Legacy of good fortune

More than 1,900 students have earned Harvard degrees at little or no cost since 2004, when the University announced that qualified applicants could attend the College regardless of their financial means. Now, many are passing along the benefits of their Harvard experience. Page 12
Online Highlights

**Police Log Online**  ➤ www.hupd.harvard.edu/public_log.php

**A HOUSING DREAM COME TRUE**
Harvard’s 20/20/2000 initiative, the University’s 20-year, $20 million, low-interest loan program to help create low- and middle-income housing in Boston and Cambridge, helped to fund the Doña Betsaida Gutiérrez Cooperative on the Blessed Sacrament campus in Jamaica Plain.

➤ http://hvd.gs/64915

**TO THE HEART OF A MOVEMENT**
Professor Jill Lepore, a contributor to The New Yorker, examines the movement behind the Tea Party in “The Whites of Their Eyes: The Tea Party’s Revolution and the Battle over American History.”

➤ http://hvd.gs/64671

**THE DANGERS OF US AGAINST THEM**
Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York and former congressman Joe Scarborough, now the host of MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” identified big problems with the U.S. political system and traded ideas on how to address them during a discussion at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum.

➤ http://hvd.gs/65151

**PUSHING BACK**
Deborah Bial, Ed.M.’96, Ed.D.’04, founder of the Posse Foundation, spoke to a Harvard audience about her organization’s efforts to help economically disadvantaged kids prepare for and then succeed in college.

➤ http://hvd.gs/64723
BIRD, MEET COUSIN ALLIGATOR
Assistant Professor Arkhat Abzhanov looks to birds’ relatives by way of dinosaurs — alligators — for clues to their evolution. Page 4

A NEW CENTER FOR PRIMARY CARE
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THE MEASURE OF THE MAN
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HARVARD BOUND
Jill Lepore tackles the Tea Party; a memoir by Stanley Cavell; and a strategy for derelict land comprise this eclectic roundup of new faculty publications. Page 8

SHAKESPEARE, THE INVENTIVE CONSERVATIVE
A new book by Stephen Greenblatt probes topics that playwright William Shakespeare pushed to their limits: beauty and the cult of perfection, murderous hatred, the exercise of power, and artistic autonomy. Page 9

THE WHITHER AND WHY OF BOOKS

CHANGE LANGUAGES, SHIFT RESPONSES
Study of bilingual speakers suggests that language use can help to shape preferences. Page 11

COVER STORY
In 2004, Harvard announced an initiative to make the University more accessible to low-income families. “I may not be a legacy, or part of a finals club,” said Peter Conti-Brown ’05, who benefited from the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative and was the first student director of the program. “But Harvard is part of my legacy, and I love that.” Page 12

NATIONAL & WORLD AFFAIRS

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WILD HARVARD
Nature watchers around campus, open to the hard-to-see creatures nearby, deliver a message of attention and affection. Page 16

STUDENT VOICE/REBECCA HERSHER
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STAFF PROFILE/DARA OLMSTED
Harvard graduate and Food Literacy Project administrator Dara Olmsted loves working with food and helping others connect to the environmental and nutritional implications of what they eat. Page 19

ATHLETICS/NO ORDINARY LEADER
Women’s basketball coach builds on legacy of success. Page 22

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Bird, meet cousin alligator

Assistant Professor Arkhat Abzhanov looks to birds’ relatives by way of dinosaurs — alligators — for clues to their evolution.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Birds and alligators have little in common, other than that the first is sometimes the other’s lunch. That hasn’t always been the case, though, and that’s what attracts Arkhat Abzhanov.

Alligators and birds are part of the same larger group, called archosaurs, which has existed for 250 million years and which has given rise not only to birds and crocodilians, but also to dinosaurs. Though dinosaurs are now extinct, the crocodilians, such as alligators, crocodiles, and narrow-jawed gharials live on, and scientists see in them many characteristics of the primitive archosaurs.

To Abzhanov, an assistant professor of organismic and evolutionary biology at Harvard who studies birds and how they developed, researching alligators gives him the chance to compare birds to something akin to their ancestors.

“It’s really about opening a door to understand what happened in avian evolution to come up with their unique body plan,” Abzhanov said. “How did it evolve? What actually happened?”

Millions of years ago, archosaurs diverged into several groups, scientists say. One became modern crocodilians, and another dinosaurs. The dinosaurs evolved many forms, including the smaller and feathered kind, like the archaeopteryx, which is considered ancestral to modern birds.

“Archaeopteryx is a good example of a feathered dinosaur that could fly,” Abzhanov said. “It’s actually now hard to say where dinosaurs end and birds begin.”

Modern birds do have many unusual features, including beaks and skulls with fused sutures. Their wings are modified forelimbs, and their backbones evolved to allow for flexible necks, waists, and fused lower vertebrae that form rigid foundations for tail feathers, called pygostyles.

Crocodilians retained many of the characteristics of the primitive archosaurs, such as a more complex skull with bones lost in avian evolution, a large body, and a more conserved body plan.

“If you look at the entire archosaur branch, we have one of the most derived groups, birds, still around,” Abzhanov said. “Unfortunately, we don’t have the intermediate group in dinosaurs, but we have crocodilians, one of the most basal groups.”

In ongoing work that already has resulted in two scientific papers, Abzhanov examined alligator and bird embryos and compared the functioning of key developmental HOX genes. Prior research showed that HOX genes turn on and off at key points in an animal’s development and are responsible for the orderly growth of body segments. They ensure, in effect, that the head goes at the top, the feet at the bottom, and everything else in the proper positions in between.

HOX genes are so important in animal development that they’ve been highly conserved across millions of years of evolution. Even jellyfish have three — front, middle, and back. Birds and alligators have 13 groups of HOX genes. Some of the key differences in their body plans are related to HOX-controlled neck and lower-back development. Abzhanov is examining those genes and the effects of the proteins they produce, called transcription factors, to get at the root of those differences.

First, he looked at HOX genes from groups four and five, which control neck development in chick and mouse embryos. In alligators, the vertebrae forming the neck have cervical ribs, similar to the chest, and thus very little flexibility, which is why alligators have to turn their whole bodies to move their heads around. Such a condition is considered ancestral to all archosaurs and, in fact, all land vertebrates.

Birds, on the other hand, couldn’t be more different. From the long, elegant neck of the swan to the rotationally flexible neck of the owl, birds’ neck vertebrae are ribless, allowing the head a lot of movement without having to turn the body.

Abzhanov asked similar questions about the lower back, or lumbar region. Alligators’ lumbar vertebrae also sport short ribs and bestow little flexibility, also an ancestral feature. The backbones of birds lose their ribs as they approach the waist — a feature shared by some mammals, including humans — permitting flexibility. While the functioning of HOX genes in birds was known, their expression and operation in alligators largely was not, Abzhanov said.

When he examined the HOX genes responsible for neck and lower-back development, though, the
A new Center for Primary Care

Backed by a $30 million gift, Harvard Medical School’s unit will serve as a docking point for students, residents, fellows, and faculty from across HMS and its affiliated teaching hospitals.

By David Cameron  |  Harvard Medical School Communications

Harvard Medical School (HMS) is launching a Center for Primary Care geared toward transforming primary care education, research, and delivery systems.

Made possible by a $30 million anonymous gift, the center, which is without precedent in the United States, will have physical and virtual dimensions, serving as a docking point for students, residents, fellows, and faculty from across HMS and its affiliated teaching hospitals.

“This new center will more effectively position HMS to develop programs and train leaders in primary care and health systems research, education, and policy,” said Jeffrey Flier, dean of Harvard Medical School. “The center will also contribute to innovation in primary care delivery, which we expect to have transformative, global impact.”

Said Harvard President Drew Faust: “Harvard Medical School’s commitment to leadership in all aspects of academic medicine led to serious, action-oriented discussions about the future of primary care, and this gift is a direct result of those conversations. I applaud Dean Flier for his bold and inclusive approach to forging primary care’s next frontier.”

The Center for Primary Care grew out of a yearlong collaborative effort led by the Primary Care Advisory Group (PCAG), made up of HMS faculty, administrators, residents, and Medical School students. Flier charged the group with assessing the state of primary care at Harvard Medical School and developing recommendations to enable the School to strengthen its commitment to primary care education, research, and clinical innovation. The PCAG and its subgroups met regularly from October 2009 to April of this year, soliciting input from the Harvard community throughout the United States and abroad. A second group, Primary Care Progress, also met regularly, organizing a series of town hall-style meetings that brought together hundreds of members of the Harvard primary care community to contribute to the PCAG’s dialogue.

The Center for Primary Care itself will draw to-gether HMS students, basic science and clinical faculty, experts in other Harvard Schools, and an extensive network of national and international collaborators, and fortify them with unparalleled financial resources to focus on three broad areas of primary care education and investigation: medical education, local, national, and international leadership, and primary care delivery and innovation research.

To read the full story, http://hvd.gs/64405

HMS Dean Jeffrey Flier: “This new center will more effectively position HMS to develop programs and train leaders in primary care and health systems research, education, and policy.”
The search for China’s roots

Harvard’s Rowan Flad, an associate professor of anthropological archaeology, is seeking early traces of one of the world’s oldest civilizations.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

The Chengdu Plain lies flat and fertile in central China’s Sichuan Basin. Cut by tributaries of one of China’s most important rivers, the mighty Yangtze, the plain is something of a rarity in the hilly region, making it ideal for agriculture, now and in antiquity.

Harvard archaeologists are at work there, plumbing the roots of some of China’s early civilizations. The world’s most-populous country traces its past to the Qin dynasty, the first to unify large parts of the nation. The Qin arose just north of Chengdu, and its fertile fields made it their first target of expansion.

“The first region conquered outside of their homeland was the Sichuan Basin,” said Rowan Flad, an associate professor of anthropological archaeology who is leading an international team of researchers working in the region. “It was the breadbasket for the Qin army as they conquered.”

Flad has been at work on the plain since 2005 on one of its rivers, the Min, which served as an irrigation system during the Qin dynasty, roughly 210 years B.C.E.

Flad is collaborating with archaeologists from several Chinese and American institutions, including Peking University, National Taiwan University, the Chengdu City Institute of Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of California, Los Angeles, and McGill University.

Together, the collaborators are conducting a massive survey of the region, probing known sites and seeking unknown ones in an effort to better understand the region’s past. Survey techniques commonly used by archaeologists in more arid, high-visibility areas aren’t useful in the Chengdu Plain because surface materials are obscured by the ongoing agricultural uses of the land. Team members must drill 2-meter-deep survey holes at regular intervals with hand augers. Geophysicist Timothy Horsley (below) conducts a magnetometry survey.

“Because the Chinese government frowns on expansive digs not prompted by road or construction projects, Flad said the diggers can only expand survey holes that turn up artifacts into 1-meter-square pits, when necessary.

“We’re trying to understand patterns of landscape use and to find sites in a systematic way that tells us something about those patterns,” Flad said. “What we’re looking for in this landscape is how settlement changed over time.”

So far, pottery sherds and building remains have been found that predate even the Qin dynasty, going as far back as the Baodian culture, about 2,500 years B.C.E., which created a series of walled settlements across the Chengdu Plain.

Researchers do much of their work in December and January, when rice cultivation is at a lull and they can get access to fields that aren’t flooded. They typically
break into teams using a variety of tools and techniques, including the auger-wielding survey team, which walks predetermined transects and digs holes at regular intervals. A second group explores surface remains using traditional survey techniques. A third seeks to understand patterns of landscape changes such as altered river courses through geomorphology, while a fourth explores known archaeological or active construction sites. The final group processes the data, resulting in computerized maps that can help guide future explorations.

Flad said the international nature of the work is important, and members of the team bring different skills. The Chinese team members contribute not only archaeological expertise but also help to guide the permitting process. The foreign team, which typically includes Flad and several Harvard graduate and undergraduate students, brings its own archaeological and technical strengths, as well as funding.

Following up on earlier discoveries of larger Baodun-era settlements, Flad and colleagues have been able to document a series of smaller settlements across the plain that paint a picture of a far more densely settled area than previously understood.

“We can say the Chengdu Plain was more widely occupied and more complexly organized than previously known,” Flad said.

Harvard Professor of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies Leonard van der Kuijp (top photo) during a visit to the field project. Harvard graduate students Jade Guedes and WengCheong Lam conduct flotation of soil samples.
The measure of the man

James Kloppenberg, chair of Harvard’s History Department, is out with a new book called “Reading Obama,” which parses the American president through his own writings.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

It was only when he was overseas that James Kloppenberg began seriously thinking about Barack Obama.

“When I was in England in the fall of 2008, I discovered that there was so much interest in Obama as a phenomenon,” he recalled. “In order to understand him better, I re-read his books.”

At the time, Kloppenberg, chair of the History Department and Charles Warren Professor of American History, was lecturing at the University of Cambridge in England. “I had given seven lectures on American political thought and was about to write my eighth and final lecture when I discovered that all of the themes in the preceding seven lectures are played out in Obama’s books,” said Kloppenberg.

“Obama is a sophisticated and incisive student of American history, American law, and American political thought,” he said. “It’s somewhat surprising that people consider him to be enigmatic, because we haven’t had another president who has given us as full a record of both his life — in ‘Dreams from My Father’ — and how he thinks, as he does in ‘The Audacity of Hope.’”

Kloppenberg’s simple undertaking to better familiarize himself with the United States’ current president resulted in his latest book, “Reading Obama: Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition.”

The book, a study of Obama’s ideas, “is the kind of book an intellectual historian would write about someone 200, 100, years ago,” said Kloppenberg, who noted that “it’s unusual to write about a living figure.”

But nothing Kloppenberg had read on Obama addressed the question of how Obama is situated in American history.

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Kloppenberg acknowledges the demonization of Obama in recent months, but is optimistic for his re-election prospects in 2012.

“But after I read his books, I began to see that his commitment to bipartisanship is rooted, not just in a desire to be strategic, but instead in what I see as a really sophisticated and robust conception of deliberation — that you cannot have at the beginning of a process of debate the same understandings that you have at the end of that process.”

Kloppenberg acknowledges the demonization of Obama in recent months, but is optimistic for his re-election prospects in 2012.

“There’s been a sustained campaign that conservative journalists have been waging to persuade the American people that what Obama is doing is un-American,” he said.

But Obama is a problem solver, according to Kloppenberg. “That’s been his characteristic approach to politics from the time he was still a student. Instead of invoking dogmas, he offers solutions. And that’s the theme that runs through both of his books — that we don’t know the truth in advance of discussion or experimentation.”

“A part of the reason I’m happy to have written this book is it provides the counter-narrative that locates Obama in a vibrant and vital and continuing American democratic tradition.”

Photo by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer
Shakespeare, the inventive conservative

A new book by scholar Stephen Greenblatt, the Shakespeare scholar who wrote the celebrated 2004 biography “Will in the World,” probes topics that the Bard pushed to their limits: beauty and the cult of perfection, murderous hatred, the exercise of power, and artistic autonomy.

By Alexandra Perloff-Giles | Harvard Correspondent

A new book by Stephen Greenblatt, the Shakespeare scholar who wrote the celebrated 2004 biography “Will in the World,” probes topics that the Bard pushed to their limits: beauty and the cult of perfection, murderous hatred, the exercise of power, and artistic autonomy.

Greenblatt observes in “Shakespeare’s Freedom” that the playwright’s linguistic inventions are a testament to his remarkable aesthetic autonomy. Indeed, Greenblatt notes, “Hamlet” alone contains 19 new words and 372 words already in circulation that had never been used in precisely that way. Yet, at the same time, Shakespeare seems to wrestle with the question of whether the artist — or anyone else — can truly be autonomous.

“There are boundaries,” said Greenblatt, the John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities. “Now, Shakespeare may have encountered those boundaries much less than ordinary mortals, but there are things you want to say and things you can’t.”

Greenblatt acknowledges that while the book is called “Shakespeare’s Freedom,” it’s just as much about Shakespeare’s limits.

“I think Shakespeare understood that there was something wrong, something disturbed, about the dream that you could have no limits whatsoever,” he said. “Any pleasure or value associated with having a life worth living would depend on your understanding that it was governed by constraints.”

Despite the vast body of scholarship devoted to Shakespeare over the years, Greenblatt said he believes that every scholar can bring a new perspective to issues raised in Shakespeare’s plays.

“You bring to bear on these things anything you can from your own life,” he said. “The questions that you ask and the things that you notice and the things that you’re interested in depend on who you are and the life you have lived, a life inevitably different from that of your parents or grandparents.”

For Greenblatt, the genius of Shakespeare was that he understood that audiences change, from one performance to the next, or from one generation to the next.

“The plays wouldn’t have survived for so many years if they weren’t written in such a way that they are adaptable,” Greenblatt said. “Shakespeare himself grasped that from the beginning.”

In writing “Shakespeare’s Freedom,” which began as a series of lectures that Greenblatt presented first at the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt and later at Rice University, Greenblatt was keenly aware that issues that have preoccupied American society in recent years, from concerns about torture to anxieties about radical Islam, inevitably color his interpretation of Shakespeare’s work and influenced the book.

“I don’t believe in excluding the present,” Greenblatt said, noting that “After Abu Ghraib, it was impossible to read the scene of the torture of Gloucester in ‘King Lear’ without thinking about it.”

Greenblatt is known as the father of new historicism, which advocates the reading and understanding of literature in its historical context. Yet he would be the first to point out that the way in which observers reconstruct the historical context is mediated by their present situation. Literature, or any work of art, is at once tied to a specific context and able to transcend that context as it takes on new meanings for different audiences.

“The interesting thing about cultural objects is that they can float free of the original historical context and show up like seashells on your own shore,” he said. “You have to figure out what they mean and what to do with them.”

While “Shakespeare’s Freedom,” forthcoming this month from University of Chicago Press, is geared toward an academic audience, another of Greenblatt’s current projects, dedicated to exploring how stories move across contexts, seeks a much broader audience.

In 2008 Greenblatt, in collaboration with Charles Mee, wrote a play titled “Cardenio,” after a lost play of the same name by Shakespeare and John Fletcher. The play was produced at the American Repertory Theater and has since been performed across the globe.

Greenblatt has traveled to see adaptations of the play in Calcutta, Tokyo, Zagreb, Madrid, São Paolo, Cairo, Istanbul, and Warsaw. Further adaptations will soon be mounted in Cape Town and Belgrade. Each adaptation is more than a simple translation, he said.

“What I was interested in is what happens when a story moves from one culture to another or from one place to another and gets transformed according to its own circumstances,” Greenblatt said.

All of the productions are based loosely on a story of betrayal that Shakespeare took from Cervantes: An engaged couple discovers that they no longer want to be with each other. Greenblatt said the most fascinating part of the experience has been observing the ways in which cultures with very different attitudes toward marriage and sexual morality interpret the plot. The Egyptian version, for example, centered on honor killings of women who are not virgins on their wedding night.

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Stephen Greenblatt: “I think Shakespeare understood that there was something wrong, something disturbed, about the dream that you could have no limits whatsoever. Any pleasure or value associated with having a life worth living would depend on your understanding that it was governed by constraints.”

Greenblatt will speak about “Shakespeare’s Freedom” at the Harvard Book Store on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.
The whither and why of books


By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

“Old books and e-books do not represent opposites. They are more complementary than contradictory objects.”

The speakers also suggested that books will endure by providing qualities a computer screen cannot. They can be owned and shared, and they have a material amplitude that invites sensory experience. Elizabeth Long, a Rice University sociologist who studies reading, praised books for their comforting heft and for the sentimental value that can make them “a bridge to that prior self.”

“Why Books?” was the culmination of two years of planning by a faculty committee co-chaired by literary scholar Leah Price ’91 and historian Ann Blair ’84, both Harvard College professors.

“We use books every day,” said Price, but often take them for granted or even forget them. She told the story of a 19th century British librarian who cataloged every book in the Bodleian Library except one. He had been sitting on it for 36 years.

The fate of the cozy technology, part of the Western world for five centuries, engenders some anxiety. Both books and readers are moving fast into a digital world “whose shape we do not know,” said Darnton, Harvard’s Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and author of “The Case for Books: Past, Present, and Future” (PublicAffairs, 2009).

He grew up in an age when scholars sat in library archives armed with pencils and index cards, which would be “embarrassing” now, said Darnton, when younger researchers bring laptops and digital cameras for rapid information storage.

But his next book, on politicized Parisian popular songs of the 18th century, will include a CD of music that recaptures sound, “a dimension of the past that is largely missing,” said Darnton. “The new electronic media and the old forms of research belong together.”

Harvard computer scientist Stuart Shieber said electronic devices like the Kindle reader are unlikely to eliminate books. For one, e-readers remain inferior to the codex in contrast, color, and resolution. (A modern book is a “codex,” an information-storage device whose sequential but searchable pages are bound between covers.)

But Shieber said book and e-book technologies will be nearly equal in readability and navigation soon. By then, readers will favor the slim, portable e-readers, but will still purchase books, which can be shared and owned. “You can’t buy an e-book,” he said. “You can only rent it.”

John Palfrey, Harvard Law School’s Henry N. Ess III Librarian and Professor of Law and vice dean of Library and Information Services, said the “vibrant space” of Twitter traffic at the conference illustrated the present “hybrid moment” that combines books and the Internet.

But hundreds of Twitter feeds from a single conference also illustrate the challenge that future scholars face: the sheer volume of what social media creates, to say nothing of the intricate layers of information stored within, say, one author’s computer.

“Spiraling nebulae” of information mean that today’s writers “will not and cannot be studied” as writers of the past have been, said University of Maryland English

Photos: (top) by Jon Chase; (above) file by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographers
“Print outside the book” is equally important to understanding early African-American poets, said Rutgers University English professor Meredith L. McGill. Digital archiving may help to rescue books and newspapers.

In the emerging digital age, libraries as well as books are at a critical juncture, said Palfrey, who is also faculty co-director of Harvard’s Berkman Center for Internet & Society. “I see a brighter future for libraries, but there is anxiety.”

Part of that anxiety comes from modern attempts at creating a “universal library,” said University of Chicago historian Adrian Johns. Google Book Search and other systems, he said, are more interested in mining data from books than in the books themselves.

But the engineers extracting this mass of information from the print world often don’t understand books very well, said Paul Duguid, an information historian at the University of California, Berkeley. They skip texts when digitizing multi-volume books; copy the worst editions; and even see books as “the final impediment to getting information,” he said.

These engineers of the digital realm need to wake up and smell the printer’s ink, said Duguid. “Material matters, and we forget that.”

**Online ➤** Twitter traffic on “Why Books?”: http://twitter.com/search?q=whybooks

**Photos:** (top) by Rose Lincoln; (right) by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographers

**ARTS & CULTURE**

### Change languages, shift responses

Study of bilingual speakers suggests that language use can help to shape preferences.

By Maya Shwayder ’11 | Harvard Correspondent

The language we speak may influence not only our thoughts, but our implicit preferences as well. That’s the finding of a study by Harvard psychologists, who found that bilingual individuals’ opinions of different ethnic groups were affected by the language in which they took a test probing their biases and predilections.

“Charlemagne is reputed to have said that to speak another language is to possess another soul,” said the paper’s co-author, Oludamini Ogunnaike, a Harvard graduate student. “This study suggests that language is much more than a medium for expressing thoughts and feelings. Our work hints that language creates and shapes our thoughts and feelings as well.”

Implicit attitudes, positive or negative associations that people may be unaware that they possess, have been shown to predict behavior toward members of social groups. Recent research has shown that these attitudes are quite malleable, susceptible to factors such as the weather, popular culture, or, now, by the language people speak.

“Can we shift something as fundamental as what we like and dislike by changing the language in which our preferences are elicited?” asked co-author Mahzarin R. Banaji, the Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics at Harvard. “If the answer is yes, that gives more support to the idea that language is an important shaper of attitudes.”

Ogunnaike, Banaji, and Yarrow Dunham, now at the University of California, Merced, used the well-known Implicit Association Test (IAT), where participants rapidly categorize words that flash on a computer screen or are played through headphones. The test gives participants only a fraction of a second to categorize words, not enough to think about answers.

“The IAT bypasses a large part of conscious cognition and taps into something we’re not aware of and can’t easily control,” Banaji said.

The paper appears in the latest issue of the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.

The researchers administered the IAT in two settings: once in Morocco, with subjects who spoke Arabic and French, and again in the United States, with Latinos who spoke English and Spanish.

In Morocco, participants who took the IAT in Arabic showed greater preference for other Moroccans. When they took the test in French, that difference disappeared. Similarly, in the United States, participants who took the test in Spanish showed a greater preference for other Hispanics. But again, in English, that preference disappeared.

“It was quite shocking to see that a person could take the same test, within a brief period of time, and show such different results,” Ogunnaike said. “It’s like asking your friend if he likes ice cream in English, and then turning around and asking him again in French and getting a different answer.”

In the Moroccan test, participants saw “Moroccan” names (such as Hassan or Fatimah) or “French” names (such as Jean or Marie) flash on a monitor, along with words that are “good” (such as happy or nice) or “bad” (such as hate or mean). Participants might press one key when they saw a Moroccan name or a good word, and press another when they saw a French name or a bad word. Then the key assignments are switched so that “Moroccan” and “bad” share the same key, and “French” and “good” share the other.

Linguist Benjamin Lee Whorf first posited in the 1930s that language is so powerful that it can determine thought. Mainstream psychology has taken the more skeptical view that while language may affect thought processes, it doesn’t influence thought itself. This new study suggests that Whorf’s idea, when not caricatured, may generate interesting hypotheses that researchers can continue to test.

“These results challenge our views of attitudes as stable,” Banaji said. “There still remain big questions about just how fixed or flexible they are, and language may provide a window through which we will learn about their nature.”

Ogunnaike, Dunham, and Banaji’s work was supported by Harvard’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Mellon Mays Foundation.
No ceilings

In 2004, Harvard announced an initiative to make the University more accessible to low-income families. Since then, more than 1,900 students have taken advantage of the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative. Here’s how the program changed the lives of some of its first alumni.

Two years after graduating from Harvard University, Patty Rincon already has worked as an advocate for prisoners’ rights and completed a service stint with AmeriCorps.

Harvard’s ethos helped to guide her toward public service, she said. But what made that goal possible for the young woman, whose parents lost their jobs as she was applying to colleges, was the financial aid she received from the University as an undergraduate.

Now she’s applying to law school, setting her sights on a career in civil rights or criminal justice. “If I was in a lot of debt because of college, I don’t know if I’d be in a position to go to law school and pursue that kind of job,” she said.

In 2004, Harvard announced an initiative to make the University more accessible to low-income families by expanding recruitment and eliminating expected parental contributions for eligible students. Since then, more than 1,900 students have taken advantage of the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative (HFAI), earning a Harvard degree at little or no cost.

Today, the widespread impact of HFAI is becoming clear. Upon graduating, HFAI alumni say they are empowered to pursue career paths as they wish, not as they must. Influenced by Harvard’s emphasis on public service and free of debt burdens, many of the program’s first alumni are passing along their good fortune.

“I may not be a legacy, or part of a finals club,” said Peter Conti-Brown ’05, who benefitted from HFAI and was the first student director of the program. “But Harvard is part of my legacy, and I love that.”

As the world flattens, attracting a wide variety of students is a key priority, said Sally Donahue, director of financial aid for the College. Part of the goal is to increase cross-cultural understanding and broaden outlooks at Harvard.

“I think students have experienced enriched discussions in class, with a wider variety of perspectives,” she said. “University life in general is much more robust. There is more economic diversity represented in student groups on campus.

But HFAI’s mission has not been to simply increase diversity. “It has enabled outstanding students who otherwise wouldn’t have been able to attend Harvard to find a place at the College,” said Dean Evelyn M. Hammonds.

For students who benefit from the program, admission to Harvard is just a beginning. Like their peers, on arrival they embark on a journey of learning that takes them around the globe, into fields they hadn’t known and career paths they hadn’t dreamed about. In addition to tuition aid, many HFAI students benefit from the winter coat fund, interest-free loans to buy a computer, and free tickets to campus happenings through the student events fund, as part of the University’s efforts to be more inclusive.

“It makes Harvard a much more meritocratic system,” said Jeffrey Kwong ’09, an HFAI recipient.

“It puts you on a level playing field with your peers,” said Rachel Culley ’07, who also benefitted from HFAI.

Here are some recent graduates’ stories:

Muriel Payan ’08

CONCENTRATION: GOVERNMENT

Growing up in California, Payan dreamed of college, but knew she’d need a scholarship in order to attend. She applied to nearly 20 colleges, and even when Harvard offered her a full scholarship through HFAI, she hesitated to move across the country. Her mother, an immigrant from Nicaragua, wanted her to stay close to home.

“It wasn’t until she started telling her co-workers that I got into Harvard and saw their reactions that she realized this was a big deal,” she said.

At Harvard, Payan discovered what it means to be a global citizen, interning at the Pentagon, studying in Paris, spending a summer working for a human rights organization in India, and using spring breaks on service trips to Malaysia, New Orleans, and Dubai.

After graduation, Payan took a one-year fellowship at the American University in Cairo, working in the Office of Institutional Planning, Assessment, Research, and Testing. She then took a similar position at the new King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia. She plans to earn a master’s degree in business or public policy and would like to spend her career working with developing countries.

“I do miss home,” she said. “But I feel like there’s still so much to see and do in the world.”

Rachel Culley ’07

CONCENTRATION: WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

Raised by parents who were part of the back-to-the-land movement, Culley grew up in a home with no electricity or indoor plumbing, and was homeschooled until seventh grade.

Culley first set her sights on Harvard as a child, when she and her father drove to Cambridge from their home in Maine to deliver a load of firewood. While in the area, they took a tour of the campus, and Culley knew that’s where she wanted to go.

“It was an amazing place,” she said. “There were so many buildings and opportunities. It seemed wonderful.”
The day she learned she had been admitted was “the best day ever,” she said. “When I got to campus, I was interested in learning as much as I could.”

She wrote a thesis on class issues, got involved with the group Strong Women Strong Girls, wrote for Diversity and Distinction magazine, and worked with students from areas of conflict through Seeds of Peace. On graduation, she brought flowers to the financial aid office.

“They enabled me to do everything that I wanted,” she said.

Now a third-year law student at the University of Michigan, Culley plans to pursue public interest and civil rights work, a choice she said HFAI made possible.

Neeraj “Richie” Banerji ’06
CONCENTRATION: ECONOMICS
When Banerji mailed his Harvard application from balmy Calcutta in the winter of 2001, he thought his academic dreams were treading between fantasy and wishful thinking — the price of going to Harvard was many times his family’s annual income. Even if he got in, his father warned that the family might not be able to send him.

His acceptance, and the subsequent news of the HFAI program, “changed the track of my life,” Banerji said.

In high school, Banerji had been slated to attend a local university and to become an engineer. At Harvard, he discovered economics, earning fellowships from the Center for International Development, the Asia Center, and the South Asia Initiative. He was also a vocal executive of the Harvard Undergraduate Council.

“It amazes me to think who I might have been had I not had the opportunity to come to the United States,” he said.

Upon graduation, Banerji joined Fidelity Investments, where he now works as a director of strategy. Recognizing that his dreams would not have come true had it not been for his benefactors, Banerji said he gives as much as possible toward financial aid and the Harvard College Fund each year, and lives by a mantra he first saw emblazoned over Dexter Gate: “Depart to serve better thy country and thy kind.”

Bryce Caswell ’07
CONCENTRATION: GOVERNMENT
Caswell’s family moved frequently when she was growing up, and life at home was generally chaotic. By age 12, she was holding down several jobs in addition to going to school. Though she hoped to make it to college, Caswell said, “I was in a situation where squeak-

“Without it, I wouldn’t have had as much freedom to choose a public interest career,” she said. “I don’t have college debt and I have a Harvard education. That’s incredibly powerful.”

“My parents couldn’t imagine in their wildest dreams that this was possible,” he said. “HFAI has opened doors for my family that were unimaginable.”

The son of Chinese immigrants who escaped the Cultural Revolution, Kwong grew up in San Francisco’s Chinatown in a four-bedroom apartment shared with three other families. By high school, he was making headlines for his volunteer work as a translator at city hall.

Coming to Harvard was like stepping into another world, he said. Inspired to give back, Kwong worked as a recruiter for the HFAI program during his undergraduate years, traveling to high schools near his hometown to encourage kids like him to set their

“At Harvard, Muriel Payan (from left) discovered what it means to be a global citizen, interning at the Pentagon, studying in Paris, working one summer for a human rights organization in India, and spending spring breaks on service trips to Malaysia, New Orleans, and Dubai. Rachel Culley, now a third-year law student at the University of Michigan, plans to pursue public interest and civil rights work, a choice she said HFAI made possible. In high school, Neeraj “Richie” Banerji had been slated to attend a local university and to become an engineer. At Harvard, he discovered economics. The HFAI program “changed the track of my life,” Banerji said.

goals high.

“Without others helping me, my story would not be possible,” he said.

While at Harvard, Kwong also participated in the Undergraduate Teacher Education Program, teaching history at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. That experience inspired him to head to the University of California, San Diego, for graduate school, where he’s studying political science and working with the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. He plans a teaching career.

“I learned at Harvard that teaching isn’t necessarily about what you learn in class,” he said. “It’s also about teaching values and how to teach about life.”

Patty Rincon ’08
CONCENTRATION: GOVERNMENT
As a child in Santa Ana, Calif., Rincon hadn’t initially considered Harvard. And when her parents lost their jobs when she was in high school, college began to seem like a distant dream. But when HFAI recruiters reached out to her, suddenly the world was full of possibilities.

“Harvard did an excellent job of not just getting me to come, but giving me everything I needed once I was (see HFAI next page)
HFAI (continued from previous page)

There,” she said.

She got involved with the Phillips Brooks House Association’s after-school and summer programs, tutoring children in Boston’s Mission Hill neighborhood.

“That was really important for me,” she said. “It allowed me to get out of the Harvard bubble and made me think about my position relative to the community.”

After graduation, she worked in the Prison Law Office in Berkeley, Calif. She then joined AmeriCorps, working in an early-childhood education and parenting program. These days, she’s studying for the LSAT and applying to law schools, intent on going into criminal or civil rights law.

“HFAI has enabled me to do what I want with my Harvard degree, instead of what I had to do to pay off a huge debt,” she said.

Jon Gentry ’07

CONCENTRATION: ENGLISH, AMERICAN LITERATURE, AND LANGUAGE

A Houston native, Gentry was urged by a high school history teacher to consider the Ivies, a bold move for someone who said “hardly anyone from my high school who goes on to college leaves Texas.”

“I think I applied to Harvard because it was ‘Harvard,’” he said, describing his admission as validation for everything he had done up to that point. “I didn’t jump around and get really excited. I waited until my mom got home, told her, and let her do all of that.”

At Harvard, Gentry was involved with the Black Men’s Forum, the PBHA, and BlackCAST, concentrating in English, but loving theater.

Upon graduation, Gentry was unsure of what he wanted to do.

“I loved to act, but did it mostly for fun. There was no way I was going to Harvard to become an actor,” he said.

But Gentry couldn’t deny his passion and, through what he calls “a strike of grand luck,” landed one of 14 spots in the American Conservatory Theater’s M.F.A. acting program. He is living his dream.

“Each night I step onstage in front of an audience, I am proud to share the story I have to tell and know that I’m where I want to be,” he said.

Gentry said he still benefits from his time in Cambridge.

“Without Harvard, I wouldn’t have the incredible social network that I have,” he said. “I feel like I can be anywhere in the world and find a connection.”

Peter Conti-Brown ’05

CONCENTRATION: SOCIOLOGY, ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The son of a schoolteacher and the sixth of seven children, Conti-Brown was raised in Oklahoma. Upon entering Harvard, he found himself awash in possibilities, but sometimes felt overwhelmed by his classmates’ access to capital. When his roommates asked him to chip in for a couch to decorate their dorm room, he was astounded when they came back with a $600 piece of furniture. His contribution would take most of what he’d saved up for personal expenses for the year.

When the admissions office asked him to join a focus group to better understand the financial realities of many students, Conti-Brown did so, telling them about the couch and explaining how he worked odd jobs to make the $2,000-a-year “parental contribution” toward his tuition.

“There were excess costs that my mother couldn’t pay,” he said.

That focus group eventually led to creation of the HFAI program, and Conti-Brown was one of the first to benefit from it. Realizing the program’s potential to change lives and the University, Conti-Brown became its first undergraduate director and one of its most ardent supporters, traveling all over the country to recruit high-performing students from low-income families.

“In changing the culture at Harvard, we raised the sensibility that not everyone has the same financial means,” he said.

After college, Conti-Brown taught at an inner-city high school in New York and then went to Stanford Law School, publishing articles on the financial crisis and regulatory reform. He has an academic fellowship at Stanford, and will begin clerking for federal Judge Gerard E. Lynch next fall. Today, Conti-Brown attributes much of his success to his experience at Harvard and with HFAI.

“It gave me a fearlessness in networking and approaching people who are leaders in their field,” he said. “And it taught me that you don’t have to disqualify yourself from participating in the discussion just because of where you’re from.”

Photos: (from top) courtesy of Patty Rincon; courtesy of Juan Sebastián Arias; courtesy of Jon Gentry; courtesy of Peter Conti-Brown
As a management consultant at Ernst and Young in the ‘90s, Marc Melitz took a mathematical view of how companies were functioning, looking at logistics and distribution problems to help clients perform better. But the more time he spent visiting manufacturing facilities and gathering numbers on the shop floors, the more he became interested in the bigger picture, the economics that drove productivity, and the broader impact of individual company performance.

Today, Melitz is known for bringing to economics a new understanding of how international trade affects individual companies and vice versa.

Melitz made his splash in the field in 2003, when an article in the journal Econometrica outlined his theories, now called the “Melitz model.” The model has been widely adapted by economists, and in 2008 the Economist magazine named Melitz among the best of a new generation of economists.

“Marc Melitz has done the most influential work in international trade in a generation,” said Elhanan Helpman, the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade. “This work provides deep insights into the causes of foreign trade and foreign direct investment, and it has opened up an entirely new line of research that has occupied many scholars in the last decade. Moreover, he is one of the most influential young economists irrespective of field and a great addition to our department.”

Before Melitz’s work, most models looked at international trade from the standpoint of countries and industries. International businesses were treated broadly, only in terms of the industrial sector to which they belonged, such as mining, automobiles, or textiles.

Benefiting from the digital age’s explosion of accessible data at the level of individual producers, Melitz began to examine how individual firms responded in very different ways to international forces.

Melitz’s theory holds that only the largest and strongest companies in an industry engage in international trade because it takes significant resources to conduct business overseas, to break into new markets, to reach a whole new consumer base, and to compete successfully with local companies creating similar products.

In subsequent work, Melitz examined how firms adapt to international forces by organizing their international businesses in different ways, such as establishing affiliate production abroad, adopting new technologies, or tailoring the range of products they export.

The overall picture that emerged was that the biggest, most productive companies engaged in international trade, which made them stronger. This squeezed competitors and drove the weakest companies out of business. Surviving companies that don’t engage in international trade tend to be less productive than the most successful firms and instead focus on domestic markets.

This process has a reciprocal effect on the business sector. Driving the least-efficient firms out of business and increasing the market share of the largest, best-run firms increases the productivity of the whole industry.

Melitz came to Harvard last year from Princeton, where he was professor of economics and international affairs. This is a return engagement, since he was at Harvard from 2000 to 2006, serving as assistant professor, associate professor, and the John and Ruth Hazel Associate Professor of the Social Sciences.

Though born in the United States, Melitz was raised in France, where his father worked at the Ministry of Finance. Melitz excelled at math and science in high school and returned to the United States to study at Haverford College, from which he received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 1989. He attended the University of Maryland School of Business and received a master’s of science in business administration in 1992.

After Maryland, Melitz went into private industry at Ernst and Young, specializing in a quantitative approach to analyzing business performance. It was in doing this work that he became more broadly interested in economics, a subject he didn’t study at Haverford. He eventually returned to graduate school at the University of Michigan, receiving his doctorate in economics in 2000.

Melitz continues to work on international trade, examining how firms are responding to globalization. He is currently examining French firms and the products they export across different destinations.
Wild Harvard

Nature watchers around campus, open to the hard-to-see creatures nearby, deliver a message of attention and affection.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

There are 492 trees in the two Harvard yards bounded by Quincy Street and Massachusetts Avenue, with 70 varieties in all, including 36 American elms, once the University’s signature species.

If you look up into those trees, you might see some of the 30 or so species of birds commonly seen at Harvard, including the nuttall, mockingbird, and cardinal.

If you look past the ubiquitous gray squirrels, you might spy a rabbit, skunk, opossum, raccoon, or even a red fox like the one seen last month near Harvard Stadium. (It was sleeping in a roll of blue tarp.)

And if you look high enough, you can see the aerial raptors — hawks and falcons — that rest on the weathervanes, rooftops, trees, and balconies around campus. One nesting pair of red-tailed hawks takes up residence every year in a pine tree outside Pierce Hall on Oxford Street.

And sometimes you can watch the animal watchers, themselves a determined and thoughtful species on campus.

Remnants of the flora and fauna that existed in Cambridge when Harvard was founded in 1636 are still here. Ecologists say that virtually any animal will coexist with humans, if given sufficient cover, water, and a source of food.

Campuses are no exception. Harvard nature watcher Rob Gogan said most universities are “sitting on wildlife preserves.” When hawks wheel in the skies over Harvard looking for prey, he said, “it looks like Serengeti on the Charles River flood plain.”

Gogan is Harvard’s supervisor of Facilities Maintenance Operations Recycling and Solid Waste Removal. But every other month he publishes a journal of nature sightings in his departmental electronic newsletter. “Campus Nature Watch” has 40 faculty and staff contributors. One of them, Holly Hutchison, takes frequent lunchtime jaunts around Harvard Yard in search of wildlife. “Once you start, you start seeing more,” she said, and “the more you see, the more you look.”

Gogan’s nature-watch feature began in 2001, inspired by University of Wisconsin educator David J. Eagan. He pioneered the idea that campus habitats were untapped, living classrooms, as well as places resonant with responsibility. “Every college and university,” Eagan wrote in 1992, “is the obligate steward of its place on Earth.”

Harvard is in line with that idea. Its sustainability principles, adopted in 2004, include one on protecting campus ecosystems.

Hutchison, the administrator for the Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology, publishes a blog on the red-tailed hawks at Harvard, photos and video included. After all, she said, the “charismatic” wide-winged raptors inspired her interest in Harvard’s wild footprint. “Before that, I was only passively interested. The hawks tipped me over.”

“Nature Watch” contributor Sandy Selesky, a birdwatcher and wildlife photographer for 25 years, has had almost four decades to observe nature at Harvard. Her office looks out on the gardenlike courtyard of the Center for European Studies, where she is building manager. Hawks bathe in the pool there, cardinals nest in its bushes, and mammals scamper through.

“I would hope people would pay attention to what’s around them,” she said, sharing a lesson that every Harvard nature watcher embraces: Look and you will see.

“Most people don’t look, or they look down, or they look at people only,” said Sonia Ketchian, Ph.D. ’75, an associate at the Davis Center for Russian and

Holly Hutchison (right), the administrator for the Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology, publishes a blog on the red-tailed hawks (inset and opposite page) at Harvard. Hutchison is one of dozens of unofficial Harvard nature watchers who contribute to a bi-monthly sightings report.
Eurasian Studies who carries binoculars and packs bird food with her lunch. She saw a bald eagle high above Harvard Yard four years ago, recognizing it by its cry.

Nature watching teaches you to listen too, said Hutchison, and it reveals a hidden natural Harvard that most people don’t notice. “It has completely changed my perceptions of walking around here.”

It helps if your listening and watching is orderly. Last May, Harvard undergraduates did a two-day “bio blitz” to record all manner of wildlife on the Cambridge campus. They baited mammal traps with balls of oats, sugar, and peanut butter; roamed campus with a bat detector (no luck); seized the Charles for fish; and set out arthropod “pitfall” traps at Weld Boat House, Lowell Hall, and five other sites. That netted a treasury of bees, spiders, flies, weevils, leafhoppers, ants, stink bugs, and beetles. (Adam Clark ’11 posted photos of the specimens online, on a glistening arthropod Facebook not for the queasy.)

Students also peered into the trees to look at fledgling hawks, collected mushrooms, pondered Radcliffe Yard’s crab apple trees, noted a patch of lichen with fruiting bodies behind Tozzer Library, and watched a palm warbler gulp down a fat larva in a few bites.

In another official foray into nature, students in a Harvard course on the biology of fishes cast nets into the Charles. About a dozen species commonly inhabit the river, said Harvard ichthyologist Karsten E. Hartel, author of “Inland Fishes of Massachusetts” (2002). Included are bluegill, sunfish, perch, smelt, catfish, bass, killifish, alewife, pike, carp, and goldfish.

Hartel, a curatorial associate and collection manager at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, oversees 1.4 million specimens, some dating to the 18th century. But he is the first to admit that observing living fish in the Charles, at Harvard’s front door, is a subtle art. “You wouldn’t see anything spectacular,” he said of springtime fish runs, “but you would see a lot of splashing.”

Fish, bug, songbird, raptor, and fox — everything seems like a gift to Gogan, who sees the creatures around Harvard as the canaries in our urban coal mine. “If they can thrive here,” he said, “we can probably thrive here.”

Fakhri A. Bazzaz
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on October 19, 2010, the Minute honoring the life and service of the late Fakhri A. Bazzaz, Mallinckrodt Professor of Biology, Emeritus, was placed upon the records. Bazzaz was an ecologist who greatly influenced scientific thought and public policy on climate change.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit http://hvd.gs/64232.

David Turnbull
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on October 19, 2010, the Minute honoring the life and service of the late David Turnbull, Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics, Emeritus, was placed upon the records. Turnbull was a pioneer in the development of multi-disciplinary materials science.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit http://hvd.gs/64226.

Bolitho passes away Oct. 23

Harold Bolitho, professor of Japanese history emeritus in Harvard’s Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, died on Oct. 23 after a long illness.

A funeral was held on Nov. 2 in the Memorial Church, Harvard Yard. The burial was in Connecticut.

When one sentence just won’t do

A Harvard College senior discusses the difficulties of explaining her senior thesis in the sciences, particularly since the topic can make people cringe.

By Rebecca Hersher ’11 | Neurobiology

The key to mastering these situations, the professor pointed out, is to distill the answers to sprawling personal questions down to a single sentence. Then, deliver that sentence with complete confidence. What am I doing after graduation? I will be working as a medic and freelance journalist in Seattle. Oh, and those jeans are slimming.

The one-sentence method is foolproof when deployed correctly. I have been woefully unable to apply it, however, to the thing that I most frequently explain: my senior thesis project.

Reach back for a moment, and see if you can’t sift from your muslin memory some recollection of being at Harvard for three years of study. After three years of study, you have just begun to know something about a subject. A senior thesis, you are told, will be the academic culmination of your time at Harvard.

A writing professor at Harvard once recalled a frequent experience. Asked at a cocktail party what his job was, he would explain that he was a nonfiction writer. How interesting! The conversation would continue inexorably and not unpleasantly through a series of questions about his previously published work. Finally, the dreaded inquiry came. “What are you working on now?”

It may seem benign on the page, but consider the many pitfalls of answering. Like questions about my plans after graduation or about whether those jeans fit nicely across the back, this question is a trap. Answer too elaborately, and you risk cornering yourself into a never-ending and increasingly complex conversational wormhole with someone who was really only asking out of courtesy anyway. Give a cursory reply, and you instantly reduce your life, your work, and your aspirations to careless inconsequence.

The one-sentence method relies on the use of words that are instantly recognizable. This is all the more crucial when describing a project in the hard sciences. Which is why it is so inconvenient that the most recognizable word in my thesis topic is “pain.” Go ahead. Try telling someone that the subject you spend the most time on is pain. Horror is a best-case scenario.

Now, neck-deep in a neurobiology research project, it is clear that my thesis is less a magnum opus than a reflection of my intellectual infancy. After toiling in the pits of innovation for a summer, my results clearly add little to a vast body of neurobiological knowledge. This has taken a distantly small toll on my ego. My results are still endlessly interesting to me, and I want nothing more than to share them with everyone willing to lend an ear.

Unfortunately, I cannot apply the one-sentence method to my senior thesis. The problem is semantic. The one-sentence method relies on the use of words that are instantly recognizable. This is all the more crucial when describing a project in the hard sciences. Which is why it is so inconvenient that the most recognizable word in my thesis topic is “pain.” Go ahead. Try telling someone that the subject you spend the most time on is pain. Horror is a best-case scenario.

However, there are few words to substitute for “pain” without toeing the line of pretentious obscurity. Eyes glaze over at the word enzyme, let alone nociception. One way around that is to be purposely misleading. What is my thesis about? I am studying how discomfort affects quality of life. Never mind that we are talking about the quality of mouse life.

I prefer, though, to throw the whole thing out the window and just be honest. At least my project does not sound boring. Once I have you hooked, we can let the conversation shift to the nature of pain and whether I am a monster. And for all my angst over how to represent myself and my work, at the end of the day I wouldn’t give up those probing, questioning conversations for anything. Being challenged to explain a project that is entirely my own might just be the academic culmination that writing about it was supposed to be.

If you’re an undergraduate or graduate student and have an essay to share about life at Harvard, please email your ideas to Jim Con-cannon, the Gazette’s news editor, at Jim.Con-cannon@harvard.edu.
Food for thought

Harvard graduate and Food Literacy Project administrator Dara Olmsted loves working with food and helping others connect to the environmental and nutritional implications of what they eat.

By Colleen Walsh  Harvard Staff Writer

Every Tuesday and Friday from June to October, Dara Olmsted ’00 sat wedged between fresh apples and lettuce, green beans and honey.

Stationed just outside Harvard’s Science Center or across the Charles River in Allston, Olmsted was awash in her own seasonal, local, sustainable, artisanal version of heaven, working the weekly Harvard farmers markets.

The Florida native said she has found her “dream job” as the newest Food Literacy Project administrator at Harvard University Hospitality & Dining Services (HUHDS).

“It’s easy to become disconnected from the environmental and nutritional implications of your food,” said Olmsted, who touts sustainability and the importance of educating people about what they eat and the increasingly negative effects of industrial agriculture on the environment.

Founded in 2005, the Food Literacy Project “cultivates an understanding of food from the ground up,” its website states. Focusing its education efforts around the four pillars of sustainability, nutrition, food preparation, and community, its goal is to “promote enduring knowledge, enabling consumers to make informed food choices.”

For Olmsted, that means planning and implementing food-based outreach programs and special events for a Harvard audience. Her seasonal work involves organizing the popular weekly farmers markets that run through the summer and fall outside the Science Center and in Allston.

Promoting local, sustainable food from nearby farms is critical, said the Harvard graduate. “By shopping at the farmers market, you are voting with your dollar. You are investing in sustainable growing methods and preserving farmland from development.”

You also get food that was picked that morning and can meet the farmer who grew it, said Olmsted. “It has made me become more connected to my food, and appreciate it more.”

In addition, Olmsted oversees 17 undergraduate and graduate students who act as Food Literacy Project representatives in each of the College’s 12 Houses, Annenberg Hall, and the Divinity School, helping them to coordinate events such as cooking classes, food tastings, and volunteer opportunities in local community gardens.

As an undergraduate, Olmsted concentrated in social anthropology. She earned her master’s degree in environmental policy and urban planning from Tufts University. While in graduate school, she reconnected with Harvard, serving as a teaching assistant for some classes and volunteering for Harvard’s Green Campus Initiative. From 2006 to 2010, she worked full time in what is now Harvard’s Office for Sustainability, involved with several Schools.

But when an opportunity to connect to food opened up earlier this year, she jumped.

Olmsted became a vegetarian at age 13 in response to reports of a fast-food chain raising its beef on rainforest land and after reading some “very graphic” books about slaughterhouses. Over the past few years, she has been drawn to the slow-food movement that links enjoying food to commitments to community and the environment. An avid reader of food-related books and articles, she also writes for the Boston Globe’s green blog. Her posts, unsurprisingly, are often food oriented.

Olmsted said she loves teaching about biodiversity, species preservation, and sustainability. Her eyes widen when recalling the luminaries of the culinary world that she has worked with at Harvard, including famed chef and author Mollie Katzen and the founder of the slow-food movement, Carlo Petrini.

“I have the perfect job,” she said with a smile. “I get to work with students and staff and learn about food.”

For the past four years Olmsted has also been at Mather House working as a tutor and sophomore adviser. She has helped to organize international cooking classes, ran the House masters’ open houses, planned food-based study breaks for seniors, and taught students how to make her famous sock monkeys.

By Colleen Walsh  Harvard Staff Writer

By Colleen Walsh  Harvard Staff Writer
Newsmakers

BOK CENTER HONORS 510: EXCELLENCE AND DISTINCTION IN TEACHING WERE ACKNOWLEDGED

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences’ deans of undergraduate education awarded an unprecedented 510 certificates of distinction on Oct. 26 at Harvard’s Center for Government and International Studies.

“This is a huge vote of confidence for Harvard teaching fellows, lecturers, preceptors, TAs [teaching assistants], and CAs [course assistants] — and for teaching at Harvard in general,” said the center’s interim director Terry Aladjem.

Based on a score of 4.5 or better in the “overall” category, 36 recipients received awards for multiple courses, and 53 got perfect “5”s in that category. The two awards given include the traditional Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, awarded to 370 teaching fellows, teaching assistants, and course assistants, and the Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence, now given to lecturers and preceptors. 97 were awarded this year.

“These awards affirm Harvard’s deep commitment to outstanding and creative teaching,” said Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean Allan Brandt. “We have come here today to honor the critical, conscientious, and brilliant teaching that is done by our graduate students, teaching assistants, and other instructors who contribute so greatly to our goal of making Harvard College a truly great learning environment.”

For a list of award recipients, visit http://bokcenter.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES INDUCTS 17 FROM HARVARD

A group of Harvard faculty members has been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 230th class of fellows. The 17 fellows from Harvard, officially recognized in an Oct. 9 ceremony, were celebrated for their cutting-edge research and scholarship, artistic accomplishment, and exemplary service to society.

“The induction ceremony celebrates the academy’s mission and the accomplishments of its newly elected members,” said American Academy President Leslie Berlowitz. “Through three centuries of service, the academy and its fellows have been dedicated to intellectual leadership and constructive action in America and the world.”

The fellows from Harvard follow:

Harvey Cantor, Baruj Benacerraf Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School

Harvey G. Cox Jr., Hollis Research Professor of Divinity, Emeritus, Harvard Divinity School

Ronald A. DePinho, professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School

Edward Glaeser, Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics; director, Taubman Center for State and Local Government; director, Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston

Jack L. Goldsmith, Henry L. Shattuck Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

David Haig, George Putnam Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology

Evelyn L. Hu, Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering

Neil Levine, Emmet Blakeney Gleason Professor of History of Art and Architecture

James M. Moran, Donald H. Menzel Professor of Astrophysics; chair, Department of Astronomy

Carol C. Nadelson, professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

Gerald L. Neuman, Sinclair Armstrong Professor of International, Foreign, and Comparative Law, Harvard Law School

Marc Shell, Irving Babbitt Professor of Comparative Literature; professor of English

Catherine Elizabeth Snow, Patricia Albjerg Graham Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Bruce D. Walker, professor in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard School of Public Health; professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School

David A. Weitz, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics and Applied Physics

Fred M. Winston, John Emory Andrus Professor of Genetics, Harvard Medical School

Jan Ziolkowski, Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Medieval Latin; director, Dunham Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University


Photos: (top) by Marlon Kuzmick; (above) by Justin Ide | Harvard Staff Photographer
The competition promotes innovation by recognizing inventors and scientists early in their careers and rewarding students’ often-pioneering ideas as they address the problems of today’s world.

Chen, also a student in the Harvard/MIT Health Sciences and Technology Program, knew that although mice are widely used in medical research, they’re often not helpful for pharmaceutical testing. The liver is where many drugs are broken down, or metabolized, and mouse livers and human livers metabolize substances differently, but Chen developed a way to implant human liver cells in mice. Her approach is different from other existing techniques in that she implants a matrix that contains functioning human liver cells and the nutrients they need directly into a healthy mouse. The matrix, once implanted, performs much like a human liver, making it beneficial for drug testing and other therapeutic applications.

Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows, Erez Lieberman-Aiden ’10 SEAS and non-Harvard collaborator Nynke L. van Berkum received second prize for their work, and Bozhi Tian of Harvard Medical School and Tzahi Cohen-Karni of SEAS received third prize.

For more on the award and its finalists, visit www.invent.org/collegiate/presskit2010.

GSD STUDENTS UNVEIL NEW DESIGN JOURNAL

Trays journal, a student publication at the Graduate School of Design (GSD), and GSD student group Social Change and Activism have collaborated to create the first annual compendium on sociocultural awareness in design, titled DOI: Design Opportunity.

The goal of the publication is to showcase the myriad of GSD student work that contributes to the discourse on the global and regional role of socially conscious design. Its editors are GSD students Shelby Doyle and Quardean Lewis-Allen.

The release of the publication will be marked by a reception to follow a public lecture by Design Corps founder and 2010 Loeb Fellow Bryan Bell, at GSD’s Open House, Nov. 5, in the Gund Hall lobby from 5:30-6:30 p.m. alongside new GSD exhibition, Platform 3.

For all inquiries about the publication, editors, and events, contact soca@gsd.harvard.edu.

TWO FROM HBS WIN AWARD FOR ARTICLE


Chosen by the publication’s editorial review board and editors, the article, which appeared in the winter 2009 issue of the journal, concludes that “while meaning making remains the central purpose of marketing communication, the shift from broadcasting to interaction within digital communities is moving the locus of control over meanings from marketer to consumer and rewarding more participatory, more sincere, and less directive marketing styles.”

ARNOLD ARBORETUM ANNOUNCES T-SHIRT CONTEST

The Arnold Arboretum invites artists of all ages to submit their T-shirt designs for Lilac Sunday 2011. Lilac-themed T-shirts have been a tradition at Lilac Sunday for many years, and continue to be a highly anticipated and popular memento of this event.

Designs must be original artwork for the front of a T-shirt, suitable for men and women. The competition is open to all ages, and each artist may submit up to three designs. The deadline for all submissions is Jan. 31.

For the complete guidelines, visit http://arboretum.harvard.edu/news-events/lilac-sunday/lilac-t-shirt-contest.

NOMA-REISCHAUER PRIZES AWARDED IN JAPANESE STUDIES


The Noma-Reischauer prizes are given annually by Kodansha Ltd. for the best essays written by Harvard students on Japan-related topics. This year, Marie Kodama ’10, social studies, won the undergraduate prize for her essay “Within and Beyond Traditions: Contextualizing Japan’s School-based Peace Education in Classical Japanese and Western Trends.” Wei Yu Wayne Tan, Ph.D. candidate in Harvard’s Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, won the graduate prize for his essay “Blind Monks for Hire: Making Music and Money in Medieval and Early Modern Japan.”

The deadline for submitting essays for the 2011 Noma-Reischauer Prize is June 20, 2011. For more information, call the Reischauer Institute at 617.495.3220 or visit www.fas.harvard.edu/~rijs/fellowships.

— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer
No ordinary leader
Women’s basketball coach builds on legacy of success, looks to the future.

By Paul Massari | Harvard Staff Writer

Dominant. That’s the only word to describe the Harvard women’s basketball team over the past 25 years. The team has won 11 Ivy League championships since 1986 — a little less than one every other year — and 70 percent of its games in interleague play. Perhaps most remarkable, the Harvard women are the only team — male or female — to enter the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament as a No. 16 seed and defeat a No. 1, as they did when they beat Stanford in 1998.

The team’s success coincides with the tenure of head coach Kathy Delaney-Smith. Now entering her 29th season at Harvard, Delaney-Smith has won more games than any head coach in Ivy women’s basketball history. She says that a willingness to make room for the contributions of others has been key to her success.

“Some coaches worry about losing authority and respect,” she says. “Don’t get me wrong, I’m the boss, but I hire young, talented assistants who complement my weaknesses, and I let them coach.”

Delaney-Smith balked at coming to Harvard in the early 1980s. The coach had developed a strong girls basketball program at the high school level and says that — fairly or unfairly — the University wasn’t known for its athletic programs. Her friends and colleagues tried to talk her out of becoming coach of Harvard’s women’s team.

“When I gave up tenure in a winning program in the early ‘80s, a lot of people thought I was crazy,” she says. “But I’m a good communicator and I love my players. My style of coaching is a good match for Harvard’s student athletes.”

Brogan Berry ’12, the starting point guard for the women’s team and Ivy League Rookie of the Year in 2008-09, says Delaney-Smith is a “motivator” who has an impact on players on and off the court.

“She cares about you. She takes your talent and tries to do anything she can to make you a better player and person. She’s taught me a lot about being a strong woman and a better leader.”

“ENOUGH, KATHY” Delaney-Smith, who was diagnosed with breast cancer 11 years ago, is an authority on staying strong in the face of adversity — and on the importance of teammates who can help you through.

“When they told me I had cancer, I immediately thought I was going to die,” she says. “People here at Harvard didn’t let me walk two steps without letting me know that was not the case at all.”

The coach chose to keep working during her treatment, which included surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. She missed only a handful of practices during the 1999-2000 season, and says that coaching helped keep her spirits up. Still, when the team lost the Ivy League championship on the last day of the season, she was grateful for a break.

“If we had won the title, I don’t think I would have lasted another three weeks,” she adds. “I was exhausted from the treatments. I went home and I didn’t move for days. I honestly feel that it was my higher power saying, ‘Enough, Kathy.’”

Today, the coach is “healthy as a horse.” She believes her recovery from cancer gave her a new awareness of the impact she has on her players and what they mean to her.

“I understand how important my girls are to me and how much I love watching them grow,” she explains. “I used to be very intense and volatile. I’m calmer now. I had my priorities rearranged.”

REBOUND When a season ends without a title — as last year’s did — it leaves Delaney-Smith with a bitter taste in her mouth and a desire to get back on top.

“It was a big disappointment,” she says of the team’s loss to Ivy champion Princeton in one of the last games of the year. “We had the guns to beat them, but we had too many injuries. This year, we’re nice and deep.”

That depth includes Berry, a player Delaney-Smith calls “either the best I’ve ever coached or equal” — high praise from a woman who has worked with players such as the WNBA’s Allison Feaster.

“Brogan stands out because of her court IQ and work ethic,” Delaney-Smith continues. “She’s our best player, but also our hardest worker. That’s hugely important.”

The Crimson — who also return Emma Markley ’11 and Christine Matera ’11 — lost no players to graduation last year and have added several promising freshmen. Still, Delaney-Smith says that the competition will be tough, particularly from champion Princeton, who went undefeated in Ivy League play last year.

“The Tigers are the team to beat,” she says. “They swept the league last year.”

The future looks bright for the women’s basketball program, according to the coach. Delaney-Smith says that there’s no reason Harvard can’t compete with the best teams in the nation.

“Harvard basketball will never be bigger than Harvard,” she says. “And I think that’s a good thing. But we can still create the tradition and attract the recruits and support we need to be the best.”

Coach Kathy Delaney-Smith (top) has won more games than any head coach in Ivy women’s basketball history. Ivy League Rookie of the Year Brogan Berry ’12 (left) says Delaney-Smith is a “motivator” who has an impact on players on and off the court.
**NOV. 4**

**Artist Talk with Katarina Burin.**
Carpenter Center Room B-04, 6-7 p.m.

Free. 617.495.3251, ves.fas.harvard.edu/burin.html.

**NOV. 8**

**A Dialogue with China on Human Rights: A Personal Odyssey.**
John Chipman Gray Room 213, Pound Hall, HLS, 1563 Massachusetts Ave., noon-1 p.m. John Kamm, founder and executive director, The Dui Hua Foundation. Sponsored by East Asian Legal Studies, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, and Human Rights Program.

**NOV. 11**

**Ruddigore.**
Agassiz Theater, 8 p.m. Presented by the Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players Nov. 4-14. Tickets are $14 general; $10 students/senior citizens; $5 Harvard students (Thursday performances). See www.hrsgp.org/index.htm for other performance dates.

**NOV. 16**

**Zeus in Aeschylus.**
Fong Auditorium, Boylston Hall, 4:15-5:45 p.m. Martin West, University of Oxford. Sponsored by the Classics Department. Free and open to the public. calclass@fas.harvard.edu.

**NOV. 19-22**

**The Cinematic Portraits of Jerry Schatzberg.**
Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St. Schatzberg will be present Nov. 19 & 20. Special event tickets are $12. Regular screenings: $9 general; $7 non-Harvard students, senior citizens, Harvard faculty and staff; free for Harvard students. 617.495.4700, hcl.harvard.edu/hfa.
As Drag Night reaches full swing in the Adams House dining hall, female students dressed as "greasers" and male students dressed as "pink ladies" belt out the song "You're the One That I Want" from the musical "Grease." Amid a fortress of soda bottles and pizza boxes, the golden locks of Adams House co-Master Sean Palfrey bounce up and down as he rocks with laughter.

Judith Palfrey, also co-Master and dressed as the baseball player "Shoeless Joe," explains the event’s origins: "The first Drag Night arose over 20 years ago in response to safety issues for gay and lesbian students at Harvard. It’s important to understand the differences and enjoy the diversity of people. That’s what Adams House stands for, particularly the strengths that each person brings to the community. Also, this is just pure fun and silly!"

Wearing a pink cashmere sweater, black wig, and chiffon skirt, Collin Rees ’12 said, "Drag Night reaches back to the roots of Adams House, back to when it was seen as the artsy House … It’s a chance to do something really fun with the Adams House community."

For one evening, life is simply a drag

A look inside: Adams House

Photos and text by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer

Online View photo gallery: hvd.gs/64947