustling Phillips Brooks House

From the outside, the Phillips Brooks House in the Old Yard resembles a quiet home from a bygone era. But inside it’s a whirl of activity. The building is the nexus of undergraduate service life at Harvard and is home to a steadily increasing network of programs that connects thousands of young people annually to service opportunities near and far.

The house, built in 1900, is dedicated to the memory of Phillips Brooks, a Harvard graduate and pastor at Trinity Church in Boston’s Copley Square, who believed in a universal obligation to love thy neighbor. The Phillips Brooks House has been serving those in need for more than a century.

It is home to the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), a student-run nonprofit that includes 84 social service and social action programs, staffed by more than 1,400 student volunteers. The building is also home to the Public Service Network, which supports independent student-led service programs, as well as the Center for Public Interest Careers at Harvard College (CPIC), which helps students to secure paid public-interest placements during the summer and after graduation.

“This is a rich sense of history and strong values that live within these walls and among these people,” said Gene Corbin, Class of 1955 Executive Director of PBHA. “Through the years, countless students have developed not only their skills here, but also a moral vision for what they want to do with their lives.”

Legal advocacy on death row

Getting detained by authorities wasn’t what Ariel Rothstein expected when she signed up for a Harvard-affiliated program that helps inmates in Texas. But after speaking with a prison guard in hopes of getting clemency petition information for her death row client, that’s exactly what happened.

Shortly after leaving the guard’s home, Rothstein and her partner, who were both working last January with the Texas Defender Service in Houston in conjunction with Harvard Law School’s (HLS) Death Penalty Clinic, were pulled over on a rural road by a law enforcement official.

“He radioed in that he had found the suspects,” said Rothstein, “then he asked me if I would follow him to his office, which turned out to be the Polk County jail.”

The pair was released after being issued warnings for criminal trespassing. They continued their efforts to secure clemency for their client, who was convicted in 1993 of a murder he admitted taking part in, but appeals on his behalf were rejected. He was executed in March.

Though Rothstein, now in her third year at HLS, was unable to save her client, she said the experience recommitted her to public service and to advocating on behalf of underserved clients.

“It’s difficult to take away a learning experience from something so tragic, but it definitely did recommit me to helping other people, and, hopefully, what I have learned from this experience will be a benefit in future for others.”

Along similar lines, the Harvard Divinity School’s (HDS) student associations offer a range of social outreach programs. For instance, the School’s Innocence Project Engagement Group is part of the Innocence Project, a national organization that aims to aid wrongly convicted prisoners through DNA testing. The HDS arm of the project also works on issues involving religious life in prison, prisoner re-entry, and peace and reconciliation processes.

Public service at Harvard is a sweeping landscape. It also includes undergraduates who participate in ROTC programs, earning commissions in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Graduates will go on to protect American lives and interests during times of national emergency and international conflict.

Food donations for those in need

To help combat the growing problem of hunger in the United States, each year Harvard University Dining Services (HUDS) donates about 18,000 pounds of leftover food to the Greater Boston Food Bank’s Second Helping program. The donations are the equivalent of 14,721 meals.

“The food collection program ensures that we can safely and responsibly deliver our surplus perishable food to the plates of those who need them most,” said Ted A. Mayer, HUDS executive director.

The University also has plans to increase the level of hands-on support it gives to the Food Bank. Faust announced today (Oct. 15), on the eve of World Hunger Day, a new University-wide effort to send teams of Harvard faculty, students, and staff to volunteer during the Friday morning shift at the Food Bank from January through May 2010.

Service is key to Kennedy School of Government

“The shorthand version at the Kennedy School is that everyone here wants to make the world a better place,” said Dean David Ellwood. “Our more explicit mission is to train exceptional public leaders and provide ideas that solve public problems. The entire orientation is toward public service in one form or another.”

Through its curriculum and academics, along with a comprehensive summer intern program, career services, and faculty efforts, the John F. Kennedy School of Government (HKS) works to engage students in service. The School teaches those who will serve in public service forums — whether for the government, nonprofits, or nongovernment organizations, as teachers, or even in the private sector as part of organizations or boards committed to helpful causes. While doing public service in the broadest sense, the School also helps to develop public policy.

The numbers tell the story. Between 70 and 80 percent of Kennedy School students work for the government or in nonprofits after graduation.

HKS summer internships and term-time breaks at HKS afford students the opportunity to get involved in real-life policy issues. For the past several years, students have worked with the Broadmoor neighborhood in New Orleans, helping residents to develop a long-range strategic plan for their community in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Other students have used their summers to work as interns with HKS graduate Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, president of Liberia.

When Chris Edell first visited New Orleans in 2003, he found a city pulsating with a mix of cultures, architecture, music, and food. When Hurricane Katrina hit two years later, Edell followed the devastation online, stunned by the “horrifying images” on his computer.

“I didn’t really know how to react aside from sending some donations,” he recalled. “I didn’t feel like there was that much I could do.”

(see Service next page)
Harvard helps fight hunger

Volunteers from across the University are lending a hand to the Greater Boston Food Bank from November through May.

By Lauren Marshall | Harvard Staff Writer

As Harvard University prepares to kick off Public Service Week (Oct. 19-25), President Drew Faust has announced today (Oct. 15) — on the eve of World Hunger Day — a University-wide commitment to enhance volunteer support of the Greater Boston Food Bank. Beginning with two sessions in November and continuing from January through the end of the academic year, Harvard students, faculty, and staff will volunteer at the Food Bank on Friday mornings.

Participation in this volunteer program requires working a Friday morning shift from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Tasks include inspecting, sorting, and repacking donated grocery products at the bank. Harvard will provide shuttle bus service from campus locations in Cambridge, Longwood, and Allston, along with a brown-bag lunch for all volunteers.

The University encourages student groups and managers in all Schools and central administration units to assemble a volunteer team to support this effort.

The President’s Office will take the first shift by volunteering on Friday, Nov. 6, followed by the Office of Government, Community and Public Affairs on Nov. 20. Groups interested in staffing the shifts beginning in January should e-mail community@harvard.edu or call Harvard Public Affairs and Communications at 617.495.4955.

This new initiative marks Harvard’s first University-wide volunteer effort at the Food Bank and follows a long history of supporting local efforts to combat hunger. For example, Harvard University Dining Services, which serves 5 million meals annually, donates approximately 18,000 pounds of perishable food each year to the Food Bank, which in turn distributes it to local shelters. Through the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), a student-run, staff-supported public service organization at Harvard College, students volunteer annually at area homeless shelters and food banks.

Additional efforts to support hunger relief in the area are planned this fall. A student-led food and clothing drive at Harvard Extension School will support Cambridge food pantries, agencies, and area shelters. For more information, including drop-off locations on the Cambridge campus, go to www.extension.harvard.edu. Harvard Athletics, in collaboration with PBHA and the Harvard Alumni Association, is also accepting cans of food at its Oct. 24 football game against Princeton.

Service
(continued from previous page)

But that changed dramatically when Edell enrolled at HKS last year. He learned of the School’s relationship with the Broadmoor neighborhood and was “instantly sold” by the chance to help revitalize the city. He put his business and consulting skills to work for the neighborhood during an internship last summer.

Edell was once firmly headed down the “traditional corporate path,” but the HKS work has inspired him to consider other career options, including social sector consulting.

“The experience itself was just incredibly rewarding. It was great to work with people and help solve problems, guide them, counsel them, and consult with them to help them achieve their goals,” he said.

HKS also collaborates with other Schools across the University, including the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Harvard Medical School, and offers a joint-degree program with the Harvard Business School.

Also, every HKS master in public policy student is required to work with a real-world client, such as a public agency or nonprofit, on a current problem or concern.

“If our teaching to our forums to our internships to our job placement, we are heavily centered on public service,” said Ellwood, who is also Scott M. Black Professor of Political Economy. “It is just part of our DNA. It’s what we’re about. It’s about making the world a better place. It’s why we are here.”

Getting involved

‘Since I realize that direct service is only one aspect of assisting, I became more involved with advocacy, working on education issues and with PBHA’s Student Labor Action Movement.’

By Richard Kelley ’10 | Folklore and Mythology

When I first arrived at Harvard, I immersed myself in public service on campus, starting with the First-Year Urban Program. That exposed me to the many opportunities to help others that are available at Harvard, including the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA).

My first interaction with PBHA was through its Harvard Square Homeless Shelter as a resource advocate. I worked with guests at the shelter to connect them to housing, food, and documentation resources. The summer after my first year, I directed the Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program, a summer camp for 150 low-income youths. I soon grew more involved with the community, working with parents to start an after-school program in North Cambridge for many of those who had taken part in the summer program.

In the fall of 2007, PBHA’s Cambridge After School Program started with 10 kids and six volunteers, and it since has grown to 30 kids and 60 volunteers.

Since I realize that direct service is only one aspect of assisting, I became more involved with advocacy, working on education issues and with PBHA’s Student Labor Action Movement, which partners with Harvard workers (many of them from Cambridge) to advocate on issues involving wages and rights.

In my interactions with the Cambridge community, I’ve learned far more than I ever could give back. Entering my fourth year, I am blessed to have had the opportunity to work so fully with community members. Through these efforts, I realize that a life of service does not mean a certain number of hours worked, but rather is a lifestyle that one adopts in congruence with one’s ideas on how the world should be. I have grown to recognize how much I learn from the community work that I do and the complexity of issues facing the people I meet.

School-system issues affect homelessness and are affected in turn by the lack of resources for low-income families. Public service is a central aspect of my life now because I believe that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status or other identity factors, deserves equal access to help and education.

For example, a child in our program, who entered as a second-grader, was one of our most difficult youths. Now, three years later, he models positive behavior for others. When I speak with his mother, she often praises our programs for not giving up on her child and for providing the year-round, multiyear relationships that she credits as transformative in her child’s development.

That story captures why I am excited that Geoffrey Canada will be the guest speaker and awardee at our third annual Robert Coles Call of Service Lecture. Canada emphasizes that, no matter the quality of a program, piecemeal solutions won’t do.

My service through PBHA has allowed me to understand better what I want to do with my life, and has affirmed my desire to work for educational equality. Geoffrey Canada’s work with the Harlem Children’s Zone is an excellent model for what I would like to do in the future.
Radcliffe redux, at 10

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study launched a year-long celebration of its first decade with an interdisciplinary symposium, ‘Crossing Boundaries.’

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

A poet, a doctor, and a filmmaker walk into a bar. That’s not a joke. It’s three Radcliffe Fellows having lunch — then hatching collaborations that cross academic boundaries.

The punchline at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study is now a school within a school at Harvard. By 1999, it was time for Radcliffe to challenge further cultural and intellectual borders. The one-time Seven Sisters college became the Radcliffe Institute, where seminars, lectures, conferences, and a fellows program are now a school within a school at Harvard.

The institute is nimble, flexible, and open. In one place at one time, it can “provide a refuge for scholars,” said Radcliffe Dean Barbara J. Grosz, as well as “actively advance a university’s intellectual agenda.”

Grosz helped launch a new refuge of sorts at Radcliffe this year — Academic Engagement Programs (AEP) designed to draw Harvard faculty and students into the institute’s interdisciplinary model. A related round of public lectures, symposia, and conferences starts this fall.

AEP is the institute’s third core program — co-equal to the fellows program and Radcliffe’s celebrated Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.

All three Radcliffe programs cultivate the art of surprising togetherness. Painters, poets, and novelists mingle with biologists, doctors, and engineers. Just hours of conversation can evolve into years of collaboration. Recent Radcliffe Fellows include the dancer and the biologist exploring animal locomotion; the filmmaker and lawyer planning a documentary in Nigeria; the composer writing an opera based on Petrarch love poems.

This enriching clash of disciplines can also simply prompt a single unexpected act. Maria Zuber RI ’03, a geophysicist who maps interplanetary bodies, argued in front of a hardheaded NASA panel why it was important to explore the interior of the moon. She found herself quoting poet Maya Angelou: “There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”

Radcliffe has become a place that defies intellectual expectations by “crossing boundaries” — the title of a symposium last week (Oct. 8–9) that launched a year-long celebration of the institute’s first decade.

Five of the six panels were proof of “Radcliffe’s intellectual feast,” said Grosz, a computer scientist who loves the arts.

Panelist and lawyer Linda Hamilton Krieger RI ’05 worried about keeping personal health and genetic information private. One day, she grimly predicted, Americans would be subject to “vitality ratings” similar to credit scores.

A fifth panel looked at how the digital revolution affects academic life. It drew on insights from a fine arts professor, a librarian, a computer scientist, and a composer.

New “cyberinfrastructures” now operate alongside “miles and miles” of traditional library shelving (57 miles in Widener Library alone), said Marilyn Dunn. She’s executive director of the Schlesinger Library, where archivists are starting to harvest and store blogs by women.

Meanwhile, added Dunn, “special collections processors still revel in the world of paper.” (Two Schlesinger exhibits — on travel diaries and gender in the law — accompany the institute’s anniversary celebrations.)

One panel, on gendered choices in public and private spheres, brought together practitioners of anthropology, history, nonfiction, and economics.

Panelist and bestselling journalist Susan Faludi ‘81, RI ’09 revealed one disappointment. Despite increasing numbers of women on the career track, she said, “our entrance to that public world hasn’t changed it fundamentally, as the women’s movement seemed to promise.”

Commentators explored “sickness and health” in a fourth panel. Participants included two medical researchers, an installation artist, and a civil rights lawyer. Cell biologist Susan Lindquist RI ’08 decried the “risks, unpredictable, and costly” U.S. approval pipeline for new drugs — but added that one emerging salvation is for more Radcliffe-like, cross-disciplinary research. “Biology,” she said, “is ripe for this.”

A second panel brought together two filmmakers, a composer, a painter, and a Nigerian lawyer who specializes in Sharia, Islamic religious law. (From these pairings two documentary films will arise.)

New “cyberinfrastructures” now operate alongside “miles and miles” of traditional library shelving (57 miles in Widener Library alone), said Marilyn Dunn. She’s executive director of the Schlesinger Library, where archivists are starting to harvest and store blogs by women.

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During the conference at the Radcliffe Gymnasium, there was a display downstairs of poster presentations, all based on the joyfully eclectic research of recent Radcliffe Fellows. New avenues of curiosity appeared, including the nanoarchitecture of life.
forms, the meaning of hospital chaplains, and the origins of scorpion sound production.

A final panel reflected on the institute’s first decade. “Dream come true. Exceeded our expectations,” summed up Nancy-Beth Gordon Sheerr, who was chair of the Radcliffe College Board of Trustees when the institute was formed.

Neil L. Rudenstine, president of Harvard University during the changeover, weighed in too. During a year of final negotiations, he said, both Harvard and Radcliffe “wanted to create something … imaginative and powerful,” and did.

The institute gave Harvard a way to reach across disciplines, a way to maintain Radcliffe’s parity with other schools, and a way to keep a “commitment to women very, very strong,” said Rudenstine. “It really has been everything we could conceivably have hoped for.”

THE STORY OF RADCLIFFE

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, 10 years old this month (October), is Harvard’s intellectual commons, where restless creative humanists, writers, scientists, and artists freely cross over academic boundaries. But even in its earliest iterations, Radcliffe was crossing boundaries and prompting change. Its precursor institution, the Harvard Annex, opened in 1879 — 130 years ago this fall — during an era hostile to the idea of higher education for women. Located at 6 Apian Way, the Harvard Annex opened the University’s academics to women, though not its doors. In the first year, 44 Harvard professors agreed to provide instruction, and 27 students registered. A cartoon in an 1879 Harvard Lampoon pictures a crowded drawing room and the formal — yet uneasy — crossing of gender boundaries. One young man asks a young lady, “May I have the pleasure of a turn with you at Integral Calculus?” By 1882, the Annex — no longer an experiment — was incorporated as the Society for the Collegiate Instruction for Women. By 1894, there was a Radcliffe College, named after Lady Ann Mowlson (née Radcliffe), who in 1643 provided fledgling Harvard College with its first endowed scholarship. In its early years, said Radcliffe’s second president LeBaron Russell Briggs, the new college was inspired by “the substance of things hoped for.” Some things, at least, never change.

— Corydon Ireland

Rock of ages

Anderson Lab manager and musician Lenny Solomon is retiring in December after more than three decades helping guide people and projects.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Lenny Solomon rocks. Just ask anybody.

For more than 38 years, Solomon has been a fixture at Harvard, a portrait of rock-like stability in a lab whose investigations are up in the air. He’s also been a beacon to information technology professionals, founding the ABCD Committee with the aim of getting IT pros talking to each other, something 1,600 of them now do.

After hours, Solomon feeds the other side of his brain, writing music and performing with his acoustic group, appropriately named the Lenny Solomon Band. Helped along by a notepad and tape recorder to jot down ideas, Solomon pens bluesy-country songs that the band plays at gigs around the region.

Solomon, officially a research program manager in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, began working at Harvard in 1968 as a mechanical engineer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA). After several years working on experiments in solar physics, Solomon departed in 1973. He was hired back by the same CfA group in 1976 and, in 1978, was hired by Weld Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry James Anderson to manage his research team, then consisting of seven or eight people.

The lab’s focus then was on atmospheric ozone and its depletion. It ramped up to 35 or so people, where it stayed until the research funding crunch under President George W. Bush.

Anderson said Solomon has helped to manage projects and people across many platforms, using high-altitude balloons, instruments flying on converted U2 spy planes, and more than two dozen instruments built to fly for NASA.

In December, Solomon, 64, who has a master’s degree in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will leave on his own terms, retiring to devote more time to his music and his many side projects. He might even go fishing more often.

During his career, Solomon set a standard for effective collegial interaction that is important when scientists are in the field in locations as far flung as the tip of South America, the Arctic, or the jungles of Costa Rica, Anderson said.

“Lenny has been an essential part of our research group for 30 years here,” Anderson said. “There are some things Lenny has done for which there’s no replacement. We’ll just have to work our way through those.”

Solomon also will be missed by the IT community. He founded the ABCD Committee in 1985 after canvassing Harvard’s IT professionals about equipment he was about to purchase. In those conversations, he realized that many of the people he was speaking with had heard of each other, but had never met.

From its humble beginnings of seven or so people meeting monthly over sandwiches in the Anderson Lab, the group today includes 1,600 IT professionals from Harvard and affiliated institutions, meeting monthly in a main meeting and also through subgroups.

“I still think a big part of it is to get acquainted and create a sense of community,” Solomon said.

Solomon has been active in the Harvard community in other ways. He started the safety committees at what was then the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and in the Physics and Earth and Planetary Sciences departments. He also served as a freshman adviser for two decades.

Solomon credits Anderson for giving him the freedom to pursue his other collaborations, like ABCD and the safety committees. Solomon stayed all these years because he was surrounded by great people and because, most days, work didn’t feel like work.

“If I’m going to be at a university, I’m not going to get rich. I might as well get as much of the experience as I can — and a lot of the experience is meeting people,” Solomon said. “I’m a social guy. It’s made my life richer and fuller here.”
Great scientists tend to share a certain versatility and creative spark. Think of Galileo Galilei questioning the constant night sky. Consider how James Watson and Francis Crick helped to create biochemistry from scratch. Among other things, great scientists combine approaches. They ignore boundaries.

Creativity and versatility have come naturally to Evelyn Hu, who joined Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences this year as Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering. Hu has been developing innovative nanoscale materials since taking her first faculty job at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1984. Her search for more versatile materials has led her to dabble repeatedly in biology over her long and successful career.

“I have always had this respect, this interest, this awe of what biology can do,” Hu said. “That’s been a theme that I’ve tried to continue throughout the years.”

Where did this taste for the interdisciplinary come from? Hu pointed all the way back to high school and to summer science programs she attended.

“I wanted a more balanced liberal arts education, starting from the New York City school system and going through my undergraduate years,” said Hu, who attended Hunter College High School and Barnard College rather than opting for more science-specific institutions.

While high school itself was broadly academic, summers during those formative years were spent at various programs for budding scientists. Computer science, mathematics, and chemistry would become indispensable in Hu’s later work in applied physics. But there were also programs in biology. Hu remembers particularly a summer spent at Rockefeller University.

“The laboratory techniques were so current and so novel. It was so exciting. Perhaps because I was becoming a little more sententious at that point,” she reflected, thinking of her 17-year-old self, “it really was a revelation about biology. In high school, the biology that was taught was taxonomy and things like that. It was very static.”

Hu recognized that microbiology — gene expression and molecular processes — had more in common with nanoscale electronics than it might at first appear. Her work has consistently pushed the boundaries of electrical engineering by incorporating elements of the organic.

“It’s not just semiconductors anymore,” she said.

Hu also traces her scientific interests back to her family roots. “My parents came from China in the 1940s as students,” she said. “In that generation, for immigrants, science was not only a means of achieving credibility for China but was also a way to provide security for their children. Their heroes were scientists.”

Among her parents’ heroes was C.S. Wu, the renowned Chinese-born physicist and first female president of the American Physical Society. Wu would become Hu’s doctoral adviser, a pairing that Hu described as “not accidental.”

After 25 years at the University of California, Santa Barbara, what made Hu pick up and move across the country to Harvard?

“It’s really unusual if you’re at an advanced stage in your career for people to give you a chance to do something different,” Hu said. “It’s a little scary. With every change you make, you have the opportunity to fail. It takes you out of your comfort zone, out of an environment where everybody knows your name.”

“Even I was a little surprised that that was something I wanted,” she added with a laugh, “It’s good to be flexible.”

Photos by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer
Women’s Careers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, has been named the 2009 recipient of the Alma Dea Morani, M.D., Renaissance Woman Award.

**ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES INDUCTS 14 HARVARD FACULTY MEMBERS**

For pioneering research and scholarship, artistic achievement, and exemplary service to society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) inducted 14 Harvard faculty members into its 229th Class of Members at a ceremony on Oct. 10 in Sanders Theater.

The academy, which elected a total of 231 members this year, was established in 1780 as an independent policy research center to conduct multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. Current projects focus on science, technology, and global security; social policy and American institutions; the humanities and culture; and education. The academy’s membership of scholars and practitioners from many disciplines and professions gives it a unique capacity to conduct a wide range of interdisciplinary, long-term policy research endeavors.

Harvard’s new AAAS inductees: 

**Philippe Aghion**, Robert C. Waggoner Professor of Economics

**Richard Cavanagh**, adjunct lecturer on public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School

**Scott Edwards**, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology and professor in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology

**Benjamin Friedman**, William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy

**Jeffrey Hammerbacher**, Kuno Francke Professor of German Art and Culture

**Lene Hau**, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics and Applied Sciences

**Stein Jacobsen**, professor of geochemistry

**Michael Klarman**, Kirkland and Ellis Professor of Law

**Carlo Mancusi-Ungaro**, founder of the Center for the Technical Study of Modern Art

**Anjana Rao**, professor of pathology

**Mark Roe**, Berg Professor of Business Law

**Gary Ruvkin**, professor of genetics

**Steven Shapin**, Franklin L. Ford Professor of the History of Science

**Beth Simmons**, director of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs

**W.E.B. DU BOIS INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH ANNOUNCES 2009-10 FELLOWS**

Henry Louis Gates Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, has announced the appointment of 21 new fellows for the 2009-10 academic year.

“We are proud to have assembled at the Du Bois Institute one of our most diverse groups of fellows yet,” said Gates. “With studies of hip-hop’s influence on African-American culture; Renaissance European and 20th century African-American art; male and female sexuality and their relation to secrecy, violence, and self-expression; and a film about a young woman from Zanzibar and a biography of a Central African queen — to name just a few of this year’s projects — the Du Bois Fellows are helping to redefine the traditional understanding of Africa, African America, and other African diaspora cultures.

Since its creation in 1975, the Du Bois Institute has annually appointed scholars who conduct individual research for a period of up to one academic year in a variety of fields within African and African-American studies.

“Our fellows — from the U.S., Europe, and Africa this year — demonstrate the vast reach of the discipline, and each stands to make a great and lasting contribution to the field of African and African-American studies,” said Gates.

The fellows will conduct their research by using resources from Harvard’s extensive library system as well as the institute’s research projects. The Du Bois Fellows will also participate in activities at the institute, including colloquia, public conferences, lectures, readings, and forums.

For a full list of the 2009-10 fellows, visit http://dubois.fas.harvard.edu/fellows-program.

**RUBIN ELECTED A CORRESPONDING FELLOW BY BRITISH ACADEMY**

Donald B. Rubin, Ph.D. ’70, the John L. Loeb Professor of Statistics, was elected a corresponding (foreign) fellow for distinction in research at the Annual General Meeting of the British Academy on July 16. The British Academy, which is the United Kingdom’s national academy for the humanities and social sciences, has more than 900 fellows, including psychologists, economists, historians, lawyers, theologians, and criminologists, among others.

**JON ALPERT WINS 2009 I.F. STONE MEDAL FOR JOURNALISTIC INDEPENDENCE**


An investigative reporter, producer, and documentary filmmaker whose career has spanned more than 35 years, Alpert has reported on diverse topics ranging from homelessness and health care to postwar Vietnam and criminals in New Jersey. He has been the first — and at times only — journalist to cover a number of important international stories, and he has served as an eyewitness to many historic events, from the hostage crisis in Iran to the killing fields of Cambodia. Alpert also has gained exclusive access to some of the world’s most elusive leaders, including Fidel Castro and Saddam Hussein.

Established last year, the I.F. Stone Medal rewards journalistic independence and honors the life of investigative journalist I.F. Stone. The award is administered by the Nieman Foundation and its Nieman Watchdog Project and is presented annually to a journalist whose work captures the spirit of
FOSTER ELECTED TO TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Trustees of Reservations, the nation’s oldest statewide land trust and conservation organization, elected David Foster, Harvard Forest director and senior lecturer on biology in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, as a new member of the Trustees of Reservations board of directors at their annual meeting and dinner on Sept. 26.

The Trustees of Reservations, founded in 1891, is the nation’s oldest statewide land conservation trust and nonprofit conservation organization and has 102 reservations, all open to the public, spanning 73 communities and 26,000 acres.

WILLIAM F. MILTON FUND SEEKS APPLICATIONS

Harvard Medical School is now accepting applications for the William F. Milton Fund, which supports studies of a medical, geographical, historical, or scientific nature that promote the physical and material welfare of the human race or investigate and determine the value and importance of a discovery or invention.

Applicants must be faculty members of the University who have voting privileges in their respective faculties and who have not received Milton Fund support in the past five years. Preference will be given to new and original projects, especially independent work of recently appointed young faculty members.

The deadline for submissions is Oct. 23 (5 p.m.), and applications must be submitted electronically to miltonfund@hms.harvard.edu.

For more information, visit http://www.hms.harvard.edu/spa/funding/internal/milton.shtml.

FACULTY AND STAFF TO BE HONORED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Spotlighting the dedicated faculty and staff from across the University who have served Harvard for 25 years, Harvard will hold the 55th annual 25 Year Recognition Ceremony on Oct. 15 in Sanders Theatre. Hosted by President Drew Faust, the ceremony will feature remarks from honorees and musical performances.

For a list of the 147 honorees, visit http://harvie.harvard.edu/Employee_Community/Employee_Recognition/Service_Awards/2009_Honorees/ (HUID and PIN required).

BROAD INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT announced the members of its first board of directors on Oct. 8.

The Broad Institute was founded in 2003 and launched in 2004 by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard, and the Broad Foundations to be a unique research institution aimed at propelling the transformation of medicine by empowering a new generation of scientists to work together to apply powerful new technologies and approaches to the understanding and treatment of disease. Broad currently brings together more than 100 faculty and over 1,500 scientists from across MIT, Harvard, and the Harvard-affiliated hospitals — and beyond — to tackle ambitious and important challenges in biomedicine.

Members of the Broad Institute Board of Directors are appointed for three-year terms. The members of the Broad Institute’s first board of directors:

Dennis Ausiello, chief of medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)
David Baltimore, Nobel laureate, president emeritus at the California Institute of Technology
Eli Brod, founder of The Broad Foundations
Drew Faust, president of Harvard University
Jeffrey S. Flier, dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS)
Susan Hockfield, president of MIT
Seth A. Klorman, president of The Baupost Group LLC
Eric S. Lander, president and director of the Broad Institute, professor at MIT and HMS
William F. Lee, co-managing partner of WilmerHale
Arthur D. Levinston, chairman, Genentech Inc.
Phillip A. Sharp, Nobel laureate, institute professor at MIT
Patty Stonesifer, former president and senior advisor to the Trustees of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Ratan N. Tata, chairman of Tata Group
Diana Chapman Walsh, president emerita of Wellesley College

EDMOND J. SAFRA FOUNDATION CENTER FOR ETHICS INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2010-11 FELLOWSHIPS

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics is now accepting applications for 2010-11. Graduate students writing dissertations or engaged in major research on topics in practical ethics — especially ethical issues in architecture, business, education, government, law, medicine, public health, public policy, and religion — are encouraged to apply. Applicants should be enrolled in a doctoral program of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences or in one of Harvard’s professional Schools and should have completed all course requirements and general examinations before the start of the fellowship year. In professions (such as law or medicine) where a doctoral dissertation is not required for an academic career, advanced students taking leaves of absence, recent graduates, and Harvard affiliates engaged in postgraduate training are also eligible.

The application deadline is Nov. 13. For more information, visit http://ethics.harvard.edu/fellowships-and-grants/graduate-fellowships or contact the Graduate Fellowship Program at 617.496.0587.

GATES HONORED WITH LITERARY AWARD

Henry Louis Gates Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard, accepted the 2009 Sarah Josepha Hale Award on Oct. 3 at the Newport Opera House in Newport, N.H.

The award has been presented annually since 1956, and is one of New England’s oldest and most distinguished literary awards in recognition of a body of work in literature and letters. Gates is the first African-American recipient of the award.

— Compiled by Gervis A. Menzies Jr.

HOW TO APPLY

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

JOB SEARCH INFO SESSIONS

Harvard University offers information sessions that are designed to enhance a job-seeker’s search success. These sessions may cover topics ranging from preparing effective resumes and cover letters, targeting the right opportunities, and successful interviewing techniques. Sessions are typically held monthly from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Harvard Events and Information Center in Holyoke Center, 1350 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. More specific information is available online at http://employment.harvard.edu/careers/findingjob/.
Harvard Business School

Harvard Business School (HBS) has named a new executive director for its Japan Research Center in Tokyo.

Nobuo Sato, a graduate of Keio University and Harvard Business School (MBA ‘82), is a former banker and executive recruiter.

“We are pleased that Nobuo has taken on this important leadership role,” said Krishna Palepu, the School’s Ross Graham Walker Professor of Business Administration and senior associate dean for international development. “Forming strong ties with business and academic organizations around the world is central to the HBS Global Initiative.”

Most recently, Sato was a global partner at Egon Zehnder International, a worldwide executive search and assessment firm. During his more-than-15-year tenure there, he launched the firm’s Tokyo-based financial service practice group and oversaw executive searches in the financial sector. He also managed a corporate governance practice group and oversaw the firm’s Japan-based industry-sector research team. Prior to Egon Zehnder, Sato worked for 15 years in the Tokyo and London offices of the Industrial Bank of Japan.

HBS established the Research Center in 2002 to provide formal support for faculty research and case-writing activities in Japan. Since then, HBS faculty and researchers have developed case studies on more than 60 Japanese companies.

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

As part of an effort to develop creative solutions to Harvard’s projected long-term budget deficit, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) and Harvard College recently launched an online Idea Bank where community members can submit recommendations for reducing costs and generating revenues.

This online forum is one of several ways that administrators are attempting to engage the entire FAS and Harvard College community to consider ways to advance the University’s core mission of teaching and research in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

In April, FAS Dean Michael Smith convened ad hoc working groups made up of students, faculty, and staff to review many of the highest ranked Idea Bank suggestions and help make informed budget recommendations.

To make budget recommendations or to help rank ideas submitted by others, visit the Idea Bank at http://ideabankunix.fas.harvard.edu/.

To better understand the financial situation at FAS, community members are encouraged to review the recording of Smith’s Sept. 15 discussion, which can be viewed by clicking on the “Watch the Video” link at the FAS planning Web site at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/home/planning/index.html.

— Jeff Neal

Harvard Kennedy School

Longtime Democratic political operative Terry McAuliffe is a visiting fellow this year at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Institute of Politics. He appeared at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum last week (Oct. 6) with nearly everything you need to raise funds and run campaigns: a dark suit, a lime green tie, tasseled shoes, and a can of diet Coke.

You might also need one other thing to be a 30-year kingpin in politics: enough energy to power a small city. For an hour of lecturing (15 minutes) and answering questions (45 minutes), the wavy-haired McAuliffe tirelessly paced, pointed, predicted, and reminisced.

During the presidential election of 2008 — when McAuliffe was national chair of the Hillary Clinton bid — two state contests hurt her the most, he said: Iowa (where she lost) and Indiana (where news of her win was delayed by five hours, missing the news cycle).

In Indiana, Hillary and Bill were finally poised to go on stage, but the delay had them both in a dark mood — nothing you would want television cameras to see, McAuliffe said. So he did what any loyal campaigner would do: tore one pants leg open from ankle to thigh. The Clintons went laughing into the limelight.

McAuliffe, miming the whole story on stage, said he had stapled the pants together after an earlier mishap.

— Corydon Ireland
At the Graduate School of Design (GSD), there’s plenty of learning still going on inside classrooms. But, as in many other areas, the Web is also proving to be a gateway to novel ways of sharing ideas and building teamwork.

One such example is the student journal Trays, an online GSD forum where students are encouraged to post projects and display their work, air their problems, and exchange comments.

On the site’s homepage (http://students.gsd.harvard.edu/trays/), the editors say that “Students may submit writing and/or images, and possibly alternative media and forms of interaction when those become desirable. The editorial team will work with the student submitting work to prepare the piece for publishing on the website … Editors will also conduct interviews, contact alumni and notable professionals, and author other features that will help to give a broader sense of the range of activities and possibilities that are to be found at the GSD.”

The present home page includes a range of work, including photos that show whimsical, winding bookshelves in the Chinatown Storefront Library, an interview with noted architect Bernard Plattner, and a mixed-media project that took Wagner’s “Tristan Chord,” recreated in architectural form, and then turned it back into music.

— Jim Concannon

### Radcliffe Institute

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study celebrated its 10th anniversary with a symposium last week (Oct. 8-9), and many former Radcliffe Fellows returned. Those from the class of RI ’09 included the expert on arthropod communication (Sheila Patek ’94), the Martha Graham protégé (Christine Dakin), the scholar of insect flight (Jane Wang), and the Nigerian defense lawyer (Hauwa Ibrahim).

Also returning was journalist Susan Faludi ’81, RI ’09, author of the celebrated feminist classic “Backlash” (1991), but she didn’t have far to travel. “I had such a great time here that I really didn’t want to leave — so I didn’t,” said Faludi of her new home in Cambridge, where Radcliffe is still her main haunt. “Now they can’t get rid of me. I’m like the Bartleby of Byerly Hall.”

On a panel titled “Gendered Choices in the Public and Private Spheres,” Faludi read from a story she wrote for the Harvard Crimson as a freshman, when “we were still covering meetings of women’s groups like the Harvard Dames.” (The long-departed Dames were the wives of graduate students.)

How have times changed? Faludi shared a few lines. “Members last night ate 12 kinds of cookies, drank pink punch from the club’s engraved silver punch bowl, and signed up for … cosmopolitan evenings of armchair world travel.”

— Corydon Ireland

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**MEMORIAL MINUTES**

### Robert Leffert

**Faculty of Medicine**

Robert Leffert, who died on Dec. 7, 2008, at the age of 75, is remembered for being a spectacular physician who in his time at the Massachusetts General Hospital became a major force in rehabilitation medicine and also in the management of upper extremity disorders. To read the full Memorial Minute, visit http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/robert-d-leffert.

### Charles Paul Segal

**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

At a meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on Nov. 13, 2007, the minute honoring the life and service of the late Charles Paul Segal was placed upon the records. Segal is regarded as one of the most prolific 20th century interpreters of classical literature and poetry. To read the full Memorial Minute, visit http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/charles-paul-segal.

### OBITUARIES

**HSPH professor Stephen Lagakos, 63, dies**

Stephen Lagakos, an international leader in biostatistics and AIDS research and professor of biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), died in an auto collision on Oct. 12 in Peterborough, N.H. He was 63 years old. For the full article, visit www.hsph.harvard.edu/news-releases/2009-releases/professor-lagakos-dies.html.

**Economist James Stemble Duesenberry dies at 91**

James Stemble Duesenberry, an eminent economist who was an authority on monetary policy and a faculty member of Harvard University’s Department of Economics for more than half a century, recently passed away at his home in Cambridge at the age of 91. For Duesenberry’s full obituary, visit http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/james-stemble-duesenberry/.

**Mary Lee Ingbar, pioneer in field of health economics, dies at 83**

Mary Lee Ingbar, Radcliffe ’46, Ph.D. ’53, M.P.H. ’56, who was a pioneer in applying quantitative and sophisticated computer analysis to the developing field of health economics in the 1950s and 1960s, died in Cambridge on Sept. 18. For Ingbar’s full obituary, visit http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/10/mary-lee-ingbar-dies-at-83/.
GORDON, SCALES LEAD CRIMSON TO 28-10 VICTORY OVER CORNELL

For the second straight week, the Crimson’s rushing attack, which leads the Ivy League, guided the Harvard football team to victory — and for the second straight week, Harvard picked up a decisive road victory, as the Crimson took down the Cornell Big Red on Saturday (Oct. 10) by a score of 28-10.

Last week, running back Cheng Ho ’10 was unstoppable, rushing for 132 yards in Harvard’s 28-14 win over Lehigh. This week, it was the running back tandem of Gino Gordon ’11 and Treavor Scales ’13 — who combined for 251 yards and three touchdowns — that guided the Crimson (3-1; 2-0 Ivy League) to their third win of the season.

It was a coming-out party of sorts for both running backs. Through the first three games of the season, Gordon entered the game with just 105 yards rushing on 30 carries. Yet on Saturday, the junior exploded for 137 yards on 22 carries and a touchdown. Scales, who through three games ran for 56 yards, racked up 92 yards on the ground and two touchdowns. The freshman’s breakout performance earned him Ivy Rookie of the Week honors on Monday (Oct. 12).

The defense, which gave up a season-low 10 points, was led by freshman cornerbrian Brian Owusu, who recorded two key interceptions, and junior safety Collin Zych, who had eight tackles and two passes broken up on the day.

Harvard returns home on Saturday (Oct. 17) to host Lafayette. The Crimson have won the past eight matchups and hold an 11-2 record to host the Leopards. Kickoff is set for noon.

WOMEN’S SOCCER DOWNS CORNELL, 2-0; EXTENDS WINNING STREAK TO FOUR

The temperature may be falling, but the Harvard women’s soccer team is getting hot at just the right time.

After an Oct. 6 victory in which the Crimson dominated Fairfield, 4-1, Harvard traveled to Ithica, N.Y., to defeat Cornell, 2-0.

The Big Red, who fell to 1-9-1 (0-3 Ivy League), were a handful for the Crimson, with Cornell goalkeeper Megan Bartlett recording five of her six saves in the first half.

But Harvard opened the second half firing, scoring twice to start the second period behind goals from freshman defender Taryn Kurcz and junior forward Katherine Sheeleigh.

That was enough for the Crimson to leave Ithaca with a win, defeating the Big Red for their fourth consecutive win of the season, evening up their record to 5-5-1 (2-0 Ivy League).

For their outstanding play this past week, both Kurcz and Sheeleigh received weekly recognition on Monday (Oct. 12).

Kurcz, whose game-winning goal against Cornell was the first of her career, was named Ivy Rookie of the Week. Sheeleigh, who also scored twice against Fairfield, earned a spot on the Top Drawer Soccer National Team of the Week. She leads the team with five goals this season.

The Crimson have a full slate in the upcoming week at they host the Brown Bears Saturday (Oct. 17) at Ohiri Field, starting at 11 a.m., followed by Yale on Oct. 20 in New Haven at 3 p.m. The game at Yale was originally scheduled for Oct. 3, but inclement weather forced the teams to reschedule. Harvard and Yale (7-3; 2-0 Ivy League) are the only remaining teams unbeaten in league play.

NICHOLS AMONG 10 FINALISTS FOR LOWE’S SENIOR CLASS AWARD

Senior Lizzy Nichols, co-captain of the women’s soccer team, was named one of 10 finalists for the Lowe’s Senior Class Award for women’s soccer on Oct. 5. The award is given annually to one Division I women’s soccer player with notable achievements in four areas of excellence — classroom, character, community, and competition.

The senior defender, who has two goals this season, recorded her second tally Sept. 25 on a game-winning penalty kick in Harvard’s 3-2 win over Penn. Known for clutch performances, Nichols scored last year on a double-overtime penalty kick against Columbia, which clinched the Crimson’s first Ivy League title since 1999.

Off the field, Nichols is working toward a history and literature/history of art and architecture double concentration, and is on the board of the Harvard student-founded nonprofit organization Circle of Women, which promotes women’s education in the developing world.

The winner will be announced during the 2009 NCAA Division I Women’s College Cup in College Station, Texas, Dec. 4-6. One-third of the voting is determined by fan voting, and two-thirds of the voting is determined by NCAA Division I coaches and national media members.

To vote for Nichols, visit the competition Web site at www.seniorclassaward.com.

— Compiled by Gervis A. Menzies Jr.
The deadline for Calendar submissions is Wednesday by 5 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Calendar events are listed in full online. Please submit events via the online form at news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar-submission. E-mail calendar@harvard.edu with questions.

OCT. 15
The Brick Ark: Celebrating the MCZ’s First 150 Years and the Beginning of the Next 150.
James Hanken, director, Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology. The first of three lectures in a series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Harvard’s MCZ. Hanken will explore the history of this institution; what it can tell us about the changing role of university-based natural history museums; and what museums must do to survive in the 21st century. Free and open to the public. Following the lecture, there will be a reception to preview the newly renovated Great Mammal Hall in the Harvard Museum of Natural History. www.hmnh.harvard.edu.

OCT. 16
Boston Ballet Dance Talk: World Passions.
Harvard Dance Center, 60 Garden St., 7 p.m. A first look at a Boston Ballet world premiere by one of today’s finest young choreographers, Helen Pickett. Boston Ballet dancers will perform, and artistic coordinator and ballet master Shannon Parsley and choreographer Pickett present an informal behind-the-scenes discussion. Free and open to the public. 617.495.8676, www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

OCT. 18
350 Climate Convocation.
The Memorial Church, Harvard Yard, 2 p.m. In anticipation of the International Day of Climate Action on Oct. 24 (www.350.org), author and environmentalist Bill McKibben will speak about the spectrum of global and local efforts to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts. His remarks will also focus on the necessary individual, institutional, and political changes to which we must commit ourselves and our nations in order to ensure a safer climate future.

People of faith, people of science, students, and scholars will gather for this call to action. Join in prayer, in song, in listening, in learning, and if so inspired, in action. www.350.org.

OCT. 21
Master Class with Soprano Dominique Labelle.
Memorial Church, 3 p.m. Acclaimed for her virtuosic performances in operas, recitals, and concerts worldwide, Dominique Labelle will lead a master class for Harvard student singers. Observers welcome. Sponsored by Learning From Performers, Office for the Arts, and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra (HBCO). Free and open to the public. 617.495.8676, www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

OCT. 28
Sperry Room, Andover Hall, HDS, 45 Francis Ave., 5:15 p.m. Sallie McFague, Vancouver School of Theology and a leader in linking ecofeminism and Christian theology, Sponsored by the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School; Weatherhead Center for International Af-
Harvard Rituals: Weld Boathouse

Situated on the Cambridge side of the Charles River, Weld Boathouse is an iconic structure that rests at the midpoint of the Head of the Charles Regatta’s course. The building was completed in 1906, financed by George Walker Weld, a member of the Class of 1860. This boathouse replaced another that he had funded in 1889.

Adjacent to the Larz Anderson Bridge, the boathouse is a constant commotion of activity. Providing a home to Radcliffe rowing squads since the 1970s, it has served, according to Dan Boyne, coach of the recreational sculling program, as the hub of rowing at Harvard since its earliest days.

Winnie Parker, a graduate of Radcliffe and avid rower, has relied on the boathouse for the past decade. Parker, who rows up to four times a week, said, “I just think it’s the best. I love it, I love coming here, I love rowing. I love the river. I love the boathouse, I’m totally into it.”