All encompassing

As the pace of globalization quickens, Harvard increasingly makes the world its classroom. Page 11
Online Highlights

CLASSIC COLLEGE VS. ONLINE LEARNING
Two top players in the field of higher education explored two almost polar approaches to learning during a discussion at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

PASSIONATE ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Canadian Supreme Court judge, child of Holocaust survivors, argues that nations should value human rights over simple laws, and that the United Nations should step up.

LOOKING AHEAD
On Junior Parents Weekend, students’ mothers and fathers began to ponder what life might be like after graduation from Harvard.

RIGHT THIS WAY! SEE IT! TASTE IT!
Former FDA commissioner David Kessler (left) says overeating has to be attacked the same way that tobacco was in the past, by making it socially unacceptable.

IT’S ALL IN THE CORTEX
Research suggests that the brain’s lateral prefrontal cortex plays an important role in showing how well someone can rebound emotionally the day after an argument.

PASSIONATE ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
Canadian Supreme Court judge, child of Holocaust survivors, argues that nations should value human rights over simple laws, and that the United Nations should step up.

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POLICE LOG ONLINE
www.hupd.harvard.edu/public_log.php
PORTALS INTO HAITI, CHILE
Harvard’s Center for Geographic Analysis created Web clearinghouses to aid information flow in response to Haiti’s and Chile’s earthquakes. Page 4

PLAYING ON OUR INSTINCTS
Assistant clinical professor of psychology Deirdre Barrett says that many of today’s ills come from intentional overstimulation of natural human impulses, giving people hard-to-resist appetites for everything from fighting to sex to unhealthy foods. Page 5

COVER STORY
As globalization speeds up and technology shrinks the distance between nations, the sense of what the future holds changes too. Recognizing that, Harvard is increasing its emphasis on international education, with more undergraduates working, studying, or having internships abroad. In addition, more than 4,000 students from other nations study here. President Drew Faust’s trip to Japan and China underscores the import of having comprehensive, mutually fulfilling relationships abroad. Page 11

COWBOY’S TALE
Husband-and-wife filmmakers chronicle a dying way of life and humanity with their new film “Sweetgrass.” Page 6

‘INSIDE/OUT’
An exhibit and upcoming panel discussion probe how women have dealt with spaces over time. The exhibit is in four parts, each representing a realm within space: private, public, political, and artistic. Page 7

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New book by a Harvard nutritionist and renowned monk encourages the Buddhist sense of mindfulness in how people eat. Page 9

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Helen Vendler, Uzbekistan, and philosopher Gilles Deleuze round out this tasty sampling of faculty books. Page 9

ON THE JOB (AND OFF) PAUL BARKSDALE
Quincy House security guard Paul Barksdale doubles as a friend, confidante, and adviser to undergraduates. Page 16

ROLLING UP THEIR SLEEVES
Harvard students and alumni arrive at work sites to begin construction, tutoring, other tasks as part of Alternative Spring Break. Page 16

STUDENT VOICE/SAM NOVEY
A student tries to help an educational nonprofit by combining two of his passions, burgers and running. Page 18

ATHLETICS/HOCKEY
The Harvard women’s hockey team couldn’t hold back surging Cornell, falling to the Big Red in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Page 22

HARVARD UNIVERSITY gazette | 18-31 MARCH 2010
Count Harvard computer experts among those who responded swiftly to the deadly earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, throwing their expertise behind an effort to improve information flow for responders on the ground through a Web portal designed as a central data site.

The Haiti Earthquake Data Portal was designed in the days following the Jan. 12 disaster by Merrick Lex Berman, research manager at Harvard’s Center for Geographic Analysis. The portal was based on a similar Web page that the center created for a quake in China in 2008. But whereas that site took weeks to create, Berman drew on that prior experience to build the Haiti site in just a few days. When an earthquake struck Chile on Feb. 27, Berman was able to accelerate the process further, creating a portal for that country in just a few hours, using templates made for Haiti.

Berman and Wendy Guan, the center’s director of GIS research services, said that in the wake of disasters like these, a treasure trove of information becomes available, but there is often no central location for those who need to access it. Satellite images and aerial photographs have grown increasingly detailed, making them potentially useful to identify damaged areas or blocked roads.

“A huge amount of information was made available through goodwill, but there was no single place collecting it all,” Guan said.

Of the three nations — China, Haiti, and Chile — the Haiti Earthquake Portal has gotten the most use, the two said, probably because geographic-information specialists and offices remained operational in China and Chile, whereas in Haiti the office where GIS specialists work was destroyed, and several researchers and administrators were killed.

Berman began work on the Haiti site the day after the quake, and realized within a few hours that there was an enormous demand for information. Berman collaborated with a Mississippi university, Delta State, and its Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technology, which through its director, Talbot Brooks, made available a large amount of Haiti-related information. Berman was contacted by a group from Boston University (BU) that was heading to Haiti and was looking for information and high-resolution maps. He was also contacted by staffers working with the U.S. military in Haiti as they made on-the-ground response decisions.

The Center for Geographic Analysis was able to help, Berman said, because it has the equipment and expertise to store, manipulate, and print detailed maps.

“We produced these maps and got them into the hands of the [BU] team,” Berman said.

The Haiti Earthquake Data Portal, which can be found at http://cegrp.cga.harvard.edu/Haiti/, features a main page with a description of the site’s purpose. Along the left are links to major data sources, such as the U.S. Geological Survey, ReliefWeb, and a U.N. geographical information site, UN-SPIDER. On the right is a news feed featuring the latest Haiti stories, while other pages accessed through tabs on the top take visitors to more specialized locations, such as sources for Haiti-related data and Web-based maps. The site is aimed at people who need more detailed information than is available through general services such as Google Earth and who are proficient at using GIS programs and data sets.

The information on the site, Berman said, came from “unprecedented volunteerism” and people pitching in from many locations. Information came in, he said, about where streets were blocked, where people were gathering, and where water was available, all of which was shared with responders on the ground, including the U.S. military.

“There was an unprecedented amount of outreach and involvement,” Berman said.

Guan said she hopes that researchers who are now analyzing the earthquake and its response will close the loop and post their analyses on the portal pages, making the site not just a place where people turned for information during the immediate aftermath, but also for analysis as the response continued.

Researchers “can feed data back to us and use the site to make data known to decision-makers,” Guan said.
Researchers have long known that lab animals’ behavior can be manipulated by artificially stimulating their natural instincts. Over-stimulating animals can provoke such extreme responses that they end up preferring artificial objects to the natural ones for which the instincts were designed.

Humans living in modern society are something like those lab animals, a Harvard psychology professor says. Like them, our innate instincts are overstimulated by unnatural products, as well as by advertising and images. And, like them, we respond almost unconsciously: reaching for more food, Web-surfing for porn, dumping time and money on “cute” toys, sitting for hours in front of televisions, and sending troops to fight a dehumanized “them.”

The difference between lab animals and us, however, is that overstimulation for animals isn’t present in nature. It can really only be found in the laboratory. If an animal escapes to its natural environment, it will return to natural stimuli and responses. For people, however, because we live in an artificial world of our own making, escaping those stimuli is not so easy.

But Deirdre Barrett, assistant clinical professor of psychology in Harvard Medical School’s Psychiatry Department, says that doesn’t mean there’s no hope for us. Barrett, author of the new book “Supernormal Stimuli: How Primal Urges Overran Their Evolutionary Purpose,” says the first step is to understand what’s happening to us. Instincts and urges honed for hundreds of thousands of years to keep us alive in a world of scarcity are being subverted in the modern era of plenty. People are bombarded by food that they crave, tempted by seductive images, and urged to buy products designed to appeal to specific wants, regardless of need.

In her book, Barrett examines the history of research into supernormal stimuli, describing early behavioral experiments on birds and fish. In one, birds whose eggs were lightly speckled fell off as they tried to incubate ridiculously large, boldly polka-dotted fakes. In another, red-bellied male fish fought off artificial red-painted lures even when they didn’t look much like fish.

These outsized prods to normal instincts are called “supernormal stimuli,” and Barrett believes they’re present in our world today, sometimes quite intentionally, prodding us to buy and consume and do. It’s an easy sell, in many cases, because the stimuli give us a push to do things we’re already inclined toward.

Pornography, she said, subverts instincts intended for mating with people. Stuffed animals, dolls, and cartoon characters manipulate people’s preprogrammed affinity for childlike “cuteness.” She also looks at obesity, war, business, television, and even intellectual pursuits.

Though supernormal stimuli are not universally related to problems, Barrett said many of the episodes in her book do fall into that category. Understanding ourselves and the reasons we feel as we do, Barrett said, is the first step in overriding our instincts, in our being able to resist the siren song of the Big Mac.

She also recommended new government regulation to help limit supernormal stimuli, particularly in areas where public health may be at risk, and to “put normal back into our lives.” It might be easier to eat healthier foods, she said, if we lived in a food environment where we weren’t blasted by ads for “supernormal foods.”
Cowboy’s tale

Husband-and-wife filmmakers chronicle a dying way of life and humanity with their new film “Sweetgrass.”

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Although the cast is mainly a herd of sheep, a recent film delivers a profound portrait of struggling humanity — and a last glimpse of the American frontier.

The documentary “Sweetgrass,” produced by Harvard filmmakers and husband-and-wife team Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Ilisa Barbash, is a moving, gritty, and visually stunning look at the life of some of the last cowboy herders in the American West, where animal, man, and land intersect.

Projecting a subtle intimacy and rawness that only real life can offer, the film depicts the grueling trek made by a group of ranchers as they herd 3,000 sheep through the Absaroka-Beartooth Mountains in south-central Montana to feed in higher pastures.

The pair met while in graduate school at the University of Southern California in the late 1980s and have since collaborated on projects as varied as “In and Out of Africa,” an examination of the African art trade, and “Made in USA,” a film about sweatshops and child labor in the Los Angeles garment industry. Their latest book “The Cinema of Robert Gardner,” and video project involving contemporary pastoralists in the Alps and the Pyrenees.

The couple categorize themselves as visual anthropologists who join art making with an empirical attachment to real life. Through their film work, wrote one reviewer, “They have sought to depict as honestly as possible the beauty and ache of actual lived experience.”

“Sweetgrass” lands directly in that category. It’s “an unsentimental elegy to the American West,” and a tribute to a dying way of life. When the couple learned of a Montana rancher who was the last in his county to continue the practice of driving his sheep up into the mountains to graze in the summer, they quickly decided to investigate.

“I was interested in resuscitating this much-derided project of salvage anthropology, which in ethnographic film is predicated on going to remote cultures and documenting traditions that will no longer exist,” said Barbash, associate curator of visual anthropology at Harvard’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. “I liked this challenge of going to film something that was the last of something, the last of a tradition, without falling prey to all the pitfalls of the older paradigm of salvage anthropology.”

In 2001, they moved their family from Colorado to Montana, planning to make the trek into the mountains together. But with two young children and a dangerous predator problem at higher elevations, Barbash stayed in town to film, while her husband headed into the hills. When he returned, they realized they had begun two separate pictures. They chose to focus on Castaing-Taylor’s footage.

Over three summers, Castaing-Taylor was part of the yearly three-month expedition that took the sheep into the mountains to find greener pastures. The director of the Sensory Ethnography Lab at Harvard University, who had never been on a horse, rode the arduous route alongside a pair of hardened cowboys. He strapped his camera to his back with a harness that allowed him to keep the film rolling. Hard riding, grizzly-bear encounters, and fierce weather were all part of the experience that transported him, he said, “to another place, psychically, intellectually, and aesthetically.”

“I couldn’t believe there was anywhere that remote in the lower 48,” Castaing-Taylor, a current Radcliffe Fellow, told a crowd at a March 5 screening of the documentary at the Harvard Film Archive.

During the project, the couple shot additional winter footage and the spring lambing and shearing season. It took eight years to cull through and edit 200 hours of work. The finished product offers a stirring look at a disappearing livelihood and presents the complex dynamic between man and animal amid a lush and lonesome landscape.

The camerawork and the absence of narration lend the documentary a powerful voyeuristic component. Instead of a voiceover, audiences listen in on a conversation between a herder and his horse, or the furious tirade of a lone herder, desperately trying to corral his wayward flock, or, simply, the constant bleating of sheep.

Camera angles that range from sweeping panoramas to tight shots of the herd at ground level add to the sensory feel of the film.

The result is that “Sweetgrass” doesn’t so much tell a story as drop you right into the middle of it.

“It’s less of a predestined kind of visual anthropology,” said Barbash. “We immerse people into a world in which they’ve got to fend for themselves.”

In a small but significant decision, the couple left out the title of “director” in the film’s brief ending credits. Barbash is listed as producer, and her husband is simply referenced as “recordist.” The omission was intentional, explained Castaing-Taylor.

“The whole notion of an expert filmmaker or expert anthropologist directing a nominally documentary film really begs a lot of questions. … What does it mean about your relationship to reality if you claim it can be directed?”

Castaing-Taylor is an associate professor of visual and environmental studies and of anthropology. Once associate director and now director of the Film Study Center, he is currently on leave while he completes the film project, and works on a series of still photographs from Montana, as well as a new sound and video project involving contemporary pastoralists in the Alps and the Pyrenees.

For the couple, “Sweetgrass” is also an artistically innovative version of a well-known and ancient genre. It adds depth and realism to the generic notion of the traditional and idyllic pastoral theme.

“From Virgil to Wordsworth and beyond, you never get any sense of how hard it is to be a shepherd, what kind of work is involved in managing animals, or indeed any embodied understanding of the whole human–animal interface,” said Castaing-Taylor, who noted that the iconography of sheep is “romanticized and sentimentalized” in Western culture, and looms large in religions such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

“It’s a revisionist rift on the pastoral. We try to give flesh and blood and some humanity to this age-old genre.”

The film will screen at the Kendall Square Cinema in Cambridge April 2-9.
The 1910 class notes for the all-woman Garland School of Homemaking in Boston were titled “Times Where We Need the Man.” The list of gendered chores now seems antiquarian: chop wood, sweep ashes, care for horses, and bring in coal.

But one chore still sounds familiar. It reads: “wash windows (?)”

That question mark, a sign of the longstanding tug-of-war over housework, survived the past century intact. But relations between American men and women have changed a great deal — and are still changing.

One aspect of ever-shifting gender relations is being explored this semester at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study: space, that wide realm of interiors and exteriors that marks the social commons — that is, everything outside our bodies. How are men and women negotiating access to space? And how have those negotiations changed over time?

In mid-April, Radcliffe will sponsor “Inside/Out: Exploring Gender and Space,” a two-day international conference of artists, architects, researchers, legal scholars, and sociologists. It’s part of an annual series of Radcliffe spring conferences on gender that have explored war, food, and other points of intersection between the sexes.

The conferences are usually accompanied by an exhibit in the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, and “Inside/Out” is no exception. “Inside/Out: The Geography of Gendered Space,” by turns grave and whimsical, is on display through October.

The exhibit is in four parts, each representing a realm within space: private, public, political, and artistic. The categories are derived from feminist scholar Kerstin Shands, who sees two types of gendered spaces. “Bracing” spaces represent resistance, and “embracing” spaces imply empowerment and safety.

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In the “private” section of “Inside/Out,” there are documents, magazines, books, and photographs that illustrate what for centuries was regarded as a woman’s exclusive purview, the household.

The 1910 class notes are there, in looping old-fashioned handwriting. So are fragile issues of 19th century magazines, with titles such as Mrs. Mayfield’s Happy Home (1877) and The Mother at Home and Household Magazine (1864).

On display in the same case are passages from books that express the exclusivity — and confinement — of a woman’s household dominion. In her 1875 novel “We and Our Neighbors,” Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” offers up a passage that would make a modern-day Eliza flee across the ice to escape the slavery of gender: “Self begins to melt away into something lighter,” she wrote of women kept inside by social norms. “Her home is the new personification of herself.” A passage from “Art in the Home” (1879) goes further, by modern standards, declaring that a woman “should be herself the noblest ornament of her ornamental dwelling.”

For 19th century women who were uncomfortable...
Gender
(continued from previous page)

being ornaments, there was travel, or even living alone in cities, a set of spaces explored in the exhibit’s “public” section. In cities, women could take on nontraditional roles, said the exhibit notes. Lynn, Mass., entrepreneur Lydia E. Pinkham (1819-1883) did well, turning her home remedy for “female maladies” into the most popular patent medicine of the age.

But urban spaces were also segregated by gender. An engraving from the July 21, 1875, Illustrated London News pictures a “ladies” window at a New York post office. “I just love the image of going to a post office and having their window be for me,” said Schlesinger executive director Marilyn Dunn, with a laugh. “It captures the idea of gendered space.”

In the same display case is a note on the Women’s Hotel in New York City, which opened in 1878, offering a week’s board and lodging for $6. The Barbizon, a more contemporary women-only hotel, was profiled in a 1963 issue of the New York Evening Post. The headline was “Where the Boys Are Not.”

Where the boys are not is also a theme in the “artistic” section of the “Inside/Out” exhibit. There’s a photo of Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro, co-founders of the California Institute of the Arts Feminist Art Program, at “Womenhouse.” The 1971 art installation, set up in a deserted Hollywood mansion, featured the work of only women, and men were banned from the opening.

But the same section in the exhibit shows that the art world was often where the boys were and the women were not. On display is a 1985 banner from the Guerilla Girls, an anonymous group of feminist artists formed to protest a Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art show. Of the 169 artists represented, they complained, only 13 were women.

The banner, a spoof on an odalisque-like nude, also claimed that while 5 percent of the artists were women, 85 percent of the nudes were. “Do women have to be naked,” the banner asked, “to get into the Met. Museum?”

“Inside/Out” offers a glimpse at the feminist pioneers of the art world, including sculptor Harriet Hosmer (1830-1908), who was born in Watertown, Mass. She sculpted “The Sleeping Faun,” a male figure whose softened musculature rewrote the standards of masculine display. Hosmer’s plaster model of “Queen Isabella of Castile” — monumental and imperial — was intended to show that the queen was the equal of explorer Christopher Columbus, whose iconic journey she helped to sponsor.

The sculptor “was very much interested in female heroism,” said Schlesinger operations manager Bruce Williams, who co-chaired the exhibit committee.

An 1861 photograph shows Hosmer — elfin, pugnacious, and defiant — in the center of a group of rough male artisans in Italy. On the back, the inscription reads, “Hosmer and Her Men.”

Then there is that sphere that is more familiar — or at least more dramatic — than the others: “political” space. This section looks at “sites of resistance,” said Williams, including the parades, protests, sit-ins, and other events that demanded expanded access for women in social and physical spaces.

Protest is on display, in the video touch-screen portion of “Inside/Out,” including black-and-white footage from a stormy 1970 takeover of the New York offices of Ladies’ Home Journal by feminists. The magazine’s editorial policy, they said, kept women in the confining grooves of “children, kitchen, and church.”

One joyful photograph, a line of women at the front of a protest march, is from the opening of the 1977 National Women’s Conference in Houston. Prominent in the picture are Betty Friedan, author of “The Feminine Mystique,” and Bella Abzug, a New York lawyer, activist, and congresswoman. Abzug is famous for her defiant pun: “This woman’s place is in the House — the House of Representatives.”

Photos courtesy of Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University

Upcoming conference ➤️ Inside/Out, April 15-16: www.radcliffe.edu/events/calendar_2010space.aspx

More Arts & Culture Online
news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/arts-n-culture

Artists and hard times: Harvard Art Museum explores the story behind it.
You’ve heard the old saying: Anything’s possible if you set your mind to it.

Mindfulness, the Buddhist principle of being fully aware of the present, is at the heart of Lilian Cheung’s collaborative book “Savor: Mindful Eating, Mindful Life,” written with Thich Nhat Hanh, a renowned Buddhist monk and author of “Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life.”

According to “Savor,” the practice of mindfulness is an essential tool in ending weight loss struggles for good.

“A lot of us know that we should be eating healthily and exercising to maintain our wellbeing, but somehow we cannot sustain our effort,” said Cheung, a nutritionist at the Harvard School of Public Health. “To control our weight, we also need to first understand who we are, how and why we arrive at this circumstance, and how we relate to food. Buddhist teachings on mindfulness help us better understand our true nature: our body, our feelings, our mind, and all that is around us.”

Cheung met Nhat Hanh — whom The New York Times considered “second only to the Dalai Lama” among the most influential Buddhist leaders in the West — in 1997 at one of his retreats. “As he was explaining the Buddhist perspective on nutriments to the attendees... I realized that I had the missing pieces to complement what I had learned from nutrition science about the difficulties people face in changing their food consumption and lifestyle habits,” she recalled.

Then and there, Cheung scribbled down in her notebook the idea for a book that has now come to fruition. She showed Nhat Hanh an outline of the book in 2005, when she asked him to co-author it. “To my amazement, he said, ‘Why not?’ ”

Cheung and Nhat Hanh encourage mindfulness practice — being present in everything that we do — as a way to cultivate awareness of our eating and activity habits, and ultimately uproot undesirable habits to improve our health. It may sound difficult, but they show in fact how easy it is to incorporate mindfulness practice in our daily routines. We can breathe, walk, listen, cook, and eat mindfully.

“When you sit down to eat a truly mindful meal, you will see far beyond the rim of the plate,” said Cheung. “Look closely at your salad, and you will see the farmer who planted the seeds, the rain and sunshine, the rich earth that nourished them as they grew. Mindful eating can help us approach the core Buddhist concept of ‘interbeing,’ the recognition that everything and everyone is interrelated. With this as our foundation, we realize that it is important to eat not only for our own health, but in a way that promotes the health of others around us, as well as the health of the planet.”

“Our appointment with life is in the here and now, where we have the opportunity to transform our being. We need to learn to stop and look at what is in front of us,” said Cheung. “It is in engaging the present moment that we can change, while finding peace and happiness.”
History professor Caroline Elkins, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her book outlining British colonial abuses during Kenya's Mau Mau uprising, is working to build ties with Kenyan institutions.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Back just three days from a trip to Kenya, colonial era historian Caroline Elkins was thinking about the present and the future, and not just her specialty, the past.

Elkins, who was named professor of history at Harvard last July, had spent several days in January in the East African nation, talking with officials and potential donors as part of her efforts to design and secure study abroad opportunities and internships for Harvard undergraduates in Africa.

Though opportunities for overseas study have proliferated at Harvard in recent years, Africa is still underrepresented, Elkins said. This is a problem, she said, at a time when student interest in the continent — in its languages, people, history, and modern challenges — is growing.

"By and large, my compass is what students want," Elkins said. "So if we don't respond, we should go home. That's what we're here for."

Elkins has spent a lot of time in Kenya. She's an authority on post-colonial violence, particularly involving the British against independence-minded Kenyans during the Mau Mau uprising in the 1950s. Her book "Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya" won the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction in 2006. Elkins conducted hundreds of interviews and sifted through mountains of paperwork in compiling the book, a process in which she is again engaged for her next project: an examination of the broader process of decolonization that the British Empire went through after World War II.

For her latest project, Elkins has traveled extensively to former British colonies, including the old Palestine and Malaya, as well as Zimbabwe and South Africa, and London. Though power structures, and their dismantling, are important in telling the story, Elkins is just as interested in the people who populated those structures. She is interested in what life was like in those times, but also in the influence of unheralded individuals, such as British officers active in counterinsurgency operations. These men traveled from colony to colony and may have spread repressive techniques across the disintegrating empire, ultimately influencing even American strategies in Vietnam.

Elkins’ passion for history began young. She grew up in New Jersey and remembers being fascinated with how things were different 100 years earlier and how they evolved to now. She was particularly interested in people's roles, and how the ordinary stresses of life affected decisions that might have far-reaching consequences.

As an undergraduate at Princeton University, she took an African history course, traveled to the continent, and was hooked. After graduating, she worked on Wall Street and then entered graduate school at Harvard. "Imperial Reckoning" grew out of her doctoral work on the history of women in Kenya. While conducting that, she came across horrible stories of women detained in a British camp system that she had never heard about. She finished the book while a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and was the Hugo Foster Associate Professor of African Studies when "Imperial Reckoning" was published.

In addition to her research and teaching responsibilities, Elkins serves as chair of the Committee on African Studies, a University-wide body responsible for coordinating Africa-related activities. As chair, Elkins said, she feels a responsibility to increase the opportunities for African scholarship for students, which has drawn support from Harvard's administration. She is collaborating with the African and African American Studies Department and the Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research. She's also working with the Kenya National Museum and the Kenya Oral History Center, which she co-directs, to augment the history wing of the Kenya National Museum, which was renovated a few years ago.

"It's fabulous, beautiful. They did a great job, but the din of silence from the history wing is notable," Elkins said.

Elkins is hoping that Harvard students can play a role in furnishing the exhibit, and fostering exchanges that have Kenyan scholars coming to the University. Between her research and her efforts at building academic collaborations with Kenyan institutions, Elkins logs a lot of airplane time. Though modern technology has brought the world closer, there is still no substitute for face-to-face meetings to get things done, she said.

"At the end of the day, the whole point is to get students there in a more systematic kind of way," Elkins said.
Beyond boundaries

As a global university, Harvard not only attracts students and faculty from around the world, it sends them out, to teach and work, extending Harvard’s influence far beyond its local boundaries.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Shortly after being named Harvard’s vice provost for international affairs in 2006, Jorge Dominguez looked around and decided to declare victory.

What Dominguez saw was a university that recruits the best scholars, regardless of nationality. He saw classes that teach 70 languages and topics ranging from Middle Eastern studies to world music to global fish diversity. He saw international students from more than 120 countries, who make up nearly 20 percent of the student body, and whose numbers grew 35 percent in the past decade.

Dominguez also saw a faculty that pursues the most important research questions, regardless of borders, and whose work takes them to the Earth’s far corners, from the Large Hadron Collider’s caverns in Switzerland to the Maya ruins in the hills of Honduras, to colonial-era archives in Kenya that recount historical atrocities.

He saw that there are 47,000 alumni abroad in nearly 190 countries, many holding pivotal positions. These include the sitting presidents of Liberia, Taiwan, Mexico, Mongolia, and Colombia, as well as the prime minister of Singapore and the secretary-general of the United Nations.

And Dominguez saw a university that encourages its undergraduates to venture abroad as a fundamental part of their education and as necessary preparation for leadership in a globalized world. As a result, in 2007-08 nearly 1,300 Harvard students studied or worked abroad, in 93 countries. By the time the 2009 Commencement neared, 58 percent of graduating seniors had traveled abroad while at Harvard.

“I did not have to make Harvard an international institution. My colleagues had already done the job,” Dominguez said. “We are vastly international. It is... (see Global next page)
Global
(continued from previous page)

stunning and just simply amazing what the faculty, staff, and students do.”

But globalization speeds ever faster, so Harvard now must adapt to fresh challenges. In an intertwined world, issues involving business and economics, health and government, science and the humanities routinely cross borders. Technology has made the world smaller at the same time that its problems — from climate change to global pandemics — have become larger.

With those realities in mind, Harvard is ramping up efforts to help its students become global citizens of the 21st century, so they will be prepared to confront the knotty problems looming just beyond the horizon.

Harvard President Drew Faust has embraced Harvard’s international image in both practical and symbolic ways. Faust, whose appointment was celebrated around the world as an example of what women now can achieve, has traveled to China, Botswana, South Africa, Western Europe, and is now on a weeklong trip to Japan and China.

Her current visit bolstered Harvard’s long-standing Japanese relationships through meetings with government and university officials, and with some of Harvard’s Japanese graduates, whose international alumni club is the third largest behind those of the United Kingdom and Canada. Faust also visited a Japanese girls’ school, a familiar practice for her.

Faust then headed for Shanghai to speak at the official opening of the Harvard Center Shanghai, which has operated since 2008. The facility, the result of a partnership between the Harvard Business School and the Harvard China Fund, taps into Harvard’s and, more specifically, the Harvard Business School’s long relationships in China. It provides space for conferences and workshops in cooperation with Chinese universities, researchers, government, and public and private organizations.

ENRICHING STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Harvard College began emphasizing undergraduate study abroad a decade ago, Dominguez said, when faculty and administrators realized that, with globalization on the march, international experience was becoming a critical part of a well-rounded education.

Andrew Gordon, now the Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, studied in Japan as a Harvard undergraduate in the 1970s, taking a year off to do so. The experience fostered his interest in Japan, and helped prompt him to become a scholar in its modern history.

Gordon said students who head for Tokyo and Kyoto now tend to have one of two levels of experience. Some have studied the area and are familiar with its language, culture, and history. Others travel earlier in their academic careers, and their experiences may spark enthusiasm for further study.

Some students head off already committed to long-term study of Japan; others come back inspired to study more,” Gordon said.

Foreign experiences for students now come in all sorts of packages. A quick glance at the Harvard Summer School Web page shows programs in archaeology in Honduras, environmental studies in Venice, history in Jerusalem, language programs in nine countries, and science programs in eight. All of these Summer School programs started after 2000.

Harvard also has centers that focus on regional studies, such as the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, which create communities of scholarship focused on their target regions.

Lisbeth Tarlow, associate director of the Davis Center, said it annually supports 25 to 30 student research projects on the region. This year’s project applications include an ethnography of Muslim life in the Czech Republic and research on a Soviet sanitorium as a prism for environmental, medical, social, and cultural history. Tarlow said the center helps to foster area studies both at Harvard and on site through research funding, through foreign internships, by hosting scholars from abroad, and by providing logistical support for research in the field from a consultant whom the center retains in Moscow.

“All of this is really to foster a vibrant community of students, faculty, and scholars from a variety of disciplines to promote new thinking on the region,” Tarlow said.

Working abroad has always been an integral part of scientific fieldwork. Consequently, Harvard’s scientific faculty, scholars, and students conduct research from the Arctic to the South Pole. Students can participate independently or take classes where fieldwork is integrated into studies. For the past several years, biology professor Gonzalo Giribet has taken his students on a spring break specimen-collecting trip to the Caribbean. This year’s plans called for 14 students to spend the week diving on Panama’s reefs.

“In lab they see live animals, but they have no idea which group predominates in a reef,” Giribet said. While diving, “they see all the corals and sponges and understand where most of the biomass is.” They dive each day, bringing specimens to running-seawater tanks for analysis.

“We do a lot of collecting,” Giribet said. “I tell them they aren’t going on vacation in Panama. You’re going to work.”

Harvard students venture abroad in myriad ways. Members of the Harvard Glee Club performed in

President Drew Faust met with Yasushi Akashi, chairman of the International House of Japan, during her recent trip to Japan.

Online Dispatches from Japan: news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=40089

Photo by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographer
Canada earlier this month, while members of the women’s squash team traveled to India over winter break to play top Indian teams, and coach and tutor underprivileged children. Since January, students have worked on malnutrition in Uganda, on illiteracy in El Salvador, and on a clean-water project in the Dominican Republic.

Even as Harvard sends its students abroad, it also draws many international students to its classrooms, more than 4,000 of them in 2008-09. For instance, the Edward S. Mason Program at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) has long prepared talented individuals to address the world’s most compelling development challenges. This year, the program is sponsoring 73 midcareer professionals from 46 developing and newly industrialized nations in the School’s master’s of public administration program.

Paulina Gonzalez-Pose, the Mason Program’s director, said the outreach brings together a heterogeneous group of experienced professionals from the public and nonprofit sectors, and also welcomes those from the private sector who have made a serious commitment to public service. In its 52nd year, the program is sponsoring 73 midcareer professionals from 46 developing and newly industrialized nations in the School’s master’s of public administration program.

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Frenk emphasizes that global health now includes domestic health, since medical problems now easily traverse national borders. In the age of AIDS, SARS, and H1N1, health inside a country can be influenced dramatically by what happens elsewhere.

Major research problems increasingly involve issues so large and broad that they require collaboration from scientists across disciplines and around the world, from the nature of human-caused climate change, to the best way to fight AIDS, to the creation of the world’s most powerful particle accelerator.

“The transition to a global outlook is becoming a unifying element of the work of faculty across the University,” said Frenk.
Witnesses to history

Andover-Harvard Theological Library nears completion of major project to digitize Holocaust-related archives.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

In 1942, Lidice, Czechoslovakia, was erased from the landscape.

German soldiers occupied the small village and executed the men by firing squad. Most of the women were sent to a concentration camp, most of their children to an extermination camp. The village’s buildings were burned to the ground. What was the rationale for this almost inconceivable crime against humanity? Retaliation for the killing of a high-ranking SS officer. German officials believed that those who assassinated him had ties to Lidice.

The horrific story of the condemned town is just one of many remembered in a new digital archive at the Andover-Harvard Theological Library at Harvard Divinity School (HDS), one that evokes the horror of the Holocaust and the courage and hope of a small group of organizations that united to provide succor to its few survivors.

“This collection tells stories that have never been told,” said Fran O’Donnell, the library’s curator of manuscripts and archives, who is managing the project. “One of the big stories it tells is of the many small organizations that worked together to help refugees from the Second World War.”

The newly digitized records include the contents of 260 boxes of documents and photographs from the library’s official archive of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), a relief organization that distributed food, established orphanages and aid centers, and helped to relocate hundreds of European refugees displaced by the war.

The new project makes the material readily accessible.

“Up until now, these records were only available to those who could travel to Cambridge and work with them here,” said O’Donnell. “Now they are digitized; people can access them from the comfort of their own living rooms from anywhere in the world.”

For the past four years, several members of the library’s staff have organized and prepared the information for scanning, created digital specifications for the collection, and developed ways to make it easily findable online.
A company in Frederick, Md., is scanning the more than 250,000 documents and 3,100 photographs in the collection, which date from 1938 to 1960. It will complete the work later this year.

The collection includes correspondence from people looking for family and friends, as well as a host of images, many taken after the war, of the refugees who remained in the centers and homes established by the service organization. The records also include case files of the thousands of people whom the organizations helped relocate to the United States during and after the war.

The project began when the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., contacted the Divinity School’s library in 2006, seeking access to its records of the Unitarian and Universalist service committees. (In 1963, the two organizations merged to become the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.) The Holocaust Museum selected 29 collections for digitization.

Jointly funded by the museum and the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in Paris, the project’s newly digitized records help to put a human face on the events of the Holocaust.

“One hundred and six children in Lidice have been dragged away from their mothers,” reads one dispatch from a surviving resident of the town, who recounted her story to Martha Sharp, a social worker who, with her husband, the Rev. Waitstill Sharp, helped to form the USC. “Only a dozen of them have been found after an exhausting search. The Nazi terror continues to wreck the lives of those mothers who have survived the concentration camp; they will never know what became of their children, or if the child returned to them is really their own. The Germans were thorough in everything, in devising torture.”

In a handwritten letter yellowed by time and dated Aug. 28, 1945, a woman pleads for help in locating her missing husband. “The only information I have is that he was on a mission to Paris, France and that his plane … was damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire while flying over the French Coast. … I have tried many ways to gain any information at all, but have had no luck so far.”

“You read about World War II in a history book, but to actually pick up a letter from someone who’s describing her own family — it just makes it seem so much more immediate,” said O’Donnell. “It brings the whole situation to life; the history is alive in these boxes.”

The collection is also a valuable research tool for scholars. The new book “Rescue & Flight: American Relief Workers Who Defied the Nazis,” by Susan Subak, includes many photos from the archive.

But while some records recount lost life and sorrow, they also offer rays of hope and comfort to those still seeking help.

Recently O’Donnell used the archive to provide a woman orphaned during the war with information about her birth mother. In addition to assisting World War II refugees, the Service Committee’s office in southern France helped many refugees from the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930s. The Spanish government has agreed to pay reparations to those who can prove they were victims of the conflict.

“If the records can touch some people, and give some people some closure about what happened to their family members and loved ones, I think that is a great service we can offer,” said O’Donnell, adding that the electronic records also capture the sense of collaboration among the many groups that were committed to helping those whose lives were turned upside down by the war.

“This archive shows that there were so many small organizations doing so much good,” she said, “in a very quiet kind of a way.”
Guardian of the House

Quincy House security guard Paul Barksdale doubles as a friend, confidante, and adviser to undergraduates.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

You can't get past the door at Quincy House without getting to know Paul Barksdale. That's not because the Harvard security guard will stop you, but because the residents likely will, singing his praises.

Barksdale is a fixture of the House and a welcoming friend to the 500-plus students who call the residence hall home during their sophomore, junior, and senior years at the University. It's a home made warmer by the light of the man who knows everybody's name.

From 4 p.m. to midnight, Barksdale mans the guard desk at the side of the building on Plympton Street, handing out care packages or parcels too big to fit in a small mailbox. He assists students with forgotten keys, lends them the House vacuum cleaner, or helps them locate a lost item. But, perhaps above all, he is a friend.

Students can't get through the door without Barksdale getting to know them. Since he started in 2003, he has made a point of memorizing the name, face, and concentration of every incoming sophomore.

“He knew my name right off the bat,” recalled senior Janet He. “He is so friendly and outgoing. If I am having a bad day, he will still come and ask me how I am doing. ... He brings so much happiness to my life at Quincy House.”

Barksdale occasionally plays matchmaker if he senses there might be an unexpressed interest between two shy undergraduates, and regularly attends the House's formals, dances, and variety shows.

Prior to coming to Harvard, Barksdale worked with local homeless shelters, and HIV/AIDS and substance abuse programs, helping to counsel and support those trying to get back on their feet, or cope with a difficult disease.

The skills he developed through those experiences, he said, translate to his interactions with students, who so often just need the supportive ear of a friend.

“Whether someone is marginalized or a wonderful achiever, there is a sense of presence that you want to give a person, that sense of dignity and respect that everyone needs.

“So often you are powerless to change people’s lives, ... but by just being this presence to someone, you can affirm them. I can’t change if an exam didn’t go well, but I can listen.”

In his spare time, Barksdale is an avid walker and loves to read. His current reading list tends toward the spiritual and includes the religious scholars Thomas Aquinas and John Henry Newman.

His passion for books is something he shares with his students. On a recent afternoon, he and junior Matt Cavedon compared notes on the memoir of former Quincy House resident and New York Times columnist Ross Douthat. “If I can find my copy at home, I will bring it in for you,” Barksdale told Cavedon with a smile.

“It must feel good to have that thesis done,” Barksdale quipped to another passing student, senior Ari Hoffman, who recently finished his English literature thesis. A die-hard Yankees fan, Hoffman said some of his happiest memories at Quincy House involve watching baseball games with Barksdale, an ardent Red Sox Fan.

“Paul has been a real highlight of my time at Quincy House and my college undergraduate career,” said Hoffman, who added that when his Yankees won the World Series Barksdale offered kind congratulations. "It was above and beyond the call of duty.”

When trying to describe what the job means to him, Barksdale gets emotional.

He recounted a 2004 conversation with graduating senior David Lippin. Noticing Lippin outside the House early one morning during senior week with a contemplative look on his face, Barksdale stopped to say hello.

“He said, ‘Paul, I can’t tell you what an honor it has been to be here, to be part of this.’

“Those were his words, but if you saw his countenance, his face when he was saying this, it tells you about the magic of Harvard,” recalled Barksdale. “Harvard cannot be ensconced in a brand name. Harvard is much bigger than that. It’s this dynamic, living, creative organism that every student and professor is part of. It’s magical, and I think the most important thing is to be grateful to be part of it in any way. That’s what I feel. I feel like it’s an honor to work here, in whatever small role I play.”

Rolling up their sleeves

Harvard students and alumni arrive at work sites to begin construction, tutoring, other tasks as part of Alternative Spring Break.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS — It was just past noon on Monday (March 15) when Clifton Dawson ’07 steadied himself on an aluminum stepladder. Ahead of the former Crimson running back was a task more daunting than the NFL tuckers he dodged for his three professional seasons: painting a shotgun-style house the size of a rail car.

“It’s a small house,” he said, “but it’s a big job.”

Dawson was in charge of a team of Harvard alumni tasked with painting the exterior of the peeling frame house. Other crews rolled powder blue paint onto interior walls, mowed the wide lawn, and painted another house nearby. The concrete steps, a handsome rust red, were already done.

The alumni were the first to take part in “Alternative Spring Break,” a tradition of public service initiated by the student-run Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), which is sponsoring 11 trips this year. It’s a concept that the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) has embraced.

“Last year, I went and sat on the beach by myself,” said Margaret Richards, Ed.M. ’05. “It was kind of boring. Volunteers may be drawn these days to Haiti or Chile, she said, but they are places where — unlike New Orleans — “good intentions get in the way.”

New York City dentist Mercedes Franklin, Harvard School of Dental Medicine ’74, had been to New Orleans many times to do charity dental work in the city where her parents had met in the 1930s. But this time she came armed with a paint roller. “We’re helping,” she said.

Less than five years ago, courtesy of Hurricane Katrina, seawater had lapped over the window frames of the modest white house on Harrison Avenue in Gentilly, a New Orleans neighborhood where every third house is still empty.

Dawson, Franklin, and 21 others will work through Saturday (March 20), putting the two houses in shape on behalf of the Pentecostal Baptist Church next door. The church’s pastor, the Rev. Lionel Davis Sr., stood on the lawn between the two houses, remembering the day when Katrina buried a vi-
brant neighborhood in water and swept 40 percent of his congregation into other neighborhoods and cities. How high was the water? He held one hand up to his neck.

Davis looks forward to summer when — finances willing — the house that Dawson’s crew was working on would have new flooring, electrical work, and plumbing. Then it would be ready for use as a neighborhood resource center for job seekers still knocked low by the 2005 storm. The other building would house an after-school program. “This is one of those communities,” he said of his neighbors, “where you have to bring them from nowhere to somewhere.”

Nearby, in the Broadmoor section of New Orleans, the theme of the last five years has been the same: going somewhere from nowhere. And Harvard students are helping, whether it’s on spring break this year or during internships in January and over the summer.

Angela Primbas ’12 co-directs an alternative spring break program in Broadmoor, where Katrina left houses 10 feet under water and where many streets are still heaving and undulant from the flooding. (Officially, Broadmoor is 85 percent rebuilt.)

Some of the volunteers are working as math and writing tutors at Andrew H. Wilson School, a new charter school where half of all fourth-graders are at risk of not passing a state exam required for promotion. They were in kindergarten when Katrina struck, a disaster that kept some of them out of school for two years.

One of the tutors is Schuyler Milender ’13, who on Monday spent her first day at Wilson, a glittering school built out from a two-wing building wrecked in the hurricane.

After just one semester at Harvard, she was “inundated by opportunity and experience,” said Milender, and wanted to express her gratitude by giving back to others. Blogging about her alternative spring break helps too, since that involves “reflecting and digesting and processing,” she said. “I’m learning a lot. It’s putting things in perspective.”

Other Harvard undergraduates work on two of the many projects under way at the nonprofit Broadmoor Development Corp. (BDC). One is EnviRENEW, a weatherization and conservation program aimed at reducing energy bills. The other helps owners of blighted houses to navigate the legal system.

BDC executive director Hal Roark called it “intellectual work,” involving analysis and data gathering that shows how public service trips aren’t just about getting houses. He draws volunteers to Broadmoor from colleges and universities that include Harvard, Yale, Notre Dame, Tulane, and Bard.

Doug Ahlers was in Roark’s office Monday. He’s director of the Broadmoor Project at the Harvard Kennedy School. Since early 2006, he said, “Harvard wanted to do a long-term commitment to a specific neighborhood.” As for student volunteers, he said, “real contributions are made.”

Harvard students acknowledge the advantages of an alternative spring break, including the satisfaction of doing good, and immersion in cultures, places, and issues that are not familiar or are hard to find in a classroom.

Though learning often involves books, said Obi Okwara ’12, who is on the Boardmoor team, “there’s another type of learning that takes place with experience.”

Terry Ding ’11, co-director of the Broadmoor trip, had been there three times on PBHA trips. “The experiences, he said, “made me angry, and inspired.”

That’s another legacy of volunteers at Broadmoor and elsewhere, said Roark. They come back, they inspire others to visit, and they return as leaders who supply a continuum in the long slog to rebuild New Orleans.

“Even though students may change from trip to trip,” he said, “the leadership continues.”

New Orleans and places like it constitute living classrooms beyond the cultural and geographic confines of Cambridge. Luxuriant palms droop over highway median strips. Narrow canals glitter between apartment complexes. Houses, even on ordinary streets, have a compact elegance and style.

Then there is the French Quarter, where a few students repaired Sunday night on the St. Charles streetcar for dinner at the River’s Edge and to eat beignets.

This year, there are 10 PBHA alternative spring break trips to domestic locations. Another will be overseas. One of four Habitat for Humanity trips is in Guatemala, with 14 Harvard undergraduates taking part. On the U.S. side, there are trips to New York City, Washington, D.C., Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama (two), Mississippi, and New Orleans (two). PBHA alumni will take their own alternative spring breaks, to New Orleans and Jackson, Miss.

Participants say the benefits of alternative spring breaks go both ways, to those helped and to those helping.

Marcel E. Moran ’11, a human and evolutionary biology concentrator from Eliot House, is taking his third domestic public service trip. “I keep coming back to them,” he wrote, “because no other time during the year do I feel as connected to the people around me, both from Harvard and the community.”

Moran went to Hayneville, Ala., this spring, part of a team helping to rebuild a church damaged by fire. He

PBHA’s Schuyler Milender ’13 with Andrew H. Wilson fourth-grader Daishawn Tobias.

and the Harvard cohort were to meet with the congregation and then travel to the church to assess needed repairs to the interior, including wiring and paint.

“As much as we tangibly help these congregations that have faced disaster,” wrote Moran, who helped rebuild another church last year, “our time together with them helps put our entire Harvard experience in perspective.”

Online ➤ Student blog with photos: news.harvard.edu/servicebreak/
Running his buns off

A student tries to help an educational nonprofit by combining two of his passions, burgers and running.

By Sam Novey ‘11

Harvard students are a pretty passionate bunch. The campus is home to a staggering variety of orchestras and dance troupes, political clubs and debate societies, newspapers, and satirical rags. For instance, we just celebrated Housing Day, in which students passionately defend and promote a residence hall into which they were randomly assigned.


But the passions that we have for everything from chamber music to Big Macs are not just endearing quirks. They create incredible energy that can be channeled toward other ends. And when you look at certain intractable problems that face American society, these energies seem like a vast potential oil field with no wells, possibly lucrative source of ideas and inspiration that can be leveraged into resources.

This spring, I’ve teamed up with Citizen Schools (www.citizenschools.org) and the Harvard Square restaurant b. good burgers to channel my passion for burgers to help kids. Citizen Schools is a nonprofit organization that partners with middle schools to expand the learning day for low-income children across the country. It engages volunteers to share their energy and expertise with middle schoolers who are thirsty for fun, engaging learning projects. Every Thursday, I work with 12 sixth-graders at the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown who are designing an addition to b. good’s menu.

Teaching a class like this makes you see the power of channeling the energy and passion of citizens to help kids. And that’s why I’ve started a movement to inspire others to do the same. That’s why I’ve become Burgerman.

——— Student Voice ———

You see, in addition to burgers, I also love running. Having experienced the power of channeling my love for burgers to help kids, I wanted to tap into my passion for running as well. And wouldn’t it be doubly powerful, I thought, if I tapped into both of these passions at the same time?

On April 19, Burgerman will run the Boston Marathon in a burger suit to raise $100,000 for Citizen Schools. The campaign seems improbable? How can a 22-year-old from Baltimore come up with $100,000?

The answer comes in the words of Robert F. Kennedy: “Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls.”

These ripples are already starting to spread. Christi Morrissey, a senior from Hawaii, has signed up to run the marathon in a fry suit and raise $10,000 by mobilizing Delta Gamma sorority chapters around the country. The Harvard Outing Club has engaged national chains REI and L.L. Bean to donate a bike and a boat to be raffled off among outing clubs throughout New England.

Sehe Han, a high school senior in Duluth, Ga., heard about our movement on Facebook from a post by her high school friend. She will tap into her passion for music and hold a concert in April to raise funds. If you’d like to learn more, send me an e-mail at sbnovey@fas.harvard.edu, or visit www.burgerman marathon.com.

When people get together, they can access the greatest untapped resource to aid education in America: the energy of American citizens. If you’re an undergraduate or graduate student and have an essay to share about life at Harvard, please e-mail your ideas to Jim Concannon, the Gazette’s news editor, at Jim_Concannon@harvard.edu.
THREE HLS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING WRITING
Cassandra Barnum ’10 was awarded the Irving Oberman Memorial Prize in Environmental Law; Jonathan Bressler ’10 was awarded the Irving Oberman Memorial Prize in two categories, in Constitutional Law: Separation of Powers and Federalism and in Legal History; and Ryan Park ’10 was a winner of the Yong K. Kim ’95 Memorial Prize.

These students are among those recognized for their 2008-09 writing last spring, as part of the School’s student writing prize competition.

To read more, visit law.harvard.edu/news/2010/03/04_students_writing.html.

TWO FROM HARVARD HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Erez Lieberman-Aiden, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Applied Mathematics in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, and Mamta Tahiliani, a research fellow in pathology at Harvard Medical School who received her Ph.D. in immunology from Harvard in 2009, are two of 13 graduate students from institutes throughout North America who have been chosen to receive the 2010 Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award, sponsored by the Basic Sciences Division of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

The awards, given in recognition of outstanding achievement during graduate studies in the biological sciences, are presented on the basis of the quality, originality, and significance of students’ work.

Lieberman-Aiden and Tahiliani will participate in a scientific symposium along with the other winners on May 7 at the Hutchinson Center in Seattle. The symposium will include scientific presentations by all awardees as well as poster presentations by Hutchinson Center graduate students.

The award, established in 2000, honors the late Harold M. Weintraub, a founding member of the center’s Basic Sciences Division, who in 1995 died from brain cancer at age 49.

EAST ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES ANNOUNCES YONG KIM MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR 2010
The East Asian Legal Studies (EALS) program at Harvard Law School (HLS) is accepting submissions of papers for the Yong K. Kim ’95 Memorial Prize, awarded to the author of the best paper concerning the law or legal history of the nations and peoples of East Asia or concerning issues of law as it pertains to U.S.-East Asia relations.

The author must also embody Yong Kim’s interest in and enthusiasm for fostering U.S.-East Asian understanding, be planning a career that will further advance this, and have made contributions to EALS while a student. The paper can be written in conjunction with a course, seminar, or independent study project at the HLS. The prize includes a cash award and will be announced at Commencement.

Submissions (two bound or stapled copies) must be received at the EALS office, Pound Hall, Room 426, Harvard Law School, by 5 p.m. on April 23. The papers must include the student’s name, School, class level, e-mail address, and phone number.

For questions, contact tloccher@law.harvard.edu.

DANA-FARBER CALLS FOR ARTISTS
The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is looking for artists to help create its 2010 collection of holiday cards and candle wraps.

In the past, designs have featured scenes from New England, including New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox-themed artwork. All proceeds from the collection sales will go toward the support of adult and pediatric cancer care, benefiting Dana-Farber through the Jimmy Fund.

Designs should be e-mailed in JPEG format to holiday_orders@dfci.harvard.edu and include the artist’s name, e-mail address, and phone number. For questions, call Suzanne Crane at 617.632.5344. The deadline for submissions is April 16. Artists will be notified by early May if their designs are selected.

SIX FROM HARVARD NAMED PAUL AND DAISY SOROS FELLOWS
In 1997, Paul and Daisy Soros created a charitable trust to support the graduate study of new Americans, immigrants, and children of immigrants. This year, 31 new fellows have been awarded fellowships, and to date, a total of 384 graduate fellowships have been awarded.

Out of 890 applications nationwide, six individuals from Harvard have been awarded 2010 Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships.

To read about the Harvard winners, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=40566.

RESEARCH FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH ON KUWAIT AND THE GULF
The Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) is now accepting applications for the spring 2010 funding cycle for the Kuwait Program Re-
Harvard Divinity School

For a week in late January, five Harvard Divinity School students witnessed firsthand the impact of human rights abuses suffered by many Honduras after a 2009 coup in which Honduran President Manuel Zelaya was ousted by the country’s military.

Karen Bray, Tiffany Curtis, Garrett Fitzgerald, Julie Rogers, and Marianne Tierney traveled to Honduras with human rights experts and met local leaders to examine and discuss the fragile situation surrounding the ongoing Honduran constitutional crisis.

Monica Maher, former HDS lecturer and current research fellow of the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies, organized the trip and led a discussion of the group’s findings at an informal presentation in February, held at Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS).

Tierney said, “Each one of us who went was significantly impacted by this trip. When we came back to school and people asked, ‘How was your trip?’ it was really difficult to put into words. I started saying things like, ‘It was incredible, rejuvenating, inspiring, heartbreaking, intellectually stimulating, exhausting, depressing, amazing.’ Ultimately, it was an extremely powerful experience.”

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

What do John Keats’ Shakespeare volumes, William Wordsworth’s library catalog, and Victor Hugo’s commonplace book have in common with primers and spellers and other historical materials about learning to read?

Each item is among the 1,200 books and manuscripts — more than 250,000 Web-accessible pages — that are now online at a site called in Reading: Harvard Views of Readers, Reader- ship, and Reading History. Developed by Harvard’s Open Collections Program with support from the Arcadia Fund, the effort is an online exploration of the intellectual, cultural, and political history of reading as reflected in the historical holdings of Harvard’s libraries.

“Although reading happens everywhere,” said Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and director of the University Library, “we don’t know what it is when it takes place under our nose. How do we make sense of typographical marks embedded on a page? How did other people in other times and places decipher signs in other languages? The process of reading lies at the heart of our most intensely human activity, the making of meaning, and therefore deserves study as a crucial element in all civilizations, even those without modern means of communication, where natives learn to read footprints in the sand and clouds in the sky as meaningful portents.”

You can visit the collection at ocp.hul.harvard.edu/reading, or read more about the project at hul.harvard.edu/news/2010_0301.html.

Harvard Kennedy School

The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University has announced that the Initiative for Responsible Investment (IRI) has joined the center.

The IRI serves as a platform for dialogue on fundamental issues and theories underlying how financial markets can promote creating wealth across the triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit. The IRI examines responsible investment across asset classes, and conducts research, convenes stakeholders, and catalyzes practical action on issues important to the responsible investment community.

The IRI, founded in 2003 with the guidance of Steve Lydenberg, chief investment officer at Domini Social Investments, is led by Director David Wood. Current research and projects include the practice and value of corporate social responsibility investing; alternative theories of investment across asset classes; and the roles of investment consultants.

As part of its programming, the IRI has helped create two parallel organizations. The Responsible Property Investing Center is a collaboration with the University of Arizona to stimulate new vocabulary, research, and investments in the field of responsible property investing, using research and education to build a community of practice around environmental and social investment strategies in the real estate industry. The IRI also hosts More for Mission, an association of foundations dedicated to promoting mission investing, which has the dual objectives of furthering social goals while earning financial returns. It also encourages other foundations to adopt such practices.
A new firearms research database launched by the Harvard School of Public Health makes scholarly articles about the topic more accessible to reporters, law enforcement agents, public health officials, policymakers, and the public. The Firearms Research Digest (www.firearmsresearch.org) provides summaries of articles gathered from social science, criminology, and medical and public health journals, and is written in accessible language for use by those outside academia.

The Web site currently covers research published between 2003 and 2008. The digest will be expanded over time to include articles from 1988 to the present.

“Despite the increased ease of accessing articles through search engines like Google Scholar or PubMed, the sheer volume of returned information in technical jargon can be daunting,” said David Hemenway, professor of health policy and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center and the Youth Violence Prevention Center at HSPH. “The principal objective of this digest is to present research findings in clear, lay language so anyone can readily understand the study results.”

With the new availability of gun violence data and research, one of the primary goals of the Web site is to help those in law enforcement, public health, and government to develop best practices and smarter approaches to curbing gun crimes and violence.

— Todd Datz

Harvard University students have launched the first collegiate Sarah Jane Brain Club, to explore issues surrounding pediatric traumatic brain injury, at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

“We at Harvard are privileged to launch the first Sarah Jane Brain Club at a university, which will help spread the message and improve the treatment of people with brain damage,” said Professor Kurt Fischer, director of the Mind, Brain, and Education Program at HGSE.

The club is bringing together students and faculty across Harvard to focus on advancing knowledge of the brain, and supporting the millions of families around the country dealing with brain injuries.

Launched by Patrick Donahue, a father of a child suffering from Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury, the Sarah Jane Brain Project focuses on creating a model system for research, rehabilitation, and development of children suffering from brain injuries. Brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability in people from birth to age 25 in the United States. The new Harvard club is open to all students throughout the university.

— Jill Anderson

Lewis Law, former director of computer services for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, died on Feb. 14 after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s disease.

In his 31 years at Harvard, Law held several positions, including head of the Electronics Group at the Cambridge Electron Accelerator, director of technical services at the Science Center, and associate director of the Science Center.

In 1975, he was instrumental in developing the first Harvard-Radcliffe time-sharing system using one small computer and 10 teletype terminals. The time-share, which allows more than one user to use a computer system from multiple terminals, grew into today’s complex computing facility.


A memorial service will be held in the Memorial Church on April 7 at 2 p.m.

To read Law’s full obituary, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=40177.

Duesenberry, who died Oct. 5, 2009, was an authority on monetary policy and served as a member of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers under Lyndon B. Johnson from 1966 to 1968. He was also the chair of the Department of Economics at Harvard from 1972 to 1977.

To read Duesenberry’s full obituary, visit news.harvard.edu/gazette/?p=26682.
A loss is always harder when you know that the effort is there, but the results aren’t.

Last year the Harvard women’s hockey team missed the postseason for just the second time in the nine-year history of the NCAA tournament. On Friday (March 12) the Crimson made their return, but it lasted just 60 minutes. With their season dangling in the balance, Harvard fought hard every minute. Giving up six goals through two periods, however, the fourth-seeded Crimson watched their season come to a disappointing end at the hands of the fifth-seeded Cornell Big Red, 6-2.

“Obviously, we’re disappointed with the end result of tonight’s game, but certainly not disappointed with the effort of our players,” said Harvard head coach Katey Stone. “We got ourselves in a little bit of a hole and tried to dig ourselves out, and I think it was one of the hardest-fought, from start to finish, games that we played all season.”

From the start, Cornell was on a mission. The Big Red jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first seven minutes. By the middle of the second period, Harvard found themselves down 5-0, and the reality began to set in that this was the end of the road. Even so, the Crimson didn’t ease up. “Unfortunately, like coach said, we kind of dug ourselves into a hole, and I think our attitude throughout the game was to keep playing,” said Crimson co-captain Kathryn Farni ’10.

Harvard’s first goal came in the 14th minute of the second period from senior forward Randi Griffin, assisted by Farni and Kate Buesser ’11. Unfortunately, the goal was quickly countered by Cornell two minutes later, putting the Big Red up 6-1.

Leanna Coskren ’11 tacked on Harvard’s second and final goal in the third period, but that was too little, too late. It was just the Big Red’s big day. After their first-ever NCAA tournament appearance, Cornell now finds themselves in the Frozen Four, and one win away from the National Championship game.

“They [Cornell] spent a lot of time recruiting, and they’re getting better. They have big strong kids, and they make plays, and we’ve had three very spirited matchups with them,” said Stone. “It was Dartmouth and Harvard for many, many years, and now it seems as though it may be Cornell and Harvard for a little while. They’ve done a good job of building their program, and they’re going to have a lot of success…”

Given the challenges the Crimson encountered this season, including losing senior goaltender Cristina Kessler ’10, the NCAA all-time save percentage leader, to a season-ending knee injury, the season ends with more sweet memories than sour ones. This includes Harvard’s Beanpot Championship, Stone becoming the all-time wins leader in women’s college hockey, and the Crimson receiving their eight NCAA berth.

Looking back, Farni noted that “… definitely there were points in the season where we struggled with the adversity we had, but we tried our best to regroup and make sure that we were focused on what happened on the ice and what was under our control.”

And because of this, Harvard finished the regular season with a 20-8-6 record, ranked No. 4 in the country, which is something to be proud of. “Today’s game is somewhat similar to the entire season. We could have faded away, a lot of different things happened, but it’s a testament to the leadership of the seniors and all the kids stepping up and following them to get the job done,” said Stone. “Yes, we had a young team, but we didn’t play young. … And we were banged up at times, but we didn’t play banged up. And we were in holes before, but we didn’t play like we were in a hole. So again, tonight, the way our kids responded, regardless of what the score was, is exactly what we try to build this program on.”

Harvard graduates six seniors, but will return five of their six starters.

Crimson fall hard

The Harvard women’s hockey team couldn’t hold back surging Cornell.

By Gervis A. Menzies Jr. | Harvard Staff Writer

A loss is always harder when you know that the effort is there, but the results aren’t.

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Harvard graduates six seniors, but will return five of their six starters.
MARCH 19-27
Thornton Wilder’s “The Skin of Our Teeth.”
Club Oberon, 2 Arrow St., 7 p.m.
Doors and bar open at 6:30 p.m. Join George Antrobus and his modern Stone Age family as they survive history’s epic disasters...by the skin of their teeth. Tickets are $10 general; $5 students and senior citizens; free for A.R.T. subscribers. 617.547.8300, americanrepertorytheater.org

MARCH 20
Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $45, $35, $25 general; WGBH members 15 percent off. 617.496.2222, ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

MARCH 22
Representing Slave Revolt in a Slave Society: Images of the Amistad Rebellion.
History Library, first floor level, Robinson Hall, 4-6 p.m. Marcus Rediker, University of Pittsburgh. Sponsored by the Charles Warren Center, with support from the Program on Justice, Welfare, and Economics, and the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research. ikennedy@fas.harvard.edu, warrencenter.fas.harvard.edu/fsprogramschedule.html.

MARCH 23
The Failure Mechanics of Dealer Banks.
Room 110, Fong Auditorium, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard, 4-5:30 p.m. Darrell Duffie, Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Free and open to the public. hgavel@fas.harvard.edu, icb.icb.do?keyword=k40863.

MARCH 24
Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism.
JFK Jr. Forum, Harvard Kennedy School, 79 JFK St., 6-7:30 p.m. David Fanning, executive producer of “FRONTLINE.” Free and open to the public. 617.495.1329.

MARCH 26
Bizarre Animals: An Evening of Contemporary Art Interventions.
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 7-9:30 p.m. A special evening of performance, sound, and video throughout the galleries. Twelve artists from across the country will transform the museum into laboratory, library, exploratorium, and stage. Organized by Carlin Wing ’02, artist-in-residence. Admission is $6; free to HMNH members and HU ID holders. Supported in part by Office for the Arts at Harvard. 617.495.3045, hmlh@oeb.harvard.edu, hmn.harvard.edu/lectures_and_special_event s/index.php.

MARCH 27
The 2010 Genevieve McMillan Award: Abdellatif Kechiche
Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St., 7 p.m. Free with Harvard ID. 617.495.4700, hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/films/2010janmar/kechiche.html.

MARCH 27
The Radcliffe Pitches & Harvard Krokodiloes: Aged to Perfection.
Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 general; $8 students. 617.496.2222, ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

MARCH 31
“End of Life” Performance by Theater of War.
TMEC Amphitheater, 2nd floor, Harvard Medical School, 260 Longwood Ave., 7-9:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Division of Medical Ethics in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Free; must RSVP to DME@hms.harvard.edu.
A sea of undergraduates flows outside Memorial Hall, shouting, dancing, pulsating, as students bob and weave to find and greet new housemates. Banners dip and soar like tethered kites. Colors abound, on signs, on painted faces, on makeshift tents and domes labeled “Adams,” “Winthrop,” and “Kirkland.” Music throbs, and the energy is frenzied, like at an outdoor disco. But it’s actually Housing Day at Harvard.

This is the time when freshmen receive their assignments to one of the 12 upper-class Houses where they will live for the next three years. It is one of Harvard’s most hallowed rituals, an annual event generating more anticipation than the Harvard-Yale football game. “If you’re not happy with your House assignment today,” said one upperclassman, “just wait a month, and you will be.”

“Just look around, it’s magical,” said another. He might have been referring to the costumed lion, two moose, and polar bears running about. It could almost be the Magic Kingdom, right here at Harvard.