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# HARVARDgazette



## The tipping point

Harvard analysts probe the surprising surge of popular protest that is sweeping the Arab world. **Page 11**

# Online Highlights



◀ **RACE MADE PERSONAL**  
 Author and historian Annette Gordon-Reed discusses the next installment of her work on the complicated history involving Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings. ▶▶ <http://hvd.gs/76700>



◀ **LESLIE VALIANT WINS TURING AWARD**  
 The Association for Computing Machinery named Leslie G. Valiant the winner of the 2010 ACM A.M. Turing Award for his fundamental contributions to the development of computational learning theory and to the broader theory of computer science. ▶▶ <http://hvd.gs/74512>



◀ **SIGNING CEREMONY WELCOMES ROTC**  
 After a 40-year hiatus, Harvard University will again host a Reserve Officers' Training Corps program on campus, according to an agreement signed on March 4 by President Drew Faust and Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, J.D. '76. ▶▶ <http://hvd.gs/75283>



▲ **THE MORNING AFTER**  
 Scan QR code to read what Crimson basketball coach Tommy Amaker had to say. ▶▶ <http://hvd.gs/76442>

**DEFENDING GREEN ENERGY**  
 The Defense Department is waking up to the enormous burden placed on it by its energy use, and is beginning to search for ways to release the military from "the tether of fuel," said Sharon Burke, assistant secretary of defense for operational energy plans and programs. ▶▶ <http://hvd.gs/75170>



◀ **TOUGH LOSS**  
 What with all the lights, cameras, and raucous action in New Haven, Conn., on March 12, one could be forgiven for thinking that the one-game playoff pitting the Harvard men's basketball team against Princeton was a scripted affair. Unfortunately for the Crimson, it was the Tigers who managed to score the Hollywood ending. ▶▶ <http://hvd.gs/76335>

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# ‘The circuits of sense and sensibility’

Biologist succeeds in mapping a neural network for learned olfactory behavior, using a roundworm model to trace the dislike of a particular smell to the reaction that avoids it.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer



Harvard Assistant Professor of Biology Yun Zhang and a team of researchers trained thousands of roundworms to avoid pathogenic bacteria, which would have made the worms sick. It took about four hours to train the worms.

Sometimes when we eat something that makes us sick, we lose our craving for that food forever.

*C. elegans* feels our pain, and a Harvard biology professor has used that fact to map for the first time the complete picture of a neural network involved in learned olfactory behavior in an animal. *C. elegans* is a tiny roundworm just 1 millimeter long, small

enough to enjoy a meal of bacteria now and then. But when it eats bacteria that make it sick, it learns to avoid them.

Harvard Assistant Professor of Biology Yun Zhang led a team of researchers on an effort to train thousands of roundworms in her lab to avoid pathogenic bacteria, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, that made them sick. In collaboration with Physics Professor Aravinthan Samuel's lab, researchers in the Zhang lab then traced the neural pathways used in both untrained and trained worms to understand the changes that made them avoid a subsequent meal of the same bacteria.

Researchers discovered that two different neural circuits are involved. One is employed when the worms haven't been exposed to the pathogenic bacteria. Those worms move toward the bacteria and even seem to prefer it to the food on which they were raised, *E. coli*. After they get sick, however, a different neural circuit kicks in. The second circuit, which Zhang showed is three cells long, is involved in the learned behavior and employed as the worms turn away from the illness-causing food.

“One is a very basic response. [The worm] smells an odor and moves toward or away from it. The second circuit is the modulatory circuit. Learning needs a modulatory circuit to kick in,” Zhang said. “They are the circuits of sense and sensibility.”

Zhang said the work, described in the Dec. 22 issue of the journal *Neuron*, marks the first time that a complete picture of a neural network involved in olfactory learning has been traced from a stimulus, such as a smell, to a resulting behavior, such as the worm's movement, at the resolution of individual neurons.

“For us to understand how this [learning] process works, we have to understand how the whole circuit works,” Zhang said.

The research, Zhang said, is part of an effort to understand the physiological mechanisms of learning. Mapping the circuitry is a necessary step in that process, but Zhang said she ultimately wants to understand even more thoroughly the changes that occur.

*C. elegans* was almost the perfect laboratory animal for this work. It is one of a handful of “model organisms” that grow readily in the lab and have traits that make them particularly ideal for researchers seeking to understand the nervous system and how it functions.

The roundworm's body is transparent and very basic. Its nervous system is so small and compact — just 302 neurons compared with billions for us — that the physical connections between all of those neurons have been identified. Its behaviors are also strongly driven by smell.

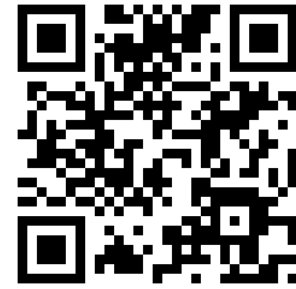
“*C. elegans*' olfactory system is very powerful. It cannot see, but it's able to smell lots of things. It's really strong, ecologically relevant behavior,” Zhang said. “If you're looking for learning and if this animal can learn anything, it should be olfactory.”

Training the worms involved putting them together with the pathogenic bacteria, which they moved toward and ate. Instead of breaking down inside the worms' bodies, the bacteria multiplied, making the worms sick. It took about four hours to fully train the worms and, though they did show that they remembered what they learned, they didn't remember it for long, losing their knowledge about the pathogenic bacteria gradually over two hours.

Zhang and her colleagues used a technique called “laser ablation” in the work, in which they methodically zapped each nerve cell in the worm's see-through body and then released the worm to see if its behavior changed. In that painstaking way, they tracked down the two neural circuits — just a handful of cells each — involved in carrying the olfactory stimuli through the nervous system to the muscle cells where they were transmitted into action.

“Now that we understand how this learning network is organized, we want to find out what is changed and how it causes behavior, how the animal turns away, how the animal learns,” Zhang said. “The goal is to correlate neuron activity with behavioral output.”

Photo by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographer



SCAN QR CODE TO READ HOW INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY POWER FRESH THINKING AT HARVARD.

“Our goal is to be better at Googling someone than Google is,” said Jonah Varon (right), who along with Axel Hansen (left) created Newsle.

## Tracking your friends and idols

Two Harvard undergraduates have developed a website called Newsle that tracks news of Facebook and Linked In contacts.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

It’s like Facebook, but without all the social stuff, Jonah Varon explained.

Varon and Axel Hansen, two Harvard sophomores, have created a new website that seeks to out-Google Google when it comes to tracking news about your friends.

“Facebook is so full of social noise that you don’t get the important stuff,” Varon said. “There’s less content here than if you went to [someone’s] Facebook page, but it’s more meaningful.”

Varon and Hansen met during their freshman year. Though Hansen had some computer skills when he arrived, Varon says his are entirely the result of Harvard computer science courses, including CS 50, the introductory course that has been credited with adding computers to more than one student’s study plans.

The two pooled their talents and, over the past six months, developed Newsle (pronounced “news-el”),

a site that crawls the web for you to find news and blog posts about your friends, celebrities, and even politicians you might want to follow.

“You could Google around and find it, but it’s not really available anyplace else,” Varon said. “We wanted a way to find out all the cool stuff all our friends had done in high school or college without them having to post it. People don’t necessarily post news about themselves. It seems arrogant.”

To get around the difficulty posed by people with similar names, they created an algorithm that uses personal details, such as where a person lived, where he or she worked, or where they went to school to make sure Newsle retrieves the right John Smith or Jane Doe.

“Our goal is to be better at Googling someone than Google is,” Varon said.

The two have already had a measure of success. The site, though in beta testing, has had thousands of

people sign up and, on March 8, won a \$10,000 grant in the Harvard College Innovation Challenge, which is sponsored by the Technology and Entrepreneurship Center at Harvard. Varon and Hansen have also talked to potential investors and made a presentation to the Boston Web Innovators Group.

After you join the site, you give Newsle permission to import your Facebook or Linked In contacts. Once it does that, the site searches the web for relevant content and brings it to your screen. You can filter your news feed by just friends, friends and public figures, or just public figures. You can also see all news the site retrieves or reduce the number of items in your feed by filtering by importance. Newsle will also email you news feeds about your friends periodically if you set that as a preference.

Varon said the creators are working on new features for the site, such as ranking the prominence of public figures and personal friends. They’re also approaching key people in such areas as economics or biology, and asking them which top 10 people in their fields they would be interested in following. That will allow Varon and Hansen to compile lists of those to follow by expertise, and it will let Newsle users just click on the recommendations if they want to begin following those figures without having to search exhaustively.

“It’s pretty exciting because we don’t know how big it can be,” Varon said. “We think that everyone can get utility out of it, news about friends, contacts, or public figures they’re interested in.”

More Science & Health Online  
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/science-n-health/](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/science-n-health/)



The debate over whether routine mammogram screenings are useful diagnostic tools or potentially ineffective and wasteful.  
<http://hvd.gs/75859>



Researchers at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences believe they now understand how the lily blooms ... and what that means. <http://hvd.gs/77040>

## A fate in the stars

Astronomy Professor David Charbonneau is as enthusiastic about explaining his field to students as he is about researching faraway planets.

By Rebecca R. Hersher '11 | Harvard Correspondent

David Charbonneau has loved the outdoors since he was a Boy Scout growing up in Ottawa. As a young man he was an avid hiker, a pursuit that eventually nested nicely with his growing interest in astrophysics and the dark, remote mountaintops where scientists turned the eyes of telescopes to the heavens.

Now Charbonneau, a newly tenured professor of astronomy at Harvard, has become one of those scientists. Thinking back to his Scout days, he can't remember a time when he wasn't intrigued by the stars. His interest started as a pastime.

"I had my little star chart, but being an astronomer didn't seem like a real job to me, growing up," he said.

Charbonneau is humble about what he has accomplished. At 36, he has already had a fruitful career, making major contributions to the discovery of exoplanets, which orbit stars other than our sun. He

heads the National Science Foundation's MEarth Project, which is hunting for habitable super-Earths orbiting nearby small stars, and is a member of the NASA Kepler Mission to survey Earth-like planets.

In his office sits a giant crate containing the planet-searching telescope he built as a postdoc — waiting to be unpacked in his office at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

"It looks like a little person when it's all set up," he said, laughing. "And it is a neat piece of equipment for students to see."

For all his success, Charbonneau seems focused as much on his students as on his own research.

Since Charbonneau took the reins as director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Astronomy in 2008, he has spent hundreds of hours redesigning course offerings. His goal has been to offer a set of courses diverse enough so every stu-

dent with an interest in astronomy can take an appropriately focused course.

"Five years ago, we didn't have much support for concentrators who didn't want to get a doctorate in astrophysics," he said. "Astronomy should be more accessible than that."

Charbonneau has personally taught many of those new courses, from a freshman one on stellar astronomy to an advanced course on exoplanets. Those who've taken his courses report that his ability to explain complex concepts in astrophysics to students of varying backgrounds is astounding.

As a professor, Charbonneau has a reputation for being both approachable and inspiring. He is transparently excited about astronomy. He makes searching eye-contact with his students, scanning the room as if hoping to catch a moment of recognition in their faces. Even students outside his department find his zeal for astronomy to be infectious.

But Charbonneau is surprisingly bashful about his success in the classroom.

"Students want to learn about interesting things," he said. "I'm lucky enough to know a lot about the universe, which is pretty interesting, if you ask me."

"Students want to learn about interesting things. I'm lucky enough to know a lot about the universe, which is pretty interesting, if you ask me," says Astronomy Professor David Charbonneau.



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 section/science-n-health/](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/science-n-health/)



The deep sea is less well known than the surface of the moon, about as hard to get to, and as dangerous once you're there. <http://hvd.gs/76148>



A new study shows that adults who regularly take ibuprofen have about one-third less risk of developing Parkinson's disease. <http://hvd.gs/75032>

# Theater's new frontiers

Offbeat director John Tiffany, whose company stages productions in unlikely locales, is using a fellowship year at Radcliffe to explore the ways that people communicate, complete with tics.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

John Tiffany has ripped a page from the Diane Paulus playbook. Much like the American Repertory Theater's (A.R.T.) artistic director, the Englishman is expanding the boundaries of theater, even taking his productions into the streets and onto the facades of buildings.

Tiffany is the associate director of the National Theatre of Scotland, a nomadic production company with no official home base. Instead, it travels the country visiting remote locations and creating theater productions wherever it can: in a museum, on a ferry, even in a forest. The company's motto is "theatre without walls."

In 2006, Tiffany helped to direct "Home," a production that took place in 10 locations across Scotland simultaneously. In his particular production, people with video cameras rappelled off an apartment tower in Glasgow and shot a series of scenes with his actors that were unfolding in different apartments. The footage was then displayed on a giant video screen to an audience seated on a grassy hill below.

The 2009 production of "Transform" operated like a mystery where the audience took on the starring role of detective. The crowd was unleashed on a local town to gather information about a missing girl, encountering actors and clues along the way.

A current fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Tiffany called the interactive play a kind of "treasure hunt where the narrative was the treasure" during the institute's 2010–11 Julia S. Phelps Annual Lecture in Art and the Humanities.

Tiffany is using his year at Harvard to examine a much more intimate, intrinsic side of theater, one he argues is just as provocative and groundbreaking as his company's imaginative works and "just as radical and as powerful a tool in terms of the evolution of theater."

As a fellow at Radcliffe, he is exploring paralinguage, or "everything that comes out of our mouths when we communicate apart from the words." Intonation, volume, accents, and dialects are Tiffany's domain for the academic year, as are things such as the works of Shakespeare, aphasics, and linguistics, among others.

"I am increasingly excited to explore onstage the way we actually speak," said Tiffany. "We stutter, and we stammer, and we 'um' and 'ah' and 'er.' When you hear that onstage it sounds radical, it's shocking, and surprising, and it also has the potential to make an audience active and alert and gripped."

Last semester Tiffany spent uncounted hours reading about the fields of linguistics and neuroscience and examining areas like code switching or moving between variations of languages in different contexts.

Over the next few months, he is studying how people communicate through their pitch and intonation, even their pauses or the spaces between their words. He is researching the way that public figures like Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, and even Adolf Hitler carefully crafted their speaking styles.

Through his work, Tiffany has connected with Nancy Kanwisher of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, audited classes with Harvard Linguistics Professor Maria Polinsky, and discussed the Bard with Marjorie Garber, Harvard's William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies, and a Shakespeare expert.



As a fellow at Radcliffe, John Tiffany is exploring paralinguage, or "everything that comes out of our mouths when we communicate apart from the words."

Though he had no plans to create a theater piece based on his year at Radcliffe, Paulus insisted.

"She dangled a carrot which I couldn't refuse," said Tiffany of Paulus, who offered up her second-year M.F.A. students at the A.R.T. Institute for his use. Tiffany will direct the students' final show of the season, based on his research.

"I've got 18 lab rats," he said, laughing.

With his research, Tiffany hopes to capture a realistic energy that paralinguage offers. He also hopes to forge a greater connection with his audiences and possibly change the nature of what people consider theater.

"We don't use the full resource of our voices on stage in terms of its communication," he said. "It's because — writers and directors and actors — we love lines that are witty and articulate and are beautifully structured, and that is wonderful. I don't think for a second we shouldn't do that. But I think there is other potential as well with this research, because we don't speak like that. I wonder if there is a lyricism and an energy to be found in something which reflects much more truthfully how we speak."

Photo by Stephanie Mitchell | Harvard Staff Photographer

## Among the missing

Harvard Extension School instructor Sarah Braunstein's new novel "The Sweet Relief of Missing Children" plumbs the vulnerability of childhood.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

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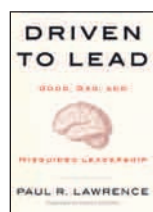
### HARVARD BOUND

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**THE PARK CHUNG HEE ERA: THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOUTH KOREA**  
(Harvard University Press, April 2011)  
Edited by Byung-Kook Kim and Ezra F. Vogel

This selection of essays edited by Ezra F. Vogel, Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences *Emeritus*, and Byung-Kook Kim recovers and contextualizes many of the ambiguities in South Korea's trajectory from poverty to a sustainable high rate of economic growth.



**DRIVEN TO LEAD: GOOD, BAD, AND MISGUIDED LEADERSHIP**  
(Jossey-Bass, August 2010)  
By Paul R. Lawrence

Paul Lawrence, a professor *emeritus* at Harvard Business School, offers an integrated explanation of both human behavior and leadership using a scientific approach — and Darwin, too! — to illustrate how good, bad, and misguided leadership are natural to the human condition.



**THE MOCHE OF ANCIENT PERU: MEDIA AND MESSAGES**  
(Peabody Museum Press, February 2011)  
By Jeffrey Quilter

Jeffrey Quilter, a senior lecturer on anthropology and deputy director for curatorial affairs and curator at Harvard's Peabody Museum, introduces the Moche civilization and explores current thinking about Moche politics, history, society, and religion.

Children go missing left and right in Sarah Braunstein's haunting first novel.

"She loved Crackerjack. She loved the home team with all her heart," writes Braunstein, a fiction instructor at Harvard Extension School. "She was twelve; her name was Leonora; she would disappear."

In college, Braunstein overheard a story about a family that "perished at a train crossing — only one child survived," she recalled. And the idea for "The Sweet Relief of Missing Children" was born.

"To make sense of the tragedy, I began to fashion a story — my story was one of maternal fear, longing, and erotic abandon. As I cobbled it together, I became fascinated with runaways, with teenagers who flee to urban landscapes, hungry for newness," said Braunstein, who was also inspired by Sherwood Anderson's "Winesburg, Ohio," and by the writing of Flannery O'Connor, Joy Williams, Denis Johnson, and Gina Berriault. ("These writers find in the everyday horror and gorgeousness — and find in their characters both darkness and heroism.")

"During this period, I saw an exhibit of Jim Goldberg's photographs of street kids at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. I also came upon a *Life* magazine from 1967 featuring images of ragged, darkly glamorous teen runaways and their worried parents. I became interested in exploring the psychological experience of those who flee, and those who are left behind."

Last October, Braunstein was selected by the National Book Foundation as one of "5 under 35" for 2010, and before that she was recognized by the prestigious Rona Jaffe Foundation. And like her characters, whose lives are continuously upended, Braunstein's life might've taken another route.

"I grew up in a suburb of Hartford, Conn. — insurance capital of the world. My parents and stepparents at one time all worked in the insurance industry. They were always very supportive of my impulse to write, which arose early," she said.

"They often told me that Wallace Stevens had worked in insurance — at their very company. Insurance people have a reputation for conservatism — not the sorts of people who would en-



courage a child to pursue something as uncertain as the arts. But in a funny way Stevens' legend paved the way for me to write."

Braunstein wrote her first story in elementary school. "It was called 'Shining Eyes' — a suburban Gothic in which a plucky adolescent heroine explores the abandoned house at the end of the street, only to see a pair of eyes shining in the shadows. She recognizes them: Her school principal!"

"Sweet Relief" likewise tortures the reader with its beauty and unrest. Braunstein's characters are mostly children, and though their fates are uncertain, it's her adult characters that are doubly worrying. There's Goldie, the desperate husband-obsessed mother, and Thomas, an employee at an abortion clinic who moonlights as a peeping Tom.

Braunstein, an alumna of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, said she is working on "a second novel and a collection on essays. And some short stories." On top of writing and teaching, she is also a mother herself.

"I wrote most of this book before I was a mother, but becoming a mother of course gave me more insight into the profound love and terror of parenthood, the great challenges of the endeavor. And it reminded me again — though I'm not sure we ever really need reminding — of the vulnerability of childhood," she said.

"But maybe what it comes down to is this: Our children instill greater empathy in us. And empathy is the novelist's most important tool."



## Digitizing the classics

Professor works to transform ancient Greek texts and their Arabic translations into an open-access, computerized format that could provide important insights into the development of science.

By Alexandra Perloff-Giles '11 | Harvard Correspondent



“We’re moving away from a way of working in the humanities with one scholar making a change to a text that is incorporated into future editions for eternity, and toward more collaborative methods,” says Classics Professor Mark Schiefsky.

Long before the Italians rediscovered original Greek sources during the Renaissance, Arab scholars recognized the importance of ancient science and philosophy and began translating precious writings into Arabic. Now, Classics Professor Mark Schiefsky wants to transform those ancient Greek texts and their Arabic translations into an open-access digital corpus that could provide important insight into the development of science in the classical world.

During the Abbasid period, which began in the mid-eighth century, Islamic caliphs started sponsoring the translation of ancient Greek and Roman texts. While Arabs had their own literary traditions and did not systematically translate Greek literature, they were interested in Greco-Roman mathematical and medical treatises and philosophical writings.

“People recognized that Greek texts contained a lot of knowledge that superseded the knowledge available in the Arab world at that time, and realized that it would be fruitful to adopt that knowledge,” Schiefsky explained.

He added that the decision to translate these texts was motivated in part by a desire to compete with the Byzantine Empire to the West.

“The Arabs wanted to say they were the true inheritors of the Greek tradition,” he said.

But many ancient texts were also translated for practical reasons. The writings of Galen, a prominent second century physician, had an important influence on medicine in the Arab world, while the Greek philosopher Aristotle’s writings on logic were exploited in disputes over Islamic law. Even today, classical texts continue to resonate in the Arab world, Schiefsky said, citing Iranian Ayatollah Khomeini’s study of Plato’s “Republic” in creating the Iranian state.

Schiefsky recently received a two-year grant from the Mellon Foundation to support the creation of this new, structured corpus of digitized Greek and Arabic texts. The corpus, a collaboration with the Perseus Project at Tufts University, will be used for studying translations of Greek texts and their reception in Arab culture up until the present.

The Greco-Arabic “bilingual lexicon,” as he calls it, is not the first project in which Schiefsky has used sophisticated technological tools to serve humanistic research. The Archimedes Project, which he led in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, assembled myriad scientific texts in different languages, allowing for new investigations into the history of mechanics. As with the Archimedes project, the vastly wider body of information that will be available in the bilingual lexicon will enable researchers to pose new statistical questions about how particular features of texts change over time. The lexicon thus represents a kind of shift from the traditional philological approach, with its focus on words and details, to a more comparative approach.

“How do conceptions of medicine, say, or mathematics, change over the long term when we move from Greek to Arabic to Latin sources?” Schiefsky asked. “To address such questions in a comprehensive way requires taking a huge corpus of material into account. Modern information technology offers many new tools and approaches for such analysis, which are only now beginning to be applied in the humanities on a large scale. Despite a large number of digitization efforts over the years, there is still a lot of work to do just to get the basic data in a suitable form.”

A large body of Greek writings from Homer up to 600 A.D. has already been digitized by the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, though the thesaurus is not available in the public domain.

Schiefsky’s project will contribute additional Greek texts in areas like science, medicine, and philosophy, as well as Arabic texts that are mostly, but not entirely, translations from the Greek. One of the database’s most important features, he said, will be correlating parallel sections of text, allowing scholars to compare phrases or passages page to page.

“Searching is very nice, and Google is very good at searching. But you can do a lot more than search every time a word appears,” Schiefsky remarked, citing examples like determining how frequently certain terms were used at different points in history.

“I’m interested in the development of knowledge and the development of science, so you need good linguistic tools to do that,” he said.

A member of Harvard’s Digital Humanities Working Group, Schiefsky believes strongly in harnessing open-access technology for the benefit of collaborative scholarship. The digital corpus will be entirely open access, using a Creative Commons license that allows other scholars to use and improve the software.

“We’re moving away from a way of working in the humanities with one scholar making a change to a text that is incorporated into future editions for eternity, and toward more collaborative methods,” Schiefsky said.

Photos by Kris Snibbe | Harvard Staff Photographer



## Harvard rushes to aid Japan

The University responds to the tragedy that struck Japan in myriad ways — with a benefit concert, discussions by experts, and a web portal to ease information flow.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

Members of the Harvard community filled Memorial Church on Monday night (March 21) for a candlelight vigil on behalf of the victims and refugees created by Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

The vigil was part of Harvard for Japan Week, organized by the similarly named student group Harvard for Japan, the Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies, the Harvard Japan Society, and the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations. Other events included panel discussions, fundraising efforts, and benefit concerts.

The week wraps up with benefit concerts by the Bach Society Orchestra on March 25 in Sanders Theatre, featuring renowned violin soloist and Harvard senior Ryu Goto, and a concert by the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association on March 26.

Within hours of seeing initial images of destruction in Japan following the March 11 earthquake, the Harvard community began responding. The effort expanded rapidly in the days afterward, as community members worked to raise money and awareness, aid the flow of useful information, and discuss helpful paths forward.

Harvard President Drew Faust expressed concern for those caught in the destruction. "All of us have watched with profound concern and sadness as Japan has confronted the devastating events of recent days," said Faust. "I know I speak for the whole of the Harvard community in expressing deep sympathy to those who have suffered the loss of family and friends, who have seen their homes destroyed, and who continue to face uncertainty and danger."

The Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis quickly launched a web portal to assist the flow of vital geographic information for anyone interested, from res-

cuers on the ground to supporters from afar to those who, over time, seek lessons from the tragedy. The data portal is sponsored by the Reischauer Institute, which reconfigured its own web page to help people find information on the disaster.

It features live web feeds from Japanese television stations and a link for donating to relief efforts.

Jorge Domínguez, vice provost for international affairs, said the University activated its international emergency response team to account for Harvard-affiliated personnel in Japan, including those at Harvard Business School's Tokyo office, eventually ascertaining that all affiliates known to be traveling there were safe.

Reischauer Institute Director Andrew Gordon, the Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, said it became clear early on that it would be counterproductive for people here to head to Japan to help. So the conversation quickly turned to practical ways to provide assistance.

In the short term, activities such as those led by the Harvard for Japan group will help. The medium term is less clear, Gordon said, because fellowships and summer programs involving travel to Japan may not be practical owing to safety issues or economic turmoil. On the other hand, he said, there may be oppor-

tunities for Harvard community members to volunteer with nonprofits to provide aid. That determination, however, will have to wait.

For the long term, the issue becomes scholarship. Given that in the Internet age much of the record of the disaster is only stored electronically, the discussion turned to how material in such a transitory medium should be preserved, perhaps by archiving periodic snapshots of the web pages of representative organizations. Social media should be included, Gordon said, because electronic discussion of such events flourishes on such sites as well as on more traditional web pages.

"There's so much online discussion happening in these [social sites] for a medium that didn't exist" a few years ago, Gordon said. "The possibility exists to capture conversations rather than just capturing documents."

The Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) convened medical and humanitarian relief experts on March 16 at the Forum at Harvard School of Public Health, a session that was webcast live. The discussion was led by Jennifer Leaning, François Xavier Bagnoud Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights and director of the Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, and featured Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Director Michael VanRooyen, an associate professor of medicine and of public health; Gordon Thompson, executive director of the Institute for Resource and Security Studies; Takemi Professor of International Health Policy Michael Reich; and Takashi Nagata, a physician and former HSPH fellow who joined the discussion via web linkup from Tokyo.

Nagata, who had spent days in the disaster zone and was planning to head back to it, said the destruction was so complete and so difficult to bear that he broke down and cried several times. The panelists said the Japanese government needed to do a better job of sharing information so people maintained their trust in the government and continued to heed its directions.

Harvard faculty members have been providing perspective and context, as well, in interpreting the disaster's ongoing effects, including the shutdown of and radiation release at several damaged nuclear power plants.

Matthew Bunn, associate professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, has conducted research on nuclear energy and nuclear proliferation risks. Bunn said Monday (March 21) that the ongoing drama at the damaged nuclear reactors seemed to be gradually coming under control. The situation remained serious, and the discovery of radiation in food and water was worrisome, he said, but the chance of a catastrophic explosion was gradually decreasing, barring the unforeseen.

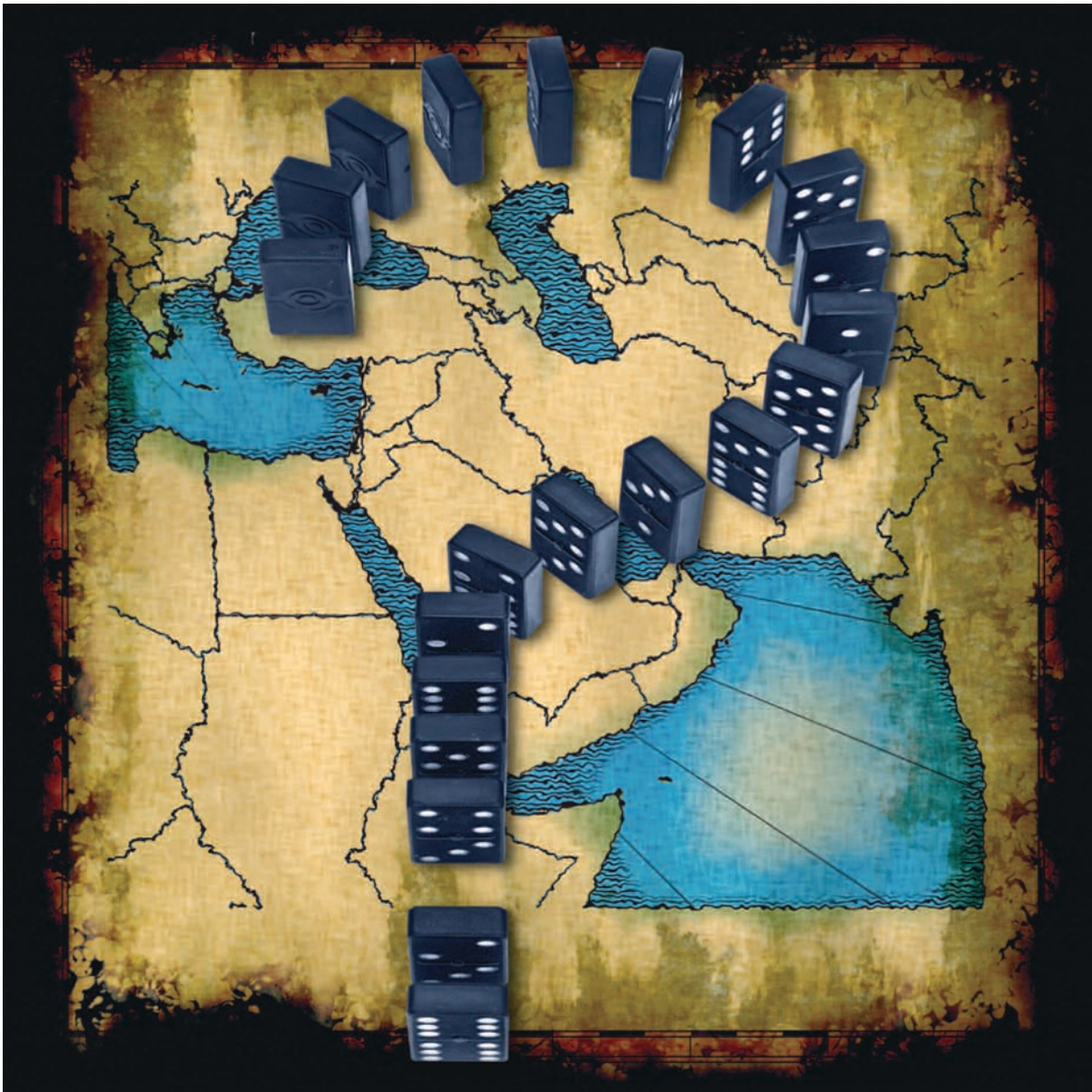
Bunn said the lessons to be learned included having adequate backup battery power for nuclear plants. But a critical lesson involved not safety but security, because the disaster highlighted the danger that can arise from multiple system failures, such as might occur from a terrorist attack.

"There is a safety issue, but I think this is a more compelling security issue," Bunn said.



SCAN QR CODE FOR ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF JAPAN IN THE GAZETTE ONLINE.





# The new (Arab) world order

Seemingly overnight, people in the Mideast and North Africa have risen in anger to demand more freedom. Is this the beginning of democracy in the Arab world, or a new era of political chaos? Harvard analysts offer insights on what is likely to come next.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

## COVER STORY

When Marshall Nannes began researching his master's thesis on American military bases in Bahrain and Kuwait, he did something practically unknown. He actually asked the people in those countries how they felt about the U.S. presence there.

"All the research on the topic was at the government-to-government level," said Nannes, a graduate student at Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) who traveled to the two tiny Mideast nations in January for his research. The popular wisdom, he said, was that "it doesn't really matter what the people — the opposition leaders — think."

A scant two months later, Bahrain has been swept by turbulent demonstrations and a government crackdown. Bahraini opposition leaders, once just the subjects of Nannes' obscure thesis, now are interviewed regularly in *The New York Times*. And Bahrain's protesters are trumpeting their anger in the streets.

Political protests are sweeping the Arab world across a 2,000-mile crescent. The unrest began in December with one man's self-immolation in Tunisia and spread like wildfire to Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Syria, Yemen, and elsewhere, taking the international community by surprise. In a region that historically has appeared inhospitable to democracy, millions of ordinary citizens rose to demand basic political rights.

Responding to these shifts, Harvard analysts have been working overtime to parse the resultant economic, religious, political, and social changes. Taken together, their insights offer a fresh glimpse into the Arab world's future. In a series of interviews, the Harvard specialists said it is time to shed outdated assumptions about the region: from the dictum that oil must be protected at all costs, to the fear that Islam guides the region's worldview, to the fantasy that democracy can solve all of the area's problems.

"Now is not the time to go in with rhetorical guns blazing, but to step back and think about what this means" for civil-military relations, democratization, and issues of religion and the state in the region, said Paul Beran, director of the CMES Outreach Center.

The results of the political unrest have ranged from the inspiring — President Hosni Mubarak's relatively peaceful de-

*(see Arab next page)*

## Arab

(continued from previous page)

parture from power in Egypt — to the explosive, as in Libya, where an international military coalition began enforcing a no-fly zone last weekend against leader Moammar Gadhafi's forces, as civil war raged through the land.

Among the key themes that Harvard analysts see emerging from the Arab unrest are these:

### IT'S NOT ABOUT OIL

To much of the world, the Mideast and North Africa have long been defined by oil — and energy interests often define when and how the West responds to the region's political crises. But whether the Arab world sustains its newfound democratic energy or slides back toward more authoritarian rule, oil won't be to blame, according to one Harvard expert who studies the effects of political instability on energy markets.

It's time to ditch the myth of the "resource curse," or the popular theory that countries with an abundance of limited natural resources such as oil are more vulnerable to, among other ills, power-play politics and corruption.

"Sitting on a boatload of oil does not make you unstable," said Noel Maurer, an associate professor of business administration at Harvard Business School (HBS).

In truth, oil production tends to stay up and running even in highly destructive wars. "It actually seems to be the case that the [oil] markets are completely resilient to political instability and violence going on around them. Those sectors are often the last man standing," Maurer said.

The idea that lucrative oil resources make many Arab nations ripe for takeover by authoritarian leaders only leads to cynical — and misguided — foreign policy, Maurer said. The United States should support the Arab revolutions not just because they increase freedom for millions, but because democracies in the region would likely prove more stable for business than the autocracies that U.S. leaders have tacitly supported for years, he argued.

That said, observers are right to be concerned if continued fighting in the region cuts off the flow of oil, as has already happened in Libya.

"Oil markets right now are extremely tight," Maurer said. "There's not a lot of excess capacity around, so even small shocks could send prices up." As rising industrial powers, China and India demand an ever-greater share of the world's oil, and that is unlikely to change, he said.

While Libya produces much more oil, Bahrain, an island nation of just a million people, is "the real place to watch," Maurer said. "Oil's going to start flowing in again from Libya, either because the rebels will figure out how to continue production or Gadhafi will prevail, although the latter is unlikely now that the United Nations has intervened," he said. But if unrest continues in Bahrain, fear of it spreading could send oil markets into short-term panic.

In addition, the Bahraini unrest and the resultant government crackdown have thrown a wrench into the relations between oil giant Saudi Arabia, which dispatched security forces to aid government forces, and the United States, which opposes any violent response.

### THE ECONOMY TRUMPS RELIGION

The uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, and other Arab countries have surprised outsiders with their lack of religious rhetoric. The



Noel Maurer: The idea that lucrative oil resources make many Arab nations ripe for takeover by authoritarian leaders only leads to cynical — and misguided — foreign policy.

protests and resulting overthrow of Tunisia's leader Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and Egypt's Mubarak have shown that the economy, not Islam, dominates everyday citizens' concerns, according to Malika Zeghal, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS).

In Tunisians' revolutionary rhetoric, "religion was simply absent because the Tunisian revolution was not *about* religion," Zeghal said. "The protests were articulating a critique of the relationship between Tunisians and their state."

That critique stemmed from deep economic crisis. In central Tunisia, unemployment among young people with college degrees is as high as 40 to 50 percent, according to Zeghal. Tunisians' discontent over the lack of economic opportunities coalesced into anti-state protests targeting the regime's corruption and its repression of political dissent.

Egyptians and Tunisians are now debating whether their revised constitutions should keep the notion of a state religion.

Both countries have legally authorized Islamist parties (Wasat in Egypt and al-Nahda in Tunisia) for the first time. Such religious parties will have to cross the same hurdles as secular ones, Zeghal said. Egyptian and Tunisian youth have high expectations that their new governments will increase economic opportunities and become accountable.

Even Muslim parties' "ability to emerge politically in future elections will also depend on their capacity to find solutions to the deep socioeconomic crisis in these two countries, and to speak a political language that can inspire the youth," she said.

### DEMOCRACY ISN'T ENOUGH

The Egyptian constitutional referendum held

March 19 was certainly proof that major change has already resulted from the wave of protests. More than 14 million Egyptians turned out to vote in what was considered the first legitimate referendum in the country's lengthy history.

But while this step toward democracy was a breakthrough for Egypt, that move alone won't solve the underlying socioeconomic problems that sparked the protests. "There's a stark contrast between the rich and the poor in these countries, and the disparity has been growing," said Steven Caton, a professor of contemporary Arab studies in the FAS Anthropology Department.

For a case study on the limits of democratic participation, look no further than Yemen, an extremely poor nation. Caton, who has studied the country for 30 years, noted that Yemen has a longstanding democratic tradition. Despite the autocratic bent of the country's ruling regime, Yemen has held several successful, internationally monitored elections for both its president and parliament. But the country has still been swept by revolutionary fervor. Support for President Ali Abdullah Saleh has plunged, amid violent protests and high-level government defections.

"They have a more-or-less democratic system that limps along," Caton said. "What they don't have, really, is an ability to address certain simmering, long-term complaints within their society."

Yemen's population has exploded in recent years, Caton said, and more people are moving to urban areas looking for work as the country's agricultural system becomes overburdened. So Yemen's city dwellers are also exposed to the regime's corruption to a degree they never would have been had they remained in tribal society.

"The regime has allied itself to this oligarchy at



Malika Zeghal: Even Muslim parties' "ability to emerge politically in future elections will also depend on their capacity to find solutions to the deep socioeconomic crisis ... and to speak a political language that can inspire the youth."

the expense of an equitable distribution of resources to the rest of the population," Caton said. "These protests are for political reforms, and they're couched in the populist language of democracy. But they're really about political reforms that will bring capital back [to the country] and redistribute capital."

To create long-term stability in the region, Caton said, the United States must be prepared to contribute to economic development, not just to stable elections. American leaders, who have focused on Yemen mainly as a potential hotbed for al-Qaeda terrorist recruitment, need to invest in economic development projects to earn trust.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA MATTER — TO A POINT**

The temptation to overvalue the role of social media in bringing about democratic change has abated somewhat since Iran's failed Green Revolution in 2009. Then, Iranian protesters took their frustrations with undemocratic elections to the world through Twitter, only to see their online voices muted as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad tightened his grip on power.

When it comes to reporting on so-called social media revolutions in the Mideast and North Africa today, "the Western media's a little more sophisticated than they were then," said Rob Faris, research director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society's Internet and Democracy Project.

How can outside observers know when to trust the Internet buzz coming from the region? The Internet and Democracy Project's authoritative 2009 study, "Mapping the Arabic Blogosphere," which the Berkman Center is now updating, shed light on how countries such as Egypt have fostered revolutionary chatter online in ways that Iran did not.

"In Iran you had a clearly divided blogosphere. You had pro-reform elements, and pro-theoc-

racy elements," Faris said. "That parallels in many ways the [two-party] structure of American politics. Egypt is completely different." Not only are Egyptian opposition groups much less cohesive and more difficult to target online, he said, but a survey of the country's blogosphere shows "it was missing a pro-Mubarak element."

"We don't know to what extent the blogosphere reflects offline life," Faris said. "So far, everything we've seen is consistent with that."

Still, even Faris, an Internet acolyte, cautioned that after the masses are mobilized, the web may prove useless in helping to build new institutions and hold them accountable. "It's probably easier to bring down an autocrat than before," Faris said. "But what that brings you after the revolution — I don't think that's changed much."

Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter don't appear to be as crucial to organizing protests as some might believe.

"You might put a Facebook page up to get people interested [in a protest], but chances are all the major organizing is happening on back channels," said Jillian York, project coordinator for the OpenNet Initiative, an Internet monitoring group run in part out of the Berkman Center.

But cell phones do play a role. While wealthier nations such as Iran and the United Arab Emirates saw skyrocketing rates of Internet use over the past few years, the countries that have experienced recent unrest were experiencing an explosion in cell phone use, according to figures from the International Telecommunication Union.

With the new ability to communicate instantly, easily, and — most important — privately through cell phones and text messaging, "it's become clear that mobile is an absolutely vital

part of this movement," York said.

#### **LESSONS FOR AMERICA**

President Barack Obama's decision to support a no-fly zone over Libya with U.S. warplanes marked a late but decisive entry into the region's turmoil. Although the announced goal of the no-fly zone is to stop humanitarian abuses by Gadhafi's forces, the move also signals tacit support for overthrowing the embattled leader. It was a controversial shift, according to Stephen Walt of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School. Backing the ouster of authoritarian leaders such as Gadhafi reflects the Obama administration's desire to see the "Arab spring" of democratic change blossom.

"America's interests in the region, both strategic and moral, have not changed at all," said Walt, the Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Affairs and faculty chair of the International Security Program. "What's changed are the political strategies we must use to try to advance those interests."

He said the United States will have to get used to caring about public opinion in the Arab world, a metric that was easily ignored when American diplomats dealt primarily with authoritarian leaders not accountable to public opinion.

Despite Western fears that the region's revolutions will leave a political vacuum that could be filled by extremist groups, Walt said the protests have most likely helped to slow the spread of radical Islamist ideas.

"One of al-Qaeda's primary grievances was with this set of autocrats in the Arab world that they accused of being un-Islamic and in bed with the United States," Walt said. "Al-Qaeda argued that the only way to deal with those governments was with violent extremism and terrorism. Instead, what we've seen is that peaceful protests accomplished far more to open up these societies than al-Qaeda ever did."

There is some evidence that embracing international cooperation, as the Obama administration has done, has long-term positive benefits. A recent study of the world's political systems over the past 200 years said that a country's membership in international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, or regional trade groups leads the state gradually to become more like its neighbors.

"States are more likely to experience positive changes in their level of democracy when they are tied to many other countries that are more democratic than they are," said Magnus Thor Torfason, assistant professor of business administration at HBS and a co-author of the study. Tunisia and Egypt had strong ties to international groups. Even countries that are tied to other democracies through military alliances, as was Egypt, are historically more likely to accept democratic reform.

"If the United States wants to promote democracy, it should engage effectively with international organizations, but also support the engagement of other democracies," Torfason said.

In other words, Torfason's research suggests, democracy can be contagious — a theory borne out by the protests that have swept North Africa and the Mideast. Regardless of how the political turmoil plays out in individual nations, Harvard's analysts agree, the region will have shed its reputation as a place seemingly immune to the popular desire for freedom.

"We are witnessing a fundamental shift in the social and political conditions in much of the Arab world," Walt said. "The clock is not going to be turned back."

## The road to Chile, Brazil

On her South American trip, President Drew Faust meets with government and academic leaders, reconnects with Harvard alumni, and views the tangible benefits of the University's research.

SANTIAGO, Chile — On a weeklong trip to Chile and Brazil, Harvard President Drew Faust has been meeting with government and academic leaders, reconnecting with Harvard alumni, and getting a firsthand look at the tangible benefits of Harvard research.

In Chile, she visited an early childhood education program at a public school and participated in a symposium organized by Harvard faculty, government leaders, and the heads of nongovernmental organizations involved in reconstruction efforts from last year's earthquake.

Later in the week, she was exchanging ideas with leaders of Brazilian universities and meeting with local students who have studied with Harvard faculty or alongside Harvard students in Brazil.

A high point of Faust's agenda was a meeting with Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, A.M. '75, Ph.D. '76, who greeted her at La Moneda Palace, Chile's equivalent of the White House, shortly before the current resident of the White House, President Barack Obama, J.D. '91, arrived for a state visit to Chile.

"Forty years ago, Mr. President," Piñera said to Obama in his welcoming remarks at a state dinner held in Obama's honor, "I had the privilege of studying for a doctoral degree in the same University where you and your wife studied law, Harvard University, whose president, Drew Faust, is with us today."

Faust and Piñera discussed Becas Chile, a scholarship program sponsored by the Chilean government that has enabled an increasing number of students from that country to study at Harvard. They also discussed the many ways in which Harvard is connected to Chile.

Jorge Dominguez, vice provost for international affairs, attended the meeting, and noted later that three of Piñera's cabinet ministers are Harvard alumni: Felipe Larraín, A.M. '83, Ph.D. '85, finance minister; Felipe Kast, Ph.D. '09, planning and cooperation minister; and Felipe Bulnes, LL.M. '96, minister of justice. "The president and the three Felipes exemplify one of the ways that Harvard's relationship with Chile is long and productive," said Dominguez.

Faust and her husband, Charles Rosenberg, attended a state dinner held in Obama's honor later that night. In his welcoming remarks, Piñera cited his Harvard connection with Obama and noted that Faust was a guest at the dinner.

Since being chosen as the first woman to lead Harvard, Faust has made it a point to visit schools for girls when she travels abroad to talk about the importance of education and the opportunities it affords young women. At Liceo Carmela Carvajal, a public school for girls in Santiago, Faust made a surprise visit to an upstairs classroom before meeting with a group of 16 students, mostly seniors clad in blue school uniforms, who sat in a semicircle in a basement room and conversed with her in English.

The students talked about relating to boys and the rapidly changing role of women in society. But mostly they were eager to share their aspirations with Faust.

One young woman said she wanted to be a "great archaeologist," while another dreamed of traveling the world and writing. Their classmates spoke of curing disease, of becoming a biotechnology researcher, a journalist, and an artist. "I want people to see the beauty of everything and everyone," said the future



painter.

Faust offered a bit of advice that she shares with graduating Harvard seniors who are struggling with which paths to follow into the future. "I always say to them, follow your passion," she said, "and if that doesn't work out you can try something else."

The classroom of Liceo Carmela Carvajal was not the last one that Faust visited in Chile. At Escuela Basica Arturo Alessandri Palma, she sat in on a kindergarten class that participates in Un Buen Comienzo (UBC), a program modeled on the U.S. Head Start effort supported by the Fundación Educacional Oportunidad and the Chilean government. The program involves faculty from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard Medical School (HMS), and Harvard's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

"The program aims to improve the children's language and literacy skills, their social interactions, and to provide families with materials that strengthen the learning environment at home," said Judith Palfrey of HMS. "UBC is based on the philosophy that education and health go hand in hand."

Before leaving Chile, Faust addressed a meeting of Harvard faculty and leaders from the government and nongovernmental groups that have been working together to help Chile recover from the February 2010 earthquake and tsunami that devastated large areas south of Santiago.

The meeting, in which Harvard Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood and representatives from HMS and the Harvard Graduate School of Design also participated, was called to discuss how Harvard faculty could best contribute to the next phase of the recovery process, perhaps by helping to improve strategic long-term planning for emergency preparedness and assistance, and by marshaling people with expertise in public health, mental health, and design areas.

"I have great admiration for the dedication and resilience you've shown as part of the reconstruction effort following last year's earthquake and tsunami," Faust told the audience.

Harvard President Drew Faust (seated at left, black jacket) visits Maria Christina Valenzueler's (standing) kindergarten class at the Estación Central School, which uses the Un Buen Comienzo program. Faust also met with Chilean President Sebastián Piñera (above) to discuss a proposed partnership between Harvard and the program Becas Chile.



**A SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES**  
May 26, 2011

**MORNING EXERCISES**

To accommodate the increasing number of those wishing to attend Harvard's Commencement exercises, the following guidelines are proposed to facilitate admission into Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement morning:

■ Degree candidates will receive a limited number of tickets to Commencement. Parents and guests of degree candidates must have tickets, which they will be required to show at the gates in order to enter Tercentenary Theatre. Seating capacity is limited; however, there is standing room on the Widener Library steps and at the rear and sides of the theater for viewing the exercises.

**Note:** A ticket allows admission into the theater, but does not guarantee a seat. Seats are on a first-come basis and cannot be reserved. The sale of Commencement tickets is prohibited.

■ Alumni/ae attending their reunions (25th, 35th, 50th) will receive tickets at their reunions. Alumni/ae in classes beyond the 50th may obtain tickets from the College Alumni Programs Office by calling 617.496.7001, or through the annual mailing sent out in March with an RSVP date of April 29.

■ Alumni/ae from nonreunion years and their spouses are requested to view the Morning Exercises over large-screen televisions in the Science Center, and at designated locations in most of the undergraduate Houses and graduate and professional Schools. These locations provide ample seating, and tickets are not required.

■ A very limited supply of tickets will be made available to all other alumni/ae on a first-come, first-served basis through the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) by calling 617.496.7001.

**AFTERNOON EXERCISES**

The annual meeting of the HAA convenes in Tercentenary Theatre on Commencement afternoon. All alumni and alumnae, faculty, students, parents, and guests are invited to attend and hear Harvard's president and featured Commencement speaker deliver their addresses. Tickets for the afternoon ceremony will be available through the HAA by calling 617.496.7001.

**Jacqueline A. O'Neill**  
University Marshal

# A champion of democracy



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Kennedy School alumna who has restored stability to her war-torn nation, will be the speaker at Harvard's 360th Commencement, a choice lauded by faculty.

By Alvin Powell | Harvard Staff Writer

The administration of Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is part of a new wave of democratic governance washing through African nations, bringing an emphasis on economic reforms to get the nation back on track, faculty members said after Sirleaf was selected as this year's principal speaker at Harvard's 360th Commencement.

Nicholas Burns, the Sultan of Oman Professor of the Practice of International Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School and former U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, said that Liberia, South Africa, Botswana, and Mali have all embraced democracy in recent years. Sirleaf's six-year term as president has been remarkable, he said, not only because of its break with the past dictatorships that ruled previously, but also because of the stability and hope it brought to the war-torn nation.

"She's one of the modern generation of African leaders. She has rebuilt her country and given it new hope. Liberia was a broken country in many ways, divided by civil war, [experiencing] terrible human

rights abuses under the previous regime of Charles Taylor," Burns said.

Even a cursory glance at Liberia's recent past shows the magnitude of the task undertaken by Sirleaf. A 1980 military coup ushered in 10 years of authoritarian rule by Samuel Doe. That was challenged in a 1989 rebellion led by Charles Taylor, resulting in a civil war that lasted until 1997, when Taylor was elected president. Fighting resumed in 2000, ending in 2003. Sirleaf was elected in 2005 after two years of rule by a transitional government and took office in 2006. Taylor is currently on trial at The Hague for war crimes allegedly committed during the civil war of neighboring Sierra Leone.

Adam Cohen, assistant professor of chemistry and chemical biology and of physics, has traveled to Liberia each of the past two summers, offering science teacher training to improve instruction in the subject in the nation's devastated schools.

Though the war ended in 2003, Cohen said after his first trip in 2009, that the toll the conflict took remains apparent,

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was named the principal speaker for Harvard's 360th Commencement.

with local schools stripped of metal and equipment, and with interrupted educational careers a problem for students and adults alike.

Cohen welcomed Sirleaf's selection as Commencement speaker, saying that her administration, together with nongovernmental organizations and international donors, is working to get Liberia headed in the right direction.

"There is a concerted effort by people in the government of Liberia, in nongovernmental organizations, and [in] the international community to get Liberia back on track, with infrastructure, sanitation, and health care," Cohen said. "There's a heck of a long way to go."

Despite the positive changes in Liberia, Cohen said some ordinary people remain wary, mindful of the broken political promises of the past.

"It varies by where you are and who you talk to," Cohen said of people's attitudes. "In the capital, it's getting better. But there's a certain amount of cynicism, which is understandable when you think of what they went through."

History Professor Caroline Elkins, who also chairs the Harvard University Committee on African Studies, said she was thrilled by Sirleaf's selection. Elkins said that Sirleaf not only has a successful democratic administration, but has transformed Liberia's finances, an important fact about her tenure not often cited.

Trained as an economist, Sirleaf has reduced Liberia's national debt with the help of forgiveness by international donors, and has set limits to how much the nation can borrow. In addition, Elkins said, her status as Africa's first woman head of state makes her an important role model for young women.

"It think it's important in two ways," Elkins said. "She's a democratically elected, incredibly effective, strong head of state, period. And she's a woman. She's the kind of role model that transcends race and ethnicity

(see Sirleaf next page)

## Sirleaf

(continued from previous page)

and even gender, because she is somebody who has taken on an incredibly challenging set of circumstances in a part of the world [that needs] more leaders like her.”

Elkins said Sirleaf’s selection is the latest indication of the importance that Harvard and President Drew Faust put on Africa and African studies, coming as it does on the heels of Faust’s 2009 trip to southern Africa and the University support that led to the Committee on African Studies being named a National Resource Center by the U.S. Department of Education.

Harvard Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood and Edward S. Mason Program Director Paulina Gonzalez-Pose said Sirleaf, who attended Harvard as a Mason Fellow and graduated in 1971 with a master’s degree in public administration, provides an inspirational example of hard work, perseverance, and service for the School’s students to follow.

“As the first female elected head of state on the African continent, President Sirleaf has worked tirelessly to improve economic and political conditions in Liberia, and to improve the lives of all people in her country,” Ellwood said. “We at the Kennedy School are very proud of her many accomplishments, and continue to support her efforts to bring about positive change in Liberia.”

Gonzalez-Pose said Sirleaf was active in Liberia’s struggles for many years, running against Taylor in the 1997 election and having to leave the country after his victory. It’s important, Gonzalez-Pose said, that the changes Sirleaf has made have been created democratically.

Sirleaf is just one of seven current heads of state to have attended Harvard’s Mason Program. Other alumni lead Mexico, Singapore, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Colombia, and the United Nations.

Sirleaf was the Kennedy School’s Commencement speaker in 2008 and also spoke at the School in 2006, just months after beginning her presidency. In her talk that night, she told of children’s amazed reaction at the bright lights when electricity was turned on in parts of the capital for the first time in 15 years.

“It is a symbol of our journey from darkness to illumination,” she said.

## STUDENT VOICE

# Finding a sense of place

A Harvard undergrad who was a summer intern for a nonprofit in Europe returns for another dose of experience in January.

By Thomas J. Hwang '13 | Government and Statistics

Fresh off the plane in May to begin an overseas internship, I knew nothing of the life I would be entering except for the vague recollections of history classes, faded maps, and perhaps the line or two from the movie “EuroTrip.” The immaculate cobblestones lining the streets of Geneva’s Old Town were a long way from the hustle of my hometown. Swept up in the chaos of interns overrunning the staid city, it was almost impossible to resist the infectious European carelessness, the *joie de vivre*, the low voices and clinks of wine glasses, infused altogether with a Swiss meticulousness and precision.

Later, after stumbling off a red-eye to New York, frantically re-packing for my Harvard classes in September, and just barely surviving my sophomore fall, I wouldn’t have been at all surprised if my roommate thought I were utterly out of my mind, delusional even, to be thinking about returning overseas. The Europe that I left behind — groaning under the weight of its cultural history — pulled at my heart just as my continuing work with the World Health Organization (WHO) demanded attention from my brain.

A week of requisite pleading with the “authorities” (read: family), email exchanges with my WHO supervisors, and a phone call to the Harvard professor sponsoring this entire experience, and I was on the next flight out of Kennedy Airport, just a day after my last Harvard final.

The familiarity, the return to the idiosyncrasies of the Swiss, kept me smiling, from boarding the plane through my confident zigzag through Geneva’s airport. “Damn it,” I almost said aloud as I saw the bus rumbling away from the stop; it would be almost 20 minutes until the next one. And I was back.

As quickly as you could say *bonjour*, I fell back into the rhythms of work, bagged lunches, and commuting. The WHO, which sits at the top of a hill

overlooking the city and the lake, is a curious place. A Kafkaesque expanse of office cubicles, the WHO is a world unto itself, the gatekeeper to nearly all international health policymaking, and an entity that is part of, yet distinct from, the traditional United Nations umbrella. The intern experience at the WHO can be jarring. And the familiar complaints have some measure of truth. The bureaucracy is overwhelming, and the pace of progress often undetectable.

But if there is one role in which the WHO yet commands a begrudging respect, largely free from the political skirmishes that underlie its policy efforts, it is in research and information gathering. Unimaginably large volumes of research, from every corner of the world, collected dutifully by national and regional offices, flow into the Geneva headquarters and are synthesized into reports and memos.

Perhaps wisely, the niche that I carved out for myself over the summer was within this realm. Back at my desk, decorated with the same posters, running Stata, and reconciling revisions from people across the department, it was as if I had never left. “So, America, Thomas, are you ever going back?” a Swede sitting across from me asked, a few days after I had returned. The corridor was quieter than usual, as the great diaspora of U.N. employees to their home countries for the holidays was reaching its peak. I laughed and mumbled an “unclear,” getting up to grab another coffee.

“Unclear.” I repeated the word when meeting with my Harvard sponsor, a professor at the Medical School, as I reflected on my experience at the WHO and thought about where I wanted to be in five or 10 years. I had learned an incredible amount, with substantive results to show from my work, and had developed a deep rapport with my supervisors. I knew I would always be welcome if I should return. But that part of me wanting to



see more of the world, to see the most pernicious of issues touched on during my stay, to always challenge and question received understandings and beliefs, kept me from providing a definitive answer.

And Europe, I could not forget Europe. Perhaps I wouldn’t return to the U.N. until I could have more impact on its operations, but I knew I would return to this continent. My January Experience challenged, but also reaffirmed, that strange affinity I had discovered over the summer, repainting in more realistic hues the glorious warm-weather renditions of new places and people. January taught me to be a more careful and meticulous scientist, a sharper scholar; and J-term reminded me of how beautiful — and transient — a sense of place feels.

On the last day of my January Experience, after the requisite goodbyes and haphazard packing of binders and textbooks, I stood in front of the main building, staring one last time at the towering expanse of glass. And perhaps it was my imagination, but for the first time, I noticed my reflection — multiplied infinitely across the panels and windows — and had an overwhelming sense of *déjà vu*, as if I were home.

Cheers to Europe; and cheers to Harvard, for opening my eyes. *À votre santé!*

*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](mailto:Jim_Concannon@harvard.edu).*





"I wouldn't care if they sent me to some hole in the desert somewhere. I'd love to serve again," said Lissa Young, whose 16-year Army career ended when she came out as a lesbian.

## Do ask, do tell

Former Army helicopter pilot finds a home at Ed School, hopes that reversal of policy on gays in military may allow her to return to service.

By Colleen Walsh | Harvard Staff Writer

Last September, Lissa Young received a frantic phone call.

"What are you doing tomorrow?" asked a desperate friend on the other end of the line. "I need you to go to Portland, Maine, and introduce Lady Gaga for me."

Young, unfamiliar with the edgy pop sensation, declined. But when her friend called back the next day in a panic, Young's deep-rooted military sense of duty kicked in, and she agreed.

"I had no idea who Lady Gaga was, but I went."

The doctoral candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education made the two-hour trip north from Cambridge to offer opening remarks at a rally with the singer organized by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. The event supported the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the longtime ban on gay men and lesbians openly serving in the military.

Young is painfully familiar with the toll the restrictive policy could take. A 16-year military veteran and helicopter pilot, the newly promoted lieutenant colonel was kicked out of the Army in 2002, just after her 40th birthday, for admitting she was gay.

"I knew what the risk was, but I felt that my sexuality was so irrelevant compared to the privilege to serve," said the Florida native who wears her gold pilot's wings on a chain around her neck. "It was a risk that I was willing to take every day.

During her military career, Young spent three years as an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She had just been

selected for a full-time position there when she was discharged.

Armed with her Harvard degree, she intends to head back to West Point, her alma mater, to teach, either in civilian clothes, or now, with the implementation of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, quite possibly back in uniform.

"I really loved teaching cadets and being a part of influencing those formative years."

Reeling from losing the only profession she had known, Young said she finally pulled herself "up off the floor" and joined the ranks of corporate America. She took a job with the military contractor Raytheon, selling air traffic control systems in the Middle East, but she was miserable. Recalling her love of teaching, she phoned a friend at West Point to inquire about returning to teach as a civilian instructor.

"Hurry up," he told her, "we'd love to have you."

In 2007 she enrolled at Harvard to pursue her doctorate and get started on her path back to West Point. Her dissertation will focus on how stereotyping and prejudice manifest in group dynamics.

"Being at Harvard is like being back in a place I belong," said Young, who praised her colleagues and fellow students for "being so generous with their intellect."

But Young's path isn't entirely clear, since "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was overturned in December after 18 years.

"I was equal parts elated, and equal parts nonplussed," she recalled on hearing the policy would be thrown out. "I was really relieved for soldiers now who needed it, and I was also hurt, because I had this horrible feeling that it was too late for me, that I wouldn't be able to serve again." She is eagerly waiting to see if she will be able to re-enlist.

As the armed services work out the administrative details of the new policy, Young fears that a heart operation she had in 2009 to correct a faulty valve, her age, and other factors may prevent her returning to the service.

But if offered the chance to re-enlist, she would jump at it.

"I wouldn't care if they sent me to some hole in the desert somewhere. I'd love to serve again."

If she returns to the military, Young could serve and be reselected to teach at West Point as an officer. If not, she could also return to teach as a civilian.

"Somehow," she said, "I am going to end up back there teaching."



**PRESIDENT  
DREW FAUST:  
HARVARD  
WELCOMES  
BACK ROTC**

## Designing a stronger safety net

A new series of free financial planning seminars, sponsored by the Harvard Benefits Office, aims to get employees thinking about retirement long before the last paycheck comes.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

Taube Weiner has had no problems making the most of retirement. From learning Hebrew and celebrating an adult bat mitzvah to picking up consulting work as a career counselor, Weiner has embraced her new-found freedom since retiring from Harvard in 2009 at 74.

But that doesn't mean she didn't hit a few bumps along the way.

"You think you're prepared," Weiner said. "Then the roof falls in, so to speak." For Weiner, that unexpected avalanche came in the form of a flooded home and \$4,000 worth of dental work, a cost that could have been avoided had she signed up for the retiree dental plan that the University offers.

Weiner was hardly alone in navigating the uncertain path to retirement. Last year, 121 Harvard employees with at least 10 years of service retired, and hundreds more at the University are heading down the same road. But experts have found many of them are not putting in the long-term planning required for a stable financial future.

According to a study of people age 50 to 70 released last month by Miami University and the MetLife Mature Market Institute, working Americans in that age bracket spent just 15 hours over the past six months planning for retirement. Only a fifth of those surveyed felt very confident they could provide for themselves or a spouse past the age of 85.

With those numbers in mind, the Harvard Benefits Office is resurrecting its popular financial planning seminar, "Transitioning to Retirement: A Pre-Retirement Planning Program." The first four sessions, the first of which is March 31, have filled up already, and registration for additional sessions for the fall will be available soon, said Melanie Aska, the seminar's coordinator.

"We want to demystify the benefits of retirement," said Aska, senior consultant for benefits education and communications. "We're trying to take away some of the anxiety people may feel when they transition from an active work life, with a paycheck and benefits."

Weiner was relatively well prepared for the financial realities of retirement. Her job at Harvard Medical School as a career consultant at the Center for Workplace Learning and Performance entailed giving other employees advice on that very topic. But after leaving the University, she said, she found it hard to

Taube Weiner was relatively well-prepared for the financial realities of retirement. "Then the roof falls in, so to speak," she said, referring to an unexpected expense when her home was flooded.

stick to a budget.

"At first, I found myself running around and spending money, looking for things to do," said Weiner, who good-naturedly describes herself as lacking a "financial head." "I was having a wonderful time, but I had to sit back and say, 'Wait a minute, the money's going out, but it's not coming in.'"

The pre-retirement seminar, which is open to employees who are one to five years from retirement as well as their spouses and partners, aims to lay out the various ways the money does still "come in" and help participants make the most of those often-confusing funds. The daylong sessions will cover Harvard-sponsored retirement and health benefits, estate planning, long-term care insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and investing for retirement. Representatives from financial services companies (TIAA-CREF, Fidelity, or Vanguard), the Social Security Administration, the Harvard University Retirees Association (HURA), and the Harvard University Employee Credit Union will be on hand to present and answer questions.

The session will fill a need for information in the retiree community, said Malcolm Hamilton, president of HURA, which has 1,200 members out of roughly 3,200 living retirees.

"People have been asking us questions that should have been answered before they retired," he said. By the time an employee has retired, he added, some answers may not be of much use. "If you discover a few

years before you retire that you haven't been too smart about your retirement funds, then that's too late."

In the years since the recession began, people have been more cautious about their decision to retire, Hamilton said, which could contribute to high interest in the planning seminars.

"There's a mythology that no one can afford to retire anymore, and that's just not true," Hamilton said. "But a little fear and trembling isn't a bad thing. People ought to think about what their needs are going to be, because they are living longer and they're living healthier."

But as any recent retiree will tell you, financial planning for retirement is just the beginning. The hard part is figuring out what to do after the morning commutes and busy workweeks disappear.

With that in mind, Harvard's Center for Workplace Development is piloting a five-week discussion group for employees nearing retirement called "Changing Lanes" that will explore ways to make the most of one's retired years, from part-time work to volunteer opportunities to travel and leisure time. The program will only be open to those who have completed the financial planning workshop.

"Once people get their financial ducks in order, they'll be ready to focus on the lifestyle issues," Aska said.

Online ►► For registration information:  
<http://harvie.harvard.edu>





## STAFF PROFILE

### The snow man

Paul Smith, associate manager of landscape services, leads the ever-ready crew that digs Harvard out all winter.

By Katie Koch | Harvard Staff Writer

It's a surprisingly warm and sunny morning in late February, and no one is happier about that than Paul Smith.

Sure, Smith is ready for this year's particularly brutal winter to end. Like any New Englander, the Franklin, Mass., native has a hardwired aversion to shoveling. But the long-awaited thaw also means the end of a season-long test for the new associate manager of Harvard's landscape services, aka the "snow guru."

Smith oversees the University's snow removal team. In a winter that saw week after week of seemingly endless snowfall, totaling more than 70 inches thus far, that task requires a lot of patience, a good working relationship with his crew, and a dedication to keeping the University community safe. A 520-ton hill of salt doesn't hurt, either.

"This year was almost a month straight of plowing, salting, and moving snow," he said. "That's the most salt we've ever used since I started keeping track."

Smith has been working in Harvard's Facilities Maintenance Operations since 1991, when he left his own landscaping business in Wrentham, Mass., to join the Landscape Services team as a horticulturalist and arborist.

"I like working outside and interacting with people," he said. "I didn't want to be in an office all day."

Ten years ago, he became a supervisor in Landscape Services, overseeing the South Yard, Harvard Kennedy School, and student housing along the Charles River. Last year he was promoted, and this winter managed snow removal for the entire campus for the first time.

It's his job to make sure everything runs smoothly when weather emergencies strike. He coordinates with faculty and building managers around campus, addressing complaints about fallen tree branches or icy walkways. He manages a fleet of seven Bobcats, two front-end loaders, and 12 plowing trucks. And in winters like this one, he calls in 18-wheelers to transport huge piles of snow to Harvard's vacant lots in Allston.

Then again, this winter isn't that bad compared with

others Smith has faced. He was at Harvard for the 1995-96 academic year, which saw 107.6 inches of snow, a state record according to the National Weather Service. "I've been here for five of the worst 10 snow years on record," he said.

While many of Harvard's graduate Schools declared snow days at one point or another during this year, Harvard College has not canceled classes for snow since the infamous Blizzard of '78. That decision wouldn't be possible without Smith and his crew.

"They know how important it is for the faculty and students to be able to walk around," Smith said of the landscape team.

From December through March, the 40-hour workweek goes out the window. Smith and his crew can report anytime between midnight and 6 a.m. to get a jump on an overnight snowfall before the normal

workday begins. If a snowstorm starts in the evening, "we could be here all night," he said.

The hardest part of responding to inclement weather in real time, he said, is bearing the "bad news." His 21 employees must be available for emergencies, and Smith is the person who winds up asking them to cancel their ski trips or stay an extra five hours.

"This year was pretty taxing on all the guys," he said. "They put a lot of hours in and sacrificed a lot of weekends to be here."

When Smith's wife and their two sons, 11 and 13, had to travel to Lake Placid recently for a hockey tournament, Smith didn't make the decision to go with them until the day before. "I was checking weather reports right up until we left," he said.

"Every snowstorm, every hurricane, every tree that comes down — if there's an emergency outside our buildings, he's on campus directing people and solving

problems and making sure all the issues are taken care of," said Wayne Carbone, manager of Facilities Maintenance Operations' Landscape Services, and Smith's boss.

Without Smith's dedication to keeping his team safe and motivated through rough weather, he added, snow cleanup couldn't run so efficiently.

"He's compassionate, he listens, and he does what's best for the University," Carbone said.

As Harvard thaws out, Smith can pause to enjoy the sunshine, but only briefly. There's not much time before he and his crew will have to tackle another seasonal beast: Commencement. As the snow melts, Smith will start plotting out the crew's plan for laying down plant beds, grass, and mulch and tackling construction projects such as re-asphalting roads and repairing sidewalks.

"We've got to get some green before Commencement," he said. But Smith said he'd take the challenge of beautifying the campus over dealing with snow without hesitation.

"I like to work with plants and see things actually develop," he said. "We don't get much of that this time of year."

### By the Numbers: Harvard & Snow

**520**  
SALT, SAND,  
AND OTHER  
ICE MELT PURCHASED  
BY HARVARD  
(IN TONS)



**150** Average weight  
of an adult blue  
whale (in tons)

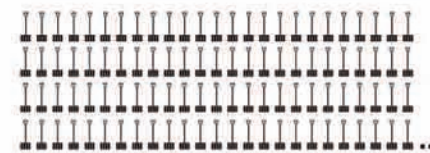
**370**  
TONS OF ICE  
MELT USED  
BY HARVARD  
AS OF MARCH 1



**150**  
NO. OF FMO  
EMPLOYEES  
INVOLVED WITH  
SNOW REMOVAL



**100<sup>+</sup>**  
NO. OF SHOVELS  
OWNED BY THE  
UNIVERSITY



**71.2**  
INCHES OF SNOW-  
FALL BOSTON  
HAS RECEIVED  
THIS WINTER



**71"** Height of Paul Smith, associate  
manager of landscape services

**20**  
MILES OF  
SIDEWALK  
CLEARED BY  
THE UNIVERSITY



**5.5** Miles to the peak  
of Mount Everest

**0**

NUMBER OF DAYS HARVARD COLLEGE  
CANCELED CLASSES FOR 2010-11

## STAFF NEWS

**HOME BUYING AND SELLING SEMINARS OPEN**

Demystify the home buying process by attending one of Harvard Real Estate Services' home buying and selling seminars. Both "webinar" and in-person seminars are available. Hear tips and learn about resources for listing your home, how to prepare for a home sale, mortgages, and much more. Seminars are ongoing into June. To view the complete schedule and to register, visit <http://www.facultyrealestate.harvard.edu/HomeBuyingAndSellingServices/homebuyingselling.aspx#homebuy2>.

## HOT JOBS

**SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST, REQ 23263BR, GR. 057**

Harvard Human Resources, FT

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY, REQ 22997BR, GR. 058**

University Operations Services, FT

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, REQ 23302BR, GR. 055**

Harvard University Library, FT

**SPECIAL ASSISTANT, REQ 23301BR, GR. 058**

Harvard University Library, FT

**SPECIAL LISTING****LECTURER ON LITERATURE (PART-TIME)**

Department of Comparative Literature, undergraduate Literature Concentration, for the academic year 2011-12. For a full job description and application process, go to [www.complit.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.complit.fas.harvard.edu).

Online ► See complete opportunity listings at [www.employment.harvard.edu](http://www.employment.harvard.edu) or contact Employment Services at 617.495.2772.

**HOW TO APPLY**

To apply for an advertised position or for more information on these and other listings, please connect to our new system, ASPIRE, at [www.employment.harvard.edu/](http://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/](http://employment.harvard.edu/careers/findingajob/).

## Newsmakers



Daniel Aaron (left) and Bernard Bailyn were awarded the National Humanities Medal.



To read the full story, visit <http://www.seas.harvard.edu/news-events/press-releases/alice-chen-wins-2011-lemelson-mit-student-prize>.

**ROBERT BRUSTEIN RECEIVES NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS**

The American Repertory Theater's (A.R.T.) founding director **Robert Brusteine** was awarded the **National Medal of Arts** by President Barack Obama at a ceremony in the White House on March 2.

The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government. The medal, conferred by the president, is presented to individuals or groups who are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States. During the past 26 years, more than 250 extraordinary patrons and artists in the fields of visual, performing, and literary arts have been honored. With this medal, the president recognizes the wealth and depth of creative expression of America's artists.

To read the full story, visit <http://hvd.gs/75103>.

**HBS ANNOUNCES STUDENT WINNERS**

Harvard Business School's (HBS) **Arthur Rock Center for Entrepreneurship** has announced nine winners of **Minimum Viable Product (MVP) Funding**, a new pilot program offering \$50,000 in total awards to student entrepreneurs working on projects during the School's winter term.

Proposed by first-year M.B.A. students **Dan Rumennik**, **Jess Bloomgarden**, and **Andrew Rosenthal**, and funded by the Rock Center, the MVP Fund is based on the premise of the lean startup methodology, which focuses on rapid prototyping, a process that brings products to market as quickly as possible.

To learn more about the winners and their research, visit <http://www.hbs.edu/news/releases/mvpwinners2011.html>.

**SCHOLARSHIP SENDS HARVARD STUDENT ABROAD**

**IES Abroad** has awarded one of its 74 merit-based scholarships to Harvard student **Isabel Salovaara '12** to study abroad in Delhi, India, spring semester 2011. For information, visit <http://www.iesabroad.org>.

**BILL RICHARDSON NAMED IOP FELLOW**

Harvard's **Institute of Politics (IOP)**, located at the Harvard Kennedy School, announced the spring visiting fellowship of **Bill Richardson**, governor of New Mexico (2003-11), U.S. secretary of energy (1998-2001), U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (1997-98), and U.S. representative (D-NM; 1983-97).

Richardson's fellowship will occur the week of March 28. On March 31, Richardson will speak in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum and deliver the 2011 Corliss Lamont Lecture, a lectureship featuring an individual widely recognized for leadership in dimin-

**WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES 2010 NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDALS**

President **Barack Obama** announced the 10 winners of the **2010 National Humanities Medal**, awarded for outstanding achievements in history, literature, education, and cultural policy, on March 1. Literary scholar **Daniel Aaron**, the Victor S. Thomas Professor of English and American Literature Emeritus, and **Bernard Bailyn**, Adams University Professor Emeritus, were among those honored at a White House ceremony on March 2.

To read the full story, visit <http://hvd.gs/75096>.

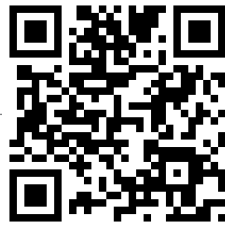
**SEAS'S CHEN WINS LEMELSON-MIT STUDENT PRIZE**

Graduate student **Alice A. Chen** received the prestigious \$30,000 **Lemelson-MIT Student Prize** for her innovative applications of microtechnology to study human health and disease.

Chen, a biomedical engineer, is enrolled at the **Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences** in the Medical Engineering and Medical Physics program, which is part of the collaborative Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology. Chen's most recent inventive breakthrough — a humanized mouse with a tissue-engineered human liver — is intended to bridge a gap in the drug development pipeline between laboratory animal studies and clinical trials.

Graduate student Alice A. Chen (below, left) won the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize. A.R.T. founding director Robert Brusteine (below, right) was honored with the National Medal of Arts.





A celebration inside Annenberg Hall marked Harvard's annual Housing Day, when freshmen receive their housing assignments for the next three years. Scan QR code for story. Go to <http://hvd.gs/75984> for photos and audio of the day.

For more information on the projects, visit <http://www.seas.harvard.edu/news-events/press-releases/ures>.

#### HARVARD NEIGHBORS GALLERY SEEKS ARTISTS FOR 2011-12 SEASON

The **Harvard Neighbors Gallery** is seeking Harvard artists for the 2011-12 season. Located at Loeb House, 17 Quincy St., Harvard Neighbors Gallery provides an opportunity for Harvard-affiliated artists to show their works. Artists will be selected for four-week exhibitions (solo or group shows) between September 2011 and May 2012.

To be eligible, you must be an active or retired staff or faculty member or spouse/partner. (Temporary employees are not eligible.) Artists may submit a portfolio on CD with 10 digital images, a brief artist's statement, and contact information. Deadline for submissions is May 6 (post-marked).

Complete submission details are at <http://www.neighbors.harvard.edu/artsubmission.html>.

#### STUDENT PROJECTS WIN \$50,000 IN GRANTS

Student entrepreneurs at Harvard have won \$50,000 in grants to support further development of innovative ventures in the **Harvard College Innovation Challenge**.

Five teams were selected as winners and runners-up from an applicant pool of 84 teams — double the number of hopefuls in last year's contest — for projects ranging from social web applications to a new environmental engineering technology.

The grants were announced at the **I3 Student Startup Showcase and Awards Reception** on March 8 inside the Radcliffe Gym, where 26 semifinalist teams discussed their nascent projects with a mingling crowd of students, family members, entrepreneurs, and potential investors.

To read about the students and their projects, visit <http://www.seas.harvard.edu/news-events/press-releases/innovation-challenge-2011>.

#### MPSA AWARDS DANIEL CARPENTER

The **Midwest Political Science Association** (MPSA) has named **Daniel Carpenter**, Freed Professor of Government, the winner of the 2011 Herbert Simon Award for his career scientific contributions to the study of public administration. As part of his award, Carpenter will present the Simon Lecture on April 2 during the 69th Annual MPSA Conference in Chicago.

#### ACTING PUSEY MINISTER APPOINTED

**Wendel W. "Tad" Meyer**, who joined the Memorial Church at Harvard University as associate minister for administration in December, will become **acting Pusey Minister** in the Memorial Church, effective immediately, Harvard announced on March 10.



Meyer (pictured left) will assume the full range of responsibilities involved in leading the church and maintaining a vibrant and active congregation during the search for a permanent successor to the Rev. Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, who

ishing the risk of nuclear war. Visiting fellows traditionally meet with student groups, lead discussion groups on topical issues and their experiences in public and political service, and participate in public policy classes with students and Harvard University faculty.

#### WINNERS OF NEUSTADT AND SCHELLING AWARDS

One of the nation's most eminent economists and a dynamic young development economist are recipients of the **2011 Richard E. Neustadt and Thomas C. Schelling Awards**. The awards will be presented on May 5 during a dinner at the Charles Hotel hosted by Dean **David T. Ellwood** of **Harvard Kennedy School** (HKS).

**Paul Volcker**, A.M. '51, who served as chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank from 1979 to 1987 and more recently as chairman of President Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, will receive the Richard E. Neustadt Award. The award is bestowed annually to an individual who has created powerful solutions to public problems, drawing on research and intellectual ideas as appropriate. Past recipients include Judith Gueron (2005), Muhammad Yunus (2006), Justice Richard J. Goldstone (2007), Gro Harlem Brundtland (2008), and Alice M. Rivlin (2009).

**Esther Duflo**, the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be presented with the Thomas C. Schelling Award, bestowed annually to an individual whose remarkable intellectual work has had a transformative impact on public policy. Past recipients include Richard Posner (2005), Daniel Kahneman (2006), Jagdish Bhagwati (2007), Howard Raiffa (2008), and Harold Varus (2009).

Each recipient will be awarded a \$25,000 prize.

For the full story, visit <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/news-events/news/press-releases/pr-schelling-neustadt-mar2011>.

#### THREE SEAS GRAD STUDENTS SELECTED TO PRESENT NEW TECHNOLOGY AT URES

Three technology proposals from the **Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences** (SEAS) have been selected for presentation at the **University Research and Entrepreneurship Symposium** (URES). Graduate students **Sam Kesner**, **Qimin Quan**, and **Wonyoung Kim** will present their innovative research to an audience of venture capitalists and entrepreneurs on March 31, with the hope of attracting investors and commercializing their work.

Photos: (top) by Jon Chase, (lower right) by Rose Lincoln | Harvard Staff Photographers

## MEMORIAL MINUTE

### Harry Z. Mellins Harvard Medical School



Harry Z. Mellins was recruited in 1969 to be chief of diagnostic radiology and residency program director at Brigham and Women's Hospital — a position he held until his death in 2009.

To read the full Memorial Minute, visit <http://hvd.gs/74000>.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

### Rev. Peter J. Gomes Service set for April 6 in Memorial Church



A memorial service celebrating the life and ministry of the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, will be held in the Memorial Church on April 6 at 11 a.m.

All are welcome to attend.

The service will be broadcast live on Harvard's radio station, WHRB 95.3 FM. For those outside the Cambridge area, WHRB provides live Internet streaming from its website: <http://www.whrb.org>.

To read Rev. Gomes' full obituary, visit <http://hvd.gs/74713>.

died on Feb. 28.

"I am enormously grateful that Tad Meyer has agreed to take on this role during such an important moment in the life of Memorial Church and the University," said **President Drew Faust**. "Tad is a distinguished preacher who has led congregations in Philadelphia and Beverly, Massachusetts. He also worked with Peter Gomes as an associate minister in the 1990s, and thus understands both the distinctive character of the Memorial Church and the rich diversity of Harvard's larger religious profile. We are very lucky to have someone of Tad's experience, intellect, and sensitivity willing and able to step in during this time of transition."

To read the full story, visit <http://hvd.gs/75855>.

— Compiled by Sarah Sweeney



## Together again

Aisha and Shayna Price are sisters from Hawaii who rock it out in the swimming pool for Harvard's water polo team.

By Sarah Sweeney | Harvard Staff Writer

Water polo-playing sisters Aisha and Shayna Price took it upon themselves to make Harvard notice them.

Living 2,000 miles from the U.S. mainland, in Honolulu, the sisters Price became entrepreneurial makers of their own destiny. Realizing Harvard recruiters would be hard-pressed to travel the 5,000 miles from Boston to check out their athletic chops, the sisters tirelessly emailed Harvard coaches and asked their coaches in Hawaii to serve as advocates for the pair.

"This was always our dream school," said Shayna. "Not just because it's Harvard, but because it's Harvard and we get the athletic experience as well."

Aisha '13 was first recruited by Harvard to play soccer, which was the sisters' main sport until they discovered water polo during middle school.

"It's been such a blessing for me to play both sports here," said Aisha (pronounced eye-shuh). "My freshman year I missed Shayna a lot because I've played on the same team with her all my life, and it was really different not seeing her in the water next to me. It's been really fun playing with her a year later after it all worked out."

"This is the most ideal situation ever," echoed Shayna, a freshman, who is 14 months younger than Aisha. "This is the best school in the country, and we get to play water polo, and Aisha gets to play both water polo and soccer."

Aisha was named the team's Rookie of the Year for 2010, and this season the sisters, who are both attackers, have scored more than 20 goals each.

"We definitely have a connection in the water," Shayna said. "A lot of people don't understand how

### ATHLETICS

"This was always our dream school," said Shayna Price (right). "Not just because it's Harvard, but because it's Harvard and we get the athletic experience as well." Shayna and sister Aisha Price are on the water polo team. Aisha also plays soccer.

hard the game is — you're treading water the whole time — especially on the East Coast where water polo is not big at all."

The sisters miss the Hawaiian weather the most. And their family.

"We ate family dinners every night back at home," said Aisha. "Our parents would come to every one of our games. Our dad is our coach even across the continent and the Pacific Ocean — we call him every time before a game and give him the rundown after."

And there's that friendliness factor.

"East Coast people don't quite have the 'aloha spirit' as the people back at home," said Shayna.

"But we both really love it here," added Aisha, who is concentrating in East Asian studies.

Fluent in Chinese, she hopes to travel to China, while Shayna plans to pursue social anthropology, with a secondary concentration in global health.

"I'm hoping to take advantage of all the study abroad opportunities Harvard has to offer," said Shayna.

Though they are sisters, best friends, and teammates, "Our water polo team is also a team of sisters," Aisha said. "Yes, Shayna and I are blood sisters, but the team is our best friends, in and out of the pool."

And as sisters, one makes up for what the other lacks.

"I'm Shayna's chauffeur," said Aisha.

"I'm a terrible driver. How many times did I fail my driver's test? Three or four times?" asked Shayna.

"But even though Shayna's the younger one —"

"I keep her in line," Shayna interjected.

Yes, they even finish each other's sentences.



VISIT [GOCRIMSON.COM](http://GOCRIMSON.COM) FOR FULL COVERAGE OF ATHLETICS AT HARVARD.

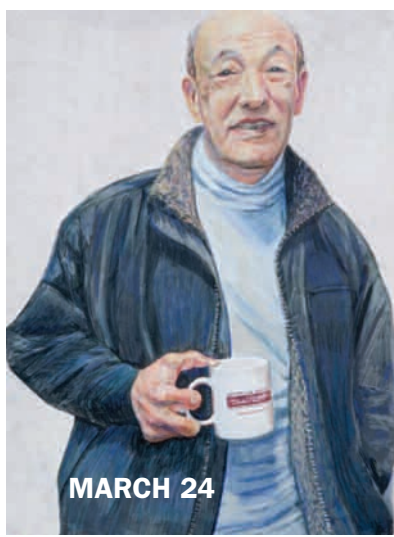
More Campus & Community Online  
[news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/campus-n-community/](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/campus-n-community/)



John Stilgoe gives viewers (and readers) a special tour of Harvard Yard via FreeThink@Harvard, a new interactive e-learning series. <http://hvd.gs/76464>



More than 30 energy and environment employers connected with Harvard students at the Office of Career Services' second annual Energy and Environment Expo. <http://hvd.gs/75789>



**MARCH 24**

**MARCH 24**

**Opening Reception for "Let's Hang Out — An Encore: Portraits of HGSE and CGIS."**

Monroe C. Gutman Library, first floor reading area, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 5-7 p.m. Exhibit by Bettina Burch on view through April 28. 617.495.4225, jem394@mail.harvard.edu.

**MARCH 25**

**Death and the Powers: The Robots' Opera.**

7:30 p.m. American Repertory Theater presents this tale of Simon Powers, a rich, successful inventor who wishes to perpetuate his existence beyond the decay of his physical being. Featur-

ing specially designed technology and an animated set, including a chorus of robots and a musical chandelier. [americanrepertorytheater.org/events/show/death-and-powers-robots-opera](http://americanrepertorytheater.org/events/show/death-and-powers-robots-opera).

**MARCH 25**

**Benefit Concert for Japan: Bach Society Orchestra Concert III.**

Sanders Theatre, 8 p.m. Donations will be collected before, during, and after the concert, and 50 percent of ticket sales will go to victims of Japan. 617.496.2222, [boxoffice.harvard.edu](http://boxoffice.harvard.edu), [ofa.fas.harvard.edu/cal/details.php?ID=41678](http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/cal/details.php?ID=41678).

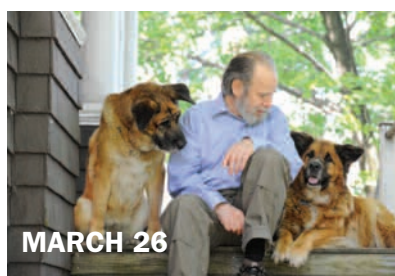
**MARCH 26**

**Author Talk: The Moral Lives of Animals.**

Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., 2-3:30 p.m. Dale Peterson. Free with museum admission; free to current Harvard ID holders & one guest. 617.495.3045, [hmn.harvard.edu/lectures\\_and\\_special\\_events/index.php](http://hmn.harvard.edu/lectures_and_special_events/index.php).

**MARCH 27**

**Claude Chabrol's 'Pleasure Party (Une partie de plaisir)'.**



**MARCH 26**

Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St., 7 p.m. French with English subtitles. [hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/films/2011jan-mar/chabrol.html#pleasure](http://hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/films/2011jan-mar/chabrol.html#pleasure).

**MARCH 29**

**Will Japan Go Bankrupt?**

Bowie-Vernon Room (K262), CGIS Knafel Building, 1737 Cambridge St., 12:30-2 p.m. Kotaro Tamura, research associate, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, with discussant Koichi Hamada, Tuntex Professor of Economics, Yale University. Free. [xtian@wcfia.harvard.edu](mailto:xtian@wcfia.harvard.edu).

**MARCH 30**

**PON Film Series Presents 'Budrus.'**

Ames Courtroom, Austin Hall, Harvard Law School, 7:15-10 p.m. Program on Negotiation Film Series presentation of "Budrus," followed by a discussion with producer Ronit Avni. Free. Pizza and drinks will be served. [jmayer@law.harvard.edu](mailto:jmayer@law.harvard.edu), [pon.harvard.edu/daily/budrus/](http://pon.harvard.edu/daily/budrus/).

**APRIL 1-2**

**Queering Age: Exploring the Lived Experiences of LGBT Youth and Elders.**

Austin Hall, Harvard Law School. Topics include youth at risk, transgender youth, elder law, age and HIV/AIDS discrimination, and bullying. Free. [HLS.Lambda.Conference@gmail.com](mailto:HLS.Lambda.Conference@gmail.com). For information, conference schedule, and registration: [harvardlambda.org/conference/](http://harvardlambda.org/conference/).

**APRIL 2**

**Fromm Players at Harvard.**

Paine Hall, 8 p.m. "Interior Gardens," concerts curated by Chaya Czernowin. Free, no tickets required. [musicdpt@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:musicdpt@fas.harvard.edu), [music.fas.harvard.edu/calendar.html](http://music.fas.harvard.edu/calendar.html).

**APRIL 5**

**Oral History Initiative: On Frank O'Hara.**

Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, 13 Appian Way, 6-7:30 p.m. In conjunction with the Woodberry Poetry Room's 80th anniversary. John Ashbery, Maureen O'Hara, and Ron Padgett. Free and open to the public. Seating limited.

**Calendar**

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH/APRIL 2011

su	m	tu	w	th	f	s
				24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

See complete Calendar online [▶▶ news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/calendar](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/calendar)

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](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar-submission). Email [calendar@harvard.edu](mailto:calendar@harvard.edu) with questions.



**MARCH 27**

Photo by Jonathan Williams



**MARCH 25**



## A look inside: Dudley House Co-op

### Respect and community

Before the Dudley Co-operative Society was founded in 1958 as alternative housing for Harvard undergraduates, it was a bed and breakfast where Teddy Roosevelt and Henry Cabot Lodge are reported to have slept.

Today, co-op resident and ethnomusicology concentrator Christopher Johnson-Roberson '11 says life in the co-op, which houses 30 undergrads, two resident tutors, and a tutor's spouse in its two buildings, supports his academic and social interests.

"My academic work focuses on how music can be a means to promote social cohesion and also express political protest," he said. "The jam sessions at the co-op represent a synthesis of all the components of the community that I appreciate."

Residents do their own cooking and cleaning. Multiculturalism is reflected in the co-op's cuisine during nightly communal meals. One evening, Iman James '12 chopped fresh bunches of kale while Alice Gissinger '11 dropped dabs of butter into a wok full of rutabaga for a special vegetarian menu: kale verde con rutabaga, cur-

ried couscous, salade de lentilles, and cheesecake.

When Gissinger was working intensively on her senior thesis recently, fellow co-op members helped care for her day-to-day needs according to a point system that is described in the co-op sutra, a book of house rules written and updated by previous residents and passed down each year.

"In the co-op, it's not just my social life that's provided for," said Gissinger. "There is a feeling of reciprocity that encourages communication, respect, collaboration, and community."



Online ►► View photo gallery: [hvd.gs/76625](http://hvd.gs/76625)