From camouflage to Crimson

Nearly 150 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, now back home as Harvard students, provide real-world perspective. Page 12
Online Highlights

THE HAITIAN PARTNERSHIP
Speakers, including Paul Farmer, discuss how Harvard offshoots can collaborate with Haitians to try to build some stability in the earthquake-battered nation.
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37717]

BRINGING SEXY BACK TO HARVARD
Looking dapper under the bright lights of New College Theatre, Hasty Pudding’s Man of the Year Justin Timberlake took his roast like a man, like only a sexy man can: in pink heels and a blonde wig.
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37257]

DOWN-TO-EARTH DIVA
Opera luminary Renée Fleming offered her guidance and singing expertise to a group of Harvard students at Harvard’s Paine Hall as part of the Office for the Arts’ annual Learning From Performers series.
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37593]

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS
“If you remember anything about this lecture, it’s because genes in your brain will be altered,” said Eric Kandel ’52, who shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for his studies on memory. “If you remember this tomorrow, or the next day, a week later, you will have a different brain than when you walked into this lecture.”
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37505]

HAVANA, THEN AND NOW
The pictures are hauntingly static. In a series of modern photos matched against century-old postcards, Havana’s sprawling boulevards, public squares, and majestic hotels appear side by side, frozen in time. They are part of a new exhibit at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37344]

HARVARD THINKS BIG
Ten great ideas from 10 great professors in 10 minutes or less. Harvard Thinks Big, a student-organized discussion that paired leading lecturers with eager listeners, attracted these great minds to help explore and inspire new ways of thinking, in the first session of what organizers hope will become an annual experience.
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37780]

Police Log Online ➤ www.hupd.harvard.edu/public_log.php
TURNING TO THE WIND
In a quest for cheaper power, a Harvard Business School professor helps Maine islanders get their wind turbine project off the ground.
Page 4

FACULTY PROFILE/ANN PEARSON
Ann Pearson, professor of biogeochemistry, uses chemistry to understand ancient biology.
Page 5

ISLAMIC TREASURES A CLICK AWAY
Harvard’s libraries and museums pull together vast materials on the Web, in tandem with Islamic Studies Program.
Page 6

HAITIAN-AMERICAN MUSICIAN HONORED
Harvard Foundation names Wyclef Jean Artist of the Year.
Page 7

FIGHT OR FLIGHT
Robert Mnookin’s new book looks at how to negotiate.
Page 8

HAVERFORD BOUND
You will be “Climbing the Bookshelves” to get to these.
Page 8

COVER STORY
Cambridge is half a world away from Iraq and Afghanistan for most Americans, but not for U.S. veterans of those long-running wars. As many as 150 veterans are now students at Harvard, where they have adjusted from combat zones to tidy classrooms, as they study business, government, and law. In a series of interviews, two dozen vets discussed the startling contrasts between past and present.
Page 12

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY
A BRIDGE TO SOMEWHERE
Bady Balde, a learned émigré from Guinea, uses Harvard’s Bridge Program to go from Dining Services worker to bank teller to Harvard Kennedy School graduate student.
Page 10

OVER THERE, OVER HERE
On the Harvard campus, as many as 150 students have an untraditional academic past, as present or former members of the U.S. military, many of whom have had multiple combat tours.
Page 12

CLASS DAY SPEAKER CHOSEN
CNN international correspondent Christiane Amanpour will address seniors on May 26.
Page 15

DAVID SOUTER TO SPEAK AT COMMENCEMENT
The Harvard alumnus will be the principal speaker at the Afternoon Exercises of Harvard’s 359th Commencement on May 27.
Page 15

STUDENT VOICE/VIDYA RAJAN
A member of the Harvard Squash team recounts the squad’s service trip to India.
Page 16

VIRTUALLY CONNECTED
Making good use of the Web, students from the Harvard Graduate School of Education are using virtual internships to gain valuable experience without leaving home.
Page 18

ON THE JOB (AND OFF)/MARIE Trottier
Marie Trottier handles accessibility issues at Harvard for the disabled, but she’s also involved in establishing a hospice, and acts on the side.
Page 19

NEW FELLOWSHIP FUND
Honors Samuel P. Huntington, one of the most influential political scientists of his generation.
Page 22
Turning to the wind

In a quest for cheaper power, HBS professor helps Maine islanders get wind turbine project off the ground.

Last August about 100 residents of an island off Maine gathered at their pristine little port to watch the arrival of three giants.

From shore, the islanders could see their enormous white arms, resembling a surfaced submarine or the bony remnants of a prehistoric beast, lying on the deck of an approaching barge.

The onlookers on Vinalhaven were welcoming the massive blades of three wind turbines, part of a community-based power project guided by Harvard Business School Professor George Baker as part of an effort to slash the islanders’ high electricity costs.

“The islands pay about three times the national average for electricity, and the wind blows all the time,” said Baker, Herman C. Krannert Professor of Business Administration, who is on leave from Harvard Business School to help complete the project. “The question was, ‘Can’t we generate electricity with wind?’”

The answer has been a resounding “yes.”

For the past three years, Baker has split his time between his home in Newton, Mass., and a house on Frenchboro, a small island east of Vinalhaven, to work on the effort. He jokes that his wife would like to know exactly where he lives. He makes the four-hour trip to Maine weekly.

The HBS professor, an authority on organizational economics, enjoys a personal challenge. Fifteen years ago he designed and built his home on Frenchboro, a remote fishing outpost with a year-round population of 43. He embraced the wind-power effort after volunteering with a local electric cooperative.

“Partly because I was an HBS professor and partly because I was ... wanting to be a helpful member of the community, I served as a volunteer member of the board of trustees of the Swan’s Island Electric Cooperative,” said Baker of his work with a consumer-owned electric cooperative serving nearby Swan’s Island as well as Frenchboro.

Building on that experience, he has used his time away from Harvard to explore the economic and financial feasibility of wind-power generation on Maine’s islands, ultimately heading the effort to create the largest community wind-power facility on the East Coast, known as the Fox Islands Wind Project.

The complicated process included permitting, detailed environmental impact and engineering studies, and a complex financing structure for the turbines that involved federal tax credits and the creation of a limited-liability company. There were also community meetings, where Baker was frank with the facts.

(see Turbine next page)
“I told the residents, ‘Here’s what it would look like. Here’s how it would work. It’s absolutely not without risk, but there is real benefit,’” he said.

The islanders ultimately backed the plan, 284 to 5.

What makes the current project free from much of the “not in my backyard” squabbling that can plague wind projects is its immediate and direct benefit to the community, said Baker.

“It’s a community-owned project where the community gets all the benefit,” he said. “There is no developer that owns the turbines and takes all of the power. The power is used locally by the community.”

Now residents can harvest their own electricity with the help of Mother Nature, instead of relying on the noisy diesel generator downtown or purchasing power from a nuclear plant down the coast or the oil-fired plant on another island, in the process paying exorbitant costs to access electricity through underwater cables.

Enlisting the support of the giant General Electric Co., Baker, who is vice president of Community Wind at the Island Institute, a nonprofit based in Rockland, Maine, was able to secure three turbines, each about 400 feet tall. The turbines were installed last summer and started turning in December. They are expected to generate 11,605 megawatt hours of electricity each year and cover all of the island’s annual energy needs.

Currently at work on several other wind projects along Maine’s coast, Baker called the Vinalhaven experience “incredibly satisfying and fulfilling.” He said he hopes someday to be able to harvest the vast opportunity presented by “the much bigger and richer wind resources” available farther offshore.

“For the last 100 years, we have ignored wind as an energy source because we invented diesel engines,” he said. “We should be using that resource. We should be using it as effectively as we possibly can.”

Faculty Profile

Ann Pearson, professor of biogeochemistry, uses chemistry to understand ancient biology.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Ann Pearson is a chemical sleuth, tracking traces of ancient life and environments through the chemical fingerprints they left behind.

Pearson, a professor of biogeochemistry in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, initially thought she would become a biologist before she became enamored with chemistry as an undergraduate at Oberlin College. She made the shift, but remains involved in both disciplines today, as she wields the tools of chemistry to look back at biological systems and environments from millions of years ago.

Pearson’s favored tools are isotopes, which are heavier or lighter versions of elements — such as carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen — that are important in living systems. Ordinary carbon is known as carbon-12, because it has six protons and six neutrons in its nucleus. Carbon-13, with six protons and seven neutrons, is heavier and rarer, but still common enough to be regularly detected and measured by scientists.

In her work, Pearson uses the ratio between different isotopes in lipids, proteins, and whole cells to infer things about ancient life. In a recent project conducted in collaboration with researchers at the University of Illinois, for example, she examined the carbon isotopes in ancient grass pollen to learn more about the environment in which they grew. Grasses that grow in hotter, dryer environments take up carbon isotopes in different ratios than those in cooler, moister environments, Pearson said.

Pearson’s main area of research doesn’t involve ancient grasses, however. It involves microbes living in the seabed, and it examines their chemical composition for clues about the oceanic environment in which they lived. Because the chemical elements inside those microbes come from what they consume, Pearson says her work employs an unusual strategy to understand ancient life and ecosystems.

“We use the ‘you are what you eat’ philosophy for microbes,” Pearson said. “In the end, what that does is provide windows into the past climate — not temperature directly, but more like reconstructing ecosystems that lived in warm or nutrient-rich environments versus ecosystems in very cool and low biological productivity situations. I suppose you could say we try to understand the microbial contributions to modern and ancient ecosystems.”

One such project probes the Mediterranean Sea over the last 150,000 years.

At various times, Pearson said, the Mediterranean has been dominated by large freshwater inflows from the Nile River at one end or large saltwater inflows from the Atlantic Ocean at the other. Pearson and graduate student Meytal Higgins examined the interplay between these two flows and how they affected life in the sea by studying the isotopes nitrogen-14 and nitrogen-15.

Pearson learned much about biology early and firsthand, on her family’s farm on the San Juan Islands of northwest Washington state. Every evening she milked the goats and collected eggs from the chickens. The daughter of the town accountant and the middle school science teacher, Pearson tore through the tiny island high school’s curriculum, leaving a year early at age 16 because she’d already taken all of the courses in core subjects that the school offered.

So, with the blessing of her parents, Pearson started her freshman year at Oberlin. She had intended to major in biology, but she liked her freshman chemistry class so much, she moved into that field.

“I liked chemistry because it was very well-defined in terms of being quantitative and having clear-cut problems with definite solutions,” Pearson said. “I found it to be rewarding rather than challenging.”

After graduating with a chemistry degree in 1992, Pearson joined the Peace Corps, drawing on her family farm experience to work as an agricultural volunteer with sheep ranchers high in Ecuador’s mountains. She recalled applying for graduate school from her chilly house two miles above sea level.

On her return, she entered the oceanography program run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. After a brief postdoctoral fellowship at Woods Hole, Pearson came to Harvard as an assistant professor in 2001.

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer
Islamic treasures a click away

Harvard’s libraries and museums pull together vast materials on the Web, in tandem with Islamic Studies Program.

By Colleen Walsh  |  Harvard Staff Writer

The Islamic Heritage Project, a unique and extensive collection of Harvard’s vast Islamic material — including more than 260 lushly illustrated manuscripts, 50 maps portraying the world as once imagined, and 270 rare printed texts — is now easily accessible through the Internet.

Gathered from across Harvard’s libraries and museums, the collection offers rich insights into a complex culture and history, in an innovative collaboration between the Harvard University Library Open Collections Program and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program (ISP).

Founded in 2005, with support from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, ISP enhances Harvard’s ability to keep pace with increasing demands for knowledge and understanding of the Islamic tradition. By bringing together faculty, students, and researchers from across the University and coordinating their activities through a program in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and in close cooperation with the Harvard Divinity School and other faculties, the Islamic Studies Program demonstrates Harvard’s strong commitment to the study of various religious traditions.

A Harvard faculty committee comprised of Islamic experts culled through the University’s vast holdings to assemble the collection, which includes more than 145,000 pages of material from the 13th to the 20th centuries. To access the collection, go to http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ihp/.

Searchers can browse the comprehensive database by selected topics that include mathematics, grammar, logic, and literature. Locations represented in the collection range from Saudi Arabia and North Africa to Iran, Iraq, and Central Asia. Languages in the collection include Arabic, Persian, Malay, Urdu, Ottoman Turkish, and a few Western ones.

The collection is intended to share an important facet of Harvard’s intellectual treasures on a digital platform that organizers say will support teaching and research in Islamic studies and in all the world’s religious traditions.

“For me, it’s so crucial for people around the world, who don’t have easy access to the kinds of resources that we have at Harvard, to be able to take advantage of our rich collection of materials,” said William Graham, Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and O’Brien Professor and dean of Harvard Divinity School. “This kind of project is emblematic of what Harvard is truly about, advancing knowledge and making new knowledge and materials available..."
freely in the scholarly world, and using our resources to help everybody in the field.”

Every item in the online collection was reviewed and catalogued; some also received conservation treatments at the library system’s Weissman Preservation Center.

The new collection is a treasure trove of ancient documents that offer a window to history. A search on the Ottoman Empire reveals, for example, a colorfully delineated chart of the Turkish Empire in Europe, Asia, and Africa printed in England in the early 1700s. A section of the chart, covered in elegant script, reads, “The Turks oppress the Arabians with Tribute, and Govern ‘em with great Cruelty, which has made them several times attempt to throw off their Yoke, but in Vain.”

Searchers looking for poems can find a collection of work from 1278 written by Mahmud Afandi al-Jaza’iri. Translated, the work’s title reads: “This is a collection of extraordinary poems in rhymed couplets and elegant and cherished odes on love which refresh the hearts of lovers and for which every longing man pines in joy.”

The collection is “an important scholarly tool and an important tool for the visual book culture of the world,” said Roy Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History and founding director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal program. He noted that materials in the database also reveal the far reach of Islamic literary culture.

An 18th century Indian copy of the Persian national epic “Shāhnāmah” by the Persian poet Firdawsi, for instance, is “an interesting testament to the way in which earlier traditions of international languages helped to transmit cultural ideas such as epic poetry.”

Since its official launch late last year, the site has had more than 6,000 unique visitors. For January, the countries with the most visitors to the site were the United States, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Morocco, with each country logging more than 1,000 page views.

Haitian-American musician honored

Harvard Foundation names Wyclef Jean Artist of the Year

Haitian-American musician and record producer Wyclef Jean has been named 2010 Artist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation of Harvard University. The Grammy Award-winning musician will receive the group's most prestigious medal at the annual Cultural Rhythms award ceremony on Feb. 27.

The Harvard Cultural Rhythms festival will begin that day at 3 p.m. in Sanders Theatre. The award will be presented around 4 p.m. There also will be an 8 p.m. performance.

“His contributions to music and distinguished history of creativity have been appreciated by people throughout the world,” said S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, “and he is admired worldwide for his humanitarian efforts on behalf of the people of Haiti.”

Jean began his musical career as part of the Fugees, a hip-hop trio that rose to fame in 1996 with its second album, “The Score.” The multiplatinum record earned the group two Grammy Awards, including Best Rap Album.

Jean launched his solo career in 1997 with “The Carnival,” which featured artists such as Céline Dion and fellow Fugees Pras and Lauryn Hill. Praise for the multiplatinum album emphasized its musical influences, including hip-hop, reggae, folk, disco, soul, “Son Cubano,” and Haitian music. The album earned Jean three Grammy nominations, including Best Rap Album. He has since received three more nominations, including one for “Million Voices,” which also earned a 2005 Golden Globe nomination for Best Original Song in a Motion Picture (“Hotel Rwanda”).

He is widely known for his humanitarian work through the Yéle Haiti Foundation, which promotes sports and the arts in Haiti. This support includes thousands of annual scholarships, soccer programs for at-risk youth, and free outdoor films in neighborhoods without electricity. The organization distributes food to communities in need throughout Haiti and mobilizes emergency disaster relief, including its current efforts in response to the devastating earthquake in the Port-au-Prince area.

The Harvard Foundation, the University’s center for intercultural arts and sciences initiatives, honors the nation’s most acclaimed artists and scientists each year. Previous awards have been presented to such artists as Sharon Stone, Andy Garcia, Will Smith, Matt Damon, Halle Berry, Jackie Chan, Denzel Washington, Salma Hayek, and Herbie Hancock.
Fight or flight

Robert Mnookin's new book looks at how to negotiate.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

Life, with its endless barrage of conflicts, may have just gotten a bit easier thanks to Robert Mnookin.

Mnookin, the Samuel Williston Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and chair of its Program on Negotiation (PON), has authored "Bargaining with the Devil: When to Negotiate, When to Fight," a book that analyzes some of history's most tumultuous conflicts while offering invaluable guidance on everything from business disputes to messy divorces.

Focusing on unfair, even evil, actions — such as blackmail, labor disputes, extortion, theft — and the adversaries behind them, Mnookin dissects the trappings that interfere with rational thinking and reveals pragmatic approaches to elicit resolution and results.

"Should you bargain with the devil?" Mnookin wondered. "My question, and this book, have their roots in Sept. 11." A month after the attacks, the PON sponsored a debate about whether President George W. Bush should negotiate with the Taliban.

“This debate led me to begin thinking about a more general question: In any particular conflict, how should you decide whether or not it makes sense to negotiate?"

Mnookin examines the historical and political perils of the Holocaust and South African apartheid to illustrate the reasons why Britain's Winston Churchill chose not to negotiate with Germany, while South Africa's Nelson Mandela opted to bargain with a white government that had imposed horrific restrictions. According to Mnookin, both were groundbreaking tactical judgments, and are relevant to today's fraught global arena.

But everyday conflicts are featured, too. In 10 digestible chapters, Mnookin offers real-life scenarios that feature, for example, family members at odds with each other over an inherited vacation home.

"Before you resort to coercive measures — such as warfare or litigation — you should try to resolve the problem," said Mnookin. "To negotiate doesn’t mean you must give up all that is important to you. It only requires that you be willing to sit down with your adversary and see whether you can make a deal that serves your interests better than your best alternative does. You can’t hope to make peace with your enemies unless you are willing to negotiate."
Night shift

Volunteers assist with a variety of medical skills, from nursing to orthopedics to medical equipment repair, playing a critical role in the response to the Haitian earthquake.

By Alvin Powell  |  Harvard Staff Writer

The patient groaned as Shahram Aarabi pressed firmly but gently on his stomach, applying a clean dressing over the incision through which the Harvard School of Public Health student and surgical resident at the University of Washington had removed a burst appendix the night before.

Aarabi and Jason Smithers, a pediatric surgeon at Harvard-affiliated Children’s Hospital Boston and an instructor in surgery at Harvard Medical School, worked as a team on the man, one of three patients they had operated on the night before. Darkness had fallen, and the two were among volunteer medical personnel staffing the night shift at Port-au-Prince’s largest hospital, providing badly needed care for residents of Haiti’s earthquake-devastated capital and filling a personnel hole as Haitian hospital staff returned to day shift jobs.

Smithers and Aarabi are among the many Harvard-affiliated personnel — doctors, nurses, and medical technicians — who have responded to the titanic medical emergency created by the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated the island nation.

During a week in mid-February, Aarabi and Smithers made their rounds under the auspices of Partners In Health, a nonprofit with close ties to Harvard Medical School (HMS), the Harvard School of Public Health, and Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women’s Hospital, while nurses from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center worked alongside physician Jennifer Scott, a specialist in humanitarian response, on outreach operations at a field hospital led by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative at Fond Parisien, an hour’s drive away.

Tom Monaghan, a medical equipment technician from Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital, worked in Port-au-Prince to set up newly arrived equipment and to repair broken machines, while Natasha Archer, a Brigham resident whose family immigrated to the United States from Haiti decades ago, coordinated volunteers for Partners In Health in Port-au-Prince, using vacation time to extend her stay.

Working next to the Harvard-affiliated volunteers are skilled medical personnel from an array of institutions across the country. Volunteers from the University of Chicago Medical Center, Northwestern University, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and the University of Miami work alongside a retired orthopedic surgeon who is lending a hand, along with independent physical therapists who are getting patients up and walking again, and a former Peace Corps volunteer helping with logistics at Fond Parisien.

The initial tidal wave of the injured has eased, after washing over Port-au-Prince's University Hospital and out to places like HHI’s Fond Parisien field hospital, which specializes in rehabilitation after initial treatment. But the need for medical volunteers remains acute. Hilarie Cranmer, an assistant professor at HMS and HSPH and an HHI-affiliated faculty member who is directing the Fond Parisien field hospital, said the focus has moved from amputating limbs to saving them.

With a devastated infrastructure and the personal toll the earthquake took on Haitian medical staff, skilled volunteers still are needed to meet medical needs of survivors living in and around Port-au-Prince as they begin to rebuild their lives.

Partners In Health, founded decades ago as a health organization with operations largely in Haiti, has brought to Haiti roughly 300 medical personnel — many from Harvard — to augment their nearly 4,000 Haiti-based staffers.

“I’m pretty proud of Harvard’s response,” said Paul Farmer, the Maude and Lillian Presley Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine who co-founded Partners In Health and who, among the many hats he wears, is also the United Nations deputy special envoy to Haiti.

(see Volunteers next page)

Online ➤ Photo gallery: news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37941

Harvard mourns those killed, hurt in quake. news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37738
Harvard-affiliated doctors spearhead Haitian trauma center. news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37313
Haiti concert a hit

Harvard students raise almost $37,000 in benefit concert for relief efforts.

By Amy Lavoie | Harvard Staff Writer

The vibrant, dynamic performances at the Harvard for Haiti concert on Feb. 12 made for a stark contrast with the reality of the Jan. 12 earthquake disaster in Haiti. But Harvard College students raised almost $37,000 at their sold-out benefit show at Sanders Theatre.

The production was wholly underwritten by Harvard University, meaning all of the money raised will go to Partners In Health, a Harvard-affiliated nongovernmental organization that has been working in Haiti for more than 20 years.

The concert, produced and performed by the students, featured performances that were varied in style but uniformly moving. Violinist Ryu Goto ’10 brought a message of hope to concertgoers by performing in Haiti for more than 20 years.

The concert, produced and performed by the students, featured performances that were varied in style but uniformly moving. Violinist Ryu Goto ’10 played with such passion that he frayed his bow.

The Pan-African Dance and Music Ensemble got the audience moving and clapping along in their seats during a performance of “Drum Call.” Following a reflection by Harvard College Dean Evelynn Hammonds, the Kuumba Singers ended the evening with modern and traditional gospel songs about community and resilience.

Sanders was filled to the rafters, as President Drew Faust noted in her welcoming remarks. But the audience extended far beyond the theater, as almost 3,500 watched live via Webcast. The online audience donated to the cause through www.harvard.edu/harvard-forhaiti.

After the concert, the Student Alliance for Global Health hosted a reception at the Queen’s Head Pub in Harvard Yard to help concertgoers learn more about the health implications of the disaster and what else they can do get involved.

The University has established a relief fund for Harvard faculty and staff directly affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Donations can be made online, in person, or by mail through the Harvard Credit Union.

Online ➤ Photo gallery: news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37846

Volunteers (continued from previous page)

Though the volunteers’ stays are temporary, their experience teaches enduring lessons and carves indelible marks on them. Dima Awad, a clinical pharmacist at the University of Chicago Medical Center who arrived to help at Fond Parisien, was met with a room full of donated drugs and medical supplies, some years out of date, and tasked with creating a pharmacy. She thought the job impossible, but set to it with the help of local carpenters who created shelves in what had been an orphanage classroom. Nine days later, Awad was low on sleep, but reflecting on success.

“When I got here, I thought this was an impossible job,” Awad said. “After working on it, I can tell you nothing is impossible, it’s all a matter of will.”

Anthony Croese, a paramedic from New York Presbyterian Hospital, spent a week at Fond Parisien traveling with colleagues to satellite sites to deliver care, identify patients who needed to be brought to the hospital, and provide vaccinations. He said they saw a lot of infections, respiratory problems, abdominal problems, and fevers.

“This is definitely going to leave its mark. I don’t think I can ignore something like this again,” Croese said. “I’ll be back, whether I have to take vacation time or use my own money... This is way beyond what you see in the news.”

A bridge to somewhere

Bady Balde, a learned émigré from Guinea, uses Harvard’s Bridge Program to go from bank teller to Harvard Kennedy School graduate student.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Bady Balde’s path to Harvard University began at age 4, on a six-mile trip along a dusty, rural African road. Alone.

It’s the reason he’s a good runner.

Balde recalled trying to catch two older, long-legged classmates on their way to and from school, three miles away. “I couldn’t keep up with them,” he said. For the boys, school was a lucky privilege that was afforded only a few.

Today, the only running Balde does is for fun, and the only people he chases are his two rambunctious young sons.

This spring, Balde, a one-time dishwasher with Harvard’s Dining Services, will graduate from the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), thanks to help from Harvard’s Bridge Program. He will leave with a diploma in his hand and a determination in his heart to help change his homeland, where a lack of education often has devastating repercussions.

“There are parents who can’t read prescriptions for their children,” said Balde. “That is something that I lived with. I know exactly what happens to kids who grow up in a family where the parents don’t know how to read and write.”

In a remote village in his native Guinea, Balde, one of 13 children from his father’s two marriages, was tapped as the son who should continue in school rather than help the family and harvest cotton. The result was an 11-hour day away from home. The decision carried a deep emotional burden for the young Balde, who understood that others would have to work the fields in his place, and that his parents would have to sacrifice for his school supplies.

Then, when he was 12, his mother, dying from complications with her ninth pregnancy, uttered a last wish. “She told me, ‘The only thing I want is for you to complete school.’”

Determined to become a doctor and com-

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer
bat maternal mortality, Balde excelled in school, ultimately passing a rigorous national college entrance exam. Lacking money for medical school, he studied economics and general management in the nation’s capital, Conakry. After graduating, he returned to remote areas, showing women how to better manage their micro businesses and market their handicrafts and textiles, as part of his work with the international development agency GTZ.

Next, he landed a job at the nation’s central bank, but instead of helping him explore economics on a macro level, the position opened his eyes to a system rife with ignorance.

“I saw people making decisions that would have terrible consequences for the country, but they had no clue,” said Balde, who realized he had to “learn how to get things right.”

He soon found himself on another long road in search of education.

With his wife Jennifer, a Connecticut native he met while she was working in Guinea, Balde arrived in Boston in 2005 to look for a job, and made his way to the famous campus across the river. Harvard was always his ultimate destination, and despite his education and professional experience, he resolved to take any job available. With support from Susan Simon, human resources manager for Harvard’s Dining Services, who helped him complete his application, he started working in a dining hall part time.

Simon directed Balde to the Harvard Bridge Program, where he met the director, Carol Kolenik, who told him, “We can help you.”

“He was such a quick study. I just have never seen anyone fly like this,” said Kolenik, adding that Balde’s success “means so much to all the Bridge students and staff, and exemplifies our mission of giving people the opportunity to move up and change their lives and be who they deserve to be.”

Under Kolenik’s guidance, Balde enrolled in intensive English classes and met daily with Bridge volunteer tutor Jessica Engelman, a Web editor at HKS. Through the program, he also worked with career development counselor Carla Fontaine, who helped him with his resume and his search for full-time employment. Eventually, the Bridge connected him with the Harvard University Employees Credit Union, where he worked as a teller for two years. With a 9-to-5 work schedule at the credit union, he was able to take math and statistics classes at the Harvard Extension School to help him prepare for a graduate degree.

One day, while surfing the Internet, he pulled up the Web site for Harvard’s Kennedy School and was drawn to the M.P.A./ID program, leading to a master’s degree in public administration in international development.

“I couldn’t stop going back to that Web site,” he said. “It seemed so tailored to what I wanted to do.”

What Balde wants to do is to reduce illiteracy in African nations, particularly his native Guinea. Through his work, he hopes to improve school attendance rates for girls, who often never attend school or leave their studies early to marry and never return.

“I think there are great opportunities available today,” he said. “There are so many ways that we can use technology and resources now that were not available before. There are so many easy changes we can make that can improve the lives of so many.”

But perhaps his greatest accomplishment, he said, will be to act as a role model to young children in his country, to show them what they can achieve.

“For me, the most important part is not actually what I will do myself, but what I will be able to show other kids like me — that Harvard is possible,” said Balde. He recently decided to return to his village directly after graduation, to teach math and explore the best ways to address some of the area’s most pressing issues. “I believe in leading by example.”

Balde is certain his story would have inspired someone else, too. “If I could tell my mother that I am graduating from Harvard,” he said, “I am sure she would be happy.”

Now in his second and final year with the master’s program, Balde admits that his status still feels slightly surreal. He calls the lectures with scholars such as the Kennedy School’s Dani Rodrik, Rafiq Hariri Professor of International Political Economy and a leader in the development field, “a dream come true.”

“You are going to the source to learn,” he said, adding that the Kennedy School’s curriculum has taught him new ways of thinking. “After every course, you come out and you start looking at things differently.”

Despite what he called a “grueling” schedule, Balde said his Harvard experience — which included studying for calculus in the hospital next to his wife when she was in labor — has been tremendously fulfilling, and would have been impossible without the University’s support.

Balde credits the Bridge program, among others.

“The result is so tangible,” he said. “They really do change people’s lives. I am so grateful to all the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of so many people who have made my dream a reality. Now it’s my turn to do the same for others.”
Over there, over here

On the Harvard campus, as many as 150 students have an untraditional academic past, as present or former members of the U.S. military, many of whom have had multiple combat tours.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Before they were Harvard, they were military.

As many as 150 students across the University have seen combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have real-world stories to tell and pragmatic perspectives to contribute to academia. For them, America’s long-running wars are more than the stuff of newspaper headlines, network video, or armchair arguments. They are crucibles of experience that are, were, and always will be vivid and real.

Interviews with more than two dozen of these veterans suggest that these wars have brought to Harvard combat soldiers, airmen, and Marines who have high levels of discipline, judgment, maturity, and leadership.

Most of these student veterans are in three graduate programs, as approximate numbers show: business (70), government (50), and law (15). Two Harvard College undergraduates served in Iraq, both in the Marines. A few others are students at the Harvard Extension School.

Joshua Miles, A.L.B. ’10 took his first Harvard course online while running a war zone communications shack in Iraq. To study, he sat outside on a concrete pad littered with machine-gun shells.

Students who are veterans say they bring a unique perspective to Harvard. Some of it is academic, and some emotional.

When it comes to classes about history, foreign policy, or national security, “We have specific, formal experience in these two major wars,” said Christopher Cannon, M.P.A. ’11, a Harvard Kennedy School student who served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said veterans contribute a hard-won pragmatism, because of “the judgments we all had to make.”

Often those judgments had to be fast and immediate, and could have fatal consequences. Decision-making had to be pragmatic and ethical at the same time, with a built-in awareness that people would be affected by the outcome.

“We talk a lot of theory here,” said Hagen Scotten, 34, a third-year student at Harvard Law School who had three combat tours in Iraq as a U.S. Army Special Forces officer. “You realize there’s a lot more out there.”

When student veterans talk about Iraq and Afghanistan, they begin with a powerful fact: They were there, and their memories are fresh.

Sean Barney M.P.A. ’11 will graduate from Yale Law School next year, as well. For two months in 2006, he was a Marine rifleman patrolling the narrow alleys and crooked, crowded streets of Fallujah, Iraq.

On May 12 of that year, a sniper shot him in the neck. The bullet severed his carotid artery. Stunned, his head buzzing, Barney ran for cover before collapsing. He awoke two days later in a hospital in Washington, D.C., another miracle of modern combat medicine.

David Dixon Ed. M. ’11, a captain still on active duty in the Marines, flew 250 combat missions in Iraq, piloting an AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter bristling with missiles and rocket pods. A thousand feet in the air, he recalled, western Anbar Province looked as barren and empty as an ocean. On the ground, the region was alternately frigid and roasting, a weather-whipped cauldron of sudden sandstorms, lightning, and torrential rains.

Jared Esselman MPP ’11 traveled the world in the Air Force, often in C-17 transport aircraft, where he was a loadmaster. (He managed aircraft from the pilot’s seat to the plane’s tail, with responsibilities for passengers, fuel, hydraulics, center-of-gravity cargo, and combat off-loading.)

Esselman was in Iraq in March 2003 in the earliest days of the shooting war. His aircraft was the second C-17 to land in Baghdad, where resistance remained stiff. Bombs flashed and blue-tailed missiles streaked past. “Red tracers from anti-aircraft fire [were] just littering the sky,” he said. “It looked like lightning.” He went on to fly nearly 300 combat sorties.

One feature of combat is that those who survive “bring a sense of caring about other people,” said Esselman, whose pre-service experience included herding cattle and working in a factory. “It’s hard for veterans to switch off that mode. It’s genuine caring.” Back home, “That translates over some to the classroom. You care about your classmates,” he said, “because you did the same thing on the battlefield.”

Several veterans said they contribute something else to Harvard: a kind of diversity that widens the idea of combining different, even divergent, backgrounds and opinions to multiply the strength of an institution.

“Harvard preaches diversity,” generally applying the concept to race, gender, or ethnicity, said Dixon, who read the Bible every day while overseas. “Diversity of experience and diversity of insight is just as, if not more, important.”

He recalled a recent survey of political beliefs in one of his classes. Out of 30 students, there was one communist and one conservative Republican, said Dixon, who did the Texas two-step with Jessica Simpson on the country dance team in high school. The rest identified as Democrats. (He said he was one of the two)

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From top: Sean Barney, shown in Iraq, was wounded soon after. Erik Malmstrom survived tough mountain fighting in Afghanistan. Jake Cusack was a sniper platoon commander in Iraq. Back from war, Tammy Brignoli, who served in both combat theaters, greets her son Chandler. Jose Rios served in Iraq with an attack helicopter unit. Melissa Hammerle on patrol in Dora, a Baghdad neighborhood.

Photos: top courtesy of Aaron Scheinberg; center (from top) courtesy of Sean Barney; photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer; courtesy of Jake Cusack; courtesy of Tammy Brignoli; courtesy of Jose Rios; courtesy of Melissa Hammerle
outliers, and invited a guess as to which.)

Having veterans in the classroom is also important because of the gravity of America’s current wars, said Dixon, who echoed comments from other Harvard veterans. After all, “Many students are the future leaders of the country,” he said, “and I think it is paramount that they personally know who is fighting for their freedoms.”

Harvard’s veterans also include women, who attest to gender diversity in the armed forces. (About a fifth of those in the U.S. armed services are women.) Tammy Brignoli M.P.A. ’10, a major whose next post will be at the Pentagon, is only 38, but already has 21 years in the Army, counting time in the Reserves. She joined at 17, in the summer before her senior year in high school in Texas.

As an officer in airborne units, Brignoli served in Iraq and Afghanistan in capacities directly supporting combat units. “I’m really glad the military has changed the way it has,” said the mother of three, whose youngest son’s name is Valor. “It allows women to make a name for themselves.” At Harvard, she said, “I’m building bridges.”

Several veterans said one insight they brought with them to campus was that high test scores and book learning do not necessarily equate to everyday competence. They have seen that intelligence takes many forms.

“I appreciate other people’s beliefs and norms and values,” Jose Rios Ed.M. ’10 said of the military’s democratizing effect. When he arrived at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, he brought along a respect for other cultures, opinions, and backgrounds that he gained in the Marine Corps, including on two tours in Iraq with an aviation unit.

The University’s veterans say combat also instills a perspective beyond academics or social settings. It sharpens the sense of what matters, and in what order.

Aaron Scheinberg, M.P.A./ID ’11, who is working on a joint degree, including business at Columbia University, spent a year as an Army officer patrolling Iraq’s Sunni Triangle. He finds that he doesn’t get annoyed anymore when standing in line for, say, coffee. That likely has something to do with the dozen times his combat vehicles were hit by IEDs (improvised explosive devices). To this day he remembers the bright flash, the choking dust, and the chemical taste.

“You catch yourself,” said Scheinberg, an Arabic-speaking graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point who appreciates where he is now. “Look, this is not a bad deal. You can step back and say: We’re at Harvard, the best school in the world.”

Yes, it can be a struggle to pull an all-nighter to get ready for a final exam, said Thomas Rubel ’13, a 23-year-old freshman who served two combat tours in Iraq with the Marines. But then along comes perspective. “I’m warm,” he said. “No one is shooting at me.”

Erik Malmstrom M.P.P./M.B.A. ’12, who blogs about his wartime experiences for the New York Times, embraces the same kind of perspective. He was an Army platoon leader in northeast Afghanistan’s remote and rugged Waigul Valley, where in a year he lost six comrades. The pain still glitters in his eyes.

“The main thing, and the most important thing: We bring a dose of reality,” said Malmstrom. “We’re educating people in many ways.”

Jake Cusack M.P.P./M.B.A. ’12, who was a Marine sniper platoon commander in Iraq, said that veterans educate those around them, in part by demonstrating the power of context. To get results, he said, theory often must be strained through reality.

“When you talk in a classroom about executing ‘comprehensive counterinsurgency policies’ in Afghanistan or Iraq, it’s one thing to use those words and to imagine what they might be in an academic setting,” Cusack said. “But it’s another to be able to execute those policies when you’re tired, it’s 110 degrees, and you’re angry because one of your friends was wounded or killed the day before.”

It’s important to bring context to the classroom, agreed Malmstrom, but it’s also important to bring a sense of humility. Seeing, up close, the complexities of exe-
Veterans
(continued from previous page)

cutting policy, he said, “makes me much more thoughtful and mature about how I view military power.”

Cusack added a caveat, mentioning another form of humility. Veterans are not the only ones at Harvard with the real-world perspective gained from living in austere conditions and dangerous places. Students who have had field experience with non-governmental organizations or the Peace Corps, for instance, often have gotten the same jolt from reality, he said.

Melissa Hammerle M.B.A. ’10 was an Army officer in Baghdad’s Green Zone, where periodic mortar rounds would loop in and explode. She remembers the New Year’s Eve leading into 2006, when she was on a night convoy in the Sunni Triangle. “The fireworks,” she said, “were real.”

Hammerle said that many classmates have had little involvement with the military, and that some have never met anyone in the service — a disconnect that concerns many veterans. In a military system without a draft, said Malmstrom, many Americans have been generally unaffected by the wars that have torn through nearly a decade.

At Harvard, which has deep historical connections to the military, that disconnect is fairly recent.

During the Revolutionary War, General George Washington garrisoned troops in Harvard Yard, and Holden Chapel became a storehouse for arms. During the Civil War, more than 1,500 Harvard students left to serve — 257 of them for the Confederacy. During World War I, students drilled with rifles on campus. Decades later, the University contributed to atomic bomb research.

The Vietnam War strained the College’s centuries-long military affiliations, and the current military policy toward gay members of the armed forces has been criticized as being at odds with the University’s antidiscrimination policies.

Still, there are signs that Harvard and the military are renewing some old ties.

Last year at Commencement, President Drew Faust presided over the Reserve Officers Training Corps’ commissioning ceremony. Gen. David Petraeus, former commander of coalition forces in Iraq and architect of the troop surge there, was the guest of honor.

During the ceremony, Faust announced that Harvard College, all of Harvard’s graduate and professional schools, and the Harvard Extension School will help to pay tuition costs for veterans by participating in the new federal Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program. She called the program, which is aiding about 120 students this year, “an opportunity for us to show our gratitude to the citizen-soldiers who have given so much for our nation.”

And on Veterans Day last fall, Faust spoke during a ceremony at the Memorial Church honoring Harvard’s 16 Medal of Honor recipients. She cited the military’s “courage, character, and ... profound sense of obligation to service and citizenship.” Delivering the keynote address was Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the U.S. Army, whose father, Gen. George William Casey ’45, died in Vietnam.

The pews were crowded with uniformed veterans, including Seth Moulton ‘01, M.P.A./M.B.A. ’11, who completed four tours in Iraq. “There’s a war still going on in America, yet people ... are disconnected from it,” he said later. “We offer a connection.”

The military “is a proud community, and one that would like to retain its place at Harvard,” said Barney, the Marine wounded in Fallujah, who sees hopes in the recent interactions. Something important is developing, he said — the concept of “renewing the idea of military service as public service.”

From combat to campus: David Dixon (top) flew 250 combat missions in Iraq as a U.S. Marine Corps attack helicopter pilot. Aaron Scheinberg, a West Point-trained Arabic speaker, was both an infantry and civil affairs officer in Iraq. One of his strategies: “Be as nice as possible.”

Photos: top by Jon Chase, bottom by Rose Lincoln
Harvard Staff Photographers

PETE HEGSETH, M.P.P. ’11
CAPTAIN, U.S. ARMY, IRAQ

He is still in the military with a National Guard unit in Massachusetts and is chairman of VetsforFreedom.org and a frequent television commentator. Served with the 101st Airborne in Iraq and did liaison work with local governments.

“Vets come into the classroom with their eyes wide open. Vets also say: I’ve seen the best and the worst.”

DAVID TIER, M.P.A. ’10
MAJOR, U.S. ARMY, IRAQ

Still on active duty. His first duty station was as a tank platoon commander in Korea, where he spent two and a half years. During the second of his three Iraq tours he was a cavalry troop commander and led tactical raids.

Of vets in the classroom: “It’s a great thing for Harvard. One, you have perspective from a proven patriot. It’s very difficult to question someone’s motives or patriotism, having risked a certain level. It’s great for the vets too.”

SCOTT OSTERLING, M.P.A./M.B.A. ’10
CAPTAIN, U.S. ARMY, IRAQ

He was inspired to join the military by a high school teacher who was deployed in the first Gulf War. After 18 months in Korea as an infantry officer he did two tours in Iraq as a Green Beret — and today “It’s sometimes hard to be on the sidelines.”

One impression from the Nov. 11, 2009 ceremony for Medal of Honor winners at the Memorial Church: “Harvard has a tremendous history of service to the country.”

Photos courtesy of Pete Hegseth, David Tier, Scott Osterling
Journalist chosen as Class Day speaker

Christiane Amanpour will address seniors.

Christian Amanpour, chief international correspondent with CNN and anchor of the daily interview program “Amanpour,” has been selected as the 2010 Senior Class Day speaker. She will address Harvard College graduates and their guests on May 26 at 2 p.m. in Tercentenary Theatre in Harvard Yard.

“Christiane has reported from every major crisis of our generation,” said Nworah Ayogu ’10, first marshal of the Class of 2010. “Based on her life experience and perspective, we are extremely excited for her speech. The Class of 2010 is honored to have one of the greatest journalists of our time as our Class Day speaker.”

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

In her work as an internationally renowned journalist, Amanpour has covered stories on the Gulf War, the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina. She has reported on crises in the Palestinian territories, Pakistan, Somalia, and Rwanda.

Throughout her career — which has spanned a quarter century — Amanpour has interviewed many world leaders, including Iranian presidents Mohammad Khatami and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and the presidents of Afghanistan, Sudan, and Syria. She was the first international correspondent to interview British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French President Jacques Chirac, and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf after 9/11.

In recognition of her coverage of the Bosnian war, the city of Sarajevo named Amanpour an honorary citizen in 1998.

Amanpour has received nine news and documentary Emmys, four George Foster Peabody Awards, three Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, the Courage in Journalism Award, an Edward R. Murrow award, and an inaugural Television Academy Honor. She has received honorary degrees from the American University of Paris, Georgetown University, New York University, Smith College, Emory University, and the University of Michigan.

Amanpour started her career at CNN in 1983. She graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. She lives in New York City.
The road to Khelshala

A member of the Harvard women’s squash team recounts the squad’s combination training and service trip to India during winter break, and how team members were changed in the process.

By Vidya Rajan ’13

It was in the works for months, years even — a trip that finally turned dreams to reality as the Harvard varsity women’s squash team traveled to India over January’s winter break. Harvard allows its varsity athletes to travel internationally once per four years, but for members of the squash team it was the trip of a lifetime.

We travelled to Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, and Chandigarh in 11 days, training, sightseeing, and doing community service in a facility set up in Chandigarh by head coach Satinder Bajwa. The general sentiment prior to the trip was one of undeniable excitement and unavoidable anxiety, but, most importantly, a widespread willingness to be open-minded about whatever came our way. As coach Bajwa regularly reminded the team, the theme of the trip was “adjustment,” for adaptability would be necessary to deal with the new environment and fully appreciate what India had to offer.

Many college teams take international trips solely to train, but the three days of service and learning in Chandigarh were what made this trip a unique experience. The community service involved squash coaching and academic tutoring for underprivileged children living near the squash facility, called “Khelshala,” or “Place of Play.”

Coach Bajwa opened Khelshala last August in an area of Chandigarh known as Sector 42. The squash facility boasts two international courts as well as a yoga room, pristine fitness equipment, and locker rooms. The facility is in the village of Attawa, home to most of the children who play there. There are dirt roads and piles of trash, derelict shops and empty spaces. The one-lane road leading to the facility is barely wide enough for the van in which the team arrived.

The opening of Khelshala created a singular juxtaposition of wealth and poverty, of hope and hopelessness, of opportunity and incapacity in Sector 42. In the midst of dust-laden pathways and tangled power lines, Khelshala stood as a beacon of optimism and opportunity for the children, who otherwise would have had no exposure to a sport as exclusive as squash.

It was beautiful to see the ways in which the sport could unite people as different as college students and village children living halfway across the world from one another. Though separated by a considerable language barrier, we were able to gain valuable exposure to the children’s ways and views. Furthermore, we were able to overcome differences in culture, lifestyle, and values to share a common love for a game that had so significantly affected our lives and would affect theirs.

On the final day in Chandigarh, the children gave us a tour of their village, allowing us into their daily lives. Though we had caught a glimpse of the kind of lifestyle they led, we were largely unprepared for the sights the village had to offer. Their homes were one-room enclosures housing entire families, overlooking a stream of dirty sewage water and standing opposite a maze of power lines. Learning English from an old woman with a slate and pointer, some village children looked up, startled, as the team marched by in track suits emblazoned with the Harvard crest proclaiming “Veritas,” or “truth” — the very truth so difficult to bear.

Despite this, the children arrived at Khelshala thinking of opportunity, not adversity. This was the most astonishing and eye-opening aspect of the trip: that they could find so much happiness despite all they endured outside of the squash facility.

Coming from Harvard, a place with resources and doors wide open, we were awed by the visit to Chandigarh and, at the same time, finally able to understand that it had taken a trip across the world to a village of bright-eyed children to realize that their infectious, unrelenting joy gave others no excuse for concern. They had nothing, but they still had aspirations.

But for many of us, it was unsettling to consider the notion that some of the children may never leave this lifestyle. Many boys will grow up to have similar occupations as their fathers: vendors, shop owners, manual laborers. Many girls will be poor housewives. It’s an endless cycle because, as the governor of Punjab said during his visit to the squash facility, the “have-nots” run parallel without intersecting. Things are stagnant, and there may be nothing in store for them.

But this is the beauty of an organization such as Khelshala. As assistant coach Chris Smith said, unlike many U.S. inner-city squash programs, it was not built with an end goal in mind. It is impossible being a 7-2 road win at Trinity.

Along with the Ivy League title, Harvard’s first since 2006, the Crimson also receives the Barhite Award, presented to the team with the best dual match record in the nation. It is the 11th time in program history Harvard has won the award, which dates back to 1986.

The Crimson will take the court again Feb. 26-28 in search of their 12th College Squash Association National Team Championship when they travel to New Haven, Conn. Last year, Harvard came one win shy of No. 12, falling to two-time champion Princeton in the national final, 5-4.

— Gervis A. Menzies Jr.
The best in Boston

Women’s hockey tops Northeastern in the Beanpot final, 1-0.

By Gervis A. Menzies Jr. | Harvard Staff Writer

Harvard women’s hockey coach Katie Stone only granted her players a couple hours to celebrate their 1-0 Beanpot championship win over No. 7 Northeastern, but the No. 6-ranked Crimson earned every precious minute of that bliss.

“They have until midnight to enjoy the Beanpot,” said Stone. “That’s what we talk about. Whether we’ve won or we haven’t won, think about it, wake up tomorrow morning, and it’s on to the next thing.”

The game’s lone goal came from a shot by Harvard forward Liza Ryabkina ’11, the tournament’s unanimous most valuable player, who scored a career-high four goals in the Crimson’s 5-0 opening round win over Boston College on Feb. 2. She finished with a tournament-best five goals.

“It’s pretty amazing. There’s really no other word for it,” said Ryabkina. “We wanted to win this Beanpot, and I think everyone played really well and really hard.”

Claiming its 13th Beanpot overall, and second in the past three years, the team won a game eerily reminiscent of last year’s final, when Boston College needed just one goal to claim the title over the Crimson. That was the first 1-0 Beanpot final ever. This was the second.

“We’re certainly happy to bring the Beanpot back to Cambridge and Harvard. It was an excellent hockey game, back and forth,” said Stone. “Those are the kinds of games championships should be like.”

Harvard goaltender Laura Bellamy ’13, who stopped all 27 shots by the Huskies, finished the tournament with 42 saves and two shutouts. She was honored with the Bertagna Award as the tournament’s top goaltender.

“The team’s played so well offensively, it’s made my job easy to try to keep the puck out of the net,” said Bellamy, who, in her eight starts since senior netminder Christina Kessler went down with a season-ending injury, has recorded three shutouts.

Bellamy only saw 11 shots through the first two periods. But when Northeastern picked up the pace in the final one, the freshman goaltender was ready, stopping 16 shots.

“I just had to keep telling myself to stay locked in,” said Bellamy, because “you never know what can happen.”

“Just like any team that’s coming from behind in a championship, they’re going to take some risks, they’re going to get a little desperate, so we are going to need to manage that kind of pressure, and I thought we did a nice job with it,” said Stone.

Although the Crimson met the challenge of defeating a top-10 team in a midseason championship, more hurdles lie ahead. After a 3-2 overtime loss at Rensselaer (Feb. 12) and 2-1 victory over Union (Feb. 13), the will now close the season at second-place Clarkson (Feb. 19) and fourth-place St. Lawrence (Feb. 20).

“That’s the beauty of being a college hockey player. You win, you have to turn it up and keep winning; you don’t win, you have to figure out a way to win again,” said Stone.

Despite the need for short-term memory in college hockey, Ryabkina couldn’t help but plead with her coach to extend the celebration, asking, “Could we have until 12:15 tonight?”
Virtually connected

Making good use of the Web, students from the Harvard Graduate School of Education are using virtual internships to gain valuable experience without leaving home.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Last semester, while sitting at her dining-room table, Hannah Poole helped young girls in southern Sudan to go to school. In that northeast African region, early marriage, coupled with fears of sexual harassment and gender-based violence, mean a high dropout rate for girls. But Poole wants to change that. Based on studies in the area indicating that female teachers have a positive impact on girls’ school attendance and achievement, she helped to craft high-level education policies through her virtual internship.

Her classroom discussions — which involved policy frameworks, gender education issues, and cultural norms that prevent young girls from attending school — contributed to her virtual internship, said Poole, who did extensive reading on the importance of female teachers to girls’ education.

Using data compiled from Sudan’s census, along with education statistics, she was able to chart the parts of the country with the fewest female teachers. She also completed case studies of successful education programs in other countries, such as India and Afghanistan, and used her findings to craft recommendations for southern Sudan’s education officials.

“I really get to be part of shaping the country’s future,” said Poole, who is part of UNICEF’s education initiative. The Canadian hopes that her work, conducted out of her Cambridge apartment, will convince education ministers to increase educational opportunities for girls.

Using the Web, Poole and a group of her master’s degree classmates at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) are gaining a kind of field experience without leaving home. They are part of an ongoing virtual internship pilot program offered through the school’s Career Services Office and its Field Experience Program (FEP) in collaboration with its International Education Policy (IEP) master’s program.

The virtual internships represent a trend in an increasingly connected world, with communications technologies such as e-mail and video conferencing making it easier for those eager to explore career opportunities in distant locations to work remotely.

“With the Internet, we realized there was a limitless opportunity for students to work beyond the local area,” said FEP’s specialist Sarah Deighton. “In terms of their future careers, we wanted to help them build connections and networks not only in this country but around the globe.”

Fernando Reimers, director of the IEP, developed partnerships with international institutions that agreed to work closely with the students during the semester.

“International development institutions, ministries of education, and education policy think tanks abroad all offered their support to this programmatic innovation at HGSE,” said Reimers, who is also Ford Foundation Professor of International Education. “The result has been a very rich experience for our students who are engaged in a variety of exciting programs.”

Last semester 11 students worked on various international initiatives. In the fall, master’s student Simon Thacker and his classmate Jessica Malkin helped children in Jamaica to have more fun. Working with the Jamaican Ministry of Education, the pair developed policy around a child’s right to play.

“The perception in Jamaica is that play is a waste of time, so don’t let kids play,” Thacker said, despite evidence that play is essential to a child’s cognitive, linguistic, and social development. “This policy is to ensure that the children of Jamaica do get what they need.”

In addition to affording him high-level policy experience and helping him to put his quantitative skills to use, Thacker said the program was a great way to network and search for employment.

There are some drawbacks. Students admit they miss the face-to-face interaction available in a traditional office setting. The flexible nature of the internships — students are required to devote at least eight hours a week to their projects — involves a greater degree of discipline. Getting in touch with contacts can sometimes be a challenge, and stopping an officemate or co-worker in the hall for the answer to a quick question is impossible. Still, they agree, the tradeoffs are worth it.

“This program shows you that the work that you do has real-life consequences,” said Poole, “and that gives you a really good perspective on what you learn and its implications.”

As part of the virtual internship program, students meet collectively for a workshop using the program Elluminate, an interactive online interface that lets them connect directly with their international internship supervisors.
“Part of what was so amazing was that hospice was there for me,” Trottier said. “Not only was there a team of people for Allan, but I had my own team. I had my own social worker, bereavement counselors … and, after fighting so hard and after going through the worst grief of my life, it was comforting to know that I could pick up the phone or send an e-mail, and Hospice would respond.”

Since her husband’s death in June, Trottier has teamed up with Nowak to establish a Boston-based Hospice House. They’ve begun fundraising, meeting with interested parties, and spreading the word.

“Hospice responded to me in such a way that I didn’t want to lose that connection,” said Trottier. “I was like, ‘What can I do in Allan’s honor, in Allan’s memory, to help give back?’”

In between her work at Harvard and her efforts for a Hospice House, Trottier finds time for a creative release: She’s also an actor.

A member of the Screen Actors Guild, Trottier has appeared in music videos, films, and commercials. After a hiatus, she has resurrected her performing life, and says she is more in demand than ever. Trottier has achondroplasia, the most common cause of dwarfism. And at 4 feet, “There’s minimal competition for a woman of short stature,” Trottier said. “There are some opportunities that will only come my way.”

But after her heart-rending loss, Trottier is more focused on utilizing her time creatively and positively, determined to give back to the community in the form of a Hospice House.

“For people who can die at home, that’s wonderful. But Allan couldn’t, and there will be another Allan someday,” Trottier said. “And I want to use my experience, and Allan’s story, because that’s what he’d want me to do.”

Donations for the Hospice House can be made to: Partners Hospice, Attn: Hospice House, 281 Winter St., Suite 200, Waltham, MA 02451.
Memorial Minutes

Daniel Henry Holmes Ingalls
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on Dec. 15, 2009, the minute honoring the life and service of the late Daniel Henry Holmes Ingalls, Wales Professor of Sanskrit Emeritus, was placed upon the records. Ingalls had an enormous influence on the development of Sanskrit studies in North America.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=35421.

David Maybury-Lewis
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on Dec. 15, 2009, the minute honoring the life and service of the late David Henry Peter Maybury-Lewis, Edward C. Henderson Professor of Anthropology Emeritus, was placed upon the records. Maybury-Lewis was a humane defender of the rights of indigenous peoples.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=35421.

Henry Ehrenreich
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on Feb. 10, 2009, the minute honoring the life and service of the late Henry Ehrenreich, Clowes Professor of Sanskrit Emeritus, was placed upon the records. Ehrenreich was a prominent contributor to the science and the economics of alternative energy sources, especially solar and wind.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=35422.

Newsmakers

AMANDA CLAYBAUGH NAMED PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Amanda Claybaugh, an expert on 19th century novels and on reformist writings from the United States and abroad, has been named professor of English at Harvard, effective July 1.

Claybaugh is currently associate professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, where she has been on the faculty since 2001. “Professor Claybaugh’s work is situated at one of the most interesting areas of literary study today, where critical debate about how to ‘place’ American literature continues to propel innovative scholarship,” said Diana Sorensen, dean of arts and humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. “Her peers note not only the breadth and reach of her interests, but also her ability to expand, transform, and supply new perspectives even in a much-studied field. Her record at Colombia confirms a stellar reputation as a teacher.”


FARMER’S TITYATIEN HEALTH RECEIVES $5,000 PRIZE IN MENTAL HEALTH COMPETITION

Tityatien Health, a social justice organization co-founded by Paul Farmer, the Maude and Lillian Presley Professor of Global Health at Harvard Medical School, was named the grand prize winner in the Ashoka Foundation’s “Rethinking Mental Health:
Improving Community Wellbeing” competition, which seeks “the best solutions to improve mental health in communities around the world.”

Sponsored by the Ashoka Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the competition, drew over 340 submissions from 42 countries from around the world.

Tiyatien Health, which includes a number of Harvard-affiliated physicians, residents, and students, works with communities in rural Liberia and the Liberian Government to promote equity by advancing healthcare services and the fundamental rights of the poor.

The organization will receive a $5,000 prize and its work will be highlighted on the Ashoka Foundation Web site, Changemakers.com, “where innovators, investors, and supporters come together to help refine and scale up the impact of the newest, best ideas for social change.”

HMS NAMES WILLIAM W. CHIN NEW EXECUTIVE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

William W. Chin has been named the executive dean for research at Harvard Medical School. In the newly created senior position he will have the overarching responsibility of overseeing biomedical research at HMS. Chin, who will start on May 1, comes to HMS from Eli Lilly and Co., where he was senior vice president for discovery research and clinical investigation.

In his new role, Chin will spearhead efforts to design and implement a vision for research at HMS, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary research that crosses departmental and institutional boundaries.

“There are very few people capable of rising to such a challenge,” Jeffrey Flier, dean of Harvard Medical School, wrote in a letter to the Harvard community, “and it is for this reason that I am thrilled that Bill will be joining the HMS leadership team.”

One of Chin’s priorities will be to conceptualize and develop new research initiatives, such as the therapeutics discovery initiative, which focuses on bringing together the enormous expertise within the HMS community to find effective new ways of transforming the world’s most vital biomedical research into therapies that can directly improve human health.

To read the full story, harvardscience.harvard.edu/culture-society/articles/national-institute-on-aging-funds-two-new-roybal-center-programs-harvard.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING FUNDS TWO NEW ROYBAL CENTER PROGRAMS AT HARVARD

Nicholas Christakis, professor of sociology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and professor of medical sociology at Harvard Medical School, and David Laibson, Robert I. Goldman Professor of Economics, have been selected to receive five-year Roybal Center grants of about $1.5 million each, from the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

According to the NIA announcement, “the goal of the [Edward R. Roybal Centers for Research on Applied Gerontology] is to move promising social and behavioral research findings out of the laboratory and into programs and practices that will improve the lives of older people and help society adapt to an aging population. The centers focus on a range of projects, including enhancing mobility and physical function, enhancing driving performance, understanding financial and medical decision making, and sharpening cognitive function.”

To read the full story, harvardscience.harvard.edu/culture-society/articles/national-institute-on-aging-funds-two-new-roybal-center-programs-harvard.

GELBART RECEIVES AWARD FROM THE GENETICS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

William Gelbart, professor of molecular and cellular biology in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, was recently named the recipient of the 2010 George W. Beadle Award from the Genetics Society of America (GSA).

Gelbart, a developmental geneticist whose research focuses on understanding the molecular basis of pattern formation in higher-order animals, is among five GSA award winners this year who have been nominated and selected by their peers “in recognition of the exceptional value of their work to promote further understanding within the field of genetics.”

Photo by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographer
Around the Schools

Harvard Extension School

To help celebrate the final semester of the Harvard University Extension School’s centennial, the Harvard Extension Student Association (HESA) invited young, successful CEOs to participate in a panel discussion called “Young Millionaire CEOs: Emerging Leaders” on Feb. 12.

The panel discussed entrepreneurial vision and gave voice to representatives of the next generation of business leaders. The event invited students to take a closer look at what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur.

The panel featured Randal Pinkett, 38, who won season 4 of NBC’s “The Apprentice”; Ephren Taylor, 27, the youngest African-American CEO of a publicly traded company; Adam Stewart, 29, the CEO of Sandals Resorts International, via satellite; and Andrew Morrison, president of Small Business Camp. Sal V. Perisano, CEO of iParty and one of the Extension School’s most successful alumni, moderated the discussion. Almost 400 people attended, including students from other Harvard Schools.

Several of the executive panelists are African-American. “Though it was not by design, it seemed appropriate that it evolved that way, given that it is Black History Month,” said Andre Bisasor, the first African-American male elected student government president at the Extension School.

For more information about the event, including photos and video, and for upcoming events, visit the HESA Web site: hesa.dce.harvard.edu.

— Michelle Lynn Campbell

Harvard Law School

Harvard Law School (HLS) announced the creation of the Public Service Venture Fund on Feb. 9. The fund will award $1 million in grants every year to help graduating students pursue careers in public service.

The first program in the country of its kind at a law school, the fund will offer seed money for start-up nonprofit ventures and salary support to students who hope to pursue postgraduate work at nonprofits or government agencies in the United States and abroad.

“This new fund is inspired by our students’ passion for justice,” said Dean Martha Minow. “It’s an investment that will pay dividends not only for our students but also for the countless number of people whose lives they will touch during their public service careers.”

The fund is the latest step by the School to offer new forms of assistance for students interested in service careers. In November, Minow announced an increase in the availability of financial aid overall and a broadening of eligibility for the School’s loan relief program. She also established 12 new Holmes Fellowships for students interested in postgraduate public service.

To read the full story, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37521.

New fellowship fund honors Huntington

Samuel P. Huntington, one of the most influential political scientists of his generation, mentored many of America’s leading policy thinkers and scholars during his distinguished career. Huntington, who died last December, taught at Harvard for more than 50 years and was widely admired for his dedication to students.

To honor his memory and intellectual legacy, a group of generous alumni and friends has established the Samuel Huntington Fellowship Fund at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). The fund will provide general aid to doctoral students who exhibit academic excellence in the social sciences — including international affairs, American politics, and political science. GSAS will award fellowships to deserving students each year.

Huntington’s half-century of Harvard service is marked by an extraordinary set of contributions. He was the Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor, and he chaired the government department and the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. He also directed the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and founded the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies.

It was in his 2007 retirement letter, however, where Huntington described perhaps his greatest Harvard role. “It is difficult for me to imagine a more rewarding or enjoyable career than teaching here,” he wrote.

For more information, or to contribute to the Samuel Huntington Fellowship Fund, contact Roger Cheever (617.496.0246 or rcheever@harvard.edu) at the Harvard University Development Office, 124 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard News Office
FEB. 19
Writing History Now: Centennial Panel on the Liberal Arts.
Lowell Lecture Hall, 4:45 p.m. A symposium on the challenges and new frontiers of writing history. Megan Marshall, historical biographer and Pulitzer Prize finalist; Nancy Kollmann, Russian and legal historian and Guggenheim Fellow; John R. Stilgoe, landscape historian, author, professor; John R. McNeill, environmental historian, author, and professor; David Hackett Fischer, author, historian, professor, and Pulitzer Prize winner. Free. 617.495.4024, centennial.events@dcmail.harvard.edu, extension.harvard.edu/centennial/events/.

FEB. 21
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 2 p.m. Screeching bats, singing apes, and whistling birds: What are these animals saying to each other and how do scientists capture and decode their exotic languages? Zarin Machanda, a researcher in human evolutionary biology at Harvard, will discuss these and other questions and play field recordings from remote jungles around the world. Free with museum admission. www.hmnh.harvard.edu.

FEB. 22
Jonathan Zittrain on “Minds for Sale.”
Austin East Classroom, Austin Hall, Harvard Law School, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Jonathan Zittrain, professor of law at Harvard Law School and Berkman Center faculty co-director. What are some of the issues arising as armies of thinkers are recruited by the thousands and millions? A fascinating (and non-scare-mongering) view is offered of a future in which nearly any mental act can be bought and sold. Tickets: Alumni and friends of the Harvard community $10; undergraduate students complimentary. cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/2010/02/zittrain.

FEB. 23
Poets for Haiti.
Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, 13 Appian Way, 7:30 p.m. The Boston poetry community comes together for a collaborative reading to benefit “Partners in Health” and the people of Haiti. Featuring poets Robert Pinisky, Jorie Graham, Rosanna Warren, Fred Marchant, Gail Mazur, Marilene Phipps-Kettlewell, Jericho Brown, Patrick Sylvain, Wendy Mnookin, Barbara Helfgott-Hyett, Christina Davis, Jean-Dany Joachim, Kevin Bowen, Nadia Colburn, Tom Daley, and Frannie Lindsay. The requested donation is $10, with all proceeds going to Partners in Health (PIH).

FEB. 24
Hypermusic: A Projective Opera in Seven Planes.
New College Theatre, 10-12 Holyoke St., 4-5:30 p.m. A conversation with video clips about the multimedia music-theater piece, with composer Hèctor Parra and librettist Lisa Randall, Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science in the Department of Physics, Harvard University. Moderated by arts journalist Alicia Anstead. Free and open to the public. ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

FEB. 27
Harvard Group for New Music with the Talea Ensemble.
Paine Hall, 8 p.m. Concert of new works by Harvard composers. Free. music.fas.harvard.edu, music.fas.harvard.edu/calendar.html.

MARCH 2
Stories: Across Time and Space with Jay O’Callahan.
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, 6-7 p.m. Commissioned by NASA, O’Callahan’s latest work highlights the technological innovation, heroic risks, and pursuit of knowledge central to life in the 20th century. To learn more about storyteller Jay O’Callahan: ocallahan.com. Free. 617.496.8576, susannah_hutchison@harvard.edu, harvardartmuseum.org/calendar/detail?id=27563.

MARCH 4
Q and A With the Buddha.
Common Room, Center for the Study of World Religions, 42 Francis Ave., 5:15-7 p.m. Thanissaro Bhikkhu, author, teacher, Theravada monk, and abbot of the Metta Forest Monastery near San Diego. Free. 617.495.4476, resterson@hds.harvard.edu, hds.harvard.edu/cswr/events/calendar.html.

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

su m tu w th fs
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 1 2 3 4 february/march

Photo by Liz Byrne © President and Fellows of Harvard College
The tradition of careful, individual review of applications to Harvard College goes back to its earliest days. Each application receives as many as four readings prior to selection meetings. This month, 20 subcommittees meet for three to five days—each discussing an applicant for as long as an hour. Decisions are made by majority vote and are referred to the full committee, which makes the admission offers next month.

Bill Fitzsimmons, the dean of admissions, said eager applicants sometimes augment the process with extra material. Musically talented applicants each year submit 2,500 recordings, which are sent to the Music Department faculty for review.

Other applicants have sent in material ranging from the quirky to the outrageous: cookies and date bread, monogrammed pencils urging admission, mock issues of Time magazine with candidates as persons of the year, and photos of applicants in bedrooms freshly painted crimson. Perhaps the most shocking delivery was the life-size plaster of paris casting of an applicant.

Photos by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer

Online ➤ View photo gallery: news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=37920