A tradition of change

Harvard marks its 375th birthday, celebrating its legacy with one eye toward the future. Page 12
Online Highlights

FROM SKIN CELLS TO MOTOR NEURONS
Harvard stem cell researchers have succeeded in reprogramming adult mouse skin cells directly into the type of motor neurons damaged in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, best known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, and spinal muscular atrophy. ▶️ http://hvd.gs/87880

CONNECTING WITH FRESHMEN
Harvard College freshmen got their first taste Aug. 26 of the world of ideas awaiting them over the next four years in a talk by Professor Nicholas Christakis (left), who delivered the 2011 Opening Days Lecture, “Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives.” ▶️ http://hvd.gs/88652

CLASS OF 2015 GETS WELCOMED
Harvard College Dean Evelynn M. Hammonds (pictured at left) welcomed members of the Class of 2015 to campus during a session at Sanders Theatre. ▶️ http://hvd.gs/88341

REMEMBERING 9/11
Harvard plans services, vigils, panels to draw meaning from 10th anniversary of 9/11 tragedy. ▶️ http://hvd.gs/88674

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WITH THE EARTH AS TEACHER
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Cover photo illustration by Justin Ide | Harvard Staff Photographer
Top photos: (left) courtesy of Hillary Jenkins; (center) by Michael J. Lutch; (right and lower left) by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer; (above, center) by Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff
With the Earth as teacher

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Harvard students kicked off their academic year early, spending a week in paradise, observing Hawaii’s volcanoes, green and black sand beaches, and overarching geologic splendor.

A t night, they could walk to the rim of the Kilauea crater, where glowing clouds of steam and gas emanating from a lava lake made a nighttime display. During the day, they visited Hawaii’s geologic marvels, from lava flows to the peak of the Earth’s tallest mountain to beaches of green and black sand.

It would be a thrill for anyone. But for Harvard students studying the ways of the earth, ocean, and sky, it was like living a dream.

“It would never want to miss this. It’s a great week,” said Ross Anderson, a senior earth and planetary sciences (EPS) concentrator living in Cabot House.

Anderson was one of roughly 30 students, faculty, and staff from Harvard’s Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences to spend a late-summer week on Hawaii’s Big Island. Home to several active volcanoes, including Mauna Loa, which forms the world’s tallest mountain — 33,000 feet from its seafloor base to its peak, with 4,200 feet above sea level — the island offers a real-time display of the Earth in action.

“What I’m trying to get them to do is make observations and interpret, to get them thinking like a geologist,” Macdonald said.

After spending a few days exploring the volcanic features of Kilauea, Macdonald and O’Connell brought the students to other sites on the island, including green sand beaches made of olivine, a mineral that makes up part of the Earth’s mantle, miles below their feet; the observatory atop Mauna Loa where Charles Keeling, beginning in 1958, made observations of increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels; and coral reefs off the coast to better understand their structure and growth.

“Their subject matter is the earth, so they should be familiar with it,” Macdonald said.

After studying the Earth for several years and getting used to thinking of changes over long geologic periods, Anderson was struck by how fast Hawaii’s volcanoes can change the landscape around them.

“The Kilauea crater was made in a few hours. To see a crater 50 to 60 meters deep, you think, ‘wow,’” Anderson said.

Patricia Levi, a senior Earth and Planetary Sciences concentrator living in Winthrop House, said this trip and others she has taken are good chances to get exposure to what she studies in class. Just halfway through the trip, Levi said she had been impressed by the green olivine minerals not just on the beach, but in other rocks. She also was struck by seeing “Pele’s hair,” thin strands created when molten rock is thrown into the air and spun out as it cools, named after the Hawaiian goddess of volcanoes.

There’s some really cool geologic features here,” Levi said.

Even though geology is front and center, Levi said the excursion has another benefit: building community.

“The EPS field trips are a lot of fun. They’re a good chance to get to know other concentrators,” Levi said.

Earth and planetary sciences concentrators (above) relax on a volcanic outcropping on Hawaii’s Mauna Loa volcano during an August field trip to explore the island’s geology.
How doctors think, past and present

Physician and historian David Jones works to bridge the gap between medical science and the social forces that shape it, as Harvard’s first A. Bernard Ackerman Professor of the Culture of Medicine.

Now, as Harvard’s first A. Bernard Ackerman Professor of the Culture of Medicine, Jones ’93, A.M. ’97, M.D. ’01, Ph.D. ’01, will try to bridge the gap among scientific, clinical, and historical understandings about medicine that plagued him as a graduate student.

Jones’ work tore down many of the popular arguments about why native populations first died in the early modern era and exposed the social factors such as poverty, displacement, and malnutrition that have long left Native Americans more vulnerable to epidemics, from smallpox in the 17th century to diabetes and obesity today.

“[The] explanation says that when European colonists landed on North American shores, they brought with them a vast array of deadly diseases for which native populations lacked immunity.

There was only one problem, according to David Jones: From his standpoint as a student of medicine and history, the theory didn’t make sense.

“There was a big disconnect between what thoughtful medical scientists would know about infectious disease and what many historians and scientists were saying about it,” Jones said.

The question became his dissertation and then his first book, “Rationalizing Epidemics: Meanings and Uses of American Indian Mortality since 1600,” a sweeping survey that cut through much of the conventional wisdom about why Native Americans have long suffered worse health than their white or black counterparts.

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THE INNER LIFE OF EMPIRES:
AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY HISTORY
Princeton University Press, May 2011
By Emma Rothschild

Born out of a happy accident, Emma Rothschild’s latest book introduces the Johnstones, a historically obscure Scottish family living disparate lives around the globe in the fast-changing 18th century. While researching in Edinburgh University Library, Rothschild, the Jeremy and Jane Knowles Professor of History, stumbled on the letters of James Johnstone to his brother John, a young politician. But that was just the tip of the iceberg. Rothschild’s paper trail of letters turned up 11 Johnstone siblings — slave owners, abolitionists, speculators, government officials, and occasional politicians — whose lives on the cusp of revolution, the Enlightenment, and the very early days of globalization make for a different style of history book.

RANTS AND RAVES: OPINIONS, TRIBUTES, AND ELEGIES
Smith and Kraus, May 2011
By Robert Brustein

After being awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama in March, Robert Brustein published this quirky not-quite memoir, not quite anything else. Divided into three sections — opinions, tributes, and elegies — Brustein, founder of Harvard’s American Repertory Theater and emeritus professor of English, takes aim at Samuel Beckett, Shakespeare, and the state of the arts in the United States. Most fascinating are his elegies to actor Paul Newman and playwright Arthur Miller, and tributes to director Julie Taymor, playwright Tony Kushner, and actors Tony Shalhoub, Mary Louise Parker, and Meryl Streep, whom Brustein met at Yale Drama School in the ’70s, and whose “sidewise insinuating glance,” he writes, “could turn your legs to jelly.”

WORLDS APART: BOSNIAN LESSONS FOR GLOBAL SECURITY
Duke University Press, August 2011
By Swanee Hunt

Swanee Hunt, the Eleanor Roosevelt Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, was the U.S. ambassador to Austria during the Bosnian War. Through a series of emotional vignettes, she recounts her diplomatic missions, as well as the impact of war through the eyes of the Bosnians she encountered. Founder of the Kennedy School’s Women in Public Policy Program, Hunt is dedicated to empowering women in politics and beyond. Her latest book dissects the process of military intervention and presents lessons that can be applied to conflicts around the world.

HAITI AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE
PublicAffairs, July 2011
By Paul Farmer

Paul Farmer, the Kolokotrones University Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine and founder of Partners In Health, was one of the first to touch down in Port-au-Prince after the devastating 2010 earthquake. In his new book, Farmer continues his probe of the aftermath and subsequent health crisis in a poignant narrative. With more than 30 years’ experience working in Haiti, Farmer provides context to how poverty and politics, coupled with widespread deforestation, pitiable health care, and poor construction efforts contributed to the devastation.

FLYING WITHOUT A NET: TURN FEAR OF CHANGE INTO FUEL FOR SUCCESS
Harvard Business Press, June 2011
By Thomas DeLong

Are you a high-need-for-achievement individual? You know the kind — driven, ambitious, seemingly impenetrable when it comes to work. Thomas DeLong, the Philip J. Stomberg Professor of Management Practice at Harvard Business School, is one of those people. He’s even written the book on it. High-need-for-achievement individuals, he maintains, have “an exaggerated need to maintain their reputations and to project an aura of capability and control.” His book delves into the fears and insecurities behind these behaviors and discusses how to prevent them from becoming professional roadblocks.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer
Much has been said about the American Repertory Theater’s (A.R.T.) new version of the 1935 opera “Porgy and Bess.” But as the show continues to evolve, its director prefers to keep the ever-changing details quiet, opting to let the production of “The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess” speak for itself.

“It’s been great to have so much dialogue about the production,” said A.R.T. Artistic Director Diane Paulus, who has stirred debate in the theater world with her new take on the classic work, which features music by legendary composer George Gershwin and lyrics by his brother Ira and author Dubose Heyward. “We hope people come to see it, and get involved and engage with it. That’s the goal.”

Paulus collaborated with Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Suzan-Lori Parks and two-time Obie Award winner Diedre Murray to develop a new vision for the show with the approval of the Gershwin estate. The show stars four-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald and Norm Lewis.

It’s not surprising that Paulus is reimagining the legendary American folk opera set during the early 1900s in a black enclave in South Carolina with a disabled beggar and his drug-addicted love as its central characters. The director is known for infusing fresh life and energy into familiar works and engaging new generations of theatergoers with her innovative takes on live performance. In this case, the concept of reworking the show has drawn criticism from veteran composer Stephen Sondheim.

But for Paulus, at the heart of the new production remains the emotional pull of the original. “We are interested in developing a deeply moving, powerful, and evocative version of this great classic,” said Paulus, who is continuing to rework the show during its run at Harvard’s A.R.T. before it moves to Broadway. “The difference is we are on a musical stage, not an operatic one, so there’s a different scale we are working in. And I am hoping that it’s not about reducing it. It’s about heightening the intensity of the experience.”

Paulus also turned to another group for inspiration in the early stages of refashioning the opera into more of a musical. Last spring she co-taught a Harvard College class with Marjorie Garber, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies, called “Porgy and Bess: Performance and Context.” “It was an immersion in the historical context of the piece and how it has changed over the 20th century,” said Paulus, who brought in guests such as the show’s set designer and choreographer, as well as a lawyer for the Gershwin estate, to talk to the class. The students examined the history of the piece in depth, studying everything from Heyward’s original novel to the 1959 film starring Sidney Poitier.

Eager to hear what 18-year-olds thought of the piece in 2011, Paulus said the course culminated in an examination of the planning for the A.R.T. production. “The students were really in the room discussing what we were thinking of doing for the production. They were contributing to thoughts that at the time were being developed” for the show.

While bringing arts into the life of the academic community is paramount for Paulus, so too is bringing her work to the community at large. “It was so important to me that a show like this … is shared with the most diverse and broadest spectrum of Boston audiences,” she said, adding, “We have made a huge effort to create access and dialogue around the production.”

In that vein, hundreds of local high school students will attend performances, and many will participate in a series of educational activities and discussions with teaching artists as part of the A.R.T.’s Education Experience initiative. In addition, through its Community Connections program, the A.R.T. will offer discount tickets and workshops, classes, mentoring opportunities, and private performances to several nonprofit organizations in the Boston area.

“My hope for an audience is that they come to the production and they not only talk about the great music that they all know and love, but that they are deeply moved by the story and by the characters, so that it’s an experience that is deep, and powerful and moving in all ways.”
AIROBI, Kenya — George Morara, a program officer with the Kenya Human Rights Commission, is compact and strong, like a boxer. But the fight on his hands now is to defend veterans of the Mau Mau nationalist movement in their sunset years.

It was partly his research, planning, and pleading that recently won the right to trial in a British court for these aging veterans of rebellion against colonial rule more than 50 years ago.

But a case against the British, who once ruled Kenya, would not have been possible without the work of Harvard historian Caroline Elkins, said Morara. He credits her scholarship and voluminous oral histories as the primary evidence for Mau Mau justice. “Without her seminal work,” he said, “this story wouldn’t have come to the fore.”

Mau Mau veterans, in search of an apology and financial relief, may get their day in court by 2013. But Morara fears that the longer the case drags on, the fewer Mau Mau will be alive to see a settlement.

Even in Kenya, he said, it took years for the Mau Mau to be recognized for their role, mostly during the 1950s, in liberating the country from British rule. A ban on recognizing Mau Mau veterans was lifted only in 2003, the same year that the Mau Mau War Veterans Association was founded. Before that, said Morara, “There was no (voice) for survivors.”

Until 2003, successive Kenyan governments had been “very ambivalent” about the Mau Mau, he said, and sometimes official feelings spilled over into rancor. Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya’s first president and a former political prisoner of the British, was once thought to have inspired the Mau Mau movement. But after independence he called the Mau Mau “a terrible disease.” His successor, Daniel arap Moi, aired similar feelings.

But once veterans had a voice, they moved quickly. In 2003, they appealed to the human rights commission for redress from the British, who oversaw a protectorate and then a colony in Kenya from 1895 until 1963. The Mau Mau uprising was essentially a war of liberation from British rule. It was also a time of widespread torture, rape, detention, and starvation in...
a “gulag” run by colonial authorities, according to Elkins, professor of history and African and African American Studies.

She is part of a Mau Mau oral history project, in collaboration with the Kenya Oral History Center. A related exhibit at Kenya’s National Museum is slated to open next year.

Oral histories also had a role in getting to trial. In 2006, the rights commission, in an effort led by Morara, interviewed 42 potential claimants. Five were chosen, including two women and three men. One, Susan Ciong’ombe Ngondi, has since died.

On a shelf in his office, Morara keeps tapes of all the interviews. “Every time we hear the veterans speak, they break down,” he said. “They (tell) absolutely painful, horrific stories.”

For the British government to continue to press its case for dismissal makes the issue “a war of attrition,” said Morara. “These veterans are old.” He estimated there are as many as 75,000 former Mau Mau fighters, scouts, and sympathizers still alive in Kenya. Most are 70 and older. Among the official claimants, the youngest is 75 and the oldest 84.

The five were chosen because they represented some of the abuses that occurred in the Mau Mau era. “It’s about torture,” said Morara of the case against the British. The two women had been raped. One man had been beaten and left for dead in a pile of corpses during the infamous 1959 Hola Massacre, in which 11 suspected Mau Mau were clubbed to death. The other two men had been castrated. Morara said, “They have no families.”

Even after the British court decision in July, Morara is puzzled by the attitude of British authorities, who continue to refine their chief arguments: that the alleged abuses took place too long ago, and that any responsibility was passed on to the new Kenya government in 1963. “They were not negotiating then, and they aren’t now,” said Morara of British officials, “which we find strange.”

In 2007 the rights commission made a request for an official apology to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. When this failed, the commission entered the “second phase” of its strategy in 2009, said Morara, by filing an appeal for trial with the Royal Courts of Justice.

At the same time, in an attempt to sidestep “legal technicalities,” he said, the commission appealed directly to Britain’s then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and in February 2010 met with his foreign secretary, David Miliband. It was then that Morara escorted the five aging Mau Mau veterans to No. 10 Downing St., the prime minister’s residence. They arrived elated, he said, with a “feeling there was movement toward closure.”

The group appeared at No. 10 Downing with several “options for justice,” said Morara. These included an appeal for an official apology, a welfare fund for surviving Mau Mau, community reparations such as schools or hospitals, and small monthly stipends for the veterans.

Miliband was sympathetic, said Morara, but was voted out of office later that year. Since then, he said, the regime of Prime Minister David Cameron has not been receptive.

It will take as long as 18 months before the issue gets to court, he said. Meanwhile, the rights commission has a strategy of its own: to insist that the statute-of-limitations issue be resolved concurrently with a full trial.

“For us, this is not just a cause,” said Morara of the Mau Mau case unfolding in Great Britain. “It’s a way to address transitional justice.” That is, it’s a way for Kenyans to address what he said were unresolved issues of land ownership, corruption, and tribal divisions traceable to the colonial era.

The first Mau Mau act of resistance occurred in 1947, and was a consequence of Kikuyu farmers being displaced by white settlers and their native allies. “This case,” said Morara, “gives us a chance to start a new national discourse.”

But the case is for the world too, he said, because it points to the universal fragility of basic rights. “Human beings, wherever they are, have a right to live in dignity,” said Morara.

Meanwhile, he and a staff of three at the rights commission are establishing a database of aging Mau Mau veterans, including the women who acted as scouts and who slipped into the forests around Mount Kenya to bring fighters food, weapons, and intelligence.

The database, built largely from information from veterans, includes five categories: those who were tortured and still bear physical evidence; those detained who no longer have evidence of physical torture; Mau Mau not detained or arrested; women and youth who acted as village scouts; and those in categories one through four who have died. In those cases, relatives and friends try to corroborate old stories, and provide identity papers and other documents and artifacts.

Jane Muthoni Mara, the surviving female claimant, was arrested long ago while taking food to forest fighters and acting as a scout, said Morara — an example of the women who did their part in the rebellion. “Without their support, the Mau Mau could not have gone for all those years.”

As for the years of pursuing a case for the Mau Mau survivors, Morara praised a supportive British public, whose general sympathy for the old fighters is a contrast to official positions. In the meantime, he said, “We’d be very glad if the American community joined in.”

Morara is also interested in what led up to the Mau Mau rebellion. Last month, he set out on a three-month swing through Kenya to gather oral histories about the colonial period up until 1952, when the rebellion came to a boil. “Mau Mau is not an incident,” said Morara. “It’s a process.”
Finding meaning in loss

Jennifer Page Hughes, a psychologist at the Bureau of Study Counsel, coped with a senseless death by helping others — from Harvard students to the families of 9/11 victims — deal with grief.

By Katie Koch  |  Harvard Staff Writer

For many Americans, Sept. 11, 2001, evokes memories of confusion and sadness, a stunned sense of the world not being what it once was. For Jennifer Page Hughes, those feelings were all too familiar, from an earlier time in 1996.

Hughes was preparing to graduate from high school on Boston’s North Shore the year her father died. While walking the family dog on a cold spring Saturday, he fell through the ice on a local pond and drowned.

“It’s not something you ever imagine will happen,” said Hughes, now a counselor at Harvard’s Bureau of Study Counsel (BSC). Her father was simply there that morning — as she headed out the door to meet friends at the mall — and then he wasn’t. A loss of that nature, she said, “feels chaotic.”

Since then, she has found meaning in her own senseless tragedy by working to mitigate and confront the pain of grief on a much broader scale. Her clients include not just Harvard undergraduate and graduate students at the BSC, but the families of some 9/11 victims.

“I’ve made meaning of my own tragic loss by helping others going through painful experiences in their own lives,” she said.

Hughes began to confront and understand her own grieving process during her sophomore year at Williams College. Her grades had begun to slip, and a running injury sidelined her career on the track team.

“Not having that outlet of literally running away forced me to suddenly have to face some overwhelming emotions,” she said.

Eventually, she sought out a counselor at Williams and began dealing with her loss. The experience was so rewarding that it persuaded her to pursue counseling. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the State University of New York, Albany.

“While I would never have wished it to happen, that experience [of my father’s death] provided me with an increased sensitivity to a kind of pain or loss or experience that I otherwise wouldn’t have,” she said. “It’s forced me to gain a clearer understanding of myself and allowed me to better understand others.”

In 2004, while on an interview for her predoctoral internship at the University of Pennsylvania, she met an intern named Rob Fazio. They discussed their shared interest in grief counseling.

“He said something like, ‘So, who’d you lose?’” Hughes recalled. “It was the kind of direct question that only someone else who’s gone through loss would ask in that way.”

It turned out Fazio had lost his father in the World Trade Center attack. He asked Hughes to join his new nonprofit organization, Hold the Door for Others Inc., which he envisioned as a national support network of counselors and survivors interested in working through the psychological trauma brought on by sudden loss.

As a consultant for Hold the Door, Hughes now helps to create workbooks and other tools and leads group workshops. The organization also hosts a daylong summit every year, called Hold the Door Day, where roughly 100 participants attend workshops and group counseling sessions. This year’s event will take place Oct. 22 in Fort Lee, N.J.

Over time, the annual gathering has become an informal meeting ground for families affected by 9/11. “It’s very much been a community for them,” she said.

Now starting her sixth year at the BSC, Hughes relishes the opportunity to work with students. She and the bureau’s 10 other counselors, who operate under the umbrella of Behavioral Health and Academic Counseling, provide individual and group counseling, create and lead workshops on everything from study skills to adjusting to life at Harvard, and serve as liaisons to the undergraduate Houses to provide support to residential life staff.

In addition to providing grief counseling and running her own private practice, Hughes works with students struggling with learning and attention disorders and perfectionism. While the latter is much more visible on campus than the former, she said, both problems can be exacerbated by Harvard’s rigorous workload.

In a competitive and challenging environment, she said, counseling can give students the space to explore their fears, worries, or goals, just as she was able to do in therapy in the wake of her father’s death.

“The college years are such a significant time where there’s so much change and possibility,” she said. “To work with someone and see that change happening — and to have them share that journey with you — is so rewarding.”

The upcoming 10th anniversary of 9/11 can serve as a reminder, she said, that even after a decade grief persists.

“I hope that the spotlight’s back on [the victims’ families] in a good way,” Hughes said. “I hope people can understand that, for these families, or for anyone who’s experienced loss, it’s not something that goes away.”

But grieving can be transformed into a meaningful experience, as it was for her.

“It’s a way of keeping my father’s memory alive, and it informs the work I do every day,” she said. “It’s always going to be hard, but it’s made me who I am.”
On summer break, a 375th poem emerges

Hollis Hall provides inspiration for undergraduate.

By Michael P.H. Stanley ’13

Tucked into the hillocks and vales of Maine, with no pipettes to wield, no newspaper articles to draft, no middle schoolers to teach, I was amid summer vacation at last. My Yankee bones, like New England weather, never seem to linger in one place too long, so when someone says “vacation,” I often think “boredom.” And with sophomore year behind me and my internship a month away, I was deep in the doldrums.

But then a friendly phrase of Eliot House Master Doug Melton breezed across my memory. “I think boredom can be a good thing. It makes you figure out what you would do if you could do it.” I thought back over the last semesters and asked myself: When I wanted time, what did I want it for? To read was the answer, and so read I did. I read when I fished; I read things I hadn’t the chance to while pushing electrons around in organic chemistry class. After I totaled my fair share of Waugh and Wodehouse, I decided it was time for a biography, a craving I hadn’t indulged in for a very long while — after all, a student’s life was busy enough without looking into someone else — but if I intended to spoil myself, I would spoil myself rotten. Off the shelf came a biography of Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

Holmes shared a wicked habit with me. I soon found out. We were both medically minded and suffering from an incurable love of letters of the worst strain: poetry. Science and literature had always seemed mismatched penchants, but if it was good enough for Holmes, it was good enough for me. I was no stranger to the practice, spoofing Robert Service’s Yukon ballads for fishing trips or “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” for a holiday party freshman year. Apparently, Holmes was no stranger to the practice either. He not only bandaged his anatomical lectures in wit and quips, but also never refused the opportunity to write a commemorative poem, whether for a Harvard Commencement or the opening of a community garden.

No more than a week later, I was cruising classes online for the upcoming semester, and I noticed preparations were under way for an important celebration: Harvard’s 375th anniversary. My taste for reading glutted but my mind still bored, I glanced over to the bookshelf, and alighted on the spine of Holmes’ biography. “Well, if he isn’t going to write this up, I suppose I will,” I chuckled to myself, and with that, I began to scratch the pen along the page.

Many familiar ghosts of Harvard past could have been conjured in this poem’s composition. But since the setting of my freshman year was Hollis Hall, I thought it best to be true to select the Harvard worthies who haunted the hallowed halls of Hollis (north or south). The less familiar — at least for the present — are examples not only of excellent friendship and scholastic acumen, but also of the diversity that Harvard has welcomed into the fold.

Photo by Justin Ide | Harvard Staff Photographer

### Student Voice

The poem highlights a few of the more prominent architectural features of the Yard, as well as some of the men who made it special. Then there are the social monuments, including the nation’s oldest collegiate club, the first constituted Academic Lodge, and the oldest collegiate newspaper — all hallmarks of Harvard’s importance to the history of American higher education. Also important is the history of Harvard’s commitment to athletics, highlighted by our crew team.

The last few stanzas touch briskly on the sprawl of Harvard, once confined to the Yard and the Bible, but now straddling both sides of the Charles River and beyond in government, business, medicine, engineering, and many other fields. America grew up (and out) with Harvard.

### FOR HARVARD’S 375TH

When I arrived in Dudley’s town
Glad other Cambridge turned me down,
With timid step through Johnston Gate,
I mused what marvels might await.

I scaled the steps of Hollis Hall
As Washington’s troops had done before,
And fumbling with the dorm-room key
I unlatched my freshman door.

On my table some parchment lay
The richest thing in this bare room
Eager to read what it did say,
A list of names, with my name soon.

A Thayer here, a Weld or so,
An Emerson and Thoreau,
Charles Eliot, whom soon I’d meet
In sophomore year on Dunster Street.

Then later on the names to see
John Updike and Joe Kennedy
And when my fingers turned the page,
I fell into a different age.

A Wood, Kubik, and Malik,
Villenueva and sons of shaman
The names of servants turned to sheiks,
Some surnames of first Brahmins.

And later still to dot the page
Annie, Audrey, Jen, and Bri
Oh yes, this was a varied age
Free to others other than me.

I looked to the Yard with eager eye
Thanks to Kirkland, free of sies,
Although should you ask my guardian
My dorm’s an epicure’s pigpen.

And just a stroll down the way fair
A figure seated in a chair
Who gave his name to this famed Yard
But not his face, our John Harvard

Many a memorial steeple strives
In dedication to the lives
Of men who gave what was to give
So by their deaths, our freedoms live.

Not for the iron professors insist
To share friendship with their theories
Some unfound and some now missed,
Like Rev. Gomes’s Sparks House teas

There’s a Titanic gift from an iceberg’s buried
A gift to rival Alexander’s.
Catacomb stacks we’ve tiptoed, tarried
Belonging to Harry Widener.

And countless halls to say each name
From and for many of fame
But other monuments here to find,
Are those of society and of mind.

The Hasty Pudding, a club so sweet
Since 1770 has served a treat.
Though earlier clubs have starved away
Our final clubs still dine today.

Pound and Lake joined as a team
To erect the first Lodge Academic.
And a paper that in Crimson letters,
Though oldest, brings news. It has no betters.
We’ve fostered minds of acme’s aesthetics
And strengthened victors of athletics.
And for The Game we’ve braved the cold
In tribute to a rivalry old.

At drowsy dawn, through brumous morn
Along the Charles swiftly borne
The crewmen flex their forms and hasten
Better than those who rowed for Jason.

Straddling the fair Charles we see
Schools that make our University
Though separate, we’re struck down the sin
Once known as inter-discipline

Business, Medicine, Government, Law
Divinity too I even saw.
So many avenues free to take
For this young man now on the make.

Made of cobblestones that pave my soul
With ivy that my heart enfolds
Our final clubs then there is the tradition of Harvard’s commitment to athletics, highlighted by our crew team.
HARVARD GEARS UP TO CELEBRATE an event-filled 375th anniversary, embracing what President Faust calls a “tradition of imaginative change.”

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

The arriving members of the Class of 2015 weren’t the only new additions brightening the Yard in the final days of August. Strollers in the center of campus might also have noticed a series of eye-catching red, black, and white banners going up across Tercentenary Theatre, marking the start of Harvard’s 375th year.

The signage is just the earliest reminder of the University’s milestone. From a campuswide birthday party on Oct. 14 to a host of events planned for students, faculty, alumni, and the local community, the 375th will be a yearlong celebration of “Harvard’s tradition of imaginative change,” said President Drew Faust.

“Such milestones encourage us to reflect on our institution’s remarkable past, and to remember that all we aspire to today finds inspiration in the creativity and commitment of those who have come before,” she said.

The year’s events are designed to look ahead — to a future marked by cross-disciplinary research, public service, entrepreneurial innovation, and artistic achievement at Harvard — more than to peer back at a storied past.

“Our venerable University is always in the process of becoming new,” Faust said. “Our forebears’ example reminds us that, while we stand on the foundations they have built, we must never stand still.

The year will see the opening of two major spaces echoing the literal shifting foundations of the University. The Innovation Lab, which will house cross-disciplinary research teams and entrepreneurial start-ups at 125 Western Ave., will welcome students and faculty on Nov. 18. The new WCC building at Harvard Law School will open its doors April 19.

Alumni will be invited back for the anniversary, first for the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) reunions (Sept. 22-25) and then for the HAA board meeting (Oct. 13-15), which will coincide with the University-wide party Oct. 14.

The University hopes to bring the broader community into the anniversary celebration as well, said Christine Heenan, vice president of Harvard Public Affairs and Communications. Harvard will combine its Allston-Brighton and Cambridge Football Days — tradition-
A party starts 375th celebrations

Entertainment, food, festivities highlight October gathering.

By Tania deLuzuriaga | Harvard Staff Writer

Expect the unexpected as Harvard kicks off its 375th anniversary next month with a celebration in Tercentenary Theatre that promises to be anything but predictable.

“No sea of chairs, no orations, no meandering processes,” said University Marshal Jackie O’Neill, whose office is organizing the Oct. 14 event. Instead, the Harvard family will be treated to an evening of mouthwatering desserts, lively performances, and general merriment — including a few surprises.

“We are used to gathering in Tercentenary for Commencement, a wonderful, annual occasion full of ceremony and ritual,” O’Neill said. “We hope to offer something memorable, but in a different, more interactive form: a festival-type experience.”

Preparations are already under way for the event, which will officially begin at 7 p.m. For many attendees, the festivities will start earlier, when the undergraduate Houses, as well as the professional Schools, alumni association, faculty, and central administration gather for dinners and receptions across campus. At the undergraduate Houses, Annenberg Hall, the Dudley Café, and Cronkhite Dining Room, dinners will feature recipes and favorite foods from across Harvard’s 375 years.

“It’s been great fun to look at Harvard’s extraordinary history for inspiration on these menus,” said Director for Culinary Operations Martin Breslin, who noted that students might see classics such as hasty pudding and sherry trifle that evening.

After the dinners and receptions, groups of students, faculty, staff, and alumni will parade into Harvard Yard with music, costumes, and props, cheered on by the rest of the crowd. Student performers will entertain, while desserts and drinks featuring a variety of local businesses, many with Harvard ties, will keep the crowd satisfied.

The event will feature a blend of old and new. Richardson’s Ice Cream, long a Massachusetts favorite, will scoop up traditional treats, while students from the “Science and Cooking” class will demonstrate making ice cream the new-age way, using liquid nitrogen. Local favorite Taza Chocolate will run a station along with Harvard chefs, complete with demonstrations, a chocolate fountain, and several thousand truffles.

“We’re very conscious of the fact that this event reflects Harvard’s remarkable history and transformation,” Director for Catering Madeline Meehan said. “We want to honor the past with authentic foods and recipes, while reflecting the present with cutting-edge methods of cooking.”

As part of the University’s overall sustainability efforts, the celebration will be zero-waste, with all food served from recyclable or reusable containers, and all service ware compostable or recyclable. Waste stations throughout the Yard will be monitored to help attendees determine what goes into recycling versus compost bins, and all leftovers will be donated or composted.

“It’s a huge undertaking to make such a large event zero-waste,” Meehan said. “But with everyone’s conscious participation, we can.”

Nobel laureate Eric Chivian, founder and director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment, will be on hand with an assortment of heirloom apples he grows on his 42-acre orchard in Petersham, Mass. Along with Newtown Pipers (George Washington’s favorite apple) and Esopus Spitzenburgs (a favorite of Thomas Jefferson), Chivian will showcase the Roxbury Russet, a variety that traces its roots back to a tree that grew in what is now the Roxbury part of Boston during the 1630s. The variety was likely cultivated by John Harvard, the first benefactor of the College, and grown in Harvard Yard, Chivian said.

“Everyone had apple trees back then,” he said. “And if you had apples, you probably had Roxbury Russsets. They were America’s 17th-century apple.”

Harpoon Brewery will have a presence, serving up its 1636 ale, a Munich dark-style beer that the brewery, founded by Harvard alums Dan Kenary ’82 and Rich Doyle ’82, M.B.A. ’86, makes exclusively for the Queenshead Pub and the Faculty Club.

“The 1636 is one of our favorite beers,” Kenary said. “Its roasted malt flavors are perfect for an October night.”

In addition to desserts, revelers will be treated to performances by the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra and the Holden Choirs, cellist Yo-Yo Ma ’76, and a dance number choreographed by newly appointed dance director Jill Johnson. A huge red velvet cake, baked by Flour Bakery + Café founder Joanne Chang ’91, is expected to feed 4,000, and a live band will encourage dancing until midnight.

“This event is designed to have people mix, to get them together and talking,” O’Neill said. “So often, we’re all busy working in our Schools and departments, and we don’t have the opportunity to interact and experience the energy, talent, and diversity that is Harvard today. It’s time to come together, have a little fun, and celebrate all that defines us.”
How Harvard celebrated

Previous anniversaries were set against the backdrop of their times.

By Corydon Ireland | Harvard Staff Writer

This fall Harvard will begin a yearlong celebration of its 375th anniversary. The focus will be on the future, and not the past — a feature of similar anniversaries going back to the first, in 1836. Yes, that’s right: Harvard waited until it was 200 years old to have a first birthday party, or to celebrate itself in any significant way.

After that, similar events — in 1886, 1936, and 1986 — were celebrated in scale with their perceived significance. As any student of anniversaries knows, the idea of 100 years trumps 50, which in turn outweighs anniversaries that track each 25 years. So the University’s grandest celebration years were 1836, 200 years after the founding of the College, and in 1936, the 300th anniversary.

But why nothing before 1836? No one seems to know for sure. Officials at the Harvard University Archives have scoured the earliest written records, which grow more scant the further back in time you go. The only likely reason for the 200 years of quietude is the notion that it’s hard to celebrate yourself if it’s hard to pay the bills. In the decades after its founding, Harvard was still a public college, dependent on the Massachusetts Bay Colony for its funding. In those same early days, donations to the college of an iron spoon or a pewter cup were worth recording.

Even 150 years after Harvard’s founding, in 1786, there is a mention only by negation. On that day, the President and Fellows voted to ban for “that occasion” — presumably the anniversary — any “illumination, bonfire, or fireworks, or any other mode of rejoicing … by which they might be led into unnecessary expense at this difficult time.”

There is an irony in this denial, said Megan Sniffin-Marinoﬀ, director of the Harvard Archives, and a member of a University committee planning the 375th anniversary. Every big Harvard anniversary after 1876 — in 1836, 1886, 1936, and 1986 — included some tradition of illumination.

In 1836, writer Caroline Gilman noted the “brilliant lights abroad” on the evening of Sept. 8, the day of the College’s first grand celebration of itself. And the Harvard Archives has the original plans for illuminating each window of Holworthy Hall. In the center windows was an oversized “200.” Other windows were patterned with lights in the shape of diamonds, stars, and pyramids.

In 1876, the 250th anniversary, a four-day party included wagons packed with fireworks making their way up Quincy Street and gates lit with globes of fire, nighttime cannonades of rockets, and a two-hour torchlight parade by undergraduates, some of them dressed as early Puritans.

In 1936, Harvard’s riverfront was lit with electric lights, while out in the Charles River barges sent up a stream of rockets and fireworks. In 1986, Harvard Stadium was the setting for a great fireworks display. For the coming 375th, there are plans to illuminate Harvard Yard in distinctly modern and high-tech ways.

Everything about the ’36 celebration was on a grand scale, and represented “a seismic shift in institutional weight and presence,” wrote historian Morton Keller, Ph.D. ’56, who co-authored “Making Harvard Modern” (2001) with his wife Phyllis. The celebration lasted 10 months, not one day as in 1836. Hundreds of letters poured in from kings, queens, countries, and other universities. That summer, 70,000 visitors toured Harvard Yard, and a Sept. 17 light show on the Charles River drew 300,000 viewers. The convocation itself was preceded by two weeks of scholarly symposia in the arts and sciences. (Three sizable volumes followed from Harvard University Press.)

For the final day, Sept. 18, about 15,000 guests were on hand, including 10,000 alumni. In a kind of apex of star power, the featured speaker was U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who sat gamely through heavy rains.

By contrast, the 1986 celebration of 350 years was more of a happening, according to Keller. In place of the celebration of history in 1836, and the intellectual tone of 1936 was more a celebration of Harvard’s cultural and intellectual diversity.

The solemn weeks of symposia that marked 1936 were replaced by what Keller called “a vast academic flea market” of 106 symposia, including events on AIDS, smoking, and the beginning of the universe. The final event of the 350th was a sound and light show at Harvard Stadium, produced by the same man whose light show had opened Disney World in Florida. There was a four-and-a-half-hour “floating birthday party” on the Charles, complete with fireworks and helium-filled arches spanning the river.


Image courtesy of Harvard Archives
How they spent summer (not on vacation)

Harvard instructors, students worked on everything from Afghan rights to chromosome research.

By Corydon Ireland, Alvin Powell, and Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writers

**Nicolette Boehland, second-year student at Harvard Law School:**

When an opportunity arose this summer to work in Afghanistan on issues of human rights, Nicolette Boehland jumped at the chance. Little did the second-year Harvard Law School student know that she would soon be crisscrossing the country in Black Hawk helicopters interviewing victims of torture.

“It was basically like being thrown into the boiling pot,” said Boehland, who got hands-on experience during her second day on the job when she was sent to a military hospital to take photos of injured civilians.

“This is something I didn’t expect at all, going in. I actually expected to be chained to my desk doing research.”

Instead, Boehland was in the field with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the group’s Special Investigation Team. She and her Afghan counterparts explored human rights abuses among civilian casualties and detainees.

“The locals she encountered on her treks were always warm and curious to meet foreigners, she said, calling them the “most welcoming people you will ever come across.”

The locals she encountered on her treks were always warm and curious to meet foreigners, she said, calling them the “most welcoming people you will ever come across.”

“They like that you are appreciating their home,” she added, “and they are happy not to see you in a tank.”

**Beth Altringer, fellow in SEAS, visiting lecturer:**

It’s been a busy summer for Beth Altringer, a visiting lecturer in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) who has been designing a course to debut this fall: ES-21, “The Innovator’s Practice.”

Altringer has studied innovation for years in diverse settings and wrote her doctoral dissertation about a company whose business is helping other firms to innovate. She became interested in the problem of how to encourage innovation after being struck that there’s no lack of talented, passionate people in the world or of problems that need solving. The bottleneck, she said, is how organizations support people to let their innovative talents flower.

Altringer hopes to share what she’s learned with students through the new class, which will mix lessons on how to create innovative organizations with project-based learning. In the spring, she will co-teach ES-20, “How to Create Things and Have Them Matter,” with Professor David Edwards, a course she participated in last spring as a fellow.

In fact, her involvement with ES-20 hasn’t ended. Altringer and other course fellows are continuing to guide student projects begun last spring through continued development over the summer. Student teams worked in Cape Town, South Africa, for several weeks to refine their projects and then came together for an intensive week of discussion and evaluation in Paris in mid-August.

For Altringer, who worked with the students remotely from Cambridge before joining them in Paris, summer was a whirlwind. She worked on two writing projects, a chapter for a textbook on creativity and entrepreneurship, and a draft of her first book. She also took some time for fun, painting and surfing.

**Isabel Carey ’12, history of science concentrator:**

From the beaches of Peel Island, off the coast of Australia near Brisbane, the mainland is visible a few
Summer (continued from previous page)
kilometers away. For Harvard senior Isabel Carey, a history of science concentrator who visited Peel as part of her senior thesis research, that proximity was striking. Because as beautiful as Peel is, rich with forests, wallabies, and kookaburras, patients once were quarantined there against their will.

So when Carey stood on the beach and looked, she saw the beautiful island and the beaches — and the mainland, containing the lives the patients left behind — in the distance.

“It really is sort of cruelly beautiful,” Carey said. “You can look out along the shore and look out at the ocean and turn slightly, and there’s the whole mainland stretching out there. It is mockingly close, this island.”

Carey spent nine weeks this summer in and around Brisbane, talking to local historians and visiting archives to find records of Peel Island. Carey plans to write about the leper colony on Peel, which operated from 1907 until 1959, with a particular focus on the later years, after the first leprosy drug was discovered in the 1940s, and after 1950, when the World Health Organization rejected the idea that quarantine was an effective strategy against leprosy.

Though rare in developed countries and treatable with drug therapy, leprosy remains a public health concern worldwide. The World Health Organization says there were still an estimated 212,000 cases in 2010.

Carey is particularly interested in the decisions that kept Peel Island open for its last nine years. The prevailing rationale she heard was that the island and its enforced residents were “out of sight, out of mind,” but she doesn’t think that’s the whole answer.

“I’d like to step back and look at what contributed to their decisions,” Carey said.

Carey said that during the summer she was highly independent, designing and executing the trip herself. She surprised herself at how engaged she remained in the “treasure hunt” of the archival research over the long weeks.

“It’s been the most independent of my summers. I went to Australia on my own. ... It’s a different Australian experience than most 20-year-olds have traveling the country,” Carey said.

Now that the semester is getting under way, Carey can begin to analyze the information she gathered, held in photographs she took of documents — 9,000 of them.

Visiting Lecturer Beth Altringer (below, from left) and Marika Shioiri-Clark, who graduated from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design in May, examine a dual-use plastic bag developed as part of a student project last spring in Engineering Sciences 20: “How To Create Things and Have Them Matter.” Altringer spent the summer helping guide further development of the projects, such as the bag developed by Shioiri-Clark’s team, which can be used for shopping and then tossed into the laundry where it dissolves into soap.

At Villa I Tatti, Henry Shull helped to catalog photos of Renaissance paintings, compiling details about the iconology, themes, and locations of the works. Doctoral student Natalie Nannas spent the summer in the lab, examining yeast cells (above). Green marks chromosomes and red marks spindles, key parts of the mechanism for cell division and the subject of her work.

Natalie Nannas, graduate student in molecular and cellular biology: Natalie Nannas, then a Grinnell College undergradu-
ate, remembers the summer she spent conducting re-
search at Princeton University. Everything came easily to her, and the work progressed rapidly. Now a fifth-year graduate student in molecular and cellular biology, she has just had another such summer.

“This summer was really exciting for me,” Nannas said. “I was in the lab a lot this summer, I pushed hard.”

Nannas, who works in the lab of Andrew Murray, the Herchel Smith Professor of Molecular Genetics, logged regular 11- and 12-hour days culturing and imaging yeast cells whose chromosomes and spindles — key parts of the mechanism for reproducing DNA — glow fluorescent green and red.

Nannas is interested in the operation of the spindle, a microtubule structure that forms during cell division and that pulls chromosomes apart so their DNA can be transferred to daughter cells. Nannas’ research focuses on the length of the spindle and how that length is regulated. She’s found that the action of the spindle attaching to the chromosome stops its elongation.

“It’s the ability of the spindle to grab onto the chromosome that determines shape and structure,” Nannas said.

For Nannas, who estimated she has another 18 months before completing her doctoral work, this summer’s progress was a far cry from the brick wall she hit during her first project at Harvard. In that re-
search, also involving chromosomes, she ultimately learned that her hypothesis was not supported by the data she was collecting.

“It was a little disheartening, but I learned a lot,” Nannas said. “I [was] back to square one and a fourth-year grad student.”

This summer, things seemed to fall into line. She spent hours peering through microscopes and taking images of yeast cells frozen during a key moment of cell division. Though she did not get to the beach much, she was able to enjoy the heat and work up a sweat anyway — the yeast was cultured in the lab’s hot room, kept at 98 degrees.

“Yesterday, I was on the microscope for 10 hours,” Nannas said. “I take images, then use software to ana-
lyze the length of the spindles. I filled up our lab’s server.”

With summer’s end, Nannas is preparing for her du-
ties outside the lab, which include being a proctor in Wigglesworth, a freshman dorm. Being a proctor, she said, not only gives her a chance to help freshmen make the transition to college life, but it also makes her feel connected to the Harvard community outside the lab.

“I wouldn’t trade being a proctor,” Nannas said.

Rebecca Cohen ’12, history and literature concentrator, and Sam Arnold ’14, social studies concentrator: Rebecca Cohen ’12 has friends who spent their summers abroad in faraway places like Italy, Argentina, and England. Half jealous, she followed their adventures on Facebook. Meanwhile, Cohen joined Sam Arnold ’14 in a summer adventure that required almost no travel. The two undergraduates planted, weeded, and harvested at the Harvard Community Garden on Mount Auburn Street. This living labora-
tory of New England kitchen crops, in the shadow of the bell tower at Lowell House, is in its second sea-
son.

“You really get to see a whole new side of Cambridge,” said Cohen, a Kirkland House history and literature concentrator who reached for the superlatives. She will leave Harvard next year having seen all four Cambridge seasons, she said, and having explored Boston free of stress, marveling at summer’s tide of tourists.

There was also the wonder of the crops themselves, some of them curiosities. Arnold hefted a lemon cu-
cumber, round, pale green, and the size of a baseball.

Arnold, a Pfizheimer House resident, spent last summer working in an Italian vineyard. But his love of foreign travel was muted by the simple pleasures of growing food, an interest he said is now entwined with his passion to help create a sustainable world. One day in late August, bare-chested and tanned,
Arnold stood up from a shaded picnic table and dug into a tote for the main tools of his summer: a trowel, pruning shears, and twine.

All around, the garden’s raised beds were lush with vivid lettuces. They were bushy with corn, pole-climbing string beans, and shaded thickets of heirloom tomatoes. Pale onions poked out of the soil. Wildflowers ruffled in a breeze. Said Arnold, “This is exactly where I wanted to be.”

Annemarie Ryu ’13, social anthropology concentrator:
Most of this summer, Annemarie Ryu ’13 was in India, working on a series of public health projects. In her $4-a-night room, she slept in pants to ward off bedbugs, spent a dollar to eat three meals a day in stand-up restaurants the size of her Quincy House room, and rode around Bangalore in three-wheeled auto rickshaws that specialized in narrowly avoiding accidents.

“Fun to ride,” the social anthropology concentrator wrote in an email, “but the experience is usually at least slightly frightening.” Over longer distances, Ryu used public buses. “Very uncomfortable indeed,” she wrote, and on roads with bumps “so large and frequent as to repeatedly hurl one against the walls and windows.”

But Ryu’s real idea of discomfort apparently is to stay at home. In her first two years at Harvard she has made eight foreign trips: to Nicaragua, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, India, and Cuba. Seven were for public service. Ryu started this summer playing violin in Cuba with the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. She ended it in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, working with the nonprofit group Children of the Border to rebuild a school and clinic. In between was India. Ryu helped jackfruit farmers access American markets and field-tested a text-message system she helped to develop at Harvard. It reminds pregnant women and young mothers about appointments.

Kyle Casey ’13, sociology concentrator:
Kyle Casey’s 2010–11 sports season got off on the wrong foot. A standout forward with the Harvard men’s basketball team, the then-sophomore broke his right fifth metatarsal bone just prior to the season during a pickup game. The foot fracture required surgery and sidelined him for several weeks. Then, when he returned to the court, he planted his foot awkwardly during a game and broke the same bone. Casey opted to play out the season and had a second foot surgery as soon as the season ended in March.

To get back into shape this summer, he turned to football. Each year some athletes remain on campus during summer for the daily grueling conditioning workouts — minus the hitting and helmets — held by the men’s football team. This summer Casey joined them. The students rise early for a 6 a.m. start and speed training. Next, they hit the weights, using routines tailored to their individual sports. The two-hour sessions end with a set of conditioning drills, including tire flips, in which they push giant tires end over end, and sled pushes, which involve shoving a sled designed for field turf, piled high with weights.

“It was pretty intense, a different workout than I am used to,” said Casey, who was inspired by the football team’s drive. “They are fiery; they get after it (in) everything they do. It pumps you up.”

Casey said he feels stronger as a result of the training and is ready to get back on the court. “The foot is good. I am looking forward to the season.”

Henry Shull ’12, history concentrator:
Henry Shull explored his love of art this summer in a place of breathtaking beauty: Villa I Tatti, the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. Nestled on the edge of Florence, Italy, surrounded by olive groves, vineyards, and gardens, the estate is the former home of art historian and Harvard alumnus Bernard Berenson, who bequeathed the building to Harvard in 1959. It became Villa I Tatti in 1961.

“Taking the bus up into the hills of Tuscany every day is not a bad commute,” said Shull, a history concentrator, of his 20-minute ride to the villa, which has become a bucolic retreat for research and learning. Each year scholars from around the world convene at the estate to investigate various aspects of the Italian Renaissance. For part of his two-month internship, Shull helped to catalog a section of Berenson’s extensive collection of photos of Renaissance paintings, compiling details about the iconology, themes, and locations of the works. His notes will be included in the collection’s description in Harvard’s HOLLIS and Visual Information Access catalogs.

As much as the work itself, Shull enjoyed interacting with his colleagues, taking advantage of the villa’s daily morning coffees and afternoon lunches and teas to chat with scholars about their projects involving literature, art history, history, and musicology.

“That’s the thing that is so amazing about Villa I Tatti,” said Shull. “The Andrew Mellon librarian is sitting next to you eating gnocchi, talking to you about the book that she just published on the pavement of the cathedral in Sienna.”
At Ed School, it’s easy being green

Team rolls out fresh initiatives to combat greenhouse gas emissions.

By Andrew Brooks | Harvard Correspondent

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

The gleaming, 200-watt, photovoltaic panels crowning Gutman Library — which is just down the street from where George Washington first assembled his troops during the Revolutionary War — may be the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s (HGSE) most prominent monument in the battle against greenhouse gas emissions. What’s less evident, however, is the history of their placement, which reveals a particular zeal for going green by HGSE. Leading the School’s charge is a 12-member, all-volunteer task force that has dubbed itself “Mother Nature’s Posse” (also known as the HGSE Green Team).

The back story of those six gleaming panels goes like this: In 2008, as part of a University-wide pledge sponsored by the Harvard Office for Sustainability, 45 percent of the HGSE community took a vow to improve the environment — both on- and off-campus — through simple, everyday measures, such as shutting off lights, hanging wet laundry, recycling, and even forgoing paper napkins. The average pledge rate at most other Schools wasn’t quite half of that.

Owing largely to a full-bore campaign spearheaded by the School’s then 15-member Green Team, an effort that entailed emails, videos, posters, and word of mouth, more than 560 Ed School affiliates took the green plunge. For that, HGSE — one of the smallest Schools at the University — was awarded seed money toward a sustainability project. And though the funds didn’t pay for the solar panels outright, they did allow the Ed School to investigate and plan for implementation, marking HGSE’s first foray into renewable energy.

Together with two other notable facility improvements — the natural-gas-fired boilers in the basement of 13 Appian Way (a conversion from oil that was coordinated with the Radcliffe campus) and the 2009 classroom renovations of Larsen Hall geared toward energy-efficiency (earning two floors of the 45-year-old brick building LEED Platinum Certification) — the 2010 photovoltaic project is expected to reduce HGSE’s annual carbon footprint by 8.6 percent.

All told, these projects represent a calculable contribution on behalf of the Ed School toward the University’s overarching goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2016, including growth, all told. Numbers like that suggest that the mindset behind that 2008 pledge has permeated the School’s culture. According to Carlson, the challenge and thrill will come in carrying that attitude to the world beyond the campus.

From a battery recycling program to an annual “free-cycle” event to offering reusable mugs, the Green Team’s initiatives, according to Carlson, are “embedded in everything we’re doing.”

The diverse team is made up of faculty, staff, and students, representing the varying insights and concerns of the HGSE population. For instance, team member Meghan Garrity, a catering manager with Table of Contents, the School’s catering and dining services provider, has spearheaded back-of-the-house composting stations at three HGSE kitchens. (Garrity was also one of two team members honored for individual achievement at the second annual Green Carpet Awards in the spring.) This arrangement allows the group, which meets monthly, to serve as informed liaisons for its constituents and HGSE’s operating entities. Upon hearing in on an appropriate concern or issue, the team works closely with HGSE Facilities Operations; ironing out the kinks and details of implementation before firing off an electronic “green tip” to 1,200 HGSE affiliates.

One of the team’s more involved initiatives was this past winter’s completion of a map outlining filtered water stations on the HGSE campus. An idea inspired by Harvard Law School, according to HGSE project manager and Green Team member Linda Kuczynski, the simple legend — which also includes signage above filtered water fountains — aims to entice thirsty people while reducing dependence on bottled water. Other targeted initiatives include a printer cartridge recycling program, a cosmetics drive, bike rack improvements, and, coming soon, single-stream recycling and public composting.

In the end, the collective impact of all these sustainable efforts, some of them burgeoning and creative, others tried and true, is a 10 percent reduction of the School’s carbon footprint (inclusive of growth, and as measured through fiscal 2010). Numbers like that suggest that the mindset behind that 2008 pledge has permeated the School’s culture. According to Carlson, the challenge and thrill will come in carrying that attitude to the world beyond the campus.

“What we get excited about is we’re educating educators,” said Carlson. “So what’s exciting to think about is the broader impact that we may be able to have if we leave our students with something when they go out into the sector to start educating people. If we can change them in just one way, the exponential impact that might have on our world is pretty inspiring and exciting.”
A smarter Harvard marketplace

An online procurement system rolls out, saving the University $5.4 million in its first year and making life easier for thousands of researchers and administrators.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

From creating micro-robots to designing a lung on a chip, Harvard researchers perform some of the most complicated and cutting-edge work in the world. But until recently, the process of procuring the tools for such research — say, an obscure antibody needed to replicate another lab's study — was far from an exact science.

"From what I've heard, people mostly relied on Googling and a lot of word of mouth," said Joel Rivera-Cardona, manager of procurement services at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering.

Luckily for Rivera-Cardona, the Wyss Institute was among the first organizations at Harvard to test the Harvard Crimson Online Marketplace (HCOM), a new procurement system designed as a one-stop shop for purchasing and invoicing anything from office chairs to contractor services to rare biological materials like those pesky antibodies.

"There are some good vendors out there [for scientific materials], but one vendor's not going to carry everything you need," he said. "With HCOM, it's like going to a buffet. You get all the items that are out there, knowing that they've been negotiated and they're readily available to you, and that the vendors have good relationships with Harvard."

Since its University-wide rollout in May 2010, HCOM has gained more fans than just Rivera-Cardona. By allowing more than 200 vendors access to the Harvard community, and by offering 4,000 Harvard administrators a tool for managing their purchases, the new online system is streamlining procurement.

Overall, HCOM saved Harvard $5.4 million last year, and is projected to save another $6.75 million this fiscal year.

"By supporting the vital administrative and operational efforts of the University community, HCOM underscores our commitment to Harvard's research and teaching mission," said Lisa Hogarty, vice president for Campus Services.

University administrators are quickly embracing HCOM. In the 2011 fiscal year, HCOM users made 61,000 purchase orders worth $165 million, plus an additional $120 million in payments to vendors, who provide services such as construction, food, or security staffing. As of July, 57 percent of all transactions at the University were processed through HCOM.

"This tool has significant benefit to researchers," said Joanne Urso, director of University procurement. "It allows them to have access to hundreds of suppliers electronically without having to toggle be-

Other routine business tasks that once would have caused headaches have been streamlined under the new system. HCOM has built-in controls that allow managers to make sure their spending is compliant with the terms of their grants. With everything documented in one place, Rivera-Cardona only needed 30 minutes to prepare for a recent audit with the University’s risk management department.

"The financial person working with me was amazed at how quickly we got the information we needed," he said.

It’s also helping procurement managers across the University go green. Lisa Wilks Ball, supervisor of financial operations in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) chemistry and chemical biology department, said her office's paper use has decreased dramatically now that the department's invoices are stored electronically.

"I'm really happy with the system and the capabilities that are there for us," she said.

In some quarters, change was a long time coming. The School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), one of the earliest adopters of HCOM, in August 2008, had used the same procurement process for 47 years.

"Trying to convince the School we should do things differently was probably the biggest hurdle," said Susan Jones, director of procurement and payables at SEAS.

In the end, Jones said, feedback was so positive that SEAS switched to the new system full time last year. One of the benefits has been getting to know the other players at Harvard who are responsible for procurement, she said.

"It's opened up the community, and it's let vendors know that we're all talking now," Jones said. "It's helped bring better pricing and better services to the whole University."

Photo by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer
HARVARD COLLEGE STUDENT AWARDED PEARSON PRIZE
The Pearson Foundation awarded the Pearson Prize for Higher Education to Niharika Jain of Harvard College, one of 70 students awarded from universities and colleges across the United States. The Pearson Prize honors exemplary students attending four-year institutions and community colleges who have distinguished themselves through public service while completing their postsecondary studies. Among these students, 20 have been recognized as Pearson Prize National Fellows, including Jain.

The 20 National Fellows were invited to create a personal video documenting their achievements. To view Jain’s video, visit http://www.pearsonfoundation.org/pearson-prize/2011/fellows.html.

‘PLAYING IT SAFE’ ON CAMPUS
The Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) is committed to assisting all members of the Harvard community in providing for their own safety and security. Harvard’s annual security report, prepared in compliance with The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the “Clery Act”), is titled “Playing it Safe,” and can be found on the HUPD’s website.

“Playing it Safe” includes information about the HUPD, how to report a crime, HUPD’s crime prevention programs, substance abuse, sensitive crimes, and other important information about security and HUPD services on campus. It also contains three years of statistics on reported campus or campus-related crimes. A hard copy of “Playing it Safe” may be obtained by contacting the HUPD at 1033 Massachusetts Ave., 6th floor, Cambridge, MA 02138, 617.495.1215.

LIBRARY SEEKING PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR LIBRARY LAB
Harvard Library is soliciting proposals for projects to improve the Library via the Library Lab program. The Harvard Library Lab was established to create better services for students and faculty and to join with other libraries in fashioning the information society of the future. The lab offers infrastructure and financial support for new enterprises, providing opportunities for individuals to innovate, cooperate across projects, and make original contributions to the way libraries work. To propose a Library Lab project, visit http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/library-lab/apply.

TEN PROFESSORS NAMED CABOT FELLOWS
Ten professors in Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) have been named Walter Chang Cabot Fellows. The 2011 honorees were awarded for their distinguished publications.

The 2011 honorees:

- Stephen Greenblatt, Cogan University Professor, “Shakespeare’s Freedom” and “Cultural Mobility: A Manifesto”
- Martin Puchner, professor of English and of comparative literature, “The Drama of Ideas: Platonic Provocations in Theater and Philosophy”
- Stephen Mitchell, professor of Scandinavian and folklore, “Witchcraft and Magic in the Nordic Middle Ages”
- James Kloppenberg, Charles Warren Professor of American History, “Reading Obama: Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition”
- Daniel Carpenter, Allie S. Freed Professor of Government, “Reputation and Power: Organizational Image and Pharmaceutical Regulation at the FDA”
- Ann Blair, Henry Charles Lea Professor of History, “Too Much to Know: Managing Scholarly Information Before the Modern Age”
- Martin Whyte, professor of sociology, “Myth of the Social Volcano: Perceptions of Inequality and Distributive Injustice in Contemporary China”
- Hue-Tam Ho Tai, Kenneth T. Young Professor of Sino-Vietnamese History, “Passion, Betrayal, and Revolution in Colonial Saigon: The Memoirs of Bao Luong”

SVS NAMES SCHERMERHORN DISTINGUISHED FELLOW
The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) elected Marc Schermerhorn as a distinguished fellow during the society’s Vascular Annual Meeting held June 16-18, in Chicago. Schermerhorn is an associate professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, as well as the director of clinical research in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

The designation of distinguished fellow is bestowed upon an active, international, or senior member of the SVS who has made substantial, sustained contributions in two of three categories: research, service, or education.
**BROWN WINS SACKS AWARD FOR RESEARCH**
The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) has presented the 2011 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research to Emery N. Brown of MIT and Harvard. The annual award, named in honor of Jerome (Jerry) Sacks, the founding director of NISS, was established in 2000 to recognize “sustained, high-quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences.”

Brown is the Warren M. Zapol Professor of Anesthesia at Harvard Medical School and Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital. His research focuses on the development of signal processing algorithms to characterize how the patterns of electrical discharges from neurons in the brain represent information from the outside world. Brown will receive $1,000.

**INTUITIVE EATING SEMINAR OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT**
Tired of the endless cycle of deprivation and overeating? Feel anxious and guilty about your eating? Harvard University Health Services’ Intuitive Eating Seminar, led by registered dietitian and licensed nutritionist Michelle P. Gallant, can help you find a balance between eating what you want and eating for health in a way that is sustainable and life affirming.

The class, held each Wednesday from Sept. 21 to Nov. 9, costs $75 for students and $150 for others with valid Harvard ID. The fee includes a copy of the book “Intuitive Eating” by Evelyn Tribole and Elyse Resch. To register, send your name and phone number to nutrition@huhs.harvard.edu. There is a brief preseminar assessment.

**PEABODY MUSEUM RECEIVES $150,000 GRANT**
The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology has been awarded a $150,000 Museum for America Grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Over the next two years, staffers will catalog, document, inventory, and photograph the Peabody’s most important archaeological collections with the grant.

“Our collection will be more accessible to researchers, especially educators,” said Senior Collections Manager David DeBono Schafer, who will manage the project. “These are among our most requested materials. Now researchers will be able to quickly determine exactly which archaeological objects are in the collection.”

**HARVARD BATTLES MIT IN CONSULTING COMPETITION**
In early August, Harvard hosted the third annual MIT vs. Harvard Case Competition. This multiday event, jointly organized by the Harvard Graduate Consulting Club and the Consulting Club at MIT, is open to all graduate students and postdocs and provides an opportunity for participants to demonstrate and share their consulting strategies and network with industry professionals. Over a one-week period, randomly assigned teams of four worked on a live case from a real business and provided a presentation of recommendations to be graded by judges from top consulting firms.

The final presentation, held at Harvard’s Tsai Auditorium, showcased the top Harvard and MIT teams. This year’s first-place winner was MIT Team #7 with participants Ioannis Simalakis, Wener Lv, Leon Li, and William Herbert; Harvard Team #6 with Michael Soskis, Ondrej Podlaha, Jessica Lucas Yecies, and Emre Basar won second place; and Harvard Team #3 with Yifan Lu, Xiaobo Xu, Xu Zhou, and Martin Allan won third place. For more information on the Harvard Graduate Consulting Club, visit http://www.harvardgraduateconsultingclub.com/.

— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney
Calling the ‘summer dogs’

After a summer of workouts, Harvard football players look to their opening game against Holy Cross, hoping to create a season to remember.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

Collier Winters ’12 speaks with a low Oklahoma accent. He has long, white-blond hair and facial scruff, along with the rugged Southern looks to make a girl scream. He might make a decent country singer, but he has an even better gig as Harvard’s quarterback.

Winters is one of the “summer dogs.” Though the Crimson’s first game isn’t until Sept. 17, Winters and a group of other players stuck around Cambridge all summer, practicing and preparing for the opening game against Holy Cross.

They got jobs, moved into alternate housing, and lived with a discipline typically unheard of once June rolls around. They awoke at 5 each morning, save for Thursdays. They got on the field. They worked out for hours, went off afterward to each do their own thing, but returned come evening to do it all again.

“I’d rather wake up at 5 a.m. and be with these fellows than anybody,” said Treavor Scales ’13, a running back from Stone Mountain, Ga., who was recently named preseason All-Ivy League by Phil Steele’s College Football Preview.

Linebacker and team captain Alex Gedeon ’12 and towering defensive tackle Josue Ortiz ’12 stuck around with Winters and Scales. With the exception of Scales, this is their final season playing college ball, so it’s all on the line.

Winters, who tore his adductor muscle early last season and was replaced by a third-string quarterback, is more than ready to make up for lost time. “Our goal this year is to win every game,” he said. “And I’d like to end this season as the best quarterback in the Ivy League.”

Despite Winters’ injury, the Crimson finished 7-3, which included a victory against rival Yale. “I was proud of our team last year,” said coach Tim Murphy. “We weren’t a great team, but we were cohesive and resilient. We still managed a second-place Ivy finish and an Ivy League record 10th-consecutive year of minimum seven wins.”

Collier Winters ’12: “Our goal this year is to win every game. And I’d like to end this season as the best quarterback in the Ivy League.”

Having Winters back is a bonus, said Murphy. “But it’s a very unusual year with every team in the league returning an All-Ivy-caliber quarterback. For that reason and others, the 2011 season shapes up as one of the most competitive and interesting races in many years.”

Defensively, we have good players at every level, and Josue Ortiz, Alex Gedeon, Matt Hanson, and Dan Minamide will be among the best players in the league at their positions. But we also must become a stronger, more physical team on both sides of the ball to reach our goals.”

The Crimson has but three short months to make history. “Our goal is the Ivy Championship and to beat Yale for the 10th time in the last 11 years,” said Murphy. “But only time will tell with this team.”

“We all have higher aspirations of being in the NFL,” said Ortiz. “But if that doesn’t work out, we have that Harvard degree.”

Ortiz, an economics concentrator from Avon Park, Fla., said he tries to keep his teammates grounded, but uplifted. “I want to be remembered as a spiritual leader, on and off the field,” he said. “What you do off the field is important, too.”

He doesn’t much go out on weekends and is involved in a Christian fellowship on campus. After slow-performing freshman and sophomore years, Ortiz climbed the ranks to make this year’s first-team All-Ivy League, as well as the College Football Performance Awards Watch List and preseason All-America third team by College Sporting News. Now he just wants to win, plain and simple.

“When I started out, I wasn’t very good. But I worked, and I got there, and now here we are.”

And everyone is watching.
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.

**Sept. 6.** Exhibit opening of “Prints and the Pursuit of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe.” Free with admission. 617.495.9400, harvardartmuseums.org/exhibitions/upcoming/detail.dot?id=33226.

**Sept. 8.** Reception for “Deep South: Self-Taught African American Artists.” Gutman Library, 5 p.m. 617.495.4225, jem394@mail.harvard.edu.

**Sept. 15.** Artist talk with Peter Kuper. Carpenter Center, Room B-04, 6 p.m. Free. 617.495.3251. ves.fas.harvard.edu/ccva.html.

As Hurricane Irene moved up the East Coast Saturday and Harvard undergraduates moved back to campus just ahead of the storm, Cabot House Resident Dean Jill Constantino saw some parallels. “I thought, there is a weird, ominous excitement with the storm and the students coming at the same time, because storms have a lot of beauty and power, and so do students. But storms are also very destructive. Then I stopped myself right there,” she said with a smile.

Constantino and her husband, Michael Baran, and their three children greeted the arriving students in Radcliffe Quad, along with House Masters Stephanie and Rakesh Khurana and two of their three children. Hugs and hellos were punctuated by impromptu races and wrestling by the children. Beginning her second year as House master, Stephanie said she felt a little anxiety about the pending weather but was still excited to hear about the students’ summer experiences.

Jazmin Perez ‘12, one of Cabot’s 375 residents, planned to weather the storm by having a sleepover in someone’s room while “watching apocalyptic movies.” Nancy Greene of Short Hills, N.J., packed a flashlight for her son, Sam Waters ’14. She also quipped that she planned to turn around and race back to New Jersey as soon as he was unpacked. Not rushing anywhere was Acky Uzosike ’13, who said he feels like freshman year was just yesterday. “I have to figure out how to slow things down,” he said.

The Khuranas reiterated the goals for Cabot’s residents: academic and intellectual growth, personal wellbeing, and positive social and community experiences. The House masters will encourage students to “self author,” despite not knowing “how their stories will end.” The Khuranas hope to help the students to develop resilience — a lesson also learned on a stormy move-in weekend.