The future beckons

Grounded in academics, committed to public service, Harvard’s graduates step out into the wider world. Page 8
Online Highlights

NEW NEXT FALL
A daily e-mail version of the Gazette, a snapshot of what’s happening at Harvard, with stories about campus life and research, along with announcements and calendar items. Watch news.harvard.edu/gazette/ this summer for details.

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<td>Harvard students in a History of Science class worked to create an exhibit that illustrates the importance of print technologies and printmaking, not only to the dissemination of scientific knowledge in early modern Europe, but also to its creation.</td>
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<td>Declaring the University’s efforts to improve the state of global health knowledge, education, and capacity building to be one of her “very highest priorities,” President Drew Faust announced the appointment of Sue J. Goldie as director of the Harvard Institute for Global Health.</td>
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Photos (top) Kris Snibbe, (center) Rose Lincoln, (right) courtesy of Sue Goldie, (lower left) Goltzius’ “Child with a Skull Blowing Bubbles” (detail), 1594, by Jess Dugan © President and Fellows of Harvard College
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Photo: (top row from left) (file) Justin Ide, Kris Snibbe, Stephanie Mitchell; (second row) Kris Snibbe, Stephanie Mitchell, Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographers
Ah, Harvard lore. It can be befuddling if you don’t know the history behind these age-old Commencement conventions.

**SALVETE OMNES!**
That’s “Hello, everyone!” in Latin, in case you didn’t know.

And during Morning Exercises, when degrees are conferred and Tercentenary Theatre is overtaken by thousands of guests, that greeting will be shouted, ushering in two graduating seniors and one graduate student to offer orations in one of Harvard’s oldest traditions.

But just who are these speech-givers, and how did they get here?

In April, Harvard’s Commencement Office holds an open speech-writing competition for graduating seniors. Long ago, these orations were given in Greek, Latin, or Hebrew, and were mainly theses defenses. But times have changed, and students now address current issues and events, or speak of lessons learned from their years at Harvard — all in just five minutes (and only one speech is in Latin).

Final auditions involve a live reading in front of an audience and take place in late April. A panel of professors, deans, and other officials measures each candidate; after all, these are the only speeches delivered during the Morning Exercises ceremony, and they have to be good.

Fun fact: Only graduating seniors are given translations of the Latin speech. So unless you’re versed in the ancient language, you’re out of luck. Here are the scheduled orators:

**MARY ANNE MARKS, LATIN ORATION**
Queens, NY, native Mary Anne Marks is a classics and English joint concentrator who fell in love with the Latin language by studying Cicero’s Catilinarian Orations. “The links between Latin and Romance languages are fascinating, and, at the same time, Latin has the ability to say things in ways that are not available to Romance languages or to English,” said Marks. “I mused about ideas for the speech for weeks before setting pen to paper, and, once I’d picked a topic, I consulted with friends and acquaintances from various departments to make sure it spoke to their experiences at Harvard.” In the fall, Marks is headed to Ann Arbor, Mich., to enter a community of Catholic teaching nuns called the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, where after three years of classes in the convent on theological and ecclesiastical topics, she’ll attain a teaching certificate at a local university and teach in Catholic schools. “I’ve always thought about being a nun but came to Harvard planning to go to graduate school and perhaps also do some other things before entering,” she recalled. “I decided in January of last year to enter right after college, but a master’s or Ph.D. is still a possibility. One of the exciting things about being a nun is that one never knows what the future holds!”

**CHIAMAKA NWAKEZE, UNDERGRADUATE ORATION**
After writing six speeches, neurobiology concentrator Chiamaka Nwakeze decided on “the one.” “Applying for the orations competition challenged me to distill four years at Harvard into a four-minute speech,” Nwakeze said, “and speaking at graduation will be an additional challenge.” But she’s ready. Nwakeze cites her Nigerian parents’ “immigrant work ethic,” which “significantly shaped who I am,” she said. Over her four years, she has been the vice president of programming for the Harvard Premedical Society, co-editor in chief of the student-run journal Harvard Brain, business chair of the National Symposium for the Advancement of Women in Science (where she helped to raise more than $10,000 for its conference), and a public speaking and writing tutor at the Harvard Allston Education Portal. Next, this New Rochelle, NY, native is off to Yale to work as a research lab assistant for biochemist Arthur Horwich, and plans to enroll in a M.D./Ph.D. program thereafter.

**JIMMY TINGLE, GRADUATE ORATION**
“I never in a million years thought I would be speaking at Harvard Commencement,” said Jimmy Tingle, entertainer, Cambridge native, and now Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) graduate. Tingle, who already boasts a successful career as a comedian, began thinking about going back to school in 2007 when he was Davis Square (Somerville, Mass.) enterprise, Jimmy Tingle’s Off Broadway Theater, closed. “I wanted to do something completely different and evaluate my life and career,” he recalled. Before studying public administration at HKS, Tingle was often featured in film and television and was even a commentator for “60 Minutes.”

Social and political themes are common in Tingle’s routines, and he plans to continue to write, perform, pursue more work on radio and TV, and “explore how I can better use entertainment to effect social change.” Yet, after all his accomplishments, Tingle still can’t believe his luck in landing one of the biggest gigs of all: Harvard Commencement. He joked: “Looking over the list of distinguished Commencement speakers, Tingle does have a nice ring to it. Only in America! Only at Harvard!”

**UNCOMMON THRONE**
There’s nothing truer than Harvard loving a good ritual. But a three-legged chair? Stranger things have happened here.

Purchased by Harvard President Edward H. L. H. H. Holyoke, who served from 1737 to 1769, the famed seat now rests in the Fogg Art Museum, where it’s removed at Commencement for Harvard’s president to repose in. But the chair’s unique look matches its precarious origin and history.

Furniture historians wager that this unusual Jacobean chair — a “three-square turned chair” — was made either in England or Wales between 1550 and 1600. Not even Holyoke knew the facts and was stumped when visitors wondered about it.

But this President’s Chair was not always tucked away for special occasions. Old reports suggest it resided in one of Harvard’s libraries, and gave young men the right to kiss any lady he was showing around, and who happened to sit in it.

Few will argue the strange regal quality of the chair, but its usage was intended for something far less romantic than royalty and making out. Its true destiny was as a domestic piece of furniture.

That’s right, just your average, everyday, humble chair. Who would’ve thought?

**TICKET TO RIDE**
Harvard Commencement begins with the cry, “Sheriff, pray give us order!” That would be a call to the Middlesex and Suffolk county sheriffs, who will be wearing handsome top hats, morning coats, and striped pants with swords and scabbards at the belt. And they’ll be riding white horses.

Pounding his staff three times, the Middlesex sheriff will signal the start of Commencement, decreeing, “This meeting will be in order.”

As lore has it, the sheriffs were originally invited during the 17th century to control unruly or drunk students and alumni by horseback. Today, smartly dressed sheriffs continue fitting Commencement atop those noble alabaster steeds — with a few bumps in their road.

In 1970, Middlesex County Sheriff John J. Buckley announced he would not at-
tend Commencement because he refused to wear the traditional required dress. In the 1930s, something similar occurred when two Massachusetts governors chided Harvard for its dress code. Later, Gov. Paul Dever outraged officials by arriving in a tunica and straw hat.

Another year, Gov. James Michael Curley appeared in silk stockings, knee britches, a powdered wig, and a three-cornered hat with flowing plume. When officials objected to his overwrought attire, Curley procured his copy of the Statutes of the Massachusetts Bay Colony — which had a dress code of its own — and proclaimed that he was the only person in attendance who was properly dressed.

SPEAK EASY

Highlights of Commencement include those sometimes famous, sometimes groundbreaking, but ultimately unforgettable, speechmakers. There are two speakers: one for Class Day, one for Afternoon Exercises.

The Senior Class Committee has invited Class Day speakers since 1968, when Coretta Scott King delivered an inaugural address, taking the place of her husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who had been assassinated two months earlier. She told the crowd: “Your generation must speak out with righteous indignation against the forces which are seeking to destroy us.”

Past speakers have been as varied as last year’s Matt Lauer, co-anchor of NBC’s “Today,” to former President Bill Clinton, comedian Conan O’Brien ’85, singer and activist Bono, baseball legend Hank Aaron, charitable leader Mother Teresa, television anchorwoman Walter Cronkite, and comedian Rodney Dangerfield, to today’s speaker, journalist and chief international correspondent for CNN Christiane Amanpour.

The speaker for Afternoon Exercises is determined by the University president and the president of the Harvard Alumni Association, who undergo cloak-and-dagger negotiations for months and keep their selection veiled until February, when an official announcement is made. This year’s speaker is former Supreme Court Justice David Souter ’61, LL.B. ’66.

Honorary degrees

Harvard will confer 10 honorary degrees today during the Morning Exercises.

David H. Souter
Doctor of Laws

David H. Souter was an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court for 19 years before retiring in June 2009. Souter, who graduated from Harvard College in 1961 and Harvard Law School in 1966, will be the principal speaker at the Afternoon Exercises at this year’s Commencement.

Harvard President Drew Faust hailed Souter’s “deep sense of independence and fairness” and “clear concern for the effects of the court’s decisions on the lives of real people” in making the Commencement speaker announcement. She said his “dedication, humility, and commitment to learning” should be an inspiration to anyone contemplating a career in public service.

Souter was also a Rhodes Scholar, earning an M.A. from Magdalen College in Oxford in 1963.

Nominated by President George H.W. Bush, Souter came to the court after spending many years at posts in the New Hampshire legal system. Born in Massachusetts, he moved to New Hampshire as a boy. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he began his legal career in private practice. In 1968, he was named assistant attorney general of New Hampshire. In 1971, he became deputy attorney general, and, in 1976, attorney general. He became a state Superior Court associate justice two years later and was appointed to the state Supreme Court as an associate justice in 1983. He became a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in 1990, shortly before his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thomas R. Cech
Doctor of Science

Thomas R. Cech, director of the Colorado Institute for Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Colorado, has made important contributions to understanding RNA, findings that won him the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1989.

Cech was awarded the Nobel for revelations that RNA, ribonucleic acid, has functions beyond its role as a carrier of genetic information. In a single-celled organism, Tetrahymena thermophila, Cech discovered that RNA can also function as an enzyme, a function that had previously been thought to be the exclusive domain of proteins. These RNA enzymes are called ribozymes.

Cech grew up in Iowa and earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Grinnell College in 1970. He received a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and did postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the University of Colorado faculty in 1978 and became a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator in 1988 and distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry in 1990.

In 2000, Cech became the president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and led that organization until 2009, when he returned to the University of Colorado as director of the Colorado Institute for Molecular Biotechnology.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Cech has won numerous awards and (see Honorands next page)
Honorands
(continued from previous page)
honors, including the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award in 1988, the National Medal of Science in 1993, and the Heineken Prize of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences in 1988. In 1987, Cech was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and was awarded a lifetime professorship by the American Cancer Society.

Renée C. Fox
Doctor of Laws
Renée C. Fox’s studies in the sociology of medicine, medical ethics, medical research, and medical education have led her to Belgium, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China, and the United States, and have resulted in nine books and numerous articles.

Fox earned a doctorate in sociology from Harvard in 1954. She received a bachelor’s degree summa cum laude from Smith College. She joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania in 1969, where she is Annenberg Professor Emerita of the Social Sciences.

Before joining the University of Pennsylvania’s faculty, Fox was a member of the Columbia University Bureau of Applied Social Research. She taught for 12 years at Barnard College and then was a visiting lecturer for two years at Harvard’s Department of Social Relations.

At Pennsylvania, she was a professor in the Sociology Department with joint secondary appointments in the Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine, and in the School of Nursing. She also held an interdisciplinary chair as the Annenberg Professor of the Social Sciences.


Fox is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has received a Radcliffe Graduate School Medal and a Centennial Medal from the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She has received several teaching awards, holds nine honorary degrees, and in 2007 received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.

Freeman A. Hrabowski III
Doctor of Laws
Freeman A. Hrabowski III is committed to rigorous academic standards and challenging students to excel. The president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), who chose to fund a championship chess team at the school instead of a football program, has built a career devoted to education and to helping minorities succeed in science, technology, engineering, and math.

In 1988 he co-founded the Meyerhoff Scholarship Program at UMBC with the goal of increasing the diversity of future leaders in science, technology, engineering, and related fields. Originally geared toward African-American males, the program has expanded to students of all races and both genders, and has been recognized by the National Science Foundation as a national model.

Called a “tireless academic cheerleader,” he was associate dean of graduate studies and associate professor of statistics and research at Alabama A&M University from 1976 to 1977. He was a professor of mathematics at Coppin State College in Baltimore for 10 years, and served as dean of arts and sciences from 1977 to 1981. He was the school’s vice president for academic affairs from 1981 to 1987. He went to the UMBC as vice provost in 1987, and was appointed president in 1993.

The son of teachers, Hrabowski was jailed for a week at age 12 after marching against school segregation in his home city of Birmingham, Ala. “The experience taught me that the more we expect of children, the more they can do,” he said in a 2008 interview with U.S. News & World Report, which named him one of America’s best leaders.

An early academic standout, he skipped two grades and graduated from high school at age 15. Four years later he graduated from Hampton Institute with the highest honors in mathematics. He received his master’s in mathematics in 1971 and his Ph.D. in higher education administration and educational statistics in 1975 from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

He is a member of several boards, including the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He is the co-author of “Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Males.” In 2009, Time magazine named Hrabowski one of America’s 10 best college presidents.

Susan Lindquist
Doctor of Science
Understanding how malformed proteins affect the human body, and how they are involved in evolution, is the realm of biologist Susan Lindquist, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lindquist, an authority on the complex molecular phenomenon called protein folding, explores how misfolded proteins play a role in diseases such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, Parkinson’s, and Huntington’s. She uses yeast-based models of such protein-folded diseases to develop new approaches to therapy.

One area of Lindquist’s research examines the “chaperone” heat shock proteins that assist in protein folding and help to buffer genetic mutations. When such chaperone systems are overwhelmed, misfolding and disease states can result. The former director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research also has explored how such misfolded proteins affect some evolutionary changes.

“One implication of our work is that the protein-folding problem isn’t always a problem,” notes Lindquist’s lab homepage. “The very same types of misfoldings that cause dreadful diseases in some circumstances can have beneficial effects in others. The protein-folding problem is as ancient as life itself; it makes sense that evolution would occasionally, perhaps even often, use it to advantage.”

As a Radcliffe Fellow in 2007-08, Lindquist continued her investigations into the connections between genomics and medicine.

Lindquist received her undergraduate degree in microbiology from the University of Illinois in 1971. She received her Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University in 1976. In 1999 she was named the Albert D. Lasker Professor of Medical Sciences at the University of Chicago.

Her awards include the Dickson Prize in Medicine, the Centennial Medal of the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Otto-Warburg Prize, and the Genetics Society of America Medal. She is an associate member of the Broad Institute, a member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. She is the co-founder of the Cambridge-based FoldRx Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Thomas Nagel
Doctor of Laws
American philosopher of the mind Thomas Nagel is known for “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?” This rumination on the idea of consciousness — and the limits of science for explaining it — was published in the October 1974 issue of The Philosophical Review.

The article articulates a central concern of Nagel, who said that humans instinctually want to make sense of the world, but adopting a unified, purely objective worldview can lead to error. In fact, relying on scientific objectivity alone leaves out some essential component of understanding ourselves.


Nagel was born in 1937 in Belgrade, in present-day Serbia, and as a young child moved to the United States. He earned a B.A. in 1958 from Cornell University, a B.Phil. from Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1960, and a Ph.D. from Harvard, where he was a student of philosopher John Rawls, in 1963.

He taught at the University of California, Berkeley, (1963-66) and at Prince-
Nagel is a fellow of the American Academy of Sciences, a corresponding fellow of the British Academy, and a member of the American Philosophical Society. In 2008, he received an honorary D.Litt. from Oxford.

David G. Nathan
Doctor of Science

David G. Nathan, the Robert A. Stranahan Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, former physician-in-chief at Harvard-affiliated Children’s Hospital, and former president of the Harvard-affiliated Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, has had a career of discovery, teaching, and leadership that has not only pushed back the frontiers of knowledge of blood-based disorders but also fostered a generation of leaders who are guiding the field into the future.

Nathan, who graduated from Harvard College in 1951 and from Harvard Medical School in 1955, is an authority on blood disorders. His discoveries have shed light on anemia and the hemoglobin disorder thalassemia. He won the National Medal of Science in 1990 “for his contributions to the understanding of the pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment of thalassemia; for his contributions to the understanding of disorders of red cell permeability; for his contributions to the understanding of the regulation of erythropoiesis; and for his contributions to the training of a generation of hematologists and oncologists.”

Nathan has won many awards and honors over his career, including the John Howland Medal of the American Pediatric Society and the Kober Medal of the Association of American Physicians. He is one of three physicians to win both.

Nathan’s medical career began as an intern and senior resident at what was then the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. He spent two years as a clinical associate at the National Cancer Institute. From 1959 to 1966, he was a hematologist at Brigham Hospital, and then became chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Children’s Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. In 1985, he was physician-in-chief at Children’s Hospital, a position he held until 1995, when he was named president of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He served as Dana-Farber’s president until 2000.

He is the author of “Hematology of Infancy and Childhood,” which is the leading text in the field.

The Baroness Onora O’Neill of Bengarve
Doctor of Laws

Scholar and politician Onora O’Neill, Baroness O’Neill of Bengarve, studied philosophy, psychology, and physiology at Oxford University before earning her philosophy doctorate at Harvard in 1969.

Her mentor and dissertation adviser was American philosopher John Rawls, the one-time James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard whose signature work, “A Theory of Justice” is still a primary text in political philosophy.

A native of Northern Ireland, O’Neill has written widely and influentially on political philosophy and ethics, as well as on international justice, bioethics, media ethics, and the philosophy of Emmanuel Kant. Her work concerns issues of trust, consent, and respect for autonomy, in particular in the context of complex medical decision-making.

A veteran instructor at universities in the United Kingdom and the United States, she teaches philosophy at the University of Cambridge, where she was principal at Newnham College from 1992 to 2006.

O’Neill is the author of seven books and co-author of an eighth. Her works include “Acting on Principle” (1975), “Towards Justice and Virtue” (1996), “Bounds of Justice” (2000), and “Autonomy and Trust in Bioethics” (2001), the last being her Gifford Lectures in book form. (The prestigious Gifford Lectures, a tradition at Scottish universities, are designed to explore the idea of “natural theology,” that is, theology supported by science.)

O’Neill, a life peer, is a “crossbench” (nonparty) member of the British House of Lords. She has served on committees concerning stem cell research, genomic medicine, and nanotechnology and food.

O’Neill’s advisory work reflects her academic interests. In the United Kingdom, she has been a member of the Animal Procedures Committee, the Human Genetics Advisory Commission, and the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, which she chairs.

Richard Serra
Doctor of Arts

Minimalist sculptor and experimental video artist Richard Serra is famous for his monumental works in steel—a favorite medium—and for his experimental films, beginning with “Hand Catching Lead” in 1968. He is associated with the process art movement of the mid-1960s. It celebrates the serendipity of art (the drip painting of Jackson Pollock, for instance) as well as the process of making art (rather than the art itself).

His first sculptures in the 1960s were made out of nontraditional materials such as fiberglass, neon, and rubber. But he soon graduated to his lifelong fascination with metals.

Born in 1939, Serra worked at steel mills to support himself while studying English literature at the University of California, Berkeley, and then at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received a bachelor’s degree. From 1961 to 1964, Serra studied painting at Yale University, earning both a B.F.A. and an M.F.A.

From 1968 to 1970, he executed a series of “splash pieces” in which molten lead was splashed against walls. Serra moved to “prop pieces,” metal sculptures held together solely by balance and the force of gravity. In 1970, Serra began experimenting with large-scale sculptures that played off urban landscapes. Many were made of spirals and curving lines—counterpoints to the right angles that dominate city skylines.

He is best known for his long-coming minimalist constructions made from rolls of Cor-Ten steel. They were once dismissed as artifacts from an arrogant art world, Serra’s 120-foot-long Tilted Arc, installed in Manhattan’s Federal Plaza in 1981, was dismantled eight years later. But in 2007, The New York Times called Serra “a titan of sculpture, one of the last great modernists.” That year, four massive sculptures with the same whimsical curves were the centerpiece of a Serra retrospective at New York’s Museum of Modern Art.

Meryl Streep
Doctor of Arts

Academy Award-winning actress Meryl Streep has won fans around the world and the acting industry’s highest awards for her versatility, her ability to master accents and personas, and her ease with both dramatic and comedic roles.

Considered one of the country’s greatest living actresses, Streep has been nominated 16 times for an Oscar, winning two, and 25 times for a Golden Globe, winning seven. She is the most nominated performer for either award.

Born in New Jersey in 1949, Streep’s initial artistic interest was opera, but she eventually gravitated toward theater, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in drama from Vassar College in 1971. She earned an M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama in 1975.

Her early career involved the New York stage and included work with the New York Shakespeare Festival, as well as on Broadway. In 1978 she won an Emmy Award for her role in the television miniserie “Hoopla.”

Streep’s movie career blossomed with her role in the 1978 film “The Deer Hunter.” She received her first Academy Award nomination and has worked steadily in films since.

Two years later she won the Academy Award for best supporting actress for her role as a struggling mother in “Kramer vs. Kramer,” and won for best actress in 1983 for her portrayal of a tormented Holocaust survivor in “Sophie’s Choice.”

Streep’s other films include “The French Lieutenant’s Woman,” “Out of Africa,” “Silkwood,” “The River Wild,” “Adaptation,” “The Hours,” “The Devil Wears Prada,” and “Julie and Julia.”

Streep also is an environmental health activist. In 1989 she helped to found Mothers and Others, a consumer group advocating sustainable agriculture and increased pesticide regulations.

Among her many honors are a Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Film Institute.
Faust emphasizes public service

Concluding a year of expanded volunteer efforts at Harvard, president announces new fellowships that will allow students to do well by doing good.

The academic year that draws to a close today saw renewed emphasis on public service across Harvard. In her Commencement address, President Drew Faust will underscore the University’s mission to serve the common good and will announce enhanced support for students seeking service opportunities, including new Presidential Public Service Fellowships.

“It is a fundamental purpose of the modern research university to develop talent in service of a better world. This commitment is at the heart of all we do and at the heart of what we celebrate today,” Faust said in prepared remarks that also highlight the contributions that students, faculty, and staff make every day. “We as a University live under the protection of the public trust, [and] it is our obligation to … serve that trust — creating the people and the ideas that can change the world.”

The highly selective presidential fellowships will enable 10 students from across the University to spend a summer working with a public service organization of their choice or on a service project of their own creation. These students also will have the opportunity to participate in symposia and other learning experiences related to public service throughout the academic year.

In addition, Faust said that the goals of an anticipated University fundraising campaign would include doubling funds for undergraduate summer service opportunities and significantly increasing service opportunities for students in the graduate and professional Schools. The University also plans to create a public service Web site that will serve as a single entry point for students seeking information about career and volunteer opportunities.

The array of public service activities involving faculty, students, staff, and alumni this academic year was sweeping in its diversity: Students took advantage of the new winter recess to fight malnutrition in Uganda and promote literacy in El Salvador, and when they fanned out from New York City to the Deep South to perform community service on annual alternative spring break trips, they were joined for the first time by a group of alumni in the ongoing effort to rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Harvard Law School (HLS) announced new funding to support postgraduate work in public service, the Graduate School of Design (GSD) put the creative talents of its students to work designing a library in Boston’s Chinatown, and scores of people from across the University volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Bank.

The University’s tradition of service dates to the 17th century. In 1636, the “College at Newtowne” was founded to provide the Massachusetts Bay Colony with the ministers needed in what was perceived as a wilderness. Six of the nine members of Harvard’s first graduating class became ministers, at least part time. Three of the six also were physicians.

By the early 17th century, Harvard’s Puritan origins had been supplanted by Unitarian leanings that secularized the University but allowed it to retain its sense of service to the greater good. When author Charles Dickens visited the United States in 1842, he castigated the young nation for its rapacious capitalism, calling America “a vast counting house” and Boston a place that worshipped the “golden calf” of mercantilism. But Dickens thought better of Harvard, writing that by serving the common good it represented “a whole Pantheon of better gods.”

HARVARD’S “BETTER GODS”

Those better gods are evident in full measure now at Harvard, where every discipline is informed by the idea of public service.
The Schools of medicine, public health, law, government, business, design, divinity, and education all have classes, clubs, initiatives, research, and projects devoted to the idea that every occupation can in some way spur service.

“If you’re at Harvard, you have privilege,” said Kaitlin “Katie” Koga ’11, president of Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA). “That’s something you should be cognizant of. We want people to think about living a life of service, in whatever they do.”

The effort to institutionalize public service at Harvard builds on a tradition exemplified by the Phillips Brooks House Association, the University’s signature social service club, which was founded in 1904. Today, there are about 1,400 active members — close to a quarter of the undergraduates.

PBHA alumni include former U.S. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter (who is delivering today’s Afternoon Exercises address), U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Roger Baldwin, founder of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Some supporters call PBHA “Harvard’s best course,” because it offers not just opportunities to give back, but also first-rate leadership and management experience for its student officers, who can put 30 hours or more into their jobs each week.

The group is adding eight programs, in a sign of the widening interest in public service University-wide, with more service-related classes, club activities, and School-supported fellowships.

“The millennial generation’s strong interest in service is well-documented,” said Gene Corbin, PBHA’s Class of 1955 Executive Director, “and we are doing everything we can at Harvard to support and encourage this inclination.”

The recent financial crisis has prompted this new generation to embrace priorities beyond simply building wealth, he said. “Our students are now more passionate about how they can make the world a better place.”

There are other signs of the rising commitment to the ideal of commonwealth. Last fall, the University held its first Public Service Week. Events and activities highlighted Harvard’s service history, celebrated its present, and encouraged a future of doing more.

There are many avenues to public service along with PBHA, including the Center for Public Interest Careers at Harvard College (CPIC). As many as 40 postgraduate students a year get full-time public interest fellowships from CPIC, which networks with 250 alumni and nonprofit groups nationally.

Harvard undergraduates such as Qi Yu ’11 (left) volunteer at the Harvard Allston Education Portal to work with area school children. The group’s goal, said director Amanda Sonis Glynn, J.D. ’03, is to help students find a place for public service in every life choice or career.

The fellowships pay at least $30,000 a year, plus benefits, but students can choose from a range of paid summer fellowships as well — in the arts, journalism, education, medicine, public health, and housing and urban development. Last year, CPIC received more than 350 applications; 160 students took part in its programs, including 99 full-year, postgraduate fellows.

Elsewhere at Harvard, doing public service can mean volunteer work. For one, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences — the seedbed of Harvard’s newest science and humanities Ph.D.s — has its own volunteerism arm, Dudley House Public Service. Its reach is wide, from mentoring and letter-writing campaigns, to blood drives, themed fundraisers, and a walk for hunger.

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The Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) has a public service task force that helps identify ways for graduates to volunteer around the world. In April, HAA held a Global Month of Service, sparking service events in North and South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Shared-interest groups at HAA often take the same tack. One is PBHA-Alumni, a network of Harvard graduates who are amid service careers or who simply want to help out. With HAA, the group co-sponsored its first alternative spring break service trip in March to New Orleans.

More than 20 alumni and friends spent a week sprucing up buildings at the Pentecost Baptist Church in Gentilly, a neighborhood heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Nearly five years later, the area still has gutted shotgun houses, but busy construction sites too.

Mary Brownlow ’74, associate pastor at Norwich Congregational Church in rural Vermont, was among Harvard alumni repainting a community center at Pentecost Baptist. Sweating and shaded by a wide-brim hat, she said of her good life at home: “You want to break out of that bubble once in a while.”

At Harvard College, alternative spring break expanded from one trip in 2001 to nearly a dozen this year. In March, 85 undergraduates served in 10 domestic locations and one in El Salvador.

Shigeru Ban, a visiting professor, Graduate School of Design: This semester, Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, a visiting professor, oversaw a design studio focused on the architecture of disaster relief. Among other projects, students designed and built temporary structures that will be used in earthquake-damaged Haiti.

Graduate School of Design: This semester, Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, a visiting professor, oversaw a design studio focused on the architecture of disaster relief. Among other projects, students designed and built temporary structures that will be used in earthquake-damaged Haiti.

Law School: Graduates of the Class of 2010 performed 329,934 hours of pro bono service, an average of 553 hours per student; 105 students performed more than 1,000 hours.


Graduate School of Education: Learning Through Libraries, a student group founded this year, raised money to buy 1,500 books for three schools in El Salvador. The group ran workshops on library management there during a public service trip in January, and engaged students in arts projects.

Business School: HBS offered its first international “immersion” program, a social-enterprise consulting trip to Rwanda.
Intellect, rigor, tradition

The Literary Exercises, Harvard’s Phi Beta Kappa tradition, honor 72 seniors for their achievements.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

In the welcome shade of the verdant trees outside Harvard Hall on this scorching morning (May 25), Trevor Bakker ’10 and 71 other Phi Beta Kappa honorees lined up in their caps and gowns for the traditional fife-and-drum procession to Sanders Theatre.

“It’s the beginning of a celebration,” said the Holland, Mich., senior, who said he landed among the University’s highest achievers without ever drinking coffee. “There are a few of us.”

At Harvard, 24 juniors are elected to Phi Beta Kappa every spring, and 48 seniors each fall. Membership cannot exceed 10 percent of the graduating class.

The Literary Exercises have been a Harvard tradition since the 18th century, and take place each year on Tuesday of Commencement Week. Harvard’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter, called Alpha Iota of Massachusetts since 1995, is the oldest continuously running chapter in the United States.

Today’s Literary Exercises, the 220th, included three musical interludes by the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum. The last (another tradition) is Harvard’s “College Hymn,” which exhorts new graduates “for Right ever bravely to live.”

To help the graduates find rightness, two addresses are at the heart of the exercises ceremony. One is by a poet, who reads a work written for the occasion. The other is by an “orator,” a guest invited to offer timely discourse.

This year’s Phi Beta Kappa poet was D.A. Powell, a Georgia-born writer who teaches English at the University of San Francisco. He was once the Briggs-Copeland Lecturer in Poetry at Harvard.

Powell, a prize-winning experimental poet, read his new poem “Panic in the Year Zero,” whose title was inspired by a 1962 movie about nuclear apocalypse. He is a lover of puns and edgy themes, including AIDS. His first three collections of poetry — “Tea,” “Lunch,” and “Cocktails” — are considered a trilogy on the disease.

“In the time I have been alive,” said Powell, “we have lived under the threat of some sort of extinction. And I think that the mission of this poem is to say: enough.” As he writes:

Enough with the apocalypse, already. Think of all the history you’ve read. It started somewhere. It started at absolute zero, is what you thought. Just because you couldn’t know what came before. But imagine: something did.

Doing the honors as orator was Natalie Zemon Davis, A.M. ’50, LL.D. ’96, a pioneering cultural historian of the early modern period who teaches at the University of Toronto and is professor emerita at Princeton University. Her discourse, a glimpse at past orations and what they promise for the future, was titled “The Possibilities of Friendship.”

Davis is a figure of some renown in the history of women and gender, and in 1971 at the University of Toronto co-founded one of the first courses on the subject in North America.

Her oration marked how the concept of friendship — a central Phi Beta Kappa value — has waxed and waned over the years, as traditions of “sentimental union” through literature vied with stricter measures of academic excellence. But friendship is a mark of hope and excellence in the modern world, said Davis, who looked at the cooperation among Palestinian and Israeli doctors, whose nations are riven by war.

Friendship can “blaze anew,” she said, “illuminating a landscape that may seem desolate but can still carry within it bridges of truth, truth-telling, and understanding.”

The Literary Exercises are also traditionally when the winners of the annual Alpha Iota Prize for Excellence in Teaching are announced. Prizes this year went to Lawrence Buell, Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature; Benjamin M. Friedman, William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy; and Richard J. Tarrant, Pope Professor of the Latin Language and Literature.
Embracing the unscripted life

In her Baccalaureate Address, Harvard President Drew Faust tells students they’ll handle the turbulent future because they’ve prepared for it.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

In a time of global change and uncertainty, Harvard continues to support, encourage, challenge, and prepare its students to face times of calm and crisis and help them to understand that “life never follows a script,” Harvard President Drew Faust told the College’s Class of 2010 on Tuesday (May 25).

Faust’s remarks in the Memorial Church were part of the annual Baccalaureate Address, a Commencement week ritual dating to 1642 that gathers seniors for an informal farewell from the University's president and the clergy.

In her speech, Faust recalled the words of Robert F. Kennedy, who addressed South African students in 1966 who were fighting to end apartheid. Kennedy, said Faust, told those students that they lived in times of danger and uncertainty, but also in times of great possibility.

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“Now you have your own uncertainties and dangers and your own scripts to write,” Faust told the seniors. “The world has never needed you more. And we send you into that world with our confidence — our confidence in your commitment and our confidence in your abilities to create a script from the unexpected for which you are so well prepared.”

On the hottest day of the year, the young men and women poured into the sweltering Memorial Church, dressed in their traditional black caps and gowns for their Harvard farewell.

The time-honored ceremony included readings from Hindu scripture, the Holy Quran, the New Testament, the Hebrew Bible, and the Analects of Confucius. In addition, there were comments from the Rev. Peter J. Gomes, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church.

As is customary, Gomes was stationed at the church’s front steps and welcomed the seniors, who processed in a long line that snaked through the Old Yard. He greeted them with a solemn nod or friendly word.

Faust said that changes at Harvard, ranging from the reforms in its financial aid programs to the successful introduction of a new undergraduate General Education curriculum, combined with a changing global landscape, provided lessons for the seniors that were “too important to forget.”

Her first lesson concerned humility.

“If Harvard graduates were writing the book on it, someone once said, the title would have to be ‘Humility and How I Achieved It,’ ” Faust joked. But, she added, “humility, in fact, is what makes learning possible — the sense of ignorance fueling the desire to overcome it.”

Reiterating her “parking space theory of life,” Faust encouraged the seniors, in her second lesson, to be risk takers and aim for goals where they can do what they love.

“Don’t park 10 blocks away from your destination because you think you’ll never find a closer space. Go to where you want to be. You can always circle back to where you have to be.”

The students were well aware of her third important lesson, she said, that “the world really needs you,” acknowledging that they had already developed “a deep sense of obligation” through extensive humanitarian work and volunteer efforts.

“You need to be the authors, the entrepreneurs, of your own lives,” offered Faust as her final lesson. “And this part I don’t have to tell you either. You are already doing it,” she said, referring to student projects such as a nonprofit group that built a girls school in Afghanistan. She also mentioned a soccer ball, born out of an engineering class assignment, that “can store energy and convert a playground ballgame into a power source for people in developing nations.”

“Keep asking the big, irrelevant questions; keep thinking beyond the present,” Faust told the students. “Then live what you have learned.”

Senior and Adams House resident Crystal Chang, a molecular and cellular biology concentrator who has plans to attend dental school, said Faust’s theme of embracing a life that doesn’t go according to a script is a message that everyone can appreciate.

“It was very encouraging and very inspiring at the same time,” she said.

Online ➤ Multimedia: hvd.gs/47852
From Ivy to military

Harvard’s newest commissioned officers take the stage.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

He called the dozen students arrayed on stage “the very best our nation has to offer,” praising them for volunteering in a time of war. “You have elected to forgo a more comfortable life,” said Vickers, a Special Forces soldier from 1973 to 1986, “and with eyes wide open have courageously and selflessly offered to put yourselves in harm’s way on behalf of your fellow citizens.”

He warned them too, saying that the hardest challenges are still ahead, and that to surmount those obstacles they would do well to listen to the combat-seasoned soldiers under their command.

Former interim U.S. Sen. Paul G. Kirk Jr. ’60, J.D. ’64, a Boston lawyer and veteran — as well as a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) graduate at Harvard — offered more words of praise and advice.

“Take what Harvard has given you,” she told the new officers, not “What shall I do with my Harvard degree? No, your question was more profound. You asked yourselves ... what shall I do with my citizenship?”

Kirk added, “A Harvard College education also teaches us to remember always our responsibilities as American citizens.”

He praised the students for volunteering. “In doing so, you bring honor to yourselves and to your families. You bring honor to your classmates and to this University, and — not least — you have honored your country.”

Kirk was an aide to U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy during his presidential run in 1968, served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and most recently filled a Senate seat following the death of Sen. Edward M. “Ted” Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Harvard President Drew Faust, herself the daughter of a decorated World War II veteran, was also on hand, as she always is during ceremonies honoring the University’s links to the military.

“Take what Harvard has given you,” she told the new officers, praising them for their fitness, intellect, and courage. “Generate a new surge of ideas to use in the nation’s service. Help reinforce the long tradition of ties between Harvard and the military, as we share hopes that changing circumstances will soon enable us to further strengthen those bonds.”

Student cadets and midshipmen drill and study with units at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This year, Harvard has 20 undergraduates enrolled in ROTC.

Just before the ceremony, David Boswell ’10 stood waiting, his uniformed shoulders bare of insignia. Behind him was a boyhood in the Solomon Islands, where he scoured the jungles for World War II artifacts. Ahead is a career as an officer in the Army Medical Service Corps, where he will train as a medical evacuation helicopter pilot.

Is ROTC the end of a long adventure? “Yes,” said Boswell, “and the beginning of another long adventure.”
Leading the way

Thousands of students are graduating from Harvard today. Each has a successful past to relate, and a promising future to embrace. In a series of profiles, Gazette writers showcase some of these stellar graduates, including computer whiz Lahiru Jayatilaka ’10 (left).

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

A s a young computer whiz, Lahiru Jayatilaka learned a lasting lesson about the importance of precision.

His father agreed to let him build a computer for their home, so the eager teen confidently studied “how to” tips, then set about connecting the intricate, costly hardware. In the final step, he quickly inserted a small component into the system’s main control panel. Triumphantly, Jayatilaka pressed the start button, and then watched the “blue screen of death” appear.

Everything seemed to be in order, but when he re-examined the final piece, Jayatilaka noticed an arrow and three little words: This side up. “The most important part of the machine had been inserted the wrong way,” and every part had to be bought again, he recalled. “I’ll never forget that.”

Jayatilaka brought that lesson with him to Harvard. As an undergraduate computer science concentrator, the Currier House resident helped to build robotic devices for detecting land mines. It was work in which precision was everything. “I have learned that going slow, taking time, following instructions, and taking a step back are very important,” he said.

Jayatilaka grew up in Sri Lanka, the son of an engineer and a lawyer, and was largely sheltered from the civil war raging between the government and the separatist Tamil Tigers. But at Harvard, he began to understand the repercussions of the conflict, which ended last year, and in particular the brutal legacy of land mines.

After a chance encounter at dinner, Jayatilaka spent two years collaborating with Thrishantha Nanayakkara, a one-time Radcliffe Fellow and member of the Scholars at Risk program, administered by the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies, on a robot that would detect land mines. The process deepened his understanding of the explosive devices, which carry sweeping social costs.

“Children can’t play or roam freely, farmers can’t farm their land and don’t have ways to feed their family, the government can’t support the number of people suffering from injuries and disabilities,” he said of the “frozen societies” that mines create, “not to mention the thousands of refugees displaced from their lands.”

The work on robots was exciting. But its prohibitive costs, and the challenges of using the technology in such rugged terrain and difficult weather, meant its immediate applications were limited. Wanting to address the problem in the near term, Jayatilaka wrote his senior thesis on patterns of land mine detection.

His research has produced a visual interface that may enable workers searching for mines to determine the type and location of buried objects with significantly more precision than is possible with currently available equipment.

He hopes to continue his work with Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences next year, to test his prototype mine detector in the field, and to start a Ph.D. in computer science at Harvard. But Harvard doesn’t fit into Jayatilaka’s longest-range plans. Sri Lanka does.

“I have strong opinions about where the country needs to go,” said Jayatilaka, who is interested in politics. “There need to be certain fundamental changes in the way we approach electing our leaders, and the way our leaders approach leading our country.”

The irony is, he never planned to come to Harvard. His mother submitted the application for him.

“I didn’t think it was the right fit,” said Jayatilaka, who assumed his mechanical background would be better suited for a certain engineering school farther down Massachusetts Avenue.

But today, Jayatilaka wouldn’t change a thing, acknowledging that Harvard’s broad exposure to the liberal arts has led to “one of the most formative experiences of my life.”

He used his time to pursue his passion for computers, but also to dive into courses in government, politics, and economics. That helped him to understand the conflict and unrest in his own country, said Jayatilaka. He also relished exploring history, literature, and philosophy.

He credits the experience with reshaping the way he channeled his skills as an engineer. “It has pushed me to be more practical and hands-on in addressing an issue,” said Jayatilaka, “rather than being in love with the abstract and theoretical.”

Photo by Justin Ide | Harvard Staff Photographer
Alexander Ahmed was 5 years old when he started playing a board game called Strat-O-Matic Baseball. Armed with stats cards from seasons going back to 1911, players roll dice to pitch, swing, and make defensive plays. “It simulates real-life baseball pretty well,” said the senior from suburban Springfield, Mass.

For Ahmed, Strat-O-Matic combined two early passions: sports play and statistics. Growing up, he studied box scores, and kept stats on every game he played. In high school, Ahmed was a three-sport varsity athlete who excelled in science and math too. At Harvard, there was ample opportunity to put the two worlds together.

On the sports side, Ahmed, an applied mathematics concentrator at Winthrop House, played junior varsity baseball for his first two years. He then masterminded the transformation of the struggling team from junior varsity status to the Harvard Baseball Club, where his batting average (.490) was second on the team this year.

Then there are all those intramural sports. “I try to do as many as I can,” said Ahmed. “It’s what I do for exercise.” Those included soccer, flag football, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, basketball, softball, crew, swimming, and ice hockey. Of the last, he said, “I learned to skate last year so I could play.”

Ahmed also has explored the mathematical and scientific dimensions that sport offers. His senior thesis — 63 pages of narrative, equations, and appendices — uses a statistical modeling tool called the Markov Chain to estimate “run expectancy” in baseball.

He also belongs to the 20-member Harvard Sports Analysis Collective, where weekly meetings draw in concentrators from fields such as math, statistics, economics, and psychology. “We try to ask interesting questions that any sports fan would ask,” said Ahmed, “then try to answer them with the tools that we have from our studies.”

In his sophomore year, he was one of seven students in the club who wrote a paper for the online Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports on “park factors,” the ways to adjust statistics based on the qualities of baseball venues. One example is the “Green Monster,” the famously high wall in Fenway Park’s left field. Ahmed also did a second-year independent study project for the Arizona Diamondbacks on pitching rotations.

Then there are the courses that Ahmed has taken that cross science with sports, such as this semester’s comparative biomechanics. (He wrote his final paper on the biomechanics of throwing.) “They’re difficult classes,” said Ahmed, but they left him with a solid life skill in problem solving.

In April, he was turned down for stats jobs with the Red Sox and the Cleveland Indians. But teaching math is an option too, something Ahmed tried out last year in a summer school program for rising eighth-graders who were struggling in math and science.

Ahmed and undergraduates from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were paid to bring baseball into lessons in the mornings and coach baseball in the afternoons. One class on projectile motion used hardball throws to calculate velocity. Another, on probability, used major league statistics.

On field trips, the youngsters visited work settings that combined sport and science, including bat-testing engineers at the University of Massachusetts Lowell’s Baseball Research Center. “It was cool for the kids to see that,” said Ahmed. “It showed that if you want to go into engineering, you can partner it with something that you love, like baseball.”

Then there is the Harvard University Band, a social constant for four years. It taught him leadership skills (he managed the band last year), let him play trombone (an instrument he took up in fifth grade), and allowed for a lot of sports viewing (football, hockey, basketball, and more).

“The older alums love the band the most,” said Ahmed. “They sing along with the fight songs.”

Photo by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer
Poetry on ice, paper

Loren Galler Rabinowitz ’10 used her creativity, intelligence, and drive to evolve from professional skating to Harvard, and soon to medical school.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

There’s ice-skating, and there’s poetry. And then there’s ice-skating poetry written by a former professional athlete who is a pre-med English concentrator. Loren Galler Rabinowitz is all of the above and — if you can believe it — more.

Galler Rabinowitz, who grew up in Brookline, Mass., and Barbados, already has lived a full life. From the ages of 2 to 20, her home was on the ice, where she eventually traveled around the world competing professionally with her skating partner David Mitchell, garnering acclaim as U.S. Junior Champions and 2004 bronze medalists at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. But, she said, she always knew she’d eventually land at Harvard.

“I think one of the most important things for me as a professional athlete was that I always took school very seriously,” said Galler Rabinowitz, “so I signed up for a creative writing course as a freshman.”

She eventually was chosen as a thesis advisee by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jorie Graham, the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory, from nearly 100 creative-writing thesis applications.

Her 70-plus-page manuscript, “The Invisible Encyclopedia of Dance,” recalls the tenuous stake on which glory rests, and evokes dance moves using the skater’s trademark measured precision — only on the poetic line. In “Ice Dancer,” Galler Rabinowitz writes: “The position must be maintained. / There is only up or down. / There are only laurels or sorrow.”

The poems also delve into heavier matter, such as sickness and death. In the fall of 2008, Galler Rabinowitz began shadowing a pastor at Mount Auburn Hospital. Her grandmother, a Holocaust survivor and 50-year New Orleans resident, had died in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. “I was very interested in how people deal with loss,” recalled Galler Rabinowitz.

“One of the things that most draws me to becoming a doctor is a sense of compassion and being a humanitarian,” she said. “That’s missing from medical education now. It’s sort of technical and diagnostic. I want to make the experience of going to the doctor’s office enjoyable and not terrifying.”

Now Galler Rabinowitz is considering medical schools and eventually wants to enter pediatrics. Medicine wasn’t always a career goal, but her parents are also physicians, and, she said, “They’re so passionate that it’s infectious.”

But medicine might wait a few years, too. Galler Rabinowitz is eyeing some of Boston’s M.F.A. programs in creative writing and may divert elsewhere, at least for a little while.

But this juggling is nothing new. Even at Harvard, Galler Rabinowitz coached youth ice skaters, waking every morning at 5:30 to meet them on the ice. That quickly led to her tutoring them and advising with SATs and college prep.

“One of the things that’s so interesting is how much of my skate training — discipline, work ethic, attention to detail, creativity — has been applicable to my activities at Harvard. I really like being able to show my young students the ways they can apply what they learn on the ice to all sorts of things they’re doing,” she said. “I think a lot of my successes at Harvard were due to that very specific training.”

Galler Rabinowitz is also adamant about giving back. Every Christmas she runs a charity event at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge, raising money for Globe Santa and even teaching a few skating lessons. “I get to do good things and wear a sparkly dress,” she said. “What could be better?”

And then there’s less glamorous fieldwork. Galler Rabinowitz frequently volunteers at her mother’s Barbados-based clinic that treats malnourished children. She’s also taught creative writing classes in a shelter for abused women and children there.

Though her classmates often looked her up on Wikipedia, there’s no sign any of her well-chronicled achievements have gone to her head.

“I’ve had the privilege of competing at the highest athletic level and attending Harvard,” Galler Rabinowitz said. “And I didn’t really anticipate being able to merge my love of writing and being a future physician, but it really worked out that way.”
Born in Taiwan, Cheng Ho was 13 when he and his sister came to America to live with family. “I’m very fortunate because I shouldn’t be alive right now, to be honest,” Ho said. “My sister and I probably would have been wandering the streets of Taipei if it wasn’t for my aunt and uncle.”

coaches to persuade him to give the gridiron a shot.

“Initially, it was really confusing because I didn’t know any of the rules, the shape of the football was really weird, and I couldn’t hold on to it,” he said. “I couldn’t really understand English, so I would run in the opposite direction. ... It was complete chaos.”

Eventually the chaos subsided, and over time, he began to excel on the field. Ho sent highlight tapes to several Division I football programs across the country, and teams began to show interest, including Harvard.

After spending a postgraduate year in Connecticut to improve his English and prepare for the rigors of college, Ho was admitted to Harvard, and was ready to take Cambridge by storm in more ways than one.

During his freshman year in 2006, he was behind future NFL running back Clifton Dawson ’07 on the depth chart, and then had a breakout season as a sophomore. In his first collegiate start at Holy Cross, he racked up 24 carries for 116 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown run. That season, Ho finished second in the Ivy League in rushing with 722 yards and eight touchdowns. His play helped the Crimson to an undefeated (7-0) Ivy League championship run and earned him a spot on the All Ivy second team.

It was his best, and only full season at Harvard, as he spent the next two years hampered by injuries, and only played in eight games as an upperclassman. Although injuries shortened his career, Ho remained an integral part of the team, as well as a leader and an inspiration to the Harvard community.

“His obviously took the long road to Harvard figuratively and literally. And because of that ... he really has, as much as any kid we’ve had here, embraced everything that is Harvard, and has taken advantage of the education on the field, the education in the classroom, the education on campus,” said head football coach Tim Murphy.

“He’ll be remembered for his love of life, his leadership by example, and his extreme pride in being a part of the Harvard community as a whole, not just a Harvard football player.”

Pumping up sports spirits

The road to Harvard wasn’t an easy one for Cheng Ho ’10, who at 13 came to America from Taiwan after losing his father to cancer while his mother struggled with mental illness. And then there was football to learn ...

By Gervis A. Menzies Jr. | Harvard Staff Writer

It would have been hard to miss Cheng Ho ’10 at Harvard’s athletic events. He’s usually the one mixed in with the crowds, displaying a boatload of Crimson spirit.

A Harvard running back in the fall, a super fan in the winter, Ho has been revered by fans and coaches alike for his crowd-igniting antics as a fan as well as for his contributions as a member of the football team.

As a fan, Ho was an integral part of a marketing campaign that boosted attendance at men’s basketball games this season. This culminated in an unprecedented sellout, bringing 2,195 spectators to Lavietes Pavilion in a showdown match against Cornell. A month and a half later, Ho helped to draw a record 13,285 to Harvard Stadium to watch the men’s lacrosse team take on Duke, just 437 fans shy of the NCAA regular-season record. Where the upbeat Ho went, the fans followed.

And yet for Ho, Crimson football — and Harvard for that matter — almost never happened.

Born and raised in Taiwan until age 13, Ho was thrust into maturity at a young age. His father lost an eight-year battle with liver cancer, and because his mother had her own struggle with schizophrenia, she was unable to care for Ho and his sister alone.

Eventually, the siblings found themselves in the adoptive care of their aunt and uncle in Georgia, and that was the move that changed Ho’s life.

“I’m very fortunate because I shouldn’t be alive right now, to be honest,” Ho said. “My sister and I probably would have been wandering the streets of Taipei if it wasn’t for my aunt and uncle.”

Despite strong family support, initially the adjustment to a new culture was a challenge for Ho because of his limited knowledge of English.

“English was very frustrating, because I consider myself pretty social. ... The initial two months were the most frustrating,” he said. “I remember holding this electronic translator and trying to read just a paragraph of a science textbook, and it took me like two hours. ... I would have to look up every single word.”

Searching for something, anything, he could find to ease him through his transition, Ho found sports to be the perfect therapy.

“Sports really opened up a new world for me, as far as being able to gain confidence and being able to socialize with people,” he said.

Although Ho’s first love was basketball, living in the South meant being indoctrinated in football, something he didn’t comprehend when living in Taiwan. “The first time I watched a game of football was back in Taiwan. And I was just thinking: ‘Man, these people are crazy. This is such a stupid sport. I would never be able to, and want to, play this sport, ever.’ So I flipped the channel, and that was that,” Ho said.

That changed, of course, because it wasn’t long before Ho’s athleticism on the basketball court prompted friends and
Derek Mueller sang and acted his way through four years at Harvard, and now, with Commencement looming, he’s taking his show on the road.

Mueller, a senior psychology concentrator and Mather House resident, spent the past three years as a member of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation’s oldest collegiate theatrical troupe, known for its annual burlesque show and for its traditional roasts of a Man and Woman of the Year, selected from the ranks of the world’s top entertainers.

For the past year, Mueller served as Hasty Pudding’s cast vice president, helping guide the creative process that led to this year’s production, “Commie Dearest,” a heartfelt tale (not really) about a young girl (a man) in the 1950s suburbs, joining forces with communists to fight misogyny and win the American Dream. Mueller played “Olive Lucy,” the owner of the local bowling alley (what could be more American?) where the townspeople congregated.

With work on next year’s production beginning in the spring, Mueller said Hasty Pudding dominated his time at Harvard, though he also spent his freshman year with the Krokodiloes, Harvard’s oldest a cappella singing group. Mueller said the Krokodiloes’ extensive summer tour allowed him to see countries on six continents.

The Hasty Pudding Theatricals experience is so consuming that each spring when the year’s performance — which includes a spring break tour to New York and Bermuda — is over, Mueller said he finds himself at loose ends.

“When the show ends and I get back from Bermuda, I don’t know what to do with my time. I wander about like a lost puppy,” Mueller said.

Of course this year, with graduation looming, Mueller has a bit more to contemplate. When asked his plans, Mueller said without hesitation, “I want to be a pop singer.” He plans to embrace the vagaries of fame, fortune, and the entertainment industry and head west after graduation to Los Angeles, where he’ll work the phones and Internet and see what happens.

“Make your own mistakes,” Mueller said. “Trying to apply what others learned from their mistakes will short-circuit your own experience.”
Study, research, and public service have taken Melissa Tran ‘10 around the world. You’d never guess that four years ago she was reluctant to leave her home near San Jose, Calif., to attend college 3,000 miles away.

She said that during her first year she felt insecure and wondered if she might be an example of that Harvard urban legend, the “admissions mistake.”

“It wasn’t until after my sophomore year, when I went abroad and started working on my thesis, when I realized that, ‘Hey, I am actually doing really cool things,’” said Tran. “Now, I am the person that my freshman self hoped to become someday.”

When she arrived at Harvard, she knew she was interested in public service, but was undecided about her concentration, stuck between history and sociology. The class that sparked her passion and solidified her path was an overview of contemporary American immigration taught by Mary Waters, M.E. Zukerman Professor of Sociology.

During the summer after her sophomore year, Tran interned at a non-profit in Argentina through the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. She also traveled to Uruguay and Peru. Tran spent the fall term of her junior year studying in Seville, Spain. Not one to stay put for long, while in Europe she also visited Morocco, Portugal, Germany, France, and Gibraltar.

While her peers expressed concern that she might miss out on opportunities at Harvard while abroad, she said that these globe-trotting experiences have defined her time at Harvard.

“I have done things that I never thought that I would do or would want to do,” said Tran. “For example, when I went to Peru for the week after Argentina, I backpacked by myself for four days. And I was completely by myself. I just had this little backpack. I never thought that my Spanish would be good enough to do that. I never thought that I would be able to get the nerve to do that by myself.”

Last summer, Tran worked with recent Harvard graduates in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where her parents were born and raised. The opportunity came through Harvard’s Office of Career Services Lowe Loan Fund for career exploration.

Most recently, Tran traveled to Mexico to conduct research for her thesis about the social networking Web site miAltos, which connects immigrants from the Los Altos region of Mexico with friends and family back home. It primarily includes those who hail from San Julián, a city within Los Altos. After interviewing residents of San Julián about their experiences on the site, Tran flew to Chicago to interview former residents who had moved to the United States and stayed in touch with loved ones through miAltos.

The Pforzheimer House resident has also advocated for immigrant rights as president of Harvard College Act on a Dream, a student organization working to help undocumented students gain citizenship. The group has raised awareness on the Harvard campus about the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, legislation that would give undocumented students a pathway to citizenship. Many people are unaware that there are undocumented students at U.S. colleges, Tran said. Often they came to America at a young age, attended high school here, and have lived typical American lives.

Her Harvard experience has opened up the world to her, but it has also brought her closer to home, empowering her to fight for immigrant and undocumented-students’ rights. The students’ experiences, she said, are not dissimilar from her own as the daughter of immigrants.

Tran noted that she had no control over the fact that she was born in the United States, just as many undocumented immigrants had no control over the fact that they were brought into this country at young ages. “The injustice comes from the fact that I will have limitless opportunities when I graduate in May, but they will have almost none,” she said.

Next year, Tran plans to continue in public service and immigrant rights advocacy, and she says she is itching to travel again.
When the past is present

Marcus Briggs-Cloud believes native language is what connects communities. His time at the Divinity School has helped him strengthen that bridge.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

“Language is identity, language is history, language is culture, language is education, and language is a bridge between the past, present, and future,” said Marcus Briggs-Cloud, a graduating master’s student at Harvard Divinity School, addressing a recent meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Whenever he introduces himself, Briggs-Cloud does so in Maskoke, a melodic language now spoken by only a few thousand people.

Language has been a key to the Florida native’s understanding of his cultural identity and of his ancestors’ fractured history. Using his master of theological studies degree, Briggs-Cloud hopes to preserve his native language, and build a bridge of knowledge and support for the Maskoke Nation.

For his undergraduate education, the son of the Wind Clan people and grandson of the Bird Clan people chose the University of Oklahoma, partly because of its indigenous studies program, but also to explore the genealogical and cultural connections to the descendants of his ancestors who had been displaced by the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

“I wanted to see if the language and the ceremonial continuity was there from what was familiar to me, what we had maintained in Florida, even though we had been separated for 170 years.”

Briggs-Cloud described a moving meeting with relatives of his great-great-grandfather, George Cloud.

“It was an evocative encounter for me,” he recalled, “especially since my great-aunt, who just died at the age of 96, always wondered, with immense emotional pain, if her people ever made it westward on that long road of suffering.”

In Oklahoma, Briggs-Cloud also found something else, a young urban Indian population sadly out of touch with its heritage. “They don’t know where they come from,” he said. “None of them are speakers of their language, and they are mostly disconnected from their communities.”

According to Briggs-Cloud, the disconnect is largely a product of the federal government’s effort during the 19th and 20th centuries to remove Native American Indian children from their homes and educate them in Christian boarding schools.

By the time the practice finally ended in the 1970s, he said, generations of indigenous peoples had been affected, with many suffering from “post-traumatic stress.” Parents no longer wanted to speak their native language or teach it to their children for fear of social repercussions. The critical sense of community that a language helps to foster, said Briggs-Cloud, frequently dissolved in a haze of alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence, and even suicide.

He stayed at the University of Oklahoma after graduation, teaching Maskoke language and philosophy in the university’s anthropology department, counseling high school Indian youth, and working with organizations that support indigenous communities. His hope was to mobilize grassroots projects around community engagement—but there were obstacles.

“The irony is that my own people would listen to an anthropologist from Harvard before they would listen to our own elders,” said Briggs-Cloud, a slender young man who wears his dark hair in a long braid and a turquoise earring in each ear to represent balance. “The only thing for me to do was to get that credential. So I applied to only one school.”

Harvard Divinity School allowed him to “really do what I wanted to do,” he said: “liberation theology, decolonization, gender theory — those kinds of areas that I am interested in.”

Building on his Harvard work, Briggs-Cloud developed a curriculum for the course he plans to teach back in Oklahoma at the College of the Muscogee Nation. It involves a critical analysis of theories on decolonization, gender, politics, and epistemology, as well as the theology and philosophy of the Maskoke people. Instrumental to the course will be studying language.

“The decolonization of the mind for indigenous peoples begins with language acquisition,” said Briggs-Cloud. “All of our worldviews are encompassed in our respective languages.”

While at Harvard, he took part in forums in the Harvard University Native American Program, and helped to organize its annual powwow. He was also closely involved with the Harvard Indian Intertribal Dance Troupe.

A self-taught musician, Briggs-Cloud plays the piano, violin, and hand drum, and is an accomplished singer with an album “Pum Vculvke Vrakkuecetv” (“To Honor Our Elders”) to his credit. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a Ph.D. closer to home in Oklahoma, where he now resides. Life on the East Coast has taken him too far away from his community and his tribal duties, he said, which include leading ceremonial dances and songs.

“My ceremonial ground is there,” said Briggs-Cloud. “That’s where my priorities are.”
The day after graduating from Brown University, Katherine Chon and a friend packed a U-Haul trailer and moved to Washington, D.C. It was the summer of 2002, and they were on a mission: to take on the modern slave trade.

It seemed like a mission impossible. Human trafficking was the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world eight years ago. Today, only arms sales and drugs bring in more money worldwide. “It’s highly profitable — in the billions,” said Chon, who graduates today (May 27) from the Harvard Kennedy School with a midcareer master’s degree in public administration.

Definitions are difficult, she said, though slavery generally means confining people for labor or the sex trade by means of force, fraud, or coercion. Fighting it means taking up the cause of 21st century abolition. “We’re talking about basic freedoms, what it means to be human,” said Chon.

Commencement marks the end of a yearlong hiatus for the Brown graduate, who for close to a decade has been toiling in the trenches in a largely hidden universe of misery. Worldwide, she said, 27 million humans are in some sort of bondage, and that’s a conservative estimate.

Chon is president and co-founder (with Derek Ellerman) of the Polaris Project, a nonprofit named after the North Star that once guided American slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. It’s one of the largest anti-slavery operations in the United States and Japan.

“Our main objective is to create a world without slavery through social change,” said Chon, 29, whose group has offices in Washington, D.C., Tokyo, and in Newark, N.J. “It’s important for us to begin by impacting individual lives.” That involves working with and training police officers, teachers, emergency room doctors, and community partners to identify, rescue, and help victims of slavery.

On the national level, Polaris has helped to steer policy, pass three federal laws, and persuade 35 states to pass protective laws.

“It’s such a dark issue,” said Chon, “I came here very burnt-out from the weight of it. But it was a very healing year.”

Harvard’s sense of community helped, she said, and the academic work did too. Chon praised her courses on adaptive leadership, as well as a Harvard Business School course that opened her eyes to the for-profit world.

Most human trafficking occurs in developing countries, she said, but the United States is not exempt. About 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the country every year. An estimated 100,000 American citizens are enslaved every year too, and that’s just in the sex trade.

Modern-day American slavery is not confined to cities. A few weeks ago, a multistate federal raid of massage parlors included slavery operations in affluent suburban Massachusetts — in Newton, Watertown, and Wellesley.

It was a similar raid, a few miles from where she lived in Providence, R.I., that inspired Chon — shocked her — into taking on what she calls the biggest human rights issue of the century. Six Korean women had been living like slaves in a massage parlor.

“Their stories resonated,” said the Korea-born Chon. “I thought: That could have been me.”

She grew up in quiet Salem, N.H., where such trafficking seemed as remote as the moon. But slavery was one of the issues that came up in her senior year at Brown, when her classmates — shaken by the 9/11 terrorist attacks — fell into fervent conversations about the state of the world. “I was aware of the needs of the community, but I barely read the newspaper, or understood what was going on in the world,” said Chon of the days before 9/11. “It had an awakening effect.”

There were earlier awakenings too. In the spring of her senior year in high school, Chon was in an English class where listless students had lapsed into silence while discussing a social issue. Suddenly, her frustrated teacher shouted: “What is your outrage? There are so many things happening in the world, and if you’re not outraged about something, you’re not paying attention.”

It was a question that haunted Chon, but feeling outrage was elusive, she said. “It wasn’t until I heard about human trafficking that I thought: This is it.”

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer
Fostering a dream

Kim Snodgrass’ childhood included 10 foster homes in six years. Today she walks away from the Graduate School of Education with a master’s, pointed toward a program that will help other foster children to thrive.

By Colleen Walsh  |  Harvard Staff Writer

Kim Snodgrass clearly remembers Dec. 11, 1998. It was her first day in the sixth grade, and the beginning of her steady education — as well as her salvation.

“From then on, I never missed a day of school,” said the master’s student at the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s (HGSE) Risk and Prevention Program, who will graduate today armed with ambition and a story of overcoming adversity.

Snodgrass, a fresh-faced, blued-eyed blonde, could be a poster child for the stereotypical Californian. She could also be a poster child for foster care.

As a young girl, she and her family were on the run. They camped out in the mountains and hopped to and from motels and shelters across southern California. They skipped out on apartments whenever the rent was due. They stole to survive, walking out of grocery stores with carts full of food, or filling up the car at gas stations, and then driving away without paying.

“That is what we were so used to, stealing things and getting what we needed whenever we needed it.”

Snodgrass watched as her stepfather and mother’s addiction to drugs and alcohol broke the family apart, gradually “disintegrating” her parents in the process. Eventually, her mother lost all rights to her five children. Between age 5 and 11, Snodgrass was in and out of at least 10 foster homes. Finally, at age 16, her long-term foster family adopted her, her younger brother, Max, and sister, Jennifer.

“I always knew from an early age what [my mother and stepfather] were doing was wrong, and I made a pact to myself that I was going to get myself out of this hole. I was not ever going to touch drugs or alcohol or smoke, and I was going to make it.”

Though she had only had sporadic formal schooling before sixth grade, she knew her escape route depended on education. She became a driven student and excelled academically.

“I used my education as my savior. It was like my thing that I could always go back to, no matter what happened in my life.”

Snodgrass attended the University of California, Irvine, where she studied community and public service. It was there that she dedicated herself to helping foster care children.

“When I entered college, I thought I needed a college degree to have a successful family. As a sophomore, I thought I needed a college degree to change the foster care population, as I found out that only 50 percent of foster youth graduate from high school. My junior year, I realized that I needed a graduate degree to really make an impact and help train others about how they can make change to make an even bigger impact.”

With her new master’s degree, she hopes to provide foster care children with access to support systems and mentors who can help them to develop important life skills and succeed in high school and college. As part of her program at Harvard, she developed an intervention method to help foster care youth transition to college and beyond, and is currently working with an HGSE alumna to explore using her program at a local nonprofit.

While at Harvard, she also produced an educational video about the foster care system, founded the club REACH (which stands for Realizing Every Action Creates Hope) to raise awareness about foster care youth in school, and worked on a model for a charter school designed for foster care children in connection with the Orangewood Children’s Foundation, a nonprofit in Santa Ana, Calif.

She also made time to teach at two local schools. The fast pace is the standard for Snodgrass, who admitted that the overachiever mentality is something of a coping mechanism, one that offers her life a certain kind of balance.

“I cram people into every second of the day. My schedule is back to back to back. It’s something that helps [keep] me from sitting down and crying. I don’t just dwell on the past, I think, ‘What can I do tomorrow?’”

After Harvard, “the possibilities are endless,” said Snodgrass, who sees herself getting a Ph.D. and working in the policy realm, or running a charter school or nonprofit.

But one thing is certain. Citing research that shows that children who face difficult challenges often succeed with the support of just one encouraging voice, Snodgrass sees her future mission clearly.

“So many people helped me get where I am today. I want to go back and help others. My mission is to be a child advocate, and become that voice for them.”

Her Harvard experience has helped her too, and prepared her to help others.

“Harvard was 100 percent where I was supposed to be,” said Snodgrass. “I am going to have a big tool kit when I leave.”
Ignace to improve Native American health care

Harvard School of Public Health student Lyle Ignace hopes to use his experience as an American Indian physician and his new understanding of public health systems to make a difference in the Native American community.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Lyle Ignace had been working for the Indian Health Service for years, providing care as an internist at a Navajo health facility in New Mexico and rising to the level of department head. Though his patients were getting adequate care, he felt he didn’t know enough — whether about administration and health systems, or to provide leadership to improve the overall care of the Native American community.

“I was trained to treat the person in front of you,” Ignace said. “I came to realize I didn’t have the knowledge, skills, or tools to tackle those [broader] issues.”

Ignace’s search for that knowledge brought him to the Harvard School of Public Health.

Ignace is just the second member of Idaho’s Coeur d’Alene tribe to become a physician. The first is his father, Gerald, who is still practicing and to whom Ignace still turns for advice. Ignace said he became interested in medicine and passionate about the health problems facing Native Americans while watching his father work over the years.

Ignace, who received his M.D. from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine in 1996, took a one-year leave from his job at the Gallup Indian Medical Center, where he was chief of internal medicine, to come to Harvard. He received the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, which has had him making appearances and speaking to young people in addition to his studies.

Though returning to school after practicing for so many years was difficult, Ignace said that as Commencement approaches, there are still several classes he wished he’d been able to take. But he said the respite that the yearlong master’s in public health program provided him, together with the knowledge from the classes he took, have him ready to return to the daily battle to improve health.

“The last time I’d opened a biostatistics book was in medical school, so it had been awhile,” Ignace said. “But I’ve always been interested in developing new skills.”

Ignace said he is now considering several options within the Indian Health Service and could also return to Gallup. In all, he said, he wants to play a more active role in improving Indian health broadly.

When he thinks about the future, Ignace said he hopes to be able to look back on his career and know that he helped to bring Native American health to a par with that of the rest of the country. Native American communities today experience higher levels of a variety of ailments, including diabetes, childhood obesity, high blood pressure, kidney failure, drug and alcohol abuse, and lower life expectancy. There are interventions, he said, that could start making a difference in five to 10 years, though they might take longer to show up in statistics such as life expectancy.

“I’d like to think that native people have the same advantages as everyone else, the same health status, the same life expectancy as everyone else in the country,” Ignace said. “I’m really excited about the future potential of Indian health.”

Photo by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer
Rocks, food, tango, poetry. Which of these does not belong?

To Rosario Del Nero, all of them do.

Del Nero began his career as a geologist, but, “Let’s face it,” he said, “food is more interesting than rocks or minerals or fossils.”

“With food, I found that I have a touch,” recalled the Italian-born Del Nero. “As a kid, I noticed I could do the things that my mother did — and she’s a very good cook — with very little effort.”

With his “touch” and passion for cuisine, Del Nero immigrated to America and, without classical training, became an accomplished chef years ago. “I have a gift,” he said, “and I cultivated it by listening, tasting, traveling, and exploring.” And, he joked, “I have the added credibility of having been born in Italy.”

Throughout much of his life, Del Nero has owned and operated restaurants; he has been the corporate chef of Bertucci’s, where he dreamed up recipes that have become classics; now he is director of culinary development for Joseph’s Gourmet Pasta & Sauces and Buitoni North America.

As for the tango and poetry and how Del Nero got to Harvard? The answers lie in Buenos Aires, where he spent his adolescence devouring the poetry of its luminaries. (Coincidentally, he lived one block away from where writer Jorge Luis Borges once lived.) Both the city and Borges would again play a major part in his life 40 years later when, as an adult, he sought an A.L.M. in Spanish language and literature at the Harvard University Extension School.

“The love of literature never abandoned me,” said Del Nero of his decision to enroll. “The food industry is very intense, very absorbing. But a few years ago, I found that studying was not a task, but a relief and a pleasure.”

His thesis, “Tango: The Living Poetry of Buenos Aires,” explores the famed Latin American dance and music and its ties to poetry that fused a one-of-a-kind genre involving writers such as Borges, Julio Cortazar, and Juan Gelman.

“Tango is very well known as a music and dance genre. But throughout the last century it became so entrenched in the cultural life of Buenos Aires that the city’s best-known writers started to write poems that were either intended to be tango lyrics or were later adopted by tango musicians who made them into bona fide songs,” Del Nero explained. “In Argentina, tango is a way of life. People talk tango without even realizing it.”

Tango is a genre of exile, said Del Nero, “a dance born from immigrants, with an intrinsic sadness.” But now, Del Nero is doing a happy dance. He is graduating with a 4.0 and the Thomas Small Prize, which is annually awarded to two A.L.M. recipients who have stellar academic achievement and character, and he also received honorable mention for the Dean’s Prize for Outstanding A.L.M. Thesis in the Humanities.

“Harvard is an academic paradise,” said Del Nero, who never missed a class. “What I learned here, I use every day. I use my knowledge in writing menus, recipes, interacting with people, and knowing a culture intimately. I use my studies daily.”

— Linda Cross
As Commencement closes another chapter of Harvard’s centuries-long story, here is a backward look at the year that was.

**JUNE 2009**

Martha Minow, the Jeremiah Smith Jr. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School (HLS), is announced as the next dean of the Faculty of Law, beginning July 1. A member of HLS faculty since 1981, Minow is a distinguished legal scholar with interests that range from international human rights to equality, religion, schooling, and other governmental activities.

Harvard researchers for the first time document *variation in intelligence* in individual monkeys within a species, a new step in understanding primate intelligence.

**JULY 2009**

Cherry A. Murray, who was named dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) in March 2009, takes the helm.

**AUGUST 2009**

A multidisciplinary team of computer scientists, engineers, and biologists — primarily from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences — receives a $10 million National Science Foundation Expeditions in Computing grant to fund the development of *small-scale mobile robotic devices*.

Erez Lieberman-Aiden, a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, invents a *computerized shoe insert* that predicts the wearer’s risk of falling.

Harvard launches a *YouTube channel* to broadcast everything from the University’s local events to its international research efforts.

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

President Faust visits Capitol Hill and meets with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other congressional and administration officers to advocate for continued support of science research at U.S. universities.

The Program in General Education takes effect at Harvard College. Commonly called Gen Ed, the program outlines *liberal arts courses* that must be taken outside a concentration in order to graduate. The Class of 2013 is the first embraced by the new design, though other undergraduates may opt in.

A *coordinated academic calendar* synchronizes the schedules of Harvard’s 13 Schools. Geared toward improving student access to University-wide resources, the calendar makes it easier for students to take classes in more than one School.

According to “Beyond the Yard: Community Engagement at Harvard University,” in a single year about 7,000 Harvard students collectively performed more than 900,000 hours of *community service* in and around metropolitan Boston.

The Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology launches an undergraduate concentration in *human development and regenerative biology*.

The Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) announces a *tuition-free Doctor of Education Leadership Program* (Ed.L.D.) that will be taught by faculty from HGSE, the Harvard Business School, and the Harvard Kennedy School. The program offers an unprecedented approach to preparing leaders for the future. The Ed.L.D., is the first new degree offered in 74 years by HGSE.

Michael Sandel’s popular course “Justice” is available for anyone to take, thanks to a dedicated Web site and Harvard's YouTube and iTunes channels, which begin airing Sandel’s lectures. The Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government’s arguments become the most-watched videos, with WGBH also airing the 12-part lecture series.

**OCTOBER 2009**

Harvard kicks off a yearlong focus on public service with Public Service Week, a series of seminars, lectures, career forums, and service activities highlighting the richness of the *service landscape* at Harvard. President Faust announces that the University will undertake a yearlong commitment to provide volunteer support of the Greater Boston Food Bank.

**DECEMBER 2009**

In a letter to the Harvard community, President Faust outlines Harvard’s path forward in Allston in three phases: property stewardship and community engagement, campus planning and greening, and campus development. A new work team with expertise in design, urban planning, business strategy, and public policy is charged to work with University leaders to understand the priorities of the University over the next decade, fully integrating them with a vision for Allston as a community.

President Faust appoints Katie Lapp as executive vice president to oversee the financial, administrative, human resources, and capital planning functions of the University’s central administration.

Harvard Yard is outfitted with colorful tables and chairs for meeting, relaxing, studying, or watching open-air performances. The initiative is a result of the *Steering Committee on Common Spaces*, charged with developing ideas to ensure that the physical environment better supports the University’s intellectual and social vitality.

Diane Paulus ’88, the American Repertory Theater’s (A.R.T.) new artistic director, opens the company’s new drama space Oberon with “The Donkey Show,” a critically acclaimed retelling of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” — set to disco.

Lakshminaryanan Mahadevan, Lola England de Valpine Professor of Applied Mathematics and of Organismal Evolutionary Biology at Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Peter Huybers, assistant professor of Earth and planetary sciences in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard, are named MacArthur Fellows.


Environmental scientists from Harvard and Tsinghua University demonstrate the enormous potential for wind-generated electricity in China. The researchers estimate that wind alone has the potential to meet the country’s electricity demands for 2030.

President Faust announces that the University will undertake a yearlong commitment to provide volunteer support of the Greater Boston Food Bank.

**NOVEMBER 2009**

President Faust visits Africa. During her trip, she meets with Harvard-trained researchers in a state-of-the-art laboratory being operated by the Botswana-Harvard Partnership for HIV Research and Education, a novel collaboration between the Harvard School of Public Health’s AIDS Initiative and the government of Botswana. Later, Faust visits the University of Johannesburg at Soweto, where she announces that Harvard and the host university are developing an initiative to train school principals in some of South Africa’s most-challenged school districts.

Harvard becomes the largest institutional buyer of wind power in New England, with an agreement to purchase more than 10 percent of the electricity needed to power the Cambridge and Allston campuses from a wind farm in Maine.

Harvard Business School Dean Jay Light announces his retirement after 40 years of teaching and leadership as a member of Harvard’s faculty and five years as dean.

The Task Force on University Libraries releases a report saying Harvard must restructure its fragmented library system and establish shared administrative services to respond to the rapidly changing technological and intellectual landscape of the 21st century.

Harvard biologists and bioengineers report that a cancer vaccine carried into the body on a *fingernail-sized implant* is the first to successfully eliminate tumors in mammals.

Harvard scientists create a *quantum gas microscope* used to observe the behavior of single atoms at temperatures so low they follow the rules of quantum mechanics.

Researchers at Harvard, the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Massachusetts Medical School, decipher the three-dimensional structure of human DNA, detailing complex folding and the molecule’s double-helix and paving the way for new insights in genomic function.

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study turns 10 years old and celebrates by launching an interdisciplinary symposium titled “Crossing Boundaries.”

Researchers at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Massachusetts General Hospital announce a breakthrough in making replacement cardiac parts, creating a functioning strip of mouse heart muscle starting with a cardiac master stem cell.

Archaeologists and archaeology students working near Matthews Hall uncover what they believe to be the bottom of an architectural trench dug for the Indian College that stood on the site from 1655 to 1698, built to house Native American students as part of the University’s original mandate to educate the youth of both European settlers and Native people.

James R. Houghton ’58, M.B.A. ’62, announces he will step down from the Harvard Corporation after 15 years of service, at the end of the academic year. He is succeeded as senior fellow by Robert D. Reischauer ’63. (Houghton interview page 27.)

A study from Harvard and the University of Michigan shows that increasing equality in the country threatens to eclipse health gains from the decline in cigarette smoking.

President Faust announces formation of the Harvard University...
Committee on the Arts. The committee is charged with working to enhance the presence of the arts on campus.

Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) celebrates its 150th anniversary. Digitization is also under way, with museum staffs loading almost 700,000 digital records on the Web.

A Harvard and Princeton study shows that even moderate gains in global temperatures could melt ice stored at the poles, leading to dramatic sea level rise.

**JANUARY 2010**

Harvard-affiliated doctors spearhead Haiti earthquake medical relief efforts, working at a field hospital erected by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. (To view multimedia of the trip, http://hvd.gs/37941.)

After the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti, Merrick Lex Berman, a research manager at Harvard’s Center for Geographic Analysis, designs the Haiti Earthquake Data Portal. The portal seeks to improve information flow for responders on the ground. When the Chile quake struck on Feb. 27, Berman created a portal for that country in just a few hours.

Work begins on the Harvard Art Museum renovation project at 32 Quincy St. to allow students, faculty, scholars, and the public significantly greater access to collections, not only at 32 Quincy St. to allow students, faculty, scholars, and the public to visit the center without borders. This new center is a case in point.

President Faust leads a delegation to China to mark the Harvard Shanghai Center’s official opening. During the festivities, Faust says, “Increasingly, we are in a world of universities without borders. This new center is a case in point.”

Harvard launches its iTunes channel. iTunes U is a dedicated area within iTunes allowing students, faculty, alumni, and visitors to tap into the University’s wealth of public lectures and educational materials.

President Faust announces the appointment of Lisa Coleman as chief diversity officer and special assistant to the president. Faust says, “It is crucial that we ask ourselves if we are doing enough today to foster an environment in which diversity is not simply valued, but cultivated in a systematic way.”

Harvard Law School announces that Grainne de Burca, a leading authority on European union law and European human rights law, will join the HLS faculty as a tenured professor of law on July 1.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences votes unanimously to approve a new, dedicated undergraduate concentration in biomedical engineering, to be managed by the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Researchers discover that amyloid-beta protein, the primary constituent in the plaques found in Alzheimer’s disease, may be part of the body’s immune system, according to a study by Massachusetts General Hospital researchers.

Harvard opens its new Center for Biological Imaging (CBI). The facility is unique in that its cutting-edge instruments will be replaced every 24 to 36 months. President Faust says the most important part of the CBI is not its instruments, but rather that “it makes the instruments the instruments of collaboration, as well as the instruments of science.”

Officials announce that historian Annette Gordon-Reed, J.D. ’84, will join the faculty in July as a professor of law at Harvard Law School and a professor of history in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Gordon-Reed will also be the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Michael Van Valkenburgh, Charles Eliot Professor in Practice of Landscape Architecture at the Graduate School of Design, is honored with the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ 2010 Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture.

Dean Michael D. Smith of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences says the classics and of history; rather than “it makes the instruments the instruments of collaboration, as well as the instruments of science.”

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Michael Van Valkenburgh, Charles Eliot Professor in Practice of Landscape Architecture at the Graduate School of Design, is honored with the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ 2010 Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture.

Dean Michael D. Smith of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences announces that five FAS professors have been awarded Harvard College Professorships in recognition of their outstanding contributions to undergraduate teaching, advising, and mentoring: Michael Brenner, Glover Professor of Applied Mathematics and Applied Physics; Julie Buckler, professor of Slavic languages and literatures; Emma Dench, professor of the classics and of history; Peter Gordon, professor of history; and Daniel Lieberman, professor of human evolutionary biology.

— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney

Photos by (left) Justin Ide, (center) Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographers
Alumni rally behind public service

Outgoing HAA President Teresita Alvarez-Bjelland says the group’s interest in public service is expanding by leaps and bounds. Incoming President Robert R. Bowie Jr. plans to continue strengthening the alumni community.

When Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) President Teresita Alvarez-Bjelland ’76, M.B.A. ’79, took office last year, she had a specific goal in mind: bring together the network of Harvard alumni worldwide to highlight the important role that public service plays in the Harvard community. Over the past year, the HAA joined with thousands of alumni, students, and faculty to celebrate Harvard’s long-standing commitment to public service.

“Service is a unifying cause for alumni,” said Alvarez-Bjelland. “As the umbrella organization for all Harvard alumni, the HAA focuses on public service that enables us to participate in worthy projects while also showcasing University-wide initiatives.” Alvarez-Bjelland, who is the HAA’s first Hispanic president and only the second international leader in the role, emphasized the need for Harvard’s continued commitment to service, not just in Cambridge, but nationally and abroad. During her tenure, she met with alumni around the world and spoke with students on campus, spreading the message about public service opportunities available through the HAA.

Under the banner “Harvard Serves,” the HAA worked through the year on public service initiatives, including a “Global Month of Service” in April. The HAA travel office integrated this theme into its activities, collaborating with the Phillips Brooks House Association-Alumni (PBHA-A) on a service trip to New Orleans. In addition, the HAA Alumni Education office partnered with the PBHA-A to develop a series of Cambridge-based panel discussions that featured Harvard alumni working toward positive social change.

To spotlight Harvard’s commitment to public service while making use of new technologies, the HAA partnered with the Harvard Office of Public Affairs and Communications to create “Public Service on the Map” (http://onthemap.harvard.edu/), an interactive Web site where members of the Harvard community list their public service activities and connect with others engaged in public service. Launched as a beta test in April, the map already lists hundreds of public service activities, from all Schools, and on six continents.

“For me,” said Alvarez-Bjelland, “it has truly been an inspiring year. Alumni around the world embraced the theme of public service, from recent graduates to alumni who have never been actively engaged with the HAA before.”

Incoming HAA President Robert R. Bowie Jr. ’73 plans to continue strengthening the alumni community by exploring some untapped power in the Harvard network. He believes that members of Harvard’s alumni community “are instantly part of a worldwide network of shared experiences and a common history. The HAA is a platform for leveraging the power of that network to help one another, to support lifelong learning, and to engage with the University.”

Bowie, a founding member of the law firm Bowie & Jensen LLC and an active participant in the HAA, has served as vice president of both the University-wide and College clusters, as a member-at-large of the executive committee, and as chair of the schools and scholarship committee. He is the current first vice president of the HAA. He is also a playwright and poet.

Alvarez-Bjelland highlighted key attributes that Bowie will bring to the HAA. “Bob is a loyal alum with years of involvement,” she said. “His dedication and his drive will strengthen the HAA and bring the alumni closer together.”

Bowie looks forward to continuing his collaboration with Alvarez-Bjelland in the coming year, as well as with the other past HAA presidents on the executive committee, the HAA board, committees, and staff. “Teresita has included me in a very generous way throughout the past year,” said Bowie, “and I am grateful to be able to draw on the wealth of resources that she and all of the past HAA presidents bring to the HAA.”

Bowie plans to combine his commitment to Harvard with his passion for storytelling in the coming year, collecting and sharing alumni experiences through engagement activities across the HAA. These stories will highlight the unique, yet inextricably linked, threads that alumni contribute to Harvard’s social fabric and emphasize the untapped resources that each alumnus/alumna’s experience can provide. The HAA will serve as a conduit through which the diverse members of the alumni community can enrich their own connections with the University and with one another.

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer

HAA Medal recipients include: Archabal (clockwise from upper left), Buttenwieser, Landry, and Whitla.

HAA names Harvard Medalists

Four recognized for their extraordinary service.

The Harvard Alumni Association has announced the recipients of the 2010 Harvard Medal: Nina Archabal ’62, M.A.T. ’63, Paul Buttenwieser ’60, M.D. ’64, C. Kevin Landry ’66, and Dean Whitla, Ed. ’60.

The Harvard Medal was first given in 1981, and the principal objective of the awarding of the medal is to recognize extraordinary service to Harvard University. President Drew Faust will present the medals during the annual meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association on the afternoon of Commencement, May 27.

Nina Archabal cares deeply for Harvard, and her service has been substantial. A member of Harvard’s Board of Overseers from 1997 to 2005, she served as vice chair of its executive committee and chair of its standing committee on Schools, the College, and Continuing Education. She also served as an Overseer liaison for the Center for Hellenic Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Committee on Women Undergraduates. As chair of the visiting committee for the Peabody Museum, she shares her insight on how to advance the core mission of all of Harvard’s museums. Additionally, she was a member of the committees to visit the Department of Anthropology and the University Library.

(see Medalists page 28)
James Houghton: ‘I had the best time in the world’

Senior fellow of the Harvard Corporation, he is stepping down from his post at the end of June.

He reflected on his long University association during an interview.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

James R. Houghton, the Harvard Corporation’s senior fellow, member of the College Class of 1958 and of Harvard Business School’s Class of 1962, will step down in June after 15 years on Harvard’s executive governing board. The Gazette chatted with Houghton to gain his perspective on more than a half century’s association with Harvard:

Q. I’m sure you have plenty of interesting stories. Why don’t we start at the beginning?
A. First of all, I come from a Harvard family. My grandfather went here, my father went here, my brothers went here, my wife went to Radcliffe. Other relatives, too. My daughter got into Harvard but chose to go to Stanford. We’ve never forgiven her.

Q. How has the University changed since you first arrived in 1954?
A. It’s just gotten much bigger, more complex, more engaged with the world. Obviously, the Yard is pretty much the same. But there wasn’t a Kennedy School then, or the Science Center, or Holyoke. It’s just a different place. But at the same time, I look around here, and I feel very comfortable that parts of the University look and feel exactly the same as they did then. The great thing about this place is that it’s constantly reinventing itself, there’s always something new. But there’s also always something reassuringly familiar, and there’s the same commitment to what really matters: excellent education and research.

Q. Do you have a favorite memory of your undergraduate times?
A. Every time I come to the campus, I look up into Thayer North, where I was for my freshman year, and I get a great feeling of joy. That was really fun and a great year. I went from there to Lowell House for the next three years — another happy experience because it was so central. I had the best time in the world as an undergraduate.

Q. If you were able to go back in time, what would your 21-year-old self say about you now? Would you be surprised at how things turned out?
A. I’d be surprised. I couldn’t have imagined the idea of being on the Corporation, or anything like that, when I was 21.

Q. What trends or priorities do you see for the University going forward? Do you see Harvard getting much larger?
A. I think Harvard will get bigger, selectively (especially with its international focus), but I don’t see us branching out and adding many more new schools. I think we have a very good balance.

One of the things that President Faust is trying to do is help strengthen the Schools individually, but also build on the “one University” concept. Her emphasis on “one University” and crossing disciplines, the emphasis on innovative science, the emphasis on making the arts more central, and the developments on the international side, I think these are all very healthy. The recent focus on global health is a fine example of how some of these come together. So there are some very interesting initiatives, to say nothing of what Drew has done to make our financial aid program so strong.

Q. What is your assessment of the last couple of years and Harvard’s financial struggles?
A. We’ve been working our way through a challenging time, but most everybody else has too. Many of our peers had similar results. But if you look back over the last five, 10, 20 years, Harvard’s investments have outperformed the averages by a lot. So we’ve done very well over time, and we’ll keep working our way through the downturn.

Q. How well is Harvard positioned for the future?
A. We are getting the best students. I expect we will continue to get the best faculty. I think we have a superb president. I think we’re in very good shape for the years ahead.

Q. How has the experience been of serving on the Corporation?
A. It’s been fascinating. I think if you had a clean sheet of paper, you probably wouldn’t start with the governing structures that we have today. This goes back, however, to 1650, and any significant changes we might make need to be carefully considered. We’re doing a review of the Corporation and the governance of the University to see what we should or might change.

I think we will make some changes. One area we have our eye on, for example, is how the Fellows connect with the rest of the community. We should get out and around more, be more visible, talk to more people in the different Schools. It’s a big, complicated, constantly changing place, and there’s always a lot to learn.

Q. Is there anything else you want to add?
A. Let me just say it’s been a wonderful, wonderful experience serving on the Corporation, and an enormous honor. I’m going to stay in touch. I’m going to be just across the river in our apartment some of the time. So I will definitely not let Harvard out of my mind, and I stand ready to help if needed.

Q. Is there a message in your experiences to graduating seniors this year?
A. Well, my message to graduating seniors is, “Don’t take yourself too seriously; don’t commit yourself to any set career before you’re ready.” I think the wonderful thing about a liberal arts education is it should be just that. And it should allow people to have all sorts of doubts and try different tracks, because they’ll sort it out eventually.

Online ➔ For the full interview: hvd.gs/47803
Medals
(continued from page 26)

A resident of Minnesota since 1965, she was a longtime member of the Radcliffe Club of Minnesota and supports the work of the Harvard Club of Minnesota. She has been with the Minnesota Historical Society since 1977, and has served as chair, director, and state historic preservation officer. Additionally, she has chaired the United States Committee of the International Council of Museums since 2005, and she served as a trustee of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center and as chair of the American Association of Museums. President Clinton awarded her the National Humanities Medal in 1997.

She and her husband, John, have a son, John.

Paul Buttenwieser is unequalled in the breadth of his involvement across the University, and beyond Harvard he is deeply involved in causes that address issues in education, the arts, poverty, and social justice.

As an Overseer from 2001 to 2007 he served on visiting committees to the Graduate School of Education, where he participated in shaping the new Doctorate in Education Leadership program, as well as to the College, and the Departments of Music, English, Psychology, Visual and Environmental Studies, and Government.

He has been deeply involved in class reunion fundraising and is co-chair of the Reunion Gift Steering Committee for the Class of 1960’s 50th reunion. He also co-chaired his 35th and 40th reunions and was a member of the 25th Reunion Gift Committee. He is a member of the Boston Major Gifts Committee. He is a member of Harvard Art Museum’s Director’s Advisory Council, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) Science, Teaching, and Research Planning Committee, and he is a trustee of the American Repertory Theater. Additionally, he was a member of the Phillips Brooks House Association Committee, the FAS Financial Aid Council, and Harvard Medical School’s Campaign Committee.

A practicing psychiatrist, novelist, arts advocate, and community volunteer, Buttenwieser and his wife, Catherine, founded the Family-to-Family Project in response to the crisis of family homelessness. They have three children, Stephen ’89, M.D. ’01, Susan, and Janet.

C. Kevin Landry is unparalleled in his support for Harvard College and is a leader among Boston-area alumni as a co-chair of the Boston FAS Major Gifts Committee. Additionally, Landry serves as a member of the Committee on University Resources and the FAS Dean’s Council, and has been a leader of his College Class, co-chairing the class’s 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, and 45th Reunion Gift Committees. He received The Flood Leadership Award and the David T.W. McCord ’21 Award in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and service to the Harvard College Fund.

Landry has played a significant role in how hands-on science is taught to undergraduates through the funding of the Jeremy Knowles Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory, the first interdisciplinary teaching space on campus that supports active learning across the sciences and engineering. He is also a loyal fan of the Department of Athletics, endowing the women’s ice hockey head coach position and improving the overall conditions of the Bright Hockey Center.

He is chairman of TA Associates, one of the oldest private equity firms in the country, and is a member of the Private Equity Hall of Fame. Additionally, he is a trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts and a former trustee of Middlesex School.

He and his wife, Barrie, have three children, Kimberly ’93, Ed.M. ’01, Jennifer ’99, and Christopher.

Dean Whitta is one of Harvard’s quiet heroes. Having served as founder and director of Harvard’s Summer Institute on College Admissions for 45 years, he researched and advocated for better practices in the use of nationwide tests and for stronger financial aid programs for underrepresented, low-income college students, enabling admissions committees everywhere to accommodate the changing educational and social climate.

Whitta’s own research explored college teaching and learning, and how to increase student diversity and educational effectiveness. Chief Justice Sandra Day O’Connor cited his research during the landmark University of Michigan cases Gratz v. Bollinger and Grutter v. Bollinger, which allowed the continuance of affirmative action.

Earlier in his career he worked in Nigeria to help improve the offerings of a Harvard-sponsored secondary school.

He served as director of the Office of Instructional Research and Evaluation, the Harvard-Danforth Center for Teaching and Learning, and its successor, the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning. A former Allston Burr Senior Tutor in Lowell House, he was a lecturer in the Graduate School of Education, chairing its program in counseling and consulting psychology. Additionally, he twice directed the reaccreditation process for the University, and was a longtime member of the Harvard College Committee on Admissions.

He continues his service as a freshman adviser, a member of the Lowell House Senior Common Room, co-director of a research project at the Medical School, and an adviser to the Harvard Faculty Club Board of Advisors.

Alumni support financial aid

“Such gifts demonstrate the unwavering and generous dedication of alumni in sharing Harvard with future generations of students.”

For the first time in Harvard’s history, more than 30,000 students applied to the College; 2,110 were accepted into the Class of 2014. More than 60 percent of the admitted students, benefiting from a record $158 million in financial aid, will receive need-based scholarships — a demonstration of Harvard’s commitment to providing access to a Harvard education to promising students from across the globe.

“When alumni and friends give immediate-use funds in support of financial aid at Harvard, they are providing what are, in many ways, the most valuable gifts that we receive,” said William R. Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard College.

“This same generosity made it possible for me to attend Harvard, and I see the gratitude that I felt in the extraordinary students whom we admit each year and support through financial aid.”

While large current-use gifts intended specifically for financial aid were previously relatively rare, alumni now recognize and focus on aid as a primary goal and priority. Longtime financial aid benefactors Beatrice Liu ’81, M.B.A. ’87, and Philip Lovett ’83, M.B.A. ’87, led the way, providing early support for this vital student resource, and more donors are following suit.

Despite increasing costs and growing student need in the current economic climate, Harvard is determined to continue providing access for talented students. Offering this level of support would not be possible without the many contributions from alumni, including significant immediate-use gifts toward financial aid from Michael Kerr ’81, M.B.A. ’85, Summer Redstone ’44, LL.B. ’47, and Joseph O’Donnell ’67, M.B.A. ’71. All of these gifts help increase access to Harvard for students across the income spectrum.

“Such gifts,” said Fitzsimmons, “demonstrate the unwavering and generous dedication of alumni in sharing Harvard with future generations of students. It’s inspiring to see, and we are enormously grateful for their continued support.”

In addition to providing direct support to students, current-use gifts are also used to enrich the student experience, channeling funding to unique courses, new faculty initiatives, and undergraduate research opportunities.

The immediate-use funds contributed to Harvard’s financial aid program help individual students through the Harvard College Fund Scholars Program. As part of this program, donors can connect directly to the students who benefit immediately from their generosity.

“Giving exceptional students the opportunity to access all that Harvard has to offer is one of my primary responsibilities as an alumnus,” said O’Donnell. “By making a current-use contribution in support of the financial aid program, I know that I can start helping students right away.”
The good ol’ days

Members of Harvard's Class of 1950 reminisce about their undergraduate years and discuss where their lives went in the 60 years that followed.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

Surgeon John Norman says the difficulty doesn’t come in recalling his Harvard memories, but in stopping himself from talking about them all.

A member of the Class of 1950, Norman refers to himself and his one-time housemates as the “Dunster funsters,” and recalls that Radcliffe and Emerson colleges were their “happy hunting grounds to chase girls.”

Dunster House was ever rife with activity, even then. Thursday evenings, according to Norman, were reserved for after-dinner chocolate ice cream — no doubt a luxury for burgeoning academic minds — while high tea, demitasse, and coffee were standards for the lads. House Master Gordon M. Fair, then an associate professor back at HMS, oversaw the in-house tutorial staff and undergraduates.

Norman, who went on to graduate from Harvard Medical School (HMS) in 1954, recalls a study technique from classmate Mitch Rabkin ’49, M.D. ’55, who “continued to hone and refine a mnemonic to recall the cranial nerves described in Alfred Sherwood Romer’s comparative anatomy text, ‘The Vertebrate Body.’ ”

After Harvard, Norman completed his postgraduate training at hospitals in New York City, England, and Ann Arbor, Mich., before becoming an associate professor back at HMS. From there, he left for Texas, helping to establish the Cardiovascular Surgical Research Laboratories at the Texas Heart Institute, among many endeavors.

But in the 60th Anniversary Report for the Class of 1950, where alumni update classmates on the happenings in their lives, Norman, who now lives in Concord, Mass., recalls his “memorable clinical encounters” — including meetings with actor Spencer Tracy; Richard Nixon’s secretary of state Alexander Haig; Edith Piaf, “the diminutive chanteuse, away from her native Paris and wistfully lonely in New York City”; Herbert Hoover, “as a private citizen and engineer, decades after his U.S. presidency”; even actress Elizabeth Taylor with producer Mike Todd, “after her performance in the film ‘National Velvet’ and before his making ‘Around the World in 80 Days.’”

William Opel ’50 credits his alma mater with sparking his lifelong quest of seeking out and understanding other cultures (not to mention meeting his wife of 58 years, Nina Emerson, Radcliffe ’50).

As an undergraduate, Opel pursued the new social relations concentration, led by psychologist and faculty member Gordon Allport. “Its multifaceted approach seemed to be the most appropriate in opening up my understanding of the way individuals, groups, and culture worked,” remembers Opel. “It did just that.”

“At Harvard, I had come from a small Midwest town with pervasive racial and religious prejudices. It was not until I had the opportunity to study with Allport...”

(see Alums next page)
on the source and nature of prejudice that a final coffin nail was put into my own inherited prejudices,” he says. Opel claims that he “spent as much time singing as I did studying.” He was a member of the Harvard Glee Club, the Sunday choir, and the daily chapel choir, noting that the club and Radcliffe Choral Society were the performing choruses for the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO).

“Most memorable was a performance of Mahler’s ‘Second Symphony’ by the BSO under the direction of the young Leonard Bernstein,” remembers Opel. “When he entered Symphony Hall for a rehearsal in a bright yellow turban and tousled black hair, an audible sigh went up from the Radcliffe Choral Society.

“I am told by my wife that some of the members of the Radcliffe Chorus returned to Moors Hall [inside Pforzheimer House] and immediately formed the ‘I Love Leonard Bernstein Fan Club!’”

During his thirties, Opel joined the Peace Corps and traveled to Africa as a staff member for nearly four years in the late 1960s. He became an Episcopal priest and educator before retiring in Eastham, Mass. Now a secular humanist, Opel says he “has a deep appreciation for the role of myth and an evolving religion orientation in creating, articulating, preserving, and challenging cultural values and institutions.”

Both Norman and Opel are just two in a legion of worldwide Harvard alumni who travel annually to attend re-union events in the Yard and who continue to spread their wealth of experiences personally and professionally, in ways big and small, locally and around the globe. They have high hopes for the Class of 2010, and a message.

“We older Harvards will always be with you,” says Norman. “We hope that the next 60 years will be as good to you as the past 60 have been to us. You have our every good wish for continued success.”

“Join the Peace Corps!” Opel advocates. “But if you can’t, travel widely. Eschew the four- and five-star hotels and travel second— or third-class and walk, walk, walk. In meeting people from other cultures, you may be lucky enough to meet yourself.”

Service (continued from page 9)

For a time, the students quickly shifted their focus to Haitian relief following the devastating earthquake there. Back on campus, students organized concerts and collected funds for the Haitian aid effort.

“EVERYTHING HAS GONE UP”

At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, PBHA remains the most robust expression of the Harvard service ideal. It runs 12 summer camps, along with programs in literacy, tutoring, housing, community health, and other areas. (PBHA also oversees the only student-run homeless shelter in the nation.) The group’s programs number nearly 100 now, the most ever.

Koga was a freshman in the fall of 2007 when she got in on the ground floor of the North Cambridge after-school program. Ten tutors and 10 students jammed into a tiny school library room three days a week. Today, 60 tutors meet with students four days a week in two spacious community rooms in an apartment complex.

“You learn to think at Harvard,” said Koga, a Kirkland House junior from Hawaii. But public service teaches you to act, to manage, and even to see the career potential of doing good. “It’s incredibly experiential.”

Professional and graduate Schools at Harvard also report more interest in public service options, in the classroom and out.

“Everything has gone up,” said Alexa Shabecoff, assistant dean for public service at the Bernard Koteen Office of Public Interest Advising at the Law School. “Numbers of students doing public service over the summer have gone up, numbers doing postgraduate work as a first job, numbers doing clinics have gone up.”

In addition, she said, HLS is committing more financial resources to public service activities, including winter-recess funding, clinics, loan repayment, and postgraduate fellowships. In February, the School created a Public Service Venture Fund that awards grants to students pursuing service careers.

At Harvard Business School (HBS), courses and research devoted to nonprofits have risen steadily since 1993, when the Social Enterprise Initiative was established. There are now 95 faculty members involved in related research, said initiative director Laura Moon, and 400 case studies and case teaching notes have been developed. “Across a range of dimensions, we’ve seen increasing numbers.”

More than half of all second-year students took social enterprise electives last year, she said, and the related student club, with around 400 members, is one of the largest at HBS, where 7 percent of recent graduates entered the nonprofit sector. The School’s student-led Social Enterprise Conference draws about 1,000 attendees every year.

HBS alumni are highly engaged too, said Moon. About a third actively serve on nonprofit boards, and contribute $4 million in pro bono consulting annually.

Alums (continued from previous page)


This year, HBS also offered its first international immersion program, in Rwanda, and celebrated its fifth year of offering a similar short-term consulting program in New Orleans.

Harvard’s Schools of law and business have active fellowship programs relating to public service or the nonprofit world. The Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship program at HBS, for one, has provided support to more than 1,000 students since its founding in 1982.

In May, HLS awarded its first Redstone Fellowships to 26 students for postgraduate service work. The fellowships are supported by a gift from Sumner M. Redstone ’47, who donated $1 million to be used by the Law School and the College to support students committed to such work.

At Harvard Medical School, officials have provided $1.5 million in debt relief to graduates entering public service fields. More than 60 percent of students there already participate in service programs.

INSTITUTIONS OLD AND NEW

Some of Harvard’s graduate Schools embraced public service from the beginning.

The Harvard Divinity School (HDS), founded in 1816, continues the mandate of 1636 to educate leaders in religious thought whose purpose is to minister and teach.

“Public service is an important part of the culture here,” said HDS spokesman Jonathan Beasley.

At the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), “public service has always been at the core of the mission,” said Dean David T. Ellwood. The Student Public Service Collaborative works to integrate service into the School’s culture.

In April, HKS held a Public Service Week, with panels and programs on health care, public sector careers, race, poverty, human rights, urban schools, employment, and other issues.

At the Graduate School of Design, architecture students and alumni last summer started the China Storefront project, a library with 39 volunteers and two paid staff members. GSD students created the space in a vacant commercial storefront.

GSD offers the Community Service Fellowship program, in which funding is available for 10-week summer internships in the Boston area or for international travel throughout the year. Proposed projects have to address public and community needs on a local scale.

There has been a similar, and related, upward trend in human rights programs, course work, policymaking, and advocacy.

Trevor Bakker ’10, a pre-law student, shows the modern face of public service. Working at the Hayneville, Ala., site of the Social Enterprise initiative project, a library with 39 volunteers and two paid staff members. GSD students created the space in a vacant commercial storefront.

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Trevor Bakker ’10, a pre-law student, shows the modern face of public service. Working at the Hayneville, Ala., site in March, wearing kneepads and spattered with mortar, he had earlier learned to cut floor tile. “We have both a moral obligation and an intellectual imperative to put the books down once in a while,” he said, “and give of our time and resources to those who can use our help.”

Includes reporting by staff writer Corydon Ireland.

Photo by Kris Snibbe Harvard Staff Photographer
Eight members of the Harvard Business School (HBS) M.B.A. Class of 2010 have been named winners of the School’s prestigious Dean’s Award. HBS Dean Jay Light recognized and lauded the recipients at Commencement ceremonies.

Established in 1997, this annual award celebrates the extraordinary achievements of graduating students who have made a positive impact on Harvard, HBS, and broader communities. The recipients are:

**MAYA A. BABU: BRIDGING BUSINESS AND HEALTH CARE**
A joint-degree candidate at Harvard Medical School and the Business School, Maya A. Babu has demonstrated extraordinary ability, leadership, energy, and charisma while contributing to the Harvard community and beyond.

Babu plans to practice neurosurgery as well as shape government health policy. At HBS, Babu was on the board of directors of the weekly student newspaper, The Harbus, and she Babu co-founded a chapter of AcademyHealth, a leading professional society for officials interested in health policy.

Babu served as national chair of the American College of Physicians Council of Student Members. As chair of the Global Health and Policy Committee of the American Medical Association (AMA), she worked to develop service projects and provide funding for World AIDS Day.

For the past two years, Babu has participated in research at the Massachusetts General Hospital, working with neurosurgeons exploring whether socioeconomic status has an impact on the nature of trauma patient care.

**SEAN A. CAMERON: RAISING THE BAR**
Just after being elected “ed rep” (as in education representative) for his first-year section in the fall of 2008, Sean A. Cameron appeared at the door of an HBS administrator to discuss possibilities for making the classroom experience better. His zeal and focus on learning have never wavered.

The ed rep’s role is to maximize the educational experience of the rep’s section, a diverse group of 90 students who take all first-year required courses together.

Cameron led section review sessions, worked with students, and offered resources to enhance learning. He provided an avenue for students to share feedback with faculty on course content and process.

This year, as chair of the Education Committee, Cameron advised a group of first-year ed reps.

**RICHARD CHUNG AND PHILIP WONG: ENRICHING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**
Hundreds of students have participated in the Business School’s faculty-led international Immersion Experience Programs (IXP) since they began four years ago, but Richard Chung and Phil Wong decided to take the School’s offerings in a new direction.

They worked to create the Global Impact Experience (GIX), a student-led program that focuses on the identification of market-based solutions to global poverty. Chung’s vision was the driving force behind the program. He was intrigued by the idea of leveraging business skills to create sustainable solutions to the challenges of international development. In 2009, he started a pilot version of the eventual program in which three teams of students consulted for the U.S. Agency for International Development on business development.

Wong joined Chung when the program was officially integrated into the School’s 2010 January term offerings. Wong worked to improve and institutionalize GIX processes.

**JOHN W. COLEMAN: LEADING THE WAY**
John W. Coleman has taken on numerous leadership roles and had an impact on the lives of many members of the Harvard community during his three years as a joint-degree candidate at the Business School and the Harvard Kennedy School. He has been a member of the HBS Senate, where he led the Community Impact Fund.

Coleman also served as representative to the Harvard Graduate Council. He was president of the HBS Business, Industry and Government Club and an active member of the HBS Christian Fellowship.

As a founder and member of the board of advisers of the Leadership Institute at Harvard College, Coleman spent countless hours mentoring students, leading instructional programs, and moderating discussions. Coleman was the M.B.A. Class of 2010’s Class Day student speaker.

**ROBERT M. DALY JR.: MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE**
As a student in Harvard’s M.D./M.B.A. Program, Robert M. Daly Jr. has put his education and talents to good use to help disenfranchised communities, including helping gay and transgender individuals in India receive quality medical care.

In 2006, Daly began his medical studies and learned of a nonprofit organization in Mumbai called the Humsafar Trust that focused on the needs of sexual minorities and needed help in developing a five-year strategic plan in the face of numerous challenges, including an ever-growing number of HIV-positive and AIDS cases. He traveled to India and began work that helped the organization improve efficiency and effectiveness.

This summer he will begin his residency in internal medicine at the New York Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan.

**ANDREW D. KLABER: A MULTITUDE OF INTERESTS**
Andrew D. Klaber is a J.D./M.B.A. candidate with a commitment to public service and leadership. At HBS, Klaber was a leader in student clubs and other activities. He was co-president of the Harvard J.D./M.B.A. Association and the HBS Jewish Student Association.

Klaber is president of Orphans Against AIDS (OAA), an all-volunteer organization he founded while an undergraduate at Yale. Klaber was a founding member of Harvard Business School’s M.B.A. Oath, a voluntary student-crafted pledge that asks graduating M.B.A.s to re-examine and reaffirm the obligations they hold in the business world.

After Commencement, Klaber will work in investment management.

**WHITNEY F. PETERSMEYER: TAKING ON IMPORTANT ISSUES**
Whitney F. Petersmeyer has spent much of her extracurricular time “promoting integrity, trust, and the ambition to make a difference,” the watchwords of the Leadership and Values (L&V) Committee, which she eventually headed. In addition to running meetings and providing guidance for her colleagues, Petersmeyer also revitalized a speaker series on L&V issues, provided formal opportunities for end-of-year reflection, and updated a handbook for her successors.

Petersmeyer complemented her efforts with her advocacy of the M.B.A. Oath.

Last summer, she worked as a research analyst at Teach for America. Recently named an HBS Leadership Fellow, she will return to Teach for America after graduation.

Benefiting society, scholarship

Harvard’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences recognizes alums with its Centennial Medal.

By Bari Walsh | GSAS Communications

For more than two decades, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) has awarded its Centennial Medal to a select group of graduates who have made significant contributions to society and scholarship. This year’s recipients: one of the world’s foremost scholars of Shakespeare and Renaissance drama; the founder, publisher, and principal editor of a scholarly journal; an economist and a 2007 Nobel laureate; and one of the most eminent of American philosophers.

Receiving the medal today (May 27) are David Bevington, Stephen Fischer-Galati, Eric Maskin, and Martha Nussbaum.

David Bevington ’52, Ph.D. ’59, English
David Bevington is the Phyllis Fay Horton Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1967. One of the world’s foremost scholars of Shakespeare and Renaissance drama, Bevington has written or edited more than 30 volumes on Shakespeare and his contemporaries. His authored books include “From ‘Mankind’ to Marlowe: Growth of Structure in the Popular Drama of Tudor England” (1962), “Action Is Eloquence: Shakespeare’s Language of Gesture” (1985), and “Shakespeare’s Ideas: More Things in Heaven and Earth” (2008). His new book, forthcoming from Oxford University Press, is “Murder Most Foul: The History of Hamlet.” Bevington has edited the Bantam Shakespeare, in 29 volumes (1988, now being re-edited), and Longman’s “Complete Works of Shakespeare,” sixth edition (2009). He is the former president of the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (1981-86), the Shakespeare Association of America (1976-77 and 1995-96), and the Renaissance English Text Society (1977-80). He is senior editor of the Revels Plays (Manchester University Press), which publishes critical editions of plays of Shakespeare’s contemporaries, and the Revels Student Editions. He was senior editor of the “Norton Anthology of Renaissance Drama” (2002) and is one of three senior editors of a forthcoming Cambridge edition of “The Works of Ben Jonson.”

Stephen Fischer-Galati ’46, Ph.D. ’49, History
Stephen Fischer-Galati is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Colorado. He is the founder, publisher, and principal editor of the scholarly journal East European Quarterly and the scholarly series East European Monographs, which has put out more than 700 scholarly books on East-Central Europe in collaboration with Columbia University Press. Fischer-Galati is one of the world’s foremost specialists on East European history and civilization, exploring the evolution of East-West relations and the intersection of Western and Eastern political and cultural developments. He has also published extensively on Balkan issues and guerrilla warfare in the region. Born in Romania, Fischer-Galati escaped the country as a teenager during the early stages of World War II, finishing his high school studies in Massachusetts before going on to Harvard. His books include “Romania: A Historical Perspective,” “Eastern Europe and the Cold War: Perceptions and Perspectives,” and “Man, State, and Society in East European History,” and he has authored more than 250 articles. He holds several honorary degrees and major grants and fellowships from American and international scholarly foundations. He is also the president of the International Commission of East European and Slavic Studies of the International Congress of Historical Studies.

Eric Maskin ’72, Ph.D. ’76, Applied Mathematics
Eric Stark Maskin is an economist and a 2007 Nobel laureate recognized (along with Leonid Hurwicz and Roger B. Myerson) “for having laid the foundations of mechanism design theory.” Among other critical applications, that theory has helped economists identify efficient trading mechanisms, regulation schemes, and voting procedures. Maskin is the Albert O. Hirschman Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study and a visiting lecturer with the rank of professor at Princeton University. After earning his doctorate at Harvard, Maskin went to the University of Cambridge in 1976, where he was a research fellow at Jesus College, and then taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1977-84) and at Harvard (1985-2000), where he was the Louis Berkman Professor of Economics. His work in economic theory, including game theory, the economics of incentives, and contract theory, has deeply influenced diverse areas of economics, politics, and law. He is particularly well-known for his papers on mechanism design/implementation theory and dynamic games. His current research projects include comparing different electoral rules, examining the causes of inequality, and studying coalition formation. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Econometric Society, and the European Economic Association, and he is a corresponding fellow of the British Academy. He was president of the Econometric Society in 2003.

Martha Nussbaum, Ph.D. ’75, Classical Philology
Martha Nussbaum is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, with appointments in the Law School, the Philosophy Department, and the Divinity School. Among the most eminent of American philosophers, her wide-ranging interests include ancient notions of ethics, feminism, religious equality, gender and sexuality law, global justice, and notions of disgust, shame, and other emotions and their various effects on the law. She has taught at Harvard, Brown, and Oxford universities. Among her many books the most recent are “The Clash Within: Democracy, Religious Violence, and India’s Future” (2007), “Liberty of Conscience: In Defense of America’s Tradition of Religious Equality” (2008), and “From Disgust to Humanity: Sexual Orientation and Constitutional Law” (2010). From 1986 to 1993, Nussbaum was a research adviser at the World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki, a part of the United Nations University. She is former president of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, and she has chaired the Association’s Committee on International Cooperation, its Committee on the Status of Women, and its Committee on Public Philosophy. Nussbaum is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, which in 2009 awarded her its Henry M. Phillips Prize in Jurisprudence.
Cambridge University’s Trinity College (U.K.), supported by the language, plans to spend the summer traveling in China and Africa beginning an M.Phil. program in medieval history at 2010 Bowdoin Prize for Undergraduate Essays in the English Language, awarded its 2010 Captain Jonathan Fay Prize to Diana C. Wise, a Harvard senior concentrating in history and literature. Wise was selected for her thesis “Mere Trifles: Lord Hervey’s Memoirs’ and the Significance of the Insignificant,” an incisive analysis of the writings, life, and sociopolitical environment of John, Lord Hervey, an 18th century English courtier of King George II and Queen Caroline. Wise received the Fay Prize, presented by Radcliffe Institute Dean Barbara J. Grosz, on May 19, alongside Daniel Bear and Molly Siegel, who received honorable mention for theses in molecular and cellular biology and history of science, respectively.

“The Radcliffe Institute is delighted to honor Diana Wise for her trenchant and thought-provoking analysis of Lord Hervey’s Memoirs’ and the elegant prose with which she unveils the importance of the seemingly insignificant,” said Grosz, who is also Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences in Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. “This work, which is at once history, philosophy, and literature, is of publishable quality and makes us eager to see Wise’s future scholarly contributions.”

The Fay Prize is annually awarded to a graduating Harvard College senior who has produced the most outstanding imaginative work or original research in any field. Candidates are chosen from the winners of Harvard College’s Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for outstanding scholarly work or research.

“Mere Trifles’ evinces the work of a gifted young historian blessed with a literary style that carries with it sheer verbal pleasure but also a heightened sense of judgment, of narrative interpretation concerning human motivation and its historical record,” said Wise’s adviser James Engell, Gurney Professor of English Literature and professor of comparative literature in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Wise said, “By a splendid coincidence, I received the news [of the award] on the afternoon of my birthday, and it was the perfect birthday present: completely unexpected and an immense honor. Lord Hervey, I think, would be gratified.”

After graduating from the College on May 27, Wise, who also won a 2010 Bowdoin Prize for Undergraduate Essays in the English Language, plans to spend the summer traveling in China and Africa before beginning an M.Phil. program in medieval history at Cambridge University’s Trinity College (U.K.), supported by the Herchel Smith Harvard Postgraduate Scholarship.

Steinem to receive Radcliffe Medal
Celebrated feminist activist to deliver address at Radcliffe Day.

By Cheryl Klufio | Radcliffe Communications

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University has announced that Gloria Steinem, a pioneering feminist, award-winning journalist, and best-selling author, will be awarded the 2010 Radcliffe Institute Medal at the Radcliffe Day luncheon on Friday (May 28).

Radcliffe Institute Dean Barbara J. Grosz will give opening remarks and present the medal, and Steinem will deliver the luncheon address.

Each year during Harvard Commencement week, the Radcliffe Institute bestows its medal on an individual whose life and work have substantially and positively influenced society. The 2009 recipient was Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Other honorees have included Madeleine Korbel Albright, Margaret Atwood, Linda Greenhouse, Toni Morrison, and Donna Shalala.

This year, the institute celebrates Steinem’s unrelenting pursuit of equality for women and minorities. A feminist icon, Steinem has had a lasting impact on women’s rights, and she has made a lifelong career of writing and organizing around a range of social and political causes.

In 1972, Steinem co-founded Ms. magazine, where she served as an editor for 15 years and continues to be a consulting editor. She also helped to found Choice USA, the Ms. Foundation for Women, and the National Women’s Political Caucus, among other organizations.

She is the author of “Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions” (Holt Paperbacks, 1995), “Moving Beyond Words” (Touchstone, 1994), and “Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem” (Little, Brown and Co., 1990). She is currently working on “Road to the Heart; America as if Everyone Mattered,” a narrative of her more than three decades as a feminist organizer.

In 1993, Steinem co-produced and narrated the Emmy Award–winning “Multiple Personalities: The Search for Deadly Memories,” an HBO documentary about child abuse.

In addition to Harvard Commencement week, Steinem has earned numerous honors for her writing and work on social justice. These include the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Ceres Medal and the Society of Writers Award (both from the United Nations), the Liberty Award of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Lifetime Achievement Award from Parenting magazine (for her contributions to promoting girls’ self-esteem), and the University of Missouri School of Journalism Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism.

Steinem graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College in 1956. Radcliffe Day 2010 — which brings together alumnae and alumni of Radcliffe College, the Bunting Institute, and the Radcliffe Institute Fellowship Program — continues the celebration of the institute’s 10th anniversary.

In addition to the 12:30 p.m. luncheon, the day will feature a panel discussion titled “Feminism Then and Now,” with Susan Faludi ’81, RI ’09, Susan McHenry ’72, Priyamvada Natarajan, RI ’09, Nell Irvin Painter, Ph.D. ’74, RI ’77, and Diana Scott ’81. There will also be tours of the institute’s renowned Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University is a scholarly community where individuals pursue advanced work across a wide range of academic disciplines, professions, and creative arts. Within this broad purpose, the institute sustains a continuing commitment to the study of women, gender, and society.
Radcliffe names 48 new fellows

They will work within and across disciplines.

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University has announced the 48 women and men selected to be Radcliffe Institute fellows in 2010–11. These creative artists, humanists, scientists, and social scientists were chosen — from an international pool of nearly 900 applicants — for their superior scholarship, research, or artistic endeavors, as well as the potential of their projects to yield long-term impact. While at Radcliffe, they will work within and across disciplines.

Online For a list of fellows and their projects: www.radcliffe.edu/about/news/press_releases.aspx

Two Radcliffe Institute professors will join the community of fellows next year. Joanna Aizenberg, the Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at Radcliffe and the Amy Smith Berylson Professor of Materials Science at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), will lead a thematic cluster in biomimetics, and Nancy E. Hill, the Suzanne Murray Professor at Radcliffe and a professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, will study cultural belief systems and ethnic group variations in parenting and children's development.

“We welcome these distinguished fellows to the Radcliffe Institute and we enthusiastically await the important discoveries, artistic creations, and collaborations — within Radcliffe and in the wider Harvard and local communities — that will emerge during their time here,” said Barbara J. Grosz, dean of the Radcliffe Institute and Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences at SEAS.

Now in its 10th year, the Radcliffe Institute Fellowship Program has awarded fellowships to more than 500 accomplished and promising artists, scientists, and scholars. Past fellows include Elizabeth Alexander, the fourth U.S. presidential inaugural poet; Malatu Astatke, founder of the hybrid musical form Ethio Jazz; Debra Fischer, who has participated in the discovery of roughly half the known extrasolar planets; and Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Tony Horwitz.

### Degrees, certificates awarded at 359th Commencement

Today the University awarded a total of 7,125 degrees and 89 certificates. A breakdown of the degrees by Schools and programs follows. Harvard College granted a total of 1,673 degrees.

#### Bachelor of Arts

<table>
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<th>Field of Concentration</th>
<th>Cum laude</th>
<th>Summa cum laude</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
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#### Bachelor of Science

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<th>Field of Concentration</th>
<th>Cum laude</th>
<th>Summa cum laude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a list of fellows and their projects: www.radcliffe.edu/about/news/press_releases.aspx

*All figures include degrees awarded in November 2009 and March and May 2010*

#### Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

- Master of Arts: 319
- Master of Engineering: 2
- Master of Science: 59
- Master of Philosophy: 484

#### Graduate School of Business Administration

- Master of Business Administration: 901
- Doctor of Business Administration: 6

#### Harvard College

- Bachelor of Arts: 1,673
- Bachelor of Science: 14

#### School of Dental Medicine

- Specialty Certificates: 36
- Master of Medical Sciences: 13
- Doctor of Dental Medicine: 34
- Doctor of Medical Sciences: 7

#### Graduate School of Design

- Master in Architecture: 104
- Master in Architecture in Urban Design: 28
- Master in Design Studies: 25
- Master in Landscape Architecture: 37
- Master in Landscape Architecture in Urban Design: 4
- Master in Urban Planning: 27
- Doctor of Design: 9

#### Divinity School

- Master of Divinity: 56
- Master of Theology: 8
- Master of Theological Studies: 86
- Doctor of Theology: 5

#### Graduate School of Education

- Certificate of Advanced Study: 6
- Master of Education: 625
- Doctor of Education: 54

#### Extension School

- Associate in Arts: 6
- Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies: 128
- Certificate in Applied Sciences: 11
- Certificate in Environmental Management: 7
- Certificate in Management: 21
- Certificate in Publishing & Communications: 7
- Certificate in Technologies of Education: 1
- Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies: 522

#### Harvard Kennedy School

- Master in Public Administration: 86
- Master in Public Administration (Mid-Career): 204
- Master in Public Administration in International Development: 68
- Master in Public Policy: 208
- Master in Public Policy and Urban Planning: 5
- Doctor in Public Policy: 6

#### Law School

- Master of Laws: 161
- Doctor of Juridical Science: 11
- Doctor of Law: 589

#### Medical School

- Master in Medical Sciences: 27
- Doctor of Medicine: 153

#### School of Public Health

- Master of Public Health: 201
- Master of Science: 145
- Doctor of Public Health: 3
- Doctor of Science: 36
The majestic animals most closely associated with the African savanna — fierce lions, massive elephants, towering giraffes — may be relatively minor players when it comes to shaping the ecosystem. The real king of the savanna appears to be the tiny termite, say ecologists who’ve found that these humble creatures contribute mightily to grassland productivity in central Kenya through a network of uniformly distributed colonies. Termite mounds greatly enhance plant and animal activity at the local level, while their even distribution over a larger area maximizes ecosystem-wide productivity.

The finding, published May 25 in the journal *PLoS Biology*, affirms a counterintuitive approach to population ecology: Often it’s the small things that matter most.

“It’s not always the charismatic predators — animals like lions and leopards — that exert the greatest control on populations,” said Robert M. Pringle, a research fellow at Harvard University. “As E.O. Wilson [esteemed biologist and *emeritus* Harvard professor] likes to point out, in many respects it’s the little things that run the world. In the case of the savanna, it appears these termites have tremendous influence and are central to the functioning of this ecosystem.”

Earlier research on the Kenya dwarf gecko initially drew Pringle’s attention to the peculiar role of grassy termite mounds, which in that part of Kenya are 10 meters in diameter and spaced 60 to 100 meters apart. Each mound teems with millions of termites, which build the mounds over the course of centuries.

After observing unexpectedly high numbers of lizards in the vicinity of mounds, Pringle and his colleagues began to quantify ecological productivity relative to mound density. They found that each mound supported dense aggregations of flora and fauna. Plants grew more rapidly the closer they were to mounds, and animal populations and reproductive rates fell off appreciably with greater distance.

What was observed on the ground was even clearer in satellite imagery. Each mound — relatively inconspicuous on the Kenyan grassland — stood at the center of a burst of floral productivity. More importantly, these bursts were highly organized in relation to one another, evenly dispersed as if squares on a checkerboard. The result, said Pringle, is an optimized network of plant and animal output closely tied to the ordered distribution of termite mounds.

“In essence, the highly regular spatial pattern of fertile mounds generated by termites actually increases overall levels of ecosystem production. And it does so in such a profound way,” said Todd M. Palmer, assistant professor of biology at the University of Florida and an affiliate of the Mpala Research Centre in Nanyuki, Kenya. “Seen from above, the grid-work of termite mounds in the savanna is not just a pretty picture. The overdispersion, or regular distribution of these termite mounds, plays an important role in elevating the services this ecosystem provides.”

The mechanism through which termite activity is transformed into far-reaching effects on the ecosystem is a complex one. Pringle and Palmer suspect that termites import coarse particles into the otherwise fine soil in the vicinity of their mounds. These coarser particles promote water infiltration of the soil, even as they discourage disruptive shrinking and swelling of topsoil in response to precipitation or drought.

The mounds also show elevated levels of nutrients (see *Termites* next page)
The upland savannas of central Kenya appear homogeneous, but the activity of subterranean termites creates very pronounced patterning in the distribution and abundance of animals.

Termites (continued from previous page)

such as phosphorus and nitrogen. All this beneficial soil alteration appears to mold ecosystem services far beyond the immediate vicinity of the mound.

While further studies will explore the mechanism through which these spatial patterns of termite mounds emerge, Pringle and Palmer suggest that the present work has implications beyond the basic questions of ecology.

“Termites are typically viewed as pests, and as threats to agricultural and livestock production,” Pringle said. “But productivity — of both wild and human-dominated landscapes — may be more intricately tied to the pattern-generating organisms of the larger natural landscape than is commonly understood.”

The findings also have important implications for conservation, Palmer says.

“As we think about restoring degraded ecosystems, as we think about restoring coral reefs, or restoring plant communities, this overdispersed pattern is teaching us something,” he said. “It’s saying we might want to think about doing our coral restoration or plant restoration in a way that takes advantage of this ecosystem-productivity-enhancing phenomenon.”

Pringle and Palmer’s co-authors on the PLoS Biology paper are Daniel F. Donk of the Mpala Research Centre and the University of Wyoming; Alison K. Brody of the Mpala Research Centre and the University of Vermont; and Rudy Jocqué of the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. Their work was supported by the Sherwood Family Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

Photo by K. Chapman

The art of science

Susan Mango, professor of molecular and cellular biology and MacArthur award winner, brings her unorthodox approach to research.

By Rebecca Hersher ’11 | Harvard Staff Writer

After earning a biochemistry degree from Harvard College in 1983, Susan Mango was on the path to becoming a scientist. She loved thinking about puzzles, the beauty of scientific questions, and the elegance of experimental design. Graduate school in biological science was the clear next step.

Then Mango spent a postgraduate year doing something completely different: She took a job at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., working on conservation of artworks.

“Taking that time, not having set a rigid trajectory makes it’s very grounded in visual and spatial representation,” Mango said. “I think it helped keep science fun.”

Mango, who rejoined Harvard this academic year as professor of molecular and cellular biology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, says her interest in art naturally complements her interest in science.

“Art and biology just aren’t that different,” she said. “I realized sometime in graduate school that I think about biology differently from some scientists. For me it’s very grounded in visual and spatial representation.”

“Biological science is all about puzzles and imagining processes,” she added. “I like puzzles. They’re fun.”

Mango’s unorthodox approach to experimental research has led to the kind of creative, elegant studies that push the limits of biology. Her work on pharynx (a cavity area behind the mouth) development in nematode worms has provided biologists with one of their most robust models of organ formation.

In 2008 her ingenuity was rewarded when the MacArthur Foundation phoned out of the blue to award her one of its “genius grants,” which carries with it $500,000 in no-strings-attached funding. Mango said that call — notable for the MacArthur representative’s dogged insistence that he really was who he said he was, and not some prankster — triggered an enjoyable, days-long process of reconnecting with long-lost friends, colleagues, and mentors who read of her honor.

Mango grew up in New York, London, and Washington, the daughter of a peripatetic professor of Byzantine history. She in effect “rebelled” against her humanist parents by cultivating an interest in science. Her own career has taken her all over the country. From Harvard, she went to Princeton to complete graduate work, moved on to a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, and eventually landed on the faculty of the University of Utah’s School of Medicine and Huntsman Cancer Institute.

While in Utah, Mango developed a reputation for forward-thinking research. High-impact journals have regularly published her groundbreaking work on organogenesis. Mango’s approach to puzzling out questions in biology not only lets her think about old questions in new ways, but also allows her to find new questions in old subjects.

After decades in the lab, biological experimentation continues to intrigue her, she said, because “you think the answer is going to be black or white, but it’s always some shade of gray.”

Now, her Harvard appointment brings Mango full circle, into an office next door to her freshwater biology professor, Richard Losick, the Maria Moors Cabot Professor of Biology.

“It’s good to be back,” she said. “This is the next step. It’s an adventure.”

Photo by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer

Faculty Profile

By Rebecca Hersher ’11 | Harvard Staff Writer

HARVARD UNIVERSITY 
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SCIENCE & HEALTH
At the A.R.T., an explosion of creativity

The American Repertory Theater concludes its inventive first year under Paulus with the premiere of the musical “Johnny Baseball.”

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Diane Paulus sat perched on the back of a chair in a basement rehearsal space in Harvard Square on a recent afternoon, watching the scene play out before her like an entranced cat observing a mouse.

Suddenly, she pounced.

Springing from her seat, the diminutive director stopped the action to emphasize a line, solicit feedback from her actors, tweak an entrance, and perfect the use of a small prop.

Paulus was carefully preparing the ensemble for the American Repertory Theater’s (A.R.T.) final production of the year, “Johnny Baseball.”

The new musical, making its world premiere at the A.R.T., fuses fact and fiction with the infamous “curse” that surrounded the Boston Red Sox. The plot follows the intersecting lives of three main characters over a series of decades, addressing the realities of racism, and in particular the ball club’s troubling record on integration. The Red Sox were the last team in major league baseball to hire African-American players, only after having passed on greats like Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays.

Paulus calls the show a “deeply moving and intellectually stimulating work,” one she hopes will educate audiences about the team’s past while also showcasing a story of love, heartbreak, and redemption.

“It’s important for people to know the history of this town 50 years ago, and to be able to understand how we are moving forward from that. This show is not so much about looking backward as truly looking forward.”

Looking ahead, often in untraditional ways, while always keeping a keen eye on what has gone before, is what Paulus is all about. It’s at the heart of her mission to “expand the boundaries of theater” as the new artistic director of the A.R.T.

After a successful first season, the verdict appears to be a decided mission accomplished, and then some.

Fresh from a successful revival of the musical “Hair” on Broadway, the New York native took the helm of the A.R.T. and brought her characteristic kinetic drive to the post, developing a number of bold productions around the themes of Shakespeare and the past American century. The works, many of them highly stylized and unconventional, drew new and old audiences to the stage, and sometimes literally onto it.

As part of the “Shakespeare Exploded” festival, Paulus, in collaboration with the British theater troupe Punchdrunk, converted a nearby vacant school into a haunted theater space for “Sleep No More,” a reimagining of the Bard’s tragedy “Macbeth.” Theatergoers donned white masks as they wandered through a maze of transformed corridors and classrooms to follow the chilling action, largely absent of dialogue.

Paulus set “The Donkey Show,” based on Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” in the opulent and over-the-top disco era of the 1970s. Glitter, glamour, and a pulsating soundtrack provide the backdrop at club OBERON, the A.R.T.’s theater space on Arrow Street, where the audience doubles as disco dancers on the club’s floor, amid the actors and the action.

Included in her inaugural season were Clifford Odets’ play “Paradise Lost,” about a family struggling during the Great Depression, and “Gatz,” a seven-hour theatrical reading of the entire text of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby.”

“I wanted to make as bold a start to my time here as I could,” said Paulus. “We took our mission to the mat, which is to expand the boundaries of theater. What is so encouraging is that the audience met us more than halfway on this bold foray into a new way of thinking about theater.”

Her work and vision already have paid dividends, with many of her productions generating an almost frantic buzz and attracting countless repeat attendees. “The Donkey Show,” originally scheduled to end its run last fall, has been extended through this summer to accommodate the crowds. In addition, this year the A.R.T. sold more than 1,000 student passes, three times the number of previous years.

Paulus ’88 has broadened the theater’s reach in part by engaging directly with the community from which she came, working in tandem with Harvard professors to co-teach classes on campus and during the winter break developing a theater workshop for young undergraduates aspiring to careers in theater. She sees interacting with the undergraduate community as a central part of her mission, calling students “the future of the theater.”

“We need to get them to understand that part of the enriching liberal arts experience is the A.R.T.”

Music, atypical theater spaces, and collaborations with the University community all play important roles in next season’s recently announced program, which will include the musical “Cabaret,” starring Amanda Palmer of Dresden Dolls fame, and what Paulus calls the rock protest musical “Prometheus Bound.” Also on tap are the opera “Death in the Powers,” a work being developed by the MIT Media Lab in partnership with the A.R.T. that will feature state-of-the-art robots, and a show currently in development that she hopes will operate as a type of theatrical scavenger hunt.

“To me, the mandate for every show is that it grabs the audience, intellectually, emotionally, in certain cases physically,” said Paulus. “Next year’s season will definitely offer that exciting range.”

Online A.R.T. announces 2010-11 schedule: www.americanrepertorytheater.org/
What they’re reading

A survey of top Harvard faculty shows what books they’re reading and enjoying on summer’s edge.

Compiled by Sarah Sweeney  |  Harvard Staff Writer

CHERRY A. MURRAY
Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and John A. and Elizabeth S. Armstrong Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences and professor of physics

“The Siege of Krishnapur”
“I am a huge fan of historical fiction. In ‘The Siege of Krishnapur’, J.G. Farrell, an Irish writer who had a rather short life, crafted a stylish novel echoing (well, mocking) the British colonial novel style. It’s written from the perspective of colonists living in a remote outpost (a fictional town in India). It paints incredible fun at the British, and it was one of the first books to send up the absurdity of colonial arrogance. Farrell goes into great detail in describing the native personalities and invites the reader to watch as a once prim Victorian outpost devolves into chaos during a siege. Incredibly funny, with good character building.”

New Crobuzon Trilogy
“My daughter and I have swapped our way through China Mieville’s New Crobuzon trilogy (‘Perdido Street Station,’ ‘The Scar,’ and ‘Iron Council’) of science fiction/fantasy books (and I just finished ‘Iron Council’). The sheer inventiveness of Mieville is astounding, from all different civilizations and cultures to the mosquito-like creatures and the entire cast of ‘remades’ (mixed up mechanical and biological life forms). His writing has a definite atmosphere about it. I found the idea of an entirely movable, floating city of interconnected ships in ‘The Scar’ (called the Armada) to be very cool. While the ending of the series is incredibly frustrating, the sheer breadth, amazing wordplay, atmosphere, and energy make the ride worthwhile. And don’t worry … our bioengineers will not be doing this type of thing!”

“The Logic of Failure: Recognizing and Avoiding Error in Complex Situations”
“The Logic of Failure: Recognizing and Avoiding Error in Complex Situations” by Dietrich Dörner is a management book that has relevance to engineering design. A German psychologist with an interest in early game theory, Dörner basically asked why some leaders fail. By using a ‘paper’ version of SimCity, he concluded that what leads to failure is when a leader asks a whole lot of questions, but never makes any decisions, or when a leader has a preconceived notion of what is right and does it regardless of what anyone else says. I’ve taken Dörner’s insights to heart with my own strategic planning for SEAS. To be successful, you need to ask a few questions, pick a track, and then monitor how things are going (getting feedback as you go). You also have to be very clear about how you define success.”

CHARLES OGLETREE
Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, and director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice

“The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama”
“Gwen Ifill’s ‘The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama’ charts the progress of the new African-American politicians, all born following the early years of the Civil Rights struggles, and how this new generation of leaders emerged.”

“The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama”
“The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama” by David Remnick traces President Obama’s path to the White House and how he overcame a host of challenges during the campaign.”

“Known to Evil”
“Walter Mosley has written many mysteries, and I have probably read them all. In ‘Known to Evil,’ he introduces us to Leonid McGill, a new character in New York City who’s trying to track down a mysterious woman.”

LENE HAU
Malinckrodt Professor of Physics and of Applied Physics

“The Selfish Gene”
“Richard Dawkins’ ‘The Selfish Gene’ is one of these rare gems of a book that leaves you with a different perspective of the world after you’ve read it. Dawkins presents a convincing case for his claim that all species of life seem optimized for one purpose: survival of their DNA. Many of the statements in the book at first encounter seem ludicrous, but Dawkins then goes on to present a wonderfully surprising and convincing argument for his point.”

“In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind”
“In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind” by Eric Kandel describes the history of neuroscience and the amazing discoveries made over the past century. We learn how studies of the workings of the mind moved from psychology over biochemistry to gene manipulation and single neuron measurements. It is really by putting all these measurements and observations together that a real understanding of memory function — how memory is formed and recalled — is achieved. Such studies might lead us more broadly to some understanding of consciousness: how we think and behave.”

“When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present”
“The development of women’s status, options, and possibilities in society over the past 50 years is chronicled in ‘When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present.’ Author Gail Collins describes the great progress that’s been achieved, but also how we are currently, in some ways, moving backward. She reminds us that achieving equal opportunity for women requires women’s actual inclusion in the workplace community rather than just an increased number of women hired. Whereas the latter is important, continuous attention must be paid to the former. Collins writes about these issues with great insight and a sense of humor that I just really enjoy.”
**ALAN DERSHOWITZ**
Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law

**“START-UP NATION: THE STORY OF ISRAEL’S ECONOMIC MIRACLE”**
“Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel’s Economic Miracle” by Dan Senor and Saul Singer tells the story of how Israel changed from a second economy based on agriculture and tourism to a first-world economic superpower, based completely on high-tech innovation. It’s a story that will inspire students, faculty, and alumni.”

**“36 ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD: A WORK OF FICTION”**
“Rebecca Goldstein’s new novel, ‘36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction,’ is poignant, funny, and brilliant. It’s about the clash between religious fundamentalism and intellectual skepticism, but is about much more as well. A great read!”

**DIANE PAULUS**
Artistic director, American Repertory Theater; professor of the practice of theater

**“ODYSSEUS IN AMERICA: COMBAT TRAUMA AND THE TRIALS OF HOMECOMING”**
“Jonathan Shay’s study of Homer’s ‘Odyssey’ is inspiring to me to think about all the ways the ancient Greek texts can speak to the experiences of active-duty soldiers, veterans, military families, and civilians today. As I plan the A.R.T.’s Greek festival for the 2010-11 season, I am programming productions, readings, and panel discussions that will give audiences many opportunities to participate in civic dialogues about the challenges our nation and world are facing.”

**“SHUT OUT: A STORY OF RACE AND BASEBALL IN BOSTON”**
“While rehearsing ‘Johnny Baseball,’ the new musical about the Boston Red Sox, I’ve been reading ‘Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston,’ a powerful book by sports journalist Howard Bryant. A detailed analysis of racial prejudice in major league baseball, ‘Shut Out’ examines critical moments in Red Sox history, including the decision not to sign Jackie Robinson in 1945 and the team’s signing of Pumpsie Green in 1959. A fascinating exploration of the history of a baseball team, a city, and the nation.”

**MOHSEN MOSTAFAVI**
Dean of the Graduate School of Design; Alexander and Victoria Wiley Professor of Design

**“THE INDIAN BRIDE”**
“I usually have numerous writing deadlines, and so my reading tends to be very instrumental, focused on what I am going to write. But, like most people, I also read to switch off — to get away from the stress of deadlines. Detective stories seem to do the trick best. I recently read ‘The Indian Bride,’ an Inspector Sejer mystery by the Norwegian writer Karin Fossum. It takes place in an isolated village where a quiet agricultural machinery salesman decides to travel to Mumbai to bring back an Indian bride — hence the title. Fossum’s subtle description of the Norwegian landscape, the humility of the main character, and the guardedness of the members of the community against all outsiders are chillingly revealing.”

**“ILL FARES THE LAND”**
“Like many people, I’ve been riveted by the incredible short pieces in the ‘New York Review of Books’ by the British historian Tony Judt, who is paralyzed from the neck down with Lou Gehrig’s disease; he is able to speak but not write. Judt has an astonishing capacity to construct such concise sentences, actually whole articles, in his head. He has just published ‘Ill Fares the Land,’ a book based on the NYR articles. Judt’s reminiscences deal a lot with his life in England, and having spent a large part of my life there too, I am very sensitive — almost nostalgic — about many of his period pieces, such as the ghostly description of the hovercraft, which I remember taking to a cold and remote school on the Isle of Wight as a boy in the 1960s.”

**“THE COUNTRY FORMERLY KNOWN AS GREAT BRITAIN”**
“Maybe to get over the sense of nostalgia, or just to extend it, I am now reading ‘The Country Formerly Known as Great Britain’ by Ian Jack. Jack, who now writes for the Guardian newspaper, used to edit the literary magazine Granta. There are certain parallels between these last two books in their consideration of a time gone by, of a Britain that now exists only in memory. Jack’s writing is always such a pleasure to read.”

**“THE ARTS OF INDUSTRY IN THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT”**
“On the work front, we have recently announced a new graduate program at the Graduate School of Design on art, design, and the public domain. In part, inspired by this topic, I have started reading Celina Fox’s impressive new book, ‘The Arts of Industry in the Age of Enlightenment.’”

**DAVID GERGEN**
Public service professor at Harvard Kennedy School, and director, Center for Public Leadership

**“CHURCHILL”**
“In times like these, my reading often turns to leaders of the past who have led democracies out of peril. Of late, I have been tackling a brace of new books about Churchill, and enjoying them all. Paul Johnson’s biography, ‘Churchill,’ is the best of the lot: insightful, concise, and graphic — enough so that I have sent it to friends.”

**“THE BIG SHORT: INSIDE THE DOOMSDAY MACHINE”**
“Meanwhile, I’ve been struggling with a stack of books about the roots of our economic turmoil. Michael Lewis has once again weighed in with one of the most readable, ‘The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine’; Andrew Ross Sorkin’s ‘Too Big To Fail’ looks like a must — and yet is forbiddingly long. I have found refuge in thinking more about where we go from here. Even if a bit repetitive, I found some provocative answers in Richard Florida’s new work, ‘The Great Reset.’”

**“STILL SURPRISED: A MEMOIR OF A LIFE IN LEADERSHIP” AND “SUSAN”**
“But the most satisfying books of the season are by dear friends. Warren Bennis has just completed his memoir, ‘Still Surprised: A Memoir of a Life in Leadership.’ And when it appears in print soon, readers will find it a delightful intellectual romp through the flowering of social science … after World War II, as well as a meditation on leadership. The other is a soulful work, beautifully written and inspiring, by Susan Tifft. She waged a noble struggle against cancer, captivating legions of friends old and new with her blog entries on CaringBridge.org. At her services at Memorial Church, her husband Alex Jones gave a bound copy to each of those who filled the pews. It is titled simply, ‘Susan’ and, like her, is a treasure.”

File photos by Kris Snibbe (top), Stephanie Mitchell (center), Justin Ide (bottom) | Harvard Staff Photographers
Creating worldwide change

A Harvard Kennedy School degree program celebrates a decade of graduates who are having a major impact on international development.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

For Ateeq Nosher, a bloody conflict in the 1980s meant growing up in a refugee camp far from home.

But next month he is headed back to his country of birth, Afghanistan, equipped with a master's degree from Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) and a desire to make a difference in his homeland, which is again mired in a violent internal struggle.

While at Harvard, Nosher took part in an integrated curriculum aimed at solving some of the world's most pressing problems. Building on his HKS experience, he will work with Afghanistan's central bank in Kabul as director general of its monetary policy department, where he will help to control the nation's inflation and exchange rates.

"If I take asylum and stay in the United States, I will be nothing in my country in five years," said Nosher. "I have to go and compete." He is optimistic about Afghanistan's future, and said its increasingly competitive environment was spurred by the return of many students and professionals who fled in 2001, when the latest round of fighting began.

Nosher is one of the more than 650 graduates from the Kennedy School's Master in Public Administration in International Development program (M.P.A./I.D.), which includes leaders in the government, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors who are making a major impact on international development.

The program was conceived in 1998, when economist Jeffrey Sachs, then teaching at HKS, noted the rise of Asia and China. That signaled the start of "an unprecedented era of modern history that would change all the rules of the world," he told a recent reunion gathering on May 14.

Sachs, now director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, realized the potential impact of such globalization, and wanted to create a degree at HKS that offered a multidisciplinary approach to international development. He was looking for a tight focus on practice and policy, one that would help to address critical problems such as AIDS, malaria, climate change, and looming global shortages of water and food.

With all that in mind, Sachs pitched what he called his "irresistible idea" to HKS administrators. They quickly understood, he said, the importance of developing a graduate-level program that would represent a "vigorous way to proceed" in the field.

"Jeff Sachs had an idea whose time had come," said Carol Finney, director of the program since its inception in 1998. "He understood that a lot of international development work was being done by people who had Ph.D.s in economics, but that economics was just one of many points of view that needed to be brought to bear on this topic."

Now graduating its 10th class, the M.P.A./I.D. is the newest degree at HKS. The program maintains a strong focus on economic and quantitative methods, but also incorporates course work in management, governance, politics, and law. In the second year of the two-year program, students choose electives that allow them to explore related issues such as poverty, health, education, and human rights.

While at Harvard, Ateeq Nosher (left) took part in an integrated curriculum aimed at solving some of the world’s most pressing problems. As a consultant specializing in international development, Poranee “Pam” Kingpetcharat (below) says she still uses the contacts she made during her time at HKS.

“In this program, we were saying: Let’s take what we know about these various fields and see how we can we use that to solve real policy problems in the world,” said Finney.

The program has another goal, to attract students from countries with developing or transitional economies. Each year, about two-thirds of new M.P.A./I.D. students come from such countries. The hope is that students will train at Harvard and then return to their homelands, said Finney, or that they will represent the interests of their countries while working for multinational organizations such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund.

A decade out, that hope has been realized, she said. HKS graduates of the program are making an impact globally. Demian Sanchez ’05 works as the social policy adviser for the Mexican presidency. Emily Stanger ’08 is a program manager for the Liberia-United Nations Joint Program on Women’s Economic Empowerment. Vuk Jeremic ’03 is the minister of foreign affairs in Serbia. Tomás Recart Balze ’08 is the founder of Enseña Chile (Teach Chile), which is modeled after Teach for America.

After graduating from the program, Poranee “Pam” Kingpetcharat ’05 took a job with a consulting firm specializing in international development and globalization.

The HKS program perfectly prepared her for her current work with organizations such as the Ford Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as well as the United Nations, where she aids peacekeeping operations, she said, helping her understand how to “move people politically once you come up with a great idea.”

The HKS program also provided her with a vast network of contacts.

“There isn’t a day that goes by that I am not calling up some other graduate, talking about development or brainstorming with them ideas or concepts, or even [calling] my professors... It’s really amazing.”

And while the world faces huge problems, “the M.P.A./I.D. program to my mind exemplifies the ways that we can respond,” Sachs told the reunion crowd gathered at the JFK Forum. “We need to have the heart, we need to have the mindset, we need to have the generosity of spirit, and I think the M.P.A./I.D. is a phenomenal base for that. It’s a real triumph.”
Courses draw on a rich variety of materials — fiction, can students from British historical sources. Her she said, is that no language barrier separates America and episodes as a way of bringing to life otherwise abstract forces and trends." My lectures tend to focus on particular individuals and moments, but also with a better understanding of what we have inherited from the past and how we may in turn be shaping legacies for the future.”


“Students continually raise challenging questions and ideas that make me think about my subject from new angles,” Jasanoff said. “In fact, I am currently designing a seminar related to my next book project, ‘The Worlds of Joseph Conrad,’ partly for the selfish reason that I want to hear Harvard students’ insights on the subject.”

Jasanoff, who said the digital age has opened fresh possibilities in teaching history, hopes to use the Abramson Award to explore new ways of incorporating tailor-made digital materials into her teaching.

TOBIAS RITTER
Tobias Ritter, who teaches in the notoriously challenging field of organic chemistry, admits he sets a high bar for his students.

On the five-point scale students use to assess courses in the registrar’s Q evaluations, “my difficulty rating has never been below 4.5,” said the assistant professor of chemistry and chemical biology.

Ritter eases the way for his students by striving to be clear when teaching and by taking all student questions seriously. He encourages his teaching staff to work as a team to provide students with as much support as possible.

“But at the end of the day, the students themselves need to work very hard to succeed in my classes,” Ritter said. “I know that I am asking a lot and that I am tough when it comes to achieving set goals for a class. But I am very explicit about it from the beginning, and I believe the students appreciate that honesty and transparency.”

Ritter, who has taught at Harvard since 2006 and is currently preparing a new advanced class on organometallics in organic synthesis, said he is motivated by the excitement of students and their insightful questions.

“It is rewarding to see that students like what I also care about deeply,” he said.

Ritter plans to use the money accompanying the Abramson Award to benefit the undergraduates in his research group.

Maya Jasanoff and Tobias Ritter win Roslyn Abramson Award.

By Steve Bradt | Harvard Staff Writer

Historian Maya Jasanoff and chemist Tobias Ritter are among those elite educators whose impact will be profound, if not lifelong. Their great enthusiasm for their subject matter is always tempered by keen sensitivity to their students’ interests and needs. I offer my heartiest congratulations to these remarkable teachers and scholars on receiving the Abramson Award.

MAYA JASANOFF
“I believe in bringing out the ‘story’ within history,” said Jasanoff, an associate professor of history who teaches courses on Britain and the British Empire. “My lectures tend to focus on particular individuals and episodes as a way of bringing to life otherwise abstract forces and trends.”

One of the great pleasures of teaching British history, she said, is that no language barrier separates American students from British historical sources. Her courses draw on a rich variety of materials — fiction, paintings, archival footage, and music — to enrich students’ understanding of the past, and their ability to analyze various sources.

“I believe that teaching and studying the past can make us more informed, responsible citizens in the present,” Jasanoff said. “I hope that students come away from my courses not only with a clear understanding of specific historical moments, but also with a better understanding of what we have inherited from the past and how we may in turn be shaping legacies for the future.”


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Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer

Changing lives, including her own

A Harvard undergraduate travels to China to visit an orphanage she aided from afar, and sees the impact of her public service.

By Alexa Ing Stern ’12 | Sociology

Last summer I met Tom, a bright-eyed and talkative 12-year-old who had an opinion about simply everything. He loved Michael Jackson and would frequently hijack my laptop to watch his music videos, singing along and enraptured with M.J.’s performance. Our communication was a mixture of simple Mandarin and flailing hand gestures and charades, since he did not speak English, and my Mandarin was limited. Throughout the summer, though, we were able to learn from one another (my Mandarin improved, and he picked up English idioms, his favorite being “bird brain”). Tom was a “regular” energetic boy. Unlike most, though, he was growing up in an orphanage.

As a freshman, I became involved with Harvard China Care, a student group that works to improve the lives of Chinese orphans one child at a time. After working toward this mission domestically for a year through fundraising, I had the opportunity to go to one of the orphanages and actually interact with the children I was trying to help.
I spent two months living and working at an orphanage in Luoyang, China. I arrived with only a year’s training in Mandarin under my belt, unsure of what to expect. I had never traveled alone before, and I did not even particularly like playing with kids. Accordingly, I was shocked at how easy it was to connect with the children, and how quickly I found myself growing attached to them.

My stay at the orphanage was a string of moments that reaffirmed my commitment to helping these children, all of whom had distinct personalities. Some were spunky, others were more reserved; some were athletic, others more intellectual; some were mischievous, others conscientious.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that most of the children were hopeful about their futures. One little boy wrote to us, “My name is Shanghua, and my greatest wish is for a kind, loving American family to adopt me.”

While most of the children looked forward to bright futures, others realized they might not be as fortunate. Many of them were abandoned because of disabilities and health problems. Jane, who was in her late teenage years and had only one arm, read me a story she wrote about a sheepdog that took a herd of sheep out to pasture. When one of them fell into a ditch, the dog left it because the dog had to take care of all the other sheep. But later when he fell into a hole and the sheep helped save him, he realized that every life is important. Jane told me she came up with this story after she saw two men abandon a baby at the orphanage.

In spite of solemn moments like this one, at the end of the day the children were still just children. Jane would ask for advice about what to say to a boy she had a crush on. Tom, always vigilant against mushy moments, would cover his eyes during love scenes of movies. Although the children are orphans, that is not all they are, and most of them did not let that label define their identities.

There is one moment I always find myself reflecting upon. During a typical hot and muggy day at the orphanage, a girl named Susan saw my laptop and asked if we could use it together. I ended up acting as a translator while she sat on my lap and video-chatted with one of my friends. Eventually, she lost interest in talking to my friend and refocused her attention on me. She turned to me and said, “Wo ai ni” (“I love you”), and kissed me on the cheek. Not a minute later, she turned back to the laptop and told my friend that he was handsome but looked like a monkey.

Moments like these, however brief, are what have stayed with me. They remind me that my actions can have an impact, however small it may ultimately prove. Having glimpsed the interplay between social policy and health, my experience at the orphanage inspired me to pursue public health policy academically upon returning to Harvard.

To learn more about Harvard China Care or to make a donation, visit www.hcs.harvard.edu/~care.

Student (continued from previous page)

The man with a Commencement plan


By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

Inside an office where Julia Child used to film her cooking show, Jason Luke is whipping up another kind of dish: Commencement.

It’s a historic backdrop like Child’s set that adds extra mystique to Luke’s job as associate director of custodial and support services for University Operations Services. That’s a mouthful, but behind the long title is a Frank Sinatra-loving ultra-preparer. And he has to be. It is spring, after all.

April and May are no ordinary months. Commencement is easily the busiest time at the University, but especially so for Luke. That’s when he — to quote a sticker on a file cabinet in his office — earns the moniker “The Man.”

“When Yardfest [an annual spring concert for undergraduates] gets here in April, I’m like ‘OK, here we go,’” said Luke. “Then after that, it gets pretty intense.”

In the off-season, Luke oversees a staff of 250 custodians and handles logistics and support for other Harvard events peppered throughout the academic year. But nothing compares with the end-of-year weekly soirée of Class Day, Morning Exercises, alumni reunions, and the hundreds of other happenings, which he helps coordinate under Commencement Director Grace Scheibner and the Harvard Alumni Association. Then, after months of intense planning, Luke rounds up his crew, a bevy of student workers, and gets cookin’. There are countless components that make up Commencement, according to Luke, ranging from the small to the massive. Take, for instance, dorm rooms.

Those have to be turned around for alumni visitors after vacating students are gone, then turned around again in time for summer school. And think of all the technical equipment that goes into staging a large-scale production — cords and cables and speakers, oh my!

“Commencement is a year-round thing,” said Luke, who also coordinates labor, seating, staging, tenting, setting up, and breaking down. “But at the beginning of May, we start taking the equipment out of storage. We take inventory, we see what’s damaged or missing, then we start working in the Yard.”

But who better to tackle all this than one of Harvard’s own? Luke, a one-time concentrator in English and American literature, graduated in 1994. As a student, he worked for the student dorm crew on facilities maintenance, a precursor to the 15 years he has now worked at Harvard.

Right before Commencement, Luke moves onto campus to better manage his massive workload. “I set up another office in Sever Hall, and then I usually stay in Wigglesworth for 10 days,” he said. “I just don’t go home at all.”

“I pull a couple of all-nighters, at least,” he says. “I probably get about three or four hours of sleep a night for 10 days.”

His assistant stays in the dorm room with him. “We don’t want to oversleep, so we can wake each other up this way. The pace of the week is just so hectic.”

Imagine, for instance, setting up chairs and other infrastructure for about 32,000 Commencement attendees.

“There’s a very, very specific setup for the chairs,” said Luke. “It takes several days. We have specific counts for each section.” He and his staff arrange them meticulously well before Commencement. But because events are already going on, Luke and his team don’t just arrange them once, but several times.

“People are coming into the Yard, moving the chairs, things get changed,” he said. “You’ve got to redo it, recount it, over and over and over.”

When Commencement ends, there are more events on Luke’s horizon. Sustainability is another project he is working on. He has helped to integrate four nontoxic products into everyday cleaning use, including a disinfectant, and he has brought in microfiber cloths in place of throwaway paper towels.

But by July or August he vows to take a well-deserved vacation. He’ll stream a little Sinatra (whose mug bedecks Luke’s office walls), or maybe Nat King Cole and Bobby Darin. He’ll don his trademark Tilley, an indestructible and UVA/UVB ray-blocking hat, and get down to the business of just relaxing. “If people need to find me,” he said, “look for the hat.”
Harvard’s work in Asian nations

Six sources of grants support student scholarship, research, travel

**ASIA CENTER TO SUPPORT TRAVEL FOR 66 STUDENTS**
The Harvard University Asia Center was established in 1997 to reflect Harvard's deep commitment to Asia and the growing connections between Asian nations. An important aspect of the center’s mission is the support of undergraduate and graduate summer projects abroad. This summer, the Asia Center will support 66 students traveling to East, South, and Southeast Asia to conduct research, participate in internships, and pursue intensive language study.

Harvard’s study of Asia is spread across the University’s departments and Schools, and a wide array of disciplines come together under the auspices of the Asia Center. Through such a convergence, the center brings a layered, multifaceted approach to the scholarly description of events to probe questions of history and culture, of economics, politics, diplomacy, and security, and the relationships among them.

The center, which is an active organization with varied programs focusing on international relations in Asia and comparative studies of Asian countries and regions, fosters links between programs concerned with Asia in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and across Harvard, and facilitates cross-regional research and cooperative efforts between the University's libraries and museums, as well as regional centers and institutes.

For a complete list of grant recipients, visit fas.harvard.edu/~asiactr/grants.htm.

**HARVARD CHINA FUND SUPPORTS STUDENT EFFORTS**
Established in 2006 under the Office of the Provost, the Harvard China Fund (HCF) is a University-wide “academic venture fund” with three core objectives: partnerships, students, and presence.

**Partnerships:** To promote teaching and research about and in China, in collaboration with institutions across Greater China.

**Students:** To prepare Harvard students for their lifelong engagement with China, and to bring Chinese students to Harvard for graduate and professional education.

**Presence:** To strengthen Harvard’s capacity to address challenges facing China through the new Harvard Center Shanghai. As part of HCF’s mission to prepare Harvard students for a lifelong engagement with China, the fund runs two student programs in China.


The Harvard China Student Internship Program is a collaborative effort involving Harvard’s Office of Career Services and Office of International Programs, together with Chinese corporations and U.S. companies in China. Students experience modern China through their internship placements, as well as gain an introduction to Chinese history and culture, while learning how Harvard alumni live and work in the region. The structure of the program includes a 10-week internship, a weeklong field trip to rural areas of China, and numerous cultural events.

For more about HCF, visit fas.harvard.edu/~hcf.

**FAIRBANK CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES AIDS STUDENT RESEARCH**
The Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies supports and promotes advanced research and training in all fields of Chinese studies. The Fairbank Center collaborates with the Harvard University Asia Center to offer undergraduate and graduate student grants for Chinese language study and research travel.

In 2009-10 the Fairbank Center also assisted the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in providing financial aid to 10 doctoral students pursuing research in China in various disciplines. To support the training of new scholars, the Fairbank Center provides grants for graduate student conference travel and dissertation research. The generosity and foresight of many donors have made the student grants possible by establishing funds such as the Desmond and Whitney Shum Graduate Fellowship; the Elise Fay Hawtin Travel and Research Fund; the Fairbank Center Challenge Grant; the Harvard Club of the Republic of China Fellowship Fund; the John K. Fairbank Center Endowment; the John King and Wilma Cannon Fairbank Undergraduate Summer Travel Grants; and the Liang Qichao Travel Fund. Student grants in Chinese studies are also supported by contributions from Fairbank Center affiliates.

For a list of student grant recipients, visit fas.harvard.edu/~fairbank/recipient.html

**KOREA INSTITUTE OFFERS UNDERGRADUATES KOREAN STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**
Korea Institute at Harvard University promotes the study of Korea and brings together faculty, students, distinguished scholars, and visitors to create a leading Korean Studies community at Harvard.

Harvard is one of the world’s leading centers for the study of Korea, and through the Korea Institute, Harvard offers exceptional resources for undergraduate students to study Korea. On campus, students take courses on Korea and choose from a wide array of Korea-related activities through student groups, seminars, and programs. Students may also participate in study and work abroad opportunities through programs such as the Harvard Summer School-Korea and Korea Institute Internship Program, as well as study abroad opportunities at Korean universities.

This year Harvard College students will:

- Undertake study abroad programs in Korea
- Hold internships in Seoul, South Korea

For more information on the Korea Institute and a full list of this year’s Korea program awardees and participants, visit the Korea Institute Web site at korea.fas.harvard.edu/news.

**EDWIN O. REICHSCHAUER INSTITUTE OF JAPANESE STUDIES FUNDS JAPANESE RESEARCH, TRAVEL**
Founded in 1973, the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies (RI) promotes research on Japan and brings together Harvard faculty, students, leading scholars from other institutions, and visitors to create one of the world’s leading communities for the study of Japan.

For the 2009-10 academic year and summer of 2010, RI has funded or facilitated the travel to Japan of 112 Harvard students, undergraduate and graduate, and has funded others for language study and research related to Japan, but conducted in other locations, from Cambridge to Moscow. For graduate students with a Japan interest, RI provides dissertation completion grants and other travel and research awards. In the case of undergrads, it seeks to expand their opportunities to have a significant international experience in Japan. In cooperation with the Harvard Club of Japan, the Rotary Club of Okayama, the Japanese Language Program, the Office of Career Services, the Office of International Programs, and Harvard science departments, RI supports undergraduates going to Japan for research; Japanese language study; internships with a wide variety of organizations, from baseball teams to banks; Harvard Summer School programs in Kyoto, Tokyo, and Yokohama; and other activities across Japan.

To see the full list of students supported by the Reischauer Institute during the 2009-10 academic year and summer 2010, visit fas.harvard.edu/~rijs/fellowships.

**SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE OFFERS GRANTS FOR SUMMER**
Since its inception in 2003, the South Asia Initiative (SAI) has raised the profile of South Asian studies at Harvard and internationally; generated interdisciplinary research; sent faculty and students to South Asia for study, research and service learning; and conducted high-profile seminars and conferences. The SAI has forged links and synergies across Harvard’s Schools and has enriched intellectual life on campus by organizing academic seminars and conferences that cut across various disciplines.

The South Asia Initiative offers grants each year to students pursuing interests in South Asia. This year, 10 graduate students were selected to participate in the SAI Graduate Associate Program for 2010-11. This summer, the SAI will support 49 undergraduate and graduate students traveling to South Asia to conduct research, perform fieldwork, participate in internships, and pursue South Asian language study.

For a complete list of grant recipients, visit fas.harvard.edu/~sainit/grants.htm.
Newsmakers

FAS NAMES FOUR FULL PROFESSORS FOR 2010-11
The following faculty members have been named full professors with tenure in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:

David Charbonneau, professor of astronomy, is an international leader in the search for planets orbiting stars other than our sun. He has been a member of the Harvard faculty since 2004.

Matthew Nock, professor of psychology, is a clinical psychologist renowned for his research on self-injurious and suicidal behavior in adolescents and adults. He has been on the Harvard faculty since 2003.

James M. Snyder Jr., professor of government, has examined how well Congress represents the economic, political, and social values of the American electorate. He was previously the Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science and Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1992.

Malika Zeghal, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life, has examined the changing relationship between Islam and governments across the Middle East. She was previously a sociologist of the anthropology and sociology of religion at the University of Chicago’s Divinity School, where she has been a member of the faculty since 2005.


TWO RECEIVE V.M. SETCHKAREV MEMORIAL PRIZES
Olga Zhulina, a graduate student in the Department of Literature and Comparative Literature, received a prize for her paper on “The Chief Who Stole Writing: Andrei Sinyavsky’s Dissident Style.”

Yael Levine ’09 received the second prize for her undergraduate paper titled “Loving Bazarov: Perspectives on the ‘passionate, sinning, and rebellious... heart hidden in the tomb.’”

EIGHT ELECTED TO AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
The American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the United States, recently elected eight new members from Harvard into this year’s class of scholars.

The society, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of “promoting useful knowledge,” honors and engages distinguished scientists, humanists, social scientists, and leaders in civic and cultural affairs through elected membership and opportunities for interdisciplinary, intellectual fellowship, particularly in the semiannual meetings in Philadelphia. Since 1900, more than 240 members have received the Nobel Prize.

This year’s elected members from Harvard follow:

Mathematical and Physical Sciences (Class 1): Lisa Randall, Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science in the Department of Physics, and Shlomo Zvi Stemberg, George Putnam Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics in the Mathematics Department.

Biological Sciences (Class 2): Gregory A. Petsko, lector in neurology at Harvard Medical School.


Humanities (Class 4): Janet Browne, Aramont Professor of the History of Science in the Department of the History of Science; and Jeffrey F. Hamburger, Kunio Francke Professor of German Art and Culture in the Department of History of Art and Architecture.

The Arts, Professions, and Leaders in Public & Private Affairs (Class 5): Martha Minow, dean of the Faculty of Law and Jeremiah Smith Jr. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

MARIE-ANGE BUNGA OF HKS STARTS CONGO INITIATIVE
Marie-Ange Bunga, a graduating M.P.A./M.C. student at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), has started the Congo Initiative at Harvard, a student organization aiming to increase awareness about the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“The scramble for minerals in eastern Congo is the crux of this tragedy,” she says. “These minerals, used to produce cell phones and computers in the U.S. and elsewhere, is fueling the conflict.”

Bunga and advocates are pressing for passage of the bipartisan Congo Conflict Minerals Act and the Congo Relief, Security and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006. They’re also urging the appointment of a U.S. special envoy for Congo.

“We urgently need help from people with interest in the Congo, its politics and economy, and the issues related to its mineral resources,” says Bunga, who collaborated with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard Defense Against Genocide, and the Human Rights Center at HKS, and sought connections with other universities.

Though graduating, Bunga is hopeful her legacy will live on in the capable hands of more concerned students. To express your interest or learn more about issues in the Congo, contact harvardcongoinitiative@ gmail.com.

ECK SPEAKER FOR BEREA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT
Diana L. Eck, Fredric Wertham Professor of Law and Psychiatry in Society and professor of comparative religion and interdisciplinary studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), was the speaker for Berea College’s 138th Commencement on May 23, and will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Eck, who has taught at Harvard for more than 30 years, is also a Harvard Divinity School faculty member and an award-winning author and researcher on religious pluralism in America.

HEEP AWARDS STUDENT PRIZES
The Harvard Environmental Economics Program (HEEP), a University-wide initiative that seeks to develop innovative approaches to today’s complex environmental challenges, recently awarded four prizes to Harvard University students for the best research papers addressing a topic in environmental, energy, or resource economics. HEEP presented one prize for the best undergraduate paper, senior thesis, master’s student paper, and doctoral student paper. Supported by the Enel Endowment for Environmental Economics at Harvard and the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation, each prize was accompanied by a monetary award. To read the full story, visit hks.harvard. edu/m-cgb/heep/News_Prize_li.html.

DESIGN SCHOOL APPOINTS THREE TO FACULTY
The Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) has named Michael Hooper, Rahul Mehrotra, and Joyce Klein Rosenthal to the GSD faculty, effective July 2010.

Hooper, who has been appointed assistant professor of urban planning, will receive his Ph.D. from the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources at Stanford University this month (May). His research interests focus on the politics of land use and urbanization, participatory planning and governance, and civil society mobilization.

Mehrotra, a practicing architect, urban designer, and professor of architectural design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Urban Planning, has been named professor of urban design and planning and chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Design. He has written and lectured extensively on architecture, conservation, and urban planning in India.

Rosenthal, a lecturer at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, has been named assistant professor of urban planning at the GSD. Rosenthal’s research interests are in environmental planning, sustainable development, and the public health impacts of urbanization, with a particular present focus on spatial and social determinants of heat islands and heat-related health outcomes.

HARVARD PRESENTED WITH HSPH’S HEALTHY CUP AWARD
The Harvard School of Public Health’s (HSPH) Nutrition Round Table recently presented Sen. Tom Harkin from Iowa with the third annual Healthy Cup Award on May 18 for “his leadership in developing policies that support and promote good nutrition, healthier lifestyles, and disease prevention” and for playing a key role in the national health care reform bill signed in March.

The Nutrition Round Table is a group that helps to bridge the gap between scientific advances and sustainable changes in food policy, practices, and products, with a focus on obesity, healthy lifestyles, global nutrition, and chronic diseases.

Harkin, who succeeded the late Sen. Edward Kennedy as chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Oversight Committee in September 2009, was presented the award as part of a lecture and reception at the School, and was congratulated for his efforts to address obesity issues in children, cardiovascular disease, and women’s health issues, as well as other efforts to lead the way toward a healthier country.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better person to follow in this important role,” said Walter Willett, chair of the HSPH Department of Nutrition, who presented the award. Harkin has shown “tremendous leadership over the years, putting wellness and health on the American agenda.” To read the full story, www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/nutrition-news/harkin-healthy-cup-award/index.html

HKS ALUMNI HONORED WITH AWARDS
Three accomplished leaders have been named recipients of 2010 Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) alumni awards. The awards were presented during ceremonies on the School on May 14-15.

Mehmet Daimagüler, M.P.A. ’05, was named winner of the 2010 Rising Star Award, which recognizes HKS alumni who, within six years of beginning their careers, have “hit the ground running” as leaders, catalysts for change, or people who are making a meaningful difference to individuals, organizations, or governments.

Susan Ople, M.P.A. ’99, is recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award, designed to recognize HKS alumni who, after more than six years in their careers, have made a significant contribution to improving the human condition on a local, state/provincial, national, or international stage, in any sector.

Robert Min Xie, M.P.A./M.C. ’94, was named winner of the Julius E. Babbitt Memorial Alumni Volunteer Award, named in honor of Julius Babbitt, M.P.A. ’01, and given each year to a graduate of the Kennedy School who has demonstrated uncommon commitment to his or her fellow alumni to advance the spirit of volunteerism and service to the School and the alumni community. To read more about the winners, visit hks.harvard.edu/news-events/news/articles/alumni-awards-may10.
THIRTEEN UNDERGRADUATE ARTISTS AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) and the Office of the Dean for the Arts and Humanities have announced the 2010 recipients of the Artist Development Fellowship, which honors the artistic development of students demonstrating unusual accomplishment and/or evidence of significant artistic promise. The program is administered by the OFA and the Office of Career Services (OCS), and made possible with the support of the Office of the President at Harvard University.

This year’s fellowship recipients are Matthew Aucoin ’12, Shani Bronner ’11, Chad Cannon ’11, Kayla Escobedo ’12, Molly Fitzpatrick ’11, Noam Hassenfeld ’12, Coral Martin ’10, Illica Radulan ’11, Sofia Selowsky ’12, Jessica Sequeira ’11, Sara Stern ’12, Elizabeth Walker ’11, and Jesse Wong ’12.

The fellowships, which are awarded annually by the Council on the Arts, a standing committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, are intended to nurture the artistic development of promising and/or accomplished students in the arts who, it is hoped, will one day look back on this opportunity and mark it as a significant contributor to their creative development.

The program is open to all undergraduates currently enrolled in Harvard College. For further application information, visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu/support; to read the fellow bios, visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu/ofa/pdf/ad10fpr.pdf.

DRCLAS SPONSORS SUMMER TRAVEL IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

The David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) is sponsoring more than 160 students to travel to Latin America for work, research, and study this summer.

The DRCLAS awarded research travel grants to nine undergraduates for senior thesis research and 32 graduate students for dissertation research in Latin America. DRCLAS also provided grants to 10 undergraduates and five graduate students for independent internships in Latin America.

The center’s Summer Internship Program (SIP) places students in Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay to work with organizations that align with their personal or career interests. A total of 48 undergraduates will take part in SIP, with 23 traveling to Argentina, 16 to Chile, seven to Peru, and two to Uruguay. This year, 47 students will travel to Latin America to take part in four new DRCLAS summer programs: six will participate in the Public Policy Internship Program in Brazil, 15 will participate in the Health and Spanish Immersion Course in Chile, 13 will participate in the Spanish and Community Service Course in Peru, and 13 will participate in the Summer Internship Program on Sustainable Development in Mexico.

The DRCLAS awarded seven grants to undergraduates working for WorldTeach this summer. Five students will teach in Costa Rica and three will teach in Ecuador. For more information, visit dcrlas.harvard.edu/students.

THOMAS T. HOOPES PRIZE AWARDED TO 89

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences has recently awarded the Thomas T. Hoopes Prize to 89 Harvard College seniors, in recognition of outstanding research or scholarly work. The prize is funded by the estate of Thomas T. Hoopes ’19. The recipients, including their research and advisers, can be found at fas.harvard.edu/~secfas.

CES AWARDS TRAVEL GRANTS FOR 2010-11

The Center for European Studies (CES) recently announced its 2010-11 student grant winners, continuing its long tradition of promoting and funding student research on political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual trends in modern or contemporary Europe. Thirty-four undergraduates will pursue the six research and internships in Europe this summer, while 19 graduate students have been awarded support for their dissertations over the coming year.

CES undergraduate senior thesis travel grants fund summer research in Europe for juniors in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences preparing senior theses. Graduate summer travel grants and dissertation research fellowships fund students who plan to spend either a summer or up to a year in Europe conducting dissertation research, while graduate dissertation writing fellowships are intended to support doctoral candidates as they complete their dissertations. These grants and fellowships are funded by the Krupp Foundation and by the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies.

For more information, visit ces.fas.harvard.edu.

(see Fellows next page)
DAVID ROCKEFELLER INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCEGRANTS PROGRAM SUPPORTS 400 FOR TRAVEL
In the second year of the David Rockefeller International Experience Grants Program, more than 400 Harvard College students accepted funding for international internships, volunteer projects, study abroad programs, and research opportunities in 53 countries across the world. With the generosity of David Rockefeller ’36, LL.D. ’69, this grant program was developed to give students the opportunity to gain a broader understanding of the world and to learn about other countries and peoples by spending at least eight weeks immersed in a culture other than their own.

This year’s recipients will conduct independent research on diverse topics, such as the experience of aging and dementia in France, the Tomb Shrines of Sayyidah Zaynab in Egypt, and forest succession in tropical forests in Panama. Recipients participating in internships and service activities will support both corporate and non-profit organizations, such as Gucci Worldwide in Italy, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Switzerland, the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, and the New Hope Orphanage in Uganda. Students will participate in 23 Harvard Summer School study abroad programs, as well as summer study programs supported by 40 other academic institutions.

The David Rockefeller International Experience Grants Program is administered through the Office of Career Services. For more information about the program, visit fas.harvard.edu/~oip/rockefeller.

TEN FACULTY NAMED CABOT FELLOWS
Ten professors in Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) have been named Walter Channing Cabot Fellows. The annual awards recognize tenured faculty members for distinguished accomplishments in the fields of literature, history, or art, broadly conceived. The 2010 honorees are Janet Belzer, professor of Romance languages and literatures; Mark Elliott, Mark Schwartz Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History; Francesco Erspamer, professor of Romance languages and literatures; Witt Idena, professor of Chinese literature; Chris Killip, professor of visual and environmental studies; Alex Rehdinger, Fanny Peabody Professor of Music; Nancy Rosenblum, Senator Joseph S. Clark Professor of Ethics in Politics and Government; Amartya Sen, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor; William Julius Wilson, Lewis F. and Linda L. Geeyer University Professor; and Richard W. Wrangham, Ruth Moore Professor of Biological Anthropology.

Fellows & Grants

Raymond D. Adams
Faculty of Medicine — Memorial Minute
Raymond Delacy Adams, Bullard Professor of Neuropathology emeritus at Harvard Medical School, died at Brigham and Women’s Hospital on Oct. 18, 2008, at the age of 97. Adams was considered by his peers to be one of the pre-eminent neuropathologists of the 20th century.

For the full Memorial Minute, visit hvd.gs/47677.

Harvey Goldman
Faculty of Medicine — Memorial Minute
Harvey Goldman, professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard-Massachusetts Institute of Technology Division of Health Sciences and Technology, died on April 6, 2009, from complications of a hematologic disorder. Goldman was not only a master educator, but also an outstanding surgical pathologist and investigator in the field of gastrointestinal pathology.

For the full Memorial Minute, visit hvd.gs/47653.

Alfred Pope
Faculty of Medicine — Memorial Minute
Alfred Pope, professor of neuropathology emeritus at Harvard Medical School and senior neuropathologist at McLean Hospital, died on Feb. 13, 2009, at Fox Hill Village in Westwood, Mass., at the age of 94. Pope, one of the world’s most eminent neuropathologists, served at McLean for more than six decades.

For the full Memorial Minute, visit hvd.gs/47645.

Daniel C. Tosteson
Faculty of Medicine — Memorial Minute
Daniel Charles Tosteson, former dean of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine and Caroline Shields Walker Distinguished Professor of Cell Biology, died on May 27, 2009, at the age of 84 after a long and courageous struggle with Parkinson’s disease. His 20-year leadership of the Harvard Medical Faculty was marked by innovation, change, and renewal. His imprint on the Medical School will be felt for generations to come.

For the full Memorial Minute, visit hvd.gs/47681.

HARVARD THEATRE COLLECTION CURATOR
FREDRIC WOODBRIDGE WILSON DIES AT 62
Fredric Woodbridge Wilson, curator of the Harvard Theatre Collection and resident of Watertown, Mass., died on May 15 of pancreatic cancer. He was 62.

In his 13 years at Harvard, Wilson curated more than 40 exhibitions, many of which explored his favorite corner of theatrical history, 19th century British theater, including theatrical caricatures, pantomime, Toy Theater, and Gilbert and Sullivan operas, a subject in which he was widely considered an expert.

For the full obituary, visit hvd.gs/47685.
MAY 22-JAN. 2
Headgear: The Natural History of Horns and Antlers.

JUNE 3
Dynamics of Signaling by PKA.
Room B103, Northwest Building, 52 Oxford St., 4-5:15 p.m. Doty Lecture, sponsored by the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. susantaylorlab.ucsd.edu.

JUNE 9
Harvard Digital Scholarship Summit 2010.
OnlineпусCheck out the American Repertory Theater: americanrepertorytheater.org

JUNE 12
Globetrotters!
Peabody Museum, 11 Divinity Ave., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Young anthropologists are invited to travel the world! Free with regular admission; advance registration required and space is limited. Recommended for children ages 5-8 with an accompanying adult. 617.495.2916, peabody.harvard.edu.

JUNE 17
Birdology: From Hens to Hummingbirds — And One Big Living Dinosaur.

JUNE 21
2010 Annual Harvard/Paul F. Glenn Symposium on Aging.

JUNE 26
Gallery talk: “Anversa e Genova: Rubens’s Genoese Connection.”

JUNE 28-JULY 16
Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies (Summer Session).
5 Linden St. A 14-day course, for one hour a day over a period of a few weeks. Summer session: Mon.-Fri., 4 p.m. Cost: $150.

THROUGH AUG. 27
Science Center, 1 Oxford St. harvardartmuseum.org/exhibitions/offsite/detail.dot?id=29701.617.495.2581.
There were fond farewells, a few chuckles, and best wishes for the future at the annual Class Day ceremonies in Harvard Yard on Wednesday (May 26), the day before Commencement Exercises lay the pomp and circumstance on thickly.

Featuring CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour as the main speaker, Class Day brought graduating seniors together in Harvard Yard’s Tercentenary Theatre, the tree-shaded space between the Memorial Church and Widener Library, for an afternoon ceremony and a speaker selected by class members. Traditionally less formal than the morning and afternoon Commencement Exercises on Thursday (May 27), Class Day features several student speakers, delivering the Ivy and Harvard orations. It provides a chance for Dean of Harvard College Evelynn Hammonds to address the class, which the tight pacing of the Commencement Day program doesn’t allow.

Students left Class Day ceremonies to attend House masters’ receptions for seniors and their guests, and then returned to the ‘Yard for an evening concert by the Radcliffe Choral Society, the Harvard Glee Club, and the Harvard University Band.

— Alvin Powell