Blue, gray, and Crimson

150 years later, the Civil War echoes across Harvard, a key flashpoint in that conflict. Page 11
ARMY ROTC JOINS NAVY ON CAMPUS

Harvard University announced that it has signed an agreement with the United States Army to re-establish a formal on-campus relationship with the Army Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. In 2011, Harvard formally welcomed Naval ROTC back to campus after the repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law.

http://hvd.gs/105243

ROCK SLEUTHS

In one of the largest studies of its kind, Harvard researchers have found that carbon records from the mid-Neoproterozoic era can be “read” as a faithful snapshot of the surface carbon cycle between 717 million and 635 million years ago, a finding that directly challenges a decades-long belief of most scientists.

http://hvd.gs/105126

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

Freshmen, who spend their first year on campus in dormitories in Harvard Yard, were each sorted into one of Harvard’s 12 upperclass Houses on March 8. Gazette videographers were even there to capture the madness of this Harvard tradition.

http://hvd.gs/104575

A PEEK AT HARVARD’S FUTURE

Maya Jasanoff and her faculty colleagues gathered at the Tsai Auditorium on Feb. 16 and March 7 to consider how the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) may look in a generation. The discussions were part of the Conversations @ FAS series, which this year asks some of Harvard’s leading scholars to imagine the faculty at 400.

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Scientist Benny Shilo left his developmental biology lab to spend a year as a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, where he explores the intersection of art and science to foster greater public understanding. Page 4

ON WHIRLYBIRDS AND MAPLE SYRUP
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In 1978, while a student at the Harvard Business School, Dan Bricklin conceived of VisiCalc, the first electronic spreadsheet program for personal computers. The result helped to spark a digital revolution in business. Page 15

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In its first trip to the NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Championship tournament in decades, the Harvard men’s team slashed an 18-point deficit to 5 before falling to Vanderbilt, 79-70. And men’s hockey made a late-season run in the ECAC playoffs, finishing one win shy of the national tournament. Pages 18-19

STUDENT VOICE/ZHANG
A Divinity School student reflects on his calling, how it has defined him and makes him different, and where it might lead. Page 22

Cover & inset photos courtesy of Harvard Archives
Top photos: (left) by Benny Shilo; (top center) by Kris Snibbe, (right and lower center) by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographers
Scientist Benny Shilo left his developmental biology lab to spend a year as a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, where he explores the intersection of art and science to foster greater public understanding.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

As a molecular genetics professor, Benny Shilo has spent much of the past three decades in a lab. He heads his own research group at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and has had findings published in Nature, Science, Cell, and other scientific journals. He has been Weizmann’s dean of biochemistry and chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics.

Despite those scientific credentials, Shilo traded his lab coat for a camera bag this year, which he is spending at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Instead of peering through a microscope or reading the results of a genetic screen for the last year, Shilo has been peering through a camera lens, working on a project that uses scientific images and photographs of everyday people to explain concepts in developmental biology to the public.

Shilo is pairing the images in a public outreach effort that seeks to better explain what he does. One set of images, for example, shows a protein gradient within the fruit fly embryo, which gives rise to expression of specific genes in distinct domains of the embryo, visualized as different color zones. That image is paired with a photo of people in a museum, gathered around a guide. The scientific image represents a gradually declining concentration of a key signaling molecule. In the museum image, people farther from the guide strain to hear her words, just as the concentration of the chemical is weaker farther from its source.

The concentration gradient explains an important concept in developmental biology: how cells get different development signals from the same molecule, causing them to develop into discrete body parts at varying distances from the molecule’s source.

Shilo’s work, which includes dozens of images, has already been the subject of a show at Radcliffe and is being considered by some academic publishers as the subject of a book. Shilo is talking with Harvard’s Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology about using his work in science education and outreach. He said it is likely to be shown again when he returns to the Weizmann. He’s also exploring creating a Web page on the project and is considering other applications, such as having high school students engage in a similar project as a way to learn key concepts.
Shilo first considered coming to Radcliffe two years ago, but said he didn’t want to spend the time writing a major review paper or doing some similar scientific activity. He understood that the fellowship’s gift of time is a rare commodity, so he took a year to think about a project that would use the time creatively and allow him to try new things.

“I wanted something different that I could do on my own,” Shilo said. “I wanted to somehow evoke the same response from an audience with scientific pictures as with nonscientific pictures.”

The paired images, Shilo said, are intended to make a viewer understand what it’s like to be a cell, by starting with key scientific concepts and then finding analogous circumstances in human life.

“Because of my background, I’m coming at it from the scientific side, defining paradigms and thinking of metaphors, and then going out and photographing,” Shilo said.

The process can be useful not just to the public, Shilo said, but to scientists as well. Working on the project forced him to narrow his focus to the concepts that are most important.

“You have to crystallize a concept to its barest essentials, just the most important facts, in order to find analogies,” Shilo said.

On a recent Sunday, Shilo grabbed a camera and headed to the Hi-Rise Bread Co. in Cambridge. He explained what he wanted to the baker and then shot images of the yeast, the starter dough, and the baked bread to help explain how stem cells provide a continuous source of differentiated cells in the body.

The year at Radcliffe has been rejuvenating, and in a way has brought him full circle in life, Shilo said. It has returned him to a part of the world important in his own development as a scientist. After getting his doctorate from Hebrew University, he came to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a postdoctoral fellowship, during which he undertook early genetic work on cancer genes that serendipitously directed him toward developmental biology.

“It’s a timeout from your regular life,” Shilo said of the Radcliffe Fellowship. “I got a chance to express my creativity in a different way.”
every day since mid-February, Harvard Forest researcher Joshua Rapp has walked the tree-lined dirt road leading into the 3,500-acre woodland. But instead of lugging the latest high-tech instruments and scientific gadgets, Rapp has been conducting an ancient rite of New England spring: checking sugar maple taps.

This spring, Harvard researchers are joining maple sugar harvesters around the region, collecting gallons of sap from nearby trees. The researchers aren’t looking to sweeten their pancakes, however. They’re seeking to understand better sugar maple biology and the link between the number of seeds a tree sets the previous fall and the sugar content of the sap that flows in the following spring.

Maple syrup producers have long known that the amount of syrup varies year to year, but sap flow and syrup production have most often been linked to variations in daytime and nighttime temperatures. Rapp and Harvard Forest Senior Ecologist Elizabeth Crone believe that a key variable in syrup production — the sugar content of the sap — is actually determined months earlier, by the amount of seeds a tree sets the previous fall. The more seeds produced, Crone suggested, the less sugary the sap is because the tree has fewer stored carbohydrates. The less sugar there is, the more sap is needed to make syrup.

Crone is an expert on mast seeding in plant species. Mast seeding is a reproductive strategy in which years of heavy seed production are followed by light seed crops. Some trees, like oaks, are well-known mast seeders. Sugar maples, whose single-winged seeds helicopter to the ground each fall, are not widely known as a mast-seed species, though the trait has been documented in a handful of studies.

Because the sugar maple is a commercial species, Crone has been able to find records on seed and syrup production covering the past 12 years. In reviewing those records, Crone and Rapp confirmed that not only are sugar maples mast seeders — large crops of seeds occur every two or three years — but maple syrup production has declined after heavy seed production and has risen in the springs following light seed production.

Crone and Rapp are particularly interested in this spring’s sap because last fall’s heavy seed crop was the largest mast seeding in the dozen years covered by their records. New evidence would further support their work, which has moved into the phase of investigating the mechanisms behind the mast seeding phenomenon. There are several theories on why some species mast seed. One theory focuses on resource limitation, hypothesizing that producing many seeds in one year depletes a tree’s resources so they produce a poor crop the following year. Another theory suggests that producing bumper crops followed by poor seed years is a way to control seed-eater populations, allowing more seeds to survive, germinate, and produce the next generation. A third theory focuses on the interplay between the maple’s small green flowers and their pollinators, a native bee slightly smaller than a housefly.

Rapp said the winter’s warmth accelerated Harvard Forest’s sugar season by several weeks. The researchers tapped the trees in mid-February, and sap flow peaked in early March, when in more typical winters it would be just getting under way.

The project won’t end with the spring sugar season. Researchers will be working in the forest’s maple canopy this spring, investigating maple flowers and bees, trapping some to see what kind of pollen they’re carrying. The researchers will again document seed production in the fall, as well as the sap flow next spring. They also are searching for older historical records. Crone said she expects the study to continue for several years to capture several boom-and-bust cycles.

In the meantime, Rapp is putting the Harvard Forest’s kitchen stove to work, boiling up some syrup in an effort that argues that botany, not boxing, is the real sweet science.

Photos by Joshua Rapp
“The opportunities,” Anantawan said, “are limitless.”

While investigating the role of adaptive musical instruments in a universally designed music curriculum, Anantawan has connected with scholars at Harvard and beyond, such as music and technology guru Tod Machover, considered the grandfather of “Guitar Hero,” and head of the MIT Media Lab's Opera of the Future group, and members of the Harvard Medical School community for lengthy discussions on rehabilitative science.

He has also brought his talent and drive to the classroom, helping students in an inclusive school in Boston with a variety of musical and arts projects.

“If you want to be able to design curriculum or to create new musical instruments for any child, you have to understand how they work ... their behavior; their decision-making processes, the interplay between imagination, play, and learning. That's what fascinates me.”

Anantawan’s own artistic journey began in large part because his parents “didn’t know any better.” Realizing their young son was unable to play the recorder, which requires the use of the fingers on both hands, they quickly sought another musical option.

“We were successful because of that ignorance,” he said. “We came from the premise of ‘Why not?’”

With input from Anantawan, a rehabilitation center in Toronto helped to create his adaptive device for the violin. The Canadian’s dedication and talent ultimately gained him entrance to Philadelphia’s prestigious Curtis Institute of Music for his bachelor's degree, and later to Yale University, where he received his master’s degree in music in 2006. His professional career has included performances at the White House, the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, and Carnegie Hall. But for Anantawan, something was missing on stage.

“I just felt,” he said, “like there needed to be something more.”

That something more first took shape during a tour of the same rehabilitation center years after it had first helped him as a child. There for a concert, Anantawan was introduced to a virtual device that translates a person’s movement into sound. Intrigued, he sought a grant from Yale and used the funding to assemble a team of psychologists, music therapists, doctors, researchers, and musicians to explore the connections among music, technology, and health care, using the virtual tool. The project culminated in a recent performance given by a former violinist paralyzed from a neurological disorder, and now a quadriplegic, who played with the Montreal Chamber Orchestra.

“Music was such an important part of his life growing up,” said Anantawan, “and to see technology used to give him access to performance once again, but also at such a high level, makes me optimistic of the future for young children with disabilities.”

Inspired by the experience and eager to offer children with disabilities the chance to “communicate their stories to a wide audience,” he turned to the HGSE’s Arts in Education Program. “I realized this was the place I needed to be,” said Anantawan, who sent Harvard his only application. It was Harvard, he said, or nothing.

After graduation, he hopes to teach in a similar inclusive environment where he can work on leveraging the implicit strengths in every child, “regardless of ability.”

For Anantawan, the work is also deeply personal. He recalled being “marginalized” in school for being “slightly different,” and how his world opened when he joined a chamber orchestra at age 12.

“It was one of the first times I was accepted within a peer group, mainly because it’s how you sound; it’s not how you look. It’s how you express and communicate.”

With his future work, he hopes to help children “feel included and be able to express themselves on an equal level with their peers.”

He is well on his way. On his tablet computer, he proudly played a video of his fifth-graders at the Dr. William W. Henderson Inclusion Elementary School performing a dance routine to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” A third of the students there have some type of cognitive, behavioral, or physical need. But on stage they were a polished unit, and they were having a blast.

“This is as fulfilling as any concert that I have given in my life,” said a beaming Anantawan. “Carnegie Hall can’t beat these kids.”

The violinist happily admits there are two types of flow in his life now. One involves playing his instrument, the other his work with children.

“I could do this work for hours non-stop,” he said, “and still be happy.”

In tune, without limits

Violinist Adrian Anantawan was born without a right hand, but became a professional violinist. He now is enrolled in the HGSE’s Arts in Education Program, with the goal of helping other disabled students.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Positive psychology guru Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi defines his concept of “flow” as a seamless connection between body and mind. Elite athletes call it “being in the zone,” a hyper-focused mental state resulting in streamlined, streaming movements.

“It’s when there is no resistance between work and what you are,” said Adrian Anantawan one morning, as he played a passage from Claude Debussy’s ethereal “Clair de Lune” in the still of Adams House’s Lower Common Room.

For many top musicians, such a feeling often only comes after years of practice. For Anantawan, who was born without a right hand, developing that type of powerful concentration with the violin took extra resolve, a dose of ignorance, and a spatula — a specially designed attachment made of plastic and Velcro that allows him to hold his bow.

After years as a professional musician, the gifted violinist is enrolled in the Arts in Education Program at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education (HGSE), with the goal of helping other disabled students in their artistic and creative development.

Photo by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer
They came out of the woodwork almost overnight. Angry, indefatigable, they were a burgeoning faction gaining strength in 2009, and their mission to undercut new President Barack Obama was clear. In the mad dash toward the 2012 elections, the Tea Party has grown from a grassroots movement into a full-fledged political force.

Theda Skocpol, the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology, and Vanessa Williamson, a third-year Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, have spent countless hours investigating the party’s rise, traveling the country interviewing members of this potent new enterprise for their new book “The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism.”

**Portrait of the Tea Party**

New book documents a rising movement of likable people with offbeat ideas, who constitute a major influence on the Republican Party in this presidential election.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

“The thing that was new about our research is that we actually sat down and talked to Tea Party people,” said Skocpol, who, along with Williamson, attended local Tea Party meetings in New England, Virginia, and Arizona. “You learn a lot more about the whole person because the first question we’d ask would be ‘Tell us about yourself, and how you got involved with the Tea Party.’ ”

The Tea Party, made up of “mostly older, white conservatives in the middle class,” said Williamson, has grown enough that it can sway midterm elections and pressure politicians to embrace more right-leaning policies.

“One of the strongest emotional reactions we heard was a generational concern. Again and again, we heard that these people felt their country was being taken away from them — this feeling that young people, particularly minorities and unauthorized immigrants, and other people that just seemed different to them, were taking advantage of government services and not working as hard as they had,” said Williamson. “As older people, they were recipients of programs like Social Security and Medicare; they felt that those benefits they had earned, while there were other people who hadn’t earned those benefits who were somehow getting ahead unfairly.”

Thiers is a fear-based uprising, said Skocpol, hinged around the 2008 election. “They find the moment of Obama’s presidency and the things that were being done by the Democratic Congress very scary, and we wanted to know a lot more about what exactly was so scary,” said Skocpol.

“Obama is really at the center of a vortex of concerns,” added Williamson.

Tea Partiers perceive Obama not just as black, but as not actually American, said the authors, because of his foreign-sounding name and his foreign-born father.

This quest to preserve what is authentically “American” is essential to the Tea Party members, and so immigration policy is at the forefront of their anxieties.

“Furious about immigration, they think a lot of it is illegal, more so than it really is, and they want the government to crack down, both at the border and in terms of denying access to benefits and college loans. They’re completely against the DREAM Act and spending tax money sending immigrant children to college,” said Skocpol.

“When I asked some members what our immigration policy should be, they said it should be a 12 million-passenger bus back to Mexico,” said Williamson. “It’s a hard-line stance.”

But the authors said they genuinely liked their interviewees, and sent them copies of the book, which “presents them in a full human light,” said Skocpol. Even though many of those interviewed subscribed to some strange conspiracy theories — like the idea of “death panels” in the Affordable Care Act, boards they imagined, incorrectly, would decide which patients live and which die — “we found most of them in person to be intelligent and often very pragmatic about politics. They just had some crazy, mistaken ideas about the content of policy.”

As for the November election, it’s going to be close, says Theda Skocpol (from left), the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology, who with Vanessa Williamson, a third-year Ph.D. candidate, wrote “The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism.”

“As for the November election, it’s going to be close, says Theda Skocpol and Williamson agree. “I do think Mitt Romney will be the nominee, and I think it will be a nasty election. Romney is perceived as the most moderate, but he’s signed on to the full menu of Tea Party-backed priorities. They’re being backed up by some very wealthy lobbying forces who have a very clear policy agenda they’ve been pushing for a long time, and they intend to push it through,” said Skocpol.

She noted that Romney isn’t the favored Republican candidate. Tea Partiers simply don’t trust him, but they will support him as the nominee who can beat Obama.

“It’s probably going to be one of the most important elections in American history because it’s going to determine whether we have things like health care, Medicare, Social Security, college loans... Tea Partiers want to get rid of college loans and college grants for low-income students,” she added.

“This is a very important moment.”
A welcome home

After more than a decade away, Professor Eric Maskin returned to the Economics Department this semester to a warm reception — and with a Nobel Prize in tow.

By Katie Koch  |  Harvard Staff Writer

By 2000, Eric Maskin needed a break. Then the Louis Berkman Professor of Economics at Harvard, his days were a blur of graduate student advising, teaching, and committee meetings. Wanting more time to pursue his research, he did the improbable: He left Harvard.

Now, the prodigal economist has returned.

“It’s interesting, coming back to this department, how many of the same people are still here,” Maskin said one afternoon, his spacious Littauer Center office still half-buried under cardboard boxes. “They even look pretty much the same — maybe a little bit grayer.”

Maskin brought back a few gray hairs of his own after more than a decade at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton, N.J. But when he returned to the department as a professor of economics in January, he was also toting a hefty gold medal — the 2007 Nobel Prize in economics.

Maskin received the honor for a career’s worth of contributions to the field of mechanism design, or as he explains it, “economics in reverse.” Now a staple of game theory economics, mechanism design theory grew in part from Maskin’s work at Harvard, his on-and-off home since his undergraduate days more than 40 years ago.

Instead of starting with a situation and trying to predict the outcome it leads to, market design economists start with the outcome they want and try to create a scenario — the “game” in game theory — that gives rise to that outcome. Unlike the vast majority of economics, which studies markets and world conditions as they are, Maskin and his colleagues explore how markets could be created or tweaked to achieve social goals.

“I get annoyed by the claim that ‘the invisible hand’ — i.e., markets by themselves — will take care of everything,” he said. “We know, from theory, that for very good reasons some markets are not going to work the way we would wish them to,” a statement to which the financial and housing market crashes of recent years attest, he added.

Maskin, who grew up in small-town Alpine, Massachusetts, arrived at Harvard in 1968 to study mathematics. On a whim, he took a course with the legendary economist Kenneth Arrow that covered “a hodgepodge of topics from the frontier of economic theory,” including the nascent field of mechanism design.

“This work was a revelation to me,” Maskin wrote in his Nobel autobiography. “It had the precision, rigor, and sometimes the beauty of pure mathematics and also addressed problems of real social importance — an irresistible combination.”

Maskin stayed on to pursue a doctorate in applied mathematics, a flexible program that allowed him to explore his budding interests in game theory and mechanism design. Arrow, his adviser, urged him on, despite the fact that no textbooks on the subject existed at the time. Maskin completed his Ph.D. in just four years.

After a postdoctoral year in England, he took a job in 1977 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s (MIT) economics department, where he taught the first course in game theory, then viewed as something of a fringe topic.

“Within less than 10 years, there was a revolution,” Maskin said. “By the mid-1980s, it was required as part of the core curriculum.”

He left MIT for Harvard in 1985. At both universities, he was known for mentoring students, many of whom became his close collaborators. But after 15 years, the place that once brought vitality to his work had become a drain for him. Maskin left Harvard for IAS, an independent institution that gave him free rein to tackle his research.

The move to Princeton coincided with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to buy physicist Albert Einstein’s former home, where Einstein lived from 1936 until his death in 1955. (The property can only be sold to IAS faculty.) On Halloween, Maskin would dress as Einstein, while his wife would carve an E=mc² pumpkin for the front porch.

Then came the Nobel Prize, which he shared with Roger B. Myerson and the late Leonid Hurwicz. Maskin steadfastly maintains that the honor had little effect on his work or standing within the world of economics, but the prize did bring mechanism design to the broader public.

“The Nobel is a very public thing,” he said. “Having the wider audience has been interesting and worthwhile, but it also makes you think carefully about what you say, because it might end up in the papers.”

The decision to return to Harvard was prompted by a combination of factors — “these things usually are,” Maskin said. He missed the intellectual stimulation of daily interactions with faculty and students. He and his wife wanted to be closer to their 25-year-old disabled son, who recently moved to an assisted-living community in Western Massachusetts. (The couple also has a daughter, a senior at Bryn Mawr College.)

Maskin is eager to reunite with his chamber music group, a rotating lineup of Boston-area economists, with whom he plays clarinet. He’s also hoping to find some suitable squash partners. “I’m a mediocre player, but an enthusiastic one,” he said. During the interview, Ben Friedman, William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy and a fellow wall-banger, stuck his head in the door to say hello.

“He’s much too good for me,” Maskin lamented after he left.

And, of course, there’s the familiar rush of being back in front of a chalkboard. This semester, Maskin is teaching an undergraduate course in game theory, his first in years.

“I wasn’t sure, when the course started, what was going to happen,” he said. “Was I just going to get up there and do all the talking? But the students are full of things to say.”

It turns out that Harvard still has something to offer a Nobel Prize winner. “I’d been sitting in relative solitude at the institute,” Maskin said. “I didn’t realize how much I’d missed that energy.”

Faculty Profile

He left MIT for Harvard in 1985. At both universities, he was known for mentoring students, many of whom became his close collaborators. But after 15 years, the place that once brought vitality to his work had become a drain for him. Maskin left Harvard for IAS, an independent institution that gave him free rein to tackle his research.

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O’Donnells donate $30 million
Gift by businessman and wife will support University’s mission, with hopes that it may spur donations to help shape Harvard’s future.

Harvard University announced Tuesday that well-known Boston business executive and philanthropist Joseph J. O’Donnell ’67, M.B.A. ’71, a longtime Harvard benefactor, and his wife, Katherine A. O’Donnell, have donated $30 million to the University.

The gift, which underscores the O’Donnells’ confidence in what they call the “superb leadership” of President Drew Faust and the School deans, will support Harvard’s long-term mission as planning continues for an eventual University-wide campaign. The O’Donnells hope that their gift will spur others to give early in an effort to help shape the University’s future.

For Joe O’Donnell, this latest leg in his nearly five-decade association with Harvard is the culmination of a journey that led him from the streets of Everett, Mass., to the classrooms and athletic fields of the Ivy League. After graduating from Harvard College and Harvard Business School (HBS), he maintained close contact with the University, including a stint as an associate dean at HBS, where he worked closely with future dean John McArthur. O’Donnell has been an active volunteer ever since.

“Harvard has played a very important role in my life,” said Joseph J. O’Donnell (below left), an alumnus and longtime Harvard benefactor. “Kathy and I are pleased to have this opportunity to support [Harvard President Drew Faust] and the deans as they guide the University forward.”

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arvard University announced Tuesday that well-known Boston business executive and philanthropist Joseph J. O’Donnell ’67, M.B.A. ’71, a longtime Harvard benefactor, and his wife, Katherine A. O’Donnell, have donated $30 million to the University.

The O’Donnell has led to a remarkably diverse student body, which has meant a lot to me personally. I can’t thank them enough.”

Kathy’s support, on so many levels — advisory, volunteer, and philanthropic — means a lot to Harvard, and it means a lot to me personally. I can’t thank them enough.”

The O’Donnells noted that the University has helped students and teachers. We were fortunate to have had access to exceptional facilities and resources. From academics to athletics to the arts, it was really about everything the place had to offer.”

The son of an Everett police officer and a homemaker who was valedictorian of her high school class, O’Donnell attended Malden Catholic High School and Phillips Exeter Academy before enrolling in Harvard College in 1963. After receiving a degree in government, he earned his M.B.A. from HBS in 1971. At Harvard, O’Donnell was a six-time letterwinner in football and baseball, and captained the baseball team as a senior.

He founded Boston Culinary Group Inc. (originally Boston Concessions Group Inc.) in 1976, which, under his leadership, grew into a major food service corporation. The company merged with Centerplate in 2010, and O’Donnell now serves as chairman of a nationwide leader in the food service industry. He founded Belmont Capital LLC and also owns Allied Advertising Agency.

In 1986, the O’Donnells founded the Joey Fund in memory of their son, who had died of cystic fibrosis earlier that year at age 12. O’Donnell is also a trustee of the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, which twice presented him with the Breath of Life Award, its highest honor. (Note: The Food and Drug Administration recently approved the first drug to treat the cause, rather than the symptoms, of cystic fibrosis. Visit http://articles.boston.com/2012-02-09/metro/31038332_L_cystic-fibrosis-foundation-robert-beall-lungs-and-airways-for-more-information.)

His other board affiliations include: trustee of Children’s Hospital Trust (philanthropic resource for Children’s Hospital Boston), Malden Catholic High School, the Perkins School for the Blind, and the Win- sor School in Boston; and overseer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 2001, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts.

A member of the Harvard Corporation and a director of the Associates of Harvard Business School, O’Donnell has also served on the University’s Board of Overseers, the Allston Work Team, the Harvard College Fund Executive Committee as vice chair for reunion giving, various Harvard College visiting committees, and as an elected director of the Harvard Alumni Association. He has chaired or co-chaired his Harvard College and HBS class reunion committees for many years. In recognition of his service, he received the Richard T. Flood Award from the Harvard College Fund twice, and the HBS Alumni Achievement Award in 2005.
Col. Robert Gould Shaw left Harvard before graduating with the Class of 1860. He commanded the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, one of the first black fighting units. Shaw was killed in 1863 during the Second Battle of Fort Wagner in South Carolina.

Before the Civil War, Harvard was a microcosm of the complex loyalties and opinions that marked the United States. During the war, it lost more than 200 of its sons.

Late on the afternoon of Sept. 4, 1861, the soldiers of the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment, fresh and eager for action after six weeks of training, boarded trains in Readville, Mass. They were headed south, to war.

The 20th was called “the Harvard regiment” because so many of its officers were educated at the College. Some had left Harvard as undergraduates, quitting school in April when the first rebel shells rained down on Fort Sumter. By 1865, the regiment’s nickname was “the Bloody 20th.” Of the nearly 3,000 Union regiments that saw action, the Harvard regiment had the fifth-highest number of casualties.

Harvard faculty, undergraduates, and graduates served in other regiments as well, and in every branch of the service. There were 246 dead among the 1,662 with Harvard ties who fought on both sides. In the Union ranks, 176 died. On the Confederate side, where 304 men with Harvard connections enlisted, 70 died, a mortality rate two and a half times higher than the Union side.

The Civil War, now in its sesquicentennial, helped to define the modern Harvard, just as it helped to create a modern America that embraced a stronger national government and a powerful capitalistic impulse. By the end of the 1860s, Harvard had a new young president, Charles W. Eliot, who led decades of sweeping reforms.

The war that tore apart the nation echoes into the pres-

(see Civil War next page)
Civil War

(continued from previous page)

ent. Memorial Hall, a campus centerpiece whose tower overshadows the Yard, was built to honor the memory of the Union dead. They are named on tablets in the transept there, along with the battles in which they died.

Harvard’s current ties to the conflict began at the top. President Drew Faust is a historian of the era whose 2008 book, “This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War,” was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.


This semester, Harvard Professors John Stauffer and Amanda Claybaugh are teaching a course on slavery and the war. Stauffer is the author of eight books tied to the era. Claybaugh is working on a book about Reconstruction, the period from 1865 to 1877 that witnessed the beginning of a century of black slavery by another name.

But when those first trains of Harvard men and others headed south in 1861, no one could have envisioned the enormous bloodshed ahead, in which at least 640,000 soldiers and sailors would die in combat or from war-related disease. That was 2 percent of the U.S. population at the time. (In modern terms, said Faust, that would equate to 6 million Americans slain.) At Harvard College, the war’s death toll equaled two average class years.

The enormity of the war’s carnage came as a national shock. Faust wrote in “This Republic of Suffering.” “A war that was expected to be short-lived instead extended for four years and touched the life of nearly every American,” she wrote. “A military adventure undertaken as an occasion for heroes and glory turned into a costly struggle of suffering and loss.”

OFF TO WAR, FROM HARVARD

Among the first enlistees in the 20th was the patrician Caspar Crowninshield ’60, the rugged lead oar of his College crew team and the sixth from his family to graduate from Harvard. His thoughts turned somber on the train ride south. “I could not help feeling sad as I looked around,” he wrote, reflecting on how “few might ever return.”

Among the first to leave campus had been John Langdon Ward ’62, who departed five days after the attack on Fort Sumter. Within a month, already in the war zone, he wrote a letter back to an undergraduate magazine, describing his first picket duty: “T was romantic — very.” It was Crowninshield’s vision of the coming war, not Ward’s, that proved prescient. During the conflict, 1,696 men would pass through “the Bloody 20th.” Of the more than 700 soldiers on the trains that September day, just 44 would survive the Civil War.

The southbound trains carried 25 baggage wagons, 120 horses, and a dozen deserters in chains. The regiment paused in New York City, where some officers — including 1st Lt. Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. ’61, a future associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court — enjoyed a final patrician meal at Delmonico’s. Six weeks later, during the 20th’s first combat, Holmes would be flat on his back, spitting blood from a chest wound.

That minor engagement, at Ball’s Bluff, Va., on Oct. 20, was a rout for the outnumbered federal troops, a humiliating reprise of the Union’s defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run in July. For the 20th, the “butcher’s bill” — a term Holmes would later use in a letter home — came to 88 officers and men killed or wounded.

In her book, Faust rightly argues that the Civil War was the first modern conflict of attrition, with numbers so huge that authorities grappled for decades to get accurate counts. “Names might remain unknown,” she wrote, “but numbers need not be.” She described the conflict’s immense scale: 2.1 million Northerners under arms, and 880,000 Southerners — 75 percent of all Southern white men of military age.

Witessing a theater of war so large and violence on such a scale changes people. “I started this thing as a boy,” Holmes wrote to his mother in 1864, after three years of service. “I am now a man.” In the same letter he acknowledged his exhaustion with the war. “I honestly think the duty of fighting has ceased for me,” a chastened Holmes wrote, “ceased because I have laborediously and with much suffering of mind and body earned the right....”

But in other ways the war retained its power for Holmes, who in 1902 joined the high court. All through Harvard Law School, past fame, and into old age, he kept his military moustaches. And all his life, Holmes, who lived until 1935, liked it when people called him “captain.”

In 1861, Holmes viewed the war as a moral action that affirmed his beliefs in racial equality and a unified country. By the end of his service, mentally spent and three times wounded, he had changed. “The war did more than make him lose those beliefs,” wrote Menand. “It made him lose his belief in beliefs.”

“For the generation that lived through it, the Civil War was a terrible and traumatic experience,” Menand wrote. “It tore a hole in their lives. To some of them, the war seemed not just a failure of democracy, but a failure of culture, a failure of ideas.”

Most scholars agree that the war made the United States modern, ingrained the notion of a strong central government, accelerated broad-based capitalism, and set in motion a cultural conflict over race, sovereignty, and states’ rights that still simmers today. Contemporary Civil War scholarship shows that even 150 years later, this transformative conflict still has the power to disrupt, puzzle, and even anger.

In some ways, the war is still being fought, chiefly on the battlefields of culture, said Stauffer, who directs Harvard’s American Civilization Ph.D. program. The course he is co-teaching with Claybaugh explores the temporal boundaries of the war that — in military terms — lasted from 1861 to 1865. In other terms, the war began perhaps as early asNat Turner’s 1831 slave rebellion. After 1865, it went on at least until 1915, when the silent war film “Birth of a Nation” signaled how racial tensions still warped the embittered South.

HARVARD ‘A TOUCHSTONE’ OF SOCIAL FORCES

Stauffer and other scholars probe the war’s complexities. And in the years before 1861, Harvard itself was a prime example of those complexities, containing all of the boiling social forces that by 1861 made war inevitable. “It was a touchstone,” said Stauffer of antebellum Harvard.

Before the war Harvard, like the nation, was a place of factions and frictions. Some undergraduates embraced a fierce New England abolitionism. One of them was the angelically handsome William Lowell Putnam, a Harvard Law School student who served with Holmes in the 20th. His grandfather had added to the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution the landmark sentence that began, “All men are born free and equal.” When Putnam died at Ball’s Bluff, his body was placed near a groggy Holmes in a field hospital. “Beautiful boy,” Holmes heard someone say nearby, and he knew it was Putnam.

Other undergraduates were hostile to the idea of abolition and the egalitarianism it implied. One was Henry Livermore Abbott ’60, a caustic elitist who nonetheless left Harvard Law School to join the 20th and defend the Union. He died at the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864. Holmes praised the recklessly brave Abbott in a Memorial Day address in 1884, remembering the way he liked.
to swing his bared sword at the tip of a finger, “like a cane.”

In 1860-’61, still other Harvard students were patriotic, but remained sympathetic with a South that wanted to govern itself. Just before he enlisted, William Francis Bartlett ’62, who was known more for his skill at billiards than for his scholarship, wrote a school essay arguing the South’s case for independence. Yet he entered the war as a Union private, emerged as a brigadier general, and survived the conflict only at great personal cost.

In 1862, Bartlett was severely wounded in one knee, and three months later appeared — one-legged — at his graduation. Subsequent wounds to an arm, a foot, and his temple made him one of Harvard’s most battered veterans, “a wreck of wounds,” wrote historian Richard F. Miller, author of “Harvard’s Civil War,” a study of the 20th Massachusetts.

Still other Harvard students in that era were from the South, and quickly rallied to its cause. Eager to defend their homeland, they largely vacated the University in the winter of 1860-’61.

One of them was the improbably (but aptly) named States Rights Gist, who became a brigadier general in South Carolina. He had attended Harvard Law School from 1851 to ’52 and had helped in the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Gist was killed in action in 1864.

Another Harvard Confederate was John Frink Smith Van Bokkelen ’63, who early in 1861 joined a North Carolina regiment. He was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville in 1863. “While suffering from his wounds,” one writer later observed, “he spoke kindly of Harvard and his classmates.”

Perhaps Van Bokkelen knew that classmates were nearby. The 20th Massachusetts also fought at Chancellorsville, where Holmes received his third wound. During the same battle, Sumner Paine ’65, a freshly minted second lieutenant and just 17 years old, took command of the wounded Holmes’ company. Two months later, Paine was killed at Gettysburg at age 18, the youngest Harvard student to die in the war. Witnesses said his last words were, “Isn’t this glorious?”

THE HARVARD CAMPUS DURING THE WAR

Paine’s last words were an echo of the wave of patriotism that swept the College at the outset of the war. “Intense excitement about the surrender of Fort Sumter,” wrote Harvard librarian John Langdon Sibley in a diary entry from April 15, 1861. That day, two members of the junior class left campus to join a Zouave regiment, cheered on by their peers and Harvard President Cornelius Conway Felton.

At the Divinity School, students raised money to buy a pistol for a Harvard volunteer. On April 29, amid rumors that a nearby arsenal would be attacked by “secessionists among the law students,” Sibley wrote, a force of armed students and faculty guarded it overnight. By May 1, he noted in his diary that the gymnasium, stripped of exercise equipment, “is beaten by military tramp” during student rifle drills.

Among Harvard’s graduates, the first to enlist after the attack on Fort Sumter was Henry Walker ’55. He reported to the Massachusetts State House — out of breath from running, his friends said. About the same time, six Harvard undergraduates signed up with the Union forces. Ten others left to serve with the Confederacy.

“We forebear to publish the names of the ten secessionists who have just left us,” wrote the editors of the April 1861 issue of Harvard Magazine, a student publication. A Southern sympathizer sent his copy of the next issue in a diary entry from April 15, 1861. That day, Sibley in a diary entry from April 15, 1861. That day, Sibley wrote, a force of armed students and faculty guarded it overnight. By May 1, he noted in his diary that the gymnasium, stripped of exercise equipment, “is beaten by military tramp” during student rifle drills.

William Francis Bartlett ’62, shown here still haggard and gaunt from the war, enlisted as a private and emerged in 1865 a general — but at great personal cost and after many woundings. In 1862, three months after his first wound, he appeared — one-legged — at his graduation.
Civil War (continued from previous page)
simply “fishes nibbling.” Ropes died at Gettysburg.

Charles Russell Lowell, valedictorian of the Class of ‘54, was another aristocrat turned warrior. He became a daring cavalry officer, whose clothes in one engagement were shot full of holes and his scabbard shattered by incoming fire. When Lowell died in combat in 1864, fellow cavalryman George Armstrong Custer wept, and Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan called him “the perfection of a man and a soldier.”

Then there was Robert Gould Shaw, perhaps the most widely known Harvard Union officer because he led the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, one of the first all-black federal units in the war. He was a wealthy abolitionist and man of letters who had left Harvard in 1859. Shaw died assailing South Carolina’s Fort Wagner in 1863, and was buried in a common trench with his soldiers.

Holmes later said of Harvard’s contribution to the war, “She sent a few gentlemen into the field, who died there becomingly.”

In 1863, there were fewer than 2,700 living graduates of Harvard College. More than half of them enlisted.

TRANSFORMATIONS, AND SOMETIMES NOT

The war had transformed Holmes, Bartlett, and other veterans, physically and otherwise. But at Harvard as the war played out, “College life went on much as usual,” wrote Harvard historian Samuel Eliot Morison in a 1936 study, “and with scarcely diminished attendance.”

On campus, the days were “interrupted and filled at times with great excitement caused by the Civil War,” remembered 1865 graduate Marshall S. Snow in a 1914 essay. After breakfast, he wrote, students would scan the bulletin boards for lists of casualties. Sometimes, the College chapel held military funerals. “Those were the days which made the most
thoughtless students thoughtful,” wrote Snow, and “made them realize something of the cost of saving the Union.”

Far from the fighting, students enjoyed the intimacy of a very small campus. (In 1865 the faculty numbered just 18, including President Thomas Hill.) The students warmed their rooms with hard coal, drew water from the Harvard pump, and took meals at local boardinghouses. They watched as Grays Hall was built, as Massachusetts Hall got a new roof, and as a new sport came to Harvard: baseball.

Perhaps the most poignant sign of campus normalcy in those years was the presence of Robert Todd Lincoln, the president’s son, who graduated in 1864. In the last few weeks of the war, he was a U.S. Army staff officer who, at the insistence of his mother, never got near the front. The young Lincoln’s one brush with trouble in college came in 1862. The faculty admonished him for smoking in Harvard Square.

Just after the war ended, Harvard veterans were invited to attend Commencement. The oft-wounded Bartlett was there, and Holmes too. Alongside them were more than 200 other returning veterans, many with empty sleeves and pant legs pinned up. They were all still young, one reporter wrote, but they looked old.

The invitation had come from the Class of ’65, which had lost just one of its number — Sumner Paine — in combat. During the ceremonies, Bartlett was invited to speak. He had drilled his men while standing on one leg. Deprived of mobility, he had routinely ridden into battle as the sole horseman. He had nearly died during eight months as a prisoner of war. Yet the strong-willed Bartlett, asked to speak, had trouble saying anything. He could only, and just barely, hold back his tears.

MAKING MEMORIAL HALL

In 1866, Union Army veteran Thomas Wentworth Higginson called the Civil War “that magic epoch of adventure which has just passed by,” an experience so novel that its youthful warriors “were striking out for some new planet. The past was annihilated, the future was all.”

But not all of the past was annihilated. Harvard alumni started discussions about a memorial in May 1865, as the war ended. By December they had chosen a design. Memorial Hall was to be an ornate Gothic Revival structure, with 5,000 square feet of stained glass, a 210-foot tower, intricate slate roofing, and gargoyles sheathed with copper. One critic later called it an “impossible conglomerate of mutations.” Novelist Henry James was kinder, writing in 1888 that the hall — “a great, bristling, brick Valhalla” — dispensed “laurels to the dead and dinners to the living.”

By the summer of 1874, Memorial Hall’s transept was finished, a compact indoor space where 28 tablets memorialized 136 of Harvard’s Union dead. The finished building, Sanders Theatre included, was dedicated on June 24, 1878.

One of the speakers was Civil War hero William Francis Bartlett ’62. Thirteen years before, at a Harvard ceremony for returning veterans, he could hardly speak. But in the new hall, Bartlett found his voice. “Their fame is secure, immutable, immortal,” he said of the honored slain. “We shall grow old and wear out, but they shall always keep for us their glorious, spotless youth.” Bartlett, his health shattered by the war, died six months later.

— Corydon Ireland

HARVARD IN THE CIVIL WAR, BY THE NUMBERS

UNION ENLISTMENTS: 1,358
College, 608
Medical School, 387
Law School, 285
Lawrence Scientific, 54
Divinity, 23
Observatory, 1
Killed or died of wounds, 110
Died from disease, 63
Died from accidents, 3

CONFEDERATE ENLISTMENTS: 304
College, 94
Medical School, 2
Law School, 177
Lawrence Scientific, 31
Killed or died of wounds, 57
Died from disease, 12
Died from accidents, 1

Source: Harvard Alumni Bulletin, 1918
A vision of computing’s future

In 1978, while a student at the Harvard Business School, Dan Bricklin conceived of VisiCalc, the first electronic spreadsheet program for personal computers. The result helped to spark a digital revolution in business.

By Peter Reuell | Harvard Staff Writer

As Harvard celebrates its 375th anniversary, the Gazette is examining key moments and developments over the University’s broad and compelling history.

These days, there’s a plaque in Room 108 of Aldrich Hall that commemorates the day, in the spring of 1978, when Dan Bricklin had an idea that would forever change the personal computer business.

Then a first-year Harvard Business School (HBS) student, Bricklin watched as a professor sketched out a complex business model, and immediately saw the problem — changing a single parameter meant laboriously recalculating subsequent entries. It was then that inspiration struck. Why not let a computer do the tedious work for you?

That inspiration eventually became VisiCalc, a pioneering electronic spreadsheet and a progenitor of programs like Microsoft Excel. Released in 1979, the program is widely credited for helping to transform the personal computer from a toy for hobbyists into an indispensable business tool.

“After VisiCalc, it dawned on the world that, whatever the impact of the personal computer might be in the home, it was going to change the way business was done,” said Harry R. Lewis, Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science. “The mainframe computer model required someone to make a huge capital investment. You had to be an employee of a very large company or rent time from a time-sharing service to use one. Once you had small computers, businesses could control their own data, and they could expand incrementally. It was hugely empowering for small innovators.”

Though his idea would go on to play a critical role in making personal computers one of the most ubiquitous appliances of the late 20th century, Bricklin, today the president of a Newton-based company that develops iPad apps, said the notion of a “personal” computer was completely foreign to most people in the late ‘70s.

“Computers were not something used by the average person, any more than a nuclear reactor is something that’s used by a regular person today,” he said. “A computer for one person mainly only happened in research labs.

“Using a keyboard, even on a typewriter, wasn’t a common thing for most people in business; there were secretaries or steno pools,” he continued. “Email was used only by the techiest of techies. Using a computer to do financial forecasting — that was not something small businesses did. They usually did their computations by hand on ledger sheets and stored their data on Rolodexes and 3-by-5 cards.”

Bricklin, however, was one of the few who understood how those rules could be rewritten. Already an experienced programmer when he arrived at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the late ‘60s, Bricklin pursued a degree in electrical engineering and computer science, and spent many hours programming interactive systems in the institute’s Laboratory for Computer Science. It was also there that Bricklin met VisiCalc co-creator Bob Frankston.

After graduating from MIT, Bricklin was hired by Digital Equipment Corp. Over the next several years, he worked on computerized typesetting systems and led the development of one of the earliest word-processing systems, the WPS-8. He later took a job at FasFax, a manufacturer of microprocessor-based electronic cash registers, before enrolling at HBS.

“I had the right combination of experience and knowledge to develop software that met a need people had,” Bricklin said. “I lived through the first digital revolution, the change from slide rules to calculators. Based on my experience at Digital, I was familiar with screen-based word processing of a sort. And after my experience at FasFax, I was very familiar with the type of electronic-based systems used by regular people. When I put all that together, it led me to the idea for VisiCalc.”

Though the product hit the market just as the revolutionary Apple II opened the public’s eyes to personal computers, it took several years before the program became the accepted paradigm in business, Bricklin said.

“The first time I got the feeling that we had made it was when the Wall Street Journal ran an editorial about Reagan’s budget, and it said there were legal pads and VisiCalc spreadsheets all over Washington trying to figure out how the budget would work,” Bricklin said. “My view of why it was important was that the people VisiCalc appealed to were the money people. They were the people who now understood that the personal computer was a viable business tool.”

While he may not have the name recognition of Harvard-born computer industry pioneers like Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg, Bricklin credits his time in Cambridge as a crucial factor in the development of the program.

“When I was at Harvard — the way it helped me to see the variety and how nonstandard the real world is — it was the perfect place to come up with the idea,” he said. “The aspects that made it special, that DNA has continued straight through into Excel, and even into the spreadsheet in Google Docs. They all follow that line. To see the decisions I made, and the things I started, continue that way ... it’s like a dream come true.”

For more about the 375th anniversary, visit 375.harvard.edu or scan QR code.


Photo: © www.jimmycroft.com 1982
Hub of the post-College universe

As undergraduates turn their thoughts to life after Harvard, the Office of Career Services helps them to prepare for work and graduate school.

By Paul Massari | Harvard Staff Writer

Henry Shull ‘13 thought he would follow in his parents’ footsteps. Shull’s mother and father are lawyers who went into public service, so he assumed he would go to law school after college. The more he talked with his Housemates, however, the more he realized that he didn’t really know what he wanted to do. That’s when he showed up on the doorstep of Harvard’s Office of Career Services (OCS).

“I met with Nancy Saunders [director of undergraduate career programming and advising],” Shull said. “She helped me broaden my outlook and consider careers in journalism, government, and public policy. Now I’m applying for summer internships at publications like Time and the Washington Monthly, at think tanks like the Pew Research Center and the Council on Foreign Relations, and at government offices like the U.N. Office at Nairobi and the U.S. Agency for International Development.”

As undergraduates like Shull turn their thoughts to life after Harvard, OCS strives to help them prepare for work and graduate school. Director Robin Mount said that she and her colleagues try to acquaint students with the wide range of options available to them after graduation, from jobs and internships, to professional school, to international fellowships and travel.

“We’re the on-campus hub for students looking to explore opportunities after graduation,” Mount said. “We offer advising, either on a drop-in basis or by appointment; mock interviews; resume critiques and workshops; the online Crimson Careers employer database; and much more. We’re here to help students choose their next experience.”

If recent OCS survey data is any indicator, approximately 60 percent of the Class of 2013 will likely choose work for their next experience after college. Mount said that, contrary to stereotypes, most new alumni do not go into finance or consulting.

“Despite what you read in a lot of articles, only 12 percent of last year’s graduating seniors planned to work in the financial sector, and only 9 percent in consulting,” she said. “Jobs in marketing, communications, media and the arts, at 11 percent, were almost as popular as finance. And the organization that hired the most members of the Class of 2011 was not an investment bank. It was Teach For America.”

While most students likely will go right to work, OCS officials said it’s unlikely that these first jobs will turn into careers. That’s because recent alumni are still exploring their talents and passions. Close to 70 percent of Harvard students eventually return to school to earn a graduate degree. OCS’s Nancy Saunders said that students who want to pursue an academic or professional degree can come to her and her OCS colleagues for help navigating the College’s robust advising structure.

“Students can benefit from the combined support of faculty, House tutors, and OCS advisers when considering graduate or professional school,” she said. “The decision to pursue a higher degree in an academic discipline begins with the support and guidance of faculty. OCS advisers can help students better understand the important role that faculty play in recommending students for highly competitive master’s and Ph.D. programs. For professional degree programs, including medical, law, and business school, OCS advisers work closely with House tutors to provide information and preparation for the application process, as well as helpful advice for choosing programs that best suit the student’s needs.”

Undergraduates considering graduate school might meet with a counselor such as Lee Ann Michelson, OCS’s director of premedical and health career advising. Michelson helps students identify the reasons for their interest in a medical career. She also encourages them to test that interest through clinical experience, which they often obtain by taking a year off between college and graduate school. If students are set on pursuing a career in medicine, Michelson helps them to think from the perspective of an admissions officer and to craft an application along those lines. That means, among other things, demonstrating that they can adapt and learn in a field where knowledge is constantly changing.

“A Harvard Medical School faculty member once said that 50 percent of what he learned in medical school, he had forgotten,” Michelson said. “He said that the other 50 percent was obsolete.”

Matthew Young ‘12 starts at Harvard Medical School this August. He says that Michelson and her colleagues helped him to get the experience he needed to prepare for graduate study, and then worked with him to make his application a success.

“OCS helped me enter the Weissman International Internship Program, which funded a summer-long trip to Paris to work at the Pasteur Institute on malaria,” Young said. “Lee Ann and [Assistant Director] Oona Ceder also helped me think about what to focus on in my medical school personal statement.”

While the options for Harvard graduates may be virtually limitless, Mount said it’s important for students to remember that almost anything worth doing will take plenty of hard work. She points to recent pro basketball sensation Jeremy Lin ’10 as a model both of the horizons open to undergraduates and of the persistence it takes to reach them.

“Jeremy is a great example of the different paths available to students after graduation, and of trying until you succeed,” she said. “It’s hard work to land jobs and internships and to get into graduate school. Students are often disappointed with how much work it’s going to take. But that’s the process.”

Shull says that he has found plenty of support for his career exploration process at OCS. He encourages fellow undergraduates to leverage the office’s resources as they make plans for life after college.

“OCS has strengths in a lot of different areas,” he said. “They have advisers dedicated to international programs; publishing, law, medicine, public service, marketing, advertising, and more. We’ve helped me to explore and broaden my outlook. This summer I’ll do an internship, and my idea of what I want to do will evolve from there. That’s one of the better things OCS has done for me. They’ve helped me see that it’s OK to try things out and not limit my options.”

Photo by Jon Chase | Harvard Staff Photographer
Registered dietitians don’t get to make a wish each March for National Nutrition Month. But if they did, Michelle Gallant’s might be this: for everyone to just stop dieting.

It sounds a bit strange. After all, Gallant’s job is to help people eat better, a mission that conjures an image of a food-pyramid-wielding spoilsport out to replace our burgers and milkshakes with spinach and whole grains.

“People think of us as the food police,” Gallant said one afternoon in her Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) office. “But I call myself the no-diets dietitian.”

As one of only two full-time clinical dietitians at HUHS, Gallant juggles many duties at the University. She counsels clients with eating disorders, advises patients with diabetes or high cholesterol on their food choices, and educates everyone from bewildered freshmen to busy graduate students to new parents on how to manage meals.

But Gallant is best known for her classes on intuitive eating, which she has taught through HUHS since 2009. Over the course of 10 Wednesday evenings, her small group of chronic dieters — some students, some staff, some spouses, almost always women — learn to rewire their relationships with food and redefine what it means to be healthy.

“To see the energy that people are wasting being preoccupied with food and body image and weight, it’s debilitating,” Gallant said. Americans’ obsession with dieting and the elusive ideal of fitness “has totally colored the way we eat. It’s made eating a project and a chore, instead of one of life’s great pleasures.”

The goal of intuitive eating, she explained, is to help people “unleash that energy they’ve put toward food to do better things in their own lives and in the world.” In the seven times she’s taught the course, she has heard success stories. One of her students started a band. Another found the courage to take up belly dancing. A third put that energy toward academics and wrote an award-winning thesis.

It sounds a little too feel-good to be true. But as more studies show that fad diets don’t work long term, Gallant and other dietitians are starting to advocate not for a set of foolproof nutritional rules, but for a psychological transformation in the way we view food and weight.

“It’s not a fringe thing,” Gallant said, citing the widely embraced book “Intuitive Eating,” by Evelyn Tribole and Elyse Resch, and the increasingly popular “Health at Every Size” movement. “There’s a scientific basis for it, and it’s growing as people realize just how frustrating diets can be, and how much they don’t work. This is about trying to reach a size that is natural for you, whatever that might be.”

The goal isn’t to lose weight, but to become what Gallant calls a “competent eater,” a mindset that entails a more holistic approach to food. That means giving oneself unconditional permission to eat, enjoying food, paying attention to the body’s signals of hunger and fullness, and being reliable about meals.

“If you’ve spent your whole life putting yourself on a diet,” Gallant said, “it takes time to undo that. But you have to keep working at it.”

Despite growing up as an overweight child in Lynn, Mass., Gallant managed to avoid the feedback loop of constant dieting, a lucky fate that might seem unthinkable for today’s media-saturated kids.

“I think it goes back to my mother, and how she allowed us to eat, and the way she showed love,” said Gallant, one of five siblings. “But I was never put on a diet. I thank my mother and the wise old family doctor for not doing that to me.”

Instead, she got hooked on nutrition in high school, when she took a course on dietetics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The field’s scientific rigor, its many hands-on applications, and the ability to help others appealed to her.

After earning degrees from Framingham State College and Syracuse University, she worked at a number of jobs in the Syracuse area: private practice nutrition therapist, home-care nutritionist, hospital dietitian, diabetes-management educator for the Wegmans grocery chain. In 2008, she took the HUHS job and moved back to New England to be closer to her family.

To relax, she cooks and bakes bread by hand in her Belmont home. She has a few favorite chefs (“Everyone should have a copy of Mark Bittman’s ‘How to Cook Everything’”), but shuns the celebrity-driven theatrics of modern cuisine.

“There’s a lot of drama around food now,” Gallant said. “People are thinking their meals have to be spectacular. They don’t. Just get yourself fed.”

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

Forget Nutrition Labels and calorie counting. Michelle Gallant, a clinical dietitian at Harvard University Health Services, is on a one-woman mission to teach how proper eating means trusting your gut.

For the no-diets dietitian
A measure of redemption for basketball, hockey

In its first trip to the NCAA Men’s Division 1 Basketball Championship tournament in decades, the Harvard men’s team slashed an 18-point deficit to 5 before falling to heralded Vanderbilt, 79-70. Despite the loss, the Crimson and their fans can look back on an Ivy title and a record 26 wins — and forward to a bright future.

By Paul Massari | Harvard Staff Writer

The members of the Harvard men’s basketball team held their heads high as they exited the NCAA Men’s Division 1 Basketball Championship on March 15, and with good reason. In their first trip to the tournament since 1946, the Crimson gave heralded Vanderbilt a scare, cutting an 18-point deficit to 5 before falling to the Commodores, 79-70. Despite the loss, Harvard showed that it deserved a place at the “Big Dance.”

“I think we battled very hard,” said forward Kyle Casey ’13 after the game. “We didn’t just give in when we could have given in. We feel like we belong here.”

Although the loss was disappointing, the Crimson and their fans can look back on a remarkable season. The team won the Ivy League championship outright for the first time in program history, beating out longtime rivals Penn and Princeton. Harvard’s 26 wins broke the record the men’s team set last year. Along the way the Crimson won the Battle 4 Atlantis (B4A) tournament, beat nationally ranked Florida State University, ran their home winning streak to 28 games, and rose as high as No. 21 in the ESPN/USA Today coaches’ poll and No. 22 in the Associated Press ranking.

“We won our conference,” said coach Tommy Amaker at the tournament’s Media Day. “We’re very excited about how we were able to do that and certainly be in this position to be 12-2 in the Ivy League and 26-4. We had a sensational year.”

Amaker said that the Crimson’s season can only help him and his staff to build a stronger program. While co-captains Oliver McNally and Keith Wright graduate this year, starters Casey and Brandyn Curry will return next season. The loss of the team’s seniors also will open up playing time, including for highly touted freshmen Wesley Saunders and Kenyatta Smith. The Crimson’s recent success brings the team closer to its aim of joining Stanford and Vanderbilt as one of the top basketball programs in the country.

“That’s kind of a goal of ours, to see if we can get involved in those circles,” Amaker said. “We’ve been able to do it. Our staff has worked incredibly hard to identify those prospects and try to build relationships with those kids and the various individuals around them. Certainly, having some success here with our program, I think, has allowed us to gain some traction and a foothold to make our way and to identify the kids who fit the profile for Harvard. That’s a neat thing for us, to be in those circles with Vandy and Northwestern and Stanford and those schools with the kids that we’re trying to compete for.”

Harvard co-captain Oliver McNally (right) heads to the hoop during the Crimson’s 79-70 loss to Vanderbilt in the second round of the 2012 NCAA Men’s Division 1 Basketball Championship Tournament.
The men’s hockey season finally ended Saturday, with a loss to No. 6 Union in the ECAC championship in Atlantic City. The team did everything it could to prolong this season: 14 games went to overtime, and an NCAA-record 11 ended in ties.

“The ties and overtimes were cause for a lot of stress from the coaching staff all the way down through the players,” said Ted Donato, the Robert D. Ziff ’88 Head Coach for Harvard Men’s Ice Hockey. “But it also bonded us in a way that very few teams have the opportunity to do. The team was galvanized by the stressful situations throughout the year, and came to welcome it.”

The past three seasons tried the Crimson’s patience. After three losing seasons, the Crimson were the media’s pick to finish last in the conference in 2012. The team responded by going 13-10-11, one win shy of the national tournament.

Patience served the Crimson well in this season of redemption, but if there was ever a time to panic, it was in the second game of the ECAC quarterfinals against Yale. One day after an overtime loss, the Crimson entered the first intermission down 2-0 and facing elimination.

“With the amount of comebacks we had, I don’t think anyone was pushing the panic button,” said Donato.

True to form, they saved their best for last. Harvard scored three power-play goals and won in double overtime. An 8-2 win ended the series before Harvard beat No. 13 Cornell, 6-1, in the semifinal. The season-ending surge of 9-4-5 prompted a No. 19 national ranking.

Conference voters also rewarded individual efforts. Senior forward Alex Killorn and junior defenseman Danny Biega garnered first-team ECAC honors. Biega was one of the best two-way players in the country, second nationally among defensemen in points per game and honored as the Best Defensive Defenseman in the conference. Freshman defenseman Patrick McNally brought more hardware to the blue line, placing on the ECAC All-Rookie team.

Freshman Steve Michalek joined McNally on the All-Rookie team, and sophomore Raphael Girard, who had the fourth-best save percentage in the country, was named ECAC Goaltender of the Month for February. Their play made the Crimson’s least experienced position perhaps its strongest.

Donato is grateful for the outgoing senior leadership, but he can’t help looking forward. “There are seasons where, as a coach, you feel spent at the end. You need to take a breath and regroup,” said Donato. “Then there are seasons like this. And you can’t wait to get playing again.”
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/.

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

CAADS TRAINER, REQ 26093, GRADE 56
Alumni Affairs and Development, FT

LEAD RECRUITMENT SERVICES CONSULTANT, REQ 26117, GRADE 58
University Administration, FT

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST, REQ 26203, GRADE 57
Harvard Planning and Project Management, FT

DONOR RELATIONS AND STEWARDSHIP MANAGER, REQ 26158, GRADE 55
University Operations Services, FT

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT, REQ 26089, GRADE 53
University Administration, PT

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER, REQ 26146, GRADE 58
Harvard University Information Technology, FT

GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CAMBRIDGE QUEEN’S HEAD PUB AND MANAGER OF STUDENT EVENT SERVICES, REQ 26171, GRADE 58
Harvard University Hospitality and Dining Services, FT

Lizabeth Cohen, an eminently scholar of 20th-century American social and political history and interim dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study since last July, has been named dean, announced Harvard President Drew Faust.

"Liz Cohen is a distinguished and imaginative scholar with a deep knowledge of Radcliffe and Harvard and a strong dedication to Radcliffe’s pursuit of new ideas and collaborations across the academic disciplines, the professions, and the creative arts," said Faust in announcing the appointment. "She is an experienced academic leader with a talent for nurturing creativity and spurring cooperative effort, and as interim dean she has already strengthened Radcliffe’s ties to people and programs across Harvard and beyond. Her wide span of intellectual interests, her spirited curiosity, and her incisive intelligence promise to serve the institute well."

Read the full story: http://hvd.gs/104437.

WOOD TO RECEIVE ALAN T. WATERMAN AWARD
Harvard engineer Robert J. Wood has been named one of two recipients of the Alan T. Waterman Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Wood, an associate professor of electrical engineering at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and a core member of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard, shares the honor with Scott Aaronson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The annual award, the NSF’s most prestigious honor, recognizes an outstanding researcher under the age of 35 in any field of science or engineering that the NSF supports. In addition to a medal, Wood and Aaronson will each receive a $1 million grant over a five-year period for further advanced study.

"Rob Wood’s research is an intriguing example of the growing interplay of biology and engineering, as well as the power of university research both to advance our basic understanding of how things work and to envision potential solutions to real-world challenges," said Harvard President Drew Faust.

"We’re pleased that the NSF has recognized his uncommonly imaginative work."

Read the full story: http://hvd.gs/104612.

JASANOFF’S ‘LIBERTY’ EARNS NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD
The National Book Critics Circle recognized Harvard Professor Maya Jasanoff with its award for general nonfiction for “Liberty’s Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary War” (Knopf). At the awards ceremony, Jasanoff opened her remarks by saying, “When you write a book about losers, you don’t really expect to get up and make a speech like this.”

Jasanoff is also one of three finalists for the $50,000 George Washington Book Prize for “Liberty’s Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World,” which will be announced June 4.

GSAS STUDENT JOINS WORLDWIDE BERNSTEIN DISCUSSION
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences student Matthew Mugmon will be one of seven panelists convened by the New York Philharmonic for a worldwide, online discussion on Harvard alumni Leonard Bernstein’s groundbreaking tours to the former Soviet Union, Japan, Europe, and South America.

The 10:30 a.m. March 22 event features Mugmon, along with professors from New York University, Columbia University, Ochanomizu University (Tokyo), and Ludwig-Maximilians-University (Munich), taking questions from an international audience using Google Hangout.

Mugmon was selected for the panel because his dissertation in musicology centers on the reception of Gustav Mahler’s music in the United States before 1960, with a specific focus on the relationship between Mahler’s music and key figures in American modernism, including Bernstein ‘39

TWO RECOGNIZED WITH 2011 GEORGE W. MERCK FELLOWSHIP
Theodore Betley, Thomas D. Cabot Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and Victoria D’Souza, associate professor of molecular and cellular biology, were recently named as the recipients of the 2011 George W. Merck Fellowship.

Awarded annually, the two-year fellowship recognizes outstanding research by tenure-track faculty. Nominees are selected by faculty based on the innovation and impact of their research, and their potential for greater achievement. Winners are selected by Jeremy Bloxham, dean of science at Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Newsmakers

Lizabeth Cohen (above) has been named dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Robert J. Wood (below) was recognized with the prestigious Alan T. Waterman Award from the NSF.
Betley’s research focuses on catalyst discovery—specifically those that can convert less desirable chemicals like greenhouse gases into value-added commodity chemicals. Developing catalysts of this sort can impact both energy conversion strategies for renewable energy and the chemical industry by streamlining the generation of complex chemical structures with minimal waste generation.

D’Souza works to elucidate the structural aspects of retroviral replication, including the initiation of reverse transcription, transcription, and translation of viral genes. Her research has led to discoveries that have implications for new antiviral therapeutics to combat cancers and viral infections, such as HIV and Moloney murine leukemia virus (MoMLV).

The fellowships are made possible by the George W. Merck Fund of the New York Community Trust. The fellowships are made possible by the George W. Merck Fund of the New York Community Trust.

**REAI GRANTS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Real Estate Academic Initiative (REAI) at Harvard is offering its second round of grants of the academic year to support real estate and urban development research by Harvard faculty and students. Grants range from $1,500 to $10,000 for student thesis research, and from $5,000 to $15,000 for faculty research. Supported research is broadly defined to include topics in business, economics, history, design, environment, law, political science, public health, sociology, and the sciences as they relate to the built environment.

This is a valuable opportunity not only for faculty but also for graduate and undergraduate students who may need funding for research, travel, or other costs related to thesis projects. The research committee reviews applications for grants on a rolling basis; the next application deadline is March 23. For more information, an online application, and examples of previous grants, visit the REAI website at http://www.reai.harvard.edu.

For questions, email siembo@gsd.harvard.edu or call 617.495.2604.

**SEMITIC MUSEUM DIRECTOR WINS BOOK PRIZE**

“Ashkelon 3: The Seventh Century B.C.”—a publication co-written by Semitic Museum Director Lawrence Stager, has won the Irene Levi-Sala Book Prize, which encourages and rewards high-quality publications, both scholarly and popular, on the archaeology of Israel in relation to the wider context of Near Eastern history and archaeology.

**KISSINGER FEATURED SPEAKER FOR 375TH EVENT**

**HIGHLIGHTING PROMINENT ALUMS**

**Henry A. Kissinger,** who served as National Security adviser and secretary of state during the Nixon and Ford administrations after 15 years as a member of the Harvard faculty, will be the featured speaker on a panel discussion in Sanders Theatre on April 11.

Kissinger ‘50, A.M. ’52, Ph.D. ’54, was the nation’s 56th secretary of state from September 1973 until January 1977. He also served as assistant to the president for National Security Affairs from January 1969 until November 1975. He is currently chairman of Kissinger Associates, an international consulting firm.

With a welcome by Harvard President Drew Faust, “A Conversation with Henry Kissinger” will be moderated by Graham Allison, the Douglas Dillon Professor of Government and director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Panelists will be Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor Joseph Nye and Jessica Blankshain, a doctoral student in political economy and government at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The event is one of several held this academic year to highlight the experiences of prominent alumni during Harvard’s 375th anniversary celebration.

“A Conversation with Henry Kissinger” will be held at 4 p.m. April 11.

The event will be ticketed, and is free and open to all members of the Harvard community. Information on how to obtain tickets will be made available at a later date.

—— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney

**CAMPUS & COMMUNITY**

**Memorial Minutes**

**Leon Kirchner**

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on March 6, 2012, the Minute honoring the life and service of the late Leon Kirchner, Walter Bigelow Rosen Professor of Music Emeritus, was placed upon the records. Professor Kirchner reoriented the study and practice of music beyond academic disciplines to include performance and founded the Harvard Chamber Orchestra.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit http://hvd.gs/105137.

**Oscar Handlin**

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

At a Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on March 6, 2012, the Minute honoring the life and service of the late Oscar Handlin, Carl M. Loeb University Professor Emeritus, was placed upon the records. Professor Handlin was the most influential and creative historian of American social life in the second half of the twentieth century.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit http://hvd.gs/105145.

**Dorrit Cohn**

Among first tenured female faculty at FAS

Dorrit Cohn ‘45, Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Literature Emeritus, died on March 10. She was 87.

Cohn came to Harvard in 1971. A scholar of German and comparative literature, Cohn was one of three women appointed to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) in 1971. (Prior to that year, FAS had tenured only four other women in its history.) During a long academic career that began at Indiana University in 1964 and ran through her retirement in 1995, she won a number of honors, including a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship (1970-71).

To read the full obituary, visit http://hvd.gs/105057.
A chaplain without robes

A Divinity School student reflects on his calling, how it has defined him and makes him different, and where it might lead.

By Chen Zhang | Harvard Divinity School

When what became Harvard Divinity School (HDS) was being built early in the 19th century, legend has it that its architects took special care to locate it on the northeastern edge of campus, as far away from the Yard as possible — ostensibly so that it would remain free from the perceived malignance of the freethinking, secular Yard. Therein are echoes of the old contest between religion and secularism, faith and reason.

Today, it would appear as though such a contest is largely a thing of the past. In a society described as “secular,” “post-religious,” and “pluralistic,” the ancient contest between church and state appears to have been decided overwhelmingly in favor of the latter.

If “and what are you going to do with that?” is the question that is most often asked of a literature student after disclosing his major at a family reunion, then to tell the world that I am studying theology is often to be met with a befuddlement beyond words. When confronted by the Christopher Hitchens-wielding types from the Yard, I suddenly discover that I am a poor apologist for the ecclesiastical vocation, as I belong to neither formal tradition nor do I have sacred dogmas to defend. On the other hand, I admit that I do not find it easy to take pleasure in the easy confidence of the local street preacher when I say that “I am attending seminary.” I am not their kind, surely.

This, then, is the way I conceive of my ministry: In a gathering of skeptics, I am Christian; in a gathering of Christians, I am a skeptic. And all too often, wherever I am, I feel like a spy behind enemy lines.

To attend HDS is to be misunderstood. That is the first thing I would tell a prospective student of our quaintly charming institution. Many of us are neither of “the world,” nor of the familiar world of church and clergy as defined by the religious right. Displaced from both church and marketplace, many of us struggle to eke out a path in a wilderness that calls to mind any number of same in the Bible. Ours is a “third way,” a study in paradox, a home for the spiritually homeless and displaced, a center stage where the outliers gather.

The soul of HDS is not that of the world of “Ye Olde Time Religion.” But I would argue that there is something here even older than that, something redolent of a Puritanical flavor, a fundamentalism before Fundamentalism, as it were, so romantically original and American. There is that Emersonian spirit of nonconformity and dissidence, a kind of being “ill-at-ease” that drives our ministry and student engagements in such examples as the Occupy movement, campus feminism, and the anti-oppression coalition.

“All roads lead to Harvard Divinity School” is a familiar quip among divinity students, dripping of irony but possessing also a deeper sense. It is not unlike saying that the heart of America is to be found as much in Ralph Ellison’s Harlem or William Faulkner’s Yoknapatawpha as in the bright lights of Manhattan and Los Angeles.

I cannot presume to speak for all students at our fantastically diverse institution. But the place resonates with me precisely because of the ways it accords with my own life experience. I was born in central China, and I am a two-time immigrant, to England and Texas. Schooled in both the camps of Young Communist Pioneers as well as the American Bible camps of Christian Evangelicalism, the turning point for me came when I came to accept my difference with respect to the world, when I stopped fighting to belong seamlessly but rather to remain freely unintegrated. The secret, I discovered, was to speak from the margins and to listen — as Walt Whitman wrote — “to all sides and filter them from your self.”

Next year, I will attend law school, which will entail a new set of challenges. I am genuinely thrilled by the prospect of one day working for the public interest in Boston. Or, perhaps, I will return to my homeland of mainland China and labor for change there. Although I am neither the quickest nor the cleverest in any classroom, I am imbued with a desire to witness and to be present to the powerless of the world.

Last Aug. 8, I was strolling down Wall Street in Manhattan. It was about an hour after the closing bell on the stock exchange. The last of the traders were streaming out of the exchange after the sixth-largest daily points loss in the history of the Dow Jones. Their faces were gray and sunken like defeated soldiers. The clouds, the silence of the “troops” in orderly retreat, and the alleyway of Wall Street so narrow — it resembled an unreal scene from a movie about the Apocalypse. So were these the evil doers, the moneylenders who were driving our country to the ground? I wondered then and continue to wonder today. Who do we accuse, who do we sanction?

But that evening, there I was, fiercely close to where the world was turning dark. I was a chaplain without robes, a protester with neither slogan nor song. 

If you’re an undergraduate or graduate student and have an essay to share about life at Harvard, please email your ideas to Jim Concannon, the Gazette’s news editor, at Jim_Concannon@harvard.edu.
HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH/APRIL 2012


March 27. Bishop at 100: Oral History Initiative & Performance of “These Fine Mornings.” Thompson Room, Barker Center, 12 Quincy St., 6 p.m. Featuring Lloyd Schwartz, Frank Bidart, Mary Jo Salter, Gail Mazur, and Rosanna Warren, and a staged reading of Joelle Biele’s “These Five Mornings,” a 50-minute, one-act play that tells the story of Elizabeth Bishop and The New Yorker. Free and open to the public. poetryrm@fas.harvard.edu, hcl.harvard.edu/poetryroom/events/#event_03272012.


April 2. Living Forward, Understanding Backward: Transforming Public Health in the 21st Century. Bowie Vernon Room (K262) at CGIS Knafel (2nd floor), 1737 Cambridge St., 4:30 p.m. David Butler-Jones, chief public health officer, Public Health Agency of Canada.

April 3. Learning From Insects: How Our World is Shaped by Bees, Ants and Other Social Insects. Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 6 p.m. To celebrate the publication of Harvard University Press’ collection of its best essays in “Entomology, A World of Insects.” Thomas Seeley and Bernd Heinrich will discuss their research and why it’s critical that we study and learn from insects. Moderated by Naomi Pierce, Museum of Comparative Zoology. Free and open to the public. Reception and book signing in the museum’s galleries to follow. hmnh.harvard.edu/lectures_and_special_events/index.php.


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.
Adding to the kaleidoscope of costumes representing the mascots, flags, and traditions of Harvard’s dozen undergraduate residential Houses, Catherine Katz ’13, Quincy House Committee co-chair, stretched her arms into a penguin mascot suit and dabbed her cheeks with stripes of red before parading into Harvard Yard on Housing Day.

“Our Quincy letter-delivery team charged up the stairs to the third floor in Weld to find a group of freshmen eagerly awaiting their housing assignment,” said Katz. “When they realized we had come for them, they threw one of their blockmates on someone’s shoulder and started jumping and cheering as if they had won a billion dollars.”

Gabriella Herrera ’15, a new Quincy House member, said of this rite of passage, “Housing Day is the day our fate is determined. Those 15 or so minutes that my blockmates and I stood hand-in-hand inside my dorm room felt like an eternity. We were all absolutely hysterical: shaking, jumping, laughing, crying, cringing, sweating, among other emotions and reactions. When we finally heard the chants of ‘Quincy! Quincy! Quincy!’, and heard the knock on the door, we released all of our tension, and celebrated the news amongst painted faces, penguins, and horns. This was the kind of morning we could only have experienced at Harvard.”

Later that morning, outside Annenberg Hall, Herrera received a hug from Katz after passing through a gallery of cheering, banner-waving students from all of the Houses. “In that specific moment,” said Herrera, “I remember wanting to simply immerse myself in this new community and take part in all the excitement and fun. It was amazing how the upperclassmen were so welcoming, as if we were long-lost family members. So at that moment, I was really happy to be part of this penguin family.”