Game changers

Harvard’s questing minds are producing real-world breakthroughs, innovative companies. Page 4
Online Highlights

RECORD APPLICATIONS TO HARVARD COLLEGE
Nearly 35,000 students applied for admission to Harvard College’s Class of 2015 for entry in August, an increase of nearly 15 percent over last year, and of more than 50 percent from four years ago. Financial aid program proves a major attraction. http://hvd.gs/70394

› BLACK IN LATIN AMERICA
In what many participants called a “historic moment,” scholars from around the world gathered for three days at Harvard to explore issues of race, racial identity, and racism in Latin America. http://hvd.gs/71927

› EIGHT WEEKS TO A BETTER BRAIN
Harvard researchers find that participating in an eight-week mindfulness meditation program appears to make measurable changes in brain regions associated with memory, sense of self, empathy, and stress. http://hvd.gs/71784

› OH, THE HUMANITY

› THE MOORE’S THE MERRIER
It snowed on Julianne Moore’s parade, but the acclaimed actress and 2011 Woman of the Year didn’t let weather stop her from visiting Harvard for a tour, a roast, and the coveted Pudding Pot on Jan. 27. Man of the Year Jay Leno hits Harvard tomorrow (Feb. 5). http://hvd.gs/71784

› INSIDE DUMBARTON OAKS
More people are enjoying the treasures of Harvard-owned Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., in part because of the opening of new library and museum facilities, and because of fresh efforts to increase connections with Harvard’s Cambridge campus and reach out to political, educational, and cultural leaders. http://hvd.gs/69985

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

Distribution and Subscriptions: 617.495.4743 Delivered free to faculty and staff offices, undergraduate residences, and other locations around the University. U.S. delivery (periodical mail) of 16 issues per year, $32. Surface delivery in other countries (including Canada), $39.

Address Changes: Harvard Gazette Attention: Circulation, Holsyke Center 1060 Cambridge, MA 02138


Harvard Public Affairs and Communications: 617.495.1585 News Office Fax: 617.495.0754

HARVARD gazette

Photos: (top and center) by Kris Snibbe, (right) by Jon Chase, (bottom) by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographers
GAME CHANGERS
Out-of-the-box thinking is a key driving force in Harvard’s many Schools and institutes. Increasingly, practical innovations produced at the University are making their way into the wider world, creating companies and jobs in the process. Below, a “lung on a chip,” which mimics the human organ. Page 4

SCIENCE & HEALTH

SCHOLARSHIP BEYOND WORDS
Harvard classes and a new journal embrace an emerging wave of doctoral learning beyond the written word that uses film, photo, audio, and other communication channels. Page 7

ARTS & CULTURE

ART BY DEGREES
Three Harvard graduates, now practicing artists, bring home lessons learned, along with a quirky exhibit. Page 8

GLIMPSES OF SCREENWRITING
Roland Tec, a filmmaker, writer, director, producer, and Harvard graduate, explored the inner workings of his craft during an intensive workshop. Page 9

TROUBLED YOUTH
Linda Schlossberg’s debut novel, “Life in Miniature,” depicts a mother’s mental illness and a daughter’s coming of age. Page 10

HARVARD BOUND
What’s black and white and read all over? This week’s Harvard Bound! An exploration of mental illness, research into France’s poetry via topography, and essays on evolution comprise this edition’s field guide to Harvard faculty books. Page 10

NATIONAL & WORLD AFFAIRS

TURNING ON THE LIGHTS
Like much of Africa, Liberia relies on ineffective, dirty sources of energy. Coming off a fellowship at Harvard’s Advanced Leadership Initiative, Richard Fahey has one big goal: to transform the country’s electrical grid from the bottom up. Page 11

CHANGING HOW TEACHERS IMPROVE
A new initiative headed by a Harvard scholar aims to transform the way teachers improve their performance, and to overhaul the nation’s public schools in the process. Page 12

12

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

SHOCK AMID THE SERVICE
A winter break trip to the Southwest’s Navajo Nation brings the reality of poverty to a group of undergraduates. Page 13

A BREAK WITH THE PAST
Undergrads and College administrators are looking back on winter break 2011 to evaluate the many new programs, and to ponder changes. One thing is already clear: Winter break provided experiences not usually available to students during the semester. Page 14

STUDENT VOICE/JOHNNY BOWMAN
A Harvard student leader travels to Moscow for a firsthand look at how the government there works. Page 15

MEDICAL SCHOOL MENDS ITS WAYS
In going green, HMS finds its challenges in the labs. With a little ingenuity, the healthier environment wins out. Page 16

FACULTY PROFILE/MARY LEWIS
When the Berlin Wall fell, student Mary Lewis knew she should study the past. Now a professor, she is an authority on how France evolved. Page 17

HELP ON THE HOME FRONT
Harvard programs assist employees trying to juggle careers and families, while bridging coverage gaps. Page 18

STAFF PROFILE/KEVIN BRYANT
Police Sgt. Kevin Bryant has studied everything from the Bible to Buddhism to kenpo karate, bringing an appreciation for Harvard’s many cultures to his work. Page 19

ATHLETICS/WRESTLING
Harvard wrestlers work toward a turnaround after an early-season losing streak. Page 22
Innovate, create

From oddities like breathable chocolate to history-making devices with profound societal effects, like the heart pacemaker, Harvard’s combination of questing minds, restless spirits, and intellectual seekers fosters creativity and innovation that’s finding an outlet in new inventions and companies.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

The heart pacemaker. Surgical anesthesia. Facebook. Even breathable chocolate.

Harvard’s combination of questing minds, passionate spirits, and intellectual seekers tackling society’s toughest problems fosters a creativity that has produced a stream of innovations, from novel inventions to history-making devices that provide profound benefits to the public.

Creative thinking is a key component of Harvard’s Schools, centers, and institutes. Many innovations have come from looking at old problems in new ways, from recognizing the importance of serendipitous results, and from understanding that failures are steps to success. That innovative spirit has long been part of Harvard’s DNA, leading to the first use of anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1846 and the development of the pacemaker by Paul Zoll in the 1950s.

President Drew Faust highlighted this University role when she took office, noting that an institution of higher education has an “accountability to the future.”

“One of the most significant things about our research universities,” she told a gathering of civic and higher education leaders in Boston, “is that they are engines that also produce the fuel — the scientists, physicians, and engineers, the thinkers and ideas ... that spur the new products, new jobs, and new companies that will help renew our economy.”

Increasingly, Harvard fosters not just innovative thinking, but also development of the University’s big ideas into products and companies that create jobs. The Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering focuses on moving cutting-edge breakthroughs from the lab into the hands of private industry. Harvard Business School’s (HBS) planned Innovation Lab aims to foster creativity and entrepreneurship for undergraduates and graduate students alike.

The Office of Technology Development (OTD) plays a vital role in the University’s public service mission, helping to propel emerging Harvard technologies out of the lab and into the marketplace where they can be put to use. OTD’s Accelerator Fund provides resources to develop new technologies after traditional research funding ends until the discoveries become attractive to private industry. Inven-

Researchers at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering are developing a technology that can get test results for sepsis in an hour. Researchers often have to pursue their riskiest projects on the fringes of more mainstream work, says Wyss Director Don Ingber. But the Wyss puts that risky work front and center, giving researchers the freedom to pursue ideas that would not make the cut for traditional grants from funders such as the National Institutes of Health.
Innovation often starts with Harvard's students, who put imaginative twists on class projects that can result in products like VertiGrow, a modular planter that can be stacked vertically in crowded urban spaces, providing a way to improve nutrition in developing world slums. VertiGrow, which won an Innovator Award from the Harvard Initiative for Global Health, has taken its inventor, Elizabeth Nowak '10, to Africa for product research. The venture serves as a reminder of other exciting ideas that have emerged from the work of Harvard students in the past. Think of Microsoft and Facebook.

As counterintuitive as it may seem, innovation can be taught. It had better be teachable, said Peter Tufano, the Sylvan Coleman Professor of Financial Management at HBS and soon-to-be dean of Oxford University's Said Business School, because it is a key to success in the business world. SEAS Dean Cherry Murray, who has a couple of patents of her own and experience at the renowned Bell Laboratories, said innovation’s roots lie in creativity. She learned long ago, watching her mother teach art, that every child is creative in some way. The goal of Harvard faculty is to nurture such inventiveness.

“Normal children are innovative. They’re very creative,” Murray said. “I don’t think you have to teach them. You need to reach in and let it loose.”

Among SEAS’ courses are “Innovation in Science and Engineering,” “Social Entrepreneurship,” and “How to Create Things and Have Them Matter.”

The new Technology and Entrepreneurship Center at Harvard (TECH) supports student projects and advises innovation-minded student groups. A new emphasis on design-based teaching, Murray said, will give students hands-on experience that teaches in ways that lectures and readings cannot.

And then there’s CS 50. Offered for 27 years, CS 50 is a perennially popular introductory computer science course that not only teaches basic computer programming, but it forces students to program on their own, with sometimes transformative results. The annual semester-end fair, held in December in the Northwest Science Building, drew hundreds of faculty, students, staff, and industry representatives to look over student projects. The course so energizes students that some continue their work even after class ends.

“This is literally one of those classes that changed my life,” said instructor David Malan, who took CS 50 as an undergraduate in 1996 and switched from a concentration in government to computer science. “After CS 50, I knew what I wanted to study. ... It’s really gratifying what you can do by immersing yourself in a new world and realizing what’s possible.”

Eric Mazur, the Balkanski Professor of Physics and Applied Physics and area dean for applied physics, thinks science teaching should be reformed. Much traditional instruction requires students to memorize facts and solve problems, but Mazur believes that problem solving taught in school is unlike problem solving in the real world.

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

“In the classroom, all that matters is whether you
get the right answer. In any real-life problem, you al-
ready know the answer. All that matters is how you
get there,” said Mazur, whose discovery of light-ab-
sorbing black silicon led to the creation of SiOnyx,
which markets a process that improves the sensitiv-
ity of optical detectors used in imaging systems.
“How can it be that we still manage to have quite a
bit of innovation when we don’t know how to train
for it?”

Creativity and innovation come from being able to
apply fresh insights to different contexts. To teach
that, classes have to take students out of their com-
fort zones, Mazur said. He encourages his graduate
students to try new approaches without worrying
about results — at least at first. Such experiences, he
said, can be disconcerting for goal-oriented individ-
uals, but the exploration often generates new ideas
that point in a unique research direction.

“Real creativity is not a straight path. Real creativity
goes left and right and runs into walls,” Mazur said.

“In an optimal world, we want our students not to be
able to reproduce what we did, but to stand on our
shoulders and push the envelope further.”

Seeking fresh insights to existing problems was be-
hind a novel effort last fall to generate new projects
in diabetes research. Associate Professor of Pedi-
atrics Eva Guinan, director of the Harvard Catalyst
Linkages Program, and a partner, HBS Assistant
Professor Karim Lakhani, sent out a call for ideas to
the entire Harvard community. In December, a
dozen winners were selected from 190 submissions.
The winners — and funding — are being handed off
for further exploration.

Though such “crowdsourcing” may seem a new ap-
proach, Guinan said the concept traces its roots to
the centuries-old prizes offered for solutions to
knotty problems. The method’s advantage, Guinan
said, is that it garners ideas from people with differ-
ent backgrounds and fresh perspectives.

“‘You just never know’ is the point,” Guinan said.
“We have an incredibly rich community that can
think creatively. Not to use it would be to miss an
opportunity.”

Another way to spur innovation is to encourage
high-risk, high-reward research that is often pushed
to the margins by more mainstream projects. The Wyss
Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering
takes such a tack as it tries to improve medical care
and environmental sustainability by applying les-
sions learned from nature. It has rapidly grown since
being established two years ago with the largest sin-
gle gift in Harvard’s history — $125 million from en-
trepreneur Hansjörg Wyss. It has 230 staff members
translated into policies … or translated into thera-
pies.”

GUIDING DISCOVERIES TO THE PUBLIC

Harvard’s Office of Tech-
nology Development tries
to ensure that the public
sees the benefits of Har-
vard’s research by licens-
ing new technology to
companies. To learn
more, visit http://hvd.gs/
71731.

Once an innovative idea is conceived, it often re-
quires a different kind of support than is typically
available in a classroom. One solution to that con-
cern is the Innovation Lab, a University-wide facil-
ity designed to capture the power of creativity at
Harvard’s diverse Schools, centers, and depart-
ments. It is scheduled to open in Allston later this
year.

“We can teach students about innovation and entre-
preneurship, but at the end of the day the teaching
is not only through courses, but through hands-on
practice,” said Tufano of HBS. “We expect a lot of ac-
tivity in the evenings and early mornings. There
seems to be an extraordinary level of interest.”

The lab will support innovation and entrepreneur-
ship by students and faculty across Harvard’s many
Schools, as well as from the community. The facility
will have workspace in the back, “pitch rooms”
where groups can meet with potential funders, and a
larger space for public events in front. It will host
discussions on entrepreneurship and intellectual
property rights, and it will offer counseling to stu-
dent groups and small businesses in the community,
with the goal of supporting the creation of new busi-
nesses and nonprofits.

And as it evolves, the lab will help the University to
be accountable to the future.

“Education, research, teaching are always about
change,” Faust said in her inaugural address, “trans-
forming individuals as they learn, transforming the
world as our inquiries alter our understanding of it,
transforming societies as we see our knowledge
translated into policies … or translated into thera-
pies.”
Scholarship beyond words

Harvard classes and a new journal embrace an emerging wave of doctoral learning beyond the written word that uses film, photo, audio, and other communication channels.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

We all know the look of a doctoral dissertation: thick, heavy, and tightly bound. Inside it are phalanxes of paragraphs. Words march past by the thousands.

Text-heavy dissertations, after all, are artifacts of a medieval university culture that gave the printed word scholastic pre-eminence.

But Harvard anticipates scholarship that goes beyond the written word. It welcomes film, photo, audio, and other means of cultural expression, without abandoning the traditional rigor of academic investigation.

One sign of this new wave came last fall, when the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) approved a secondary Ph.D. field in “critical media practice,” proposed by Harvard anthropologist Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Joseph Pellegrino University Professor Peter Galison. For the first time, doctoral students can now incorporate video, film, photography, exhibition, hypermedia, the Internet, and other sources of nontextual information into their academic work. Students can apply starting this semester.

They are required to take two core courses, two electives, and do a “capstone” media project that complements the written dissertation. In a few years, Harvard will graduate its first Ph.D.s who create these scholarly hybrids.

One of the new secondary field’s required core courses was offered last fall at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD). GSD 3418, “Media Archaeology of Place” (jointly offered as ANTH 2837 and VES 162), was an experiment in breaking boundaries and blending disciplines. The course website told its students, “Nothing like this has been done here before.”

A mix of graduates and undergraduates signed up from anthropology, design, music, and film. Their task was to “excavate” learning in a new way, by searching for “the media archaeology” of Boston. They used old and new media that revealed regional portraits not seen before.

In part, the course was the latest flowering of experimental media archaeology work done over the past 10 years by Jesse Shapins, a GSD instructor in architecture. He and others developed collaborations that used digital media to capture street-level, multisensory portraits of city life and history.

Among the interactive database projects created were The Colors of Berlin, Yellow Arrow, Capitol of Punk, and The Secret New York.

The media archaeology course was offered with Harvard’s Sensory Ethnography Lab, a collaboration between the Department of Anthropology and the Visual and Environmental Studies program (VES).

It also arose naturally from “Media Archaeology of Boston,” a Cambridge Talks III exhibit that Shapins co-curated in 2009 with Castaing-Taylor, GSD Ph.D. student Olga Touloumi, Sensory Ethnography Lab manager Ernst Karel, and Boston documentary filmmaker Julie Mallozzi.

In the spring, the exhibit will be released as a “DVD publication” funded by the Provostial Fund for Arts and Humanities. It will be distributed to libraries, just like a book or a journal. “The idea is to experiment with new forms of multimedia scholarly publications,” said Shapins.

Around the same time, in April, the first issue of Sensate will appear. The online journal will be the first at Harvard that invites scholars to use audio, video, and other nontraditional media. Sensate is a graduate student collaboration between Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Last year, Shapins also co-created Mapping Main Street with economics Ph.D. candidate James Burns and public radio producers Kara Oehler and Ann Heppermann. This collaboration — with Harvard’s Berkman Center for Internet and Society and others — laid the groundwork for the open source software that supports the concept of media archaeology. It’s called Zeega, an homage to Russian newsreel pioneer Dziga Vertov, whose work influenced cinema verite.

Scholarship beyond words

Harvard classes and a new journal embrace an emerging wave of doctoral learning beyond the written word that uses film, photo, audio, and other communication channels.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

We all know the look of a doctoral dissertation: thick, heavy, and tightly bound. Inside it are phalanxes of paragraphs. Words march past by the thousands.

Text-heavy dissertations, after all, are artifacts of a medieval university culture that gave the printed word scholastic pre-eminence.

But Harvard anticipates scholarship that goes beyond the written word. It welcomes film, photo, audio, and other means of cultural expression, without abandoning the traditional rigor of academic investigation.

One sign of this new wave came last fall, when the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) approved a secondary Ph.D. field in “critical media practice,” proposed by Harvard anthropologist Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Joseph Pellegrino University Professor Peter Galison. For the first time, doctoral students can now incorporate video, film, photography, exhibition, hypermedia, the Internet, and other sources of nontextual information into their academic work. Students can apply starting this semester.

They are required to take two core courses, two electives, and do a “capstone” media project that complements the written dissertation. In a few years, Harvard will graduate its first Ph.D.s who create these scholarly hybrids.

One of the new secondary field’s required core courses was offered last fall at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD). GSD 3418, “Media Archaeology of Place” (jointly offered as ANTH 2837 and VES 162), was an experiment in breaking boundaries and blending disciplines. The course website told its students, “Nothing like this has been done here before.”

A mix of graduates and undergraduates signed up from anthropology, design, music, and film. Their task was to “excavate” learning in a new way, by searching for “the media archaeology” of Boston. They used old and new media that revealed regional portraits not seen before.

In part, the course was the latest flowering of experimental media archaeology work done over the past 10 years by Jesse Shapins, a GSD instructor in architecture. He and others developed collaborations that used digital media to capture street-level, multisensory portraits of city life and history.

Among the interactive database projects created were The Colors of Berlin, Yellow Arrow, Capitol of Punk, and The Secret New York.

The media archaeology course was offered with Harvard’s Sensory Ethnography Lab, a collaboration between the Department of Anthropology and the Visual and Environmental Studies program (VES).

It also arose naturally from “Media Archaeology of Boston,” a Cambridge Talks III exhibit that Shapins co-curated in 2009 with Castaing-Taylor, GSD Ph.D. student Olga Touloumi, Sensory Ethnography Lab manager Ernst Karel, and Boston documentary filmmaker Julie Mallozzi.

In the spring, the exhibit will be released as a “DVD publication” funded by the Provostial Fund for Arts and Humanities. It will be distributed to libraries, just like a book or a journal. “The idea is to experiment with new forms of multimedia scholarly publications,” said Shapins.

Around the same time, in April, the first issue of Sensate will appear. The online journal will be the first at Harvard that invites scholars to use audio, video, and other nontraditional media. Sensate is a graduate student collaboration between Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Last year, Shapins also co-created Mapping Main Street with economics Ph.D. candidate James Burns and public radio producers Kara Oehler and Ann Heppermann. This collaboration — with Harvard’s Berkman Center for Internet and Society and others — laid the groundwork for the open source software that supports the concept of media archaeology. It’s called Zeega, an homage to Russian newsreel pioneer Dziga Vertov, whose work influenced cinema verite.

Scholarship beyond words

Harvard classes and a new journal embrace an emerging wave of doctoral learning beyond the written word that uses film, photo, audio, and other communication channels.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

We all know the look of a doctoral dissertation: thick, heavy, and tightly bound. Inside it are phalanxes of paragraphs. Words march past by the thousands.

Text-heavy dissertations, after all, are artifacts of a medieval university culture that gave the printed word scholastic pre-eminence.

But Harvard anticipates scholarship that goes beyond the written word. It welcomes film, photo, audio, and other means of cultural expression, without abandoning the traditional rigor of academic investigation.

One sign of this new wave came last fall, when the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) approved a secondary Ph.D. field in “critical media practice,” proposed by Harvard anthropologist Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Joseph Pellegrino University Professor Peter Galison. For the first time, doctoral students can now incorporate video, film, photography, exhibition, hypermedia, the Internet, and other sources of nontextual information into their academic work. Students can apply starting this semester.

They are required to take two core courses, two electives, and do a “capstone” media project that complements the written dissertation. In a few years, Harvard will graduate its first Ph.D.s who create these scholarly hybrids.

One of the new secondary field’s required core courses was offered last fall at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD). GSD 3418, “Media Archaeology of Place” (jointly offered as ANTH 2837 and VES 162), was an experiment in breaking boundaries and blending disciplines. The course website told its students, “Nothing like this has been done here before.”

A mix of graduates and undergraduates signed up from anthropology, design, music, and film. Their task was to “excavate” learning in a new way, by searching for “the media archaeology” of Boston. They used old and new media that revealed regional portraits not seen before.

In part, the course was the latest flowering of experimental media archaeology work done over the past 10 years by Jesse Shapins, a GSD instructor in architecture. He and others developed collaborations that used digital media to capture street-level, multisensory portraits of city life and history.

Among the interactive database projects created were The Colors of Berlin, Yellow Arrow, Capitol of Punk, and The Secret New York.

The media archaeology course was offered with Harvard’s Sensory Ethnography Lab, a collaboration between the Department of Anthropology and the Visual and Environmental Studies program (VES).

It also arose naturally from “Media Archaeology of Boston,” a Cambridge Talks III exhibit that Shapins co-curated in 2009 with Castaing-Taylor, GSD Ph.D. student Olga Touloumi, Sensory Ethnography Lab manager Ernst Karel, and Boston documentary filmmaker Julie Mallozzi.

In the spring, the exhibit will be released as a “DVD publication” funded by the Provostial Fund for Arts and Humanities. It will be distributed to libraries, just like a book or a journal. “The idea is to experiment with new forms of multimedia scholarly publications,” said Shapins.

Around the same time, in April, the first issue of Sensate will appear. The online journal will be the first at Harvard that invites scholars to use audio, video, and other nontraditional media. Sensate is a graduate student collaboration between Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Last year, Shapins also co-created Mapping Main Street with economics Ph.D. candidate James Burns and public radio producers Kara Oehler and Ann Heppermann. This collaboration — with Harvard’s Berkman Center for Internet and Society and others — laid the groundwork for the open source software that supports the concept of media archaeology. It’s called Zeega, an homage to Russian newsreel pioneer Dziga Vertov, whose work influenced cinema verite.

(see Course next page)
Art by degrees

Three Harvard graduates, now practicing artists, bring home lessons learned, along with a quirky exhibit.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Is there life after Harvard? One sort of answer comes today (Feb. 3) when three artists, all graduates of the Visual and Environmental Studies (VES) program, revisit their alma mater for a discussion of lessons learned and art done beyond college.

The panel is part of “Object Lessons,” an exhibit of work by the artists Liz Glynn ’03 of Los Angeles; Meredith James ’04 of New York City; and Xiaowei Wang ’08, now a landscape architecture student at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

The show, which is wry and quirky, runs through Feb. 20 at Harvard’s Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. Among the mixed media, video, and installation work is a short 2009 video by Glynn, the title of which is a kind of anthem for artists: “No Resistance Is Futile.”

Six milling figures, recorded from above, struggle to control a tall bundle of lumber tied at the middle. Their resistance is not futile; it makes art. The linear stack collapses into a gorgeous, starlike pile composed of a chair, a motor-driven bicycle chain, and rubber hands that clap.

“As an artist, you end up having to be your own audience a lot, because you’re alone so much of the time,” said James. “So I did that to have my own audience.”

“Object Lessons” includes two videos by James, which in part work out her obsession with the built environment. (“I grew up in a New York City apartment,” she said, which fueled her fascination with old houses out of scale with those of her childhood.)

“Present Time” (2009) features ornate doors, high mirrors, spacious rooms, and building facades that the artist climbs up and down as if she were on a jungle gym.

“Day Shift” (2008) features a cramped office the size of a coffin. The set is part of the exhibit: tiny windows, miniature Venetian blinds, a tiny chair, and a child-sized desk. “When I started building things with house parts,” said James, who plays a security guard in the video, “it had something to do with wanting to twist up space.”

Twisting up space may be the soul of video. “You can play with reality just slightly,” she said, “and peoples’ imaginations fill it in.”

Art has a way of twisting up time too. On display is Glynn’s “The 24 Hour Roman Reconstruction Project” (2008). In the video, workers at cartoonish speed construct a replica of Rome in a day, and then destroy it.

Wang is not out to wreck the Carpenter Center with her share of the exhibit. But she at least wants to argue with it. Her banners, frames, and lichen-smeared bricks are all set up outside the iconic 1963 structure, the only building in North America designed by Le Corbusier.

“Why should he be so important?” said Wang of Le Corbusier (1887-1965), a designer with a monumental reputation. Her part of the exhibit adds hints of nature to “a difficult building for anything to grow on,” she said. The hanging Tyvek banners wave like water in the wind, and in just weeks Wang’s bricks will sprout lichen.

Wang said the VES program prepared her to be an artist, but also to be anything else. James, who was once Glynn’s roommate at Harvard, said VES was a place to make lifelong friends, who at first “were the only people who would look at my work.”

James remembered being wowed years ago by her accomplished freshman peers. But no one arrived on campus knowing everything about drawing, animation, or film, she said. “Art was one of the only places you could start from scratch.”

Online “Object Lessons”: www.ves.fas.harvard.edu/VES_AlumExhibition.html
Glimpses of screenwriting

Roland Tec, a filmmaker, writer, director, producer, and Harvard graduate, explored the inner workings of his craft during an intensive workshop.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

When Roland Tec was at Harvard, he used to swim at the Adams House pool. Last month, he was back in the pool, which has since been converted into a theater, to discuss his artistic career.

It was an appropriate venue for him. An established New York-based writer, producer, director, and composer, Tec ’88 used the myriad characters imagined by a group of 10 Harvard students to explore how to craft a compelling story for film. The discussion was part of a January intensive workshop in screenwriting for undergraduates, sponsored by Harvard’s Office for the Arts (OFA).

For the course, senior Riva Nathans examined the life of 19th century philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. Based on his journals, Nathans, a Dunster House resident, developed a play around Kierkegaard’s relationship with his family. She took the two-day seminar to help improve her writing.

“I figured I should go for every dramatic writing opportunity I can get at Harvard, so I went for it,” said Nathans, a neuroscience concentrator who hopes to pursue a career in theater and film and possibly in science as well after graduation. “J-term allows people to experiment,” she added.

Tec helped the students to explore a more realistic form of dialogue, examining subtle ways of having their characters communicate with one another. He urged the students to make their characters hint at their feelings or agendas, instead of speaking their minds directly.

He also encouraged the students to have their characters periodically say nothing.

“Pauses are a really important tool. Every time there is a pause on stage, it belongs to someone. What we mean when we say that ... is that [one of the actors] puts the pause in the conversation,” said Tec, who added that a gap in dialogue can heighten a scene’s tension or emotion.

Later, he examined the “descriptive act,” a dramatic technique used to reveal aspects of a character in the absence of words.

“Jack and Jill were in a relationship, they were a couple, and now they are broken up,” said Tec. “You want to come up with some visual clues ... a sentence or two that tells us that in purely visual terms.”

The students let their imaginations roam.

“Jack throws Jill’s clothes out the window,” one student offered. “Jill changes her Facebook status,” said another. “Jill uses her key to get into Jack’s house, and she burns down his bed,” quipped another.

Tec’s own journey from Harvard to stage and film came by way of music. A music concentrator while at Harvard, he founded an experimental opera company in Boston after graduation and caught the movie bug when he was asked to score a film. His films include “We Pedal Uphill,” a look at the life of various characters after the 9/11 attacks, and “All the Rage,” about a gay lawyer who finds romance with an unlikely partner.

Tec said a top-notch producer is able to “break down the script,” or determine how many locations the script calls for and how many days of shooting will be required.

Wearing his writer’s hat, he said he never considers his scripts truly finished, because he continually tinkers with his work. The trick, he said, “is learning to force yourself to stop.”

Above all, Tec urged the students to take advantage of opportunities at Harvard to get involved with theater projects and to connect with people who share their artistic visions.

“If you find a person that you enjoy collaborating with,” said Tec, “hold onto them.”

Harvard’s January intensives are brief courses and seminars that offer students a chance to experiment with the arts and interact with professionals without the challenge of juggling a full academic schedule.

OFA students also could take a ceramics seminar, a workshop on watercolors, and a course on the fashion industry. There were other arts intensives in January, supported by Harvard’s Office of Career Services, the Office of the Associate Provost for Arts and Culture, the American Repertory Theater, the Department of Music, the Office of the Dean of Arts and Humanities, and Arts@29 Garden.

“It’s wonderful to see Harvard offering intensives in all of these arts,” said Madeleine Bennett, a senior at Adams House who is active in theater at Harvard and took part in Tec’s seminar. “It’s something that wasn’t available when I was an incoming freshman.”

Photos by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer
Troubled youth


By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

“My mother hasn’t gone to the grocery store for a few weeks — it just keeps slipping her mind, she told us — so for the last few nights we’ve been putting together meals based on whatever we can find in the cabinets and the back of the refrigerator,” says Adie, the narrator of Linda Schlossberg’s affecting debut novel, “Life in Miniature.”

Born three months premature, Adie is smaller than most girls her age. When her single mother, Mindy, suffers a nervous breakdown, a neighbor cares for the 12-year-old Adie and her teenage sister, Miriam, until Miriam runs off with a boyfriend to pursue a better life. The novel then traces Adie’s coming of age under the wing of an increasingly unhinged Mindy, who takes her on the run from motel to motel, trying to shake the drug dealers who she insists are closing in.

“I grew up in California, first in San Francisco’s Haight-Ashbury district and then in a nearby suburb much like the one in which ‘Life in Miniature’ is set,” said Schlossberg, a lecturer in the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

“I was one of those kids who was always reading, which I think gave me a good understanding from an early age of how voice and character work. I really love coming-of-age novels, particularly when they are written from the point of view of the child, and that’s what I set out to do with my novel.”

Schlossberg said she worked on “Life in Miniature” “on and off for many years.”

“Many of my courses in WGS explore issues of mental health and illness, particularly as they pertain to women,” she said. “I knew I was interested in telling a story about mental illness, and I wanted to explore the way in which a paranoid personality might draw upon the larger cultural paranoia of her time — in this case, the cultural anxieties surrounding drug use and the whole ‘Just Say No’ culture of the early 1980s.”

Funny and perceptive, Adie buoys the novel with the insight her mother lacks. On a trip to the store, Adie says, “I think the fact that we’re shopping, out in public, makes my mother feel like our lives aren’t that unusual. After all, in a store, everyone looks normal.”

Said Schlossberg: “At first I wanted to tell the story from the mother’s perspective, but then I realized that I was most interested in figuring out how a child — with her limited diagnostic vocabulary and cloudy understanding of the issues at hand — would try to make sense out of a confusing and necessarily unstable situation.”

When she rereads the novel, Schlossberg said, she’s “struck by how surprised I still am by certain parts of it. One of the most pleasurable things about writing is that sense of not fully controlling it.”

“‘You would think that after spending so much time revising the novel I would remember every line, but some of them still sneak up on me,’” she said. “‘But I do remember that I wrote the final chapter very quickly and liked it right away that I immediately thought, ‘OK, that’s it, that’s how the story ends.’”

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer
Despite the economic strides that many of its nations have made in recent years, Africa is still, in a literal sense, a dark continent. No country there represents this more clearly than Liberia, where only 2,000 homes in the nation of 4 million are hooked up to the electrical grid.

But where others see a problem too big to solve, Richard Fahey sees a hopeful future, and a burgeoning commercial market for solar energy.

“Liberia certainly is dark in terms of light, but not in human capital,” said Fahey, a 2010 fellow of Harvard’s Advanced Leadership Initiative.

This spring, Fahey will launch the Liberia Energy Network, a large-scale solar power project. If he reaches his goal of putting sun-powered lanterns in the hands of a million Liberians by next year, he will have proven, he said, that socially conscious industry can thrive in the impoverished nation.

Fahey, a retired environmental lawyer from Ohio and a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia in the 1960s, had a chance to return to the fragile country in 2009. It was the first time he had visited since a 14-year civil war broke out in 1989.

“One of the things that struck me was how shattered the social and cultural institutions are,” Fahey said. “The war did serious damage to the social order.”

He did notice, however, that a surprising number of Liberians had cell phones. Estimates of the average Liberian’s annual income hover around $220, but there was clearly a thriving market for first-world technology.

After the war, Fahey said, “so many people had to leave their traditional homelands and move to the cities. You have extended families now that are very distant from one another.” Cell phones became a way to stay connected to the village community.

The cell phone is so valuable, in fact, that the average Liberian spends 25 percent of his or her income (roughly $48 a year) to charge it, according to Fahey’s research. Because the vast majority of the country’s homes lack electricity, Liberians travel to “electricity centers” that exact a high price in exchange for charging a phone.

That figure could be greatly reduced if Liberians had individual solar-powered lanterns capable of charging a phone, Fahey said. Luckily, several manufacturers produce combination lantern-phon e chargers that cost roughly $45.

It’s what Fahey calls “just-good-enough technology,” a way to circumvent the expensive and unrealistic process of building a traditional energy grid. “That kind of investment is a very long way away,” Fahey said. “Plus it’s very old technology.” With solar power, he reasoned, “the people could build their own grid.”

Currently, the country’s poor inhabitants use inefficient and environmentally unfriendly kerosene lamps to light their homes.

“They live effectively end at sundown,” Fahey said. “And that has impacts for everyone.” It’s not uncommon, he said, to see children on sidewalks congregate around streetlights in the evening, trying to finish their homework by lamplight. Women and girls in particular are at a disadvantage, because they are often required to gather firewood or other fuel during the day and have no way to study at night, Fahey said.

In addition, dirty energy takes a toll on health. The World Health Organization estimates that 2 million people — 85 percent of them women and children — die annually from the air pollution caused by kerosene lamps and indoor cooking fires.

“Electricity is such a fundamental need that so many other things are built on top of,” Fahey said. “But it’s a very expensive thing.”

While Liberia, in Fahey’s words, “practically exists off foreign aid,” the microfinance industry has just begun to penetrate the country. Fahey is working with an anthropologist in Liberia to research traditional savings groups, which many Liberians use to finance cell phone purchases, as a way to help consumers purchase solar lanterns. He has also hired Liberians to lead focus groups that are testing different styles of solar generators.

“We’ve been trying to tell others what we think the Liberians need rather than asking what they need,” Fahey said. “This is giving them choices and thinking of them as consumers.”

That attitude is crucial to any business’s success, according to Michael Chu, a senior lecturer at Harvard Business School (HBS) who specializes in social enterprise and emerging markets, known in the B-school lexicon as “business at the base of the pyramid.”

Chu emphasized the role a successful, self-sustaining business can play in an untested market like Liberia. Good businesses attract competitors, which can in turn bring long-term economic growth to a region.

“The big impact of applying commercial solutions [to poverty] is not that one successful firm that comes out of it,” Chu said. “The big social payoff is that one great, successful business will create an industry.”

Chu’s ideas were among those Fahey absorbed at Harvard. The Advanced Leadership Initiative, now in its third year, offers late-career professionals the chance to audit courses across the University and prepare for new roles as leaders in the public sector, tackling social problems.

Harvard was “a good place to come rettool and recalibrate,” Fahey said. “I came here with a vague idea that would have looked a lot more like a traditional aid or development model. My thoughts have moved probably 180 degrees from that.”

Like many of the initiative’s fellows, Fahey is showing that “public good can also be carried out by for-profit companies,” said Rosabeth Moss Kanter, HBS’s Ernest L. Arbuckle Professor of Business Administration and the chair and director of the initiative.

“It’s not a question of nonprofit or for-profit, private sector or public sector,” she added. “We need more and better leaders in every sector, because the challenges and problems seem to be getting bigger and harder to solve.”

Fahey will return to Liberia later this month to continue raising capital for the project. After a long career in law, he’s energized by the thought of returning to the country he first tried to help as a newly minted college graduate.

“There are a lot of us who still have some tread left on the tires and really want to do something,” he said of his generation. “You just can’t play enough golf.”

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer
Changing how teachers improve

A new initiative headed by a Harvard scholar aims to transform the way teachers improve their performance, and to overhaul the nation’s public schools in the process.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

It can be a lonely journey, learning to become a better teacher.

“Imagine that you were getting essentially no feedback on the work you were doing. And now imagine that you had one of the most important jobs in the world. No, I’m not talking about President Obama, because even he had the midterm elections. That’s what it is like to be a teacher.”

Despite that grim assessment, Harvard’s Tom Kane hopes to radically change that public school paradigm as a head of a national initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Launched in the fall of 2009, the Measures of Effective Teaching Project is the largest effort of its kind to collect video, student perceptions, and assessments of student achievement and teacher knowledge. The project’s goal is to learn what effective teaching looks like.

The early findings, which were released recently, indicate students are very much in tune with who is effective at the front of their classrooms.

“The study shows that kids perceive big differences in teachers, and those differences are related to student achievement gains,” said Kane.

In addition to measuring student achievement on state tests, the project uses supplemental tests that evaluate students’ conceptual understanding, as well as classroom observations done through videotaping and student questionnaires to identify effective teaching techniques.

Working with Harvard’s Center for Education Policy Research, Kane and his team of project collaborators found that the feedback from student perception surveys offered important insights.

“In the classrooms where 75 percent or more of kids are saying things like ‘we use time well in this class,’ and ‘we don’t waste time,’ or ‘we learn a lot in this class every day,’ or ‘the teacher expects my best effort,’ that’s where you tend to see larger student achievement gains,” said Kane.

The program, implemented during the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years, includes teachers and their students in math and English language arts in grades 4 through 8, algebra I at the high school level, biology or its equivalent at the high school level, and English in grade 9.

The questionnaires were created by Ronald Ferguson, a senior lecturer in education and public policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and the Harvard Kennedy School.

Kane, HGSE professor of education and economics, and his colleagues also examined the connection between the teachers whose students performed well on the state’s achievement tests and those pupils who scored high on the project’s tests designed to gauge conceptual comprehension.

“We have seen there is considerable overlap,” said Kane. “Teachers who were successful in promoting achievement on state tests did so with the conceptual tests as well.”

For Kane, video is also a key to the project’s success.

“Improving teaching requires adult behavior change. Imagine trying to get someone to quit smoking by showing them a video of a bunch of happy nonsmokers … and yet that is the way we do professional development for teachers, by showing them some third person teaching instead of showing them their own work.”

According to Kane, teachers need to see and analyze their own efforts, and then discuss with their supervisors what they are doing well, and what they could do differently to improve.

This can be done by showing teachers their own videos and by providing feedback that is related to student achievement. Heather Hill, an associate professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, developed a rubric for guiding classroom observations that will be used to help score the videos. Project organizers hope the effort will help lead to a new approach to professional development.

“We are trying, said Kane, “to get people to quit smoking by taking them into their closet to smell their own clothes.”

The report’s video findings will be released this spring.

Authorities agree that better feedback is paramount to improving teacher performance. Under current systems, the majority of primary and secondary public school teachers typically rely on classroom visits from principals to gain feedback, said Kane, who argued that such visits are largely inadequate.

“It’s common to have 98 or 99 percent of teachers in a district receive the same ‘satisfactory’ rating from such visits, so it’s clearly a perfunctory exercise.”

The project includes 3,000 teachers and more than 100,000 students from seven urban school districts, including Charlotte, N.C.; Dallas; Denver; Memphis, Tenn.; New York City; Pittsburgh; and Hillsborough County, Fla., which includes Tampa.

Although the education sector has been slow to adapt to the push for performance management common in other professions, the process began to gain traction in 2002 when the Bush administration’s No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law, said Kane. The legislation calls for states to develop standardized tests to measure and track student achievement.

“There has been an explosion of research over the last nine years linking teaching certifications and teacher experience to student achievement gains. It’s a byproduct of school districts just starting to track student achievement and to link it to teachers.”

Kane’s research also coincides with the Obama administration’s new Race to the Top program, a competitive grant initiative that rewards states for developing effective education reforms. The initiative has inspired school districts to create fresh teacher evaluation methods.

“If we can get the results out quickly,” said Kane, “we can have a huge impact on the way this work is done in 3 million classrooms around the country.”

“If you are going to have any hope of having an effect on how teachers are doing their job,” he added, “you have to have some feedback that is specifically related to what they are doing.”
Grants, N.M., is a small city just east of the Continental Divide. Its population is roughly equal to that of Harvard College and its per capita income — about $14,000 — would buy two semesters of room and board.

Last month, Grants was home base for 10 undergraduates on a service trip sponsored by the Phillips Brooks House Association.

The students, working with two Ohio medical volunteers, did child health surveys at Head Start Program operations in one corner of the vast Navajo Nation tribal area. Taking yearly measures of vision, hearing, blood pressure, height, weight, and other factors is required to maintain federal funding.

During the 10-day trip, students also delivered firewood and food to elderly Navajo in remote parts of the reservation. (One of them was Joe Vandever, one of the last surviving Navajo Code Talkers from World War II.) The deliveries, guided by employees of the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School in Thoreau, N.M, meant navigating unpaved muddy roads in two borrowed Ford Expeditions.

The vehicles turned into unmarked canyons and skidded up mountain heights to reach homes that were often just battered trailers or hogans with slumping roofs and broken windows.

“It was very tough to see,” said Shalini Pammal ’13, whose only other experience with poverty had been as a high school volunteer at a charity hospital in India. “It’s something you really can’t prepare yourself for. At Harvard, we are so blessed.”

She helped deliver firewood to an elderly woman on dialysis, and to an old man who spent his days sitting in his truck reading the Bible. “His faith was all he had left,” said Pammal, who plans on a career combining medicine and social justice.

Friends were shocked to hear of Third World poverty in a corner of America, said Sesheta Mwanza ’13 (left), who worked with Head Start students in Red Rock, N.M.

“People who live in this region get to witness this beauty,” but at the same time find it hard to obtain enough food and potable water, or a good education, said Sesheta Mwanza ’13 (left), who worked with Head Start students in Red Rock, N.M. “People who live in this region get to witness this beauty,” she said, but at the same time find it hard to obtain enough food and potable water, or a good education.

Executive Director Shelly Lowe, a Navajo, said knowledge and cultural respect are vital before taking such trips. “They can have practical value if the students are adequately prepared.”

Undergraduates also remarked on the dramatic desert landscape of mesas and mountains — “a maze that was created by a divine power,” said Mwanza.

“I love the beauty,” said Amanda Gokee ’14, a Native American who grew up in Vermont, but who before New Mexico had never witnessed reservation poverty. She called it her “first experience with the Third World.”

that included some of the four Head Start locations the Harvard team visited. Some were “pretty bare,” said Gokee — little more than “a small room, a bathroom, and a hallway.”

But at the same time, she was moved by the resilience and dignity of the Navajo and by the energy and happiness of the children. “They’re still kids ... still running around and smiling,” said Gokee. “It gave me a lot of hope.”

Shock amid the service

A winter break trip to the Southwest’s Navajo Nation brings the reality of poverty to a group of undergraduates.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

Photos (top) by Sesheta Mwanza ’13, (inset) by Shalini Pammal ’13
A break with the past

Undergrads and College administrators are looking back on winter break 2011 to evaluate the many new programs, and to ponder changes. One thing is already clear: Winter break provided experiences not usually available to students during the semester.

By Paul Massari | Harvard Staff Writer

Liz Moroney’s winter break experience left her with a lot to digest.

“I wanted to participate in the food and wine trek in New York City because I come from a family of foodies and I was interested to see the breadth of careers in the food and wine industries,” said the Leverett House junior. “I love exploring new restaurants and dishes, but I could never see myself going to culinary school, so I wanted to see what other opportunities there were. The trek really changed my perception of the food industry. It’s not all just chefs and waiters.”

Like Moroney, Harvard undergraduates and College administrators are looking back on winter break 2011 to evaluate the plethora of new programming that was offered, and to think about where to go from here. One thing is already clear, however: The break provided an opportunity for experiences not usually available to students during the semester.

“Winter break programming was designed in part to give students a chance to get out of the classroom and explore,” said Harvard College Dean Evelynn Hammonds. “Hundreds of students took advantage of the time to find out about career options, learn a new skill, and engage in public service.”

Moroney was one of dozens of students who took part in the new January Treks — short trips that provide students with knowledge of careers, introduce them to important contacts, and allow them to ask questions of industry representatives. Robin Mount, director of career, research, and international opportunities at Harvard’s Office of Career Services (OCS), credited the new academic calendar for making treks possible and said the programs let students see what a job is really like on a day-to-day basis.

“When the new calendar came into effect, we knew it was time to start offering this programming,” she said. “It’s one thing to have someone come to campus and speak. It’s another to see and hear the New York Philharmonic rehearsing at Lincoln Center. You can’t get that kind of knowledge from listening to a panel discussion.”

Treks were held in New York City and Washington, D.C., on Jan. 13 and 14. Students visited the disaster room at the American Red Cross, the kitchen of the restaurant at the Gramercy Park Hotel, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the World Bank, among other locations. Gé Zhang went on the fashion trek in New York City. The sophomore, who visited the backrooms of Bloomingdale’s and the headquarters of designer Ralph Lauren, says he now has an understanding of the mainstream career path in the fashion industry.

“You spend one year as an assistant buyer, one to two years as senior assistant buyer, a year of planning, and, finally, promotion to a buyer managing millions of dollars,” he wrote on the OCS Tumblr blog. “The executives look for school, work experience, and extracurricular activities on resumes.”

Many of the January experiences were offered by Harvard alumni who volunteered to make themselves available. Robert Kraft ’76, president of 20th Century Fox Music in Los Angeles, offered to allow students to shadow him at work for a day, but got so many requests that he combined his offering with the yearly Harvardwood trek.

“Students responded quite late, only a few days before the Christmas week,” he said. “Suddenly, the requests tumbled in. I couldn’t accommodate them all, so I set up a group visit. Students came to Fox Studios, then to my office where I led them to a recording session for the animated show ‘Family Guy.” It made it possible for 25 Harvard undergraduates to have a January experience at a movie studio.”

Kraft called the time spent with students “rewarding” and said it made him feel energized. Philip Lovejoy, deputy executive director of the Harvard Alumni Association, says that Kraft’s sentiments were echoed by many of the 231 alumni who offered January experiences.

“Alumni really want to stay connected to the College, and there’s no better way to do that than to engage with students,” he said.

While OCS and Harvard alumni offered programming across the country, there was plenty going on in Cambridge as well. January saw the launch of Harvard’s first Optional Winter Activities Week, a period of mostly student-led sessions on and around campus that featured workshops on stand-up comedy, accounting, the history of blues music, and much more. Senior Eric Hysen, leader of the Hack Harvard incubator for student life web applications, said the entire undergraduate community may enjoy the fruits of his group’s labors.

“Hack Harvard went great!” he said. “A few projects have launched already, and others are launching in the next few days. Students can find a list — from an app that helps them reserve space on campus to one that sets them up with a friendly lunch date — on our website: http://www.hackharvard.org/apps/.”

To read more OWAW coverage, scan these codes.

The Space in Between


Disaster Relief

The Rapid Deployment Disaster Relief Shelter is one of a dozen initiatives funded by the new President’s January Innovation Fund for winter break. http://hvd.gs/71459

Do You Speak Cheese?

Students use four days of winter break to explore the comforting universe of cheese, soup, bread, chocolate, coffee, and desserts. http://hvd.gs/71311

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer

Harvard University Gazette | 03-16 February 2011
From Russia, with love

A Harvard student leader travels to Moscow for a firsthand look at how the government there works.

By Johnny Bowman ’11 | Sociology

In November I spent a week away from classes to participate in the first official American student government delegation to Russia since the fall of the Iron Curtain. The U.S. Congress brings about 700 young emerging Russian leaders to the United States every year to explore American culture, civil society, and politics. But there hadn’t been a reciprocal program. The trip, in short, was extraordinary.

The point of the trip was to bring 15 American college student body presidents to Moscow to meet Russian leaders as part of a new diplomatic “reset” in U.S.-Russia relations. It was organized by the Open World Leadership Center of Congress and the Russian Federal Agency on Youth Affairs. The organizers put together an ambitious agenda. According to schedule we were to meet with John Beyrle, the U.S. ambassador to Russia; Svetlana Zhurova, the vice speaker of the Duma, or assembly; Arkady Dvorkovich, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev’s top economic adviser; Viktor Vekselberg, one of Russia’s wealthiest billionaires; and Vladislav Surkov, who is first deputy chief of staff to Medvedev and is considered the Kremlin’s leading ideologist.

The highlight of the trip came with our meeting with Surkov and Vasily Yakemenko, the head of the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs and the former head of Nashi, a state-sponsored youth movement. Oleg Kashin, a prominent journalist for Kommersant, had repeatedly criticized Nashi protests where demonstrators violently stomped on portraits of “enemies” of the Russian state. Two weeks before our trip started, a surveillance video was released of two men beating Kashin with steel rods, resulting in the amputation of one of his fingers, a broken leg and jaw, and several cranial wounds. We asked Yakemenko about it. I can sum up his reaction by saying he was visibly irritated and denied any wrongdoing. While nothing has come from a government investigation, Kashin has since written that he believes Nashi was behind the attack.

Then Surkov, an even more controversial figure in Russian politics, entered the room. That very day Boris Nemtsov, a leader of a Russian opposition movement named Solidarity, was speaking at the U.S. House on imposing an American travel ban on Surkov, whom he deems responsible for Russia’s compromis-
Medical School mends its ways

In going green, HMS finds its challenges in the labs. With a little ingenuity, the healthier environment wins out.

By Krysten A. Keches | Harvard Staff Correspondent

This is one of a series of occasional stories on the measures that Schools at Harvard are taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Going green at Harvard Medical School (HMS) means implementing sustainability measures in classrooms, offices, and — perhaps most challenging — laboratories.

In 2008, Harvard President Drew Faust announced the University’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2016 (from 2006 levels, including growth). In response to this goal, HMS has developed and is implementing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.

Optimizing the performance of mechanical, electrical, and other systems in buildings, a process called recommissioning, will help the School to reach its greenhouse gas goal. In the Warren Alpert building, the first at HMS to undergo formal recommissioning, laboratories present unique obstacles.

“In a normal environment, you can recirculate air and introduce a percentage of fresh, outside air,” said Peter Stroup, director of facilities and maintenance operations at HMS. “In the laboratories, you always need 100 percent fresh air. That’s extremely intensive because you have to take all of that outdoor air and condition it — whether you humidify, dehumidify, cool, or heat it — before it gets into the lab. It’s a huge challenge for us in terms of reducing energy usage because we’re not reusing any portion of that air. The question for us then is how best do we manage temperature, and how best do we manage the number of times we change the air in a room per hour?”

In addition to recommissioning efforts, HMS has invested in green renovations. The DePace Lab, renovated in 2008, was the first wet lab at Harvard to achieve LEED certification. The School has also re-examined its waste stream. Reusable biohazard boxes and sharps containers (for the disposal of needles, syringes, etc.) are the latest in a series of waste-saving measures.

“The previous sharps containers were made of plastic, and the entire container needed to be disposed of after each use. The biohazardous waste boxes were big cardboard boxes that needed to be double-bagged, and the entire box and the bags were disposed of,” said Longwood sustainability program manager Claire Berezowitz.

In the wake of a successful pilot program, which started in 2009, the entire campus has converted to reusable plastic containers made by Stericycle.

“The boxes are picked up by Stericycle, emptied, sterilized, and returned, so we’ve eliminated the need to buy cardboard and have it destroyed,” says Robert Christiano, associate director of Campus Operations, who was instrumental in establishing and managing the reusable sharps and the reusable biohazardous waste box programs.

“With the biohazard boxes alone, we’ve saved over 21,000 cardboard boxes from going into the waste stream,” said Berezowitz.

Last year, HMS facilities completed an evaluation of water-saving units for autoclaves, devices that use steam to sterilize laboratory equipment.

“When the autoclave discharges its wastewater, the water is too hot to be returned to the city system, so it has to be quenched with cooler water in order to get it to the right temperature for discharge, about 100 degrees,” said Stroup.

“The old system would continuously dump tap water into something that looks like a funnel beneath the autoclave,” said Allen Hebert, HMS energy specialist. “The new water saver collects the water that’s being dispensed at 200 degrees and quenches it with domestic water, but only to the extent that it needs — it doesn’t dump water down the drain constantly. If you have five gallons that need to be quenched, it will dump in a gallon to cool it down. The savings are very substantial.”

HMS is proceeding with the installation of the water-saving units in more than 50 remaining autoclaves on campus. These units are expected to save $200,000 worth of water per year.

Additionally, HMS expects to install electric steam generators in the autoclaves, with a projected savings of more than $500,000 worth of steam per year. These portable steam generators will produce 200-degree clean steam for autoclave units on an as-needed basis, eliminating the need to remain connected to a constant supply of gas-fired central steam.

“The difference is that the steam we buy is much more greenhouse gas intensive than electricity is,” said Stroup. “We’re experimenting with this so that we can reduce our footprint.”

As part of the School’s greenhouse gas reduction plan, HMS facilities created an energy metering website (https://facilities.med.harvard.edu/ENERGY/), which tracks the School’s energy usage. The interactive tool updates every 15 minutes with real-time data collected by meters located in buildings throughout the campus. The tool can also be used to compare historical energy usage patterns by hour, day, week, or month.

“You can look at total campus usage, individual building usage, or by utility,” said Stroup. “We had that information available on our website previously, but not in such concise a format, and now it has been translated into more understandable units, like number of trees or barrels of oil consumed, which each of us can better relate to.”

The dashboard is displayed on a touch-screen monitor in the office building at 641 Huntington Ave. (recently certified LEED Gold), and four additional monitors will soon be deployed in other common areas across the campus.

HMS facilities and operations staff work closely with the student group SEAM (Students for Environmental Awareness in Medicine). A tap water filtration system, the direct result of collaboration between SEAM members and staff, was installed off the second-floor atrium in the Tosteson Medical Education Center (TMEC) in May 2010. Developed as an alternative to Poland Springs bubblers (which carry a significant carbon footprint), the system has two cold water dispensers, one hot water dispenser, as well as a sink, and has become a popular spot for socializing between classes.

“I saw the water project as intersecting a lot of different concerns — public health, environmental, and economic,” said Devan Darby, a student leader of SEAM who received a Green Carpet Award from the Office for Sustainability for her work on the hydration station. “It’s a very tangible thing that has made a difference.”

“In a graduate school of this size, we have a compact community,” said SEAM member Jana Jarolimova. “We’re making relatively small changes, but by being connected to the rest of the HMS community and getting enough people to make those changes too, we can actually have an impact.”
History in the making

When the Berlin Wall fell, student Mary Lewis knew she should study the past. Now a professor, she is an authority on how France evolved.

Today, Mary Lewis’ studies are intersecting anew with current events: She is working on a book about Tunisia, using the case of the little-studied French protectorate there to study how imperial rivalry affected French colonial governance from the 1880s to the 1930s.

The seeds of Mary Lewis’ fascination with France were planted early. Her father spent a few years there as a young man, working in the offices of the Marshall Plan, so she grew up hearing a steady stream of stories about that country.

“I had never been out of North America,” said the newly tenured professor of history, “but when my father would talk about France’s history, it sparked an interest that is still with me.”

The geopolitically tense Reagan administration years were her political coming-of-age, and the native Californian went to college wanting to understand the Cold War, studying international relations when she attended the University of California, Davis. She spent her junior year abroad in France, becoming increasingly interested in the diversity of its society.

The final seed that would eventually bear Lewis’ intellectual fruit was planted during a political science class she took upon her return from studying abroad. It was November 1989, the month the Berlin Wall fell.

“We were discussing the theory of mutually assured destruction,” she said. “A young man raised his hand and asked the professor, ‘Can we talk about Berlin?’ The professor was completely thrown. The real world was confronting his theoretical model, and he didn’t know what to do.”

Lewis remembers the professor dismissing the question by telling the student to read The New York Times. That, she said, was the moment she knew she wanted to study history.

“At that point, history had suddenly caught up to political science,” she said. “I realized you really needed history to understand politics.”

After graduating from the University of California, Davis, and before beginning a Ph.D. program in history at New York University, Lewis spent two years working for the U.S. Department of Education in its Office for Civil Rights, an experience she said greatly affected how she studies and thinks about history today.

“I learned a lot about bureaucracy and the layers of bureaucracy,” she said. “If I wrote a letter, it would go through six different levels of editing and end up with someone else’s signature on it.”

“I got a sense of how policy and decisions are layered. It helped me become the kind of historian that I am today.”


“We tend to think of France as a centralized country with uniform rights decreed in Paris,” Lewis said. “But the actions of immigrants themselves in the provinces, by forcing officials to recognize that they were going to stay in the country, instigated an expansion of those rights. In a sense, today’s diverse French society is a product of that history.”

Today, Lewis’ studies are intersecting anew with current events: She is working on a book about Tunisia, using the case of the little-studied French protectorate there to study how imperial rivalry affected French colonial governance from the 1880s to the 1930s. Pent-up public unrest in the North African country exploded and brought down its government last month.

“Having researched my forthcoming book there, I was surprised that the protests would lead so suddenly to a change in regime,” she said of Tunisia’s overthrow of its president. “It’s a police state. People have conditioned themselves to be very guarded in conversation when speaking about politics because they know they’re being watched, so the fact that they would have the nerve to protest as they did is remarkable.”

Lewis is also planning a new research project on intercolonial movement by studying colonial passports.

“We think of these societies as being hermetically sealed, because we tend to study them from an imperialist point of view, but in fact people were on the move, and we can see challenges to imperial control based on these varied movements.”

One of Lewis’ favorite parts of working at Harvard is interacting with students.

“They make you think,” she said. “Even if you’ve taught a class before, you’ll get something new out of it because of the student participation. This is positive feedback on a whole other level.”

Today, Mary Lewis’ studies are intersecting anew with current events: She is working on a book about Tunisia, using the case of the little-studied French protectorate there to study how imperial rivalry affected French colonial governance from the 1880s to the 1930s.
Help on the home front

Harvard programs assist employees trying to juggle careers and families, while bridging coverage gaps.

By Elizabeth Gehman | Harvard Correspondent

“It’s important to understand the role child care plays in supporting Harvard’s mission,” said Sarah Bennett-Astesano, assistant director of the Office of Work/Life. “When I get a phone call from a researcher who is, I don’t know, trying to cure cancer, and I can help that person secure reliable child care, it means she can get on with her work without having to worry about it. It lets us attract and maintain a more diverse work force.”

Bennett-Astesano’s words are echoed time and again by Harvard employees trying to juggle careers and families.

“Having so much support for child care makes it possible for a wider range of people to be here, or stay here,” said Ian Stokes-Rees, a research associate in biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the father of 3- and 6-year-old daughters. “How are we going to have future scientists if our current scientists are denied the opportunity to have children because they can’t afford it? How can we bridge that gap between scientists and the rest of the community, when becoming a top-rated scientist excludes having kids?”

Stokes-Rees and his wife, an anthropology postdoctoral scholar at Brown University, moved here from France a few years ago, and quickly learned that every penny of their higher salaries would be necessary in the United States. Massachusetts is the most expensive state for child care, according to a recent Boston Globe article, with an average yearly cost of $25,272. And that, as the writer pointed out, is just the average.

“Our child-care expenses are something like $40,000 a year,” said Laura Anne Lowery, a research fellow in cell biology at the Van Vactor Lab who is the mother of a 4-year-old and a 1-year-old. “So the $1,000 we get from our Harvard scholarship isn’t huge, but it gives us a little more money for other things.”

The scholarship she is talking about is just one of several ways in which the University is working to help its working parents. Scholarships are administered by employee group — ladder faculty, non-tenure track faculty, and administrative and professional — and are means-tested. They pay for day care and after-school care for children ages 6 to 13, and, though each individual family might get only a few thousand dollars, the total cost for the University is about $3 million annually.

Most parents in the University community know about the six independently operated child-care centers that serve about 400 children, 90 percent of whom are Harvard-affiliated. Having her 4-year-old son in the Radcliffe Child Care Center on DeWolfe Street makes her work life “a lot easier,” said Lilia Halpern-Smith, assistant director of the Center for American Political Studies. “I’m able to stop by for lunch or have a parent meeting and not have it take a huge chunk out of my day,” she said, noting that her office is just a few blocks from the center.

Other popular programs focus on “gap care,” or times when parents need help outside their regular childcare routine. The first type involves the school vacation camps provided on the Cambridge, Longwood, and Business School campuses in February, April, and August, when public schools are closed but Harvard is not. “Each one has a theme,” said Bennett-Astesano. “One year it was Olympics, another it was space exploration.” The camps are inexpensive compared with community programs, at roughly $40 a day.

The second gap-care program is provided through a contract with the private agency Parents in a Pinch. It allows most Harvard-affiliated parents to call for an emergency caregiver and pay just $15 an hour, without having to worry about administrative fees that can add up to something like $65 a day. “If it could cover a snow day, a day when your nanny is sick, when you have to work at a time you don’t usually have to,” said Bennett-Astesano. It can also be used for adult or elder care. “It should really be called People in a Pinch,” she said.

Finally, there’s Just in Time Care, where the University reimburses those who earn less than $70,000 a year up to $350 a year in expenses paid out of pocket for backup or emergency care.

Signing up for the programs is easy. “I just had to go on the Harvie website,” said Jaime McAllister-Grande, manager of user services and direct access processing at the Harvard College Library. “I didn’t have to ask anyone, make an appointment with HR, or anything. It was so easy to access, and it was all spelled out for you. In general, the child-care services here just make me feel supported, like they get that my life is not just work at Harvard, but also raising a child.”
Finding a campus rhythm

Police Sgt. Kevin Bryant has studied everything from the Bible to Buddhism to kenpo karate, bringing an appreciation for Harvard’s many cultures to his work.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

Sgt. Kevin Bryant peered down from a sunny perch inside the Science Center. Just outside the floor-to-ceiling window, the lawn buzzed with the morning activity of students, canvassers, and tourists. “That right there,” he said, “is the rhythm.”

A 20-year veteran of the Harvard University Police Department (HUPD), Bryant is trained to pick up on the natural ebbs and flows of daily life at the University. And like many seasoned police officers, he has a sixth sense for when something just seems off: a shady character idling in the Yard, a suspicious bag left unattended.

Bryant takes that approach one step further. In many ways, his entire life revolves around searching for rhythm where he can find it and creating harmony when he can — through Buddhist meditation, Baptist worship, and martial arts, or in the world around him, as HUPD’s diversity and community liaison, and community policing and safety officers’ team supervisor.

It’s Bryant’s job to make sure the many disparate voices at the University are being heard and respected. His role takes many forms. One day Bryant could be organizing an HUPD basketball game against the Harvard Black Men’s Forum. The next, he might host a discussion at the Business School in response to an uptick in street crime.

“No one wants to be a law enforcer,” he said. “We can’t just stay in our cruisers,” he said. “You’ve got to get out there and talk to people.”

A Baltimore native, Bryant moved to Massachusetts with his parents as a boy. He eventually joined the Somerville Housing Police Department, and then the Harvard force. The University job offered him “a totally different type of policing.”

“Where else would I get to meet Nelson Mandela or His Holiness the Dalai Lama?” he said of his two decades at Harvard. “At the same time, we still have crimes here we have to solve. It’s a pretty good mix.”

Three years ago, the department created Bryant’s current position, with the goal of improving communication between the force’s 85 officers and the people they serve.

Bryant is easy-going, the kind of guy who puts down a quadruple-espresso every morning and makes it seem like an herbal tea. He credits Zen meditation with helping him to keep a level head.

Bryant took up karate at 12 and discovered a passion for martial arts. He has studied aikido, taekwondo, and jujitsu. At age 56, he wields a fifth-degree black belt.

“Karate focuses you, keeps you humble,” he said. “It teaches you that true power is like an iceberg — most of it is underneath the surface.”

That same emphasis on humility and reflection endeared him to Buddhism, which he practiced for many years before returning to his Baptist roots at his wife’s urging. Last year, Bryant was ordained as a deacon at his church, and he will soon begin training to become a minister.

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer

Staff Profile

Staff News

PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING PROGRAM WORKSHOP: TRANSITIONING TO THE NEXT PHASE
The average American spends 83,000 hours working and less than 10 hours planning for retirement. This is a daylong workshop for those expecting to retire within the next five years; spouses/partners are welcome to attend. Topics include University benefits at retirement, Social Security, financial planning, lifestyle changes, and legal matters. Note that sessions fill quickly. Visit http://ohrdb.harvard.edu/seminars/description.php?recordID=3 for details.

Next sessions: Thursday, March 31, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. and Wednesday, June 29, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

SPECIAL LISTING
PART-TIME LECTURERS ON SOCIAL STUDIES.

Online See complete opportunity listings at www.employment.harvard.edu or contact Employment Services at 617.495.2772.

HOW TO APPLY
To apply for an advertised position or for more information on these and other listings, please connect to our new system, ASPIRE, at www.employment.harvard.edu/. Through ASPIRE, you may complete a candidate profile and continue your career search with Harvard University. Harvard is strongly committed to its policy of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

JOB SEARCH INFO SESSIONS
Harvard University offers information sessions that are designed to enhance a job-seeker’s search success. These sessions may cover topics ranging from preparing effective resumes and cover letters to targeting the right opportunities to successful interviewing techniques. Sessions are held monthly from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Harvard Events and Information Center in Holyoke Center, 1350 Massachusetts Ave., in Cambridge. More specific information is available online at employment.harvard.edu/careers/findingajob/.
**Newsmakers**

**HKS RECEIVES $600,000 FROM WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION**

The Harvard Decision Science Laboratory (HDSL), a cross-faculty research facility based at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), has received a three-year, $600,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to support the lab’s scientific research in human judgment and decision making.

HDSL is a world-class biobehavioral research facility featuring an innovative combination of approaches from psychology, economics, and neuroscience. It provides a model for a new type of research center, serving as a cross-disciplinary home for Harvard students and faculty to collaborate on studies examining judgment and choice.

“[I see] terrific potential in the Decision Science Lab’s unique approach and University-wide focus,” says David T. Ellwood, HKS dean and Scott Black Professor of Political Economy. “Through a better understanding of the factors behind decision-making processes, we can help ensure that leaders make the most reasonable decisions in day-to-day and crisis situations.”

To read the full story, visit http://hvd.gs/69311.

---

**AAAS ANNOUNCES 15 HARVARD FELLOWS**

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on Jan. 11 awarded 15 Harvard faculty members the distinction of being named an AAAS Fellow.

To read about the fellows and their projects, visit http://hvd.gs/70217.

---

**FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEW HARVARD LIBRARY NAMED**

The Harvard Library Board named Helen Shenton as the first executive director of the new Harvard Library, turning to a veteran of the British Library to develop a more coordinated management structure for the oldest library in the Western Hemisphere.

The decision came at the first meeting (Dec. 20) of the new board, which will oversee the work of the executive director as it reviews strategic plans for the new system and establishes a funding model to support it.

To read the full story, visit http://hvd.gs/69311.

---

**NARSAD AWARDS $720,000 TO HARVARD RESEARCHERS**

Twelve from Harvard are among 214 researchers named NARSAD Young Investigators.

Young Investigators represent a new generation of researchers who will pioneer breakthroughs in mental health research. Young Investigator grants are catalysts for additional funding, providing researchers with “proof of concept” for their work. On average, NARSAD Young Investigators have used their grants to leverage an additional 19 times their original grant amount and some have gone on to receive much more than that after proving initial hypotheses with the first NARSAD grant support. Receiving up to $60,000 over two years, Young Investigators pursue brain and behavior research related to schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and anxiety disorders, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

For more on the winners and their projects, visit http://hvd.gs/70661.

---

**ELECTIONS OPEN FOR OVERSEERS AND HAA DIRECTORS**

As announced in December, the Harvard Corporation will expand from seven to 13 members, as part of a broader set of changes involving the Corporation’s composition and work.

All members of the extended Harvard community are invited to send advice on the search and nominate individuals who would be strong candidates for the Corporation. Email advice and nominations to corporationsearch@harvard.edu or mail them to the Corporation Search Committee, Harvard University, Loeb House, 17 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

Communications will be held in strict confidence.

Ballots will be mailed no later than April 1 and must be received back in Cambridge by noon on May 20 to be counted. Results of the election will be announced at the HAA’s annual meeting on May 26, on the afternoon of Commencement day. All holders of Harvard degrees, except Corporation members and officers of instruction and government, are entitled to vote for Overseer candidates. The election for HAA directors is open to all Harvard degree holders.

For HAA’s list of proposed candidates, visit http://hvd.gs/70775.

---

**HRES ESTABLIShes 2011-12 RENTS FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY HOUSING**

In accordance with the University’s fair market rent policy, Harvard Real Estate Services charges market rents for Harvard University Housing. On average, across the 3,000-unit portfolio, the proposed 2011-12 market rents will increase one percent relative to last year. Most current Harvard University Housing tenants who choose to extend their lease for another year will receive either a one percent increase or will be charged the new market rent for their apartment, whichever rent is lower.

To read the full story, visit http://hvd.gs/69692.
To view the proposed new market rents, which will take effect July 1, 2011 for a term of one year, go to http://www.huhousing.harvard.edu or http://hvd.gs/71057.

ASTRONOMERS HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE, RESEARCH
At its 217th semiannual meeting in Seattle, the American Astronomical Society named the recipients of its 2011 prizes for achievements in research, instrument development, education, and writing.

Robert P. Kirshner, Clowes Professor of Science in the Department of Astronomy, was awarded the Danie Heineman Prize in Astrophysics, given in partnership with the American Institute of Physics, which recognizes outstanding work by midcareer astronomers. The Newton Lacy Pierce Prize for outstanding achievement in observational research by an early-career astronomer went to Gaspar Bakos of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

For a complete list of all the awards and winners, visit http://aas.org/press/pr2011Jan18.

INSTITUTE OF POLITICS DIRECTOR NAMED
Trey Grayson, who is completing his second term as secretary of state in Kentucky, has been named director of the Institute of Politics (IOP) at Harvard University. Grayson assumed his post on Jan. 31.


GREGORY VERDINE WINS PRIZE FOR CANCER RESEARCH
Gregory Verdine has won the 2011 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Award for Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry in Cancer Research. Verdine is the Erving Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology.

Verdine will receive $10,000 and will deliver a lecture at the AACR 102nd annual meeting held April 2-6, in Orlando, Fla.

For more information, visit http://www.aacr.org.

HBS FACULTY-AUTHORED BOOK GARNERS ACCLAIM
“Rethinking the MBA: Business Education at a Crossroads,” by Srikanth M. Datar, the Arthur Lowes Dickinson Professor of Accounting, and David A. Garvin, the C. Roland Christensen Professor of Business Administration, both at Harvard Business School (HBS), along with former HBS research associate Patrick G. Cullen, has been named one of the best business books of 2010 by Strategy + Business magazine.

HKS ESTABLISHES KENNETH I. JUSTER FELLOWSHIP FUND
The Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) is establishing the Kenneth I. Juster Fellowship Fund to support the research of outstanding master in public policy (M.P.P.) students specializing in international and global affairs. The fund is endowed through a $500,000 gift from Kenneth I. Juster’76, J.D. ’79, M.P.P. ’79, who has devoted much of his education, professional activities, and nonprofit endeavors to international affairs.


HGLC SEeks APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Caucus is seeking current full-time Harvard student applicants for its 2011 Public Service Fellowship.

The fellowship is a one-time grant of $5,000 made to an individual to educate, organize, or otherwise benefit the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community during the summer of 2011. Work can be independent or within an existing nonprofit organization. Thesis research projects will not be funded. Par-tisan campaign activity may not be eligible.

For more information on how to apply, visit http://hglc.org/about/fellowship.html.

IOP WELCOMES SPRING FELLOWS
Harvard’s Institute of Politics (IOP) at the John F. Kennedy School of Government announced on Jan. 13 the selection of an experienced group of individuals for resident fellowships this spring. Over the course of an academic semester, resident fellows interact with students, participate in the intellectual life of the Harvard community, and lead weekly study groups on a range of topics.

To view the fellows and their bios, visit http://www.iop.harvard.edu/News-Press/Press-Releases/.

KAFA Dar NABS TURKISH HONORS
Turkish President Abdullah Gul presented in December the 2010 Presidential Grand Awards in Culture and Arts to Cemal Kafadar for history, Kafadar is Harvard’s Veblen Koc Professor of Turkish Studies.

To read more, visit http://hvd.gs/70670.

SHORENSTEIN CENTER ANNOUNCES SPRING FELLOWS
The Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, located at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, has announced five spring fellows.

The five Shorenstein Fellows will spend the semester researching and writing a paper, and interacting with students and members of the Harvard community. Fellows include Bob Calo, senior lecturer at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley; Alexis Gelber, Shorenstein Center Goldsmith Fellow and former editor of Newsweek; Wajahat S. Khan, journalist for the English-based daily, Dawn, as well as the monthly Herald, in Pakistan; Neil Lewis, Shorenstein Center Goldsmith Fellow; and Sandra Rowe, Shorenstein Center Knight Fellow and former editor of The Oregonian in Portland.

E.O. WILSON TO RECEIVE THOREA U PRIZE
PEN New England will present this year’s Henry David Thoreau Prize for Literary Excellence in Nature Writing on Feb. 8 to author Edward O. Wilson in recognition of his exceptional talents. Wilson is Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus at Harvard University. The event is free and open to the public and will take place at 7 p.m. inside the Geological Lecture Hall at the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney

Walter H. Abelm ann, professor of medicine emeritus at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and member of the faculty of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences Technology (HST), died on Jan. 6. He was 89. Abelm ann received an A.B. from Harvard in 1943 and an M.D. from the University of Rochester in 1946.

To read the full obituary, visit http://hvd.gs/71419.

Daniel Bell, the Henry Ford II Professor of Social Sciences Emeritus at Harvard University and one of America’s most dynamic thinkers, died on Jan. 25. He was 91. His most famous books include “The End of Ideology,” “The Coming of Post-Industrial Society,” and “The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism” — the first and latter books were listed by the Times Literary Supplement as among the 100 most important books in the second half of the 20th century.

To read the full obituary, visit http://hvd.gs/71762.

Max R. Hall, a former journalist, writer, teacher of writing, and scholarly book editor, died in Cambridge on Jan. 12 at 100 years of age. Until his retirement, Hall was editor at Harvard’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, social sciences editor at Harvard University Press, and editorial adviser at Harvard Business School. He wrote numerous articles for Harvard Magazine as one of its contributing editors.

To read the full obituary, visit http://hvd.gs/71048.
There are no bronzed muscles. No fake blood or grandstanding body slams. But there is panting — lots of it. And beneath the cheers inside the Malkin Athletic Center, soft shoes tapping the mat belie the pretzel-tied arms and writhing struggle of bodies at war.

This is not arena schmaltz. Harvard wrestlers are doing the unthinkable — they're actually wrestling.

Pitted against Rutgers University on Jan. 7, the Crimson showed how unafraid — and undeterred — they were after three early-season losses. Of the three victories of the afternoon, lightweight Steven Keith ’13 (125 lbs.) takedown of Rutgers’ Joe Lange was one of the most exciting.

“I think that my size is a boon because I am more agile. I am quicker on my feet and more flexible and fluid in my wrestling,” said Keith, an economics concentrator.

“I know that I can compete with any 125-pounder in the nation.”

Shay Warren ’13 (133 lbs.) and nationally ranked Walter Peppelman ’12 (157 lbs.) also picked up wins against Rutgers, and, later the same day, when the Crimson took on the University of Maryland, Keith and Peppelman defeated their mid-Atlantic opponents. Ian Roy ’14 (174 lbs.) also won his bout against Alex Pagnotta.

Coach Jay Weiss is assured with his wrestlers, but stresses that it is a young team.

“When they realize how good they are, it will be fun,” he said, noting that Keith, Peppelman, Corey Jantzen ’12, and Andrew Knapp ’11 are key wrestlers this season.

“Corey is one of the best wrestlers I have been around. He is so good in so many positions. He’s very strong and works harder than anyone I have ever seen. Walter is a tremendous leader. He’s very passionate about his teammates and shows it. He’s finally got some big wins this year and now is ranked in the top 10 in his weight class, so his confidence is very high right now,” said Weiss.

“Andrew is the heart and soul of this team. He’s coming off a knee injury that sidelined him during his senior year. He came back for one more semester to accomplish his goals and to be with his teammates. Steven had a big year last year qualifying for the NCAA Championships as a freshman; he’s got a strong desire and he’s a great leader.”

Weiss has a month left to prepare his team for the EIWA Championships in March, and after that, the NCAA tournament.

“At the beginning of the year we talked about ‘cutting it in half,’” said Weiss. “The past few years we have been devastated with injuries and finished 11th in the 2010 EIWA Championships. We feel we can do so much better this year so we want to cut that in half.”

Said Keith: “I’ve lost close matches to some of the top wrestlers in the country without wrestling my best, so I’m confident that come the EIWA, I can win. I am trying to improve many things technically, but most importantly I am working to improve myself mentally.

“I like that wrestling is an individual sport and that I am in control of everything. I determine how hard I work and it is me alone that wins or loses. I am solely responsible for how I perform — there is no one else to blame.”

Wrestling is more than a sport, stressed Weiss. It’s about the bigger picture.

“What we do in wrestling will teach us life lessons. I constantly tell our athletes that what they are going through is nothing like what life will throw their way — but we will be better prepared,” he said.

“We try to get better each time we’re on the mat, whether it be practice or competition. I’m always confident things will turn for the better. Why not? I have a saying on my desk that reads, ‘Mundi ex igne factus est,’ which means ‘the world is made of fire.’

“It’s a reminder that suffering and struggle are the ways to truth, to understanding ... We learn the best through adverse situations. So yes, I know we will turn things around. I truly believe in each and every one of them. It’s part of the process, and we will all be better because of it.”
Calendar  HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2011

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.

FEB. 5
Play It As It Lays: The Films of Hong Sangsoo.
“Oki’s Movie (Ok-hu ui yeonghwa)” screens at 7 p.m. Director in person. Special event tickets are $12. In Korean with English subtitles. Series runs through Feb. 7. hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/.

FEB. 9
The Anti-Immigrant Right & the Future of Political Polling.
Pop Center, 9 Bow Street, 4:10-5:30 p.m. Matt A. Barreto. Free. bruce_jackan@hks.harvard.edu, 617.495.7548, ash.harvard.edu/Home/News-Events/Events/The-Anti-Immigrant-Right-the-Future-of-Political-Polling.

FEB. 12-MARCH 13
AJAX.
Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St. American Repertory Theater presents Sophocles’ tragedy, in a new translation by Charles Conaghan and directed by Sarah Benson. Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m., matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets begin at $25. 617.547.8300, americanrepertorytheater.org/membership.

FEB. 13
Valentine’s Day in the Animal Kingdom.
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 2 p.m. Family program with Alexis Harrison and Emily Kay exploring unusual and bizarre ways that animals search for and win over companions. We’ll learn why peacocks display their colorful tails, bighorn sheep fight with their horns, and frogs sing songs to express their romantic interest. Free with museum admission. 617.495.3045, hmnh.harvard.edu.

FEB. 16
Artist Talk with Dan Sousa.
Room B-04, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., 6-7 p.m. Dan Sousa, film animator. 617.495.3251, yes.fas.harvard.edu/sousa.html.

ONGOING THROUGH MAY 29
Exhibition: Tangible Things.
Featuring nearly 200 intriguing objects from across the University that challenge classification. Visitors begin in the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Room 251, Science Center, One Oxford St., and then can take part in a University-wide scavenger hunt to discover the many guest objects carefully inserted into exhibitions at seven of Harvard’s public museums. fas.harvard.edu/~hsdept/chsi-tangible_things.html.
Unlike the other undergraduate residences at Harvard, Currier House on the Radcliffe Quadrangle is named solely for a woman.

Audrey Bruce Currier House opened in 1970, named after a Radcliffe alumna who had died in a plane crash. The architects, Harrison and Abramovitz, surveyed students about their desires for housing, and so pioneered small clusters of dorm units, each with upstairs bedrooms and a downstairs living room. Currier also was planned to include freshmen, to benefit from a mix of ages.

Shaped like an E with sloping, green courtyards between the arms, it was the first Harvard undergraduate dorm to house faculty members, and even had a child-care center. Other unusual features included sewing rooms and a laundry in the solarium, a photography studio, a music-dance facility, and a skating court. It now houses men as well as women.

But all of Currier’s four pavilions are named for women graduates. Resident Nadia Farjood ’13 said, “It is inspiring walking through the doors of Currier and seeing the faces of five women, all distinguished alumnae of Radcliffe College, to my left. Much wall space at Harvard is devoted to images of men, and I am proud to live in the only House named exclusively after a woman.” Farjood is a co-director of the Athena Program, a gender-empowerment program associated with Harvard’s Phillips Brooks House Association.

Inside Currier, common spaces have offbeat names such as “the Fishbowl,” “the Treehouse,” and “the Mousehole.” Four groups of 10 single bedrooms surround the largest in-suite common rooms at the College. One suite, less aptly named at Currier, is known as “the Ten Man.”