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**A NEW VICE PRESIDENT**
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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**
Harvard authorities on Southeast Asia see trouble on the horizon for rice production and consumption by billions of people dependent on the grain. The threats come from water shortages, salinization, and bad resource management.  
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Chris LeRoy ’11 is enjoying his first season as a starter — one who “has developed into an All-Ivy caliber player,” according to his coach. Page 22
Thinking like an octopus

A philosophy professor’s summer of diving in Sydney Harbour got him thinking about what octopus intelligence might mean.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

If you were an octopus, would you view the world from eight different points of view? Nine?

The answer may depend on how many brains an octopus has, or, to say it another way, whether the robust bunches of neurons in its coiling, writhing, incredibly handy arms bestow on each of them something akin to a brain. Is an octopus a creature ruled by a single consciousness centered in its large brain, or, by dint of its nerve-infused legs, a collaborative, cooperative, but distributed mind?

The idea of a distributed mind among animals is not new, according to Peter Godfrey-Smith, who focuses his efforts on the philosophy of science. Experiments indicate that when a bird learns a skill using only a single eye, and is later tested while being forced to use the other eye, the learning does not transfer well.

“This suggests that animal minds lack the cohesiveness that humans have,” said Godfrey-Smith, a philosophy professor at Harvard. “It may have something to do with consciousness. Maybe it acts as a unifying tool.”

Godfrey-Smith has been swimming with octopuses for years, diving in and around Sydney Harbour during summer breaks in his native Australia. It is only recently, however, that he noticed that supremely camouflaged octopuses were pretty common there.

“For years, I was swimming and diving in this area of Sydney Harbour. I had an idea they were there, but didn’t know what to look for,” Godfrey-Smith said.

Once he understood what to look for, he realized octopuses were all around. They’re so well-camouflaged, he said, it is best to look not for the animal, but for their dens. They often collect bits of marine debris — broken glass, tiles, and other hard substances — and put them out front.

“They’re watching us even if we’re not watching them,” Godfrey-Smith said.

Intrigued, he looked into the scientific literature and was struck by how little was known about octopuses. Octopuses and other cephalopods such as squids are thought to be the most intelligent invertebrates, but the nature of their intelligence is still a mystery.

Octopuses have large nervous systems, centered around relatively large brains. But more than half of their 500 million neurons are found in the arms themselves, Godfrey-Smith said. This raises the question of whether the arms have something like minds of their own. Though the question is controversial, there is some observational evidence indicating that it could be so, he said. When an octopus is in an unfamiliar tank with food in the middle, some arms seem to crowd into the corner seeking safety while others seem to pull the animal toward the food, Godfrey-Smith explained, as if the creature is literally of two minds about the situation.

There may be other explanations for the observations. But whatever the answer, it seems likely that octopus intelligence is quite different from that of humans and, as researchers ponder the broader meaning of intelligence, may be as different as is likely to be encountered, short of finding it on other planets.

That’s because other creatures that are believed intelligent — such as dolphins, chimpanzees, some birds, elephants — are relatively closely related to humans. They’re all on the vertebrate branch of the tree of life, so there’s a chance the intelligence shares at least some characteristics. Octopuses, however, are invertebrates. Our last common ancestor reaches back to the dim depths of time, 500 million to 600 million years ago. That means octopus
intelligence likely evolved entirely separately and could be very different from that of vertebrates.

“Octopuses let us ask which features of our minds can we expect to be universal whenever intelligence arises in the universe, and which are unique to us,” Godfrey-Smith said. “They really are an isolated outpost among invertebrates. ... From the point of view of the philosophy of the mind, they are a big deal.”

They’re a big enough deal that Godfrey-Smith has begun collaborating with other scientists in both fieldwork and lab experiments. Though not trained as a biologist, he has participated in experiments with the Sydney Institute of Marine Science aimed at finding out how well an octopus can learn just by observing, which is a controversial question. Godfrey-Smith said the test subjects are the same gloomy octopuses he sees in the harbor, captured and then released after about a week when the tests are concluded. The first test, learning how to open a jar, is being completed, he said. Though there have been some “glimmers” of observational learning, the results are so far inconclusive. He is eager to repeat the tests next summer, modifying the problem the octopuses have to solve.

He also has explored the idea that octopuses – thought to be solitary creatures – may interact socially. During his dives, he has seen two octopuses living just two feet apart for more than a week in Sydney Harbour and has visited a diver down the coast who has found a group of octopuses living together and interacting.

His time in the water has turned up another scientific dividend, observations of the rarely seen process of the creatures mating. In a recent scientific paper, Godfrey-Smith described what he saw, identifying two strategies by the male octopus, one at close range and the second at a distance, where the male extends a sperm packet at the end of an arm. The second strategy seems to be employed when the male is smaller than the female.

Though the exact reason behind the two strategies remains unknown, Godfrey-Smith suspects it may be due to another major difference between humans and octopuses: Females, it seems, sometimes eat the males.

Microbes to the rescue

Study says microbes may consume far more gaseous waste from gulf oil spill than previously believed.

By Steve Bradt | Harvard Staff Writer

Microbes living at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico may consume far more of the gaseous waste from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill than previously thought, according to research carried out within 100 miles of the spill site.

A paper on that research, conducted before the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded six months ago, will appear in a forthcoming issue of the journal Deep-Sea Research II. It describes the anaerobic oxidation of methane, a key component of the gulf spill, by microbes living in seafloor brine pools.

“Because of the ample oil and gas reserves under the Gulf of Mexico, slow seepage is a natural part of the ecosystem,” says Peter R. Girguis, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Natural Sciences at Harvard University. “ Entire communities have arisen on the seafloor that depend on these seeps. Our analysis shows that within these communities, some microbes consume methane 10 to 100 times faster than we’ve previously realized.”

Girguis is quick to note that methane is just part of what spilled from the ruptured Deepwater Horizon well for three months, and that the rate at which methane spewed from the damaged well far exceeds the flow that microbes would ordinarily encounter in the gulf.

Key to the work by Girguis, Harvard research scientist Scott D. Wankel, and colleagues of both scientists was the ability to use on-site mass spectrometry to obtain accurate measurements of seafloor methane. It has been difficult to take such measurements because most tools don’t work accurately 5,000 to 7,000 feet below the sea’s surface, where pressures are intense.

Using this new technique, the scientists were able to consume methane 10 to 100 times faster than we’ve previously realized.”

(see Microbes next page)
Microbes (continued from previous page)

ascertain methane concentrations in brine pools surrounding gas seeps, as well as in the water column above the pools. Combining this data with measurements of microbial activity, they were able to extrapolate just how quickly the microbes were consuming the methane.

“In fact, we observed oxidation of methane by these microbes at the highest rates ever recorded in seawater,” Girguis said.

Methane is a greenhouse gas, up to 60 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Gigatons of the volatile gas are produced in seafloor sediments, above and beyond that generated by gas seeps that pockmark the floor of the gulf and other bodies of water. But, Girguis said, somewhere between the seafloor and the sea’s surface, much of the methane vanishes.

“We found that concentrations of methane in brine pools are tremendously high: five to six orders of magnitude higher than in the water column above,” Girguis said. “Mass spectrometry has given us a window on both the amount of methane diffusing into the water column and how much of this methane is consumed through anaerobic oxidation by microbes within the brine pool. It appears the microbes consume much of the methane, and the rest dissipates over time into the water column.”

A study published in the journal Science in August detailed a bacterial species reportedly able to degrade oil anaerobically in the gulf. But a subsequent paper in the journal contended that these microbes mainly digested gases such as methane, propane, ethane, and butane, not oil. The “Deep-Sea Research II” paper adds to scientists’ growing understanding of these species’ ability to degrade the byproducts of the Deepwater Horizon spill.

Girguis and Wankel’s co-authors are Samantha B. Joye and Vladimir A. Samarkin of the University of Georgia, Sunita R. Shah of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Gernot Friederich of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and John Melas-Kyriazi of Stanford University. Their work was funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Minerals Management Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Harvard, and the National Science Foundation.

Using on-site mass spectrometry, scientists are able to ascertain methane concentrations in brine pools surrounding gas seeps. In the image above, the super-saline water that is flowing from under the sea floor has created a concentrated brine lake and channel.

The society also recognized Gerald Gabrielse’s excellence in teaching.

Gabrielse wins Lilienfeld Prize

Harvard professor recognized by the American Physical Society for outstanding contributions to physics.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Harvard Physics Professor Gerald Gabrielse has been named the winner of the 2011 Julius Edgar Lilienfeld Prize by the American Physical Society (APS), awarded for outstanding contributions to physics.

Gabrielse, the George Vasmer Leverett Professor of Physics, was cited by the APS for particle physics experiments that seek to measure the properties of electrons and investigate matter and antimatter. In particular, he succeeded in measuring magnetic properties of electrons 15 times more precisely than earlier measurements that had stood for two decades.

The society also recognized Gabrielse’s excellence in teaching, for which he received Harvard’s Levenson Teaching Award in 2000, citing him for “exceptional skill in sharing the science with diverse audiences.”

“Receiving a prize for which all physicists are eligible is naturally a very affirming experience, of course, as is the recognition of success in lecturing to diverse audiences,” Gabrielse said in an email. “What makes this prize especially sweet is that it represents more than 20 years of work, in collaboration with a series of nearly 10 Harvard Ph.D. students. One thesis at a time, we developed methods to make an artificial atom — one single electron suspended in our trap apparatus — and to coax the electron in this to reveal the size of its internal magnet (and the fine structure constant) to an extremely high precision.”

The prize consists of $10,000, a certificate, and the opportunity to deliver three lectures, one to a society meeting, one at a research university, and a third at a predominantly undergraduate institution, according to the APS website.

Gabrielse received a bachelor’s degree from Calvin College in 1973 and a doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1980. A member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Physical Society, he received the APS Davison-Germer Prize in 2002, Germany’s Humboldt Research Award in 2005, and Italy’s Tomassoni and Chiesi Prize in 2008. He received Harvard’s Lionel Prize in 2004 for exceptional research.
A ‘whif’ of a breakthrough

In David Edwards’ new book, “The Lab: Creativity and Culture,” he argues for a new model — the “arts science” lab — that “expands the possibilities of experimentation beyond those of traditional science labs.”

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

When David Edwards dreamed three years ago of creating inhalable chocolate, he put his inspiration into action with the help of resources far and near.

On campus, Edwards, the Gordon McKay Professor of the Practice of Biomedical Engineering in Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, turned to his own students, who began testing the intriguing notion of eating via breathing. Meanwhile, at Edwards’ art and design innovation center Le Laboratoire in France, the double-Michelin-starred chef Thierry Marx was also testing Edwards’ idea by working to produce gratifying flavor through aerosol.

The resulting product, Le Whif, released last year, was a success that overstepped culinary and scientific boundaries. But even more of an accomplishment than Le Whif, Edwards might argue, was the revolutionary philosophy behind it. In his new book, “The Lab: Creativity and Culture,” a sequel to 2008’s “Arts Science: Creativity in the Post-Google Generation,” Edwards reveals how risk-taking and multi-disciplinary collaboration are essential for creativity.

When Edwards founded the Idea Translation Lab, an educational program with resources to support student idea experimentation, as well as The Lab at Harvard — a three-year experimental exhibition program for transforming common University space into a catalyst for student idea development and learning.

“My book ‘The Lab’ calls for a sustainable model of change guided as much by the arts as by the sciences,” he said. “I wished to make the claim that artistic experimentation, as process more than result, cannot only also produce benefit, it can actually enhance the benefit of every kind of experimentation, and lead to broader dialogue between the public and creator, and more value generation outside the traditional innovation center of industry.”

The Michigan-born biomedical engineer is currently at work on a bevy of innovations that include edible bottles. Last year he released Andrea, a plant-based air purification system invented with Mathieu Lehanneur.

“To the degree that contemporary life is becoming increasingly a continuum of innovative process, directing that process to cultural, social, educational, and commercial benefit seems to me the best outcome we can hope for any innovation model,” Edwards said. “That’s the argument of the book, a kind of manifesto for a utopian lab. What we’re building in Paris and other places is just a first approximation of what an artscience lab might be.”
Learning the streets

The acclaimed TV series “The Wire” is at the center of a new course aimed at teaching Harvard undergraduates about inner-city life.

By Paul Massari | Harvard Staff Writer

D’Angelo Barksdale is a Baltimore drug dealer who wants out of the game. Tormented by the murders committed by his uncle Avon, leader of the Barksdale gang, he talks to the police. “I just wanna go somewhere — anywhere — where I can breathe like regular folks,” he says. “Gimme that, and I’ll give you” Avon.

Later, D’Angelo tells his mother that he wants to join the Witness Protection Program and start his life over. She ignores him at first, and then leans on him to protect his uncle. “How you gonna start over without your peoples?” she asks.

These scenes and others from the acclaimed television series “The Wire” are at the center of “HBO’s The Wire and Its Contribution to Understanding Urban Inequality,” a new course aimed at teaching Harvard undergraduates about inner-city life. Each week, students read academic research on topics that include crime, incarceration, work and labor markets, the economy, education, and politics, and submit response papers that link the scholarly work with themes featured in the show, which was created by David Simon.

“William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, leads the course “HBO’s The Wire and Its Contribution to Understanding Urban Inequality.”

“I wake up in the morning so excited,” he says. “The students are so engaging and incredibly bright. I’m not only imparting knowledge, I’m learning something from their insights as they struggle to integrate the concepts we discuss in class.”

Chelsey Bowman ’12, a student in Wilson’s class, says that, as art, “The Wire” has the ability both to unite and depict the elements of the inner-city experience.

“The show combines all of the problems that social scientists research and write about,” she says. “I’ve taken a few other sociology classes that try to grapple with these topics, but without an aid like ‘The Wire’ the concepts can seem foreign or overstated to someone living in a college bubble.”

Bowman says that every point discussed in the reading assignments can be found somewhere in “The Wire.” She recently presented to Wilson’s class on Lawrence D. Bobo and Victor Thompson’s article “Racialized Mass Incarceration: Poverty, Prejudice, and Punishment,” and says that the show helped her understand the authors’ work on who goes to prison in the United States.

“In the last episode of season one of ‘The Wire,’ the police swarm low-rise projects and round up African-American men, regardless of whether or not they seem to be involved in the drug trade,” she says. “In another episode, though, we see drug dealers selling to white middle-class men and women, along with white college students. The scenes illustrate Bobo and Thompson’s claim that ‘illegal drug consumption seems to know no race. Incarceration for drug-related charges, however, is something visited in a heavily biased manner on African Americans.’”

Anmol Chaddha, an advanced graduate student in sociology who is co-teaching the course, acknowledges that one of the risks of using “The Wire” is that students will see it as fact, not fiction. He says that he and Wilson stress that the series is neither a documentary, nor a substitute for “rigorous scholarly research.”

“We tell students that the show is a way of leading into the academic work,” Chaddha says. “It’s a thread to integrate different topics that have an impact on urban inequality. It can give them a sense of what the issues are, but not a full understanding.”

Wilson never thought he would use a television show to help teach a course and resisted requests to do so from graduate students and from African and African American Studies Chair Evelyn Higginbotham. Now he says that the class has been one of the best experiences of his teaching career.

“I wake up in the morning so excited,” he says. “The students are so engaging and incredibly bright. I’m not only imparting knowledge, I’m learning something from their insights as they struggle to integrate the concepts we discuss in class.”

Kellie O’Toole ’11 says that the most important thing she’s learning from Wilson’s class is that there is a connection between her life and that of someone who lives in the inner city.

“People in society attempt to distance themselves from the ‘other,’” she says. “‘The Wire’ works against this idea by depicting the connection between mainstream and street culture. It shows that, while people sometimes think they live in different worlds, we are more alike than we are different.”
Brazil’s public intellectual

Nicolau Sevcenko, now a professor of Romance languages and literatures at Harvard, reflects on the long journey that brought him here.

When Nicolau Sevcenko’s parents arrived in Brazil as political refugees — a destination chosen mostly because it was one of the few nations in the 1950s that accepted Soviet émigrés — they never imagined their newborn son would become perhaps the world’s leading authority on Brazilian cultural history.

Sevcenko was born in the coastal city of Santos while his family was en route to São Paulo to escape the turmoil of Europe after World War II. Once settled in Brazil, however, Sevcenko’s parents were reluctant to integrate into the culture. Convinced that the Soviet Union would soon collapse and they could return home, they made no effort to learn Portuguese, or to teach it to their young son.

The Harvard professor remembers sitting at the back of the classroom on his first day of school and not understanding a word that was said.

“I came home and told my mother that she had made a mistake and accidentally sent me to a foreign school,” said Sevcenko, who joined the Harvard faculty last year as a professor of Romance languages and literatures. But he quickly learned that he, in fact, was the foreigner.

Learning a new language and trying to navigate his position within Brazilian society were not the only obstacles Sevcenko faced growing up. He was born left-handed, but because left-handedness was considered a sin by his church, Sevcenko’s mother tied that hand behind his back, forcing him to become right-handed. Then, as a young adult, he was diagnosed as severely dyslexic.

Adding to his confusion was his parents’ refusal to discuss the circumstances that had brought them to Brazil.

“People would get very nervous if you ever mentioned the past or the word ‘communism,’” Sevcenko said. “It was very disturbing.”

Sevcenko’s desire to surmount this secrecy and understand his family’s story contributed to his decision to become a historian, and he sees his scholarly interests as a means of filling in the gaps and coming to terms with his own national identity.

“More than anything else, I wanted to know what Brazil was, what Latin America was,” he said.

While Sevcenko was navigating a difficult childhood and adolescence, all of Brazil was facing the turmoil of the military dictatorship that ruled the country from 1964 to 1985. This period was marked by severe censorship of books, movies, television shows, and music.

Ironically, because of this censorship, young people of Sevcenko’s generation became particularly interested in avant-garde cultural forms, and Sevcenko was exposed to experimental writing at an early age. His 1983 book on Rio de Janeiro’s “Belle Époque” at the beginning of the 20th century attracted widespread attention, his access to underground networks of banned cultural materials allowing him to present a vision of social and cultural life that challenged the party line of the waning military dictatorship.

Almost immediately after publication of this first book, Sevcenko rose to the status of public intellectual in Brazil. It’s a position he has maintained since: In addition to his academic writings, he has written for a number of newspapers and magazines on a diverse array of topics, ranging from theater and film to architecture and urban studies.

Sevcenko is often recognized on the street when in Brazil and is asked to comment on issues of public debate. He admits to enjoying his newfound anonymity in Cambridge, which allows him to walk unimpeded all over the city.

Sevcenko first came to Harvard, which he calls “the intellectual crossroads of the world,” as a visiting professor in 2004. Though he misses his wife, who remains in Brazil caring for his ailing mother and mother-in-law, Sevcenko expresses his delight at being at Harvard, not least because of the tranquility of Cambridge compared with São Paulo, a teeming metropolitan area of 20 million people.

“It’s an urban inferno,” he said of the city in which he had taught since 1983. “Changing from that into little Cambridge is just coming into paradise.”
Peering into the crystal ball

Students at Harvard Kennedy School try their hands at political forecasting for the upcoming midterm elections.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

While political pundits labor overtime trying to predict the outcome of the approaching midterm national elections, students at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) have taken up the challenge of determining what’s happening among voters.

They are taking a course with two HKS professors with decades of campaign and White House experience between them, David Gergen and Elaine Kamarck.

Gergen, professor of public service and director of the Center for Public Leadership, served as a White House adviser to four presidents: Republicans Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan, and Democrat Bill Clinton.

Kamarck, a lecturer in public policy, came to the Kennedy School in 1997 after a career in politics and government. In the 1980s, she was one of the founders of the New Democrat movement that helped elect Clinton. She served in the White House from 1993 to 1997, and in 2000 became senior policy adviser to Al Gore’s presidential campaign.

In September, the students divided into small groups that were asked to forecast the number of seats that would change hands in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

“Our group came to the consensus that the Democrats were probably going to lose the House,” said Richmond Blake, a second-year master’s in public policy student who canvassed for Barack Obama during his successful 2008 presidential campaign.

In examining the current political landscape, Blake said he was troubled by the fact that so many of Obama’s signature pieces of legislation attracted so few Republican votes and feared that could lead to their being repealed. “That is something we have talked a lot about in this class,” he said.

Gergen and Kamarck co-teach “Contemporary Issues in American Elections” only during voting years, giving students a chance to deeply explore the unfolding dynamics of party politics in real time.

“We wanted to teach a class not just about the elections that were going on but about American politics at a given point in time,” said Kamarck.

The course combines U.S. history with political science and current events. It is solid preparation for students headed into public policy roles, and it fulfills a core HKS mission, said Kamarck, “to create well-educated, effective actors in the world.”

While the bitter partisanship that has characterized much of the current campaign may seem particularly divisive, and many observers wonder if something important has been lost in the Democratic process with such a polarized electorate, Kamarck argues that, essentially, it’s par for the course.

“American elections have always been like this. Anyone who encounters an intense election for the first time thinks, ‘God this is so terrible.’ We had an election in 1860 that resulted in a war — now that is an ugly election.”

During a class on Monday (Oct. 18), Kamarck offered students an intimate look at the creation of the Democratic Party. She explored important realignments in party structure, including the electorate’s movement to the left in 1934 and the Reagan revolution of the 1980s, which heralded a new era of conservatism and a desire for smaller government.

Now, Kamarck asked, did Obama’s win in 2008 signal another major party realignment — a fundamental move to a more liberal mindset — or was something else at play? The consensus was that only time will tell.

David Chalian, political director of PBS NewsHour, was a guest in the audience, invited by Charlie Gibson, a television network broadcaster and a fellow this fall at HKS’s Shorenstein Center for the Press, Politics and Public Policy, who has been sitting in on the class.

Chalian said the Obama camp had likely underestimated how much “anti-Bush, antiwar frustration existed in 2008.”

After class, Gibson said the only part of his former job he missed was covering election nights. This time around, he said, it was fascinating to see the Democrats distance themselves from the major legislation passed during Obama’s first two years, including health care reform, financial reform, and the economic stimulus package.

“This is a very, very conservative-minded electorate at the moment, but I think it’s also anti-incumbent, and I think it’s an angry electorate because there are 27 million people unemployed in this country,” said Gibson. “I think you are going to see an angry public that votes.”

Kamarck argued that the loosely organized, rebellious Tea Party is simply a faction of voters that fits squarely in the tradition of the small government. Its supporters are angry at the Republican Party, she said, “for abandoning small government under George Bush,” and they don’t like most of the Democratic reforms.

The economy is important in this election cycle, she affirmed. “We are in for a long period of economic adjustment,” said Kamarck. “Either Obama is going to control the moment, but I think it’s also anti-incumbent, and I think it’s an angry electorate because there are 27 million people unemployed in this country,” said Gibson. “I think you are going to see an angry public that votes.”

Chalian said the Obama camp had likely underestimated how much “anti-Bush, antiwar frustration existed in 2008.”

After class, Gibson said the only part of his former job he missed was covering election nights. This time around, he said, it was fascinating to see the Democrats distance themselves from the major legislation passed during Obama’s first two years, including health care reform, financial reform, and the economic stimulus package.

“This is a very, very conservative-minded electorate at the moment, but I think it’s also anti-incumbent, and I think it’s an angry electorate because there are 27 million people unemployed in this country,” said Gibson. “I think you are going to see an angry public that votes.”

Kamarck argued that the loosely organized, rebellious Tea Party is simply a faction of voters that fits squarely in the tradition of the small government. Its supporters are angry at the Republican Party, she said, “for abandoning small government under George Bush,” and they don’t like most of the Democratic reforms.

The economy is important in this election cycle, she affirmed. “We are in for a long period of economic adjustment,” said Kamarck. “Either Obama is going to control the moment, but I think it’s also anti-incumbent, and I think it’s an angry electorate because there are 27 million people unemployed in this country,” said Gibson. “I think you are going to see an angry public that votes.”

With decades of White House experience between them, David Gergen and Elaine Kamarck (pictured at left) co-teach “Contemporary Issues in American Elections” only during voting years, giving students a chance to deeply explore the unfolding dynamics of party politics in real time.
HBS announces Tata gift; two initiatives

A pair of building projects supported by the Harvard Business School takes aim at fostering leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Hoping to spur innovation at Harvard and in the surrounding community while providing a spark for the economy, the Harvard Business School (HBS) announced plans Oct. 14 for two building projects, one aimed at training new global leaders and the other at fostering entrepreneurship.

At an afternoon press conference on the HBS campus, Dean Nitin Nohria announced that the Tata Companies, the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, and the Tata Education and Development Trust, which are philanthropic arms of the Tata Group, India’s largest company, are donating $50 million to the School.

The gift, the largest from an international donor in the School’s history, will fund a new HBS facility to support the School’s broad range of executive education programs.

“Ratan Tata knows firsthand the transformative educational opportunities offered through Harvard Business School’s executive education programs,” said Harvard President Drew Faust. “Thanks to this generous gift, HBS will be able to expand its already robust offerings in executive education, deepening ties with leaders across the country and around the globe.”

Calling it a privilege and a pleasure to “give back to Harvard a little bit of what it gave to me,” Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Sons Ltd., said he hoped the new facility would both encourage and inspire future leaders to take advantage of the executive education offerings at HBS.

Tata attended the Advanced Management Program in 1975, one of three executive leadership programs offered by HBS.

Nohria said Tata’s generous gift offers HBS the opportunity for its pioneering executive education program to take an important “step forward.”

Founded in 1868, the Tata Group comprises more than 90 companies in seven business sectors: communications and information technology; engineering; materials; services; energy; consumer products; and chemicals. Known for its innovative philosophy, the international corporation has created pioneering innovations like the new Tata Nano, a $2,500, two-cylinder car that seats four and gets 55 miles to the gallon.

Officials hope to break ground next spring for the new academic and residential building, to be named Tata Hall, with completion scheduled for the fall of 2013. The building will be situated on the parcel in front of Kresge Hall, facing Soldiers Field Road.

Additionally, Nohria announced creation of the first-of-its-kind innovation center in Allston, a vital resource to help stimulate collaborative creativity and entrepreneurship across the University’s Schools, at HBS, and throughout the Boston community.

“This will be an opportunity for all of Harvard to come together,” said Nohria, to collaborate in “this new spirit of one Harvard.” Nohria said the new lab and the ventures it inspires will “become an important part of the innovation engine that Boston needs to be to remain a great city.”

Funded by HBS, the Harvard Innovation Lab (Hi-Lab) is scheduled to open in the fall of 2011 on Western Avenue in the Allston building that formerly housed public broadcaster WGBH.

In the facility’s first phase, the site will open to undergraduate and graduate students from across the University, providing student teams working on their ventures with study space, along with access to and support from entrepreneurs-in-residence, faculty, and administrators. It also will offer entrepreneurship and innovation programming.

The second phase of the launch will include collaborations involving the lab, small businesses, and local entrepreneurs.

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who has made innovation a hallmark of his fifth term in office and recently backed creating an “innovation district” along the South Boston waterfront to spur business development, praised Harvard’s new initiatives as important drivers of the economy.

Such projects, he said, help with economic momentum by generating jobs, reinvigorating Allston, and helping Boston to “build on its status as a leader in the global economy.”

Photo by Susan Young | Harvard Business School
Down by the banks of the river Charles

Harvard has developed a simmering romance with the Charles River and has a growing interest in it as a living laboratory, after centuries of the waterway serving as the University’s humble back door.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

A historic map (above) from Harvard University Archives that shows Cambridge, the Charles River, and the Harvard campus. In the top photo, a present-day view looking north at the Charles River, Harvard Square, and the University.

A historic map (above) from Harvard University Archives that shows Cambridge, the Charles River, and the Harvard campus. In the top photo, a present-day view looking north at the Charles River, Harvard Square, and the University.

When Harvard crew coach Harry Parker first arrived on campus in 1960, a fetid smell still draped the Charles River from upstream industries. Tires and other debris washed downstream after heavy rains. A simple fall into the water required a tetanus shot.

“The river was foul,” said the now-legendary Parker, who has spent six days a week on the open water for half a century. “Now, it’s wonderful.”

The University today enjoys a simmering romance with the Charles, whose tree-lined vistas help to shape Harvard’s iconic image. There is the sweep of calm water, a lone rower in a slender scull, lush shoreline trees, and handsome brick buildings just beyond, their domes sparkling in the sun — components that make up what Anita Berriozbeitia, a professor of landscape architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD), calls one of the most picturesque college vistas in the world.

Meanwhile, Harvard’s scholars have a growing interest in the winding Charles as a living laboratory. But this inviting picture — the river as image, the river as classroom — was a long time coming.

Getting from foul to fabulous took a century. Before the transition, the Charles was Harvard’s humble back door, functioning as a kind of loading dock for food, coal, and lumber. Sewage was rampant — a legacy of pollution that eventually closed the river to swimmers in 1955. Fifty years and $500 million later, the river is nearly clean except for its sediments, though swimming is still officially banned.

How much times have changed will be evident this weekend (Oct. 23-24) during the annual Head of the Charles Regatta. Since its start in 1965, it has become the world’s largest two-day rowing event, attracting more than 8,000 competitors and upwards of 300,000 spectators to the river bisecting Harvard.

From the area’s settlement in the 1630s, the Charles represented sheer practicality for Cambridge and Harvard, a means of transport and trade. The river’s daily tides provided assurance that Cambridge — once the prospective fortified capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony — was protected from oceangoing invaders. “This was a defensible space,” said Charles Sullivan, executive director of the Cambridge Historical Commission and author of a history of Harvard Square.

“Harvard and the town of Cambridge took the high ground” in the 17th century and built safely above the tidal waters, said architecture historian Karl Haglund, author of the seminal “Inventing the Charles River” (MIT Press, 2003). The relationship with the river was “not very formal.”
That practical relationship eventually became shaded with embarrassment. After 1875, upriver industries turned the Charles and its vast salt marshes into a polluted waterway that at low tide was an expanse of fetid mudflats.

“It was something you stayed away from, except for transport,” said Watertown landscape architect Gary Hilderbrand, a longtime adjunct GSD professor.

Then came a historic shift. Around 1900, Harvard officials looked down from the School’s high, well-drained ground and began to see the workaday, worn-out Charles for what it could be: a public space with civic and aesthetic value. That change was “a recognition that the river was vital to life in this biophysical region,” said Hilderbrand.

During this transition, he said, “Harvard comes up very beautifully.” By 1913, the Anderson Memorial Bridge, high-arched and handsome, had replaced a ramshackle wooden drawbridge. The coal wharves had vanished, and a boulevard of trees filled in the grim nakedness of the riverbanks. Harvard’s back door was becoming its front door.

Now, Harvard and the Charles have reached another transitional time, one in which designers and other scholars imagine the river as more than a reliable aesthetic feature. Experts increasingly envision it as a classroom, as the new center of campus life, as a way to enhance civic engagement.

The evolving tale of Harvard and the Charles may yet become a model for how American universities can move from their historical inwardsness to a modern interaction with the world beyond their gates. “Universities begin as enclaves [that are] not implicated in city-making,” said Berrizbeitia. But over time “they become more and more entwined with the city as both grow.”

“The Charles could become a model for other urban rivers,” said Renata Von Tscharner, founder and president of the Charles River Conservancy, which has offices in Harvard Square.

**TIDAL CENTURIES**

The Charles was not always so placid. Until 1910, much of it was not a river at all, but a vast estuary with daily 9-foot tides — a place of salt marshes that made up a dynamic liminal space, half water and half land.

Early Cambridge was built in an enclosure. Where there was no water or marsh, there was thick, forested wilderness. The bordering marshes reached all the way to present-day South, Quincy, and Brattle streets. Around the time Harvard was founded, what is now Garden Street was called the Highway to the Great Swamp, the marshy environs of Fresh Pond. A creek ran through Harvard Yard.

Five of the original eight streets in Cambridge (then called “Newtowne”) referred to the village’s riparian, aqueous character. Mt. Auburn was Spring Street. Brattle Square and part of Eliot were called Creek Lane. Dunster was Water Street, the original center of village commerce because it led to a riverside wharf. Holyoke was Crooked Lane because it had to jog to avoid a creek.

“Water used to pretty much surround the old part of the campus,” said historian John Stilgoe, “and we don’t remember those days.”

Stilgoe, Harvard’s Robert and Lois Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape, is a student of little-seen remnants of old times, and a champion of outdoors learning. He invites Harvard Square strollers to look for a fragment of an 18th century seawall on Winthrop Street, where oceangoing ships once tied up along “the coast of Harvard.”

From 1631 onward, the Charles was a key means of transporting goods upstream. The first levy that settlers paid, 30 English pounds, was to enlarge and deepen a natural creek so ships could dock. Later, Harvard owned its own sloop, which transported firewood from Maine.

**POLLUTION, THEN VISION**

By the mid-19th century, the river had become a handy sewer for industrial waste, including blood and animal parts from slaughterhouses upstream. (Abattoirs got their start on the Charles in 1775, at a stockyard constructed to feed American troops during the Revolution.)

By the Civil War period, the Charles had become an actual sewer. Private systems for human waste lined its sides, and at low tide the sewage would dry up and blow into the air. “It was a totally noxious situation,” said Sullivan. “It was (see Charles next page)
To distinguish themselves from other racers, the 1858 Harvard rowing team (pictured) wore scarves of crimson, a color adopted officially in 1910. Fourth from left is 1853 graduate and mathematics tutor Charles William Eliot, the University’s president from 1869 to 1909 and a fervent champion of connecting Harvard to the Charles River.

An 1887 photo shows Charles River mudflats bordering Mt. Auburn Street. In the distance is Harvard’s Memorial Hall.

This 1897 photo shows the Richardson & Bacon coal wharf at the foot of present-day Dunster Street. In the 17th century, the same location was in effect Harvard’s seaport.

Charles
(continued from previous page)
not an environment conducive to development.” The state began installing interceptor sewers in the 1880s.

The Charles was “unsightly, unattractive, and unhealthy” — all the more reason for Harvard to surrender the lowland riverbanks to industry, squatters, and immigrants.

“The Charles was more or less the service entrance to the University,” said Berrizbeitia. “There were coal plants [and] all the things you don’t want to see.” She said these industrial realities tended to increase Harvard’s sense of itself as an “inward-looking enclave.”

But the embattled Charles was nonetheless at the same time becoming the focus of a rising regional dialogue about the future of cities, in particular the fate of natural settings in an urban environment.

At the center of such discussions was Charles Eliot, Class of 1882, a visionary landscape architect, protégé of Frederick Law Olmsted, and son of Harvard President Charles William Eliot. The son’s ideas inspired the 1891 Trustees of Public Reservations — what is now the oldest regional land trust in the world — and accelerated the rescue of the Charles.

By the late 1890s, Harvard set its sights on expanding across the river, and commissioned plans to officially connect Harvard to the river. (Among them was an Olmsted drawing of a tree-lined promenade connecting the river to Widener Library, what Berrizbeitia called “a very direct and beautiful lane of connectivity.”)

By 1903, Harvard Stadium had been built across the river in Allston, its horseshoe shape opening directly to the Charles.

A year before, a group of Harvard alumni, led by Edward Waldo Forbes, Class of 1895, had formed Harvard Riverside Associates and began buying property between the Yard and the Charles. That set the stage for the University to “open up and relate to the river,” said Berrizbeitia, who is researching the lessons that Charles Eliot brings to modern urbanism. “He was so avant-garde,” she said, that she often finds herself asking, “What would Eliot do?”

Some of the river’s rising appeal at this time came through engineering. After 40 years of debate, the Charles was dammed in 1910, shutting out the sea’s salt water and eliminating the tides. Overnight, the vast, porous basin was transformed into “a big, long lake,” said Berrizbeitia. The river became a shimmering mirror in which Cambridge and Boston could see themselves anew.

The dams “resculpted” the river, said Sullivan, and accelerated proposals to line it with public parks and promenades. The city of Cambridge claimed all of its riverside land for public use in 1892, and hired Eliot to design the landscape. In 1894, an experimental fragment of the Charles River Road (now Memorial Drive) was constructed near Eliot House. The road was completed in 1914.

The taming of the river made it possible for Harvard to embrace the Charles as an aesthetic analog to the streams that have made their placid way through traditional English universities since the Middle Ages.

Troubles remain
As Harvard was awakening to the river’s appeal, the foot of Boylston Street (now JFK Street) was still a jumble of trolley yards, smokestacks, and wharves stacked with coal.

Even a generation ago, signs of that industrial past remained. The trolley yards were only torn up in 1977 during construction of the Harvard Kennedy School, and the Charles itself remained polluted, until governments pooled funds to clean it.

Von Tscharner believes there has been so much progress that it’s even time to bring back swimming. The river is only dark because of upstream tannins, she said, and suggested, “Think of it as tea.”

Throughout these shifts, there has been crew, the river’s signature sport. Harvard entered its first informal boat races on the river around 1844, and the first official crew team slipp[ed] a boat into the water in 1852. Harvard’s relationship to the river remains crew-centric, said Parker.

Harvard’s embrace of the river around 1900, said Sullivan, was foretold by “a turning to the river by the undergraduates,” who in the 1850s built and financed their own boathouses.

Future Perfect?
Moving forward, Harvard wants a relationship with the Charles that goes beyond crew and aesthetics. For example, courses involving the waterway — in history, art, and landscape design — have made their way into the curriculum in the past decade. The transformation of the Charles has itself become a source of scholarship.

“It’s a fantastic case study of how natural systems have been transformed to become social spaces,” said Berrizbeitia. She called Harvard Yard the University’s old cultural center, and the Charles its new center.

Pierre Belanger, a GSD associate professor of landscape architecture, sees the Charles as being at the core of what should become a renewed civic-academic engagement in the region’s ecological health. Belanger said, “We’re right at the edge of a moment, asking: What do we do?”

The region’s problems also can be viewed a microcosm of a rapidly urbanizing world. Against that backdrop, the river could become an instructive “arena for cooperation,” said Belanger, and a rich field site for research and experiments.

Last year, he and his students designed a river ice skating park at the Eliot Bridge. “The point was to show we can help, at the very beginning, in a small, modest way.”

It is time, Belanger said, for design schools to move “beyond aesthetic imperatives.”

In fact, there’s a book that does so, called “Bringing the Harvard Yards to the River” (Harvard Design School, 2004), a slender volume edited by the GSD’s Joan Busquets, the Martin Bucsbbaum Professor in Practice in Urban Planning and Design. In it, the contributors imagined turning parkways into promenades, digging pedestrian tunnels, and even building a midriver recreational island.

Each of the ideas shared a goal, Busquets wrote, “the importance of establishing a better connection to the Charles River.”

Photos courtesy of Harvard University Archives © President and Fellows of Harvard College
A course as gateway

Student reflects on the joys of studying art history by seeing the works in person.

By Lexie Perloff-Giles ’11 | History of Art and Architecture

One of the great joys of studying art history at Harvard is the emphasis that the History of Art and Architecture Department places on studying works of art in person.

The Harvard Art Museums are, of course, a phenomenal resource, and many of my classes have met in the galleries or have devoted particular consideration to prints or photographs that have been pulled from storage for the students’ benefit. Other classes I have taken, such as my freshman seminar with Professor Joseph Koerner on genre painting in Boston-area museums and my sophomore tutorial on medieval art in American collections, have ventured beyond Harvard’s walls to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and even the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

But the most remarkable opportunity by far comes from the organized operations that I have engaged in. My courses have sometimes been designated as gateway courses, which means we are prepared for the students’ benefit. The Harvard Art Museums are, of course, a phenomenal resource, and many of my classes have met in the galleries or have devoted particular consideration to prints or photographs that have been pulled from storage for the students’ benefit. Other classes I have taken, such as my freshman seminar with Professor Joseph Koerner on genre painting in Boston-area museums and my sophomore tutorial on medieval art in American collections, have ventured beyond Harvard’s walls to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and even the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

But the most remarkable opportunity by far comes in the form of the sophomore excursion course. HAA100r was begun in 2008 thanks to a grant from David Rockefeller Jr. The course meets once a week during the spring semester to prepare students for what they are about to discover during the trip itself, which takes place in May just after exams and before Commencement.

In the initial year, students traveled to Turkey, where one of my close friends, an avowed modernist, fell in love with an Ottoman mosque and switched her focus field to Islamic. The following year, my classmates and I embarked on a whirlwind tour of Spain, accompanied by four outstanding professors. We spent the first five days in Madrid, where we visited the Prado four times, including one unforgettable time where officials kept the museum open late so that we could have the galleries to ourselves, as Hugo Van der Velden, professor of northern Renaissance art, discussed the intricacies of Rogier van der Weyden’s “Deposition” and the eccentricities of Hieronymus Bosch’s “Garden of Earthly Delights.” We had the same once-in-a-life-time opportunity at the Reina Sofia museum, which allowed us to enter an hour before opening to admire Picasso’s “Guernica” and participate in a lively discussion moderated by Professor Benjamin H.D. Buchloh.

I’ll never forget trekking through the ruins of Madinat al-Zahra with Professor David Roxburgh, tracing the trajectory of Goya’s career, from Rococo tapestry cartoons to the macabre Black Paintings, with Professor Buchloh, or debating the mysteries of the mirror in Velázquez’s “Las Meninas” with Department Chair Thomas Cummins.

Yet the moments that stand out most are the ones between the organized visits. I remember sitting in a beautiful Spanish square eating tapas as Professor Cummins and his wife talked about trips to Latin America. I remember riding the bus to a flamenco performance in Seville as Professor Buchloh shared stories of interviewing Andy Warhol at The Factory. I remember Professor Van der Velden asking my friends to pose as figures in a Van Eyck painting in front of a window at the Alhambra because he had a theory about the landscape Van Eyck had depicted. I remember Professor Roxburgh chronicling how he as an aspiring sculptor in Scotland came to become a specialist in Arabic manuscripts. I remember heaping plates of exotic shellfish at a Galician seafood restaurant, and decadently delicious chocolate con churros around the corner from our hotel in Madrid.

It has been well over a year since I returned from Spain, but the trip has left a lasting impression. When I was in New York last summer, a group of us went out to lunch with Professor Roxburgh, and it was wonderful to know that even back in the States, we can interact with faculty outside of an academic setting. This semester, I am beginning to write my thesis under the supervision of Professor Buchloh, whom I might never have known or had the courage to approach had it not been for the excursion course. And recently we had what we call a HAApy hour, for all the History of Art and Architecture (HAA) students in our year to come together in a social setting, as we did in Spain.

Everyone has those moments during a Harvard career, after hearing a particularly exciting speaker at the Institute of Politics or having a prize-winning researcher take you under his or her wing, when you suddenly understand why you are here. The sophomore excursion course was mine.

If you’re an undergraduate or graduate student and have an essay to share about life at Harvard, please e-mail your ideas to Jim Concannon, the Gazette’s news editor, at Jim_Concannon@harvard.edu.
Creating power by the Yard

New solar panels atop Canaday Hall, a freshman dormitory, are part of a heat-recovery project that’s expected to supply at least 60 percent of the hot water for buildings in Harvard Yard.

By Colin Durrant | Office for Sustainability Communications

Sustainability often happens behind the scenes. But Harvard’s newest renewable energy project is also among its most conspicuous: more than 3,200 square feet of solar panels installed over the summer atop the three buildings that make up Canaday Hall, a freshman dormitory on the northern periphery of Harvard Yard.

The panels are part of a solar thermal and steam tunnel heat-recovery project that’s expected to supply at least 60 percent of domestic hot water for all buildings in the Yard. By using thermal energy to heat water instead of using fossil fuels, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) will take another step toward meeting the University’s goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent below a 2006 baseline by 2016, including new growth.

The solar panels were installed without needing to modify Canaday’s roofs, which were already angled toward the south at about 35 degrees. The existing roof proved to be an optimal environment for capturing solar energy, said Jay Phillips, senior director of operations for FAS.

“This was an ideal project for many reasons,” Phillips said. “The prominent location made it especially attractive because we could take advantage of the opportunity to educate the Harvard community about the benefits of clean, renewable energy for our campus.”

For more than 15 years, five large natural gas-fired boilers beneath Canaday have provided hot water to the buildings in the Yard, feeding a loop that runs beneath the historic grounds. A network of glycol-filled pipes now connects the rooftop solar panels to the new hybrid heating system, using the sun’s power to heat water for showers, hand washing, and dishwasher.

“It’s nice to know that when I use hot water, it isn’t at the expense of the environment,” said Canaday resident Jody Heck ’14. “I love knowing that my hot water comes from solar panels on my dorm. It is a great idea.”

Glycol was used, in part, because it will not freeze during a harsh New England winter. A solar thermal system like the one installed on Canaday’s roofs is 55.4 percent efficient, compared with just 20 to 30 percent for a conventional fossil fuel system.

The hybrid system also collects exhaust heat from a steam tunnel under Canaday. A new fan in the tunnel draws hot air up to a vent on the Yard. The fan includes a set of eight coils that capture the heat at temperatures of up to 105 degrees, running it through additional glycol loops that feed into a common buffer tank in the basement of Canaday, where the heat is combined with that from the solar array.

This 1,000-gallon buffer tank, which replaces the need for gas-fired boilers, pre-heats city of Cambridge water to 130 degrees before it is pumped to buildings around the Yard. During early September’s heat wave, Phillips says, 100 percent of the Yard’s hot water needs were met through the new hybrid system during daytime.

On average, about 40 percent of the thermal energy provided by the new system will come from the solar panels, with the remaining 60 percent supplied by the steam tunnel heat recovery. The older, gas-fired boilers will remain as a back-up heating source, especially during cloudy days when the solar panels are not able to collect sufficient thermal energy.

The project will prevent an estimated 166 metric tons of CO₂, a key greenhouse gas, from being released into the atmosphere annually. It is expected to pay for itself within 10 years.

A monitoring system will allow Canaday residents and the Harvard community to assess the system’s productivity, displaying readings on public kiosks and web-based graphs that can also be easily exported for analysis.

Across the University, facility managers are integrating renewable energy and green building standards into construction projects as part of the sustainability commitment. Energy audits and cost-effective energy efficiency projects are also helping existing buildings to cut energy and achieve savings. Additional solar thermal projects on campus include the University Operations Services headquarters at 46 Blackstone St., the FAS co-ed dorm at 3 Sacramento St., and two Harvard Real Estate Services (HRES) properties on Broadway and Prescott Street.

Over the summer, more than 3,200 square feet of solar panels were installed atop the three buildings that make up Canaday Hall, a freshman dormitory on the northern periphery of Harvard Yard.

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer
On a warm October afternoon, 50 students, faculty, and staff members from the Harvard Divinity School (HDS) convened at the HDS Community Garden, located on an 800-square-foot plot behind the Center for the Study of World Religions. The gathering featured a cooking demonstration by Martin Breslin, director for culinary operations at Harvard University Hospitality and Dining Services, who served up roasted potatoes, grilled tomatoes, and pesto, all made fresh from the garden.

“It was wonderful to see our food prepared in such amazing ways and then shared with the community, an hour from ground to fork,” said Timothy Severyn, M.T.S. ’11. Severyn, along with Grace Egbert, M.T.S. ’11, is co-coordinator of the garden, which was planted in spring 2009 as a joint project between the student group EcoDiv and members of the HDS Green Team. Volunteers care for the garden on a weekly basis, harvesting eggplants, carrots, sugar snap peas, cucumbers, kale, and other vegetables and herbs.

“The idea is that we build community around the food we grow,” said Severyn. “It’s really taken off this year.”

Twice a week, the Rock Café serves food harvested from the garden at a new “community table.” Seats at the table, located inside the LEED Gold-certified Rockefeller Hall, can be reserved by anyone on campus.

“A lot of divinity schools have a traditional refectory type of environment with long tables, where you can share a communal meal,” said Ralph DeFlorio, HDS director of operations. “We felt we wanted to get back to that type of dining experience.” The special table — a first at Harvard — serves multiple purposes.

“With a sustainable meal, you waste fewer food miles in transportation, and you get the satisfaction of knowing you’re eating something the students and staff helped plant and harvest,” said DeFlorio. “Sustainability is also a great community builder. People really want to participate, and the wonderful thing about being involved with sustainability is that there’s room for everybody.”

The garden and community table serve as evidence of multilevel engagement with Harvard’s sustainability goals. In 2008, the University committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2016 (from 2006 levels, including growth).

Last fall, a complete energy audit of HDS buildings by Harvard’s Office for Sustainability and Facilities Maintenance Operations revealed 88 potential conservation measures, such as installation of additional heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning controls. These measures were projected to save the School $109,000 annually, avoid 270 metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions, and reduce the School’s overall greenhouse gas footprint by 21 percent (compared with 2006 levels).

Recent initiatives at HDS have included expanded composting, a campaign sparked by EcoDiv to discourage the use of bottled water, and EBCx retro-commissioning, a process for optimizing the performance of building systems.

“Most modern commercial buildings run on computer systems that control and monitor the equipment. But for these systems to work, they have to be in good calibration,” said Roy Lauridsen, HDS facilities manager. “We’re rebalancing the water and air systems so that we can maximize energy conservation.”

In addition to these technological improvements, HDS staff members hope to develop additional sustainability education. Lauridsen is in the process of planning a new January-term course on leadership and sustainability, focused on topics like environmentally preferred purchasing, recycling, and environmental ethics.

“Many of the students here will eventually lead nonprofit, ministerial organizations,” said Lauridsen. “We’re offering training on how to effect change toward sustainability in such organizations.”

DeFlorio echoed the importance of spreading green habits outside of Harvard.

“I don’t want people to be sustainable only when they’re at HDS. A lot of the things you learn at work, you can bring home with you.”

Online Photo gallery: http://hwd.gs/63467

Photos by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographer
John Peter Huchra died unexpectedly on Oct. 8 at the age of 61. He was the Robert O. & Holly Thomis Doyle Professor of Cosmology and the senior adviser to the provost for research policy at Harvard.

Huchra came to the CfA in 1976 as a fellow, having received a B.S. from MIT and his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology. He was a Smithsonian astronomer from 1978 to 2005, when he became Harvard’s vice provost for research and policy. He was the director of the Whipple Observatory from 1994 to 1998, and served as the interim director of the CfA in 2004.

To read the full obituary, visit hvd.gs/62863.

Open enrollment begins Oct. 28

Employees have the opportunity to learn more about new regulations and make changes through Nov. 12.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Open enrollment for Harvard employees begins Oct. 28 and runs through Nov. 12. Each year at this time employees have the opportunity to make changes to their participation in the University’s benefit plans, including medical and dental coverage. Employees can also opt to elect a flexible spending account that allows for the setting aside of money for certain health or dependent care costs on a pre-tax basis.

Changes made during the open enrollment period will be effective as of Jan. 1.

The recently passed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes important changes that affect Harvard’s health benefits.

Under the act’s new regulations, dependent children can now be covered under a parent’s medical coverage until the age of 26. While federal regulation mandates the change only for medical insurance, Harvard is extending the coverage to also include dental insurance.

Employees can add a dependent child up to their 26th birthday to their medical or dental coverage, or make any other changes to their benefit options by logging into PeopleSoft and clicking on the Open Enrollment link on the upper right side of the screen.

Additionally, beginning Jan. 1, 2011, the new rules require that over-the-counter medicine can only be reimbursed through a medical/dental flexible spending account when accompanied by a letter of medical necessity from a licensed physician.

Though not a part of the annual Benefits Open Enrollment period, Harvard has also made recent changes to its investment options, consolidating the number of mutual funds and annuities in its retirement plan, replacing most with a series of “lifecycle funds” that adjust from a position of higher risk to one of lower risk as the investor ages.

Harvard has selected “best-in-class” lifecycle funds from Vanguard, Fidelity, and TIAA-CREF that have strong performance track records and low built-in fees.

The lifecycle funds hold a wide range of assets and automatically adjust the asset allocation, emphasizing wealth accumulation early on, then capital preservation as an employee ages.

Previously, the default alternative for Harvard employees who do not make an active choice about where their retirement savings are invested has been one of two TIAA-CREF annuities, which are stable investments but with low long-run returns. As of Nov. 12, newly hired faculty and staff who do not make an investment choice will be automatically invested into a Vanguard lifecycle fund with a target date closest to when they turn 65.

The structure and funding of Harvard’s retirement benefit will not change. The University will continue to make a defined contribution to the retirement account of every eligible employee, based on salary and age. (This Harvard contribution is independent of the employee’s contributions from their salary: The “tax-deferred account” is a benefit that allows faculty and staff to deduct money from their paychecks on a pre-tax basis to save and invest additional funds for retirement.)

— With reporting by Paul Massari

More Community Coverage
Campus & Community Online
news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/staff-n-administration

The 145 employees honored at the 56th annual 25-Year Recognition Ceremony total “3,625 years of service.” http://hvd.gs/63101
Keeping students in the loop

Getting Harvard graduate students to connect with each other and the vibrant offerings at Dudley House keeps its longtime administrator busy.

By Colleen Walsh  Harvard Staff Writer

It’s hard to tell who has more fun at Dudley House, the countless students who are part of the vibrant activities at the student center, or Susan Zawalich.

On her office door are photos of her dressed as Rosie the Riveter, a convincing Zorro complete with sword, a mother superior, and Sherlock Holmes. The costumes are part of an annual event called Discover Dudley that the House administrator helps coordinate to welcome students to campus.

Since 1993, Zawalich has supervised Dudley Fellows who program House activities, paired incoming international students with current student volunteers, helped students of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to organize clubs, and developed the House as a robust community resource for the many graduate students of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) and a small group of undergraduates.

“This is their home, this is somewhere they can feel comfortable,” said Zawalich of the House in Lehman Hall that includes common space with couches, a library, a dining hall, and its own student-run café. “I always tell students: This is your safe haven. You can relax, take a nap, meet your friends, have coffee, whatever you want here.”

Zawalich also organizes a classic-film series for the House, conducts a yearly party to honor dancer Fred Astaire’s birthday, and even has officiated at the wedding of a young couple, who met at Dudley, in its stately Fireside Room.

In her spare time, she is active in a Fred Astaire society and is an avid tap dancer. A consummate learner, she studies French and takes full advantage of the House’s orchestra, chorus, jazz band, and world-music ensemble.

Helping to forge connections among Harvard’s nearly 4,000 graduate students in the arts and sciences is the best part of the job, she said.

“With 57 departments in GSAS, why would an astronomer know someone in comparative literature or a molecular biologist know someone in French unless there are some other common interests? We try to develop those ties. If you want to play in the orchestra, if you want to go to a lecture, if you want to learn how to make sushi, if you just want to have coffee, you can do that through Dudley House.”

Up several flights of stairs, above the bustling dining hall, is a room that would bring a tear to Santa’s eye. Zawalich’s office contains stuffed animals, PEZ dispensers, plastic piggy banks, puppets, wind-up dogs, and a kung fu hamster, which jam the free space. She loves Godzilla and “Star Trek” and proudly admits she loves Godzilla and “Star Trek” and proudly admits she “The Celtic Heroic Age,” “Moons and Planets,” and “Russian Imperial Literature.”

Zawalich’s wide-ranging interests help her to coordinate the House’s programming. Each year she works with the House masters, staff members, and 25 Dudley Fellows, appointed graduate students who run everything from athletics to knitting circles, to a literary magazine, to baseball outings at Fenway Park, as well as the House’s orchestra, chorus, jazz band, and world-music ensemble.

For more information about Dudley House, visit www.dudleyharvard.org.

Photo by Stephanie Mitchell  Harvard Staff Photographer
Newsmakers

ALUMS RECEIVE HIRAM HUNN AWARD
Each year the Harvard Admissions Office honors some of its most loyal and longtime volunteers in schools committee work all over the globe. The Hiram Hunn Award recognizes alumni and alumnae who have been especially effective in their interviewing and club work and for their unusual longevity. The contributions these women and men make to the admissions process are invaluable.

The award is named in honor of Hiram S. Hunn, Class of 1921, who performed schools committee work for 55 years — 30 in Iowa and 25 in Vermont.

The 2010 winners are D. Donald Peddle ’41 of Minneapolis; Clifford W. Erickson ’58 of Minnetonka, Minn.; Michael H. Popernik ’59 of New York; Christopher T. Bayley ’60, Seattle; Robert C. Fazio ’71 of Pittsboro, N.C. and Halifax, Nova Scotia; Terry Kay Bargar and Richard Bargar ’72 of Andover, Mass.; and Enid Llort ’79 and Michael W. Stewart ’79 of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

EDMOND J. SAFRA GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN ETHICS 2011-12
Applications are invited from graduate students who are writing dissertations or are engaged in major research on topics in practical ethics, especially ethical issues in architecture, business, education, government, law, medicine, public health, public policy, and religion. Students should be enrolled in a doctoral program of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences or in one of Harvard’s professional schools, and should have completed all course requirements and general examinations before the start of the fellowship year. In professions such as law or medicine, where a doctoral dissertation is not required for an academic career, advanced students taking leaves of absence, recent graduates, and Harvard affiliates engaged in postgraduate training are also eligible.

The deadline is Nov. 12. For more information, call 617.496.0587, email erica_jaffe@hks.harvard.edu, or visit http://ethics.harvard.edu/fellowships/graduate-fellowships.

DU BOIS INSTITUTE WELCOMES FALL FELLOWS

“The fellows program is the jewel in the crown of the Du Bois Institute, and this fall’s fellows will be key contributors both to the field of African and African American Studies in general and to the Harvard community in particular,” said Gates. “We have a number of firsts this year, including our first Hiphop Archive fellow and our first teaching fellows in the Department of African and African American Studies. These institutional innovations will make the fellowship program stronger than ever.”

Du Bois Fellows present their work in a weekly colloquium series, held at noon on Wednesdays in the Barker Center at 12 Quincy St., and lead workshops on critical areas in African and African-American research that are offered to selected scholars, sister research institutes, and by invitation. This fall, workshops will be offered on “Transatlantic Black Performance in Literary Theory,” “African American Theater and the ‘Self,’” and “Specters of Marxism.” Du Bois Fellows also participate in the varied activities of the Institute, including public conferences and major lecture series (W.E.B. Du Bois Lectures, Nathan I. Huggins Lectures, Alain Leroy Locke Lectures, and McMillan-Stewart Lectures).

This year’s Du Bois Fellows are David Bindman, Todd Carmody, Adrienne L. Childs, Grey Gundaker, Meagan Healey, Theodore Miller, Jonathan Munby, Sophie Oldfield, Ronald K. Richardson, Mark Solomon, Nirvana Tanoukh, Lisa Thompson, Omar Wasow, and Louis Wilson.

To read full biographies and learn more about the fellows’ research, visit dubois.fas.harvard.edu/fellows.

HARVARD FOREST DIRECTOR AWARDED FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS
The Trustees of Reservations recognized David R. Foster with its prestigious Charles Eliot Award at the organization’s annual meeting and dinner held on Sept. 25.

Foster was honored for his 25 years of inspiration and visionary commitment to the trustees and greater Massachusetts conservation community. He is the director of Harvard Forest and a faculty member of the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University.

One of Foster’s most notable contributions to the conservation community has been his leadership of a remarkable team of university experts in an outreach campaign designed to promote the conservation of forests in the Massachusetts and New England landscape. His team, largely drawn from the Harvard Forest — an ecological research area located on 3,000 acres in Petersham, Mass., that is owned and managed by Harvard University — and New England universities, published “Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the Forests of Massachusetts” in 2005 followed by its sequel this year, “Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape,” which emphasizes forest and farmland conservation. These publications have raised consciousness among policymakers and the public at large, stimulating grassroots activism. The earlier publication has already contributed to important, ecologically informed changes in forest policy in Massachusetts.

TARUN KHANNA NAMED DIRECTOR OF SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE
The South Asia Initiative welcomed Tarun Khanna (above), Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor at Harvard Business School (HBS), as its new director. Khanna has been a member of the initiative’s steering committee since 2007 and has been on the Harvard faculty since 1993. He also serves as...
the faculty chair for HBS’s activities in India. He is the author of “Billions of Entrepreneurs: How China and India are Reshaping their Future — and Yours.” Khanna succeeds the institute’s founding director and Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs Sugata Bose.

“Since its inception, Harvard’s South Asia Initiative has built strong foundations based on teaching and research partnerships,” Provost Steven E. Hyman said. “Taran’s extensive experience, thoughtfulness, and dedication will help him guide the initiative to new levels of success and engagement across the Harvard community.”

In his new role as director, Khanna will work to advance Harvard’s research and educational mission within the field of South Asian studies, working with faculty colleagues on the institute steering committee, and reaching across the faculties of the University.

For the full story, visit http://hvd.gs/56477/.

**PAUL TILLICH LECTURE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED**

Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall of the Supreme Judicial Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, will deliver the fall 2010 Paul Tillich Lecture on Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the Memorial Church. The title of the lecture is to be announced.

Marshall is the first woman to serve as chief justice in the 318-year history of the court and the second woman appointed to serve as associate justice. Prior to her appointment to the court, from which she announced her retirement in October, Marshall was vice president and general counsel of Harvard, the first woman to hold that position.

She received a master’s degree in education from Harvard and completed four years of doctoral study at Harvard before studying law at Yale Law School. After practicing law for 16 years in Boston, she became a partner in the Boston firm of Choate, Hall and Stewart. A native of South Africa, upon graduating from Witswatersrand University, Johannesburg, she served for two years as president of the National Union of South African Students, the only such group to oppose apartheid, the official policy of racial segregation. Marshall has written that she was greatly influenced by Paul Tillich in South Africa.

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN AUTISM**

Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation are accepting applications for the Nancy Lurie Marks Postdoctoral Fellowship in Autism. Two fellowships will be awarded, effective January 2011.

To be eligible for a fellowship, an applicant must be affiliated with HMS or one of the Harvard teaching hospitals, have at least two years of prior postdoctoral training, and be actively engaged in autism research.

The application requires a five-page proposal consisting of background and significance (one page), specific aims (one page), experimental approach (three pages); three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s research and future potential; a letter of support from the applicant’s current research mentor; and the applicant’s curriculum vitae.

This fellowship is intended to provide salary support to the postdoctoral fellows and limited funds for research supplies.

For questions, or to submit completed applications, email stephanie.barros@childrens.harvard.edu by Nov. 15.

**NYPL’S MATTHEW J. SHEEHY WILL LEAD HARVARD DEPOSITORY**

Matthew J. Sheehy, acting director for reference and research services at the New York Public Library, has been named to lead the Harvard Depository. The announcement was made by Helen Shenton, deputy director of the Harvard University Library, following an extended national search.

Sheehy, who will hold the title of assistant director of the Harvard University Library for the Harvard Depository, assumes his duties on Nov. 15. He will divide his time between depositaries in Southborough and Harvard’s central campuses in Cambridge, Boston, and Allston, Mass.

“Matthew Sheehy is recognized by his colleagues as an innovator and a change manager,” Shenton said. “The hallmarks of his work are insightful thinking, careful analysis, and collaborative leadership that enhance the experience of library patrons.”

**MARC MORIAL DELIVERS DUNLOP LECTURE**

Marc Morial (above), president and CEO of the National Urban League spoke at Harvard on Oct. 4. At the annual Dunlop Lecture at the Graduate School of Design, presented by the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard and the National Housing Endowment, Morial, who is the former mayor of New Orleans, spoke about the need for innovation in urban and low-income housing in a talk titled “Promoting Innovative Housing Policy and Practice: Lessons from the Past, Challenges for the Future.”

— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney

Harvard President Drew Faust participated with other breast cancer survivors in pregame activities at Gillette Stadium to promote breast cancer awareness at the Patriots’ Oct. 17 game against the Baltimore Ravens. Faust, a breast cancer survivor since 1988, joined the team captains at midfield during the coin toss as an honorary captain.

Photos: (inset) by New York Public Library; (top) by Jared Charney; (right) by Kris Snibbe/ Harvard Staff Photographer
Starting center Chris LeRoy ’11 learned piano at the urging of his mother, also an athlete. “She really encouraged my sister and myself to get involved with singing and piano,” he said. Despite his intimidating stature, LeRoy has a delicate touch when he’s playing the music of Billy Joel or Ray Charles.

When Chris LeRoy ’11 got a talking-to from his coach, he listened. “Coach Murphy talked to me in the off-season about becoming a tougher, nastier player on the field, and I applied that as much as I could,” said the center offensive lineman. “The difference between this year and last year is the intensity in which I approach football.”

Now LeRoy, who has played football since age 8, is experiencing his first year as a starter with the Crimson. He saw no action on the field as a freshman, but worked his way up, appearing in three games as a sophomore, and nine as a junior.

“Throughout the preseason, this being my last year, I’ve tried to embrace every opportunity, and tried to be a leader,” he said. “I just really wanted to make my last season a memorable one.”

“I come from a football family,” said LeRoy, who grew up in Portland, Maine. His father, a former teacher at Deering High School, played college ball for the University of Maine and was also an assistant football coach for LeRoy, who played during high school. LeRoy’s mother was a swimmer for the University of Maine, and his sister rows for Boston University.

“I love the intensity and camaraderie of football,” said LeRoy. “I think it’s a very unique sport in that one person cannot win a game for you. With basketball, if you have a great player, he can take care of things. But in football, you need everybody to do their job correctly in order to be successful.”

After football, LeRoy is looking forward to returning to another love: the piano. “Between football and school, my playing has gone way down,” he said.

LeRoy began piano lessons when he was 7. “My mom is a big music person,” he revealed. “She really encouraged my sister and myself to get involved with singing and piano.”

Football, singing, piano . . . what else? “I also love to dance.”

With graduation looming, LeRoy plans to pursue a job in business or law, eventually enrolling in law school.

But until then, it’s football all the time, and being a powerhouse isn’t easy. There’s schoolwork and practice to balance, not to mention sleep — and thousands and thousands of calories. For breakfast, LeRoy typically eats “two omelets, another pile of scrambled eggs, home fries, banana, orange juice, yogurt, fruit salad . . .”

Harvard House masters refer to LeRoy and his teammates as “the wall of flesh.”

But for LeRoy, it’s all worth it. “When you’re on the field, nothing else really matters.”

Online See complete coverage, athletic schedules at: www.gocrimson.com
The deadline for Calendar submissions is Wednesday by 5 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Calendar events are listed in full online. All events need to be submitted via the online form at news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar-submission. Email calendar@harvard.edu with questions.

OCT. 21
The Image in Question.
Lecture Hall, Carpenter Center, 6-7:30 p.m. Antje Ehmann will moderate a panel discussion with artists Peggy Ahwesh, Kota Ezawa, Harun Farocki, William E. Jones, Lamia Joreige, Allan Sekula, and Wael Shawky exploring the question “How can wars of the present and the experience of war be adequately represented?” Followed by opening reception for the exhibit “The Image in Question. War. Media. Art,” on view through Dec. 23. ves.fas.harvard.edu/imageinquestion.html.

OCT. 26
Gelation.
Science Center D, 7 p.m. Jose Andres, ThinkFoodGroup, minibar, Jaleo. Free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served. Visit seas.harvard.edu/cooking for details on future lectures in the “Science & Cooking” public lecture series.

OCT. 30-NOV. 28
Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt.
Celebrate the world of J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter in a scavenger hunt in the museum galleries. Pick up an HMNH “Marauder’s Map” to explore hundreds of specimens from wolves to wolfsbane and test the depth of your knowledge about Harry’s world. Free with museum admission. hmnh.harvard.edu/family_programs/index.php.

NOV. 4
CAPS Special Post-Election Roundup.
Room S010 (Tsai Auditorium), CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge St., 4:30-9 p.m. (with dinner break), William Galston, Brookings Institution; William Kristol, The Weekly Standard. Free and open to the public. RSVP required for the buffet dinner: Email caps@gov.harvard.edu by Oct. 28.

NOV. 8
Come and Play 20 Questions with Charles Fried and Gregory Fried: “Because It Is Wrong: Torture, Privacy and Presidential Power In The Age of Terror.”
Thompson Room, Barker Center 110, 12 Quincy St., 6 p.m. Charles Fried, Gregory Fried, Homi Bhabha; questioners include: Jacqueline Bhabha, Nancy Cott, Thomas Scanlon, Elaine Scary, Carol Steiker. 617.495.0738, humcentr@fas.harvard.edu, fas.harvard.edu/~humcentr. Read an excerpt of “Because It Is Wrong” at fas.harvard.edu/~humcentr/seminars/precirculatedpapers.shtml.

NOV. 10
“The Other Side of the Sky”: Aretha Franklin’s Sonic Black Feminism.
Radcliffe Gymnasium, 10 Garden St., Radcliffe Yard, 4 p.m. Daphne A. Brooks, Radcliffe Fellow. Free. 617.495.8212, radcliffe.edu/events/calendar.aspx.

NOV. 15-16
2010 PQG Conference. “Putting it all Together: Integrating Genetic, Epigenetic, Genomic, and Complex Phenotypic Data.”
Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, Harvard Medical School. Sponsored by the Program in Quantitative Genetics and the Department of Biostatistics, HSPH. 617.432.7449, sandelma@hsph.harvard.edu. For details on fees and registration: hsph.harvard.edu/research/pqg-conference-2010/index.html.
The stands at historic Harvard Stadium are empty, the vacant seats and aisles a dim reminder of the raucous crowds at major football games like Harvard-Yale. But most evenings, there is still plenty of action on the playing field: the battle for the Straus Cup, Harvard’s House intramural (IM) sports championship.

Undergraduates compete in such sports as flag football, soccer, softball, Ultimate Frisbee, kickball, volleyball, crew, tennis, basketball, hockey, squash, table tennis, fencing, and dodgeball.

Winthrop House has won the intramural prize the past three years. IM is serious business at Winthrop, where last year more than 200 students helped to win the title.

Maria Persson Gulda, a graduate student and Winthrop’s IM tutor, touts the positives of the competition, emphasizing the House spirit that the sports help to shape. Alex Ahmed ’10, who previously was Winthrop’s IM rep, said, “I played three sports in high school. I played 12 sports in IM.” Last year, Ahmed even learned to skate to play ice hockey.

And, yes, Winthrop so far this year is rolling along once more, with a 20-2 record.